

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received

date entered 3/27/86

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Lower Richland County Multiple Resource Area

and or common

2. Location

street & number Richland County below the city limits of Columbia, the NA not for publication
boundary of Fort Jackson, and the Kershaw County line.

city, town _____ vicinity of _____

state South Carolina code 045 county Richland code 079

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	NA in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> multiple resource	NA being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: hunting
				preserve

4. Owner of Property

name Multiple Ownership (see Individual Inventory Forms)

street & number

city, town _____ vicinity of _____ state _____

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Richland County Judicial Center

street & number Main Street

city, town Columbia state South Carolina

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

South Carolina Inventory
title of Historic Places has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1979-1984 federal state county local

depository for survey records South Carolina Department of Archives and History

city, town Columbia state South Carolina 29211

Lower Richland County Multiple Resource Area
Richland County

Barber House
Keziah Goodwyn Hopkins Brevard House
J.A. Byrd Mercantile Store
Farmers and Merchants Bank Building
Good Hope Baptist Church
Goodwill Plantation
Groewood
Hopkins Graded School
Hopkins Presbyterian Church
John J. Kaminer House
Laurelwood
Magnolia
Oakwood
Richland Presbyterian Church
St. Thomas' Protestant Episcopal Church
Claudius Scott Cottage
Zion Protestant Episcopal Church

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below					
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation		
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify)	Black History	

Specific dates ca. 1795-ca. 1935 Builder/Architect NA

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The nomination for the Lower Richland County Multiple Resource Area includes seventeen individually nominated properties within the previously stated (see DESCRIPTION) bounds of Lower Richland County, which are of historical and/or architectural significance to the locality and state. Dating from ca. 1795 to ca. 1935, these resources, along with one other property in Lower Richland County already listed on the National Register, serve as a visible reminder of the area's rich and varied history. Located between the Congaree and Wateree Rivers above their convergence to form the Santee River, Lower Richland County developed as an agricultural region southeast of the city of Columbia, the seat of the county and of state government, established by an act of the legislature in 1786.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Richland County's establishment commenced when, by an act of the General Assembly dated March 16, 1783, commissioners were appointed to divide Camden District into seven counties.¹ These became Richland, Fairfield, Claremont, Clarendon, Lancaster, Chester, and York Counties, as reported by an act of March 12, 1785.² This act stated that "one other county beginning at the corner of Clarendon County at Pe[a]rson's Island, thence up the Congaree River to the mouth of Cedar Creek thence on a straight line to the mouth of Twenty-five Mile Creek, thence down the Wateree River to the beginning, and shall be called Richland County."³ The name of this county or district is said to have originated either from the large bodies of rich highland swamp, which border on its rivers, or from that of one of Col. Thomas Taylor's plantations, "Rich Land."⁴ In 1786, yet another act passed the state legislature establishing an inland capital to be located on the east side of the Congaree River at the confluence of the Broad and Saluda Rivers and just above Granby. Though of significance after 1786, Richland County's history seems to have been somewhat overshadowed or, at best, synonymous with that of Columbia.

While Columbia has garnered more attention than the county it serves, Lower Richland County has nevertheless had a varied and colorful history.

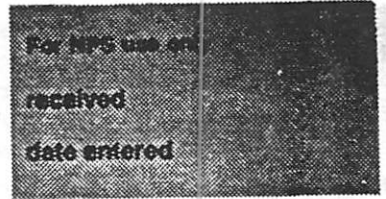
The region between the Congaree (now Broad) and Catawba (now Wateree) Rivers -early English visitors found to be a common hunting ground of the Cherokees and Catawbas. Indians from the north, even as far away as Canada, came here to hunt game.⁵ John Lawson, during his visit to the Congarees in January 1701, described the Congaree Indian settlements as scattered over the area which is now Richland County.⁶

According to Robert Mill's Statistics of South Carolina, published in 1826, the first white settlement of Richland District was made ca. 1740 at the juncture of Broad River and Cane (Crane) Creek, where there were established cowpens by Benjamin Singleton.⁷ The fact that he established cowpens within the district does not, however, mean that he settled or lived there.⁸

The first recorded grants in the county, all in Lower Richland, were to four men who took up land for speculation in 1732. These were Dr. Daniel Gibson, Henry Gignilliat, Jacob Satur, and Thomas Stitsmith. