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  

Orangeburg MRA  

historic  
City of Orangeburg Multiple Resource Area  
(Partial Inventory: Historic and Architectural Properties)  

and/or common  

2. Location  

street & number  
City limits of Orangeburg  

na not for publication  

city, town  
Orangeburg  

na vicinity of  

state  
South Carolina  

code 045  

county Orangeburg  

code 075  

3. Classification  

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4. Owner of Property  

name  
Multiple ownership (see inventory forms)  

street & number  

5. Location of Legal Description  

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Orangeburg County Courthouse  

city, town Orangeburg  

state South Carolina 29115  

6. Representation in Existing Surveys  

See continuation sheet.  
title  
South Carolina Inventory of Historic Places  

has this property been determined eligible? yes no  

date  
1982 - 85  

federal state county local  

depository for survey records  
South Carolina Department of Archives and History  

city, town Columbia  

state South Carolina 29211
7. Description

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Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The nomination for the City of Orangeburg Multiple Resource Area consists of seven historic districts (containing a total of approximately 180 resources) and eleven individually nominated properties within the city limits of Orangeburg, South Carolina. The resources, which date from ca. 1850 to ca. 1935, are generally residences and commercial buildings, but churches, textile mills, educational buildings, a warehouse, a county fair building, a law office, a hotel, and governmental buildings are also included.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The city of Orangeburg is located in south central South Carolina on the bank of the North Edisto River. With a population of 14,933, it is the largest city in and serves as the seat of Orangeburg County, a rich agricultural area. United States Highways 301, 601, 178, and 21, and South Carolina Highway 33 pass through the city, which is also served by both the Southern and the Seaboard Coastline Railroads.

Orangeburg is the home of South Carolina State College, the largest black college in the state, and Claflin College, a private black college. The chief tourist attraction of the city is Edisto Memorial Gardens on the bank of the North Edisto River.

Although Orangeburg was established around 1735, no above-ground historic resources from the early years of the city remain. The majority of the extant resources date from ca. 1880 to ca. 1935. Most of these properties are residences, which range from modest, one-story, frame houses containing only a few rooms to substantial, two-story, generally frame, houses displaying a variety of architectural ornamentation. The extent nineteenth and early twentieth century residences represent only a portion of the neighborhoods that surrounded the central business district in the early twentieth century. Modern commercial development has encroached on most of these neighborhoods, leaving many of the streets with only a scattering of historic residences. However, several fairly intact concentrations of historic residences remain.

The most visually prominent historic properties in the city are the concentration of historic buildings in the central business district and the educational buildings on the campuses of the two colleges. The buildings in the central business district are generally two-story, brick buildings dating from ca. 1890 to ca. 1925. Most of the historic buildings on the campuses of South Carolina State College and Claflin College are two- and three-story, brick buildings constructed between 1898 and 1931.

SURVEY METHODOLOGY

Between February 1982 and November 1984 Jill Kemmerlin, Martha W. Fullington, Cynthia S. Buford, and Elizabeth Mallin, historians and architectural historians with the South Carolina Inventory of Historic Places staff of the South Carolina Department of Archives and History, conducted a historical and architectural survey of resources within the city limits of Orangeburg. The survey included research on the general historical development of the city by Norman McCorkle, historian and historical marker specialist at the archives. This was followed by an inventory of all buildings, sites, structures, and objects that were at least fifty years old and had not been substantially altered. A total of 583 properties were described, photographed, and mapped. After the field work was completed, three meetings were held at the Salley Archives in Orangeburg with Mr. Hugo Ackerman and two meetings were held at South Carolina State College with a group of citizens interested in black history to gather historical information concerning individual resources. Additional historical research was also conducted to supplement the information provided by local historians.
8. Significance

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Specific dates ca. 1850 - ca. 1935

Builder/Architect na

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The nomination for the City of Orangeburg Multiple Resource Area includes seven historic districts (containing a total of approximately 180 resources) and eleven individually nominated properties within the city limits of Orangeburg, South Carolina, which are of historical and/or architectural significance to the city. Dating from ca. 1850 to ca. 1935, these resources, with the two buildings in Orangeburg already listed on the National Register, serve as a visible reminder of the city's varied history. Located in a rich agricultural area, Orangeburg developed as a commercial and industrial center for the county as well as a center for the education of black South Carolinians.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The town of Orangeburg was established around 1735 in Orangeburg Township, one of a series of townships laid out along rivers in interior South Carolina in the 1730s to encourage white settlement. Although there were some European settlers in the area prior to 1735, the majority of the early European settlers were German and Swiss immigrants who began to arrive in that year. (1)

In 1767 a traveler reported that the village of Orangeburg was "a considerable large neighborhood" that included a store, a tavern, and "a man that pretended to preach." The village was designated the seat of Orangeburg judicial district in 1768. (2) An early plat of the village shows streets laid in a grid pattern. The public square was then located on Broughton Street near the present-day armory. (3) During the Revolution the village was captured alternately by British and Patriot forces. (4)

Robert Mills's Statistics of South Carolina, published in 1826, reported that the village of Orangeburg contained five merchants, three lawyers, two physicians, two coachmakers, one tailor, one blacksmith, and one tavern. The village had a large black population; 77 of the 152 residents were black. Since the 1830 federal census listed only 6 free black persons in the entire district, most of the black residents of the town were evidently slaves. (5) In 1831 the village was incorporated with town limits extending one mile in every direction from the courthouse except on the west where they extended to the Edisto River. (6)

The expansion of the South Carolina Railroad from Branchville to Orangeburg in 1839-40 and the completion of the line to Columbia in 1842 spurred the growth of the town. (7) By 1860 the population had grown to 897. (8) Most of the white adult males were employed as merchants or clerks or as skilled tradesmen such as carpenters, carriage manufacturers, shoemakers, and tailors. There were also lawyers, teachers, ministers, and physicians. Almost half (429) of the 897 residents of the town were black; 423 were slaves and 6 were free. German immigration had continued after the initial eighteenth century settlement of the area. Approximately 50 of the residents of Orangeburg in 1860 had been born in Germanic states. (9)

In February 1865 the town of Orangeburg lay in the path of General William T. Sherman's march through South Carolina. On February 12 the Seventeenth Corps occupied the town. Disorder reigned for a time as stores were rifled and approximately one-half of the town burned. The next day the railroad depot, cotton bales, and two miles of track south of town were destroyed. (10)
9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheets.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property  See inventory forms.
Quadrangle name

UTM References

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Verbal boundary description and justification

The incorporated city limits of Orangeburg, South Carolina.

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

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| state | code | county   | na | code |

11. Form Prepared By

name/title  Mary Watson Edmonds, John E. Wells, Debra J. Allen
organization  SC Department of Archives and History  date  April 25, 1985
street & number  1430 Senate Street  telephone  (803) 758-5816
city or town  Columbia  state  South Carolina  29211

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  X  state  X  local  See 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  date  8/6/85

For NPS use only

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

Keeper of the National Register  date

Attest:  Chief of Registration
The following properties in the City of Orangeburg are listed in the National Register of Historic Places:

Orangeburg County Jail ("Pink Palace") 10-2-74

Tingley Memorial Hall, Claflin College 08-4-83
SIGNIFICANCE (continued)

With the Constitution of 1868, South Carolina's districts were designated counties and each county was made an election district. Orangeburg District became Orangeburg County.(11)

In 1869 two Methodist ministers from the north, aided financially by the Claflin family of Massachusetts, founded Claflin University (now Claflin College) in Orangeburg to educate the newly freed slaves.(12) In 1872 the state legislature, with the financial support of the federal government, established the forerunner of South Carolina State College, the South Carolina Agricultural College and Mechanics' Institute, in Orangeburg in connection with Claflin. Although Claflin was a private institution and the South Carolina Agricultural College and Mechanics' institute was a public one, the two schools were closely associated and shared common administrators for twenty-four years.(13)

By 1880 the town of Orangeburg had recovered from the Civil War and had grown substantially with a population of 2,140. The main business of the town was cotton; over 10,000 bales were shipped annually.(14) In 1883 Orangeburg was incorporated as a city.(15)

According to a promotional pamphlet published in 1888, the city had electric lights, water works, and an "efficient" fire department. Although there were several manufacturing plants, the handling of cotton was still the most important aspect of the economy.(16)

In the 1890s a group of black leaders including Thomas E. Miller, a member of the Constitutional Convention of 1895, made a strong appeal for a separate state college for blacks free of sectarian influence. This proposal was supported by Ben Tillman, the dominant figure at the convention, and other white leaders because it would help ensure the segregation of South Carolina's colleges and because a state-controlled college would be free of the influence of northern religious denominations. As a result the Colored Normal, Industrial, Agricultural, and Mechanical College of South Carolina (now known as South Carolina State College) was founded in 1896 in Orangeburg as an institution completely separate from Claflin and entirely controlled by the state with its own president and board of trustees.(17)
By 1907 the population of Orangeburg was approximately 7,500. Both the Southern and the Atlantic Coast Line railroads passed through the city. Orangeburg remained an important cotton market, but manufacturing played a more significant role in the economy. (18)

