NPS Form 10-900
(Rev. 10-90)

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NATIONAL REGISTER

OMB No. 1024-0018

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Cornwell Inn

other names/site number Cornwell's; the Inn at Cornwell

2. Location

street & number U.S. Highway 321 at intersection of State Road 205 not for publication ___
city or town Blackstock vicinity X
state South Carolina code SC county Chester code 023
zip code 29014

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ___ nationally ___ statewide X locally.
(___ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Mary W. Edmonds 1/4/94
Signature of certifying official Date

Mary W. Edmonds, Deputy SHPO, S. C. Department of Archives and History
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.
(___ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

✓ entered in the National Register
___ See continuation sheet.
___ determined eligible for the National Register
___ See continuation sheet.
___ determined not eligible for the National Register
___ removed from the National Register
___ other (explain): _____

Gwyn Lapsley 2/18/94 Entered in the National Register

for Signature of Keeper Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- X private
- ___ public-local
- ___ public-State
- ___ public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- X building(s)
- ___ district
- ___ site
- ___ structure
- ___ object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	1	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	1	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat:	Sub:
DOMESTIC	Hotel
DOMESTIC	Single Family Dwelling

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat:	Sub:
VACANT/NOT IN USE	

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Federal
Greek Revival

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Granite
roof Metal
walls Weatherboard
other Brick

Narrative Description
(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria
(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- ___ **A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ___ **B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- X **C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ___ **D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations
(Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

____ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
____ B removed from its original location.
____ C a birthplace or a grave.
____ D a cemetery.
____ E a reconstructed building, object,or structure.
____ F a commemorative property.
____ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions)
ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance
1841 - 1942

Significant Dates
1841
1851
1942

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)
N/A

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Architect/Builder
N/A

Narrative Statement of Significance
(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography
(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS)
___ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
___ previously listed in the National Register
___ previously determined eligible by the National Register
___ designated a National Historic Landmark
___ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
___ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

Primary Location of Additional Data
X State Historic Preservation Office
___ Other State agency
___ Federal agency
___ Local government
___ University
___ Other
Name of repository: S. C. Department of Archives & History, Columbia, SC

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Approx. 4.5 acres

UTM References
(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
1	17	483650	3829330	3			
2				4			

___ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description
(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification
(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Risher R. Fairey, w/assistance from SHPO Staff

organization History Information Services date 2 May 1993

street & number 411 Willow Oak Drive telephone (803) 741-0627

city or town Columbia state SC zip code 29223

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Mr. & Mrs. John Edward Cornwell, III

street & number 2909 Windemere Court telephone (615) 889-2452

city or town Nashville state TN zip code 37214

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

Narrative Description:

The Cornwell Inn is located on US Highway 321, approximately eight miles south of Chester, South Carolina, in the community of Cornwell. This segment of US Highway 321 follows the route of the important antebellum commercial artery, the Charlotte-Columbia-Charleston Road. Twenty-five feet east of and parallel to the highway are the railroad tracks of the Southern Railroad line, which was the location of the antebellum rail line, the Charlotte and South Carolina Railroad. The Federal style inn is situated approximately one-hundred and seventy-five feet east of the railroad tracks on a small rise, with a level yard between the house and the highway and railroad tracks and a yard that slopes gently away from the house in the other three directions. Surrounding the house are many historic native and ornamental trees and shrubs including oak, cedar, walnut, dogwood, magnolia, pecan, honey locust, American holly, arborvitae, privet hedge, japonica, and lariope.

The ca. 1841 original portion (the northern half of the building) of the inn, measuring forty feet by twenty feet, is a one-and-one-half-story, five-bay, double-pitched gable-roofed, heavy-timber frame and weatherboard building set on granite piers, and has two exterior end chimneys with freestanding chimney stacks. The lower four feet of these chimneys is constructed of granite and the remainder is built of brick laid in a random pattern common bond. The original core of the building is set upon granite piers, which were later reinforced with brick, and even later infilled with brick. It has hewn wood sills and round log floor joists topped with random width tongue-and-groove pine flooring. The western facade of the original portion features two nine-over-six double-hung wood-sash windows symmetrically placed on either side of the six-panel door into the former central hall. The two four-light, fixed-sash wood windows on either side of the north chimney and ghost marks of earlier walls and flooring indicate there was a sleeping loft in the eastern part of the half-story loft of the original portion of the inn.

