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: Poinsett Hotel | Location: 120 S. Main Street

Common: Poinsett Hotel | Classification: building

Owner: Mr. J. C. Bible, Jr.
Southeastern Builders
P.O. Box 3636
Augusta, GA 30904

Representation in Existing Surveys: Inventory of Historic Places in South Carolina, 1981

Description: Built in 1925 at a cost of 1.5 million dollars, the Poinsett Hotel was designed by W. L. Stoddard, a New York architect, and built by the J. E. Sirrine Company of Greenville. The Poinsett is a twelve-story skyscraper with a narrow rectangular plan and an L-shaped facade. The facade is composed in three parts: a base, an intermediate shaft, and a capital. The four-story base of the Poinsett is highlighted by tall arched windows that span the second and third stories. A wide cornice separates the base from the unornamented shaft. The shaft has seven stories, with three bays on the left side of the facade, four bays on the side of the projecting ell, and three bays on the projecting right side of the facade. The composition is capped by a capital story, which is separated from the intermediate shaft by a belt course. The capital story has brick diapering between the windows. A broad frieze with terracotta festoons and urns between small transom windows

(continued)

Significance: The Poinsett Hotel was one of the first skyscrapers to be constructed in Greenville. The hotel, named after Joel R. Poinsett, the secretary of war under President Fillmore, was touted as "South Carolina's finest." It was built on the site of the Mansion House, an 1824 resort hotel. The Poinsett Hotel marks an era of Greenville's building boom and growth of the 1920's. It has remained open as a hotel until recent years, when it was converted into apartments for the elderly. The interior retains much of its original fabric, including decorative plaster work and marble. William L. Stoddard, the hotel's architect, was a distinguished New York architect who designed major hotels in many cities across the nation, including the Charleston, South Carolina Hotel. The Poinsett Hotel examplifies the early twentieth century mode of skyscraper construction and composition.

Acreage: 0.86

Verbal Boundary Description: The Poinsett Hotel is shown as the red line on the accompanying Greenville Tax Map #59, drawn at a scale of 1 inch = 50 feet. This boundary includes the historic building while excluding adjacent non-historic buildings, sidewalk, and pavement.

UTM Reference Point: 17/371960/3856960

Other Information

Description Continued: is above these windows. A full cornice with dentils and modillion blocks surmounts the frieze. A balustraded parapet is above the cornice. The side and rear elevations of the Poinsett Hotel are less elaborate, with regular fenestration. The hotel featured a ballroom, a convention hall, a main dining room, private dining rooms, a grill room, a lounge, eight to ten shops and stores, and 210 guest rooms, each with a private bath. The ballroom and convention hall are both intact.