UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY
NOMINATION FORM

Continuation Sheet Item Number Page

Name Historic Leesville College Historic District
Common

Location Along a portion of Main Street north of Railroad Avenue and along portions of College, Peachtree, King, and Lee Streets in Leesville

Classification District

Owner Multiple ownership (see continuation sheet)

Representation in Existing Surveys

Inventory of Historic Places in South Carolina

Description The Leesville College Historic District includes some twenty-eight residential and institutional properties, in a contiguous neighborhood that is separated by an intervening block of new commercial development from the town's Main Street commercial core to the south. The district evolved as a residential enclave around the Busbee Brothers' School, founded in 1878, and the Leesville English and Classical Institute, founded in 1881. Frame construction, weatherboarded, with varying articulations of ornamental trim, is ubiquitous. The houses of the district cover a wide range of Victorian vernacular forms, from modest cottage to elaborate residence; but the scale of the buildings, the materials, the setbacks are consistent. The neighborhood interest in preservation of period character is manifest in the generally good maintenance of the predominantly owner occupied dwellings and in the private restoration in 1979 of the Pugh-Cooper House and the Will Drafts House. Although all three buildings associated with (cont.)

Significance The Leesville College Historic District is historically significant for its association with two early Leesville schools. The district includes the first school in Leesville, the Busbee Brothers' School (L-25), and three buildings associated with the Leesville English and Classical Institute, which became Leesville College in 1890 (L-19, L-20, L-21). Also included in the district are residences constructed by persons associated with the schools. Architecturally, the district is a significant collection of late nineteenth and early twentieth century residences, representing a variety of vernacular Victorian designs.

Acreage approximately 31

Verbal Boundary Description The boundary of the Leesville College Historic District is shown as the dashed line on the accompanying map entitled "Leesville College Historic District", which is traced from Lexington County Tax Maps, at a scale of 1 inch = 100 feet. This boundary includes the greatest percentage of contributing historical buildings in this part of Leesville.

UTM Reference Point

A. 17/452385/3753638 B. 17/452695/3753095 C. 17/452220/3752950 D. 17/452155/3753518

Other Information

the old college have been altered, they are included in this nomination because of their undisputed historical importance in giving birth to the town of Leesville, and because their continued existence illustrates the practical determination of Leesville residents long ago to conserve and productively preserve significant local landmarks as a wiser choice than total loss.

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Lexington County School District Three
Leesville, South Carolina

Dr. William Speaks
127 Church Street
Leesville, South Carolina

Mrs. Lillian S. George
Box 301
Leesville, South Carolina

Rawl O'Neal Furtick
Box 8
Leesville, South Carolina

First Baptist Church
Leesville, South Carolina

Clyde M. Barr
Box 546
Leesville, South Carolina

Miss Laura Brodie
Box 176
Leesville, South Carolina

Josephine B. Henry
Box 458
Leesville, South Carolina

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Metze
510 Main Street
Leesville, South Carolina

Eugene Bush, Estate
Box 314
Leesville, South Carolina

R.H. Holstein III
863 Rawl Road
Leesville, South Carolina

Sarah Wiley
East Main Street
Leesville, South Carolina

Marguerite Grandy
406 Main Street
Leesville, South Carolina

Miss Mary Beckham
Box 183
Leesville, South Carolina

Marion & Donna L. Cook
402 Main Street
Leesville, South Carolina

Mr. & Mrs. Clyde Oswald
Box 104
Leesville, South Carolina

Wilson Hartley
Box 575
Leesville, South Carolina

William Stokes
308 Main Street
Leesville, South Carolina

Florence Wilson
King Street
Leesville, South Carolina

Rufus V. Caughman
Box 162
Leesville, South Carolina

Mrs. Mabel Crout
Box 493
Leesville, South Carolina

Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Shealy
Box 413
Leesville, South Carolina

Mr. Harold Gantt
118 King Street
Leesville, South Carolina

Mr. Felder McCarthy
Box 293
Leesville, South Carolina

Senoth Q. Smith
Box 431
Leesville, South Carolina

William R. & Elizabeth S. McGill
100 King Street
Leesville, South Carolina

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Woodrow Oxner
Box 193
Leesville, South Carolina