The ten-foot deep, full-length porches on both the west and east elevations were probably part of the original building plan, as there is evidence of brick nogging between the exterior sills of the house and the floor above. The interior walls and ceilings of the original portion are covered with horizontal flushboard, with a plain crown molding with a profile but no carving. The mantels, chair rail, and window and door molding of the original portion appear to date from the late Federal period. The roof rafters are five-inch round logs topped with random width, sash-sawn sheathing boards. The sash-sawn ceiling joists and the fully-developed machine-cut nails used in the original portion support a mid-nineteenth-century construction date.

Soon after the original portion was completed, a forty-two-foot by twenty-foot addition with a full basement was added to the south elevation of the inn. This one-and-one-half-story, five-bay, double-pitch gable-roofed, frame and

provided additional living space in the full basement, probably for the domestic servants necessary for the operation of an inn and important antebellum stagecoach stop on the Charlotte-Columbia-Charleston Road. Later Cornwell Inn served as a prominent stop on the Charlotte and South Carolina Railroad line.

The windows on the west and south elevations of the addition feature nine-over-six, double-hung, wood sashes, and the windows of the east elevation have six-over-six, double-hung, wood sashes. The half-story attic features two four-light, fixed-sash wood windows on either side of the south chimney, but there is no stair to this attic area, which indicates it was never used as domestic living space. The addition also featured ten-foot deep porches on the west and east elevations like the original portion, except that the south end of the west porch was divided into two rooms which were later used as an office and library by Dr. Fitz William McMaster Cornwell, the last Cornwell family member to occupy the inn. The entire east porch was enclosed at this time, creating at least four more usable rooms for guests of the inn. The addition also caused the exterior end chimney on the south end of the original portion to be converted into an interior chimney with an additional fireplace. The south end of the addition has an exterior end chimney (constructed entirely of brick) with a freestanding chimney stack.

The addition features vertical-plank walls between the rooms and forming the stair hall. The exterior walls are covered with horizontal flushboard with a chair rail and a crown molding with a profile but no carving. The walls of the southernmost room of the addition have been covered with wallpaper, concealing an earlier light-colored stain on the horizontal boards, chair rail, and crown molding. The mantels, chair rail, and door and window molding of the addition appear to date to the transitional Greek Revival to Victorian style popular in the mid-nineteenth century.

Whereas the addition greatly altered the symmetrical west facade of the original portion by adding four more doors into the inn and four more windows, the extension of the porches and extension of the existing roofline helped to ameliorate the effects of the addition. The entire west slope of the roof is covered with stamped sheet metal shingles, and the entire east slope is covered with corrugated metal sheets. The original roof material was probably wood shingles.

The east elevation of the original portion was further altered by the addition of a shed-roofed porch after the original porch was enclosed at the time of the addition. There is also a shed-roofed concrete block building attached to the northeast corner of the original portion of the inn.

Located approximately fifty feet west of the inn is an important feature of the site, the remains of what appears to be the old privy. There is also a noncontributing, gable-roofed, frame and weatherboard building located approximately seventy-five feet southeast of the inn.

Statement of Significance:

The ca. 1841 Cornwell Inn was built by Elijah Cornwell on property he acquired in October of that year.[1] "The Inn" is unique in a multitude of ways in spite of a plain exterior appearance. Both the historical use of the structure and the architectural evolution of the house provide key reasons why the property deserves National Register nomination and recognition.

