Form 10-300 (July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

STATE:	
South Carolina	
COUNTY:	
Fairfield	
FOR NPS USE ONL	Y
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

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DESCRIPTION	T			(Check C	One)	
		🗓 Good	☐ Fair	Deterio	orated 🔲 Ruins	Unexposed
CONDITION		(Check Or	ne)		(Ch	eck One)
		red	X Unaltered		☐ Moved	🔼 Original Site

ESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Located in the Piedmont, one of the prouder and more picturesque Up-Country towns. According to Robert Mills, early town consisted of two "gin factories" (saw-gin), Masonic Hall, Market Hall, two houses of entertainment, a blacksmith and carriage shop, and eight or ten stores. Special Entertainments were quadrilles, fairs, and jousting tournaments. He remarked on handsome houses and buildings of early 1800s. In ante-bellum era, many stately homes and buildings were added. With widening of streets in early 1960s, Confederate Monument, Landmark in center of town, was moved to historic Mount Zion campus. Today, Winnsboro retains the flavor of the past in its buildings, homes, and gardens.

1. Among town landmarks are the following:

Town Clock - brick rectangular building of two stories authorized by Act of S.C. General Assembly, 1833. Structure is three bays wide with brick parapets and recessed arches. Tower contains old town clock. Bell is contained in pedimented top section of tower.

Court House - Greek Revival style of two stories built in 1822 under supervision of Robert Mills - large Doric columns semi-circular window in pediment. Renovated in 1939 with addition of two rear wings and flying stairways.

Ketchin Building - highly unusual Federal style for Up-Country, superior brickwork, large granite foundation blocks. Hand carved woodwork, mantels, and cornices. (ON National Register)

McCreight House - built 1774, probably first frame structure in county, three stories with two large rooms on each floor, hand-hewn framing, boards handplaned and pegged. Simple interior woodwork and trim, original shutters.

Rion House - built 1855. Exterior has hipped roof, fluted Corinthian columns supporting one story veranda, beautiful ballustrades. Exceptional front door side lights and transom, original glass imported by Tiffany. Interior has woodwork and plaster medallions of excellent design; mahogany stairway with wooden pegs; fine chandeliers.

Site of Mount Zion Institute - founded by Mount Zion Society in last half of eighteenth century, one of first schools in Up-Country. Mount Zion Elementary School and a county office building presently occupy the site.

Bratton Place - built before 1777, two story "L Shape"; wide, one-story porch across front of house, semielliptical fanlight over front door which is flanked by side lights with circular and diamond shapes. Hand-carved mantels with sun bursts, ceiling-height paneling over mantel.

SIGNIFICANCE			
PERIOD (Check One or More as Ap	propriate)		
☐ Pre-Columbian	☐ 16th Century	🔀 18th Century	20th Century
☐ 15th Century	☐ 17th Century	X 19th Century	
SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable	and Known) 1785 t	o present	
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Abor iginal	▼ Education	▼ Political	Urban Planning
☐ Prehistoric	☐ Engineering	Religion/Phi-	Other (Specify)
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X Commerce	★ Literature	itarian	
	A Military	Theater	
☐ Conservation	X Music	Transportation	

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Winnsboro, county seat of Fairfield County, is significant historically, architecturally, culturally. Settled in 1700s, town chartered in 1785 and named for Revolutionary War hero, Richard Winn, who served in U.S. Congress and as S.C. Lieutenant Governor. Lord Cornwallis had headquarters here in 1780. County name may have come from his remark: "What fair fields!" In 1865, Sherman burned about 30 buildings.

Wide range in architectural significance. More than 50 structures over 100 years old. Early simple frame houses reflect utilitarian aspects of Scotch-Irish, first principal settlers. Some houses have "dog-runs" through center for breeze. Many typical "Up-Country houses," built in "L-shape" with long piazza running across front, reflect increasing wealth from cotton. Homes became more pretentious in 1840s and 1850s; much Low-Country influence evident in architecture, after planters moved here for health reasons. A number of Greek Revival mansions remain; rare antiques and family heirlooms.

Fairfield County Court House, one of oldest in Up-Country, built under supervision of Robert Mills, contains records dating from 1730s. Town Clock, circa 1833, said to be the oldest continuous running clock in U.S. Local tradition says clock and bell were made in France.

Mount Zion Institute, one of earliest schools in Up-Country, was operated by Mount Zion Society, chartered by S.C. General Assembly in 1777. Significant as one of earliest undertakings between S.C. Low-Country and Up-Country. Most society members from Charleston. In 1785, chartered as college - never functioned as such. Under Principal James W. Hudson's leadership, students were attracted from distant places. Two significant students were Dr. William Porcher Dubose, distinguished Episcopal theologian, and Dr. James Henry Carlisle, third President of Wofford College.

Character of Winnsboro combines Scotch-Irish sturdiness, English elegance, Huguenot refinement, and German persistance. This was one of South Carolina's early aristoreratic towns; its heritage remains evident.

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Form 10-300a (Dec. 1968)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
South Caroli	na
COUNTY	
Fairfield	
FOR NPS USE	ONLY
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
7/10,45,00	5 10/14
711 12.00	- 149

(Number all entries)

7. Description (continued)

Robert Brice House - "Mosquito cottage architecture," built in 1840s, two and one-half stories, thick masonry walls on ground floor. Long, wide veranda extends full length of front, covered by overhanging gable.

Malvern Hill - Two and one-half story frame house, circa 1884. Huge portico supported by Ionic columns added 1914. Transom above door crowned by segmented pediment; two bay windows, paneled chimneys. Home site of town's founder, Richard Winn.

<u>Cornwallis House</u> - Two and one-half stories, original portion with massive masonry walls. Thought to have been used by Lord Cornwallis as his headquarters.



MAP KEY

GREEN LETTERED PLACES INCLUDED IN NOMINATION RED NUMERED PLACES OF HISTORIC INTEREST DISTRICT I - BLUE BOUNDARY

DISTRICT II - BLACK BOUNDARY

- A Town Clock
- B Court House
- C Ketchin Building
- D McCreight House
- E Rion House
- F Mount Zion
- G Bratton Place
- H Robert Brice House
- I Malvern Hill
- J Cornwallis House
- 1. Fairfield Country Club House

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- 2. Boyleston House
- 3. Macfie House
- 4. Blair House
- 5. Jordan House
- 6. Clark House
- 7. McCants House
- 8. Wolfe House
- 9. Beaty House
- 10. Cathcart House
- 11. Neil House
- 12. Johnson House
- 13. Carlisle House
- 14. Hanahan House
- 15. Old Methodist Parsonage
- 16. Cathcart House (Phillips)
- 17. Caldwell House
- 18. Meng House
- 19. Willingham House
- 20. McDonald House
- 21. Williford House
- 22. Stevenson House
- 23. Gladden House
- 24. Matthews House
- 25. Timms House



