

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: South Carolina	
COUNTY: Greenwood	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 70.8.41.0025	DATE 7/25

1. NAME

COMMON:
Old Cokesbury, and Masonic Female College and Conference School

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Eight miles north of Greenwood, at junction of state roads

CITY OR TOWN:
246 and 254, one mile south of U.S. 25

STATE South Carolina	CODE 41	COUNTY: Greenwood	CODE 24
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3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) (Masonic) The district is being developed as a cultural and recreation center

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Miscellaneous; Title to Masonic College is held by the South Carolina Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church

CITY OR TOWN:
Greenwood

STATE:
South Carolina

CODE:
41

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Clerk of Court

STREET AND NUMBER:
Greenwood County Court House

CITY OR TOWN:
Greenwood

STATE:
South Carolina

CODE:
41

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
South Carolina Survey of Historic Places (Preliminary)

DATE OF SURVEY: September, 1969 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
South Carolina Department of Archives and History

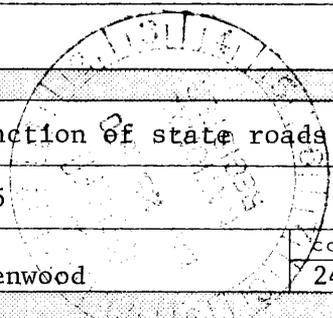
STREET AND NUMBER:
1430 Senate Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Columbia

STATE:
South Carolina

CODE:
41

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



STATE: S. CAR.
COUNTY: GREENWOOD
ENTRY NUMBER: 70.8.41.0025
DATE: 7/25
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7. DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The 116-year-old building which began as the Masonic Female College of South Carolina is being restored as the focal point of efforts to preserve what is left of the once-thriving Cokesbury village and to develop the area as a cultural and recreational asset.

The Old Cokesbury College building (later used for the Cokesbury Methodist Conference School from 1876-1918) was built in 1854 and has suffered few alterations. It is Greek Revival in style, with bell tower, four square columns rising from ground level to pediment, double-door entrance at second-floor level. The interior was divided into four recitation rooms and four music rooms on the first floor, a chapel on the second floor, Masonic Lodge headquarters on the third. There was no dormitory; young ladies boarded in town.

Present restoration, begun in 1968, has replaced the old roof, refinished the total exterior (steel webbing nailed over brick and re-stuccoed), added circular steps and temporary shutters while glass is being made for the huge windows. Interior restoration will include a first-floor parlor and a bedroom furnished with hand-carved rosewood bedroom furniture (c.1840-1850); a second-floor chapel with pews from the oldest Methodist church in Lancaster; also an antique pulpit, bishop's chair and rosewood piano; and a third-floor Masonic museum and a parlor for meetings.

The four acres around the building have been landscaped to include 18 magnolias, 400 azaleas, a formal garden, fountain, 600-foot brick wall and entrance.

The village itself dates from 1824, when the present main street was laid off. This was one of South Carolina's earliest planned communities. It was developed for and around the school. The site -- on a high, sandy ridge with oaks and other hardwood trees and a view of distant Blue Ridge mountains -- was especially chosen by citizens of the nearby Methodist community, Tabernacle, where an academy for boys had already established the reputation for excellence. The Tabernacle citizens wanted to build a bigger school and to relocate their town in a "healthier" spot. In an ambitious real estate development, they divided the ridge site into 20-25-acre lots so that plantation owners could build homes, create a congenial village and manage their outlying farms through overseers. Since the lots had to be big enough to accommodate houses for slaves who were domestic servants, the town did not grow as one of near-neighbors. But the population was a homogeneous one, culturally and economically, and also included a few doctors, dentists, merchants and retired ministers.

Thoroughly Methodist, the village was first called Mount Ariel. The name was changed to Cokesbury in 1834 to honor Thomas Coke and Francis Asbury, first two Methodist bishops in the United States. Also in 1834, the boys' school came under Methodist Church jurisdiction as the Dougherty Manual Labor School of the South Carolina Conference. During this period, the main school building was two-story brick; the campus also had six student cottages, mess hall, infirmary, chapel, homes for the rector, the steward, and one for the teachers. Its 1,000 acres included a farm. All these buildings are gone; a stone marker stands on the site.