South Carolina has few surviving buildings with the direct link to antebellum period transportation, especially one in a rural location. The Cornwell Inn is one of South Carolina's surviving early stagecoach stops on a main state road, the Charlotte to Charleston Road. The building's other key historical significance is the inn's connection with the Charlotte and South Carolina Railroad, one of this nation's earliest regional rail lines.[2] Elijah Cornwell, (1788-1857) was prosperous as an innkeeper in part because he was the son of an early Chester County settler, Eli Cornwell, a Revolutionary War veteran of General Nathanael Greene's Army. Cornwell had settled in what became Chester County in 1782.[3]

The Cornwell Inn initially served as a stage stop and tavern for travelers through piedmont South Carolina. When the Charlotte and South Carolina Railroad was completed into Chester District, the Cornwell Inn became a primary stop on this rail system as early as August 1851.[4] Until the railroad was completed to Chester during August the inn apparently served as a transfer point from rail to coach. The Charlotte and South Carolina Railroad was privately financed and the Annual Stockholder's Reports reveal that Cornwell's, as the area became known, was an important passenger and freight stop during the initial decade of the

[1]Arthur Cornwell, "Old Cornwell House Built Over 100 Years Ago is Rich in History, The Chester News (Chester, S.C.), 17 November 1960.

[2]Robert Mills, "The Mills Atlas, 1825, Chester District, South Carolina," and "Map of South Carolina compiled from Railroad, Coast, and State Surveys," surveyed by G.E. Walker & J. Johnson (New York: J.H. Colton & Company, 1854).

[3]Cornwell, "Old Cornwell House Built Over 100 Years Ago is Rich in History."

[4]Anne P. Collins, comp., A Goodly Heritage: A History of Chester County, South Carolina (Columbia: R.L. Bryan Company, 1986), p. 160; Charlotte & South Carolina Railroad Company, Proceedings of the Third Annual Stockholder's Meeting (Chesterville, S.C., 1851), p. 26.

railroad prior to the Civil War.[5] Initially the station was called "Well Spring," however due to confusion of names with Ridge Spring in nearby Edgefield District, the stop was given the name of Cornwell's in recognition of the family living there.[6] Cornwell Inn served as a midday meal stop for passengers, as well as a water station along the rail line until 1856.[7]

The initial construction involved only the north end of the structure. The south end of the house was supposedly completed in 1846 when the stagecoach passengers began to stop for meals. Passenger's stops continued through the close of the Civil War. Family correspondence indicates that Dr. Palmer, past president of the railroad, assisted the Cornwells in constructing a side track at Cornwell's to serve the needs of refugees from Charleston during the Civil War.[8]

Prior to the war the Cornwells operated a public tannery and horse drawn ginnery. According to family correspondence, the gin house and barn for the property were located approximately one hundred yards east of the house. The gin was operated by horse power until the mid-1870s when a steam engine was introduced to power the gin. The correspondence indicates that the family barn was taken down in 1938.[9]

The letter also reveals there was a post office at Cornwell's prior to the Civil War. After the war the post office was moved to Blackstock. During the period 1879-1880 a new post office was established at Cornwell's. The post office was managed by Eli Cornwell from the early 1890s until his death in October 1910. Subsequently the post office was moved back to Blackstock during the late 1920s.[10]

[5]Charlotte & South Carolina Railroad Company, Proceedings of the Sixth Annual Stockholder's Meeting (Columbia, 1854), pp. 36-37.

[6]Arthur Cornwell, "Old Cornwell House Built Over 100 Years Ago is Rich in History."

[7]Charlotte & South Carolina Railroad Company, Proceedings of the Sixth Annual Stockholder's Meeting (Columbia, 1854), p. 24; Proceedings of the Ninth Annual Stockholder's Meeting (Columbia, 1857), p. 31.

[8]James H. Craig to Dr. F.W. Cornwell, 28 September 1939, Cornwell Family Papers, in the possession of Mrs. J.E. Cornwell, Nashville, Tennessee.

[9]Ibid.

[10]Ibid.

Elijah Cornwell achieved a measure of success during the latter part of his life. He owned several land holdings as evident through listings in various Chester County deedbooks. The Bill of Appraisal for his estate as written in December 1861 clearly shows someone successful enough to have owned over thirty slaves, two issues of railroad stock, and to have had a number of notes owed and accounts due to his estate. The appraisal inventory reveals at least five complete bedsteads as part of his furniture. The entire inventory gives many clues to the operation of the Cornwell Inn just prior to the Civil War.[11]

Cornwell Inn lasted as a rail stop of some significance until several events brought changes to the inn and the surrounding community. Elijah Cornwell's death in 1857 was the first of events which would directly affect the Cornwell Inn. His estate remained largely unsettled until 1861. During the 1850s the first large hotels for travelers were built near rail stations in communities including Chester. The single most important event was the destruction wrought during the Civil War by Sherman's Army. The Union Army destroyed the Charlotte and South Carolina Railroad as far north as Blackstock's Depot, the last station along the system prior to reaching Cornwell's from the south.[12]

At the close of the Civil War the Cornwell Inn and surrounding property was owned by Eli Elijah Cornwell, son of the builder. Throughout the remainder of the nineteenth century various family members owned and occupied the house.

