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# S.C. - Colleges - Furman

## Ready for Furman Groundbreaking



Dr. Alester G. Furman, great-grandson of Furman University's founder, Dr. Richard Furman, inspects the spade he will use in groundbreaking ceremonies on the new Furman campus site, five miles north of the Greenville business district, on Highway 25, Tuesday afternoon. Doctor Furman has been a member of the Furman University board of trustees for 51 years.



**PROFESSOR'S HOME**—This old building formed a part of Furman University when it was located at Winnsboro. It was used as a "professor's home" during that period. Across the highway to the south, still stands one of the old school buildings. It was originally a three-story brick structure, but the third story was damaged in the Charleston earthquake of 1886 and the top story was removed. (Observer Staff Photo by Hancock).

## Old Furman College Buildings Still Towering At Winnsboro

By RANDOLPH HANCOCK  
Observer Staff Writer  
WINNSBORO, S. C., Aug. 28 —  
Furman University is on the move again.

It has been a long time — more than a century — since folk in this area saw rising out of these hills a struggling university that was to go on to take its place among the better institutions of higher learning in this country.

Furman's present expansion plan brings to the forefront its early days here when it was getting a foothold — expanding from a strictly "preacher's school" to that of a "classical and English school".

The university has left its mark here, and although it moved from the Fairfield district to its present site at Greenville about 1850, there are two of its old buildings still standing.

The school's purpose in locating here (it was established at Edgefield in 1825 and moved to High Hills in 1829) in 1837 was to found an institution based upon the theory that "manual labor" was a necessary part to its success.

Dr. R. N. Daniel, in his history of "Furman University", says that as "early as the middle of 1840's the question of removal from Winnsboro was under discussion.

The Fairfield site had been selected, it will be recalled, because of the manual labor school experiment. Now that this was over, there was little reason to keep a theological institution out in the country."

**NEW PHYSICAL SETUP**  
But this time, Furman in its move is expanding its physical setup. Already ground-breaking ceremonies have been held on the new campus of more than a thousand acres at Paris Mountain near Greenville.

Its present removal plans, officials said, were launched "only after careful, searching scrutiny of all possible measures for the school's continued vitality. The officers and trustees of the University believe it will insure the best possible investment of Furman's present and future resources.

Another factor in the removal decision was the "upsurge in population beginning in World War II. Already these youngsters are crowding the nation's grammar schools. Within the years 1957-1960 they will almost certainly cause a tremendous upswing in college enrollment."

Since its founding by the South Carolina Baptist State Convention to honor Dr. Richard Furman offi-

cial of this institution have had their eyes on the future, blazing the way for those who are to come.

**IN ROUGHER DAYS**  
But those were rough days here at Fairfield. Dr. Daniel quotes an old letter of the Rev. Jonathan Davis to his son-in-law, Dr. James C. Furman when plans were afoot to move here from High Hills:

"I have made an effort," wrote the Rev. Mr. Davis, "as a commencement for a site for the Institution and have subscribed in the bounds of Fairfield Congregation \$3,000. Today the committee has examined a site (Jesse Nelson's) fronting the church, highly delighted with the situation and quality of the land, 600 acres, 300 of which acknowledged to be good for 30 bushels of corn to the acre, price \$5,000, which I think fully worth that sum. The committee (is) fully persuaded if the money can be raised without the old funds of the convention, that Fairfield will get the location. I think I can (pledge) Fairfield to raise \$5,000".

In a brochure listing Furman's present "urgent needs", officials say "In this campaign Furman University seeks \$1,650,000 from its alumni and other friends. Added to resources now available this sum will form part of the total goal of \$10,275,000 for the greater Furman fund. Success of the present campaign will speed initial construction on the new campus."

Times have changed since 1836! **TRACT COST \$7,400**  
Dr. Daniel says that in "March, 1836, a tract of 557 acres (the land

described in the letter) was purchased for \$7,400. In Mrs. Loulie Latimer Owens' 'Furman's Fairfield Days' there is a drawing showing the location of Fairfield Church, the road running through the school property, a professor's residence on one side of the road, and a school building on the other." These buildings are still standing.

Furman's foundation was laid by that great and potent South Carolina Baptist, Dr. Richard Furman who saw the need for a school to aid "pious young men designed for the ministry. . . in obtaining education."

Dr. Furman, himself educated "in the home", was an eager "student all his life" and he "learned Latin, Greek, Hebrew, theology, and no little medicine. In 1774 he was ordained and became pastor of High Hills Church."

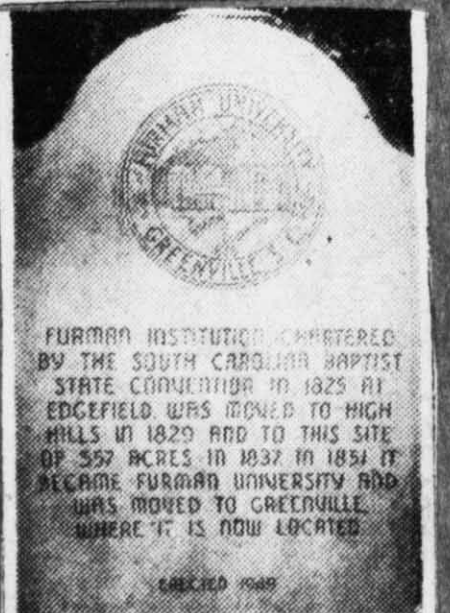
But Dr. Furman never saw his dream of a school realized. He died in August 1825, "only a few months before the action providing for the establishment of a school was taken" by the Baptist Convention.

**REQUIREMENTS**  
Dr. Daniel notes in his history of Furman that "In this day when a college president must be all things to all men it is interesting to note the requirements laid down by the board of agents for the principal of the Furman Academy and Theological Institution. He shall be a Baptist minister, and able to instruct in all branches of a literary education, necessary for admission into higher classes of the most respectable

colleges in the United States, and to give such assistance in their Divinity studies, to young men designed for the Gospel Ministry, as may be suited to their cases, and to the wants of the churches."

Furman University officials note, in an introduction to present removal plans, that "Life is a dynamic, flowing process of change. To remain static is to be shoved gradually into stagnant backwaters. This principle holds true for both men and institutions."

Furman University doesn't propose to be shoved into the "stagnant backwaters!"



**MARKER** — This granite marker was erected in 1949 to show the site of Furman's days in the Fairfield area from 1837 to 1851.