

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer to complete all items.

**1. Name of Property**

Woodruff High School

**2. Location**

street & number	<u>239 East Hayne Street</u>	not for publication
city or town	<u>Woodruff</u>	vicinity
state <u>South Carolina</u>	code <u>SC</u>	county <u>Spartanburg</u>
	code <u>083</u>	zip code <u>29388-1921</u>

**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination    request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property   meets   does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant    nationally   statewide X locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official                      Date

Mary W. Edmonds, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, S.C. Dept. of Archives and History, Columbia, S.C.  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property    meets   does not meet the National Register criteria. (  See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official                      Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

**4. National Park Service Certification**

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

I, hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register  
   See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register  
   See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register

   other (explain):

Woodruff High School  
Name of Property

Spartanburg County, South Carolina  
County and State

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply)

**Category of Property**  
(Check only one box)

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include previously listed resources)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1		Total

Name of related multiple property listing  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)  
N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed  
in the National Register  
0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Category: EDUCATION

Subcategory: School

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Category: GOVERNMENT  
GOVERNMENT

Subcategory: City Hall  
Correctional Facility

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Late 19th and 20th Century  
Revivals: Collegiate Gothic

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stucco  
walls Stucco  
roof Asphalt  
other \_\_\_\_\_

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Woodruff High School  
Name of Property

Spartanburg County, South Carolina  
County and State

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations**

(Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- a owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- b removed from its original location.
- c a birthplace or a grave.
- d a cemetery.
- e a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- f a commemorative property.
- g less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture \_\_\_\_\_

Education \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

1925-1953 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

1925 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

\_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

Cunningham, Frank H. \_\_\_\_\_

Cunningham, Joseph G. \_\_\_\_\_

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

**Previous documentation on file (NPS) :**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: Carolina First South Carolina Historical Room  
Main (Hughes) Library  
25 Heritage Green Place  
Greenville, S.C. 29601

Ms. Teresa Foster/Ms. Audrey Bettis  
241 Sentel Circle  
Spartanburg, SC 29301

Woodruff High School  
 Name of Property

Spartanburg County, South Carolina  
 County and State

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreege of Property** Approximately 2.1 acres

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Zone Easting Northing	Zone Easting Northing
1 17 405357 3844468	3 17 405189 3844327
2 17 405372 3844408	4 17 405161 3844374

\_\_\_See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)  
 Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title David R. Arning, Principal  
 organization Palmetto Preservation Works, LLC date January 9, 2006  
 street & number 14 Manly Street telephone (864) 270-4406  
 city or town Greenville state SC zip code 29601

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets**

**Maps**

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.  
 A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

**Photographs**

Representative **black and white** photographs of the property.

**Additional items**

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

**Property Owner**

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name City of Woodruff  
 street & number 239 E Hayne Street telephone (864) 476-8154  
 city or town Woodruff state SC zip code 29388

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended(16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.). **Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 5 Woodruff High School  
Name of Property  
Spartanburg County, South Carolina  
County and State

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Woodruff High School, erected in 1925, is a two-story building with collegiate Gothic detailing, situated on approximately two and one-tenths acres in downtown Woodruff, in southwest Spartanburg County, South Carolina. The building form is a modified "H" plan with a three-part center section, two perpendicular wings, and a flat roof. It occupies nearly 30,000 square feet, including a 600-seat auditorium. Exterior masonry walls are covered in gray stucco. The modern windows are a metal awning variety. Moldings and Gothic arches ornament the exterior, particularly at the entrances.

Woodruff High School is bounded by East Hayne Street immediately to the north, a large parking lot to the east, recreational fields to the south, and a vacant clapboard building to the west. A paved driveway surrounds the building with angled parking in front. The façade has modest landscaping consisting of grass, shrubs and concrete sidewalks. The ground descends at the rear of the property, exposing portions of the basement along the side facades and providing full access at the rear. The immediate area is comprised of smaller commercial and public buildings and single family residences.

