

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 Simmons-Harth House Location 102 Gantt Street
Common Simmons-Harth-Gantt House Classification Building
Lexington, South Carolina

Owner Mrs. Queenie Gantt
102 Gantt Street
Lexington, SC 29072

Representation in Existing Surveys Inventory of Historic Places in South Carolina

Description The Simmons-Harth House, constructed ca. 1830, is a two-story, rectangular, frame house with a gable roof, exterior end chimneys, and one-story shed rooms on the rear. The house is sheathed in weatherboard siding, and the roof is covered in standing-seam metal. A double tiered, pedimented portico is attached to the facade. The portico features slender wooden columns and pilasters and a fanlight in the gable end. (The columns on the first story were replaced with square wooden posts ca. 1900 and the floor has been replaced with concrete.) The area of the facade protected by the portico is sheathed in flushboard siding and has a chair rail. The portico also shelters a fanlighted central entrance on each story. Fenestration is symmetrical with nine-over-nine windows on the first story and six-over-nine windows on the second. Alterations to the house besides those made to the portico include enclosure of the original central, open passageway between the shed rooms on the rear.

Significance The Simmons-Harth House is significant as one of the town of Lexington's oldest residences and one of the few remaining buildings illustrating the early history of the town. The house was probably constructed ca. 1830 by Dr. Thomas Hayne Simmons and his wife Mary Reid Jones. Their marriage agreement of 1817 reveals that Simmons was from the city of Charleston.³⁸ An 1839 deed entry states that Simmons was living in the village of Lexington by that time.³⁹ The 1858 town plat indicates the property belonging to Mrs. Simmons.⁴⁰ In 1866, Mary J. Simmons was appointed postmistress for Lexington village. Dr. Simmons was apparently dead by that time. In 1868 their daughter Mary Simmons Harth was appointed postmistress and remained in that office until 1895. She operated the post office from a small wooden building on the property, which was moved in 1974*
Acreage 0.2

Verbal Boundary Description The nominated property is shown as the appropriate red line on the accompanying Lexington County Tax Map #04320 drawn at a scale of 1 inch = 100 feet. This boundary includes only the historic building and excludes any adjacent insignificant buildings or properties.

UTM Reference Point 17/478220/3759940

Other Information

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE

Local
 State
 National

* to the Lexington County Museum property.⁴¹ James Harman purchased the house in 1897.⁴² Mr. Harman's daughter, Mrs. Owens Gantt, inherited the house upon her father's death in 1928 and lives there today.