J. Heyward Bouknight, Sr.
Box 343
Leesville, South Carolina

Miss Margaret Gantt
Box 23
Leesville, South Carolina

Catharine G. Riley
Box 463
Leesville, South Carolina

William H. & Frances R. Burkett
505 Main Street
Leesville, South Carolina

Theo & Cheryl L. Peeples
Main & Peachtree
Leesville, South Carolina

Sarah F. Seigler
Box 54
Leesville, South Carolina

Hattie V. Nichols
Box 456
Leesville, South Carolina

Mrs. Annie C. Rose
Box 152
Leesville, South Carolina

Mrs. Horace Fallaw
Peachtree Street
Leesville, South Carolina

Whittenburg Evangelical Lutheran Church
Lee Street
Leesville, South Carolina

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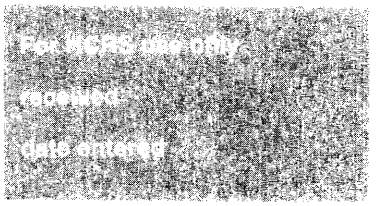

Key buildings contributing to the historic character of the district:

L-1. Jim Bouknight House, 400 Main Street. Built in 1897, this one story weatherboard dwelling is rectangular, with a rear addition built in 1928. Decorative trim detailing includes eaves brackets, turned porch posts, and turned balusters. A wraparound porch and a right corner gable projection, ornamented with an elaborate bargeboard and an applied six point star, distinguish this house.

L-2. Old C. D. Barr House, 510 Main Street. Built ca. 1890, this one story frame cottage is asymmetrical , with a hipped composition roof, and a brick foundation. A left side polygonal bay with three four-over-four windows, and an adjoining front and side hip roofed porch, distinguish this house. Porch detailing features slender wood columns and a pierced balustrade. Of particular note is the double front door, which is paneled and surmounted by a triple-arched transom. C. D. Barr was a prominent Leesville businessman.

L-3. C. D. Barr House (Barr Funeral Home), 602 Main Street. This 1909 Neoclassic two story frame dwelling features a projecting colossal portico, with a flat roof supported by paired, fluted columns with primitive volute capitals. Behind the portico stretches a one story wraparound gallery, which is crested by a turned balustrade with heavy newel posts. Paired Doric columns support the gallery, with tripled columns at the corners.

L-4. Williamson-Gantt House, 511 Main Street. Originally constructed ca. 1888, this two story frame dwelling was modified in 1915 with the addition of the present wraparound porch, with its turned balusters, bracketed posts, and corner projections with steep tent roofs and finials. The asymmetry of the house is accentuated by the multiplicity of gables and by the central, projecting entrance porch.

L-5. Dan Gunter House, 506 Main Street. This one and one-half story frame cottage is one of five in Leesville sharing the symmetrical porched and steep central gabled form. Constructed ca. 1900, this house features a wraparound porch with a projecting gabled entranceway, supported by Tuscan colonettes. The gabled sheet metal roof is original. The foundation is brick; the window sash are one-over-one.

L-6. Allen Hare House, 107 Peachtree Street. This house was moved to its present site and remodeled ca. 1885. It is a one story weatherboarded cottage, with a closed brick foundation, and a hip roof. Single six-over-six windows flank a central doorway, which is surrounded by multi-paned sidelights and a transom. A projecting porch extends the hip roof, and is supported by four chamfered wood posts. The original sawn balustrade remains.

L-7. Nichols House, 101 Peachtree Street. Constructed ca. 1915, this one story weatherboarded cottage is set on a brick foundation, under an original diamond patterned shingle roof. A central front door is enframed with a single pane transom and sidelights. Turned and bracketed posts and turned balusters accent the full width porch.

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L-8. Couch-Rose House,corner of North Lee and Peachtree Streets. Constructed ca. 1880, this one and one-half story weatherboard cottage features triple front dormers, and a full width hipped porch with turned posts and balusters. The house is unusually intact, with the original standing seam metal roof and the moveable dormer blinds.

L-9. Dr. Richard Major House, 104 Peachtree Street. This asymmetrical one story frame cottage was built ca. 1895. The house has a brick pier foundation, and the original standing seam metal roof. The front block of the house is gabled, with shed roofed porches on its front and right side. A lower gabled wing extends from the right side of this block, reaching to a second gabled block.

L-10. Ergle-Crout House, 405 Main Street. This frame cottage, constructed ca. 1900, is one of five Leesville houses with the identical form. This house features imbricated shingles in its front cross gable and pedimented porch projection. Tapered wooden pillars support the porch roof. The right side of the porch has been screened in.

L-11. Walter Hendrix House, corner of King and Main Streets. This imposing two story frame residence is known locally as the "Wedding Cake House" because of its elaborate scroll and bracket ornamentation. The asymmetrical house has a one story wraparound porch with central and corner decorated projections, an ornamented gable on the right side of its hip roof, and a projection polygonal bay on the upper left aspect of the facade. Porch details include heavily bracketed turned posts, applied sunbursts on the gabled projections, turned balusters, and sawn eaves brackets. The house was built by Walter Hendrix, prominent Leesville merchant, ca. 1893, for his bride.

L-12. Pugh-Cooper House, 100 King Street. This one and one-half story weatherboard dwelling was built in 1887, by contractor Ruffin Pugh. The house sits on a brick lattice foundation, with a high gabled roof. A large projecting gabled porch, supported by four fluted wooden columns, dominates the facade. The projecting gable end has a recessed porch, with a sawn balustrade, two small fluted columns, and an ogee fascia. The sawn balustrade is repeated on the first story porch. Both stories are centered by double doors, enframed by peaked architraves, multi-paned transoms, and sidelights. The house form appears twice in Leesville, occurring also in the 1887 Rev. Walter Herbert House.

L-25. Busbee Brothers' School, 101 King Street. This two story weatherboard building was constructed in 1878 as a school, by the Reverend Levi Busbee, a Lutheran minister, and his brother Dan, who operated the school until 1883. The Reverend Busbee served as pastor of Leesville Luther Chapel, the town's first Lutheran Church, from 1878-1894. The Busbee School preceded the Leesville English and Classical Institute as the town's first school. The building features a central cross gable, and full width lower porch supported by six evenly spaced wood pillars. Modern windows replace the original round windows.

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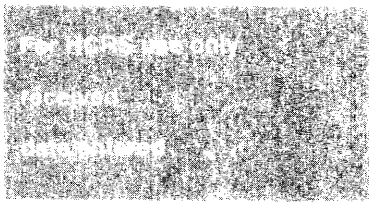

Other properties contributing to the historic character of the district:

L-13. Lizzie Derrick House, 308 Main Street. This ca. 1900 frame dwelling, of one and one half stories, has a one story wraparound porch, with a central projecting gabled entrance, supported by Tuscan colonettes. A hipped dormer, with three square windows, pierces the center of the hip roof. Similar dormers pierce the right and left sides of the the roof. A later addition extends the right side of the facade.

L-15. Sease Cottage, 506 Main Street. This ca. 1890 weatherboard cottage is representative of the modest vernacular houses prevalent in the area in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The house has a central brick chimney and two front doors, with a hipped porch and gable roof sheathed in standing seam metal.

L-16. Kinard House, 508 Main Street. Constructed in the 1880s, this one story weatherboard cottage is surmounted by triple cross gables, with brackets and returns. A full width shed porch is supported by Tuscan colonettes. Four two-over-two windows flank the central door.

L-17. Wertz-Ergle House, 510 Main Street. Built ca. 1900, this one story weatherboard cottage is set on a brick foundation, with a composition shingle, gable roof. A shed roofed porch is supported by six regularly spaced turned posts. A central cross gable pierces the roof.

L-18. William Matthews House, 512 Main Street. This one story frame residence was built ca. 1880. The house features two polygonal bays, with a small recessed porch between the two bays, sheltering the central entrance. The Victorian trim original to the house has been removed, and the original window sash has been replaced.

L-19. Old Leesville College, College Street. Now used as the Leesville Elementary School Chapel, this two story building was constructed in 1883 for use by the Leesville College. A marker in the entrance is dedicated to the memory of Professor Lawson B. Haynes, second college president, who raised the school to an accredited college level. The Reverend John E. Watson, Methodist minister, was the first president of the school started in 1881 as the Leesville English and Classical Institute. It was chartered in 1890 as Leesville College. Establishment of the college in Leesville gave impetus to the town's development. The school was said to have been the first in the state to include practical and technical training in its curriculum, to have a girls' basketball team, to teach tennis, and to teach higher mathematics to females. A. B. degrees were granted after four years of Latin, two years of French or German, mathematics and natural science, history, English, philosophy and Greek. A Master's Degree was offered for a year of post graduate work. There were departments of music, arts, commercial law, bookkeeping, typing and the Pitman system of shorthand. The chapel is the only intact building remaining of old Leesville College. Surmounted by a hipped, raised seam metal roof, the rectangular, stuccoed building has a central pedimented pavilion. Pedimented four-over-four paired windows accentuate the pavilion. The

building was originally of three stories, surmounted by a wooden polygonal turret under a dome. The third story was of weatherboard, providing an interesting contrast in texture to the stuccoed ones beneath. Also removed were ornamental brackets applied to the pavilion and second story cornices. Low pediment window caps remain.

L-20. Dr. William Speaks House, 127 College Street. This large two story frame dwelling represents a portion of the old Leesville College Salisto Hall, built in 1883 as a president's home and girls' dormitory. The present building was moved from the middle of the block to its present location and with the George Cottage , when the two segments were intact, served as the Leesville Hospital following the close of the college after 1911. Large wooden columns were added to the facade in 1978. The original building was a massive rectangular structure, facing College Street, with double tiered porches under a front gable.

L-21. George Cottage, 705 N. Main Street. This two story weatherboard building is part of the old Salisto Hall, which served as the president's home and girls' dormitory for the old Leesville College. Built in 1883, the building served the college until 1911 when the college closed, and part of the old dormitory was moved from the college site to the present location. The name of the building was a combination of Saluda and Edisto Rivers, denoting the geographic area that the college served. Although the original fabric of the old dormitory has been largely altered, the pedimented windows remain on this dwelling.

L-22. Will Drafts House, 501 Main Street. Constructed ca. 1900, the two story frame residence is asymmetrical, with a projecting polygonal bay on the right side of the facade. A wraparound lower story porch is ornamented with turned and bracketed posts, and turned balusters. Window sash are one-over-one. A high diamond shaped window accents the facade.

L-24. Snelgrove House, 104 King Street. This early duplex is a one story frame cottage, with double front doors, each flanked by a six-over-six window. A gabled roof of standing seam metal is pierced by a single central chimney. The house was built ca. 1910.

L-26. Busbee-Oxner House, 400 N. Lee Street. This 1880 one story frame cottage features two interior chimneys and a projecting full width front porch, supported by four tapered wooden columns. The house was built for the Rev. Levi E. Busbee, who founded the Busbee Brothers' School. Busbee was also president of the South Carolina Lutheran Synod from 1892 to 1893.

L-27. Busbee House, corner of Lee Street and King Street. This one story frame house was built ca. 1878 by the Rev. Levi Busbee. Features include a broad cross gable centered by a shuttered window, a front and right wraparound porch with slender turned posts, and a central porch entranceway surmounted by a gable roof.

L-28. Luther Chapel Parsonage, 105 King Street. This one story frame cottage was constructed ca. 1875 by James Black. Black sold the building to the Lutheran congregation

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in 1896, for use as the Lutheran parsonage. Although the house has undergone some remodeling, it retains its central front door with its sidelights and transom, and the wraparound porch with its thick chamfered posts and heavy rail balustrade.

L-36. Wittenberg Evangelical Lutheran Church, N. Lee Street. Constructed in 1919, this Gothic Revival church was built by a congregation organized in 1870 as the Leesville Luther Chapel, the first congregation of any denomination to be established in Leesville. Gothic windows, brick buttresses, and a square brick tower surmounted by an octagonal steeple distinguish this cruciform edifice. A red tile roof covers the building. A left rear educational annex was built in 1950.

L-39. Open wooded lot, Peachtree Street.

Noncontributing buildings in the district:

L-14 L.H. E. Collins House, 406 Main Street. Originally built ca. 1890, this one story frame building was remodeled in 1940, in the California bungalow style, after the older building burned. The house has a shed dormer, and a shed porch supported by brick pillars.

L-23. John Shealy House, corner of Peachtree Street and Lee Street. Constructed in 1905, this one story vernacular cottage is weatherboarded, with a pressed metal gabled roof and a brick foundation. The facade features a central cross gable, and a full width hipped porch. Original wood porch posts and balustrades have been replaced with brick elements.

L-29. 402 Main Street. This severely altered 1900 cottage is one half its original size. Flanking wings have been enclosed.

L-30. 404 Main Street. This ca. 1885 upcountry farmhouse has been altered with new aluminum siding, a remodeled front porch, the removal of the rear ell, and the rebuilding of the right end chimney.

L-31. 500 Main Street. A one story brick cottage, of contemporary design, with a projecting right gabled wing and a gabled core.

L-32. Sarah Wiley House, 502 Main Street. This modern one story cottage is covered with asbestos siding, and has cast iron front porch supports.

L-33. 507 Main Street. This is a modern brick residence, with a gabled front projection and an end gabled wing.

L-34. 105 Peachtree Street. This one story weatherboard dwelling, built ca. 1950, is of modern bungalow design.

L-35. 403 N. Main Street. This modern brick ranch house is painted white, with an E-shaped plan.

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L-37. Leesville First Baptist Church, corner of College and Main Street. This church, built in 1949, is of modern design, in red brick with a projecting wooden portico and wood steeple.

L-38. Second Lutheran Church Parsonage, 110 Peachtree Street. This ca. 1905 two story frame residence was moved to its present site in 1927 and remodeled. It was later clad in aluminum siding.