Woodruff High School exhibits many of the defining decorative characteristics of the collegiate Gothic style. Popularized after the First World War, the collegiate Gothic style was noted for recessed entrances framed by pointed arches. Other defining elements include brick exterior walls with raised moldings, large window bays with multi-paned sashes, and a flat roof with parapet. Woodruff High School, as originally built, exhibited all of these features, plus small quoin-stones, drip moldings with bosses and a tablet molding at the main entrance.

The school was altered in the 1940s and 1950s to reflect modern trends. Specifically, the brick exterior was covered with stucco in 1946, which the residents referred to as "pinking" the building, due to the pink hue of the stucco used.<sup>1</sup> (The stucco was subsequently painted gray at an undetermined date.) Modernistic metal awning windows, with horizontal orientation, replaced the original double hung wood sashes about 1953. Otherwise, the building's exterior reflects the original design conceived by Frank and Joseph Cunningham, architects of Greenville, South Carolina.

The central portion of the building, which includes the main entrance, is by far the most elaborate section. The front entrance is recessed and covered and framed by a Gothic arch. Above the arch is a raised tablet bearing the inscription "WOODRUFF HIGH SCHOOL 1925." Small, carved faces [bosses] adorn either side of it. A stepped parapet above the entrance features a cartouche with a flag stand and the words "BE UNITED."

The main entrance originally had double doors with wood panels and glass lights similar to those at the side entrances, but with a vertical orientation. They were replaced, perhaps about 1978, with a single, solid metal door. The four-light transom above the door remains in place. An ADA-compliant concrete ramp leads directly to the door, partially covering the concrete entrance steps. Other ornamentation to the building includes the water table, stringcourse, window sills, and other raised moldings, all painted white to accent the smooth exterior surface.

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<sup>1</sup> Earl Sanford, former principal, Woodruff Elementary School, phone interview by David Arning, December 21, 2005.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 6 Woodruff High School  
Name of Property  
Spartanburg County, South Carolina  
County and State

---

---

The symmetrical north-facing façade consists of five large bays: a slightly-projected, four-bay wide center portion with recessed entrance, balanced windows and a small roof parapet; two perpendicularly-oriented end wings with large blind paneled walls on the facade and large window banks on the east and west elevations.

The east elevation features large windows and a forward-projecting entrance to the right of center. Basement windows exposed near the rear of the building originally had functional sashes that matched the rest of the building. The existing windows, which are extremely narrow, suggest the openings were reconfigured when the Woodruff Police Department moved into the building and converted that portion of the basement into jail cells in 1978.

The south (rear) elevation is asymmetrical due to the large auditorium and stage, which occupy the middle and west portions of the building, respectively. Originally, the rear had two projecting covered entrances accessed by metal stairs. Only the westernmost entrance is unchanged. Stairs have been removed from the other entrance and its door has been covered. A new entrance at grade level, below the original, now provides access to the basement. This change likely coincided with the city's move into the building in the 1970s. Three wall buttresses are interspersed with and divide three massive window units along the auditorium wall. These windows once had Gothic arched heads, as reflected in the inset blind Gothic arches on the auditorium interior. At the west end of the rear elevation, windows for the stage have been covered.

The northern half of the west elevation mirrors the east elevation, including an identical entrance and window arrangement. The southern portion, however, where the stage is located, is only one and one-half stories tall. Here too the windows have been covered. A large square chimney rises from the basement furnace along the wall.

The floor plan of Woodruff High School is a modified H-plan, one of several "alphabet plans" made popular in the early twentieth century. The main entrance leads to a central hallway, or double-loaded corridor, which serves spaces on either side. Immediately left of the entrance, the original library and adjoining offices have been adapted for use as City Hall. The space retains its original walls and open character. A classroom along the east end of the building was converted into public restrooms when the school became a junior high school in 1953.<sup>2</sup>

On the first floor, the corridor provides access to classrooms at the front of the building and the large auditorium at the rear. The hallways currently have painted concrete floors that may or may not be original. Plastered walls feature baseboards throughout and wood trim molding at the doors. In 1980, a city-appointed auditorium commission oversaw renovation to that space. Interior windows between the hallway and auditorium were covered at that time, but the outlines remain. Exposed brick stairwells at either end of the corridor feature dark-stained wood stairs and balustrades.

