HISTORICAL SUMMARY OF RICHLAND COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA

Although much of the early historical fabric of Richland County is eclipsed by the almost total loss of archival source material destroyed during the Civil War and its aftermath, surviving records do provide significant -- if incomplete -- insights into the diverse matrix of people and events that shaped its development.

Little is known of the area's aboriginal inhabitants. Small bands of Congaree and Wateree Indians, both of Siouan stock, still occupied what is now Richland County until the 1740's with occasional incursions of Cherokees and Iroquois through the 1760's.[1] The first trade center for the entire central portion of South Carolina was the establishment of a garrisoned trading post in 1716 (abandoned in 1722 and reestablished in 1748) west of the Congaree River in present Lexington County.[2] That outpost extended into Saxe Gotha District in 1736 as one of eleven townships laid out by the royal government to induce foreign settlement in the backcountry as a line of defense to protect Charleston from ~~salve~~ SLAVE uprisings and hostile Indian attacks.[3] Scattered settlement of what is now Richland County seems to have coincided with colonial immigration into Saxe Gotha Township to its west.

It was not until 1785 that Richland became an identifiable administrative unit resembling today's county. In that year it was one of seven counties designated within the Camden District. That district, one of seven judicial districts established by the General Assembly under royal rule in 1769, had previously been a part of Craven County under the proprietary government's division of the whole colony into only three counties. By 1804 judicial districts roughly followed today's county boundaries, but it was not until 1865 that counties as such became permanent administrative jurisdictions.[4]

Settlement of the area preceded by some forty years the establishment in 1785 of Columbia, in the county's west central sector, as the seat of state government. The new capital replaced Charleston to promote political balance between the developing piedmont's swelling population of small farmers and the less numerous but long established and powerful tidewater planter aristocracy.[5]

Located in the center of the state, Richland County has been dominantly identified by Columbia's role as the state's chief hub of governmental, trade and educational activity, as well as rail, highway and air transport systems. Outside the urban area, the county as a whole has closely mirrored, in a smaller setting, the state in both physical geography and historical development: the upper portion generally resembling the state's piedmont; and lower area more the state's tidewater terrain. The two are separated by a swath of fall line sand hills.

Rich alluvial lands in the southern part of the county early encouraged consolidation after 1800 of small colonial homesteads into large cotton plantations while the northern, or upper, reaches of hilly and less fertile sandlands remained small farms raising a variety of garden crops, corn and some cotton.[6]

Said to have been named for the fertile soils bordering the county's four major rivers and their numerous tributaries, the area was initially settled in the 1740's. German immigrants homesteaded the upper portion east of the Broad River, while Virginians made land claims in the lower part west of the Wateree River and within the Congaree River Basin. The chief occupations of both groups at first were trapping and raising cattle.[7]

Early settlement occurred along rivers and streams which provided the first transportation routes between the backcountry wilderness and Charleston,

Georgetown and Beaufort along the coast. Named for pre-colonial Indian tribes, the Wateree River on the east and the Congaree River on the southwest form important navigable natural boundaries. The Broad River comprises a portion of the northwest border. Southeast of the Broad, the Saluda River, also named for an aboriginal tribe, flows into the Broad at Columbia to form the Congaree.[8]

Initial homesteading occurred in the 1740's along the east banks of the Broad and Congaree Rivers and their tributaries. The first 200 settlers included about a dozen German families along the Broad.[9] The remainder were predominantly Virginians who brought slaves with them and settled west of the Wateree and east of the Congaree, a vicinity subsequently to be called Lower Richland.[10] During the Revolutionary War, both groups furnished men to the patriot cause, but no military engagements occurred in the area.[11] By 1790 the county had a population of 3,950, of which 1,437 were slaves.[12] After 1800 the slave population continuously exceeded the white and by 1860 was 63 percent of the county's total population of 18,307. From then until 1920 when the 1917 establishment of the Fort Jackson U.S. Army Camp at Columbia increased the white population to 54 percent, blacks were superior in number by 60 percent or more.[13]

Local government was not installed until after the Revolutionary War with the creation of the county in 1785 and construction somewhere near the center of the county of a courthouse, pillory, whipping post and jail. The first courthouse is thought to have been some miles east of Columbia at Horrell Hill, earlier called Meyer's Hill; but in 1799 the county seat and courthouse were moved to Columbia, where it has since remained.[14]

Dense woodlands and numerous water courses with adjoining swamps impeded both travel and transportation of goods until well into the 19th century. The first

public roads were before 1770. They followed earlier Indian trading paths and included the McCord's Ferry Road (1766) from above the confluence of the Congaree and Wateree Rivers, north along the west side of the Wateree to above Camden and another 1766 road leading to the fork of the Catawba River from Howell's Ferry on the Congaree River. In 1778 other public roads were the "North Carolina" road northeast of present Columbia, the Camden Road and Bluff Road, a route connecting Friday's Ferry below Columbia and McCord's Ferry along high ground roughly paralleling the Congaree River.[15] By 1820 the entire district was crisscrossed with roads connecting farms and plantations with each other and main travel routes.[16]

