

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Carolina Supply Company
other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 35 West Court Street not for publication _____
city or town Greenville vicinity _____
state South Carolina code SC county Greenville code 045 zip code 29601

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination _____ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets _____ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant _____ nationally _____ statewide X locally.
(____ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Mary W. Edmonds 5/27/97
Signature of certifying official Date

Mary W. Edmonds, Deputy SHPO, S.C. Department of Archives & History, Columbia, S.C.
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property _____ meets _____ does not meet the National Register criteria.
(____ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:
 entered in the National Register

See continuation sheet.
 determined eligible for the
National Register

See continuation sheet.
 determined not eligible for the
National Register
 removed from the National Register
 other (explain): _____

Edson R. Beall 7-3-97

Signature of Keeper Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: COMMERCE
COMMERCE

Sub: Business
Warehouse

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: VACANT/NOT IN USE

Sub: _____

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)
Utilitarian Renaissance Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)
foundation Concrete/Brick
roof Tar/Gravel
walls Brick
other _____

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or a grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

- Architecture
- Commerce
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Significant Dates

1914

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Period of Significance

1914-1946

Architect/Builder

Sirrime, J.E., Architect
Carter-Fiske Construction, Builder

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: S.C. Dept. of Archives and History, Columbia, S.C.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property Less than one acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	<u>17</u>	<u>371880</u>	<u>3856960</u>	3	_____	_____
2	___	_____	_____	4	_____	_____
	<u>See continuation sheet.</u>					

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Robert C. Benedict, Vice President
organization Carolina Holdings, Inc. date 30 April 1996
street & number 38 Pinckney Street telephone (864) 271-5220
city or town Greenville state SC zip code 29601

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name 35 West Court St., LLC, c/o Mr. C. Douglas Harper
street & number P.O. Box 6187 telephone _____
city or town Greenville state S.C. zip code 29606

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Carolina Supply Company
name of property
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county and State

BUILDING TYPE AND SETTING:

The Carolina Supply Company Building is a four-story brick commercial structure constructed in 1914 at the corner of West Court Street and Jackson Street (now South Laurens Street) in Greenville, South Carolina. The building is a utilitarian Renaissance Revival design with more simple architectural elements than many of the surrounding historic buildings. The restrained detailing is nonetheless distinctive and representative example of a commercial building dating from the early twentieth century.

The building's location is within the central business district and is one block removed from South Main Street. The immediate area was considered to be the center of Greenville's business and government. There are four properties within the immediate vicinity that are listed in the National Register of Historic Places: the Poinsett Hotel (1925), directly across West Court Street and fronting South Main Street; the former Greenville County Courthouse (1916) also located on South Main Street; Downtown Baptist Church (1857) on West McBee Avenue; and the Huguenot Mill Office (1895) on East Broad Street at the Reedy River just to the south. The site has relatively level topography with the existing improvements of the Carolina Supply Company Building and a concrete slab abutting the building. This was the former location of a two-story building that was also owned by Carolina Supply Company but was previously demolished. The orientation of the building is to the north with the main entrance facing West Court Street. A railroad spur was formerly adjacent to the rear of the building that is now a parking lot.

The building is largely unaltered with the primary structure in good condition.

GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS:

The Carolina Supply Company Building has a total of 20,000 square feet with four 4,000-square foot floors and a basement. The symmetrical design has three bays on the front facade with a flat roof. The building is also characterized by the red brick exterior with distinctive but selective detailing. The structural integrity of the building is substantial with a foundation floor constructed of a 13" reinforced concrete pad while the upper floors are 8" concrete slabs. Windows are typically paired or grouped with six-over-six or eight-over-eight wood sash.

SPECIFIC FEATURES - EXTERIOR:

The building retains its original storefront with a prominent metal cornice on the first floor above the storefront. A second cornice is located below the stepped parapet. The front facade windows are triple six-over-six wood sash windows on the outside bays and paired six-over-six sash windows within the middle bay. The western elevation windows on the second, third and fourth floors are also six-over-six sash windows capped

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by flat arches with keystones. The rear elevation features large, segmented arched windows with eight-over-eight panes.