The classrooms have swinging wooden doors with three vertical panels with corresponding lights above. Transoms remain in place above the doors and along the walls, where they allow natural light to pass from the classrooms into the hallway. All classroom floors are hardwood. Walls and ceilings are plaster, though acoustic tiles and fluorescent lights have been added.

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<sup>2</sup> Willie Varner, former football coach, Woodruff High School, phone interview by David Arning, December 21, 2005.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 7 Woodruff High School  
Name of Property  
Spartanburg County, South Carolina  
County and State

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The 600-seat auditorium is particularly dramatic. It features three seating sections, symmetrically arranged, and a raised wooden stage. Two rear entrances with double paneled doors and transoms provide access to two aisles. A single set of French doors is located near one of the rear corners and offers a side entrance from the main hallway. The southern wall is consumed by three massive windows with blind Gothic arched heads. Seating and hardwood floors are original to the building. Classically-inspired iron columns support a shallow balcony with stepped platforms, but no fixed seating. Steel posts were added about 1953 to support the auditorium roof, which reportedly had been compromised by water damage.<sup>3</sup> The large stage, which also served as a gymnasium and basketball court, has hardwood floors and exposed brick walls. The windows have been covered.

The basement, which originally housed secondary spaces such as bathrooms, lockers, a lunch area, and storage facilities for extracurricular activities, is currently occupied by the local police department and magistrate court offices.

Woodruff High School has been in service as either a public school or civic center nearly continuously since its construction in 1925. During this time, it has been altered to reflect changing architectural trends and to accommodate new uses and modern building codes. Yet it retains its overall historic character and material integrity. The most prominent architectural features that distinguish the building as a collegiate Gothic school and as a work of Frank and Joseph Cunningham are still intact, including the exterior form and ornamentation as well as the interior plan and workmanship. Further, the original location, setting and association of Woodruff High School is unchanged, and the building remains as central to the community as when it was built.

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<sup>3</sup> Varner Interview.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 8 Woodruff High School  
Name of Property  
Spartanburg County, South Carolina  
County and State

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Woodruff High School is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A and C in the areas of education and architecture. Woodruff High is historically significant for its long association with education and civic activity in Woodruff during the first half of the twentieth century, and is also architecturally significant as an outstanding and well-preserved example of the work of prominent Greenville architects Frank H. and Joseph G. Cunningham.

Woodruff High School was built in 1925 at a cost of \$50,000.<sup>4</sup> It replaced the original high school, which was built in 1908 on East Georgia Street.<sup>5</sup> The Cunningham-designed building housed the high school until a new facility constructed outside of downtown opened in September 1953. It subsequently served as the junior high school and, in the late 1960s, was home to the elementary school. In 1978 the City of Woodruff acquired old Woodruff High School and adapted it for use as its city hall and police headquarters.

Between 1925 and 1953, Woodruff High School served students of Woodruff, Enoree and surrounding areas, and also provided a public venue for civic activities. As the primary facility of higher education in the area, Woodruff High played a critical role in the educational development of virtually all Woodruff children. The building also served a vital civic function by providing space for a variety of social events, including organizational meetings and the annual Miss Woodruff competition.<sup>6</sup> The only large meeting space in Woodruff, it continues to host the annual Stone Soup Storytelling Festival, the official storytelling event of South Carolina.

Built in the 1920s, Woodruff High School reflects a national trend that promoted and celebrated higher education through important, even monumental, urban school buildings. High school education became increasingly commonplace—and necessary—in the early twentieth century, since most students did not or could not pursue a college degree. Beyond education, the high school became symbolic of the community as a whole, a physical expression of the town's economic and cultural wealth.

Academic architecture of the period began to reflect these higher civic ideals. The collegiate Gothic style, for example, blended the moral overtones of Gothic Revival design with the form and function of more classically inspired buildings. Woodruff High School is a vernacular expression of such architectural theory, and its construction and use during the second quarter of the twentieth century reflect broader patterns in the educational history of Woodruff.

