Name: Historic: James Carnes House Location: 200 S. Main Street

Common: "The Myrtles" Classification: Building

Owner: Mr. Robert Tiller
P.O. Drawer B
Mayesville, S.C. 29104

Representation in Existing Surveys: South Carolina Inventory of Historic Places, 1981.

Description: The James Carnes House is a two-story, frame house constructed ca. 1836. The house has a gable roof, weatherboard siding, brick foundation and stuccoed exterior end, brick chimneys. The house is five bays wide and features a large two-story, pedimented portico on the main (south) facade. This portico has four large square, frame columns with Doric motif capitals. On both the first and second stories are porches with decorative milled spindles. In the central bay of the first and second stories are double doors with four-light sidelights and three-light transoms. Windows are two-over-two sash which appear to have been added ca. 1900. At the rear of the house is a large one-and-one-half story addition, which either was added ca. 1900 or was an enlargement of an earlier ell section. At the roofline is a ca. 1900 gable roof dormer with paired four-over-four sash windows. Flanking this gable dormer are two ca. 1920 shed roof dormers. The interior has not been extensively altered.

Significance: The James Carnes House is good example of the vernacular Greek Revival style and is associated with a prominent Bishopville family of the 19th century. This house is one of the oldest in Bishopville with the original main section constructed ca. 1836 (44). This original section was built by James A. Carnes who was a prosperous merchant and planter. Carnes was born in North Carolina and moved to Bishopville in 1834. He married Mary Durant, who was the daughter of Dr. James Durant, a noted early town physician. Carnes was a partner in the Carnes and Stuckey store, which along with the Rogers and Spencer store, were the two main businesses in Bishopville in the mid-19th century. In 1860 Carnes's real estate was valued at $2,500 and his personal property was valued at $50,000 (45). Carnes was listed as a member of the Bishopville Presbyterian Church in 1838 and served as an elder from 1845 until his death in 1888. The Carnes family continued to operate various businesses in Bishopville until the late 19th century. Around 1900 the house was made into a boarding house and the rear section was enlarged or added. The house was operated by James Carnes's grandaughter, Miss Jeanette Corbett, as a tourist home and apartments during much of the 20th century. The house is presently owned by the Tiller family (46).

Acreage: Approximately 3.5 acres.

Verbal Boundary Description: The boundary for the Carnes House is shown as lot # 18 on accompanying Lee County Tax Map 30-10 which is drawn at a scale of 1" = 100'. The boundary includes the house and adjacent woods. The boundary encompasses all property historically associated with the Carnes House.

UTM Reference Point: 17/568905/3786205 (Ashwood Quad)

Other Information: