Name Historic Ridgeway Historic District
Common Ridgeway Historic District

Location Along sections of Palmer Street, Means Street, Church Street, and Railroad Avenue in Ridgeway, S.C.

Classification District

Owner: Multiple Ownership (see continuation sheets)

Representation in Existing Surveys: Inventory of Historic Places in South Carolina, 1979 (update)

Description: The Ridgeway Historic District contains approximately thirty-one buildings of various uses. The district, with most of the buildings dating from 1890-1915, consists of a commercial block with a predominance of simply ornamented two story brick stores and a residential block with primarily asymmetrical, frame, weatherboarded houses lining the tree shaded streets. Also included is a school, the town hall, and the police station.

Significance: The Ridgeway Historic District is significant as an example of a virtually intact turn-of-the-century town whose development was inextricably tied to agricultural prosperity. A majority of the buildings in the district were built between 1890 and 1915, the heyday of cotton production in the area. The town's merchants constructed modern new brick stores along Palmer Street and some also built their homes in the residential section adjacent to the central business district. Ridgeway Historic District is little changed since about 1915.

Acreage 24.63

Verbal Boundary Description: The boundary of the Ridgeway Historic District nomination is shown as the red line on the accompanying map entitled "Ridgeway Multiple Resource Nomination" and drawn at a scale of 100 feet to the inch. The nominated property includes the largest concentration of significant properties with the smallest number of non-contributing properties in this area of Ridgeway.

UTM Reference Point A. 17/503650/3796400 B. 17/503970/3796050
C. 17/503585/3795690 D. 17/503205/3796010

Other Information

OCT 6 1980

Property	Property Owner
1. Isaac C. Thomas House	Robert W. and Laura Muller Thomas Box 38, Ridgeway, S.C. 29130
2. Charles P. Wray House	George von Elbrecht Route 2, Box 290, Ridgeway, S.C. 29130
3. Reid H. Brown House	Steven C. Wohlfeil Box 277, Ridgeway, S.C. 29130
4. R. C. Thomas House	Robert F. and Shirley H. Clyburn Palmer Street Ridgeway, S.C. 29130
5. Thomas' Store	Robert W. Thomas Box 38, Ridgeway, S.C. 29130
6. Thomas' Store	Robert W. Thomas Box 38, Ridgeway, S.C. 29130
7. Ruff's Old Store	Ruff and Company, Inc. Ridgeway, S.C. 29130
8. Ruff and Company	D. Walter Ruff, Jr. Ridgeway, S.C. 29130
9. Railroad House	Sallie Mae F. Holsenback Ridgeway, S.C. 29130
10. Ridgeway Town Hall	Town of Ridgeway Ridgeway, S.C. 29130
11. Ruff Furniture Store	Ruff and Company, Inc. Ridgeway, S.C. 29130
12. Johnson Building	Ruff and Company, Inc. Ridgeway, S.C. 29130
13., Walter Ruff House and 39. Walter Ruff Bungalow	D. Walter Ruff, Jr. Ridgeway, S.C. 29130
14. Hoaten House	Charles C. Moore Box 185, Ridgeway, S.C. 29130
15. Traylor House	Joseph Earl and Robbie Annette C. Pickett 1809 Atascadero Road, Columbia, S.C. 29206
16. A. T. Moore House	Robert L. Hartman, Jr. Box 188, Ridgeway, S.C. 29130

Property	Property Owner
17. Spann Edmunds House	Ryan B. and Lois M. Lake Ridgeway, S.C. 29130
18. W. Herbert Ruff House	Charles W. and Cathlene O. Boleyn Ridgeway, S.C. 29130
19. Desportes House	Ruth Riley Desportes Box 95, Ridgeway, S.C. 29130
20. Henry Boozer House	Kate Crampton Whitlock Ridgeway, S.C. 29130
21. Vacant lot	Henry Lee and Jane A. Dixon Ridgeway, S.C. 29130
22. Vacant lot	Henry Lee Dixon Ridgeway, S.C. 29130
23. R. H. McKelvy House	Mrs. Margaret Bowen Dixon Means Street, P.O. Box 22 Ridgeway, S.C. 29130
24. Ridgeway High School	Town of Ridgeway Ridgeway, S.C. 29130
25. Principal's House	Town of Ridgeway Ridgeway, S.C. 29130
26. Thomas' Old Store	Robert W. Thomas Box 38, Ridgeway, S.C. 29130
27. Dobson's Drugstore	St. Stephen's Episcopal Church c/o Robert W. Thomas Ridgeway, S.C. 29130
28. Ruff's Gin House	D. Walter Ruff, Jr. Ridgeway, S.C. 29130
29. James Team's Drugstore	James H. Mattox Box 181, Ridgeway, S.C. 29130
30. Monroe Wilson Cottage	Stanley D. Adams Ridgeway, S.C. 29130
31. W. B. Kennedy House	J. Haskell and Grethren E. Smith Ridgeway, S.C. 29130

