NPS Form 10-900
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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Greenwood High School

and or common Old Greenwood High School (preferred)

2. Location

street & number 857 South Main Street N/A not for publication

city, town Greenwood N/A vicinity of

state South Carolina code 045 county Greenwood code 047

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
___ district	___ public	___ occupied	___ agriculture	___ museum
X building(s)	X private	___ unoccupied	___ commercial	___ park
___ structure	___ both	X work in progress	___ educational	___ private residence
___ site	**Public Acquisition**	**Accessible**	___ entertainment	___ religious
___ object	N/A in process	X yes: restricted	___ government	___ scientific
	N/A being considered	___ yes: unrestricted	___ industrial	___ transportation
		___ no	___ military	X other: Vacant

4. Owner of Property

name G & L Company

street & number One Park Avenue, Box P-124

city, town Greenwood N/A vicinity of state South Carolina 29646

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Greenwood County Courthouse

street & number 528 Monument Street

city, town Greenwood state South Carolina 29646

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title South Carolina Inventory of Historic Places has this property been determined eligible? ___ yes X no

date 1985 ___ federal X state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records South Carolina Department of Archives and History

city, town Columbia state South Carolina 29211-1669

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
___ excellent	___ deteriorated	___ unaltered	X original site
X good	___ ruins	X altered	___ moved date _____
___ fair	___ unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Old Greenwood High School is a complex of three buildings located at 857 South Main Street in the city of Greenwood, South Carolina. Two of the buildings--the auditorium building and the main building--were constructed in 1925-26; the gymnasium building was added in 1929-30. All three buildings were designed in 1925 by Greenwood architect James C. Hemphill and the Columbia, South Carolina, architectural firm of Wilson, Berryman and Kennedy. The school is built in the Georgian revival style, with the buildings arranged in a Palladian configuration. The complex was utilized as a school from 1926 until 1982; few alterations were made to the buildings as a result. Conversion of the school into an apartment complex (now in progress) is resulting in changes primarily on the interior. The exterior appearance is being preserved, and the overall integrity of the school will remain.

Additional Information:

The Old Greenwood High School is built of brick, with stone trim. The brick foundation rests on concrete footings. Each of the three buildings has a monumental portico supported by six Tuscan columns. The sheltered area of each facade is stuccoed. A round, nine-light window with stuccoed keystones is located in the stuccoed tympanum of each pediment. Stone is used for water tables, columns, quoins, decorative panels, fascias, window sills, and keystones. Each of the buildings is rectangular. The main building is oriented with its long side parallel to South Main Street; the flanking buildings are situated in a perpendicular manner. Single-story, brick arcades connect the main building with the auditorium and gymnasium buildings.

The main building is two stories in height and has a facade (west elevation) twenty-seven bays wide. The portico spans the five central bays and shelters three recessed, double-door entrances. A bronze medallion of the school seal is located above the central entrance. Most windows are paired, with six-over-six lights. Vertical rows of stone panels occur at regular intervals and correspond to interior classroom walls. The gable roof was originally of slate, but has been covered with composition shingles. A frame cupola, sheathed in galvanized iron, is centrally located on the roof ridge. It rests on a square, brick base and features round-arch windows on each of its four elevations, corner pilasters, vaulted roof, and metal finial. The north and south elevations of the building are seven bays wide, with a central entrance flanked by single, six-over-six windows. A round, louvered vent with keystones is located in each gable end. The boxed cornice

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
prehistoric	archeology-prehistoric	community planning	landscape architecture	religion
1400–1499	archeology-historic	conservation	law	science
1500–1599	agriculture	economics	literature	sculpture
1600–1699	X architecture	X education	military	social/ humanitarian
1700–1799	art	engineering	music	theater
1800–1899	commerce	exploration/settlement	philosophy	transportation
X 1900–	communications	industry	politics/government	other (specify)
		invention		

Specific dates 1925-26, 1929-30 **Builder/Architect** James C. Hemphill; Wilson, Berryman and Kennedy

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Old Greenwood High School is a complex of three buildings located on a three-acre lot between the central business district and an older residential area of the city of Greenwood, South Carolina. Located at 857 South Main Street, the school is built in the Georgian revival style, with the main building, auditorium, and gymnasium forming a Palladian configuration. An important Greenwood landmark, the school is also significant architecturally as an example of the collaboration of Greenwood architect James C. Hemphill and the prominent Columbia, South Carolina, firm of Wilson, Berryman and Kennedy. In addition, construction of the large, institutional buildings in 1925-26 to serve as the county's first separate high school represents a major advancement in the history of education in Greenwood.