In the 1910s, 1920s, and 1930s the city of Orangeburg served as an agricultural market and commercial and industrial town for the area. Although the arrival of the boll weevil in the 1920s resulted in a significant drop in cotton production, cotton continued to lead other crops in the county in total market value. (19)

By the mid-1920s, in addition to the two railroads that crossed the city, Orangeburg was linked to other areas by highways radiating in all directions. The city also boasted several civic improvements. (20) Edisto Memorial Gardens originated in 1925 when the city council began the landscaping of several acres along the North Edisto River. (21) By 1927 several city playgrounds had been established and the city was said to have "13 miles of paved and well lighted streets." (22)

By 1930 the city had a population of 8,776; 4,771 residents were white and 3,952 were black. (23) None of Orangeburg's banks survived the "bank holiday" of 1933. By 1935 about 3,000 people in the Orangeburg area were on relief. Although the effects of the Depression were deeply felt, the city retained its role as a commercial and industrial center of the area. A WPA-supported city airport was constructed in 1937. (24) In 1938 Orangeburg had about thirty manufacturing and industrial enterprises including cotton textile mills, fertilizer factories, corn mills, canneries, a meat packing plant, lumber mills, cotton seed oil mills, and feed mills, and the chamber of commerce boasted that it was the agricultural marketing center of the state. (25)

Agriculture/Recreation

The Orangeburg County Fair, which was organized in 1911 and became one of the largest county fairs in the state, provided recreation for the citizens of the surrounding agricultural area as well as helped to improve the quality of farm products. The size of the fair reflected the prosperity of the agricultural area around Orangeburg for which the city served as the farm market and commercial center. (26) (See Orangeburg County Fair Main Exhibit Building.)
Black History/Education

With the establishment of Claflin University (Claflin College) and the Colored Normal, Industrial, Agricultural, and Mechanical College of South Carolina (South Carolina State College) in Orangeburg, in the last half of the nineteenth century, the city developed as the center for the education of black South Carolinians. The Colored Normal Industrial, Agricultural, and Mechanical College was the only public college for blacks in the state and Claflin was a significant private black college. Graduates of the two schools provided leadership for black communities throughout the state.(27) In addition, as a result of the presence of Claflin and the state college in Orangeburg, there were an unusual number of well-educated blacks in the city.(28)

Because of the paucity of good public schools for blacks in South Carolina in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, most of the students at Claflin as well as those at the state college were enrolled in elementary and secondary programs. (However, college programs were available at both institutions.)(29) In addition, the two schools were inadequately funded; for example, in 1929-30 the value of buildings, grounds, and equipment at the state college was 7 percent of the value of the property of the public white colleges and universities in the state. Yet, in spite of their handicaps, Claflin and the state college made important contributions toward the education of South Carolina's black citizens. For a time they served as elementary schools in the Orangeburg area as well as provided students from all over the state with a high school education. Graduates of the normal departments served as teachers in black public schools throughout South Carolina.(30) As more public schools for blacks were established in the state between the two world wars, enrollment in the college programs at Claflin College and the state college greatly increased.(31) (See Claflin College Historic District; Dukes Gymnasium, South Carolina State College; Lowman Hall, South Carolina State College; Hodge Hall, South Carolina State College; and Treadwell Street Historic District.)

Commerce

From its early years Orangeburg served as the commercial center of the surrounding agricultural area. Farmers brought their produce to Orangeburg to sell or ship and purchased goods at the
commercial establishments in the city. (32) A promotional booklet published in 1888 reported an extensive retail trade in the city and noted "The business men of Orangeburg draw their trade mostly from the surrounding country, though they are now drawing trade from adjoining counties." (33) By the 1920s and 30s the city was touted as the commercial center of the south central coastal plain. (34) (See Orangeburg Downtown Historic District.)

German Heritage

Although a minority, German emigrants were a significant segment of Orangeburg's nineteenth century population. For example, as late as 1874 a local newspaper reported that a Sunday afternoon church service was held entirely in German "for the benefit of our German citizens." (35) Several natives of Germany were prominent residents. For example, both F. H. W. Briggmann, a native of Hanover, and George Henry Cornelson, a native of Ottersburg, were prosperous merchants and civic leaders. Cornelson built the city's first cotton textile mill in 1882. (36) (See Orangeburg Downtown Historic District, #48, and F. H. W. Briggmann House.)