The masonry detailing includes the use of common bonds to create the appearance of masonry panels with inset terra cotta tiles. This detailing is located between the upper floors on the front facade. A masonry corbel is located on the fourth floor providing a stepped projection beneath the cornice. Decorative metal trimmings with "diamond" (lozenge) detailing are prominently located on the front facade and also on the western elevation pilasters on the second and fourth floors just below the cornices.

The main entrance is recessed with a patterned mosaic tile floor and a molded pressed copper ceiling over a double-leaf front door. The original sign board is still intact above the storefront cornice. The rear of the building has a concrete loading dock with corrugated iron siding and a shed roof.

SPECIFIC FEATURES - INTERIOR:

The interior is characterized by limited ornamentation primarily due to the nature of the company business. Notable features are the exposed masonry walls and four "mushroom" shaped columns for vertical support. The columns range in diameter from 24" at basement level to 16" on the fourth floor. One inch maple tongue-and-groove flooring with a pine plank subflooring is still intact in limited areas of the first and second floor.

The floor plan is open with floor widths of forty feet and depths of one hundred feet. Adjacent to the west wall is an open stairway of reinforced concrete providing access to all floors. An elevator, by Park Manufacturing Company of Charlotte, is located at the rear of all floors. The elevator drive mechanisms are still intact. A skylight, of reinforced wire glass, tops the elevator shaft. Limited plumbing facilities remain within the building with a first-floor bathroom beneath the stairwell.

ALTERATIONS:

The Carolina Supply Company Building is generally unaltered with only limited modifications. A one-story addition was constructed on the east wall of the building sometime prior to 1944. The masonry closely resembles the primary building's masonry. It appears that the addition was built shortly after the completion of the primary building. The front facade of the addition is dominated by a large, wooden, roll-up door that is flanked with paired, four-over-four pane windows. A transom tops the roll-up door. A standing seam roof covers the addition with a stepped parapet wall. An adjacent two-story structure was acquired by the company in the 1940s and served as additional office and storage space. This annex was demolished by the city in 1987 due to structural problems.

Metal window awnings were added to the second floor windows between 1944 and 1960 according to documentary photographs.

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The interior of the building also has only limited alterations. The first floor shelving and second floor offices were previously removed and the floor space is largely open. Some of the second floor has vinyl tiles in areas where offices were formerly located. A small bathroom was formerly located on the second floor adjacent to the stairway and has been removed. The company safe, also located on the second floor, was removed and the masonry room housing the safe is now open.

A HVAC system was installed in recent years to service the first floor and electrical conduit is located along the ceilings and some walls.

DETERIORATION:

Vacant since 1990, the building has incurred only limited deterioration.

The one-story addition has suffered from moisture problems and termite damage. Some roof timbers are rotted and the moisture penetration is evident on the masonry within this addition.

The rear loading dock has cracked concrete in some areas and the metal shed roof over the dock is damaged.

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The Carolina Supply Company Building is one of Greenville's most important architectural and historical landmarks and is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A and C. The former textile supply structure is an outstanding example of a commercial building designed in the utilitarian Renaissance Revival style, and is also significant for its integral role in the evolution of the textile industry in upstate South Carolina.

COMMERCE:

The Carolina Supply Company was incorporated in July 1899 as a textile and industrial supply company for the purpose of supplying mills with equipment and supplies. The initial capital infusion of \$25,000 was provided by F.J. Pelzer of Charleston, Thomas Inglesby, Francis Cogswell and D.G. Martin, who became the first president.¹

