United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

See instructions in How to Complete National Register Forms
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

Gaffney Multiple Resource Area
(Partial Inventory: Historical and Architectural Resources)

and/or common

2. Location

street & number City limits of Gaffney N/A not for publication

city, town Gaffney N/A vicinity of

state South Carolina code 045 county Cherokee code 021

3. Classification

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Ownership</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Present Use</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>district</td>
<td>public</td>
<td>occupied</td>
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<tr>
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<td>structure</td>
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<td>work in progress</td>
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<td>Public Acquisition</td>
<td>yes: restricted</td>
<td>X educational</td>
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<tr>
<td>object</td>
<td>N/Ain process</td>
<td>yes: unrestricted</td>
<td>X private residence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>resource</td>
<td>N/Abeing considered</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>religious</td>
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4. Owner of Property

name Multiple Ownership (see individual inventory forms)

street & number

city, town

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Cherokee County Courthouse

street & number E. Floyd Baker Boulevard

city, town Gaffney state South Carolina

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

South Carolina Inventory of Historic Places

title has this property been determined eligible? yes X no

date 1985

depository for survey records South Carolina Department of Archives and History

city, town Columbia state South Carolina
7. Description

Condition
X excellent
X good
X fair

X deteriorated
ruins
unexposed

Check one
X unaltered
X altered

Check one
X original site
moved
date

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Gaffney Multiple Resource Area nomination contains four historic districts (approximately 178 resources) and six individual properties located in the city limits of Gaffney, South Carolina. These properties are associated with the growth and development of the area between ca. 1820 and ca. 1935. Included are residential, commercial, educational, religious, and industrial properties which are significant in the community's history.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The city of Gaffney is the county seat of Cherokee County, which is located in the upper Piedmont section of the state and characterized by gently rolling hills and level farmland. Agriculture has always been significant in the local economy and the county contains extensive farmlands including many peach orchards.

Gaffney, with a population of approximately 13,500 in 1980, is the largest town in Cherokee County and is the commercial and industrial center of the county. It is also the home of Limestone College, a private coeducational institution associated with the Baptist Church.

Although settlement of the area that is included in the present-day city of Gaffney began in the early nineteenth century, few intact above-ground resources remain from that period. The town of Gaffney was laid out in the late nineteenth century and substantial development occurred in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Most of the historic resources remaining in Gaffney are commercial, residential, industrial, and educational buildings reflecting this period in the city's history.

SURVEY METHODOLOGY

The Gaffney Multiple Resource Area nomination is based on a survey of the historical and architectural resources in Gaffney conducted in 1985 by Thomason and Associates, a historic preservation consulting firm in Nashville, Tennessee. All resources which appeared to be over fifty years old and not significantly altered were inventoried, photographed, and mapped in accordance with Department of Archives and History procedures.

Concurrent with the survey, historical research was carried out in both Columbia and Gaffney. Information was also provided by local historians through extensive interviews in Gaffney. Through the survey and historical research a total of 486 properties were documented in the city.

The survey was limited to above-ground resources.
8. Significance

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</tr>
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<td></td>
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</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>X other (specify)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>X society/ customs</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Specific dates: ca. 1820 - ca. 1935
Builder/Architect: N/A

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Gaffney Multiple Resource Area nomination includes six individual properties and four historic districts associated with the growth and development of the area between ca. 1820 and ca. 1935. The properties included in the nomination are of historical and/or architectural significance to the town and reflect the area's heritage as a popular resort and an industrial, commercial, and educational center of Piedmont South Carolina.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Settlement of the area of Gaffney began around 1802-03 when Michael Gaffney established a store and tavern where the Virginia-Georgia road crossed the road from Tennessee to Charleston in what was then Spartanburg District. Gaffney's tavern and store became well-known and prospered during the early nineteenth century.

This section of the state contained substantial deposits of iron ore and limestone, and by 1820 several iron furnaces were operating in the area. Lime was used as flux in the smelting of the ore and Wilson Nesbitt, who operated a nearby iron furnace, had developed a limestone quarry and kilns approximately one mile south of Gaffney's settlement.