Property	Property Owner
32. Walter M. Brodie House	Walter M. and Patrick Brodie Ridgeway, S.C. 29130
33. Rosborough House	Mrs. Laura Thomas Ridgeway, S.C. 29130
34. Hartman House	Louise Finley Hartman Box 114, Ridgeway, S.C. 29130
35. Gulf Station	Fairfield Oil Company Winnsboro, S.C. 29180
36. Ridgeway Police Station	Land: Mr. H. H. Hall, President Southern Railway Company P.O. Box 1808 Washington, D.C. 20013 Building: Town of Ridgeway Ridgeway, S.C. 29130
37. IGA Store	V. E. Barnett Ridgeway, S.C. 29130
38. Bank of Ridgeway	First Floor: Bank of Ridgeway Ridgeway, S.C. 29130 Second Floor: Masonic Lodge Ridgeway, S.C. 29130

Key properties contributing to the character of the district:

1. Isaac C. Thomas House: Built about 1885, this vernacular Victorian dwelling is a one story raised weatherboarded cottage with a composition multi-gabled roof. The cornice is boxed and bracketed with returns. The porch on the front and right side features a balustrade, square posts with side brackets and drop pendants. The front door has multi-paned sidelights and transom. There are three interior and one exterior chimney stacks, six over six sash windows with louvered shutters and plain pediments, and a rear porch which has been converted to a den. The house has remained in the Thomas family since it was built. The builder, Isaac C. Thomas, was a prominent Ridgeway businessman.

2. Charles P. Wray House: Built about 1910, this two story Neoclassical residence is of frame construction, with unpainted weatherboard siding and a hipped roof. A colossal Corinthian portico, with a central convex projection, spans the breadth of the facade. The entablature of this portico features block modillions in the cornice. A one story Doric portico runs behind the Corinthian portico, with a concave recess behind the convex projection of the greater portico. The lesser portico extends into a porte-cochere on the right and a balancing porch on the left. A Palladian doorway opens onto the second floor balcony. There are two interior chimney stacks and a crested peak on the roof, along with a hooded dormer. The house was built by Charles Wray, a prosperous railroad and bank official.

3. Reid H. Brown House: Constructed about 1895, this one story frame, weatherboarded residence reflects many details of the Queen Anne style. The building is rectangular with a front porch. A side porch is a later addition. There are three internal chimney stacks protruding through the tin shingle roof. The gables are decorated with bargeboard trim and drop pendants. The main entrance is a double door with dentil molding and fluted pilasters. Open fretwork trim appears under the porch eaves and there is an octagonal gazebo attached to the porch decorated with the same fretwork, paired colonettes and balustrades as the porch.

4. R. Charleton Thomas House: Constructed about 1906, this two story weatherboarded residence shows many elements of Queen Anne style. The asymmetrical building has two internal chimney stacks and a hip roof. There is a one story porch, partially screened, that extends across the front and right side. The most distinctive feature is a three story octagonal turret with diamond shaped windows on the third story. The eaves are supported by widely spaced brackets.

5. Thomas Co. Store: Built in 1911, this rectangular brick commercial building is faced on the front with yellow brick that contrast strongly with the red brick used on the other three sides. The plate glass windows on the front are shaded by a flat roof hung by chains from the wall. The second story has three arched windows shaded by a narrow pent roof supported by brackets. There is some geometric decoration carried out in brick. Much of the original store interior and fittings remain, with a fine embossed metal ceiling.

6. Thomas Co. Store: Built about 1880, this is a two story rectangular brick commercial building. The first floor facade has two sets of display windows and a recessed entrance, with a series of rectangular windows across the top. The three

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windows of six over six sash on the second story have arched tops with brick arched hoodmolds. The parapet has a corbeled arcade and corbeled brick brackets. The store was built by Monroe Wilson and was the second site of Thomas' Store.

7. Ruff's Old Store: Built about 1860, this rectangular frame building has weatherboard siding and a gable roof, with a closed cornice with pediment. The double central door has a transom and is flanked by two nine light windows. There have been two additions to the rear of the building. Some of the interior furnishings remain. This store is believed to be the first commercial building built in Ridgeway.

