Theme 9. Society and Social Conscience

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(State all entries - complete applicable sections)

1. NAME

COMMON:
Stateburg Historic District

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Located in the "High Hills of the Santee" one mile north of US Hwy. 76

CITY OR TOWN:
6378 between Sumter and Columbia, on S.C. Hwy. 261, 12 miles from Sumter.

STATE:
South Carolina

CODE:
45

COUNTY:
Sumter

CODE:
085

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)

☑ District
☐ Building
☐ Site
☐ Structure
☐ Object

OWNERSHIP

☑ Public
☐ Private
☐ Both

Public Acquisition:

☐ In Process
☐ Being Considered

STATUS

☑ Occupied
☐ Unoccupied

ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC

☐ Preservation work in progress

Yes:

☑ Restricted
☐ Unrestricted

No:

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☑ Agricultural
☐ Commercial
☐ Industrial
☐ Educational
☐ Entertainment

☑ Government
☐ Military
☐ Museum

☑ Park
☐ Private Residence
 ☐ Religious

☐ Scientific

☐ Transportation
☐ Comments

☐ Other (Specify)

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Miscellaneous

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:

Sumter County Court House

STREET AND NUMBER:

North Main Street

CITY OR TOWN:

Sumter

STATE:
South Carolina

CODE:
45

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
South Carolina Preliminary Survey of Historic Places

DATE OF SURVEY:
1969

☐ Federal
☒ State
☐ County
☐ Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
South Carolina Department of Archives and History

STREET AND NUMBER:
1430 Senate Street, P.O. Box 11,188, Capitol Station 29211

CITY OR TOWN:

☐ Columbia
☒ South Carolina
Prior to its founding as a town in 1783 by Gen. Thomas Sumter, Stateburg was primarily the site of summer homes for Low Country people in the healthful "High Hills of the Santee." A few settlers also drifted there as early as 1735 via the nearby King's Highway (Charleston to Camden). Located on a hillcrest overlooking the Wateree Valley, Stateburg had its own courthouse, post office, taverns, academy, race track, and many stately homes. In the Civil War most of these were destroyed by Potter's Raiders, and Stateburg is now more an area than a town. Some buildings, at a distance from the public roads, were spared. Those in existence today include:

1. The Ruins—home of Mr. and Mrs. St. Julian Barnwell, owned by Gen. Thomas Sumter in 1784. From 1835-1837 served as Hawthorndean Seminary for Young Ladies. Original locks and keys, window panes, plaster moldings; marble base boards, large double sliding doors, fan-shaped skylight, many antiques and collectors' items.

2. Brookland Plantation—owned by Mr. and Mrs. William Dinkins, built late 1700s by Gen. Thomas Sumter. Used as rectory for Church of The Holy Cross in 1870s and as private school for boys. Architecture is modified Greek Revival.

3. Moorhill—home of Mr. and Mrs. Sherman Smith, built 1880 on site of much older house. One-and-a-half story white clapboard structure with four paneled columns across front portico.


5. The Borough House—home of Capt. and Mrs. Richard K. Anderson, descendants of first owners; built 1758. One of oldest homes in Sumter County. Architecturally interesting as largest complex of old buildings in U. S. built of pisé de terre (rammed earth), a Spanish and French type of construction. Center of house may once have been a tavern. Contains many rare books, portraits, and military mementos as well as fine furniture collected over seven generations. Grounds were site, in early 1900s, of first S. C. tree farm.

6. Millwood Plantation—home of Mr. and Mrs. W. Loring Lee, Jr., built 1840. Moved in sections from original site, in town of Sumter. Now occupies land grant to family in 1780s; eighth generation living there. Original locks and keys, window panes, shutters, flooring, banister rails, many fine pieces of antique furniture. Pine clapboard construction, cottage-type architecture.

Stateburg derives part of its historical significance from its connection with Revolutionary Gen. Thomas Sumter, who founded (1783) and named it in hopes that it would be chosen new state capital. It missed this distinction in 1786 by only a few votes. The town was also the site of much Revolutionary War activity—Sumter's home was destroyed by Col. Tarleton and both Generals Cornwallis and Greene camped in the Stateburg area. Although original plans to construct water transportation routes to facilitate trade with other parts of the state never materialized, Stateburg developed into an important South Carolina antebellum residential area. From 1783 to 1800 it was county seat for Claremont County, and until the Civil War, was a thriving town.

