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( )NOT FOR PUBLICATION

SOUTH CAROLINA INVENTORY FORM FOR HISTORIC DISTRICTS AND INDIVIDUAL PROPERTIES IN A MULTIPLE PROPERTY SUBMISSION

NAME OF MULTIPLE PROPERTY SUBMISSION: City of Orangeburg Multiple Resource Area

PREFERRED NAME OF PROPERTY: Major John Hammond Fordham House

HISTORIC NAME OF PROPERTY: Same

COMMON NAME OF PROPERTY: Same

LOCATION: 415 Boulevard

CLASSIFICATION: Building

OWNER: Mr. and Mrs. Harold I. Robinson
415 Boulevard NE
Orangeburg, SC 29115

DESCRIPTION

The Major John Hammond Fordham House, built in 1903, is one-and-a-half stories, of frame construction with weatherboard siding. The building has a pyramidal roof with two tall brick chimneys. The basically square plan has a projecting gabled ell with a polygonal bay on the north side of the facade (east elevation). The bay has a sixteen-over-one window in its central facet, with nine-over-one windows in the flanking facets. A bracketed cornice and a rooftop balustrade are carried around the bay. The gable end has shingle siding and an oval attic window.

A porch with paired colonettes on brick bases shelters the south side of the facade. Behind the porch are a single sixteen-over-one window and a double door with stained glass panels and a transom. The porch extends from the facade's polygonal bay to a similar polygonal bay on the left elevation. A gabled extension above this second bay has shingle siding and a Palladian window in its gable end. A small shed-roofed porch is at the rear of the building.

SIGNIFICANCE

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: Black History
Architecture

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: L (for office use only)

SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Major John Hammond Fordham House reflects the achievements of Major John Hammond Fordham, the original owner. Fordham was a lawyer and prominent black citizen of Orangeburg, who was able to take advantage of expanded opportunities for black South Carolinians in the period between the end of the Civil War and the disfranchisement and Jim Crow legislation of the turn of the century. The house is also significant as an example of the work of William Wilson Cooke, a pioneer black architect.(1)

Major John Hammond Fordham, a native of Charleston, moved to Orangeburg in 1874 after he was admitted to the Bar. Besides practicing law, Fordham served in several appointive governmental positions, including coroner of Orangeburg (1874-1876), postal clerk in the railway mail service (1877-1887), and deputy collector of internal revenue (1889-1893 and 1897-?). Fordham was a leader in the Republican party in the state.(2)

ACREAGE: Approximately .45 acres

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: The boundary of the Major John Hammond Fordham House nomination is shown as the bold black line on the accompanying map entitled, "Major John Hammond Fordham House." The map was copied from Orangeburg County Tax Map #22 and is drawn at a scale of 200 feet to the inch. The nominated property includes only the historic house and its immediate setting.

QUAD NAME: Orangeburg South

QUAD SCALE: 1:24000

UTM REFERENCE POINT: 17/513410/3706470

FOOTNOTES

(1) Statement signed by W. Wilson Cooke, 10 October 1903, Personal Files of Mrs. Louisa Robinson, Orangeburg, SC; Edward Robinson, "Looking Homeward at Four Generations," The Washington Post, 13 December 1981, p. C-1.

(2) Undated Newspaper Clipping, Personal Files of Mrs. Louisa Robinson; Robinson, p. C-1.

MAJOR JOHN HAMMOND FORDHAM HOUSE

SCALE 1" = 200'