Woodruff High School is also representative of the stylistic and functional trends that influenced academic architecture. Increasing social awareness regarding health and safety affected public school buildings in the early twentieth century. For example, one common theory during this period held that natural light in the classroom should be manipulated to reduce eye strain. New plans therefore provided windows on only one wall of the classroom, resulting in double-loaded corridors and blind walls at the corners of buildings.

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<sup>4</sup> John E. Wells and Robert E. Dalton, *The South Carolina Architects 1885-1935, A Bibliographical Dictionary* (Richmond: New South Architectural Press, 1992), 38.

<sup>5</sup> Hannah Barton Irby, *Woodruff: An Historical View* (Woodruff, S.C.: n.p., 1974), 68.

<sup>6</sup> Sanford Interview.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 9 Woodruff High School  
Name of Property  
Spartanburg County, South Carolina  
County and State

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Similarly, emergency egress was emphasized by straight hallways and stairs located at perimeter exits.

By the 1920s, a trend toward standardization resulted in relatively uniform school plans (e.g., alphabet plans). Yet exterior styling continued to evolve with other material fashions. By the turn of the century, the Beaux- Arts style was reserved almost exclusively for public buildings such as schools. Following World War I, three-quarters of all new schools in America were designed in the collegiate Gothic style. During the 1930s and 1940s, however, architects rejected the ornamentation of earlier classical and European styles. Instead, they opted for a more industrial look with cleaner lines. The strikingly smooth surfaces and linear expressions of Art Deco, Art Moderne and International style buildings are the byproduct of this movement. Examples of this modernization are evidenced locally in the alterations to Woodruff High School in the 1940s and 1950s.

Woodruff High School was erected in 1925 as a distinguished public building in the collegiate Gothic style. It embodied virtually all of the aesthetic qualities associated with the style. About 1946, however, the exterior was modernized with the application of a smooth stucco surface. Replacement metal windows installed in 1953 contributed to the building's new modern appearance. Undoubtedly, the alterations were desired in part by maintenance concerns and the material condition of the building at the time. (The original brick exterior, wood sash windows and roof reportedly suffered from chronic moisture problems.<sup>7</sup>) But it is also credible that such a central public structure was consciously updated to project an image of progress and contemporary culture. Woodruff High School, therefore, embodies not only the architectural style in which it was originally drafted, but also a variety of social concepts and modern designs from the first half or the twentieth century.

Woodruff High School is also significant as an outstanding representative work of accomplished Greenville architects Frank and Joseph Cunningham. Brothers Frank Harrison and Joseph Gilbert Cunningham descended from the Harrison and Cunningham families, both of whom settled in the Piedmont area prior to the American Revolution.<sup>8</sup> Frank Cunningham was born in Anderson County in 1880. He attended Clemson College (now Clemson University), where he studied architecture and earned a degree in textile engineering. Cunningham graduated in 1903 and soon after began practicing as an architect. In 1908, he opened the firm of F. H. & J. G. Cunningham (also known as Cunningham & Cunningham) with his younger brother Joseph. Joseph, also a 1903 Clemson graduate, worked as a textile engineer for Joseph E. Sirrine prior to his architectural practice.<sup>9</sup>

Cunningham & Cunningham is credited with the design of several prominent residential, commercial and institutional buildings between 1908 and 1928. Perhaps the firm's greatest architectural work was the Imperial Hotel in Greenville (1912; listed in the National Register in 1985). A seven-story hotel, it is significant for its steel skeletal frame and load bearing masonry walls. According to an advertisement in the 1913 City Directory, the Imperial Hotel was "one of the nicest and up-to-date hotels in the state," boasting modern conveniences such as private baths, telephones and a sprinklers system. Since 1987, the Imperial Hotel has operated as the Greenville Summit, a home for low income seniors and disabled citizens.<sup>10</sup>

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<sup>7</sup> Sanford Interview.

<sup>8</sup> Yates Snowden, *History of South Carolina, Volume III* (New York: The Lewis Publishing Company, 1920), 214.

<sup>9</sup> Wells and Dalton, 36-8.