By the late nineteenth century, the textile industry was the dominant business within Greenville's economy. The city became known as a leading textile center with major mills such as Woodside, Monaghan, Orr Cotton Mills, Dunean and F.W. Poe Manufacturing Company. The growth of the textile business in and around Greenville created an overwhelming demand for a mill supply house that could furnish nearby plants with equipment and supplies.² As the textile industry flourished and Greenville's economy prospered, the Carolina Supply Company outgrew its first two locations at 218 Pendleton Street and the corner of West Washington Avenue and Laurens Street.³ The company's inventory rapidly expanded, and it offered, according to its 1911 catalogue, a wide range of merchandise including "Cotton Mill Furnishings Together With Machinery, Pumps, Tools, and A Full line Of General Mill Supplies."⁴ The company's trademark was "Squaredeal" which was prominently shown on the company's catalogues in 1906 and 1944. According to the photographs in the catalogues, merchandise was displayed on plain wooden shelves with an extensive inventory. The company also enjoyed a substantial mail-order business in addition to telephone and walk-in sales.⁵ With the successful growth of the company, the owners purchased a lot in 1910 at the southeastern intersection of West Court Street and South

¹Scott Power, "Carolina Supply Company," Preliminary Information Form to determine National Register eligibility for the South Carolina Department of Archives and History, 28 January 1991, 4.

²James M. Richardson, History of Greenville County, South Carolina (Atlanta: A.H. Cawston, Publisher, 1930), p.332.

³Judith Bainbridge, "Carolina Supply," Greenville Business, June 1995, 38.

⁴Power, 9.

⁵Ibid.

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Jackson Street (known today as Laurens Street).⁶ The immediate area was one of Greenville's fastest growing commercial areas, with close proximity to railroad tracks and major mills such as the neighboring Camperdown Mills. Also located nearby was the Mansion Hotel, one of the area's finest hotels, and the Record Building, Greenville's courthouse and center of local government affairs.

Carolina Supply's association with the textile industry led to a natural business relationship with Joseph Emory Serrine, the region's leading mill architect and engineer residing in Greenville. Subsequently, J.E. Serrine and Company was hired to design a new building for Carolina Supply Company. The design phase commenced in 1913 with plans and drawings overseen by John A. McPherson of the Serrine firm.⁷

The construction of the Carolina Supply Company Building was completed in 1914 and the company continued to see increased sales with the growing prosperity of the region's textile industry. By 1925, the company employed over twenty people with Thomas S. Inglesby as president and treasurer, and Francis J.P. Cogswell as assistant treasurer and secretary.⁸ The Inglesby family maintained a strong association with the company throughout its existence. Thomas S. Inglesby, Jr. started his employment with the company in 1928 following in the footsteps of his father. Initially a salesman with the firm, he was later promoted to clerk and became secretary and treasurer in 1937 and president shortly thereafter. He held this position until his retirement in 1985. His wife, Ann, worked as a secretary for the company, and a son, Francis J. Inglesby, became a vice president and general manager in 1980. Francis Inglesby managed the company until its sale in 1990 to Greenville Textile Supply Company.⁹ Being largely dependant upon the textile industry, the company's success closely followed the prosperity of the region's textile mills. During the depression, Carolina Supply Company was fortunate to have an inventory of steel machine parts that were scarce in the region. Thomas S. Inglesby maintained pre-depression prices adhering to the company's trademark, "Squaredeal", but only selling the desired parts to those customers that had an established relationship with the company.¹⁰ By the outbreak of World War Two, the company was one of the leading textile supply firms in the South. Some of

⁶Greenville County Deed Book Nine, page 15, October 28, 1910.

⁷Power, 10.

⁸Greenville Civic and Commercial Journal, Volume 4, (Chamber of Commerce Publication, November, 1925).

⁹Francis J. Inglesby, interview by author, Greenville, 22 March 1996.

¹⁰Ibid.

