FHR-8-300 (11-78)

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation 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

Chamberlain-Kay House

historic: Charles C. Chamberlain House

and/or common: Chamberlain-Kay House (preferred)

2. Location

street & number: 205 River Street ___ not for publication

city, town: Belton ___ vicinity of congressional district: Third

state: South Carolina code: 045 county: Anderson code: 007

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
___ district	___ public	X occupied	___ agriculture	___ museum
X building(s)	X private	___ unoccupied	___ commercial	___ park
___ structure	___ both	___ work in progress	___ educational	X private residence
___ site	**Public Acquisition**	**Accessible**	___ entertainment	___ religious
___ object	___ in process	X yes: restricted	___ government	___ scientific
	___ being considered	___ yes: unrestricted	___ industrial	___ transportation
		___ no	___ military	___ other:

4. Owner of Property

name: Alice S. Kay (Mrs. William P.)

street & number: 205 River Street

city, town: Belton ___ vicinity of state: South Carolina 29627

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc.: Anderson County Courthouse

street & number: Courthouse Square

city, town: Anderson state: South Carolina 29621

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title: Inventory of Historic Places in South Carolina has this property been determined elegible? ___ yes X no

date: 1978 (update) ___ federal X state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records: South Carolina Department of Archives and History

city, town: Columbia state: South Carolina 29211

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
___ excellent	___ deteriorated	___ unaltered	X original site
X good	___ ruins	X altered	X moved date ca. 1911-1922
___ fair	___ unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Located in an older residential area adjacent to the town square in Belton, South Carolina, the Chamberlain-Kay House was built as a residence for Charles C. Chamberlain ca. 1854. The house is an adaptation of the Piedmont Farmhouse type, with period elaborations and additions that characterize the evolving architectural taste of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The house is believed to be the oldest house in Belton.

Exterior: The Chamberlain-Kay House is a two-story, three-bay frame building supported on a brick foundation. A one-story ell projects from the right side of the southeast elevation. The house is sheathed with board and beveled batten siding on the first floor, and stained cedar shingles on the second floor. The gable roof is covered with Burris Company tin shingles. Exterior louvered shutters are mounted on the first floor windows.

A shed porch supported by eight evenly spaced square posts with capitals extends across the facade (northwest elevation). A standing seam tin roof covers the porch. Sawn porch brackets complement the bargeboards on the porch and main gable roof.

The front door is centered on the facade, and is framed by transom and sidelights. Applied anthemion ornaments embellish the front door.

Two brick chimney stacks are symmetrically located on either side of the central hall. One brick chimney stack is centrally located in the rear ell, between the dining room and the keeping room.

Between 1911 and 1922, the house was repositioned on its original site. Specifically, this entailed turning the house from its original southwest orientation, facing town square, to its present northwest orientation, facing River Street. This move was necessitated by residential development created by the subdivision of the original parcel associated with the house and the establishment of River Street. Portions of a grove of cedar trees, which at one time bordered the original carriage drive, are still visible in neighboring lots to the southwest. This move has not adversely affected the integrity of the property.

Alterations to the original building include the addition of a small bathroom ell, projecting from the left side of the southeast elevation; the enclosure of the original porch on the west side of the ell in 1948; and, a kitchen addition accomplished by the extension of the southeast ell in 1964. Board and beveled batten siding on the porch enclosure and kitchen addition and bargeboards on the latter, duplicate the historic details. The original windows have been modified from multi-light sash to one over one sash.

Interior: The first floor of the Chamberlain-Kay House features a central hall, divided into two sections, and flanked on each side by one room. A quarter-turn staircase with a landing rises from the rear section of the central hall. Access to a bedroom on the right and a parlor on the left is possible through two doors on each side.

