**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 of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

### 1. Name of Property

- **Historic name:** Cool Springs

- **Other names/site numbers:**

### 2. Location

- **Street & number:** 726 Kershaw Highway
- **City, town:** Camden
- **State:** South Carolina
- **Code:** SC
- **County:** Kershaw
- **Code:** 055
- **Zip code:** 29020

### 3. Classification

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ownership of Property</th>
<th>Category of Property</th>
<th>Number of Resources within Property</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>x private</td>
<td>x building(s)</td>
<td>Contributing 3 buildings</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>Noncontributing 4 structures</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Total 8</td>
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Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

### 4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this 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 meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Mary W. Edmonds, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

Signature of certifying official: Mary W. Edmonds

Date: 8/24/89

State or Federal agency and bureau:

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official: 

Date: 

State or Federal agency and bureau:

### 5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- x 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):

Signature of the Keeper: 

Date of Action: 
Cool Springs is a two-story Greek Revival house elevated on a raised brick basement. The original section of Cool Springs is a rectangular block with a center hall, double-pile floor plan. It has a two-tiered portico projecting from the west, or front elevation. A veranda, with a total of 64 wooden Archaic Greek Doric columns, wraps around the north, west, and south elevations. The west facade is stuccoed; the rest of the house is weatherboarded. A straight staircase provides access to the front entrance. The three-ranked facade has a centered six-panel wooden door flanked by paired 9/9 windows. The Palladian entrance on the second story, an alteration (c. 1935), was once identical to the main entrance directly below it. On the east (rear) elevation is a tiered porch and balcony, with eight Doric columns and a second story Palladian door. Cool Springs has an asphalt shingled roof with pedimented gables. The original 1852 house had interior chimneys. According to tradition, it was architect Reuben Hamilton who, in c. 1850, moved the chimneys to the outside and erected the tiered portico and veranda. Half of the veranda columns were removed near the turn of the twentieth century.

The interior first floor has sixteen-foot ceilings, paneled wainscotting, plaster cornice molding, and a curving stair to the rear of the center hall. All of the doors and windows have Egyptian-influenced moldings with battered surrounds and cassettes. Pine pocket doors open into the northeast and northwest rooms; an additional set of pocket doors connect the south rooms. The south parlor has Egyptian-influenced wooden mantels with battered piers and overhanging lintels. Ceiling medallions adorn the center hall and each of the first floor rooms; the medallions in the south parlor are original, and feature lotus and acanthus leaf motifs. The two north parlors have been altered to form one large room. In this room are two fireplaces, each of marble, identical in design to those in the south parlors.
Cool Springs is significant under criterion C, as an excellent example of the Greek Revival style. The original house was constructed c. 1832 by John Boykin, a planter and lawyer. The house, originally a summer residence, was part of a summer pineland village such as those used by antebellum South Carolina planters as retreats from their plantations during the sickly summer season. The original house was remodelled, probably by architect Reuben Hamilton, in the 1850s during the ownership of the Cureton family. His additions to the original house transformed it into a showcase of the Greek Revival style. This updating the older house made it one of the most notable mansions in the area. The c. 1850 changes to the house included the tiered portico and the addition of verandas, supported by 64 Doric columns. The interior was redesigned at that time, as well; alterations included moving the chimneys to the exterior walls, and a set of two-story rectangular additions to the east facade. By 1935, a two-story kitchen addition was attached to the northeast corner of the house. Cool Springs remains one of the finest examples of Greek Revival architecture in the Midlands of South Carolina.

Additional Information

Cool Springs was constructed c. 1832 as a summer residence by John Boykin of Camden. It was originally part of a small summer settlement, no longer extant, which was located four miles north of the Camden court house. John Boykin owned the Cool
9. Major Bibliographical References

[Check box if applicable]
- 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
- Recorded by Historic American Engineering

Survey # __________________________
Record # __________________________

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:
- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository:
South Caroliniana Library, University of South Carolina Historical Society

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property: 16.0

UTM References

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<tr>
<td>D 17</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

See Tax Map: Kershaw County Sheet 242, parcels 104 and 105, drawn at a scale of 1" = 400'; the boundary of the nomination is shown as the black line.