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the largest customers were Regal Textile in Ware Shoals, Springs Mill in Lancaster, South Carolina, and Clinchfield Mill in Marion, North Carolina. Salesmen and customers from out of town stayed at the elegant Poinsett Hotel located across Court Street from the Carolina Supply Company Building. Textile items such as the "Atlas Emery Fillet", were acquired from England for resale by the company. Large quantities of items such as loom bolts and nuts were obtained from the William A. Haskell Company and delivered by the railroad in carload shipments directly to the rear of the building.¹¹

During the life of the Carolina Supply Company, the textile industry was the dominant business driving the economy of Greenville County. By 1920, Greenville County had twenty-two textile mills employing 8,478 people and a capital investment of \$20,207,801. The value of the annual production of goods from Greenville's textile establishments was \$47,106,642, ranking the county first in the state that year. Throughout this decade, the local textile industry experienced unparalleled growth and according to a 1926 United States Department of Commerce General Bulletin, Greenville County was ranked seventh in the United States in textile production.¹² Closely aligned with most of the major textile mills in the region, Carolina Supply Company was one of the South's leading mill supply firms by this time. As a result, the company was stable and economically viable and became one of Greenville's best known businesses. The Carolina Supply Company was a major contributor to the success of the region's textile industry and played a significant role in Greenville's history.

ARCHITECTURE:

The Carolina Supply Company Building is an outstanding example of a utilitarian retail and warehouse structure from the early part of this century. More simple in design than the city's Victorian era commercial buildings, the building is representative of the Academic Classical movement of the time. Although J.E. Serrine relied on functionalism for the basic design theme, he used disciplined ornamentation with selective Renaissance Revival detailing that was characteristic of commercial architecture during this period. This design philosophy incorporated distinctively restrained and sophisticated rehandling of architectural elements derived from earlier styles.¹³ The restrained adaptation of

¹¹Benjamin Verdin, interview by author, Greenville, 9 March 1996.

¹²Martha Angelette Shaw, "The Textile Industry In Greenville County, South Carolina," (M.S. thesis, University of Tennessee, 1964), 30.

¹³Alan Gowans, Styles and Types of North American Architecture (New York: Harper Collins Publishers, 1992), p.216.

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classical elements with the cornice treatments, flat window arches with keystones and segmented window arches reflect this design influence. The functional design of the building served the retail, administrative and storage needs of the company well during its existence. The crisp architectural detailing on the front facade, with the prominent cornice above the storefront, draws attention to the display windows of the storefront which featured displayed merchandise. The front and western elevations have the greatest exposure from adjacent streets and the architectural detailing was emphasized on these facades. As the company attracted retail traffic for walk-in sales as well as mail-order business, the design made the building distinctive thus promoting this aspect of the company's retail business.

J.E. Sirrine is considered to be one of the most important industrial architects and engineers to practice in South Carolina. His work spanned five decades and included projects as far away as Texas and Maine. Perhaps more than any other architect, Sirrine was responsible for shaping the design and structural principles of the emerging industrial complexes of upstate South Carolina. He designed a number of well-known structures in his hometown of Greenville including Textile Hall (1916 - now demolished), Woodside Mills (1909), Dunean Mills (1923), Poinsett Hotel (1924) and a number of school buildings including the main dormitory and dining room building (1920--now demolished) at his alma mater Furman University.¹⁴

Sirrine was educated locally at the Greenville Military Institute and Furman University, where he received a B.S. degree in 1890. His professional career started as a civil engineer and he joined Lockwood, Greene & Company of Spartanburg in 1895 as surveyor for the new F.W. Poe Textile Mill. In 1898, Sirrine was named manager of Lockwood Greene's new southern regional office in Greenville with authority over projects in Georgia and the Carolinas. Sirrine was in a position to become an equal partner but left the firm to open his own office in Greenville in 1903. In 1921, Sirrine formed a partnership with eight of his associates, called J.E. Sirrine & Company, Engineers. In addition to his high profile commercial commissions, Sirrine accepted a number of other design assignments that included over 1600 textile mill village houses, churches, hospitals, clubhouses for country clubs and single-family residences.¹⁵

¹⁴John E. Wells and Robert E. Dalton, The South Carolina Architects 1885-1935 (Richmond: New South Architectural Press, 1992), p.164.

¹⁵Ibid.