Near the quarry was a limestone spring whose waters were reputed to have medicinal qualities. This spring attracted the attention of a group of investors who decided to build a hotel and promote the area as a resort. The Limestone Springs Hotel, a four-story, brick building containing about 100 guest rooms, was constructed around 1837 and enjoyed several prosperous years. The investors, however, were not able to make a profit and the hotel closed around 1844.

After the hotel closed, the buildings and property were purchased by Baptist ministers William and Thomas Curtis, who in 1845 established the Limestone Springs Female High School (now Limestone College) in the hotel building.

The establishment of the school spurred the building of several stores and a post office around the school. In addition to the school, a brick church was erected in 1846 by the Baptist congregation of Limestone Springs. The continuation of the local lime industry aided the growth of Limestone Springs; however, the village remained a small community with much of the surrounding land devoted to cotton farming.

In 1872 the Atlanta and Charlotte Airline Railroad built its rail line near the Gaffney home. The coming of the railroad was an important turning point in the commercial development of Gaffney. Although the Gaffney home was the only structure at the crossroads, the importance of the road network at this location caused the Airline Railroad to establish a station here in 1873. Commerce moved from the Limestone Springs area north to the railroad crossing by Gaffney's settlement.
9. Major Bibliographical References

see continuation sheets

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property  See individual inventory forms

Quadrangle name  Gaffney, S. C.

Quadrangle scale  1:24,000

UTM References

A

Zone  Easting  Northing

B

Zone  Easting  Northing

C

Zone  Easting  Northing

D

Zone  Easting  Northing

E

Zone  Easting  Northing

F

Zone  Easting  Northing

G

Zone  Easting  Northing

H

Zone  Easting  Northing

Verbal boundary description and justification

See individual inventory forms

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

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<th>code</th>
<th>county</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>state</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>code</td>
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<td>N/A</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

11. Form Prepared By

name/title  Philip Thomason, James Draeger

organization  Thomason and Associates

date  12/23/85

street & number  1700 Hayes Street, Suite 202

telephone  615-320-5732

city or town  Nashville

state  Tennessee

code  37203

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national

state  X

local  X

(See individual inventory forms)

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89–665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature  

Charles E. Lee  State Historic Preservation Officer

date  2/11/86

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Keeper of the National Register

date  3/27/86

Attest:

Chief of Registration
The Gaffney family subdivided their land along the right-of-way in 1873, and a plan by Tillman R. Gaines, drawn from the layout of Philadelphia, set out streets, alleys, and separate lots for a town that was called "Gaffney City." Buford Street was made ninety feet wide and was intended to be the main street of the community. Merchants, however, preferred to be closer to the train station, and as a result, Limestone Street became the town's main commercial center.\textsuperscript{10}

The town was incorporated on March 3, 1875, and by 1880 Gaffney boasted a population of 400 and began to draw outside investors to the area, who established businesses and built residences, churches, and schools in the rapidly growing town.\textsuperscript{11} Residential areas grew along the railroad and toward Limestone Springs to the south, causing the city to expand its limits to a one-mile radius in 1890. This included most of the village of Limestone Springs.\textsuperscript{12}

In the late nineteenth century many frame stores along Limestone Street were replaced with more elaborate brick buildings. A block of brick buildings was constructed along Limestone in 1885 and another block built by A.N. Wood, a banker and cotton broker, was added in 1886. By that year three cotton gins had opened to exploit the cotton grown in the area.\textsuperscript{13} An 1894 map shows more than twenty commercial structures along North Limestone Street between Meadow Street and the railroad, including nine general stores, three grocery stores, two drug stores, and a bank.\textsuperscript{14} By 1904 the number of commercial buildings had doubled in the downtown area; many of the present-day commercial buildings date from this period.\textsuperscript{15}

As the textile industry expanded throughout the Piedmont area of South Carolina, several investors turned their attention toward Gaffney. The first of Gaffney's cotton mills, the Gaffney Manufacturing Company, was organized in 1892 by local citizens.\textsuperscript{16} The business flourished, resulting in additions to the original section of the plant.\textsuperscript{17} By the early 1900s the mill was one of the largest in South Carolina.\textsuperscript{18}