Industry

Industry became an increasingly important aspect of Orangeburg's economy in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries with the founding of two cotton textile mills. The Orange Cotton Mill was founded in 1882 and by 1888 employed over 100 workers. (37) (See Orangeburg Downtown Historic District, #48.) With much local support, a second textile mill, the Enterprise Cotton Mills, was constructed in 1896-97. (38) (See Enterprise Cotton Mills Building.) In 1907 the two mills employed around 325 workers. (39) In the early 1920s the textile industry employed more workers and the value of its annual products was far greater than any other industry in Orangeburg County. During the first four decades of the twentieth century the textile industry remained an important industry in this basically agricultural county. (40)
Politics/Government

The powers and responsibilities of the local government increased with Orangeburg's incorporation as a city in 1883. At that time the town government consisted of a mayor, two aldermen, a chief of police, and four patrolmen. The unpaved streets of the town were lit by kerosene street lamps. By 1888 the city had a board of health, water works, and several of the streets had been paved with granite chips. By the 1930s the chamber of commerce boasted of the unusual number of paved streets and sidewalks in the city. Besides providing basic services, the city government maintained parks (including Edisto Memorial Gardens) and eight playgrounds supervised by park directors. (41) (See Orangeburg Downtown Historic District, #51.)

Architecture

Several of the buildings at Claflin College and South Carolina State College are significant as the designs of the two most prominent black architects in the state's history, William Wilson Cooke and Miller F. Whittaker. Cooke, a native of Greenville and a graduate of Claflin University, served as superintendent of vocational training at Claflin from 1897 to 1907. In 1907 he became the first black man to serve as a senior architectural designer with the United States Supervising Architect's Office in Washington, DC. Whittaker, a native of Sumter and the first black South Carolinian registered as an architect, served as director of the department of mechanical arts (1915-1932) and later president (1932-1949) of South Carolina State College. (42) These two pioneer architects, working with the assistance of black contractors and student labor, not only built much of the physical plant of the two colleges, but made substantial inroads for blacks in the profession of architecture. Their accomplishments are considerable. Cooke's design for Tingley Hall at Claflin is significant by any architectural standards; it is an imaginative and elegantly proportioned essay in Palladian scholastic design, incorporating advanced functional and mechanical considerations, and it compared favorably with the best school buildings of the period in South Carolina. (See Claflin College Historic District, #1.) Whittaker's designs include Hodge Hall and Lowman Hall at South Carolina State College. Whittaker's design for Hodge Hall was part of his Master of Science in Architecture degree program from Kansas
Agricultural College. Dukes Gymnasium at South Carolina State was designed, under supervision of Whittaker, by John H. Blanche, a student in the South Carolina State department of mechanical arts. The quality of Blanche's design demonstrates the quality of the mechanical arts program at South Carolina State. (See Hodge Hall, South Carolina State College; Lowman Hall, South Carolina State College; and Dukes Gymnasium, South Carolina State College.) The designs of Cooke and Whittaker at Claflin and South Carolina State as well as those of their students set standards for other black architects attempting to break into the profession. Cooke's work is further displayed in the John Hammond Fordham House, for which he served as general contractor; while the Williams Chapel A.M.E. church is further evidence of Whittaker's architectural prowess. (See Major John Hammond Fordham House and Williams Chapel A.M.E. Church.)

The residential historic districts in the nomination are cohesive collections of the wide range of domestic urban architectural forms of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, a mixture of the urban vernacular and stylish residential modes. Some areas contain the residences of more well-to-do citizens, and display the designs and features fashionable during that era. (See Whitman Street Area Historic District; Ellis Avenue Historic District; Amelia Street Historic District; East Russell Street Area Historic District.) Other areas include large numbers of the more modest residences of the working classes. Frame duplexes, shotgun houses, and other modest urban forms are common in these districts; and these collected buildings depict accurately the historic residential character of these neighborhoods. (See Treadwell Street Historic District; East Russell Street Area Historic District.)