Boundary Justification

The nominated property includes the house and historic outbuildings and natural features, and their immediate settings.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

Name/Title: Katherine H. Richardson, President; Robert B. Bennett, Jr., Vice-Pres.
Date: 6-16-89
Street & Number: P.O. Box 5502
City or Town: Columbia
State: SC
Telephone: 256-0573
Zip Code: 29250

U.S. GPO: 1988-0-223-918
The second story has four bedrooms off the center hall; two on each side. The west end of the hall is partially enclosed to provide space for the c. 1935 bathrooms in the west bedrooms. A glazed entrance with a fanlight opens onto the west veranda. The hall also features a balustrade around the stairwell and an elongated arch which frames the glazed Palladian entrance to the rear balcony.

The two-story rectangular addition on the southeast corner appears to have been erected along with the tiered veranda and portico. On the northeast corner is a c. 1935 two-story, frame kitchen addition with a gabled roof.

**Outbuildings and Grounds**

There is a vernacular horse barn in the northeast corner of the property. A second vernacular barn, located just to the north of the house, serves as a garage. A plywood pump house is located near the southeast corner of the property. Located near the pump house is an old, brick-lined spring basin. Immediately west of the pump house and brick basin is a small pond which is embanked on one side, with a spillway toward its center. An old stone spring site is located just off the spillway. Located just south of the house are four brick pads which originally served as the foundation to a water tower. The tower supplied water to the second story bathrooms as early as 1920. Immediately southeast of the water tower foundation is a concrete piscatory which was used to store live fish. A set of four granite gateposts comprise the original entrance to the property.

There are several sites at Cool Springs which show archaeological potential. A round depression is located several feet east of the piscatory. Another round depression is located in the hedgerow near the dog pen. A large square depression in the middle of the horse pasture may mark the location of a twentieth century cottage. The old kitchen site is in the present garden where numerous bricks have been unearthed. Another depression is in a thicket on the northern border of the property. The hedges which line many of the drives date from the early twentieth century. There are numerous trees and plantings which indicate a general landscaped plan.

Individual resources are identified as contributing or noncontributing on the sketch map. Due to their conjectural nature, several sites indicated on the sketch map have not been classified.
Springs tract from 1832 to 1844. The house is representative of the trend toward living in summer towns and residences prevalent among affluent nineteenth century South Carolinians. Cool Springs was inhabited seasonally during its early years and later became a permanent home. James B. Cureton and his family resided there from 1850 to 1895, one of the longest ownerships of Cool Springs. Numerous undocumented sources state that the Curetons were responsible for interior renovations and construction of the veranda, portico, and rear wings of the house. They apparently hired architect Reuben Hamilton to transform the house into a showcase of Greek Revival architecture. According to a county history published in 1926, "They [the Curetons] remodeled and extended to the present proportions 'Cool Spring,' one of the most beautiful and noted homes in the county, where they lived in great affluence up to the time of the [Civil] War." The house survived the Civil War without damage. The Cureton's improvements to the house caused one Union soldier to record, "After leaving the Camden road we passed through a level sandy fine country. Saw the finest Southern residence today I have ever seen - 'Cool Springs' residence."

In the early twentieth century, Camden, like many other southern towns, became a winter retreat for northern tourists, as promoted by the Southern Railroad Company and private citizens of Camden. As early as 1908, the Southern Railway promoted Camden as a winter resort, praising its old gardens and houses, and invigorating air filled with the "balsamic odors emanating from these superb Pines." By the first decade of the twentieth century, there were at least three tourist homes in the town. During this period, Cool Springs, located approximately 300 feet from the railroad, became a tourist home. Susan Snell, who purchased the house in 1913, turned Cool Springs into Kirkland Villa. She advertised in her brochure, "an Old Colonial Southern

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\(^1\)Deed Bk. Q, pp. 217-8, Kershaw County Conveyances, S. C. Dept. of Archives and History, Columbia, S.C.