Encouraged by the success of the Gaffney Manufacturing Company, John Gregory of Atlanta opened the Gaffney Roller Shops in 1894. The plant produced felt or hide-covered iron rollers for use in textile mills. Another industry of the period was the Irene Mill, which was begun in 1904 by H.D. Wheat and produced damask. Until 1916 the damask from the mill was sent to New England for finishing, but during that year the mill was expanded to include this operation.\textsuperscript{19} Within several miles of Gaffney other cotton mills were opened during the early 1900s including the Hamrick Mill, Limestone Mill, and Globe Mill.\textsuperscript{20}

In addition to becoming a major textile center, Gaffney became a county seat in 1897. Efforts at forming a new county in this section of the state began as early as 1868, but it was not until 1882 that committees were formed to petition the legislature. Success occurred after an intense lobbying campaign in 1896 and
the formation of a convention of leading citizens of Gaffney. These efforts were finally rewarded when the General Assembly approved the formation of the county in 1897.21 The county was formed from parts of Spartanburg, York, and Union Counties.

By 1917 Gaffney, which had grown to a population of approximately 5,000 residents, was a thriving community centered around five textile mills. Together the mills employed around 1,400 workers who lived with their families in or near Gaffney.22 In addition, there were a number of other cotton-related businesses in operation in Gaffney. These included the Carroll Cotton Company and the C.E. Sparks Cotton Company, cotton brokerage firms; the Victor Cotton Oil Company; and the Cherokee Commission Company, brokers and manufacturer's agents dealing in cotton seed products.23 Other leading businesses included the Kirby Seed Company, a mail order seed company, and the Peeler-Kennedy Machine Company. Gaffney also boasted of numerous furniture and department stores, a theatre, and four banks.24

The rapid growth of Gaffney's businesses gave rise to a substantial residential area in the southeast section of the city. In the late nineteenth century homes were built by the businessmen and professional class of the city both to the west and east of the railroad tracks, but by the early 1900s the southeast area of the city became the preferred residential section.25 This area became the home for the city's textile mill owners, merchants, businessmen, and Limestone College professors. Many large and ornate homes were constructed along Rutledge Avenue, College Avenue and other streets.

Gaffney's growth slowed considerably during the 1920s as falling cotton prices affected the city's economy. Few new buildings were constructed in the downtown area after 1925. The decline in the cotton industry and the Depression had a great impact on Gaffney and it grew at a slower rate than in the early 1900s.26 In the rural areas of the county there was a shift away from the cotton production to the establishment of peach orchards. Peach production began on a large scale with the first carload of peaches shipped to New York in 1937.27 Peaches have since become one of the county's main cash crops. In recent years Gaffney has begun to diversify its economy although the main employer continue to be the textile plants.

Commerce

Since the late nineteenth century Gaffney has served as a primary market for Cherokee County. The advantages of Gaffney as a transportation center after the construction of the Atlanta and Charlotte Airline Railroad made it attractive to investors. Many commercial buildings which were involved in the cotton trade or were general mercantile businesses were constructed adjacent to the railroad tracks. As the textile industry grew, the commercial area continued to expand along North Limestone and adjacent streets. In this area were clothing stores, hardware stores, and movie theatres. (See Gaffney Commercial Historic District)
Education/Religion

The Limestone Springs Female High School was a pioneer in the higher education of women in South Carolina. Its founders William and Thomas Curtis were advocates of education for women, and the nonsectarian school offered a broad range of courses. By the mid-nineteenth century, the school attracted students from most of the other southern states as well as from throughout South Carolina.28

Financial difficulties during the Civil War and Reconstruction forced William Curtis to sell the property in 1871.29 Attempts by new owners to establish schools on the property in the 1870s were generally unsuccessful.30 In 1880 the Limestone property came into the possession of the Spartanburg Baptist Association, and in 1881 it reopened as the Cooper-Limestone Institute for Young Ladies.31

The school was renamed Limestone College in 1898.32 In 1921 control and direction of Limestone was given to the State Convention of the Baptist Denomination of South Carolina, and in 1928 its status as an accredited college was recognized by its admission into the Southern Association of Colleges.33 (See Limestone Springs Historic District)