The commercial center of Orangeburg is defined by a large concentration of intact historic buildings of vernacular and high-style urban design. Several industrial and warehouse buildings remain, depicting the community's industrial heritage; noteworthy among these is the Enterprise Cotton Mills Building, designed by W. B. Smith Whaley & Company, the distinguished firm of architects and engineers from Columbia. The major commercial and retail district, along Russell Street and the old courthouse square, is an intact collection of one-, two-, and three-story masonry buildings, with brick, terra-cotta, and concrete facades. (See Orangeburg Downtown Historic District.) The scale and fenestration of these buildings are consistent; the parapets and cornices of the major buildings are primary character-defining features of the district. Several of the more
important buildings, including 170 Russell Street, are given added prominence through two-story porticos and entranceways. Several high-style buildings, individual statements of architectural achievement, punctuate the city; the old United States Post Office, a federal design by James Knox Taylor, is in an academic Georgian Revival design. The Eutaw Hotel, the city's only skyscraper, is a steel-frame building with brick curtain walls and Spanish Renaissance Revival detailing; it was designed by G. Lloyd Preacher & Company, a leading southeastern architectural firm. The building at 174 Russell Street is one of the finer terra-cotta commercial facades in the state. The Louis Building, ca. 1904, is another distinctive commercial building; it is a three-story block with a cylindrical turret.

Additionally, many of the public and institutional buildings in Orangeburg are noteworthy expressions of the fashionable styles of the era. The St. Paul's M.E. Church South and the Mt. Pisgah Baptist Church are fluent interpretations of the Romanesque Revival style that was popular in church design in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. (See Orangeburg Downtown Historic District, #14, and Mt. Pisgah Baptist Church.) Williams Chapel A.M.E. Church is a competent Gothic Revival design, representing the prevailing preference for medieval-inspired design in ecclesiastical architecture. Tingley Hall at Claflin College and the Ellis Avenue School (see Ellis Avenue Historic District, #10) are, respectively, early and late specimens of the logical Palladian composition and design motifs that characterized South Carolina school buildings in the early twentieth century.
FOOTNOTES

(1) The township, which was originally named Edisto, was renamed Orangeburgh, evidently in honor of the marriage of Princess Anne, daughter of George II of England, to William, the Prince of Orange. The final h in Orangeburgh had generally been dropped by the end of the nineteenth century. Robert L. Meriwether, The Expansion of South Carolina, 1729-1765 (Kingsport, TN: Southern Publishers, Inc., 1940), pp. 17-30, 44-46; A. S. Salley, Jr., The History of Orangeburg County, South Carolina (Orangeburg, SC: R. Lewis Berry, Printer, 1898), pp. 1-2, 29-43.

(2) Meriwether, p. 47; Salley, pp. 8-9; David J. McCord, Statutes at Large of South Carolina, 10 vols. (Columbia, SC: A. S. Johnston, 1840), 7:198-99; The State (Columbia, SC), 30 December 1929.


(11) Salley, p. 17.


(16) August Kohn and R. Lewis Berry, eds., A Descriptive Sketch of Orangeburg, City and County, South Carolina (Orangeburg, SC: R. Lewis Berry, 1888), pp. 6, 8-10, 12-13.


(19) J. M. Green, Jr., and W. F. Fairey, Jr., Orangeburg County: Economic and Social (Columbia, SC: Department of Rural Social Science of the University of South Carolina, 1923), pp. 83, 97, 98.


(21) Ackerman, p. 12.

(22) South Carolina: A Handbook, p. 278.


(24) Ackerman, p. 11.


(31) Newby, pp. 263-65; Fitchett, pp. 59-60; Claflin College, Catalogue and Register, 1940-1941.


(33) Kohn and Berry, pp. 8-9.


(37) Kohn and Berry, p. 12; Sanborn Map Company, Orangeburg, Orangeburg County, South Carolina, 1884; Times and Democrat, 8, 15, 22, 29 August 1982.

(38) Times and Democrat, 22 April, 23 September 1896; Manufacturers Record, 25 December 1896.

(39) Handbook of South Carolina, p. 460.

(40) Ackerman, pp. 11-12; Green and Fairey, pp. 37-39.
(41) List of Acts and Joint Resolutions, 1883, pp. 525-31; McCord, pp. 444-46; State Board of Agriculture, p. 693; Kohn and Berry, pp. 5-6, 14-15, 19-20; Chitty; Orangeburg, SC, City Directory, 1938; Ackerman, pp. 8-11.

BIBLIOGRAPHY


Ackerman, Hugo S. Salley Archives, Orangeburg, S.C. Interview, 29 September 1983.


Catalogue of Claflin University and South Carolina Agricultural College, Orangeburg, SC, 1879-80.


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Columbia, SC South Carolina Department of Archives and History. Historical Marker Files.


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<td>1.</td>
<td>Hotel Eutaw</td>
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<td>Hodge Hall</td>
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<td>Amelia Street Historic District</td>
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Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group