8. Ruff and Company: Built in 1901, this rectangular brick commercial building has cast iron engaged pillars and wood framed plate glass windows flanking two entrances with double doors. The doors are recessed and there are transom windows across the front above a metal awning. The second story has three single and two double windows with flat arches. There is a corbeled brick cornice with a boxed inset. Much of the original store furnishing remains.

9. Railroad House: Built about 1900 by the railroad, this rectangular residence has weatherboard siding and a hip roof. There are two internal chimney stacks. The building has had three additions on the back and the porch has been somewhat altered. The house is significant because it is the only remaining structure in Ridgeway built by the Southern Railroad.

10. Ridgeway Town Hall: Built about 1904, this two story brick building is rectangular in form with a belfry on the front left corner. The facade is decorated with a variety of geometric features worked in brick. There is a brick arched entrance on the left front and a double plate glass window shaded by a wooden awning. The belfry is open and has a pyramidal roof topped with a ball finial. The building was originally built as a town hall but at present only the second story is used for this purpose. The first floor is used by the Charm Factory as an outlet store.

11. Ruff Furniture Store: Built about 1900, this rectangular brick commercial building features cast iron pilasters on the first floor facade. The facade has a single door on the left, and a double door near the center, with a transom. There are two display windows, each with four large panes. There is a door flanked by two windows on the second story, each having a brick arch with a keystone. The door apparently opened onto a porch which is now missing. Originally built as a store, the building is now used for storage.

12. Johnson Building: Built by W. J. Johnson about 1908, this one story rectangular brick building has a stuccoed facade with cast iron engaged posts, two of which are marked "John Alexander, Columbia." Three pairs of recessed doors with transoms alternate with plate glass windows. Except for small round gratings set into the wall above the doors, the facade is plain. Originally built as a store by W. J. Johnson, the building is now occupied by Ruff's Furniture Company.

Other properties contributing to the character of the district:

13. Walter Ruff House: Built about 1904, this imposing building is one of the largest homes in Ridgeway. The two and one-half stories are topped by a hip roof

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with internal chimney stacks. There is a large pedimented dormer with a Palladian window on the facade. The front veranda has a simple but wide entablature supported by slender turned posts. The balustrade is similarly treated. The weatherboard siding and extended porch create a horizontal effect that compensates for the building's height. The house was built by Daniel Walter Ruff, a prominent Ridgeway merchant.

14. Hoaten House: Built about 1911 by Daniel Walter Ruff for his eldest daughter Florence Ruff (Mrs. L. E.) Hoaten, this simple one story residence has weatherboard siding, a hip roof, and two internal chimney stacks. The veranda, extending along the left side and half way across the front, is supported by plain pillars.

15. Traylor House: Built about 1918 by W. Herbert Ruff for his daughter Isabel Ruff (Mrs. Hartwell) Traylor. This weatherboarded house is rectangular in form with a low gable roof which extends to form the roof of the porch. The roof is covered with embossed metal and has a large shed dormer and two internal chimney stacks. The porch is supported by pillars with simple balustrade.

16. Augustus Talley Moore House: Built about 1899 by A. T. Moore, this irregularly shaped weatherboarded residence is dominated by a large gable dormer placed over the front entrance. There is a small projection and cross gable to the right of the entrance which is continued as a porch along the front and left side of the house. The porch roof is supported by simple pillars.

17. J. Spann Edmunds House: Built about 1906 by J. Spann Edmunds, a local merchant, this basically rectangular frame weatherboard dwelling has a slightly projecting front wing surmounted by a pedimented gable. A one story porch crosses the front and one side, a typical arrangement in Ridgeway. The porch roof is supported by colonettes with a connecting balustrade. The centrally placed double front door is flanked by sidelights and topped by a transom.

18. W. Herbert Ruff House: This imposing brick residence was built by W. H. Ruff about 1910. The building is rectangular with two side wings. The truncated hip roof has a central shed dormer and two internal chimney stacks. The asymmetrical front entrance is shaded by a simple porch supported by slender columns. There are additional doors in each wing. A shed addition has been added at the back. The house is set well back from the street and has an imposing yard with a circular driveway.

19. Desportes House: Built about 1915, this one story brick rectangular residence has a gable roof and two internal chimney stacks. There is a cross gable over the front entrance and a porch which extends the length of the front of the house. The porch roof is supported by simple pillars connected by wood railings.

20. Henry Boozer House: This single story frame, weatherboarded residence was built about 1900 by Henry Boozer. The facade is dominated by the veranda with its square pillars and matching balustrade. An outstanding feature of this property is its broken-stone wall which is carried right up to the veranda. There are two additions on the side and back and a veranda on the back that is almost identical with the one in front.

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21. Open wooded lot.