Additional Information:

The Greenwood Public School System dates from 1891, when a school district was established and a superintendent elected. Prior to this time, educational opportunities were provided by a number of private institutes, academies, and schools. The first public school was opened in one of the former private school buildings on Church Street (now East Cambridge Avenue) and operated at this location until the building was destroyed by fire in 1903. The Magnolia Street School was constructed in 1903-04 as a result of the fire and housed all grades until the Old Greenwood High School was opened in 1926. Between 1903 and 1926, seven other schools were constructed--three schools in the mill villages, two schools for black students, and two additional schools for the elementary grades--but Magnolia School continued to house the high school and a grammar school.[1]

In May 1924 an overwhelming majority of voters approved the sale of $225,000 in bonds for the construction of a separate, modern high school. Architect James C. Hemphill of Greenwood and the architectural firm of Wilson, Berryman and Kennedy of Columbia were selected in October to prepare plans for the building. After examining many sites, the School Trustees purchased the former Southern Cotton Oil Company property, composed of six and one-half acres with buildings on South Main Street, in February 1925.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property approximately 3

Quadrangle name Greenwood, SC

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
A	17	393280	3783130	B			
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification The boundary of the Old Greenwood High School nomination is shown as the red line on the accompanying Greenwood County Property Tax Map #99-12, which is drawn at a scale of 100 feet to the inch. The nominated property includes the school buildings and yard.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

11. Form Prepared By

name/title John C. Blythe, Jr., Historic Preservation Planner

organization Upper Savannah Council of Governments date July 31, 1985

street & number Post Office Box 1366 telephone (803) 229-6627

city or town Greenwood state South Carolina 29648-1366

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

___ national ___ state X local

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title Charles E. Lee
State Historic Preservation Officer date 8/26/85

For NPS use only

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

Keeper of the National Register date 10-10-85

Attest: date

Chief of Registration

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has returns. The rear (east) elevation is similar to the facade (west elevation). Instead of a portico, a central, two-bay stairwell slightly projects from the plane of the rear elevation. The stairwell has a hip roof, which extends through the rear roof slope beneath the base of the cupola. The outermost bays of the rear elevation have a double-door entrance on the first level and a round-arch window on the second level. A square, brick chimney pierces the rear slope of the roof.

The interior of the main building has an entrance foyer which leads to a twelve-foot wide, central hall on the first story. Classrooms and the school office are located along the hall. The stairwells are found to the rear of the foyer and at each end of the building. The second story has a similar plan, with the library located above the entrance foyer. The building has wood floors and plaster walls and ceilings. The renovation in progress is retaining the hallways, stairwells, and classroom walls. Apartments are being created by the subdivision of classrooms, library, and office.

The auditorium building is located to the north of the main building. The facade (west elevation) is dominated by the portico, which shelters five bays. The central and outer bays have double-door entrances with round-arch, mullioned fanlights on the first story. Pedimented bulletin boards (shown on the original architectural plans) are attached to the recessed, stuccoed panels of the intervening bays. The north and south elevations are eight bays wide and are characterized by five, large, round-arch windows which correspond to the auditorium proper. The central window is located above a double-door entrance, with a stone panel intervening on the north elevation. The windows are tripartite (nine-over-nine flanked by three-over-three), with a four-section fanlight. The rear (east) elevation is pierced only by a large set of double doors which open onto the stage and by seven small windows and three doors to the basement. The hip roof is of slate and is pierced by four, hip roof, louvered dormers, two each on the north and south slopes.

