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 Mount Hope

Common

Location South side of S.C. Hwy. 34; approximately 1 mile west of the town of Ridgeway

Classification Building

Owner Robert W. Thomas et.al.,
Box 38
Ridgeway, S.C. 29130

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

Description Reportedly constructed in 1836, Mount Hope is a one-and-one-half-story, weatherboarded, frame residence on a raised brick basement. Three pedimented dormers with nine-over-nine windows pierce each slope of the gabled roof. Front and rear elevations have porches supported on 8-foot high masonry piers. The porch on the facade features flush wall boards with chair rail, plain balustrade, pilasters, and six cedar columns. Rear porch has been screened. The facade of the main floor and basement are symmetrically aligned with central double doors with diamond traceried sidelights and transom flanked on each side by two windows. Windows on main floor are nine-over-nine and shuttered; basement windows are six-over-six. Wooden stairway leads to porch. Rear elevation features two shed rooms which flank the porch. Side elevations display twin double shouldered chimneys laid in Flemish bond. Main floor and second level have a four-square floor-plan. *

Significance Dr. John Peyre Thomas (1796-1859) reportedly ordered the construction of Mount Hope in 1836 for $1,025 by a Mr. Killian, along with the construction of a kiln for making brick and tiles for the basement floor.1 Thomas graduated from South Carolina College, completed a medical degree in New York, and obtained one of the earliest medical licenses in South Carolina. His "Diary of Weather and Occurrences" provided one of the earliest meterological chronicles for interior South Carolina.[2]

From 1865-1885 the basement of Mount Hope contained Mount Hope School, operated by Henrietta and Emily Thomas, daughters of Dr. John Thomas.[3] Mount Hope is significant as a relatively intact example of nineteenth century vernacular architecture in Fairfield **

Acreage 3 acres

Verbal Boundary Description The nominated property is shown as the red line on the accompanying Fairfield County Tax Map #201, drawn at a scale of 1 inch equals 400 feet. It includes the historical buildings and their setting.

UTM Reference Point 17/501070/3795160

Other Information

*Outbuildings include a ca. 1850 weatherboarded smokehouse and a ca. 1875 tenant house.

**County and for its association with Dr. Thomas, a prominent physician and amateur scientist.

[1]Dale L Couch, "Survey of Mt. Hope Plantation," June 25, 1977, manuscript report in Central Midlands Regional Planning Council historical survey file (Columbia, S.C.).

[2]Ibid.

[3]Ibid.