Form 10-300
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY – NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries – complete applicable sections)

STATE:
South Carolina

COUNTY:
Darlington

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
DEC 1 6 1974	

1. NAME

COMMON:

Welsh Neck-Long Bluff-Society Hill Historic District

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

Welsh Neck-Long Bluff-Society Hill Community

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
South Carolina	045	Darlington	031

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY *(Check One)*	OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
[X] District [ ] Building [ ] Site [ ] Structure [ ] Object	[ ] Public [ ] Private [X] Both	Public Acquisition: [ ] In Process [ ] Being Considered	[X] Occupied [X] Unoccupied [X] Preservation work in progress	Yes: [X] Restricted [X] Unrestricted [ ] No

PRESENT USE *(Check One or More as Appropriate)*

[X] Agricultural	[X] Government	[ ] Park	[ ] Transportation	[ ] Comments
[X] Commercial	[ ] Industrial	[X] Private Residence	[X] Other *(Specify)*	
[X] Educational	[ ] Military	[X] Religious	wooded area	
[ ] Entertainment	[ ] Museum	[ ] Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:

Multiple

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

	STATE:	CODE
	South Carolina	045

STATE:

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:

Darlington, Chesterfield, Marlboro County Courthouses

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

	STATE	CODE
Darlington, Chesterfield, Bennettsville	South Carolina	045

COUNTY:

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

Inventory of Historic Places in South Carolina

DATE OF SURVEY: 1973	[ ] Federal [X] State [ ] County [ ] Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

South Carolina Department of Archives and History

STREET AND NUMBER:

1430 Senate Street

CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:	CODE
Columbia	South Carolina	045

ENTRY NUMBER

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CONDITION	(Check One)					
	☒ Excellent	☒ Good	☒ Fair	☒ Deteriorated	☒ Ruins	☒ Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	☒ Altered		☒ Unaltered		☒ Moved	☒ Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Welsh Neck is an area located in a bend of the Great Pee Dee River opposite the present community of Society Hill. In 1736 Welshmen from the Delaware area explored this region. They petitioned for a grant of land along the river to be set aside for the use of Welsh Baptists who were contemplating a move to South Carolina. In 1736 and again in 1737 the colonial government, with permission from George II, set aside an immense tract of land on both sides of the Pee Dee: the entire length of Darlington County now bordering the river was within the bounds of these two grants. Many settled in this bend of the river which, by 1738, was called James Neck but soon came to be known as Welsh Neck. In 1738 a Baptist church was established there and the community flourished. The low-lying lands in the Welsh Neck were subject, however, to frequent floodings. Although the land continued to be cultivated, planters moved their homes to higher ground on the same side of the river or to the hills and higher land on the west side, in the vicinity of Long Bluff. Evacuation of the Welsh Neck was virtually complete when, ca. 1798, the Baptist church was moved to a point atop the first hill on the west side of the Pee Dee. This formed the nucleus of what was to become the village of Society Hill. Today Welsh Neck is an unoccupied, wooded area.

Long Bluff, a settlement on the east side of the Pee Dee River near the present town of Society Hill in Darlington County took its name from one of the longest bluffs on that river, extending without break for about three miles. Land had been settled in this area as early as 1748, and the community of Long Bluff developed on the public road leading from Cheraw Hill (present-day Cheraw) to Georgetown.

A parish known as St. David's was created in 1768 by Act of the General Assembly. The boundaries of this parish became the boundaries for the Cheraws District under the Circuit Court Act of 1769. Although the parish church for St. David's was constructed at Cheraw Hill between the years 1770 and 1772, the location of the courthouse and jail for the new judicial circuit was determined in 1770 to be "at the Long Bluff." The courthouse was completed and court first held on November 16, 1772. The Reverend Nicholas Bedgegood, pastor of the Welsh Neck Church preached the "sessions sermon" in accordance with custom. The parish of St. David, with its center at Cheraw, was over-shadowed in many ways by the judicial organization centered in Long Bluff. From 1772 until 1791 court was held in Long Bluff for the Cheraws District. New counties were formed in 1785 from the Cheraws District, creating new centers of political activity. Although county courts were held in these counties, the circuit court continued to be held at Long Bluff until 1791. As a result of the Revolution, no court was held at Long Bluff between 1778 and 1782, but regular sessions commenced again in 1783. The courthouse building was taken down ca. 1817, but the equity courts continued to be held in Long Bluff until 1824.