Ferries before 1800 were operated on the Broad River by John Compty; on the Congaree by Thomas Howell, William Howell, Isaac Huger, James Myrick, Martin Friday (later Richard and Wade Hampton); Joseph Joyner (later John McCord, then Grace Russell. Before 1783 ferries were maintained on the Wateree by _____ James, Revolutionary General Thomas Sumter and Adam Fowler Brisbane. By 1825 Brisbane's Ferry was operated by Pressley Garner and operated by Garner's slave Dembo.[17]

The first bridges for the area were built in 1791 by Wade Hampton I at his ferry site on the Congaree and by John Compty at his ferry site on the Broad River. When floods destroyed these bridges before their completion, only the Hampton bridge was rebuilt.[18] By 1820 both the Congaree and Broad Rivers were still served by two ferries each, according to Robert Mills' atlas of the district.

Cumbersome and lengthy river and overland shipment of cotton and freight was replaced by rail transportation in 1842 with the extension of the South Carolina Railroad from Charleston through Lower Richland to Columbia. The line gave rise to the hamlets of Gadsden, Kingville and Hopkins, all of which disappeared with

the decline of cotton before 1930. Construction in 1871 of the Wilmington, Columbia and Augusta Railroad (later the Seaboard Coastline), parallel to and above the 1842 line, linked the lower fork to further markets and generated the town of Eastover.[19] The town of Blythewood in upper Richland sprang from the watering stop for trains at Doko when the Charlotte and South Carolina Railroad line was built in 1951-52.[20]

Few extant records recite social, educational and religious opportunities of the colonial and antebellum periods. Men between 16 and 20 were required to assemble at stated times for mandatory state militia musterings at various places, where favorite sports of horse racing, gaming and shooting matches appear to have lessened the rigors of military obligations.[21]

Early settlers were largely without ecclesiastical direction. A German Reformed branch of the Presbyterian Church, known as the Appii Forum Church, was founded on Cedar Creek in Upper Richland County about 1761. Known locally as DuBard's Church, it became Methodist after the 1791 visit by Frances Asbury. The present 1910 Cedar Creek Methodist Church is the fourth on or near the previous church sites of this congregation. In the lower county, Congaree Baptist Church was organized November 30, 1765, with 33 members. By 1772 Congaree Baptist had four branches. Numerous subsequent ones established this church as mother of Baptist Churches in central South Carolina. Richland County branches included Sandy Level Baptist Church (organized about 1785 near Blythewood), Colonel's Creek Baptist (ca. 1800), Beulah Church (1805), and Good Hope Baptist Church (dismission from Congaree, 1866).[22] Congaree, Sandy Level and Good Hope remain in antebellum structures. Beulah is a modern edifice. A Baptist meetinghouse built by Lower Richland planter Joel Adams, I (1750-1830) appears on the 1826 Mills' atlas of the county.[23]

The first Episcopal services in the rural county were in a slave chapel built west of the Wateree on Middleburg Plantation by William Clarkson in 1820. Said to have been the first church erected in the state for the exclusive religious instruction of blacks, the chapel, used to organize Zion Episcopal Church in 1835 by a few white families, burned in 1845. A new Zion Church was built in 1844 for the planter communicants at the northwest quandrant of U. S. Highways 378 and 601. The 1911 present church in Eastover replaces an earlier 1884 edifice and is the fourth for Zion Congregation.[24]

In 1859 St. John's Episcopal Church, Congaree, was built on property donated by planter-physician Dr. William Weston adjacent to the Weston family cemetery. Governor James H. Adams and Paul G. Chappel were elected wardens.[25] The church burned December 26, 1981 and has since been reconstructed.

Postbellum churches for Lower Richland were the 1871 St. Thomas Episcopal Church, which started as a plantation school for slave children, the 1884 Lower Richland Presbyterian Church near Gadsden, the Old Hopkins Presbyterian Church, built in 1897 for a Methodist congregation, and the 1910 Eason Memorial Baptist Church in Eastover.[26]

In addition to Cedar Creek Methodist and Sandy Level Churches, already cited, older churches in Upper Richland include the 1905 Oak Grove United Methodist and 1898-1924 Beulah Methodist Churches in the Cedar Creek area, the ca. 1894 Mt. Pleasant Methodist Church, Campground area, the 1905 St. Andrews Lutheran Church and the 1892 Bethel Baptist Church, Blythewood.

Nothing remains of early schools in the rural county. These included one taught by William Claibourne Clifton near Hopkins from 1790-1794 when he moved to

Columbia; the Minervaville Society Academy, which fostered the hamlet of Minervaville from 1802-1834 near Hopkins; the Mill Creek School, started as a church and school by Mrs. William Goodwyn, which operated through 1887;[27] and the Palmetto Academy. The ca. 1830 farmhouse dwelling of the Palmetto Academy headmaster still stands and is unoccupied. Existent receipts among family papers record that several of the planters employed tutors for their children.

Most of the schools in the county established after the 1811 enactment of state of the free school system were private academies or plantation schools because the free schools carried a pauper stigma which offended even the poor.[28] Private academies continued to be the preference of the wealthy and middle class whites long after establishment under the Reconstruction government in 1876 of the beginning of the state's public school system.[29] Two notable private academies operated in the county. The Blythewood Female Institute, first called the "Belle Haven" School in Columbia, was operated by the Rev. John Zealy, a Baptist minister, before removal to Doko (Blythewood). There, under Dr. S. W. Bookhart, it provided English, music, painting and French classes for young ladies until after 1866.[30] Nearer Columbia was the Barhamville Institute, (South Carolina Female Collegiate Institute), which was operated from 1828-1861 by Dr. Elias Marks and from 1861-1865 by Madam Josef S. Sosnowski. The campus buildings burned in 1869.[31]

By 1883 there were 56 public schools in the county with enrollments of 980 white students and 2,728 black students attending separate facilities in school sessions lasting less than four months. Of the 56 school buildings, only 30 were then owned by the school districts.[32]

Numerous rural elementary schools governed by a multitude of local school boards served the area until 1950 when reorganization effected consolidation into two

school districts for the entire county.[33] Blythewood and Lower Richland (formerly called the Consolidated High School) thereafter were the only high schools operating in the rural county. Only two buildings connected with the postbellum and early 20th century public schools survive. These are the Eastover school principal's house and later teacherage -- built in 1910 as a graded school and now in an unoccupied, dilapidated state -- and the Hopkins school teacherage, now a community center.[34]

By 1865 the area was served by five crossroads post offices, two in the upper portion and three in Lower Richland. Postmasters were: for Cedar Creek, S.A. Proctor; Doko, G. P. Hoffman; Gadsden, W. B. Flowers; Hopkins Turnout, J. S. Galligan; and Wateree, M. D. Jenkins.[35]

The county's economic history reflects its predominant rural, agricultural character. The introduction of the cotton gin in 1799 by Wade Hampton I (1751-1835) transformed the county's land ownership, population and economic pattern. After 1800 the area of relatively small white farmers between the Wateree and Congaree turned from indigo as a cash crop to the cultivation of cotton on large plantations worked by numerous slaves.[36] Small farms remained the rule in the upper county, where cotton, grain and foodstuffs were grown.[37]

From 1800 until the late 1920's, "upland" or short staple cotton production provided the county's economic base. Corn, continuously in second place in both acreage and money value, was easily grown on both sand lands and river bottoms during the county's 294 crop growing days. The county's corn production included a world's record in 1857 by Dr. J. W. Parker, superintendent of the State Hospital for the Insane, who gathered 359 bushels of corn on two acres on a tract six miles north of Columbia.[38] Always overshadowed by cotton in acreage and yield, corn

nonetheless played an important part in agricultural planning by the county's farmers and planters in the state as a chief source of food for both people and livestock.[39] The Federal Agricultural Census of 1850 and of 1860 reveal that Indian corn far exceeded the production of other staple crops such as wheat, oats, rice, peas, beans and sweet potatoes and averaged from 2,500 to 12,000 bushels per plantation among the county's 36 largest planters who individually owned more than 1,500 acres.[40]

Although inferior to many other counties in the state in both slave population and cotton production, the history of rural Richland County nonetheless has been essentially the story of cotton and the "weal and woe" that accompanied good crops as well as droughts, competition with the old southwest and fluctuating prices from 5¢ in 1845 to $1.01 a pound in 1864. Other substantial impacts were caterpillar ravages in 1821, 1845, 1865-78, 1881, 1884, crippling Reconstruction federal taxes of 24¢ a pound (1866-68), adjustment to the postwar sharecropping system and, finally, the development in 1869 of soil renewing phosphate beds near Charleston.[41] Low prices occurred in the 1870's and in 1894, followed by a devastating plunge again to 5¢ a pound in 1897-98, with no real improvement above 10-12¢ cotton until 1914. The establishment in Columbia between 1894 and 1900 of large cotton mills to absorb local yields, along with the construction there in 1887 of compressing and storage facilities -- and rallying prices after World War I -- assured cotton's agricultural supremacy in the county through 1929.[42]

Although cotton culture pervaded the entire area's economic life until some 50 years ago, it was in Lower Richland that history and cotton were inextricably enmeshed. Extensive land and slave ownership distinguished the wealthy cotton planters.