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Sirriner revolutionized the textile industry in the South with his design innovations. He recognized the need to convert from water power and steam-driven operations to electrical power by the turn of the century.¹⁶ He also advocated the use of reinforced concrete at a time when the commonly accepted flooring material had been long leaf pine timber for industrial facilities. This alternative helped reduce the risk of fire and provided a more stable floor construction. This also help alleviate future problems with sagging floors thus avoiding unevenly-seated machinery which might increase the strain on bearings.¹⁷ This emphasis on reinforced concrete is evident in the design of the Carolina Supply Company Building and a number of other Sirriner designed projects of the time. J.E. Sirriner also relied on the use of patterned brickwork and restrained neoclassical detailing that characterized his designs for many commercial structures. These design elements were also incorporated into other local landmarks designed by Sirriner, most notably Textile Hall, the Poinsett Hotel and Greenville High School. His legacy still survives with his successor company, Jacobs Sirriner, known as one of the leading engineering firms in the nation. His community contributions were also substantial with the J.E. Sirriner Textile Foundation providing assistance to enhance textile education at Clemson University and a trust fund for Greenville high school students that has provided more than \$11 million in aid to over 3,000 students. When J.E. Sirriner died in 1947, the bells at Furman University tolled all day to honor his memory.¹⁸

¹⁶Scott Gould, Greenville Coming Of Age (Memphis: Towery Publishing Inc., 1992), p.126.

¹⁷J.E. Sirriner, Modern Mill Construction (Greenville: The American Cotton Manufacturers Association, 1911), p.2.

¹⁸Nancy Vance Ashmore, Greenville: Woven From The Past (Northridge, Calif.: Windsor Publications, 1986), p.131.

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- Bainbridge, Judith. "Carolina Supply." Greenville Business (June 1995).
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- Richardson, James M. History of Greenville County, South Carolina. Atlanta: A.H. Cawston, Publisher, 1930.
- Shaw, Martha Angelette. "The Textile Industry in Greenville County, South Carolina." Unpublished M.A. Thesis, University of Tennessee, 1964.
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- Wells, John E., and Robert E. Dalton. The South Carolina Architects 1885-1935. Richmond: New South Architectural Press, 1992.

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Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the nominated property is shown as the property marked with an arrow labeled "Subject" on the accompanying Greenville County Tax Map 59, Block 4, Parcels 3 and 4.

Verbal Boundary Justification

The boundary of the nomination includes the Carolina Supply Company building and the associated vacant parcel.

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Section PHOTOGRAPHS Page 15 Carolina Supply Company
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The following information is the same for each of the photographs:

Name of Property: Carolina Supply Company Building
Location of Property: 35 West Court Street, Greenville, S.C.
Greenville County

