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SOUTH CAROLINA INVENTORY FORM FOR HISTORIC DISTRICTS AND  
INDIVIDUAL PROPERTIES IN A MULTIPLE PROPERTY SUBMISSION  
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NAME OF MULTIPLE PROPERTY SUBMISSION: Lexington County Multiple  
Resource Area (Supplement I)

PREFERRED NAME OF PROPERTY: Gunter-Summers House

COMMON NAME OF PROPERTY: Henry Jacob Summers House

LOCATION: 841 Center Street  
West Columbia, South Carolina

CLASSIFICATION: Building

OWNER: Ben R. Moye  
P.O. Box 5575  
West Columbia, SC

DESCRIPTION

The Gunter-Summers House is a two-story, end-gabled I-House with Queen Anne decorative elements, built in 1895. The house is of frame construction with weatherboard siding and is supported by brick piers. A two-tiered front porch with turned porch supports and balustrade, sawn brackets, and decorative trim extends across the facade (north elevation). The facade is divided into five bays; the central bay contains the main panelled door with transom and sidelights. An identical door opens onto the upper porch. The central bay is flanked by two bays on either side, each with one two-over-two vertical sash window. The east and west elevations each have two two-over-two windows on both floors and exterior end brick chimneys with corbeled caps. A right side rear ell, an enclosed hip roof porch with shed addition, and a wooden deck are all to the rear of the house. The roofing material is pressed metal.

The interior of the house features five fireplaces, diagonally laid beaded-board wainscotting, and a central hall with stairway. The first floor has one main room on either side of the central hall, two rooms in the kitchen wing, and one room created by the 1984 enclosure of the rear porch. The second floor has one room on either side of the central hall.

Alterations to the house, completed in 1984, include the enclosure of the rear porch, addition of a wooden deck, and new balusters on the lower front porch.

The property includes two outbuildings: an unpainted wooden barn with corrugated metal roof, circa 1900, and an end-gabled smokehouse with a braced overhanging front gable, circa 1910. The barn is unaltered. The smokehouse has been painted.

#### SIGNIFICANCE

AREA OF SIGNIFICANCE: ARCHITECTURE

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE:   L   (FOR OFFICE USE ONLY)

#### SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANCE

The significance of the Gunter-Summers House, constructed in 1895, lies in the fact that it was one of the first houses built in New Brookland, which later became West Columbia. The house is an excellent example of an I-House, embellished on its street facade with Queen Anne decorative elements. Its style is a symbol of adherence to an old form while embracing architectural elements of a later one of the Victorian era. Adding to the significance of the property are two turn-of-the-century outbuildings, rare in what is now an urban setting.

The town of New Brookland (also known as Brookland) was incorporated in 1894. Among the prominent citizens in the area was John R. Shuler, who, with M. H. Witt and A. D. Shull comprised the Horseshoe Lake Improvement Company.(1) The Horseshoe Lake Improvement Company planned to develop the small town on the west bank of the Congaree River into a "summer resort for Columbians."(2) Although the ambitious schemes of the company did not come to fruition, members of the company sold numerous lots on which permanent residences were established. John R. Shuler sold many lots in the new town, including one, in 1894, to Joseph M. Gunter.(3) This was Lot #53 on a survey map of New Brookland. The lot was bounded by Center Street, Lot #50, Augusta Road, and Hill Street.(4) In 1895, Mr. Gunter built a house on this lot.(5)

The property remained in Gunter's possession until 1912 when it was sold to Onley Tillman Summers.(6) O. T. Summers was the son of Henry Jacob Summers, from whom the house derives its common name. H. J. Summers lived in the house from 1912 until his death in 1944, but never held title to the property.(7) The house remained in the Summers family until 1983.

ACREAGE: Approximately one acre

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: The boundary of the nominated property is shown as a black line on the accompanying Lexington County Tax Map

#04638, Block #12, Lot #1. The property is bounded on the north by Center Street, on the south by Augusta Street, on the west by Hill Street, and on the east by lots #2 and 11, and includes the historic buildings and the remainder of the parcel.

QUAD NAME: Southwest Columbia

QUAD SCALE: 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCE POINT: 17/493840/3760840

#### NOTES

- 1) Percival E. Rowell, Lexington County: Its Towns (circa 1895), p. 52.
- 2) Ibid.
- 3) Lexington County, Deed Book 00, p. 151.
- 4) Ibid.
- 5) Lexington County, Auditor's Tax Duplicate, (1895), p. 79.
- 6) Lexington County, Deed Book 3-J, p. 352.
- 7) Onley Tillman Summers died in 1979. The property passed to Julie S. Johnson, Kathy A. Summers Etherton and Anna K. Summers.

#### BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Lexington County. Auditor's Tax Duplicate, 1895.
- Lexington County. Deed Book 594.
- Lexington County. Deed Book 00.
- Lexington County. Deed Book 3-J.
- Rowell, Percival E. Lexington County: Its Towns. Lexington, S. C., circa 1895.