Foremost among the Lower Richland planters in 1850 were the Singleton and Adams families. Colonel Richard Singleton (1776-1852), whose "Home Place" lay in adjoining Sumter County and who held more property in neighboring Calhoun County, also owned six plantations in the eastern part of Lower Richland which totaled more than 18,000 acres. He, along with sons John Coles Singleton (1813-1852) of "Albemarle" Plantation and Matthew Richard Singleton (1817-1854) of "Headquarters" or "Kensington" Plantation, and a trust for his grandson, Richard R. Singleton, together enumerated 1,021 slaves in the county. These vast land holdings were not owned by the sons, but instead were bequeathed by Colonel Singleton to the eldest sons of his children. The largest and most productive of the Singleton plantations was the 4,400-acre "Kensington", valued at $50,000 with 276 slaves in 1850 and $100,000 and no slaves listed in 1860.[43]

In the area's western sector brothers Robert Adams, Sr. (1793-1850) and Joel Adams, Jr. (1784-1859), along with their nephews James U. Adams (1812-1871), Joel R. Adams (d. 1859) and James Hopkins Adams (1812-1861, S. C. Governor 1854-56) collectively owned more than 17,500 acres and 806 slaves in 1850. The Adams, with their Weston and Hopkins relatives, were the largest landowners in the county at the time of the Civil War.[44]

Other owners of more than 100 slaves in 1850 included Wade Hampton III, 308; Mrs. Keziah Goodwyn Hopkins Brevard, 180; William Hopkins, 147; William M. Myers, 139; William Clarkson, 190; Carolina G. Weston, 235; Thomas B. Clarkson, 134; Joseph A. Black, 154; Jesse DeBruhl, 140; Benjamin Taylor, 178; John D. Frost, 145; Alexander Taylor, 149; and Sarah Taylor, 212.[45] Except for Black, DeBruhl, Frost, and the Taylors, all planted in the fork between the Congaree and Wateree Rivers.

Of the 20 great planters in the county in 1860 identified in Chalmers Davidson's

The Last Foray as having 100 or more slaves within the county, 15 were in the Lower Richland Fork. Of these, five were women, all widows. The planters and the names of their residences were Governor James H. Adams, "Live Oaks", 500 slaves; Mrs. Mary Goodwyn Hopkins Adams, widow of Joel Adams, Jr., "Elm Savannah", 273. Mrs. Keziah Goodwyn Hopkins Brevard, widow of Major Alex Joseph McLeod Brevard, but whose wealth was inherited from her father James Hopkins, lived at "Alwehav" and five other plantations, with 209 slaves. Others were Colonel Thomas Boston Clarkson, "Middleberg", 170; William Clarkson Estate, "The Raft", 211; Mrs. Grace Weston Adams, "Meeting House" Plantation and "Rives", 114; Thomas Roots Davis, "Green Hill", 106. A Columbia building contractor, Davis did not live on his plantation.

In addition were William M. Myers, "Fort Marion", 144; Dr. Duncan Ray (plantation unnamed), 110; Joseph E. Reese, "Woodlawn Place", 110; John Coles Singleton Estate, "Albemarle", 328; Lieuellon Woodward, "The Oaks", 168; Captain Isaac Tucker Weston, "The Bluff" and "Dry Branch Place", 153; and Moultrie Weston (plantation unnamed), 100.[46] Omitted from the Foray list is James U. Adams, whom the 1860 slave schedule lists as having 309 slaves.

Also in the area, but not generally thought of as a Lower Richland planter, was Frank Hampton, "Woodlands", 210 slaves.[47] His brother, Wade Hampton III, is not among the great planters since he had moved slaves and planter activities to Louisiana. Great planters in Upper Richland were Wright Denly, "Piney Wood", 114 slaves; John Davis Frost, "Cherry Hill", 146; and Hilliard D. Hamiter, "Saxe Gotha", 132.[48] Mrs. Sally Webb Taylor, listed with 123 slaves, and Mrs. Lucy Pride Green, with 101 slaves,[49] were planting outside the county: Mrs. Taylor in Lexington County and Mrs. Green in Alabama.

Of the homes of the great planters identified in the 1850 and 1860 census, only six have survived destruction in the Civil War or by later accidental fires. They are the Hopkins family's "Alwehav", "Cabin Branch", and "Magnolia" or "Wavering Place"; the Singletons' "Kensington"; the Westons' "Grovewood"; and the Adams' "Bellaire".

An analysis of the 1860 general and agriculatural censuses reveals that none called themselves planters except for Mrs. Keziah G. H. Brevard, Dr. Duncan Ray, and Governor James H. Adams. The remainder listed themselves as "farmers". Other data emerging from the census and family records were that most of the Lower Richland planters were of Virginia extraction, third or fourth generation planters on the same land, and middle-aged, with Frank Hampton the youngest at 31 and Mary Goodwyn Adams the oldest at 71.

As a group, the Lower Richland planters accounted for more than half of the county's wealth in 1860, the cumulative cash value of their farms amounting to 56% of the county's entire farm valuation of $2,100,825, which represented almost half of the county's total real property value of $5 million. Of the county's total property valuation, real and personal, of $20,263,000, Lower Richland County slaves accounted for almost $15 million. The total valuation figure included property in Columbia, the state's capital.