Industry

The Limestone Springs area was an important source of lime in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. In the first half of the nineteenth century lime from Wilson Nesbitt's quarry at Limestone Springs was used as flux in the manufacturing of iron.34 Later in the century lime from the quarry was sold for agricultural purposes and for building products. In the 1930s the quarry was reopened as a source of crushed stone for road-building and other commercial purposes.35 (See Limestone Spring Historic District, #10)

Making an even greater impact on the growth and development of Gaffney in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries was the cotton textile industry. By 1917 Gaffney, with five mills operating in the city, was a textile center of the Piedmont.36 (See Irene Mill Finishing Plant)

In addition to the textile industry, the cotton seed oil industry developed in Gaffney as a market for area cotton farmers. In 1917 two oil mills with a combined capital stock of $160,000 were operating in the city.37 (See Victor Cotton Oil Company Complex)
Limestone Springs was one of the resorts frequented in the nineteenth century by lowcountry planters hoping to escape the ill health associated with their plantations in the summer. A number of these resorts were associated with mineral springs which were believed to have medicinal qualities. The Limestone Springs Hotel, which operated from ca. 1837 to ca. 1844, was one of the most fashionable of these resorts in South Carolina. Dances in the hotel and visits to a nearby racetrack provided amusement for guest interested in recreation as well as health. (See Limestone Spring Historic District, #4)

Architecture

Gaffney's historic architecture is mainly composed of vernacular and high-style buildings of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The earliest remaining intact buildings in Gaffney are the Limestone Springs Hotel, constructed ca. 1837, and the Limestone Springs Baptist Church, built in 1846 (see Limestone Springs Historic District, #4 and #11). It was not until Gaffney was laid out and platted in 1875 that much residential construction occurred. The earliest homes were frame houses which were often vernacular interpretations of the Italianate, Queen Anne and Eastlake styles. During the 1880s the Italianate style Jefferies House (see individual inventory form), the Queen Anne Sarratt House (see individual inventory form) and the brick vernacular Robbs House (see individual inventory form) were constructed west of the railroad tracks. These homes were some of the most significant that were built during Gaffney's formative years.

As the population grew, the preferred residential areas moved away from the west side of the railroad to the east side along Rutledge Avenue and College Drive. In this area over one hundred homes were built into the 1920s. Excellent examples of the Colonial Revival, Neo-Classical, Bungalow and Craftsman styles were constructed in this middle to upper class neighborhood. Among the more significant examples are the early twentieth century homes of Will Turner, J.A. Carroll and J.N. Lipscomb (see Gaffney Residential Historic District, #163, #146, and #43).

Scattered throughout the community is a large collection of homes of the Bungalow style, which was the dominant residential style from 1915 until 1930. These homes are found on many of the streets surrounding the downtown area and are primarily simple vernacular interpretations of this style. The one important exception is the Settlemyer House, which is a Japanese Bungalow built on Limestone Street (see individual inventory form). This house is the most ornate and architecturally significant residence of the 1920s in Gaffney.
In addition to the residential architecture Gaffney contains a notable collection of commercial buildings in its downtown area on Limestone Street. The majority of buildings in this area were built between 1890 and 1930 and display designs of the Commercial Italianate and vernacular styles of the period. All are of brick construction and vary between one and six stories in height.

Current Preservation Projects

Restoration of several residential buildings in Gaffney's historic areas took place during the 1970s and this trend is continuing. There is growing interest in preservation in the historic areas of the community especially in the proposed residential historic district. No significant rehabilitation has yet occurred in the downtown commercial district and there are many vacant buildings. However, the city has taken action to revive the downtown area through its acceptance into the Main Street program. In May of 1985 a Main Street manager was hired and the promotion of downtown rehabilitation is a top priority.
FOOTNOTES


2Killion and Moss, pp. 27-36; Moss, Iron District, pp. 202-04.


7Moss, Iron District, pp. 204-06

8Ibid., pp. 207-08.
9 Ibid.

