

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: <b>South Carolina</b>	
COUNTY: <b>Georgetown</b>	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER <b>69-1241-8011</b>	DATE <b>12/3/69</b>

**1. NAME**

COMMON: <b>Georgetown County Rice Museum</b>
AND/OR HISTORIC: <b>Old Market Building</b>

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER: <b>Front Street at foot of Screven Street</b>			
CITY OR TOWN: <b>Georgetown</b>			
STATE <b>South Carolina</b>	CODE <b>41</b>	COUNTY: <b>Georgetown</b>	CODE <b>22</b>

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)				
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME: <b>City of Georgetown (Legislation is underway to convey title to Georgetown County Historical Commission)</b>		
STREET AND NUMBER: <b>Front Street at Screven</b>		
CITY OR TOWN: <b>Georgetown</b>	STATE: <b>South Carolina</b>	CODE: <b>41</b>

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: <b>Georgetown County Courthouse</b>		
STREET AND NUMBER:		
CITY OR TOWN: <b>Georgetown</b>	STATE: <b>South Carolina</b>	CODE: <b>41</b>

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY: <b>South Carolina: A Guide to the Palmetto State</b>			
DATE OF SURVEY: <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local			
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: <b>South Carolina Department of Archives and History</b>			
STREET AND NUMBER: <b>Box 11188, Capitol Station 1430 Senate Street</b>			
CITY OR TOWN: <b>Columbia</b>	STATE: <b>South Carolina</b>	CODE: <b>41</b>	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:

COUNTY:

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

## 7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Old Market Building in which the new Georgetown County Rice Museum is located stands in the town's core commercial district, an area especially zoned for its protection by the city and governed by the city's Architectural Review Board, as well as by the Georgetown County Historical Commission.

The present building, erected 1842, replaces an old wooden market building which stood on the same site until destroyed by a hurricane. The second building, of brick, with a bell tower and clock, has been used as a market, jail, printing shop and police department.

In early days, the second floor of the building served as Town Hall, while the open bottom floor was used as a market for the sale of agricultural products and domestic animals. It was also used as a slave market.

Some years later, probably following the Confederate War, the lower floor was enclosed.

The bell in the quaint, town-landmark tower served for many years as a fire alarm. Funds for its purchase were raised by popular subscription and the bell's inscription identifies it as "cast by Henry N. Hooper and Co., Boston, 1866. Town of Georgetown, Inc., 1805."

A tablet on the second floor reports that "the first major repairs to the old market since its erection in 1842 were made in 1966. At this time the tower was strengthened with new timbers as needed. Also the roof of the cupola and banisters around the bell were replaced. A new weathervane was installed atop the cupola. The four faces of the ancient clock were refinished."

To depict the story of Georgetown's principal economic crop of the 19th century, the Georgetown County Rice Museum is being developed in the Old Market Building. The tale will unfold as one moves systematically among maps, dioramas, pictures, and artifacts. The visual picture will carry one slowly through the clearing process; the construction of the rice fields with their ditches, dikes and flood gate; the rice planting, cultivating, harvesting, winnowing; its processing at the mill; and shipment to world-wide ports. Many of the hand tools actually used will be in an exhibit which the viewers can touch. The Rice Mill will be a working model so that it can easily be seen how rice was processed.

Restoration plans also call for a stairway at the rear of the building, a viewing deck to overlook the Sampit River, rest rooms on the second floor, and air conditioning.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

## 8. SIGNIFICANCE

## PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- ☐ Pre-Columbian | ☐ 16th Century | ☐ 18th Century | ☐ 20th Century  
☐ 15th Century | ☐ 17th Century | ☒ 19th Century

## SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

## AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |   |   |  |
|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal                | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric               | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy  | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Industry    | <input type="checkbox"/> Science              | _____  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agriculture    | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture            | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture              | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian  | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater              | _____  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commerce       | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation       | _____  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |   |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation              |   |   |  |

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

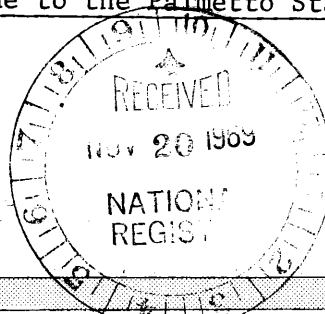
Both use and location make the Old Market Building a crucially significant landmark for Georgetown, one of South Carolina's three oldest port cities. Its use as town hall and market shows its central role in political and commercial life. Its central location on Front Street, the town's main business street, provides visual impact and proclaims the modern city's connections with the past. Loss of the building would do irreparable harm to Georgetown. Its current adaptive use is excellent in every way, tying together the main economic success of the past, rice, with one of the main economic activities of today, tourism.

Long-needed by Georgetown, and enjoying the support and active help of many interested segments of the town who are working to preserve this mutual town heritage, the Rice Museum will be of value to residents as well as to the tourist. It will offer both educational and economic benefits.

The project is being conducted by the County Historical Commission, a non-paid group appointed by the Governor of South Carolina. Only Rice Museum on the east coast, it will be operated on a non-profit basis.

# 9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Writers' Program of the WPA, South Carolina: A Guide to the Palmetto State.  
(New York, Oxford University Press, 1941).



# 10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES			
CORNER	LATITUDE				LONGITUDE			
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds		
NW	0	'	"	0	'	"		
NE	0	'	"	0	'	"		
SE	0	'	"	0	'	"		
SW	0	'	"	0	'	"		

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 50' by 122'-150'

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

# 11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Mrs. James W. Fant, Historic Resources Assistant		
ORGANIZATION: South Carolina Department of Archives and History	DATE: 11/8/69	
STREET AND NUMBER: Box 11188, Capitol Station 1430 Senate Street		
CITY OR TOWN: Columbia	STATE: South Carolina	CODE: 41

# 12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

# NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National ☐ State ☒ Local ☐

Name

*Charles S. Leg...*

Title

*Director, S.C. Dept. of Archives & History, & State Liaison Officer*

Date

*Nov 12, 1969*

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

*Ernest Allen Gentry*  
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date

DEC 3 1969

ATTEST:

*William J. Swartz*  
Keeper of The National Register

Date

NOV 26 1969

SEE INSTRUCTIONS