The area's most significant home, architecturally and historically, is the Borough House. Occupied by Generals Cornwallis and Greene during the Revolution, its grounds still display a fragment of the 400-year-old "Spy Oak" (destroyed by a 1969 storm) on which Gen. Sumter hanged two Tory spies. Built of buff pisé de terre (rammed earth), this house and its dependencies comprise the largest complex of old buildings of this material in the United States. On its grounds the state's first tree farm was established in the early 1900s.

Opposite Borough House stands the Episcopal Church of the Holy Cross, a notable example of Gothic Revival architecture, built in 1850 by Charleston architect E. C. Jones. Second church on the site, it replaced a frame church built there when Claremont parish was incorporated in 1788. Buried in its graveyard with his wife is Joel Poinsett, member and organizer of the S. C. Board of Public Works, U.S. congressman, minister to Mexico, secretary of war, and first president of the National Institute for the Promotion of Science (forerunner of the Smithsonian Institute). An opponent of Calhoun's "nullification policy," he is probably best remembered for bringing the poinsettia flower to this country from Mexico.

High Hills Baptist Church serves one of the oldest congregations of Baptists in South Carolina, organized 1770. Built in 1803, it exhibits distinctive Greek Revival architecture. Its first pastor was Richard Furman, ardent Revolutionary patriot and founder of Furman University, which, as a seminary, was located in Stateburg from 1828 to 1835.

The High Hills of the Santee in which Stateburg is located is one of the state's most famous and distinctive areas.
9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES


10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY

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<th>LONGITUDE</th>
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<tr>
<td>SW</td>
<td>33° 56' 42.9&quot;</td>
<td>80° 32' 30&quot;</td>
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APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 5066 acres

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

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<th>STATE</th>
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11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Mary Schuette, Historic Resources Division

ORGANIZATION: South Carolina Dept. of Archives and History

STREET AND NUMBER: 1430 Senate Street, PO Box 11,188, Capitol Station 29211

CITY OR TOWN: Columbia

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National [ ] State [X] Local [ ]

Name: Charles Lee
Title: Director, S.C. Dept. of Archives and History
Date: August 29, 1970

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

FEB 24 1971

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date: DEC 17 1970
7. Description

Revival design, cruciform plan, corner towers, pointed arches, red tiled roof—like Old World parish church. Inside: tiled floors, handcarved walnut woodwork, stained glass windows.

8. High Hills Baptist Church—Congregation founded 1770; built 1803. Greek Revival architecture with four paneled columns across front, engaged columns at front corners. White clapboard with gable roof; four bays deep.

9. Marston—home of Mr. and Mrs. S. O. Plowden, built c. 1820. Impressive brick and frame structure, unusually high ceilings, broad central hallways, spacious rooms, encircling piazzas on ground and second levels. Many fine pre-Revolutionary pieces of furniture and heirlooms. Upper-plaza view extends 30 miles.

10. Edgehill—home of Maj. and Mrs. Alfred DeLorme rebuilt after 1965 fire on original foundations; authentic replica of old house, The Oaks, built 1832. Four original massive columns at front of present pink brick structure. Many valuable pieces of furniture lost in fire have been replaced or reproduced.

11. Miller or Ellison House—home of Miss Martha White, built c. 1816. Owned by S. C. Governor and U. S. Senator Stephen Miller in early 19th century; acquired 1838 by William Ellison, free Negro who operated cotton gin factory and plantation with 40 or 50 slaves. House has hand-wrought hinges, handmadenails, wainscotting of wide single boards, small window panes, narrow central hall.
8. Significance

A few miles outside Stateburg town limits lies the grave of Gen. Thomas Sumter (1734-1832), famed partisan general known as the "Gamecock of the Revolution." Near his grave stands the small Chapel of Ease built for his daughter-in-law, Countes Natalie DeLage (Sumter). A Catholic emigre from the French Revolution and a protege of Aaron Burr, she is buried beneath the chapel.