\(^3\)Lt. Platter Civil War Diary, 1864-5, C.C. Platter Collection, South Caroliniana Library, University of South Carolina, Columbia, S.C.
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Continuation Sheet

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Home containing every comfort, with steam heat, open fireplaces in every room ... the drinking water is of the purest, being furnished from the famous health-giving 'Cool Springs,' clear as crystal ... The grounds are beautifully laid out with shrubs and hedges ... a delightful place to spend the winter, with the charm of birds and life-giving atmosphere ... our own dairy furnishes milk and butter, with chickens, eggs, and vegetables from our own farm."¹ "Kirkland Villa" was ideally located close to the railroad tracks; there was a stop and train shed in front of the house prior to 1912. Susan Snell kept her "Kirkland Villa" inn for two years, selling it in 1915.²

By the 1920s, the town was a thriving center for equestrians, golfers, and those seeking to escape northern winters. Cool Springs then became the property of northerners seeking a winter refuge in Camden. Prior to her purchase of Cool Springs in 1931, Mrs. Helen Van Zandt Knight was an "all-season resident" of the Hobkirk Inn in Camden. She was described as an expert horsewoman who "will take an active part in the winter sporting life." Extensive repairs, rewiring, plumbing, and renovations were during her ownership.³

Over the next four decades, the mansion fell into various states of disrepair. From the mid 1970s to the late 1980s, Cool Springs has been rehabilitated to its historic grandeur.

¹Kirkland Villa Brochure, c. 1913-5, Private Collection of John W. Bonner, Jr., Camden, S.C.

²Deed Bk. AM, p. 313, Kershaw County Conveyances, S.C. Dept. of Archives and History; "Camden, South Carolina, 1908, A Winter Resort on the Southern Railway," Collections of the South Caroliniana Library, Kershaw County Photograph Files, Book Division; Camden Chamber of Commerce, "Beautiful Camden, South Carolina, A Description of its Tourist Hotels, Business Enterprises, Advantage of Location, Climate and Resources," ca. 1920, n.p., Collections of the South Caroliniana Library, Kershaw County Photograph Files, Book Division; "Kirkland Villa (Cool Springs) Camden, S.C.," Private Collection of John W. Bonner, Jr., Camden, S.C.

Bibliography

Primary Sources

Camden, S.C., Kershaw County Courthouse, Register of Mesne Conveyance.

Camden, S.C., Kershaw County Courthouse, Office of the Tax Assessor.

Camden, S.C., Kershaw County Courthouse, Probate Records.


Newspapers:

The Camden Chronicle, March 27, 1931.
Maps:

Faden-DeBrahm.  Map of South Carolina, 1780.  South Caroliniana Library, University of South Carolina, Columbus, S.C.

Secondary Materials


Camden Chamber of Commerce.  *Beautiful Camden, South Carolina ...*  n.p., ca. 1920.  South Caroliniana Library, University of South Carolina, Columbus, S.C.


The following information is the same for each of the photographs:

Name of property: Cool Springs
Location of property: Kershaw County, South Carolina
Photographer: Katherine H. Richardson, Heritage Preservation Associates
Location of negatives: South Carolina Department of Archives and History
Date of photographs: January 1989

Additional information for each photograph follows:

1. Cool Springs
   Main House
   West facade, looking east

2. Cool Springs
   Main House
   Southwest oblique, looking northeast

3. Cool Springs
   Main House
   Northwest oblique, looking southeast

4. Cool Springs
   Main House
   First floor central hall

5. Cool Springs
   Barn
   West elevation, looking east

6. Cool Springs
   Small horse stable
   Southeast elevation, looking northwest

7. Cool Springs
   Rock-lined spring, looking southwest.

8. Cool Springs
   Old road to Camden, from Cool Springs gates, looking south

9. Cool Springs
   c. 1890 historic photograph, showing original front steps, looking northeast