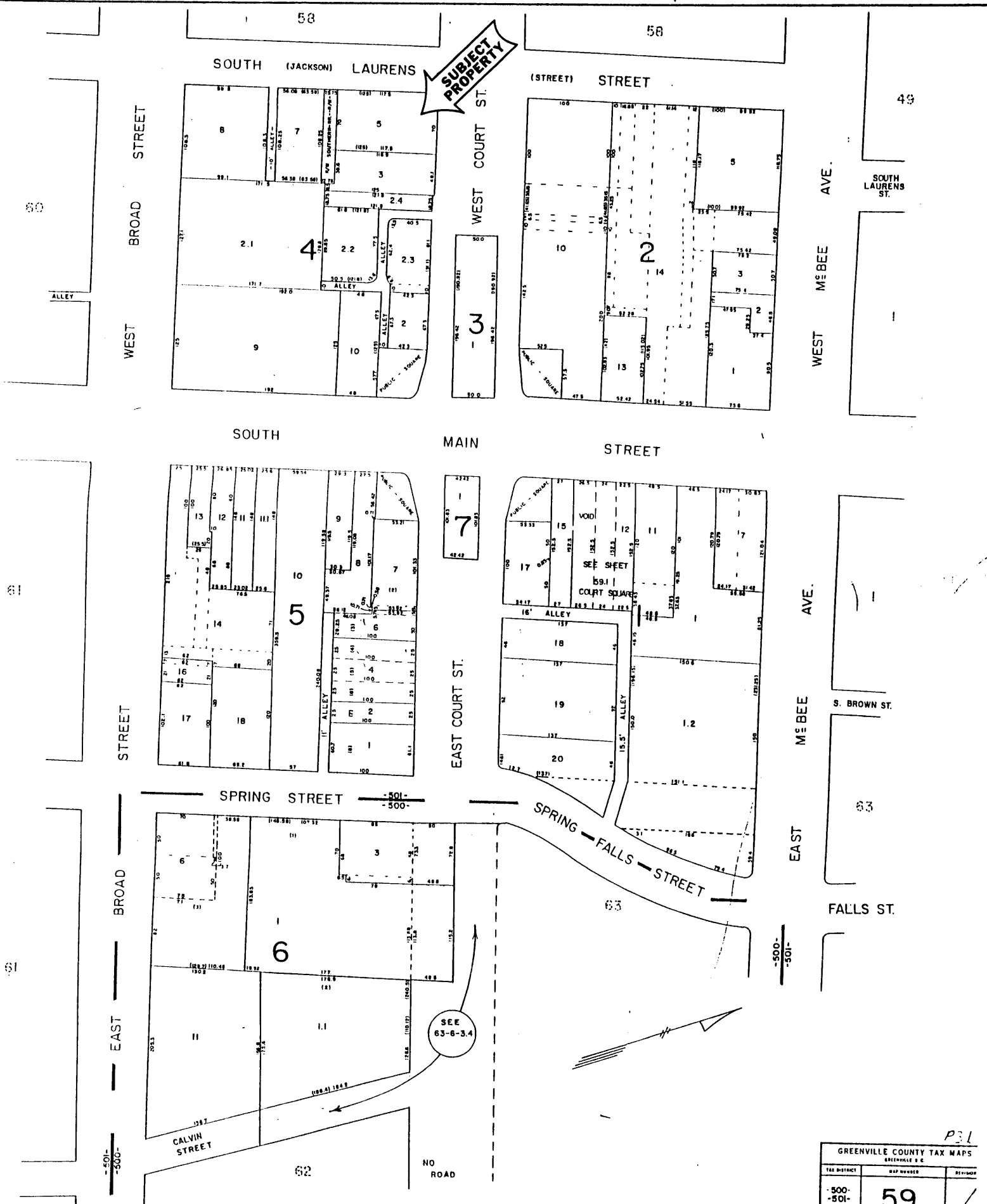
Photographs 1-2:

Name of Photographer: Coxe
Date of Photographs: ca. 1944 (#1), ca. 1960 (#2)
Location of Original
Negatives: Roper Mountain Science Center
Greenville, S.C.

Photographs 3-22:

Name of Photographer: Robert C. Benedict
Date of Photographs: February-March 1996
Location of Original
Negatives: Robert C. Benedict
38 Pinckney Street
Greenville, S.C. 29601

1. North (principal) facade, ca. 1944
2. Northwest view, ca. 1960
3. Northwest view
4. North (principal) facade
5. West oblique view
6. Southwest view
7. East oblique view
8. South oblique view
9. Front elevation of one-story addition
10. Rear elevation of one-story addition
11. Cornice and sign board at main entrance
12. Mosaic tile floor at main entrance
13. View of first floor interior
14. Former location of company safe
15. Second floor interior with maple tongue-and-groove flooring
16. Second floor interior showing former location of offices
17. Third floor interior
18. Third floor interior
19. Fourth floor interior with mushroom-shaped columns
20. Fourth floor view with elevator drive machinery
21. View of mushroom-shaped column
22. Metal decorative trim with "diamond" (lozenge) detailing



SUBJECT PROPERTY

SEE 63-6-3.4

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GREENVILLE COUNTY TAX MAPS		
GREENVILLE S.C.		
TAX DISTRICT	MAP NUMBER	REVISED
500-501-	59	/
SCALE 1"=60'		INDEX