About 1785 the name of Long Bluff was changed to Greeneville in honor of General Nathaniel Greene of Revolutionary fame. By 1798 the inhabitants on the Pee Dee in the Welsh Neck had moved across the river to the hills beyond Long Bluff, and the Welsh Neck Baptist Church moved about that time to the new community. The community took the name Society Hill, which subsequently became the successor to Greeneville in that locality. The town of Long Bluff

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

PERIOD *(Check One or More as Appropriate)*

☐ Pre-Columbian | ☐ 16th Century ☒ 18th Century ☐ 20th Century

☐ 15th Century ☐ 17th Century ☒ 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) *(If Applicable and Known)* **ca. 1736, 1748, 1798**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE *(Check One or More as Appropriate)*

Aboriginal		
☐ Prehistoric	☒ Education	☒ Political
☐ Historic	☐ Engineering	☒ Religion/Phi-
☐ Agriculture	☐ Industry	losophy
☒ Architecture	☐ Invention	☐ Science
☐ Art	☐ Landscape	☐ Sculpture
☐ Commerce	Architecture	☐ Social/Human-
☐ Communications	☐ Literature	itarian
☐ Conservation	☒ Military	☐ Theater
	☐ Music	☐ Transportation

☐ Urban Planning

☒ Other *(Specify)*
archeology

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Welsh Neck-Long Bluff-Society Hill area is one rich in historic significance. The Welsh Neck community was a religious center (Baptist) for the Pee Dee region of South Carolina, and Long Bluff served as a judicial center. Few small communities have contributed more to the public in the way of culture, education, and leadership than has Society Hill. It has numbered among its population outstanding leaders in religion and education, jurists, statesmen, soldiers, authors, and agriculturists.

Education: The Society Hill Library Society was formed in 1822. This group grew out of the St. David's Society, founded 1777 in Cheraw, which had a wide-spread influence and was a main factor in making Society Hill a center of intelligent leadership in the Pee Dee area for a century and a half. Scholars from this area have included:

William Falconer, who died in 1805, Scottish lawyer and member of the first board of trustees of the University of South Carolina

Dr. Thomas Park (1767-1844), one of the early principals of St. David's Academy, later professor at University of South Carolina

Enoch Hanford (1777-1817), principal and board member of St. David's Academy, later professor at University of South Carolina

Reverend J. C. Furman (1809-1891), pastor of Welsh Neck Baptist Church. He later taught at Furman University, becoming its president. The college was named for him in 1851.

Dr. J. H. Thornwell (1812-1862), one of the early presidents of the University of South Carolina.

Alexander Gregg (1819-1893), first Episcopal Bishop of Texas, later became Chancellor of the University of the South at Sewanee, Tennessee. He was author of History of the Old Cheraws.

Major James L. Coker (1837-1918), builder of the town of Hartsville and founder of Coker College, a liberal arts college for women.

Architecture: Society Hill is a rural community with many fine antebellum homes in the Georgian mode. Constructed on large lots or in wooded settings, many are two-storied clapboard structures with one-story front

(continued)

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Erwin, Eliza Cowan and Horace Frasier Rudisill. Darlingtoniana.
Columbia: The R. L. Bryan Company, 1964.

Gregg, Alexander. History of the Old Cheraws. New York: Richardson and
Company, 1867.

Townsend, Leah. South Carolina Baptists, 1670-1805. Florence: The
Florence Printing Company, 1936.

(see continuation sheet)

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY						O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES					
CORNER	LATITUDE			LONGITUDE				LATITUDE			LONGITUDE		
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	34°	34·	48·	79°	53·	16·		°	·	·	°	·	·
NE	34°	34·	48·	79°	46·	00·							
SE	34°	28·	22·	79°	46·	02·							
SW	34°	28·	22·	79°	53·	18·							

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: approximately 12,447.6 acres

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
South Carolina	045	Darlington	031
STATE: South Carolina	045	COUNTY: Marlboro	069
STATE: South Carolina	045	COUNTY: Chesterfield	025
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Staff -- Historic Preservation Division   Horace Rudisill "Nick" Zeigler

ORGANIZATION
South Carolina Department of Archives and History

DATE
January 22, 1974

STREET AND NUMBER:
1430 Senate Street

CITY OR TOWN: Columbia	STATE South Carolina	CODE 045

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National ☐   State ☒   Local ☐

Name _____
Charles E. Lee

Title South Carolina Historic
Preservation Officer

Date May 21, 1974

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

_____
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST:

_____
Keeper of The National Register

Date 12-9-74

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE
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Welsh Neck-Long Bluff-Society Hill Historic District
No. 7 Description (con't) 1

or Greeneville and its buildings have since completely disappeared.

The Long Bluff Historical and Recreational Commission hopes to preserve the site of Long Bluff and plans to locate the site of the courthouse, jail, and other buildings. Today Long Bluff is an unoccupied, wooded area.

Society Hill is today a rural community -- the last tangible evidence of the influence of the Welsh Neck-Long Bluff communities.

Historic properties in Society Hill include:

1. Judge Josiah H. Evans House: This Georgian two-story house is clapboard with a gabled roof and a one-story front verandah. It was constructed ca. 1785 to replace an earlier house burned by the British in 1780.

2. Enoch Hanford House: Known locally as Cedar Lawn, this two-storied house is of Georgian design and was constructed ca. 1803. The roof is gabled, and the one-story verandah has a hip roof. Two main chimneys serve the fireplaces, and there are two side wings.

3. Wilson House: Originally a much smaller structure, the Wilson House was constructed ca. 1810. Its earliest known owner was John F. Wilson who enlarged the house. Other changes were made by subsequent owners. Today it appears as a two-storied clapboard dwelling with single story front verandah. A single story wing is connected on the right side.

4. Welsh Neck Baptist Church (site): The Welsh settlers from Delaware established this church's congregation in 1738 in the Welsh Neck area; it was moved to the present location ca. 1798. The present brick structure was built in 1938 and is the third one on the site.

5. Parsonage of Welsh Neck Baptist Church: Built in 1855, this clapboard structure has cross gables with decorative brackets and a one-story front verandah. Between the columns are arch-motifs which are repeated in the two french doors and the left side entrance door.

6. W. A. Carragan House: The Carragan House is Society Hill's most elaborate of the Victorian period. It is in the Second Empire style and will soon undergo restoration.

7. Trinity Church: Completed in 1834, Trinity was the first Episcopal church in Darlington County and is the oldest remaining church structure in the county today. Of rectangular design, the clapboard building has a front central bell tower with an arched central entrance; there are also arched entrances to either side.

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INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

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Welsh Neck-Long Bluff-Society Hill Historic District
No. 7 Description (con't -- 2)

8. <u>Coker-Rogers Store</u>: Extensively remodeled in the 1890s and again in 1911, this 1860s structure houses the oldest mercantile establishment in the county to have remained in continuous operation by one family. The front section of the clapboard building is two-storied with a gable roof. A rear one-story projection adjoins the main section of the building. (actual business from 1830s)

9. <u>Sompayrac Store</u>: This one-story gabled structure, antebellum, was built by Theodore Sompayrac. It has a central door with 12/12 windows to either side.

10. <u>L. E. Carragan Store</u>: This unpainted warehouse-type structure is no longer used as a place of business; it is currently owned by the town of Society Hill. (probable construction date is shortly after the War Between the States)

11. <u>Old Society Hill Library</u>: Dating from December 7, 1822, this library was one of the first public lending libraries in the state. Moved from its original location to the grounds of St. David's Academy, the small one-room clapboard structure contained some 2,000 volumes.

12. <u>St. David's Academy</u>: St. David's Society founded this academy in 1777 near present day Welsh Neck Baptist Church for the purpose of educating the youth of all denominations. The academy was relocated to its present site ca. 1840 and the current building, part of the public school system now, was constructed in 1957.