22. Open wooded lot, with a small wooden shed.

23. R. H. McKelvey House: Built about 1910 for R. H. McKelvey, a rural mail carrier, this is a one story frame house, sheathed with weatherboard. A one story porch with turned colonettes wraps around the north and east elevations. Fenestration is irregular, with an off-center door on the north elevation featuring transom and sidelights.

24. Ridgeway High School: This two story brick school was built in 1921 in the Georgian Revival style. The building is H-shaped, with a tabernacle doorway centered in the central element. A projecting cornice is topped with a brick parapet. A brick auditorium was added to the north side of the school, ca. 1925.

25. Principal's House (The Teacherage.): This two story brick building was erected ca. 1925. According to local tradition, it was originally used as a residence for the principal of Ridgeway High School. Several teachers at the high school have also lived in the building.

26. Thomas's Old Store: Built about 1875 this rectangular frame Greek Revival commercial building is the second oldest commercial building in Ridgeway. The simple weatherboarded building is topped by a gable roof with a closed cornice boxed pediment. The front door has a transom and entablature which matches the entablature on the two flanking nine-light windows. The building was originally located on the site of the present Thomas Co. Store and was moved to its present location in 1911. It has been extensively renovated and presently is used as an antique shop.

27. Dobson's Drugstore: Built about 1925, this rectangular commercial building has a red brick exterior with a flat roof and a restrained facade with inset panels, a tiled pent roof, and metal awning over the entrance. The recessed entrance is flanked by plate glass windows. The building has been converted into a restaurant.

28. Ruff's Gin House: Built about 1947, this metal industrial building has a basic rectangular shape with a gable roof and open lean-to on the right side. Presently used for storage, this gin house is one of the last remnants of the cotton era in Ridgeway.

29. James Team's Drugstore: Built about 1925 by James Team, this simple rectangular brick commercial building has some traces of boomtown style in its facade. Presently used as an ABC Package Store, most of the windows have been boarded up. The recessed entrance is flanked by two small plate glass windows with a narrow porch-like roof overhead. The original windows were considerably larger.

30. Monroe Wilson Cottage: Built about 1890 by Monroe Wilson, this single story frame weatherboarded residence is L-shaped with a gable roof with a boxed cornice with returns. The front porch roof is supported by square posts connected by plain balustrades and decorated by brackets. The front door has sidelights and a transom.

31. W. B. Kennedy House: Built about 1904, this two story house has verandas on both levels that wrap around the front and side. The verandas are supported by partially turned posts connected by simple balustrades. The frame weatherboarded building has a hip roof with interior chimney stacks. There is an addition at the rear.

32. Walter M. Brodie House: Built about 1905 by Dr. James W. Team, this two story frame weatherboarded residence has a hip roof with two internal chimney stacks. The house has a wrap-around porch which has simple round columns connected by rails decorated with openwork panels in an X form. The exposed rafter ends constitute one of the few attempts at ornamentation. The double front door is surrounded by sidelights and a transom.

33. The Rosborough House. Traditionally one of the oldest houses in Ridgeway, this house was moved from its original location near the Presbyterian Church in 1979 to save it from demolition. The house is being extensively renovated and remodeled. The house is basically square with a hip roof and dormer centered over the front entrance. There is a projecting ell on the left side which houses the kitchen. The original veranda has been replaced by a simple porch, reusing two posts from the veranda. There has been considerable alteration to the interior. The remodeling has been tastefully done and the house is harmonious with the streetscape on Railroad Avenue.

Noncontributing properties:

34. Hartman House: This two story frame residence with asbestos shingles and low gable roof was built in 1947. It harmonizes well with the streetscape.

35. Gulf Station: Built about 1935 by Gulf Oil Company, this concrete block commercial building intrudes somewhat on what is otherwise a typical late Victorian streetscape.

36. Ridgeway Police Station: Originally the rear part of this building was built as a well to water the farmers' mules. The 1890s well was slightly expanded in the late 1940s to make it into a police station.

37. IGA Store: This commercial building was formerly two adjacent store buildings dating from the 1900s . Traces of the original detailing may be found but the character of the buildings was lost when their interiors were gutted and the modern detailing added.

38. Bank of Ridgeway and Masonic Lodge: This building was originally built about 1899 to house the newly formed bank and to serve as a meeting place for the Masonic Lodge. The bank owns the first floor and the lodge the second floor. The facade was extensively altered in 1963, along with interior modernization. An addition to serve drive-in banking customers was added in 1976.

39. Walter Ruff Bungalow: Single story frame residence with a gable roof, screened porch and one internal chimney. The house has asbestos siding and a composition roof. It was built in 1964 by Daniel Walter Ruff, Jr., as a home for his aunt.