<sup>10</sup> Henry Bacon McKoy, *Greenville, S.C.: Facts and Memories* (Greenville: Published by the Author, 1989), 143.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 10

Woodruff High School  
Name of Property  
Spartanburg County, South Carolina  
County and State

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Cunningham & Cunningham were responsible for the design of numerous distinctive high schools during the first half of the twentieth century, including: Orangeburg High School (1915); St. Matthews High School (1924); Easley High School (1925; listed in the National Register in 1999); Woodruff High School (1925); Prosperity High School (1927); Jonesville High School (1930); and Travelers Rest High School (1930).<sup>11</sup> The firm is also credited with several prominent residences, including adjacent homes in the East Park Historic District of Greenville (listed in the National Register in 2005), and the McWhirter House, a Neoclassical landmark in Jonesville (1909, listed in the National Register in 2003). The brothers developed forty-four residences in the Mills Mill neighborhood as well as several churches.<sup>12</sup> The Cunninghams were also successful businessmen who both constructed and operated the Saluda and Okeh Mills.<sup>13</sup> Frank Cunningham served as the president of Saluda Manufacturing Company and Riverdale Mills.<sup>14</sup>

Woodruff High School is historically and architecturally significant at the local level. Since 1925, the building has served as a vital public venue for the greater Woodruff community. It has influenced the physical development of the town and played an important role in the lives of a majority of Woodruff residents. It is a fine example of the work of Cunningham & Cunningham, one of Greenville's most prolific and well-respected architectural firms. The style, form and function of the Woodruff High School reflect popular themes of academic architecture as well as specific educational and civic development patterns in the town of Woodruff.

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<sup>11</sup> Wells and Dalton, 36-38.

<sup>12</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>13</sup> Snowden, *History of South Carolina: Volume III*, 214.

<sup>14</sup> Snowden, *History of South Carolina: Volume II*, 1183-4.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 11 Woodruff High School  
Name of Property  
Spartanburg County, South Carolina  
County and State

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### BIBLIOGRAPHY

#### Interviews

Earl Sanford, Woodruff, S.C. [Former Principal, Woodruff Elementary School.] Telephone Interview by David Arning, December 21, 2005.

Willie Varner, Woodruff, S.C. [Former Football Coach, Woodruff High School.] Telephone Interview by David Arning, December 21, 2005.

#### Publications

Irby, Hannah Barton. *Woodruff: An Historic View*. Woodruff, S.C.: n.p., 1974

McKoy, Henry Bacon. *Greenville, S.C.: Facts and Memories*. Greenville, S.C.: Published by the Author, 1989.

Snowden, Yates, LL. D. *History of South Carolina*. New York: The Lewis Publishing Company, 1920.

Wells, John E. and Robert E. Dalton. *The South Carolina Architects 1885-1935: A Biographical Dictionary*. Richmond, Va.: New South Architectural Press, 1992.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 12 Woodruff High School  
Name of Property  
Spartanburg County, South Carolina  
County and State

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### Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the nominated property is shown as the black line marked "Woodruff High School" on the accompanying Spartanburg County Tax Map 4-32, Parcel 4, Lot 81, drawn at a scale of 1" = 100'.

### Boundary Justification

The boundary of the nominated property is restricted to the historic school building and its immediate setting.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number Photographs Page 13 Woodruff High School  
Name of Property  
Spartanburg County, South Carolina  
County and State

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### PHOTOGRAPHS

Name of Property: Woodruff High School  
Location of Property: 239 E Hayne Street  
Woodruff, Spartanburg County, S.C.

Name of Photographer: David R. Arning  
Date of Photographs: December 20, 2005  
Location of Original Negatives: South Carolina Department of Archives and History, Columbia, S.C.

1. Oblique view of facade, facing southwest
2. Oblique view of facade and side elevation, facing southeast
3. Oblique view of rear elevation, facing northwest
4. Detail view of front entrance
5. Detail view of (west) side entrance
6. View of first floor interior hall, facing northeast
7. View of (east) interior stairwell
8. Detail view of classroom door and transom
9. View of second floor classroom
10. View of auditorium from balcony, facing west
11. View of auditorium from stage, facing east
12. Detail view of auditorium entrance, chairs and column, facing northeast