13. <u>John K. McIver House</u>: Constructed ca. 1800 by McIver, this large clapboard structure is two-storied and has a gambrel roof with returns. The one-story front verandah has arched lattice insets between the columns.

14. <u>Factory Site</u>: One of the first water-powered cotton mills in the South was built in 1812 by Governor David Rogerson Williams and operated by him during his lifetime. It is now in ruins.

15. <u>Rocky Dundee</u>: This antebellum one-story house has a gabled roof and front verandah supported by four columns. The central double entrance has side and transom lights. (constructed prior to 1830)

16. <u>Croly Hill</u>: Probably built as a summer house, this 1820s structure is two-storied with clapboard siding and a large single-level front verandah. It was built on the homesite of Mrs. Croly, a Tory sympathizer during the Revolution.

17. <u>Bellevue</u>: Colonel J. Nicholas Williams built this large house ca. 1850 as a wedding gift for his son. The two-storied clapboard structure is Georgian with fine Greek revival details. Its graceful portico is supported by Ionic columns and a roof balustrade of wrought iron. The entablature has a Greek motif and the fanlight over the central door is noteworthy.

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Welsh Neck-Long Bluff-Society Hill Historic District
No. 8 Significance (con't) 1

verandahs. Later house construction has been compatible with the earlier residences. Nineteenth-century mercantile establishments still operate in unadorned frame buildings of a purely functional design. Although modern structures are evident, the visual impact is lessened by the rural nature of the district.

Military: Military leaders from Society Hill include Abel Kolb, colonel of Francis Marion's regiment on the upper Pee Dee and Lemuel Benton who succeeded Kolb as colonel of the Upper Pee Dee Regiment. Benton was also sheriff of the Cheraws District in 1789 and was later elected first Congressman from the area.

Political: Equity courts were held in Long Bluff until 1824, and circuit court was held there until 1791. From 1772 until 1791 law courts were held at Long Bluff for the Cheraws District.

The courthouse at Long Bluff, with its jail, tavern, and supporting buildings, was a center of activity for the Upper Pee Dee region during the Revolution. In 1774 Judge William Henry Drayton charged the grand jurors of Long Bluff to "... maintain the laws, the rights, the constitution of your country, even at the hazard of your lives and your fortunes." The petty jury then made a formal address to the judge to the effect that they would not submit to the attempt of a British Parliament to tax them: "... a claim to which we will never submit and an attempt which we are determined to oppose at the hazard of our lives and property..." In 1775, a presentment was made by the grand jury at Long Bluff which his Majesty's justices tried unsuccessfully to suppress.

During the early part of the Revolution, Tories were placed in jail at Long Bluff. The fall of Charleston to the British changed the situation and Whigs from the area were jailed at Long Bluff. The British erected a stockade at Long Bluff Jail to accommodate large numbers of prisoners.

Many of Society Hill's citizens have become quite influential in political affairs of county and state. They include:

Samuel Wilds (1775-1810), member of the South Carolina House of Representatives, Solicitor, and Circuit Judge.

David R. Williams (1776-1830), Governor of South Carolina (born at Center Hall and later returned to his homeplace after retiring from public office).

Josiah J. Evans (1786-1858), Circuit Judge and United States Senator.

Dr. William Sparks, appointed United States Consul to Venice in 1845.

Henry McIver (1826-1903), Solicitor, and later Chief Justice of the South Carolina Supreme Court.

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(Number all entries)

Welsh Neck-Long Bluff-Society Hill Historic District
No. 8 Significance (con't -- 2)

General J. S. McQueen (1826-1903), lawyer and member of Congress for approximately 12 years (1848-1860).

Religion: In 1738 a Baptist church was established at Welsh Neck. As the church grew, its influence increased. Its ministers preached or assisted weak congregations up and down the Pee Dee River. Other Baptist churches formed from this church, such as Catfish, Mars Bluff, Lynches Creek, Cashaway, Beauty Spot, Cheraw Hill, and others. Welsh Neck Baptist Church was moved to Society Hill in 1798. Welsh Neck Baptist Church was the second center of Baptist influence in South Carolina. The First Baptist church in Charleston, established by 1699, was the first.

Archeology: Welsh Neck and Long Bluff are considered excellent potential archeological sites. Plans for excavation at Long Bluff are now in process.

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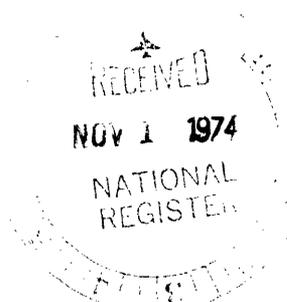Welsh Neck-Long Bluff-Society Hill Historic District
8. Significance

An excavation has now been done at a site on the west bank of the Pee
Dee River in the Long Bluff area. Evidence of a late 18th Century town
was found on this exploratory dig.

A comprehensive archeological survey has not been done in the Welsh Neck-
Long Bluff area; therefore, a sketch map would not be possible. At present
there are no plans for concentrated archeological work in the Welsh Neck-
Long Bluff area. There is, however, an acknowledged potential here, and
future excavations will be encouraged.

There are essentially three historic areas combined within this nomination.
Both the Welsh Neck and Long Bluff areas are historic sites with potential
archeological value. This area has not been urbanized, and acres of
wooded land remain. Society Hill is a small southern community whose
history can be directly linked with both Long Bluff and Welsh Neck.

Within the entire district there are approximately 250 structures.
Scattered over the area are about 60 trailers. There is a small subdivision
on the outskirts of Society Hill, and a few truckstops are located on
the road leading to and passing through Society Hill. The necessity of
drawing recognizable boundaries (i.e., using public roads and property
lines) resulted in the inclusion of some intrusions on the fringe of the
district. Although the number of intrusions might appear large in
proportion to the number of historic properties, the heart of the district
is relatively free of intrusions with only about five sites that could
be considered historically unimportant.

The Welsh Neck-Long Bluff area is actually the site of a frontier
community. As a result of the historically related nature of the area,
it is necessary to include a larger amount of acreage.

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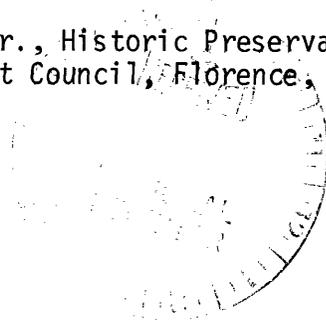| STATE	
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COUNTY	
Darlington	
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(Number all entries)

Welsh Neck-Long Bluff-Society Hill Historic District
9. Major Bibliographical References (continued)

Neuffer, Claude Henry, ed. Names in South Carolina, Vol. 1-X11, 1954-1965.
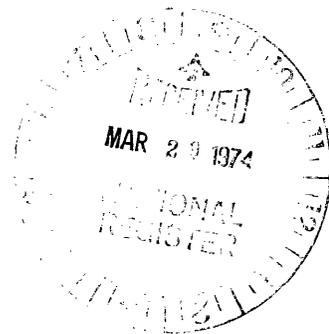   Columbia, S.C.: State Printing Co., 1967.

South Carolina Writers' Project (WPA). Palmetto Place Names. Columbia, S.C.:
   Sloane Printing, 1941.

Information received from Edwin P. Rogers, Jr., Historic Preservation Planner,
   Pee Dee Regional Planning and Development Council, Florence, South Carolina.

KEY TO STREET MAP OF SOCIETY HILL HISTORIC DISTRICT

1. Judge Josiah H. Evans House

2. Enoch Hanford House

3. J. F. Wilson House

4. Welsh Neck Baptist Church

5. Parsonage of Welsh Neck Baptist Church

6. W. A. Carragan House

7. Trinity Church

8. Coker-Rogers Store

9. Sompayrac Store

10. L. E. Carragan Store

11. Old Society Hill Library

12. St. David's Academy

13. John K. McIver House

14. Factory Site

15. Rocky Dundee

16. Croly Hill

17. Bellevue

Great Pee Dee River

1.

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10.

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Atlantic Coast Line Railroad

13.

11
.12

Cedar Creek

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.14

.16

S.C. Highway 15-A

S.C.Highway 52

.17