As a group, their real property (cash value of farms) averaged $45,000-$50,000, with personal property (primarily slaves) almost always tripling real estate values. Plantation size averaged some 3,000 acres, with one-third to one-half of this amount usually under cultivation.

Of the 1,395 households in the county, the planters represented an extremely small

number among the 6,800 whites. But their slaves accounted for the majority of 11,000 blacks enumerated in the 1860 census.

The accompanying 1860 agricultural census shows that the planters practiced a notable degree of diversified farming and did not operate their plantations as single commodity enterprises with cotton the exclusive crop. Cotton yields for 1860 among the plantations generally exceeded 200 bales per plantation, ranging from 100 for Mrs. Grace Adams Davis to 600 for James U. Adams. Large numbers of livestock, swine and foodstuffs for each plantation suggest a high degree of parallel subsistence farming to support the numerous slaves working the cotton fields.

Appearing as the most diversified plantation is "Kensington", being operated by Mrs. Martha Rutledge Kinloch Singleton, widow of Matthew Richard Singleton, with 2,800 of 6,600 acres under cultivation in producing 350 bales of cotton, 10,000 bushels of Indian corn, 300 pounds of rice, 300 bushels Irish and 250 bushels sweet potatoes, as well as hay, wheat, rye and oats and 500 pigs, 50 milk cows, 200 beef cattle, and 200 sheep. An 1857 plat records 40 slave cabins and 13 outbuildings on the property. The slave population was 276 in 1850 and 235 in 1852, according to Colonel Richard Singleton's estate inventory.

More than 30% of the county's 8,600 pounds of rice -- both upland and flooded, lowland rice -- was raised in Lower Richland by the Singletons and others, including J. H. Adams, Keziah Brevard, Jesse Reese, Jacob Geiger and Edward Barnwell Rhett, whose "Goodwill" Plantation west of the Wateree produced 154 bales of cotton in addition to lowland rice on a slave constructed flooded rice field system that diverted two miles of Colonel's Creek over 300 acres.[50]

Home manufactory to supply household items and slave clothing needs from spinning and weaving was reported by all but eight of the large planters in the 1860 census. The 1860 Industrial Census for the county is partially illegible for several entries but does list in manufacturing: individual water and grist mills operated by Jacob Geiger and John Campbell; grist mills for Grace W. Adams, the Singleton Estate, and Richard Singleton; a pottery for Linnaeus Landrum; and a cotton gin for John P. Adams.

As a group the planters appear to have been well educated as well as accomplished in scientific and practical agriculture. The majority were graduates of the South Carolina College, with Harvard, Yale and the University of Virginia also represented. Except for Governor James Hopkins Adams and William M. Myers, who served in the state legislature, none held public office, although several rendered public service as trustees of the state college or insane asylum.[51]

The county was particularly stricken by the Civil War, but precise property losses are difficult to calculate. Extensive looting by Union soldiers occurred throughout the area, according to both written and oral accounts.

The cataclysmic impact of the war impelled dramatic shifting of fortunes and adjustments in agriculture and land ownership patterns. Sharecropping by contract labor with the freed slaves, necessitated by the absence of ready money and the employment of agricultural labor, turned naturally to the reestablishment of cotton cultivation.[52]

The accompanying breaking up of the large plantations was accelerated by the Reconstruction government's 1869-1890 land redistribution program to provide farms and homesteads for landless whites and the freed slaves.[53] Of the 29

counties in the state in which the state land commission purchased tracts for its redistribution system, Richland County ranked third in the number of acres (9,398) acquired and was exceeded only by Charleston (25,501 acres) and Colleton (12,894 acres) Counties.[54] Six tracts, all in Lower Richland, were purchased and platted into 297 parcels.[55] The Hunt and Back Swamp tracts, totaling 1,000 acres, lay in swampland along the Congaree Swamp. Only the Hopkins and O'Hanlon tracts near Hopkins, the Adams tract (8 parcels north of Cedar Creek) and the Hickory Hill tract (41 parcels southeast of Eastover) appear to have been homesteaded. Many of the Richland purchasers apparently forfeited their land under the time payment plan required. Of the 108 holders of deeds of purchase in 1872 on the Hopkins and O'Hanlon tracts, only 64 were still in residence in 1880.[56] Current tax maps of the Hopkins community reveal that present parcels are little changed from the 1872 freedmen's settlement plat. The only freedmen's home found remaining in the county from the settlement period is the expanded 1879 house of Samuel and Harriet Barber on the Hopkins tract.

Of the large antebellum plantations, only the Singletons' "Kensington", now 3,800 acres, and the Heywards' "Goodwill" with 3,288 acres retain appreciable amounts of their original acreage.

