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() NOT FOR PUBLICATION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: Lower Richland County Multiple Resource
Area

PREFERRED NAME OF PROPERTY: Barber House

HISTORIC NAME OF PROPERTY: Same

COMMON NAME OF PROPERTY: Same

LOCATION: East of County Road 37, approximately 1 mile south of the Hopkins
community (Take Barberville Loop Rd.)

CLASSIFICATION: Building

OWNER: Celestine B. Daniels, et. al.
Rt. 1, Box 81
Hopkins, S. C. 29061

DESCRIPTION

The original ca. 1880 core of the Harriett Barber House is a rectangular, one-story, frame building with weatherboard siding approximately thirty by twelve feet. The house has a gable roof and an interior chimney on the ridge line. The foundation is brick piers. The facade is pierced by a central door flanked by two two-over-two windows. A two-over-two window is centered in each side elevation.

The house originally had two rooms. The interior walls had no sheathing and each room had a fireplace on the wall dividing the two rooms. The interior has been remodeled.

The present porch on the facade, which is supported by wooden posts on brick piers, was constructed in 1927. Various frame, weatherboarded additions were made to the rear of the house in 1911, 1925, and 1930, more than doubling the size of the building.

SIGNIFICANCE

AREA OF SIGNIFICANCE: Architecture
Black History
Politics/Government

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: S (for office use only)

SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Barber House, which according to family tradition was constructed ca. 1880 and expanded in the early twentieth century, is significant for its association during the late nineteenth century with the South Carolina Land Commission, a unique attempt by a southern state to give freedmen the opportunity to own land. Although many freedmen eventually lost their land, the land on which the Barber House is located has remained in the same family since 1872. The numerous additions made to the house in the early twentieth century reflect the growing prosperity of this black family in the years after the Civil War.

In 1872 Samuel Barber, a former slave, purchased lot number 35, which contained forty-two and one-half acres, of the Hopkins Tract, one of six tracts in Lower Richland County purchased by the South Carolina Land Commission for redistribution.¹ In 1879 his wife, Harriet, also a former slave, made the final payment and received title to the property.² According to the 1880 census, the family was farming approximately twenty-four acres of the land; two acres were planted in Indian corn and twenty-two were planted in cotton. The farm included one mule and one working ox.³ According to family tradition, Samuel Barber founded St. John's Baptist Church near Hopkins.⁴

After the deaths of Samuel Barber in 1891 and Harriet Barber in 1899, their son John and his wife Mamie Holly lived in the house, where they raised eleven children. In addition to farming the property, John Barber was a public school teacher for approximately forty-five years and a Baptist preacher for over sixty years. Since John Barber's death in 1957, the house has remained in the Barber family and is today occupied by a great-grandson of Harriet and Samuel Barber.⁵

ACREAGE: Approximately .25 acre

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: The boundary of the nominated property is shown as the black line on the accompanying Richland County tax map #21511, section 2, parcel 2, with a scale of 1 inch equalling 100 feet. It includes the historic buildings (house and outbuildings) and their immediate surroundings.

QUAD NAME: Fort Jackson South, S.C.

QUAD SCALE: 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCE POINT: 17/511378/3750235

OTHER INFORMATION:

FOOTNOTES

¹Vol. A(7), p. 359, Duplicate Titles, Secretary of State, South Carolina Department of Archives and History, Columbia, S. C.

²Vol. A(8), p. 329, Duplicate Titles, Secretary of State.

³Agricultural Census of 1880: Richland County, South Carolina Department of Archives and History.

⁴Hopkins Junior High School, Round Hopkins (Columbia, S. C.: n.p., 1977-78), p. 23.

⁵Ulysees R. Barber to Mary W. Edmonds, 13 August 1985, National Register Files, South Carolina Department of Archives and History.