10 Ibid., pp. 208-09.

11 Ibid., pp. 209-20, 244.

12 Ibid., pp. 242-43.

13 Ibid., pp. 230-33, 244.


17 Ibid.


19 Gaffney Ledger, 23 September 1917; Moss, Iron District, p. 248.

20 Gaffney Ledger, 23 September 1917; Moss, Iron District, p. 334.

21 Moss, Iron District, pp. 358-367.

22 Gaffney Ledger, 23 September 1917.

23 Ibid.

24 Ibid.


28 McMillan, pp. 29-123.

29 Ibid., pp. 138-39.

30 Ibid., pp. 141-66.

31 Ibid., pp. 166-68.
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

Continuation sheet

Item number

Page

32 Ibid., p. 233.
36 Moss, Iron District, pp. 329, 341-56; Gaffney Ledger, 23 September 1917.
37 Gaffney Ledger, 23 September 1917.
38 Brewster, passim.
39 Ibid., pp. 74-108.
40 Ibid., pp. 82-84.
42 Mills, Statistics, pp. 25, 727; Mills, Atlas; Moss, Iron District, p. 311.
43 Book Z, pp. 550-51, Spartanburg County Register of Mesne Conveyance, County Records on Microfilm, South Carolina Department of Archives and History; Catalogue of the Instructors, p. 19.
44 Brewster, pp. 82-83.
45 Ibid.
46 Ibid.; Moss, Iron District, p. 204.
47 Book Z, pp. 547-50, Spartanburg Register of Mesne Conveyance, County Records on Microfilm, South Carolina Department of Archives and History; McMillan, pp. 14-30.
48 McMillan, p. 30
49 Ibid., pp. 31-36.
50 Ibid., p. 122.
51 Ibid., pp. 49-50.
52 Ibid., pp. 127-39.
53 Ibid., pp. 141-45.
54 Ibid., pp. 149-71.
55 Ibid., pp. 164-68.
56 Ibid., p. 233.
57 Moss, Iron District, pp. 317-18; Book VV, pp. 278-79, Spartanburg County Register of Mesne Conveyance, County Records on Microfilm, South Carolina Department of Archives and History.
60 Ibid., p. 294.
61 Ibid., p. 308.
62 Ibid., pp. 305-368.
64 Interview with Ione Taylor, Gaffney, S. C., 9 May 1985.
66 Interview with Jack Blanton.
67 Interview with Bobby G. Moss.
70 Gaffney Ledger, 23 September 1917; Moss, Iron District, pp. 343-45.
71 Gaffney Ledger, 23 September 1917; interview with Dr. William Savage, University of South Carolina Museum of Education, 9 December 1985.
73 Gaffney Ledger, 23 September 1917.
BIBLIOGRAPHY


Columbia, S.C. South Carolina Department of Archives and History. County Records on Microfilm. Spartanburg County Register of Mesne Conveyance.

_____________________. General Assembly Petitions. Petition of the Limestone Springs Company for an Extension on the Payment of a Debt, [ca. 1837].

_____________________. J. Whitter, "Map of Spartanburg District," [ca. 1819].


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

dnr-11

Name: Gaffney Multiple Resource Area
State: SOUTH CAROLINA

Nomination/Type of Review

1. Gaffney Commercial Hist. Dist. Entered in the National Register
   +Keeper
   Attest
   Date/Signature: 3/27/86

2. Gaffney Residential Historic Dist. Entered in the National Register
   Keeper
   Attest
   Date/Signature: 3/27/86

3. Irene Mill Finishing Plant Entered in the National Register
   Keeper
   Attest
   Date/Signature: 3/27/86

4. Jefferies House
   Keeper
   Attest
   Date/Signature: 3/27/86

5. Limestone Springs Hist. Dist. Entered in the National Register
   Keeper
   Attest
   Date/Signature: 3/27/86

6. Robbs House
   Keeper
   Attest
   Date/Signature: 3/27/86

7. Sarratt House
   Keeper
   Attest
   Date/Signature: 3/27/86

8. Settlemyer House
   Keeper
   Attest
   Date/Signature: 3/27/86

9. Victor Cotton Oil Company Complex
   Keeper
   Attest
   Date/Signature: 3/27/86

10. West End Elementary School
    Keeper
    Attest
    Date/Signature: 3/27/86