SPECIAL ATTENTION
S. C. District #2--Rep. Floyd Spence

Theme 7. America at Work
Theme 4. Major American Wars

Form 10-300
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY – NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries – complete applicable sections)

STATE: South Carolina
COUNTY: Richland Lexington

FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY NUMBER | DATE
MAY 25 1973

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1. NAME

COMMON: Saluda Factory Historic District

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: Bounded NE by 126 and CN&L Railroad right of way; NW by dirt road; SW by Seminole Dr.; S by private subdivision with miscellaneous ownership and Saluda River; E by Saluda River.

CITY OR TOWN: West Columbia

STATE: South Carolina | CODE: 45 | COUNTY: Richland (079) Lexington | CODE: 063

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
[X] District [ ] Building [ ] Site [ ] Structure [ ] Object	[X] Public [ ] Private [ ] Both	Public Acquisition: [ ] In Process [ ] Being Considered	[X] Occupied [ ] Unoccupied [ ] Preservation work in progress	Yes: [ ] Restricted [X] Unrestricted [ ] No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

[ ] Agricultural [ ] Government [X] Park [ ] Transportation [ ] Comments
[ ] Commercial [ ] Industrial [ ] Private Residence [ ] Other (Specify)
[ ] Educational [ ] Military [ ] Religious
[ ] Entertainment [ ] Museum [ ] Scientific

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Riverbanks Park Commission

STREET AND NUMBER: Post Office Box 1143

CITY OR TOWN: Columbia | STATE: South Carolina | CODE: 45

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Lexington County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Lexington | STATE: South Carolina | CODE: 45

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: S. C. Statewide Survey of Historic Places (Preliminary)

DATE OF SURVEY: 1969 [ ] Federal [X] State [ ] County [ ] Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: S. C. Department of Archives and History

STREET AND NUMBER: 1430 Senate Street

CITY OR TOWN: Columbia | STATE: South Carolina | CODE: 45

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: COUNTY: FOR NPS USE ONLY ENTRY NUMBER DATE
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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One) ☐ Excellent ☐ Good ☐ Fair ☐ Deteriorated ☒ Ruins ☐ Unexposed	
	(Check One) ☒ Altered ☐ Unaltered	(Check One) ☐ Moved ☒ Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL *(If known)* PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Located on the west bank of the Saluda River, the Saluda Factory was an imposing structure of architectural merit. The following descriptions of the original factory were taken from advertisements in two different newspapers during the years 1839 and 1844.

Notice to Capitalists
Valuable cotton manufactory and Slave Operatives for sale.

Will be sold on the 2nd Monday, in December next -- the machinery consisting of 3838 spindles and 64 looms -- also 64 slaves... The mill is built on the most approved plan, of granite, 200 feet by 45 feet, 4 stories high, and is now but half filled with machinery.

D. Ewart, President of Saluda Manufactory Company
(Charleston Courier, September 3, 1839)

To Capitalists
The Saluda Company offers for sale their valuable Cotton Factory. The main building is of fine Granite, 200 feet long by 45 feet wide, contains 4 stories and an attic. There are two water wheels, each 18 feet long and 18 feet in diameter with 16 feet head and fall. The Picker house is of granite, 25 by 30 feet. The size house and drying house are wood. The machine shop contains all necessary tools for building and repairing machinery. The machinery consist of 38 cards and preparations, 80 looms, 36 throstles, containing 3912 spindles; 4 filling frames containing 384 spindles; 3 mules, containing each 300 spindles; reels 6c.6c., complete; 3 dressing frames and warpers. There are dwellings for the accommodations of 200 hands. Two hundred acres of land more or less lying on each side of Saluda River, including the falls are owned by the company. The water power is sufficient for 100,000 spindles. The Saluda Factory is situated three miles from Columbia, Where terminates the great branch of the South Carolina Rail Road -- is perfectly healthy, and surrounded by an extensive provision country. Columbia affords a cotton market where the raw material can be had at every season. The facilities and advantages of this establishment make it an object of interest to capitalists. It will be offered for sale until 1st December, on a credit of one, two, three and four years, with interest annually. For any further information apply in Columbia, S. C. to E. H. Fisher, Agent.
(Columbia's Southern Chronicle, August 28, 1844)

The original granite factory was destroyed by fire during Sherman's occupation of the city of Columbia in February 1865. After the War Between the States, a wooden factory 3 stories high, 200 feet long and 50 feet wide was built on the original granite foundation. This building burned on August 2, 1884 and was never rebuilt.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD *(Check One or More as Appropriate)*

- [ ] Pre-Columbian
- [ ] 15th Century
- [ ] 16th Century
- [ ] 17th Century
- [ ] 18th Century
- [X] 19th Century
- [ ] 20th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) *(If Applicable and Known)* 1834

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE *(Check One or More as Appropriate)*

- Aboriginal
  - [ ] Prehistoric
  - [ ] Historic
- [ ] Agriculture
- [ ] Architecture
- [ ] Art
- [X] Commerce
- [ ] Communications
- [ ] Conservation
- [ ] Education
- [ ] Engineering
- [X] Industry
- [ ] Invention
- [ ] Landscape Architecture
- [ ] Literature
- [X] Military
- [ ] Music
- [ ] Political
- [ ] Religion/Philosophy
- [ ] Science
- [ ] Sculpture
- [ ] Social/Humanitarian
- [ ] Theater
- [X] Transportation
- [ ] Urban Planning
- [ ] Other *(Specify)*

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The sites of Saluda Factory, Camp Sorghum and old State Road are principal parts of a section that is linked together geographically and historically, its significance including industry, commerce, military and transportation.

Commercial and Industrial Significance: The Saluda Factory Ruins, focal point of the nomination, are significant as part of the early history of textile manufacturing, South Carolina's largest industry. Begun in 1834, this factory was among the first textile firms in the state and as such was opposed by a number of influential South Carolinians who preferred a wealthy agrarian society. These men also feared that industrialization would promote an influx of lower-class workers who would be financially independent of the agrarian society and become a potentially volatile political element. Although many factories did employ lower-class free laborers, the Saluda Factory was operated by Negro slaves and was the largest industry in the state to use an entirely black work force.

The main products of the mill were brown shirting and "Southern Strips," a colored cotton fabric used in making clothing for slaves. Originally owned by Shubel Blanding and David Ewart, the mill was sold in 1855 to Colonel James G. Gibbes, a Columbia industrialist. Gibbes also owned two other Columbia textile firms, one of which produced Confederate uniforms during the war years.

The factory was burned in February of 1865 by General Howard's column of Sherman's army. On March 3, 1874, there was a second act of incorporation for the Saluda Factory which had been rebuilt in wood on the original granite foundations. This building accidentally burned August 2, 1884. An account in The Columbia Register on August 3, 1884 reported that the factory contents were valued at $150,000 and the machinery at more than $100,000. It was never rebuilt.

Military Significance: The site of Camp Sorghum which is included in this nomination is important as one of a handful of Confederate prison camps. It was here that 1300 Northern soldiers were confined from autumn of 1864 to February, 1865, when news of Sherman's approach prompted the Confederates to transfer the prisoners to an enclosed yard adjacent to the insane asylum in Columbia. When it became obvious that Columbia would be forced to surrender to Sherman, the prisoners were moved north to Charlotte.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Barrett, John G. Sherman's March Through the Carolinas. Chapel Hill: University of N. C. Press, 1956. pp. 60-94.

Goode, James Mocre. The Rise of Manufacturing In South Carolina During the Civil War. Columbia, S. C.: University of South Carolina (Submitted in practical fulfillment for the baccalaureate degree in history), January, 1964.

Kohn, August. The Cotton Mills of South Carolina. Columbia, S. C.: S. C. Department of Ag., Commerce and Immigration, 1907.

Meriwether, R. L. Expansion of South Carolina. Kingsport, Tenn.: Southern Pub., Inc., 1940. pp. 170-171.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY

CORNER	LATITUDE Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	LONGITUDE Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	34°	01'	37"	81°	06'	13"
NE	34°	01'	37"	81°	04'	12"
SE	34°	00'	34"	81°	04'	12"
SW	34°	00'	34"	81°	06'	13"

OR

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES

LATITUDE Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	LONGITUDE Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
°	'	"	°	'	"

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 110 acres

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
		Richland	079
		Lexington	063

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11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Nancy R. Ruhf, Historic Preservation Coordinator I

ORGANIZATION: S. C. Department of Archives and History

DATE: 8/31/72

STREET AND NUMBER: 1430 Senate Street

CITY OR TOWN: Columbia, S. C.

STATE: South Carolina

CODE: 45

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

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. Lee

Charles E. Lee, Director

Title: S. C. Dept. of Archives & His.

Date: Nov 14, 1972

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Robert Mc Ittey

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 5/25/73

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date: 5 23 73

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Form 10-300a
(Dec. 1968)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
South Carolina	
COUNTY Richland Lexington	
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ENTRY NUMBER	DATE MAY 25 1973

(Number all entries)

SALUDA FACTORY HISTORIC DISTRICT

7. Description -- Continuation Sheet No. 1

Today all that remains of the factory are the granite foundations which give a clear outline of the building's dimensions and the granite sluices used for diverting river water to power the mill. The area, although overgrown, is very scenic and the rushing water from the sluices makes this a favorite spot. The site is part of a tract of land which is being developed by the Riverbanks Park Commission, an agency set up by Richland and Lexington Counties and the City of Columbia to develop the riverbanks area for educational, cultural and recreational utilization. A zoological park and botanical gardens are presently underway. The commission hopes to develop the factory site by stabilizing the ruins and building a small interpretive museum on history of the textile industry in South Carolina. The entire area has great archeological potential since the mill village was located on the 200 acres surrounding the actual factory buildings.*

Camp Sorghum and the old State Road are two other historic sites within the bounds of this nomination. Camp Sorghum, a Confederate prisoner of war camp used 1864-65, was so named because the prisoners' diet consisted mainly of cornbread and sorghum. Lt. J. N. Whitney of the 2nd Rhode Island cavalry described the camp as a "new lot, in the suburbs of the town." Small pine trees which had been cleared from the lot were used to build several huts but most of the prisoners' quarters were made by draping blankets over four pine stakes about two feet high.

Lt. Whitney mentions that the east side of Camp Sorghum was bounded by the main road. This was the old State Road. Traces of it can still be seen leading down to the riverbank and the abutments of the old bridge. Spanning the Saluda River, the bridge provided access to the city of Columbia. Plans for park development include reconstruction as a foot bridge.

*Additional archeological sites within the district are located on enclosed maps prepared by the South Carolina Institute of Archeology and Anthropology.

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SALUDA FACTORY HISTORIC DISTRICT

8. Significance -- Continuation Sheet No. 1

Just prior to his entry into Columbia, Sherman and his men bivouacked on the ridge above Saluda Factory which was burned by his army the following day. A huge boulder, locally known as "Sherman's Rock," still stands. It was from this ridge that the Union Artillery shelled Columbia on February 17, 1865. Hoping to prevent Sherman's entry from the west, the Confederates burned the bridge which spanned the Saluda River near the factory. Only the bridge abutments remain today. Sherman, however, immediately ordered that a pontoon bridge be constructed across the river to replace the old State Road Bridge.

Transportation Significance: The old State Road which bounded Saluda Factory and Camp Sorghum on the east was originally the Cherokee path. In 1737, the path was converted into a wagon road by the provincial government and in 1747, the Colonial Assembly with consent of Governor James Glen charged the citizens of Saxe Gotha Township (Lexington county's oldest European settlement) with the responsibility of maintaining the section of the road which was within the township. The road in its entirety stretched from Charleston to Granby (a Lexington County village) and points west. In 1820 the Board of Public Works designated this road the State Road and thereby perpetuated one the oldest and most travelled routes in the development of the South Carolina up country.

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STATE South Carolina	
COUNTY Richland Lexington	
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ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	MAY 25 [redacted]

(Number all entries)
SALUDA FACTORY HISTORIC DISTRICT

9. Major Bibliographical References -- Continuation Sheet No. 1

Sabre, Lt. G. E. Nineteen Months a Prisoner of War. New York: The American News Co., 1865

Wallace, G. G. South Carolina: A Short History. Columbia, S. C. University of S. C. Press, 1966. p. 548

Seventh Census of South Carolina (1850) and Eigth Census of South Carolina (1860) "Products of Industry" on microfilm in South Carolina Department of Archives and History.

Notice of Sale. Charleston Courier. September 3, 1839

Notice of Sale. Columbia's Southern Chronicle., August 28, 1844.

The Columbia Register, August 3, 1884

NOV [illegible] 1972