Continued

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
___ prehistoric	___ archeology-prehistoric	___ community planning	___ landscape architecture	___ religion
___ 1400–1499	___ archeology-historic	___ conservation	___ law	___ science
___ 1500–1599	___ agriculture	___ economics	___ literature	___ sculpture
___ 1600–1699	X architecture	___ education	___ military	___ social/ humanitarian
___ 1700–1799	___ art	___ engineering	___ music	
X 1800–1899	___ commerce	___ exploration/settlement	___ philosophy	___ theater
___ 1900–	___ communications	___ industry	___ politics/government	___ transportation
		___ invention		___ other (specify)

Specific dates ca. 1854 **Builder/Architect**

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Chamberlain-Kay House was built ca. 1854 as a residence for Charles C. Chamberlain. It is considered to be the oldest surviving residence in Belton, South Carolina. Architecturally, the Chamberlain-Kay House exemplifies the effect of the changing architectural tastes and fashions on a vernacular house form in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

The Chamberlain-Kay House was one of the first houses built in Belton. The origin and early development of Belton were interwoven with the construction of the Greenville and Columbia Railroad, which was completed as far northward as Belton by March 1853. Charles C. Chamberlain was the first supervisor of the line from Belton to Greenville, and after the incorporation of Belton in 1855, he was chosen as the first intendant. A plat of January 1854 reveals that by that date Chamberlain had constructed a residence bordering the town square. In June of 1855 he offered the house for sale, and by June 1858 he had moved to Alabama.

After a brief ownership by the Greenville and Columbia Railroad Company, to whom Chamberlain had conveyed the property, it was purchased by Ira C. Williams in 1860. During Williams' lifetime the house is believed to have been the site of many political rallies and gatherings, as a result of his friendship with many political figures. His widow sold the house and twelve acres of land to W. K. Stringer in 1906. After several additional owners, the house was purchased in 1946 by William and Alice S. Kay, who continue to reside there.

Architecturally, the Chamberlain-Kay House represents the influence of the changing tastes and fashions of the later nineteenth and early twentieth centuries on a vernacular form. The original board and beveled batten siding, as well as the bargeboards and brackets, represent the Carpenter Gothic fashion,while the doorway, with its transom and sidelights and its anthemion ornament, represents the Greek Revival. The metal shingles on the roof, as well as the cedar shingles on the second story, represent the variegated textures of the Queen Anne style. Each successive style was imposed upon the basic form, creating the amalgamative building surviving today.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

10. Geographical Data

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Acreage of nominated property 0.45

Quadrangle name Williamston, S.C., 1957 **Quadrangle scale** 1:62500

UMT References

	Zone	Easting	Northing
A	17	363125	3821050
B			
C			
D			
E			
F			
G			
H			

Verbal boundary description and justification The boundary of the Chamberlain-Kay House nomination is shown as the red line on the accompanying map entitled "249-03" and drawn at a scale of 100 feet to the inch. The nominated property includes all significant buildings and structures.

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

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Mark Schader, Historic Preservation Planner
S.C. Appalachian Council of Governments
Mary Watson, John Wells
S.C. Dept. of Archives & History

organization S.C. Appalachian Council of Governments **date** July 21, 1980

street & number Post Office Box 6668 **telephone** (803) 758-5816

city or town Greenville **state** South Carolina 29606

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

___ national ___ state X local

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Charles E. Lee

title Charles E. Lee
State Historic Preservation Officer **date** 9/25/80

For HCRS use only
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date 11-25-80

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: date 11/24/80

Chief of Registration

In the southeast ell are the original dining room and the keeping room. Two bedrooms are on either side of the central hall on the second floor.

Surroundings: The Chamberlain-Kay House is surrounded by detached houses in an older residential neighborhood. A small frame building of no historical significance is located on the property, immediately behind the main house.

Acts of the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina Passed in December, 1855. Columbia, S.C.: E. H. Britton and Co., State Printers, 1855, p. 461.

Advertisement. The Gazette and Advocate (Anderson, S.C.), 13 June 1855, p. 3.

Anderson County Tricentennial Commission. Anderson County Sketches. Anderson, S.C.: Drake House, Inc., 1969, p. 9.

Anderson, S.C. Anderson County Clerk of Court. Records of Mesne Conveyance. Deed Book DD, pp. 284, 532; Deed Book EE, p. 538; Deed Book H, p. 139.

Herd, Elmer Don, Jr. "Early History of Belton, S.C., 1700-1860: Revised, with Addition Materials on Later Periods." Research paper, University of South Carolina, 1961, pp. 31, 32.

"Souvenir Edition: Belton." The Anderson Intelligencer, 30 September 1896, p. 18.

Vandiver, Louise Ayer. History and Traditions of Anderson County. Atlanta, Ga.: Ruralist Press, 1928, p. 194.