

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received MAY 27 1982
date entered

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

1. Name

historic Dr. William Columbus Cauthen House

and/or common Oak View Farm

2. Location

street & number On secondary state highway No. 75, approximately 2 miles south of its intersection with U.S. Highway No. 521 near the town N/A not for publication of Heath Springs

city, town Heath Springs and Kershaw X vicinity of ~~Congressional district~~

state South Carolina code 045 county Lancaster code 057

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Mrs. Mary B. (William L.) Phillips

street & number Oak View Farm, Route 2

city, town Kershaw X vicinity of state South Carolina 29067

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Lancaster County Office Building

street & number Corner of Dunlap and Catawba Streets

city, town Lancaster state South Carolina 29720

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

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

date 1979 federal state county local

depository for survey records South Carolina Department of Archives and History

city, town Columbia state South Carolina 29211

7. Description

Condition excellent good fair deteriorated ruins unexposed**Check one** unaltered altered**Check one** original site moved

date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Dr. William Columbus Cauthen House was built ca. 1848 for Dr. Cauthen and is the oldest known residence in Lancaster County. Located on a flat tract of land in rural Lancaster County, the house is approximately three miles northwest of the town of Kershaw. This two-story, frame, weatherboarded, central-hall farmhouse is in amazingly original form, retaining its pine plank floors, ceilings, and walls. Indoor plumbing has never been introduced into this house, and only minimal electrical wiring has been installed. The only alterations to the house include new roof sheathing and a ca. 1865 kitchen addition with two small porches. The Cauthen House possesses a very high degree of integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The William Columbus Cauthen House is a two-story, frame, gable-roofed house built along the central-hall farmhouse plan. A one-story, shed roof porch spans the facade (east elevation). The roof extends beyond the porch floor and is supported by four large, wooden posts on granite blocks. The porch floor and banister are original. The first story facade beneath the porch is sheathed in flush boards and has five bays: a central, single wooden door with four recessed panels, flanked by two nine-over-nine, double-hung sash windows on each side. The second story facade has four nine-over-nine windows. Many of the original window panes remain. Shutter pins around some of the windows indicate where shutters once hung. There is an exterior end chimney of stuccoed brick with hooded cap and necking on both the north and south elevations. The rear elevation has two one-story shed rooms and a ca. 1865 kitchen addition with an interior chimney and a porch. The house rests on hewn log sleepers supported by brick piers.

Interior: The interior of the William Columbus Cauthen House is unaltered except for the accommodation made for electricity. On the first floor, the central hall has a large parlor on either side. These parlors have recessed panel wainscoting and decorative carved mantels. These rooms, as well as the rest of the house, have wide, pine plank ceilings, walls, and floors, and open-mortised doors, which are grained and have the original locks. The locks were made by Carpenter and Company. Two small shed rooms lie behind these parlors, and the kitchen is at the rear.

Access to the second story of the house is gained via a steep enclosed, single-run stairway located at the back of the hall. There is a large room on the northern side of the hall with horizontal plank wainscoting and a fireplace. A small room on the southern side of the hall has vertical plank wainscoting. In this room, a section of the wall planks can be removed to provide the only access to the attic. Through this space, the scored and pegged hewn braces and beams can be seen. It was also through this space behind the secret panel that Dr. Cauthen reputedly hid his valuables from the Federal troops during the Civil War.

Surroundings: The Dr. William Columbus Cauthen House stands on a flat tract of land in rural Kershaw County. Outbuildings on the nominated property include a barn of log construction, which may be contemporary with the house, and a frame barn and a small frame shed of unknown age. A pump which still provides water for the house is also located on the property.

8. Significance

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

Specific dates ca. 1848 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Dr. William Columbus Cauthen House is located in rural Lancaster County between the towns of Heath Springs and Kershaw. Built ca. 1848 for Dr. William Columbus Cauthen, the house is the oldest known residence in Lancaster County. The Cauthen House is significant architecturally as a fine example of a mid-nineteenth century central-hall farmhouse which retains an amazing degree of integrity. The house is also significant in the area of politics and government as the home of Dr. Cauthen, one of three men from Lancaster District to sign the Ordinance of Secession.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Dr. William Columbus Cauthen was born near Hanging Rock in Lancaster District in 1825. He attended Transylvania College Medical School in Lexington, Kentucky, between 1845 and 1847 and after graduation returned to Lancaster District where he set up an office in a wing of his father's house. In 1848 Cauthen married his cousin Margaret Jane Cauthen and, according to tradition, built for her this two-story, central-hall farmhouse.¹

In addition to maintaining his medical practice, Dr. Cauthen was active in politics and successfully managed a large farm. Cauthen served three terms in the South Carolina House of Representatives and was one of three delegates from Lancaster District to sign the Ordinance of Secession. In 1859 Cauthen was the recipient of the silver cup award from the Lancaster Agricultural Society for the largest yield of corn from one acre in Lancaster District.²

Cauthen had contracted tuberculosis early in life and long hard hours of work during the war ruined his health. Tradition holds that Sherman's army visited the house and dragged the dying doctor out into the yard and beat him in an attempt to discover the hiding place for his food and valuables. Cauthen did not reveal their location, behind a secret panel behind his bed, which is still visible. The soldiers departed without goods and without learning that Cauthen signed the Ordinance of Secession, possibly the reason the house was one of the few in the area not burned. Dr. Cauthen died shortly after this incident.³

Politics/Government: In 1852 Dr. Cauthen ran for the state house of representatives; he was elected and served three terms from 1852-1858. In 1860 Cauthen, a firm believer in states rights and secession, refused to be nominated as a delegate to the delegate selection committee for the National Democratic Convention to be held in Charleston, stating that South Carolina should boycott the convention. Later in 1860 Dr. Cauthen accepted the nomination to attend another convention, the Secession Convention in Columbia and Charleston. Cauthen along with two other delegates signed the Ordinance of Secession for Lancaster District.⁴

CONTINUED

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 4.5

Quadrangle name Heath Springs, S.C.