The interior of the auditorium building originally featured an entrance foyer with staircases located to each side. The auditorium had a sloping floor and vaulted ceiling. The balcony featured a fireproof projection booth. Opera chairs, finished in walnut, provided a seating capacity of more than 1200. The stage had a proscenium arch framed by pilasters. Beneath the stage was the bandroom. The renovation in progress includes the removal of the two staircases, the opera chairs, and a portion of the balcony. The floor slope is being eliminated, and a second story created. The proscenium arch remains, but is being obscured. The entire area is being subdivided into apartment units.

The gymnasium building is located to the south of the main building. The facade (west elevation) is similar to the facade of the auditorium building, with variations occurring on the first story beneath the portico. The central bay has a double-door entrance, flanked by recessed panels with single windows, which are in turn flanked by stuccoed, recessed panels. The building has a hip-on-hip roof of composition shingles. The front portion of the building is two stories in height and contained classrooms and cafeteria; it is characterized on the north and south elevations of the exterior by paired, six-over-six windows. A hip roof, louvered dormer is located on the north and south roof slopes. The rear portion of the building contained the gymnasium proper and is five bays wide on the north and south elevations. Each bay has a paired, six-over-six window with a paired, six-light transom. The rear (east) elevation is dominated by an enclosed, brick stairwell, added ca. 1947. The renovation in progress includes the subdivision of the classrooms and cafeteria into apartments. The gymnasium is being eliminated by the creation of a second story and subdivision into apartment units.

Surroundings: The Old Greenwood High School is located on a 3.5 acre, L-shaped lot on South Main Street in the city of Greenwood. The rear extension, on which are located tennis courts, is excluded from the nominated property. The front (west) and south yards are grassy and tree-shaded. To the north and east of the buildings are paved parking areas. The lot is located in a transitional area, with commercial, residential, religious, and governmental properties in close proximity. The city's central business district is immediately to the north of the school.

Plans for the school were completed in May; the contract was awarded June 23. Because the bids which were submitted exceeded the amount budgeted for the entire school complex, the Trustees determined to delay construction of the gymnasium building. Demolition of the oil mill buildings was well underway in August 1925, and excavation for the high school had begun.[2]

Work on the buildings continued through the summer of 1926, but the opening of the high school was delayed because the buildings were not completed. The main building was opened on September 22, although the auditorium building was not finished, nor had the grounds been made ready. Formal dedication of the school buildings took place on January 21, 1927. The school complex was completed with construction of the gymnasium building in 1929-30.[3]

The buildings served as a high school until 1969, when a new physical plant was constructed. During the 1970s, the Emerald Junior High School was located in the old high school complex; the buildings were abandoned when a new junior high school was occupied in 1982. In September 1983 the School Trustees announced plans to demolish all or part of the high school complex, but public reaction to the proposal was so negative that the School Board reversed its decision and offered the property for sale in November. The complex was sold to the G & L Company in April 1984, subject to the restriction that the exterior architectural character of the buildings be preserved for a period of at least twenty years.[4] The G & L Company is currently renovating the buildings as an apartment complex.

Architecture: The Old Greenwood High School has been an imposing architectural landmark of downtown Greenwood since its construction. The symmetry of the complex is emphasized by its three monumental porticos. The restrained use of stone for trim and ornamentation and the Palladian arrangement of the buildings demonstrate the great care that was taken to beautify a large, institutional complex. The functional aspects of the buildings reflect the modern advancements in school design and fixtures at the time of construction, while the aesthetic features are represented by the then-popular Georgian revival style of architecture. The centrally-placed cupola provides a focal point for the building complex and served as a symbol of the school. Interior ornamentation was concentrated in the auditorium building; the main and gymnasium buildings were designed primarily for function, and interior ornamentation is more restrained.