The village also had an academy for girls and a school for children under 12. The Cokesbury Methodist Church was built in 1837. Businesses included

(continued)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SIGNIFICANCE

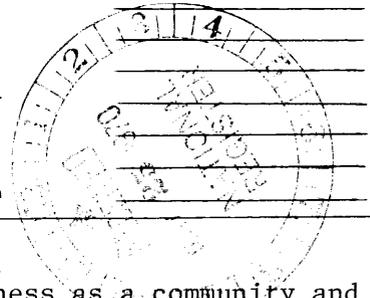
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1824 to 1918

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Cokesbury's significance stems from its uniqueness as a community and its possibilities of being revitalized as a section that once represented the finest standard of living in the county, a village whose qualities of character, piety and charm were long-lived and far-reaching. An evaluation of the Methodist-undergirded, school-centered community indicates that Cokesbury had far greater influence on the cultural and religious life of South Carolina than its size would seem to justify.

Celebrated for the high caliber of its education was Cokesbury Conference School -- first operated as a school for boys, co-educational from 1882, and a public school from 1918 to 1954, when the property reverted to Methodist Conference. Its lengthy list of distinguished alumni and teachers included bishops, judges, government leaders, professional men, soldiers, teachers, and college presidents (see attached).

W.W. Wightman, whose influence shaped early Cokesbury Institute, was the first president of Wofford College. Among other alumni were first president of Randolph Macon College, two presidents of Columbia College, a president of Wesleyan. The writings of another Cokesbury alumnus, Bishop Holland McTyeire, founder of Vanderbilt University, express the unusual devotion and enthusiasm Cokesbury School inspired. His writings also give valuable insights into schoolboy life of the mid-19th century, especially the era when manual labor schools were in vogue in the South.

The Masonic Female College of South Carolina, an effective though briefer experiment in education for young women (1853-1874), represented ideas that were rather advanced for the times. This institution also furthered the charm, character and influence of the town. A Cokesbury landmark, it will provide an excellent focal point for district preservation and development.

Cokesbury was one of the South's great centers of developing Methodism, dating from establishment of the Tabernacle Methodist Society between 1778 and 1788.

Cokesbury also had close associations with the Order of Ancient Free Masons. Cokesbury's Bascomb Lodge No. 80, representing nearly every prominent family in the area, sponsored the Female College.

Other areas of Cokesbury significance include the following:

- (1) Confederate President Jefferson Davis spent the night of May 1, 1865, at Cokesbury, en route from Richmond to Georgia. Davis's (continued)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Greenwood, S.C., "Greenwood County Sketches," MSS by Margaret Watson, 1970. Based on "Our Old Roads," series of historical essays written by H.L. Watson for the Greenwood Index-Journal.
 Rev. C.E. Peele, "An Address Before the Historical Societies of the Upper South Carolina Conference and the South Carolina Conference," 1934.
 Betts, A.D., History of South Carolina Methodism. Columbia, S.C., The Advocate Press, 1952.
 Julien and Milling, Beneath So Kind a Sky. Columbia, S.C., University of South Carolina Press, 1958.

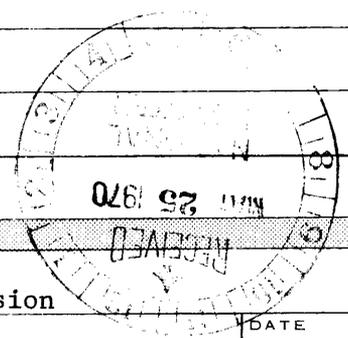
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

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		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	34° 18' 44"	82° 16' 35"		°	'	"
NE	34° 18' 44"	82° 09' 28"				
SE	34° 14' 19"	82° 09' 28"				
SW	34° 14' 19"	82° 16' 34"				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 14,438 acres

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Mrs. James W. Fant, Historic Resources Division
 ORGANIZATION: S.C. Department of Archives and History DATE: May 16, 1970
 STREET AND NUMBER: P.O. Box 11,188 Capitol Station, 1430 Senate St., Columbia, S.C. 29211
 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 E. Lep
 Title: Director, S.C. Department of Archives and History
 Date: 5/19/70

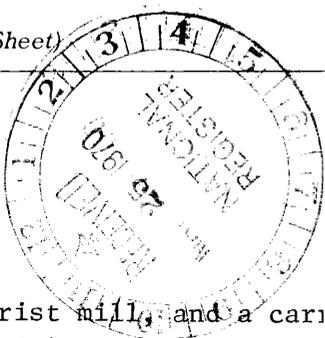
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.
Grant Allen Gurnea
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
 AUG 25 1970
 Date _____
 ATTEST:
William Milling
 Keeper of The National Register
 Date: JUL 27 1970

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South Carolina	
COUNTY	
Greenwood	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
70-8-41-00-25	8/65

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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(Continuation Sheet)



(Number all entries)

COKESBURY

7. DESCRIPTION (CONTINUED)

several stores, a steam saw and grist mill, and a carriage factory. There is no record that Cokesbury ever had a tavern.

