

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 of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Lawton Park and Pavilion

other names/site number

2. Location

street & number Prestwood Drive

not for publication

city, town Hartsville

vicinity

state South Carolina code SC

county Darlington

code 031

zip code 29550

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

- private
public-local (checked)
public-State
public-Federal

Category of Property

- building(s)
district (checked)
site
structure
object

Number of Resources within Property

Table with 2 columns: Contributing, Noncontributing. Rows for buildings, sites, structures, objects, Total.

Name of related multiple property listing:

Historic Resources of Hartsville, SC, c. 1817-c. 1941

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this 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 meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Mary W. Edmonds (Signature)

3/4/91 (Date)

Signature of certifying official

Date

Mary W. Edmonds, Deputy SHPO, SC Department of Archives & History, Columbia, SC

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- Entered in the National Register. (checked)
determined eligible for the National Register.
determined not eligible for the National Register.
removed from the National Register.
other, (explain):

Entered in the National Register

Allison Byers (Signature)

5/3/91 (Date)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Recreation and Culture/Outdoor Recreation

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Recreation and Culture/Outdoor Recreation

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Colonial Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick

walls Wood/Weatherboard

roof Asphalt

other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

Lawton Park is located off Prestwood Drive on the southeast bank of Prestwood Lake in Hartsville. The Lawton Park Pavilion is located adjacent to a swimming area and is an excellent example of a public recreational structure showing Colonial Revival influence. This park and pavilion are representative of Hartsville's historic public facilities.

Lawton Park is a wooded, 3.5 acre, public recreation area including a swimming area, playground, picnic area, and tennis courts. The park includes three buildings: a pavilion, shed, and keeper's house. The keeper's house has been extensively altered and does not contribute to the historic character of the park.

The Lawton Park Pavilion is a frame, rectangular plan, two-story building with a hip roof and cupola. Bathhouse facilities including locker rooms and showers are located on the ground floor. The second floor consists of one large open room designed for dances and community activities. All four elevations feature bands of grouped windows at the second floor. Louvered vents are located immediately below the windows and also at the first floor. The facade is characterised by a central entry portico with paired slender tuscan columns and flanking brick stairs.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Entertainment/Recreation

Period of Significance

1939-1941

Significant Dates

1941

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

Architect/Builder

Works Progress Administration

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

Lawton Park and Lawton Park Pavilion, on Prestwood Lake, are significant as examples of New-Deal era public recreational facilities, funded by the Federal government and built by the Works Progress Administration (later the Work Projects Administration).

Lawton Park, built 1939-1941, was planned as early as 1938. In that year Joseph J. Lawton (1861-1941), prominent Hartsville businessman and manufacturer, donated three-and-one-half acres on Prestwood Lake to the town specifically for use as "a play-ground or recreation park and/or swimming and bathing place."⁽¹⁾ The Hartsville town government applied to the Works Progress Administration for Federal funds and labor to build the park, named in honor of Lawton, and its facilities. The plans included "a two story club house [Lawton Park Pavilion], a keeper's house, playground and equipment, picnic grounds with open air ovens, and swimming facilities. Dressing rooms and baths will be located in the ground floor of the main club house, while the second floor will be one large room suitable for dances and community gatherings."⁽²⁾ Although work began in the fall of 1939 and the W.P.A. quickly approved Hartsville's proposal, Lawton Park was not completed and opened to the public until the spring of 1941. "This area is of unusual natural beauty," the Hartsville Messenger observed, describing the park. "Many junipers, some large ones, line the shore in this section and the lake here is specially adapted for growing lilies. Throughout the park there are pines, hickory, dogwood and myrtle bushes, all of which lend beauty to the recreation area."⁽³⁾

NOTES

(1) Darlington County Deeds, Deed Book 204, Page 468, Darlington County Courthouse, Darlington, S.C.

(2) Hartsville Messenger, 29 December 1938.

(3) Hartsville Messenger, 2 November 1939; see also 16 March 1939, 15 May 1941.

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

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 # _____

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository:

SC Department of Archives & History,
Columbia, SC

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 3.5 acres

UTM References

A 17 584580 3804680
 Zone Easting Northing

C

B
 Zone Easting Northing

D

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the nomination is shown as the broken line labeled "Lawton Park and Pavilion" on the accompanying map, "City of Hartsville," drawn at a scale of 1" = 500'.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The nominated property includes the pavilion and the park.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title J. Tracy Power, NR Historian/Julie Turner, Survey Architectural Historian

organization SC Department of Archives & History date 13 June 1990

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city or town Columbia state SC zip code 29211

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

PHOTOGRAPHS

Section number _____ Page 1

Name of property: Lawton Park and Pavilion
(Historic Resources of Hartsville
multiple property submission)

Location of property: Hartsville, South Carolina
Location of negative: South Carolina Department of Archives and History
Photographer: Staff, SC Dept. Archives and History
Date of photograph: November 1989

1. Pavilion
Front Facade Oblique
2. Pavilion
Rear Elevation