The Old Greenwood High School is also significant as an example of the work of several noteworthy architects, James C. Hemphill and the firm of Wilson, Berryman and Kennedy. Hemphill (1889-1970) was a native of Abbeville, South Carolina, and established an office in Greenwood in 1916. He had previously served as a draftsman for Thomas A. Edison in East Orange, New Jersey, and worked in a Boston, Massachusetts, architectural firm. He practiced in Greenwood until 1933, and again from 1945 until his death. During the interim, he lived in Columbia and in Washington, D. C., and worked with Depression-era reconstruction projects and military projects during World War II.[5] Hemphill specialized in residences, but also designed numerous churches and schools. The majority of his work is found in Greenwood and Columbia, although he had some projects as far away as Mexico and Alabama.[6]

Although Hemphill actually drew the plans for the high school, Charles Coker Wilson (1864-1933) served as senior architect. Wilson was well-known throughout the Southeast and was perhaps the most prominent architect in South Carolina at the time the school was built. He designed many public buildings in South Carolina and served as the final architect for the completion of the South Carolina State House.[7]

Education: Construction of the Old Greenwood High School in 1925-26 represented a major advancement in the history of education in the city of Greenwood and in Greenwood County. For the first time since the Greenwood Public School System was established in 1891, the upper grades and the grammar school were taught in separate buildings. The high school was built primarily to accommodate the city's rapidly-growing student population, but it attracted students from the county as well. Initial enrollment grew twenty percent from the fall of 1925 to the fall of 1926, from 374 to 449 high school students. This increase can be attributed in part to the fact that many students from surrounding communities, including Bradley, Coronaca and Hodges, began to commute to Greenwood to take advantage of the educational opportunities being offered by the new high school.[8]

FOOTNOTES

[1]Annual Report of the Public Schools of Greenwood, South Carolina. 1904-1905 (Greenwood: The Index Company, [1906], pp. 11-12; Greenwood (S.C.) Index, 16 July 1903, 24 September 1903, 15 September 1904; Index-Journal (Greenwood, S. C.), 10 May 1925.

[2]Deed book 41, Office of Clerk of Court, Greenwood County Courthouse, Greenwood, S. C., pp. 297-299; Index-Journal, 23 May 1924, 2 November 1924, 3 December 1924, 21 January 1925, 23 February 1925, 22 May 1925, 24 June 1925, 3 August 1925.

[3]Index-Journal, 22 August 1926, 2 September 1926, 21 September 1926, 21 January 1927, 8 November 1929, 21 November 1929, 8 December 1929, 27 December 1929.

[4]Deed book 300, Office of Clerk of Court, Greenwood County Courthouse, pp. 103-105; Greenville (S.C.) News, 23 November 1983; Index-Journal, 27 May 1969, 14 March 1983, 20 September 1983, 18 October 1983.

[5]Letter dated 1 March 1983, James C. Hemphill, Jr., to John C. Blythe, Jr., Upper Savannah Council of Governments, Greenwood, S. C.; Yates Snowden, History of South Carolina, 5 vols. (Chicago and New York: Lewis Publishing Company, 1920), 5:43-44.

[6]James C. Hemphill Papers, Hemphill Associates, Charlotte, N.C.

[7]Christie Zimmerman Fant, The State House of South Carolina: An Illustrated Historic Guide (Columbia: R. L. Bryan, 1970), p. 32; J. C. Garlington, Men of the Time: Sketches of Living Notables: A Biographical Encyclopedia of Contemporaneous South Carolina Leaders (Spartanburg: Garlington Publishing Co., 1902), p. 456; Index-Journal, 27 January 1933; David Duncan Wallace, The History of South Carolina, 4 vols. (New York: American Historical Society, 1934), 4: 1010-1011.

[8]Index-Journal, 10 May 1925, 2 September 1926, 21 September 1926, 22 September 1926.

Annual Report of the Public Schools of Greenwood, South Carolina. 1904-1905. Greenwood: The Index Company, [1906].

Charlotte, N. C. Hemphill Associates. James C. Hemphill Papers.

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Fant, Christie Zimmerman. The State House of South Carolina: An Illustrated Historic Guide. Columbia: R. L. Bryan, 1970.

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Snowden, Yates. History of South Carolina. 5 vols. Chicago and New York: Lewis Publishing Company, 1920.

Wallace, David Duncan. The History of South Carolina. 4 vols. New York: American Historical Society, 1934.