

6 10

10

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY
NOMINATION FORM

Continuation Sheet

Item Number

Page

Name Historic Liberty Universalist Church and Feasterville Academy
Common Historic District
Location ~~On either side of S.C. Hwy. 215,~~ approximately 3/4 mile southeast of its junction with county road 33
Classification District

Owner Coleman-Feaster-Mobley Family Assn.
c/o Bobby Blair
Box 1266
Columbia, S.C. 29202

*Fairfield County
South Carolina*

Representation in Existing Surveys South Carolina Inventory of Historic Places, 1983

Description The Liberty Universalist Church and Feasterville Academy Historic District includes two wooded tracts of land on either side of South Carolina Highway 215. The tracts contain four buildings believed to have been constructed between 1830 and 1845. Liberty Universalist Church is located in a clearing on the western side of the highway; three buildings associated with Feasterville Academy are located in a clearing on the eastern side of the highway. Descriptions of the individual buildings, all of which contribute to the character of the historic district follow: (see continuation sheet)

Significance The Liberty Universalist Church and Feasterville Academy Historic District is a significant collection of early to mid-nineteenth century educational and religious buildings. The church is the only known nineteenth century Universalist church remaining in the state and the academy complex is an unusually intact collection of buildings associated with an antebellum academy. As a group the buildings reveal information about two important aspects of life in antebellum Fairfield County.

According to tradition the Universalist faith was established in the Beaver Creek section of rural Fairfield County by members of the Feaster family. The first member of the family to settle in Fairfield County was Andrew Feaster (1735-1821), a native of Switzerland. *

Acreage 8.3 acres

Verbal Boundary Description The nominated property is shown on the accompanying Fairfield County Tax Map #39 with a scale of 1 inch equals 400 feet. It includes only the historical properties associated with Liberty Universalist Church and Feasterville Academy and their immediate surroundings. The boundaries of the district are drawn in red.

UTM Reference Point

- A. 17/466950/3817850
- B. 17/467065/3817810

Other Information Additional information on these properties is located in the South Carolina Inventory of Historic Places.

*Feaster and his son John were both reputed to have been advocates of universal salvation.¹ Documentary and physical evidence lend support to the family tradition that Liberty Universalist Church was constructed about 1832. A Fairfield County deed reveals that in 1838 the first Universalist Society of Fairfield purchased a six-acre tract containing "the Liberty Meeting House" from John M. Feaster (son of John Feaster).² Construction characteristics of the building including the hewn sills and log joists, nine-over-nine windows, and wide board walls on the interior are consistent with an 1832 construction date.

It is not known exactly when Feasterville Academy was first organized. In 1841 the "trustees of Feasterville Academy" contracted with L.F.W. Andrews, a Universalist minister, to teach "the usual English and Classical Branches" for the year 1842.³ Although the agreement stated that the male and female students would be united in one school, a "female academy" and a "large, new boarding house (2-story, 40 foot)" had been erected by January 1842. These buildings are believed to be the school building and boarding house included in this nomination. Soon after the construction of the new boarding house, John Feaster purchased the lot on which the academy and boarding house were located and devoted them to an academy for the education of females.⁴ An October 1844 advertisement in The South Carolinian (Columbia, S.C.) stated that the Feasterville Female Seminary would open on 2 January under the direction of Mrs. Celia Ladd. Courses to be offered included spelling, reading, writing, etc.; arithmetic, grammar, and geography; ancient geography, astronomy, and history; algebra, geometry, natural and moral philosophy; rhetoric, botany, etc.; Latin or French; chemistry, music on the piano forte; guitar; landscape and flower painting in water colors; oil, mezzotint, and poonah painting; and filigree, shell, wax grotto work, and embroidery. In the same issue the editor of The South Carolinian praised John Feaster for his liberal support of female education and noted that "Woman, far more than man lays the foundation of all that is good in society, in her early training of the infant and the youthful mind."⁵ According to the federal census, forty-one girls, whose ages ranged from thirteen to nineteen, were boarding at the academy in 1850. Most of them were natives of Fairfield County, but there were also students from Chester, Columbia, Lancaster, Union, Richland, and North Carolina.⁶

¹Rev. D.B. Clayton, Forty-Seven Years in the Universalist Ministry (Columbia, S.C.: n.p., 1889), pp. 271-72; Ethelle and Baker Colvin, Colvin and Allied Families (El Dorado, Ark.: Hurley Printing and Stationery Co., 1965), pp. 437-438.

²Book NN, p. 4, Fairfield County Deeds, County Records on Microfilm, South Carolina Department of Archives and History, Columbia, S.C.

³Article of Agreement Between Jacob Feaster, Jr., H.L. Coleman, Andrew Feaster, and Henry L. Coleman, Trustees of **Feasterville** Academy and L.F.W. Andrews, 22 December 1841, Personal Files of Mrs. Grady Wright, Columbia, S.C.; A Development of Modern Universalism, Growing Out of a Correspondence in Reference to a Proposed Debate Between Dr. L.F.W. Andrews and Rev. John C. Hope (Columbia, S.C.: Morgan's Book and Job Office, 1841), pp. 34, 58.

⁴Ibid.; Book 00, pp. 116-117, Fairfield County Deeds, County Records on Microfilm.

⁵The South Carolinian (Columbia, S.C.), 24 October 1844.

⁶Population Schedules of the Seventh Census of the United States, 1850: South Carolina (Washington: National Archives Microfilm Publications, 1964), microcopy no. M-432, roll no. 852, Fairfield County, p. 231.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received

date entered

DEC 6 1984

Continuation sheet

Item number

Page

1. Liberty Universalist Church: One-story, rectangular, frame, weatherboarded building with a gable roof constructed ca. 1832. Windows are nine-over-nine. A small porch (probably a later addition) shelters the central bay of the facade (south elevation), which contains the main double-door entrance. Interior walls are wide (10 to 12 inches) horizontal boards. The ceiling is also wide (8 to 10 inches) boards.
2. Feasterville Academy Boarding House: Two-story, rectangular, frame, weatherboarded building with a truncated hip roof and two interior chimneys constructed ca. 1842. Windows are nine-over-nine on the first story and nine-over-six on the second story. A pedimented porch, supported by chamfered posts, shelters the central bay of the three-bay facade (southwest elevation). The section of the facade protected by the porch is sheathed in flushboard. The main entrance, under the porch, features a fanlight and sidelights. The rear entrance is also sheltered by a pedimented porch. This entrance features a transom.
3. Feasterville Academy Kitchen: One-story, rectangular, frame, weatherboarded building with a gable roof and central chimney constructed ca. 1842. A six-over-six window is located in each end of the building. The roof is covered with standing seam metal. The interior studs are exposed.
4. Feasterville Academy School Building: One-story, rectangular, frame, weatherboarded building with a gable roof constructed ca. 1842. The roof is covered with standing seam metal. Windows are generally nine-over-nine. The southwest (facade) and northeast elevations each contain a four-paneled door.

LIBERTY UNIVERSALIST CHURCH AND FEASTERVILLE ACADEMY HISTORIC DISTRICT