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

1	7	5	3	2	8	8	4	3	8	2	3	5	8	3
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D

Zone		Easting				Northing								

E

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H

Zone		Easting				Northing								

Verbal boundary description and justification The boundary of the Dr. William Columbus Cauthen House nomination is shown as the red line on the accompanying Lancaster County Tax Map No. 154, which is drawn at a scale of 400 feet to the inch. The nominated property includes the house, the historic outbuildings, and the immediate setting.

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

state N/A code county N/A code

state N/A code county N/A code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Jane Odom, Student Intern, Historic Preservation Martha Fullington, Suzanne Wylie, S.C. Dept. of Archives & History

organization Catawba Regional Planning Council date March 31, 1982

street & number Post Office Box 862 telephone (803) 327-9041

city or town Rock Hill state South Carolina 29730

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state 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 Charles E. Lee May 4, 1982

title State Historic Preservation Officer date

For NPS use only

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

date 6/28/82

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

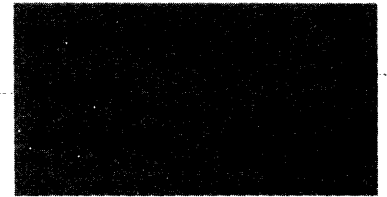
date

Chief of Registration

EXP. 12/31/84

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Continuation sheet 1

Item number 8

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Architecture: The Dr. William Columbus Cauthen House stands today as the oldest known house in Lancaster County and is an excellent example of an early central-hall farmhouse. The house is especially significant due to its high degree of architectural integrity. One of the most intact mid-nineteenth century houses in South Carolina, the house retains its original pine plank walls, ceilings, and floors. The alterations to the house have been kept to a minimum. Indoor plumbing has never been added to the house, and only minimal electrical wiring has been installed. The house is also architecturally significant because of its fine craftsmanship. The recessed panel wainscoting, handsomely carved mantels, and geometric graining on the doors were very sophisticated features for a ca. 1848 house in rural South Carolina.

EXP. 12/31/04

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Continuation sheet 2

Item number 9

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BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Edgar, Walter B., ed. Biographical Directory of the South Carolina House of Representatives. 3 vols. Columbia, S.C.: University of South Carolina Press, 1974.
- Floyd, Viola C. "Dr. William C. Cauthen, A Dedicated Public Servant." Lancaster News, 22 September 1960.
- Frink, Bessie Mae. "Descendants of Thomas Cauthen, Sr. from Virginia to Warren County, North Carolina to Lancaster District, South Carolina." Paper presented to the Joseph Habersham Chapter of the DAR in Atlanta, Georgia, 1967.
- Lancaster, South Carolina. Lancaster County Library. Perry Belle Hough Collection.
- May, John Amasa, and Faunt, Joan Reynolds. South Carolina Secedes. Columbia, S.C.: University of South Carolina Press, 1960.
- Westenhaven, Maryline Cauthen. The Cauthen Family History. Opelika, Ala.: Craftmaster Printers, Inc., 1980.
- Wooster, Ralph. "Membership of the South Carolina Secession Convention." South Carolina Historical Magazine 55 (October 1954): 185-197.

Dr. William Columbus Cauthen House
Footnotes

¹Bessie Mae Frink, "Descendants of Thomas Cauthen, Sr. from Virginia to Warren County, North Carolina to Lancaster District, South Carolina," paper presented to the Joseph Habersham Chapter of the DAR in Atlanta, Georgia, 1967; Maryline Cauthen Westenhaven, The Cauthen Family History (Opelika, Ala.: Craftmaster Printers, Inc., 1980), pp. 90-92; Viola C. Floyd, "Dr. William C. Cauthen, A Dedicated Public Servant," Lancaster News, 22 September 1960, section C; "Heath Springs Homes," Kershaw News-Era, 18 April 1947, copy in Perry Belle Hough Collection, Lancaster County Library, Lancaster, S.C.; Norma C. Henry, librarian at Transylvania College, Lexington, Ky., to Mrs. H. C. Floyd, Lancaster, S.C., 19 July 1960, copy in Perry Belle Hough Collection, Lancaster County Library.

²"Heath Springs Homes;" Westenhaven, p. 91; Frink; Floyd; John Amasa May and Joan Reynolds Faunt, South Carolina Secedes (Columbia, S.C.: University of South Carolina Press, 1960), pp. 103, 124-125; Walter B. Edgar, ed., Biographical Directory of the South Carolina House of Representatives, (Columbia, S.C.: University of South Carolina Press, 1974), I: 367, 371, 375; Ralph Wooster, "Membership of the South Carolina Secession Convention," South Carolina Historical Magazine 55 (October 1954): 185-197.

³Westenhaven, pp. 91-92.

⁴Frink; Westenhaven; "Heath Springs Homes;" Floyd; Edgar; SCHM.