Judge Christie Benet, last president of Cokesbury Cokesbury College, described the town as "a lovely place with its streets embosomed in shady trees. The people were well-to-do and the whole community carried on like one happy family. For social pleasures there were hot suppers, picnics at the nearby Sulphur Springs and musical parties ... The men had whist parties (no lady played cards) which were purely tests of skill with no money at stake. There was much fishing, hunting of all kinds, including fox hunting."

The town was noted for the beauty of its homes and gardens. Pen sketches of more than 50 Old Cokesbury buildings as they looked before the Civil War (examples enclosed) will be included in a forthcoming book on South Carolina by Mrs. Sterling Graydon, one of the Greenwood promoters of the Cokesbury project.

Most of Cokesbury's surviving homes were built after 1835. A number have similar architectural features, particularly in door and window designs. Among homes and buildings still standing are:

- 1850 brick store (see photo)
- 1850 Greek Revival home of Francis A. Connor, plarter who was first president of Masonic College (see photo)
- 1841-45 home of Gen. Martin W. Gary's mother
- 1850 Milam house, cottage type
- 1850 Colonel Wyatt Aiken brick house, where first state grange was organized in 1871
- 1840 Old Rectory (see photo)
- 1840 Glass-Palmer House
- 1850 Connor-Hodges House (see photo)
- 1845 Dr. Thomas Gary Home (see photo)

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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
South Carolina	
COUNTY	
Greenwood	
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70-8.4/0625	8/25

(Number all entries)

COKESBURY

8. SIGNIFICANCE

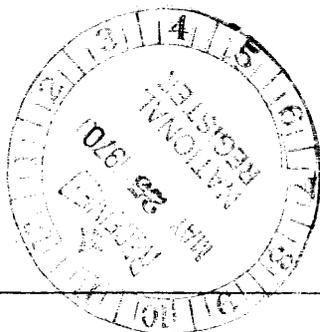
headquarters was the home of Mrs. Thomas Reeder Gary, whose son, Confederate General Mark W. Gary, was in Davis's military escort.

- (2) Cokesbury was the home of Dr. Wesley Calhoun Norwood, physician who achieved distinction and stirred up controversy in the medical profession throughout the United States in the 1850s. Involved were his claims about the curative powers of veratrum viride and his own preparation, "Norwood's Tincture," which was made by the religious sect of Shakers.
- (3) A late Methodist divine, the Rev. Thomas E. Norris, claimed that the first game of baseball played in South Carolina was at Cokesbury in 1873 when he was a student there; the game was introduced by a teacher who was a Yale alumnus.
- (4) At Cokesbury today is the largest group of antebellum structures remaining in Greenwood County.

Cokesbury is expected to become a Methodist and Masonic shrine. Its development has the support of the Methodist Church; the Grand Lodge of South Carolina Masons is underwriting some of the interior restoration of the college building.

In addition to encouraging private development in keeping with Cokesbury's original charm and beauty, long-range plans include renovation of the two-story Gary home and development of the surrounding 50 acres as a recreation area. A youth center, baseball and football fields, and a camping ground are planned. A creek at the back of this tract will allow creation of a lake. The Greenwood Little Theater plans to build at Cokesbury on land adjoining the college. The proposed building would include workshop and stage areas in addition to an auditorium seating between 250 and 300.

The Cokesbury development has strong local and statewide support, and it dovetails well with such other programs in the same historic Old Abbeville district as the Ninety Six-Star Fort restoration, and recreational facilities being developed on Lake Greenwood.



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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
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COUNTY	
Greenwood	
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70-8-41-8025	8/25

(Number all entries)

OLD COKESBURY

9. Major Bibliographical References

Julien and Watson, Ninety Six. Columbia, S.C., University of South Carolina Press, 1950.

WPA: South Carolina, A Guide to the Palmetto State. New York, Oxford University Press, 1941.

Hanna, Flight Into Oblivion, Centennial Series, Indiana University Press, Bloomington, Ind., 1938.

Columbia, S.C., Department of Archives and History, "Jefferson Davis's Route from Richmond, Virginia to Irwinville, Georgia, April 2-May 10, 1865."
(by Nora Marshall Davis).