By 1883 the county boasted seven towns and trading settlements with a combined business community of 169 stores: Columbia, 154; Eastover and Gadsden, five each; Kingville and Acton, one each; and Shand's, two.[57] The town of Blythewood, which remained in Fairfield County until 1913, had three stores in 1883.[58]

The construction in 1890 of the Columbia, Newberry and Laurens Railroad northwest of Columbia gave rise to the hamlet of White Rock.[59] The rail line, referred to locally as the "Crooked, Noisy and Late" railroad, ran through the heart of

a 14-square-mile area between the Broad and Saluda Rivers, known historically as the "Dutch Fork" and annexed from Lexington County to Richland County March 11, 1922.[60] Settled in the 1730's and 40's by Swiss and Germans, the "Deutsch" Fork developed slowly, isolated in part by the rivers and by cultural and language barriers. There, ethnic differences and the Fork's poor quality of soil produced a small farmer society with few slaves.[61] Characterized as "sturdy, thrifty and industrious" and of "approximately the same cultural and social level as their English, Scotch-Irish and French Huguenot contemporaries,"[62] the German settlers were slow to amalgamate with others and tended to intermarry with their neighbors. Before 1800 many of the Fork Germans were in the Upper Richland area along Cedar Creek. German names still prevalent in the Dutch Fork include Eleazer, Slice, Lindler, Busby, Fulmer, Bundrick, Miller (Muller), Setzler, Lorick, Mayer, Amick, Wise, Harmon, Dreher, Metze, and Leaphart.

Rapid residential and commercial development in the lower Fork has resulted in the last 20 years from the construction of Interstate Highway I-26 and major industrial plants by General Electric and Allied Chemical.

While much of the county still remains undeveloped woodlands and fields, manufacturing and government, followed by finance, insurance and real estate, have replaced agriculture in terms of employment.

With the introduction of soybean planting in 1950, agricultural emphasis turned away from cotton. In 1980 only 800 acres of cotton were grown compared to 23,200 acres of soybeans, 5,800 acres of corn and 3,600 acres of coastal Bermuda hay.[63] Farms and farm sizes continue to diminish as the high costs of farm machinery and production exacerbate farm losses in sequel to the dramatic shift that the breakup of the plantations and change in labor system after 1860 wrought in

reducing the average farm in the state from 488 acres to 65 by 1920.[64] Latest census figures record 356 farms in the county with average farm size being 219 acres.

Until the 1950's the entire unincorporated area, spanning most of the county's 751 miles and 480,640 acres, was almost exclusively undeveloped woodlands and farms. A number of large manufacturing and industrial plants have been built, however, during the past decade. In 1981 the county's $674 million industrial capital investment represented the single highest annual investment amount for any county in the state's history.[65] Accounting for most of this was a $600 million bleached paper mill, the greatest private capital investment to date for the state, being built by Union Camp Corporation near Eastover on a former 3,800-acre cotton plantation tract lying along the west bank of the Wateree River.

Richland County today extends the urban-rural diversity of the past. The non-urban population numbers a scattered 168,527 inhabitants, of which 102,659 are white and 63,346 black (1980 census). Almost half of the area is woodlands and farmlands. There are two rural municipalities, both emerging from late 19th century rail line stations. The county's only town in the northern portion is Blythewood, incorporated December 24, 1879, and known formerly as "Doko", an Indian word for "watering place". In the southeastern area is Eastover, which was incorporated March 7, 1907.[66]

The remainder of the area contains widely separated rural residences, a number of recent high technology factories, several large public and institutional facilities, and a half dozen mining and quarrying operations for granite, crushed stone, sand, clay and kaolin.[67] Public installations include Sesquicentennial

and Harbison State Parks (3,600 acres collectively), the United States Army Training Center at Fort Jackson (established in 1917 on 52,596 acres), and McEntire Air National Guard Base (2,300 acres), site of the 19th century "Live Oak" plantation and residence of Governor (1854-56) James Hopkins Adams.[68] A 15,200-acre tract in the southwestern sector was established as a natural preservation area for wildlife and near-virgin southern forest in 1976 in the Congaree Swamp National Park.

Pressures of state governmental growth, centered in Columbia, and the accompanying trade and transportation opportunities assured by the county's centralized location in the state destine the area to continued developmental change. At present no official mechanism exists for protecting and preserving the rural area's visible historic heritage. Increasing numbers of private efforts to preserve older buildings are encouraging, however.

Activities to preserve important historic and cultural values of the area began almost 50 years ago with the publication in 1932 of Volune One of A History of Richland County, 1732-1805 by Edwin L. Green. Containing abstracts of extant wills from 1747-1864, as well as lists of grantees of colonial land bounties, the book also includes sketches of pioneer families and is the only published history to date of the county as a whole. Also important in providing documented data on local history was the 1976 publication of Lower Richland Planters by Laura Jervey Hopkins.

As part of the City of Columbia's Sesquicentennial observance in 1936, 13 historical markers were erected in the area that year. These were:

HORRELL HILL MARKER. U.S. Route 76, Horrell Hill, 13 miles east of Columbia.

Three hundred yards north is the site of the Richland County Courthouse built about 1794; abandoned when county courts were abolished 1798. Corn was ground in 1781 for Sumter's army at John Marshall's Mill, on Cedar Creek, 3/4 mile east. There has been a mill on this creek since the Revolution.

HOPKINS MARKER. 12.7 miles from Columbia between S.C. 48 and U.S. 76.

Land granted to John Hopkins 1765. Minerva Academy located here 1802-34. Old plantations nearby: Cabin Branch (Hopkins, Chappell); Elm-Savannah (Adams); Live Oak (Gov. J. H. Adams); Greenfield (Goodwyn, Howell); Wavering Place (Tucker, Hopkins, Hayne); Grovewood (Weston).

GADSDEN MARKER. S.C. 48, 21 miles east of Columbia.

Named in honor of James Gadsden, President of the Louisville, Cincinnati and Charleston Railroad. Station built here 1840 was the first railroad station in Richland County. A stage line was operated to Columbia until 1842 and to Camden until 1848.

EARLY SUMMER RESORTS. U.S. 1, Dentsville.

Lightwood Knot Springs, situated about two miles north, a popular summer resort during first half of nineteenth century, was later Confederate training camp for recruits. A few miles east was Rice Creek Springs, another early summer resort and site of Richland Polytechnic Institute, 1830-1845.

SOUTH CAROLINA FEMALE COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE. Two Notch Road, near Covenant Road, Columbia.

At Barhamville, about 1/2 mile west of this point, a famous girls' school, founded by Dr. Elias Marks (1790-1886), was located 1828-65. Among the students were Anna Maria, daughter of John C. Calhoun; Ann Pamela Cuningham, founder of Mt. Vernon Ladies' Association; Martha Bulloch, mother of President Theodore Roosevelt.

EARLY COUNTRY HOMES. Corner of Forest Drive and Beltline Boulevar

In this malaria-free sandhill section were the antebellum summer homes of many Columbians: Quinine Hill (Dr. J. M. Taylor, Dr. James Davis); Hilltop (W. J. Taylor); Edgehill (B. F. Taylor); Laurel Hill (D. J. McCord); Cooper's Hill (Thomas Cooper); Windy Hill (Langdon Cheves); Rose Hill (Arthur Middleton); Diamond Hill (Singleton, McDuffie, Hampton).

FISHER'S MILL ON GILL CREEK. Forest Drive, about 100 yards east Trenholm Road, Columbia.

About 1800, Colonel Thomas Taylor erected the small build 1/4 mile upstream, were cotton goods were woven for his plantation needs. Here John and Edward Fisher later esta lished one of the earliest spinning mills in Richland Cou using slave labor and manufacturing cotton yarn.

EARLY RICHLAND COUNTY SETTLEMENTS. Bluff Road (S.C. 48) at it Mill Creek, south of Columbia.

First settlements made about 1740 on this creek, origina called Raiford's, now Mill Creek. Howell's Ferry across Congaree River below creek's mouth was used 1756 through the Revolution. John Pearson (1743-1819), born near he was first known white child born in bounds of present county.

WATEREE RIVER FERRIES. U.S. 76/378 at Richland-Sumter County miles east of Columbia.

River took its name from Wateree Indians, a Siouan tri which occupied the valley until about 1715. Near this was Simmons' Upper Ferry, used during the Revolution; called Brisbanes, then Garners Ferry. Used until brid completed in 1922.

ANTEBELLUM PLANTATIONS. Intersection of U.S. 76 and S.C. 764, east of Columbia.

Among the early Richland County plantations between the Wateree River and Columbia were: Deer Pond and Kensington (Singleton); Goodwill (Huger, Heyward); Nut Shell (Bynum, Heyward); the Raft and Middleburg (Clarkson).

CONGAREE BAPTIST CHURCH. At Horrell Hill on U.S. 76.

A few miles south was the site of original Congaree Baptist Church, organized 1766 with the Rev. Joseph Reese as pastor. Probably first church in bounds of present Richland County. Since 1800 located on Tom's Creek, 22 miles south of Columbia.

WOODLANDS AND MILLWOOD. 100 Hampton Place, just off Garners Ferry Road, Columbia.

One and a half miles south was Woodlands, built before 1800 by Wade Hampton I (1752-1835), Colonel in Revolution, Major General in War of 1812. One-fourth mile north was Millwood, built before 1820 by Wade Hampton II (1791-1858), aide to General Jackson, War of 1812. Boyhood home of Wade Hampton III (1818-1902), Lieutenant General, C.S.A.; Governor of South Carolina 1876-79. Union troops burned both houses 1865.

CAMP JACKSON. Corner of Wildcat and Garners Ferry Roads, Columbia.