Although the railroad was rebuilt after the Civil War, it is not clear if the house at Cornwell's remained an inn, and if so, for how long. The most prominent post-bellum occupant of the house was perhaps Dr. Fitz William McMaster Cornwell, (1867-1942), a grandson to the original builder. According to family tradition Dr. Cornwell used the two small rooms adjacent to the porch on the south end of the house as an office and library. Dr. Cornwell was the last direct descendant to own and occupy the property until it was sold at auction in late 1926.[13] Dr. Cornwell was allowed by the new owners to remain living in the house until his death in 1942. Prior to the study of medicine, Dr. Cornwell had lengthy experience working in various railroad occupations.[14]

[11]Bill of Appraisal and Estate Inventory, Estate of Elijah Cornwell, 10 December 1861, Chester County, S.C.

[12]Collins, A Goodly Heritage, p. 163.

[13]Mr. Risher R. Fairey, Interview with Mrs. J.E. Cornwell, III, Chester, S.C., 3 December 1991.

[14]"Mr. Fitz W.M. Cornwell Died This Morning," The Chester Reporter (Chester, S.C.), 29 January 1942.

While specific documentation has never been located, various accounts regarding the Cornwell Inn indicate that John C. Calhoun and Wade Hampton were two noted guests during the inn's existence.[15]

[15]Historic Sites Survey of Chester County, South Carolina (Rock Hill, S.C.: The Catawba Regional Planning Council, 1976), p. 29.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Charlotte and South Carolina Railroad Company, Proceedings of the Third Annual Stockholder's Meeting. Chesterville, SC: 1851.

Charlotte and South Carolina Railroad Company, Proceedings of the Sixth Annual Stockholder's Meeting. Columbia, SC: 1854.

Charlotte and South Carolina Railroad Company, Proceedings of the Ninth Annual Stockholder's Meeting. Columbia, SC: 1857.

Cornwell, Arthur. "Old Cornwell House Built Over 100 Years Ago is Rich in History." The Chester News (Chester, S.C.), November 17, 1960.

Collins, Anne P., comp. A Goodly Heritage: A History of Chester County, South Carolina. Columbia, SC: R. L. Bryan Company, 1986.

Historic Sites Survey of Chester County, South Carolina. Rock Hill, SC: The Catawba Regional Planning Council, 1976.

"Map of South Carolina compiled from Railroad, Coast, and State Surveys," surveyed by Walker, G. E. and Johnson, J. New York: J. H. Colton & Company, 1854.

The Mills' Atlas, 1825, Chester District, South Carolina.

"Mr. Fitz W. M. Cornwell Died This Morning." The Chester Reporter, 29 January 1942.

Verbal Boundary Description:

The boundary for the Cornwell Inn is shown as the heavy black line on the accompanying surveyor's plat, dated November 29, 1924, consisting of a 4.5 acre segment of Block "C", Parcel No. 1, drawn at a scale of 1" = 400'.

Boundary Justification:

The boundary for the Cornwell Inn includes the historic inn/dwelling, the site of the historic privy, numerous historic plantings of mature trees and shrubs, and one noncontributing outbuilding.

PHOTOGRAPHS

The following information is the same for each of the photographs:

Name of Property:	Cornwell Inn
Location:	Blackstock, Chester County, SC
Name of Photographer:	Joanna Angle
Date of Photographs:	July 1992
Location of Original Negative:	SC Dept. of Archives and History, Columbia, SC.

1. West elevation

2. East elevation

3. North elevation

4. South elevation

5. Northwest elevation