Named in honor of General Andrew Jackson. This cantonment site one and one-half miles north was approved by the War Department June 2, 1917. Maximum strength was recorded in June 1918: 3,302 officers; 45,402 men. 81st Division was trained here August 29, 1917 - May 18, 1918; the 5th Division stationed here October 20, 1920 - October 4, 1921. Made a training camp for national guard 1925.

Several of these markers have been replaced. Only two new markers have been erected in the rural county since 1936. These are:

GRAVE OF JOSEPH REESE. U.S. 76 at S-40-222, 10 miles east of Columbia.

> Joseph Reese, pioneer Baptist minister and Revoluntionary patriot who died in 1795, is buried 2 miles southwest of here. Born in Pennsylvania, he came to the Congarees in 1745, became a Baptist as a result of Philip Mulkey's preaching, and was ordained by Oliver Hart and Evan Pugh. Reese won Richard Furman to the Baptists and was the first pastor of Congaree Baptist Church. (Erected 1876 by the S. C. Baptist Historical Society.)

RICHLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH. County Road 1314.

> This church building was dedicated in May 1884 by Dr. John L. Girardeau. The congregation of 11 members, including two elders and one deacon, was organized on the Sabbath Day, November 16, 1884, by the Charleston Presbytery. In 1914 the church became a charter member of Congaree Presbytery, moving to Eastover in August 1922. (Erected 1980 by the congregation.)

The organization in the late 1950's of the Richland County Historical Society renewed interest in local historic preservation. And although the society was unsuccessful in efforts in 1969 to save "Kensington", vacant and deteriorating since 1940, those efforts did lead to the listing by the State Archives Department of the property in 1971 on the National Register. It remains to date the only Register entry in the rural county. In 1980 these efforts were carried further by the Central Midlands Regional Planning Council's (CMRPC) Regional Historic Preservation Advisory Committee and the Archives Department in arranging for

measured drawings to be made of the house. In May 1981, Union Camp Corporation purchased the property, immediately secured the house from further weather damage and vandalism, and agreed to preserve the 29-room, three-storey dwelling in culmination of a year of coordination and cooperative planning with state and local historical interests in joint recognition of the house's exceptional historical and architectural significance.

The society also sponsored a tour of historic sites of Lower Richland in 1971, based on a survey by Mrs. Mabel Payne and Dr. William Seale. The tour followed a highly successful project in 1969 in reprinting of E. J. Scott's 1884 Random Recollections.

An initial historical survey of the area was conducted jointly in 1972-73 by the Central Midlands Regional Planning Council and the South Carolina Archives Department, with a more comprehensive one concluded in 1980. Survey findings revealed a scant number of early buildings and structures, the result of vast Revolutionary and Civil War destruction as well as vulnerability of a predominantly wooden building stock to both accidental and electrical storm fires.

Thus the 24-30 identified antebellum buildings provide only a partial view of the overall historical, cultural and architectural development of the capital city's rural surroundings. Civil War destruction of land and probate records further veils a clear perspective of much of the area's 18th and early 19th century buildings. Scattered records recall numerous 19th century grist and saw mills, private schools and academies, and country stores, now gone. Of some 600-800 white dwellings and more than 1,000 slave cabins, along with 18 churches listed in the county's outlying areas in the 1860 census, some ten dwellings -- with a few adjacent slave cabins -- and three churches remain from the antebellum

period intact enough to be eligible for National Register nomination. Virtually no sharecropper's dwellings remain in the county from the land tenancy period following the Civil War until the 1940's. One known 19th century store, a ca. 1853 commercial building, the Wateree Store is situated in the county's far southeast sector west of the Wateree River.

Diverse in style and execution, but uniformly frame and clapboard, early residences exhibit the almost universal preference for available and easily fashioned wood as a building medium. They also depict the varying and changing life-styles of the farmers and planters whose common attention to cotton cultivation from 1800 until 1930 united them in a single, interdependent interest.

Eleven early churches are equally important as much as historical benchmarks of community identity as cherished social centers, valued for their individualistic architectural expressions of firmly held spiritual values.

Primary preservation achievement has been by the private owners of individual properties. Continuous family ownership of many of the older dwellings has assured the maintenance and upkeep of these properties. In appreciation of their preservation stewardship, the Historic Columbia Foundation, in special ceremonies in May 1981 in which the County Historical Society merged with the Foundation, awarded citations to the owners of the Kaminer House, "Grovewood", St. Thomas Episcopal Church, and St. John's Episcopal Church, Congaree.

And as a result of the comprehensive historical survey conducted by the Central Midlands Regional Planning Council and the South Carolina Archives Department, the Richland County Bicentennial Commission, with Richland County Council, awarded landmark plaques and certificates September 19 and 20, 1981, to 50 properties.

in the rural area as the best surviving representatives of buildings -- from colonial settlement to 1930 -- depicting the county's overall historical development. The plaque presentation expanded a designation program for the City of Columbia in 1979 when 100 buildings there were marked. It also represented the first time that official recognition, through co-sponsorship of the County Council, was extended to historic properties in the county's rural areas.

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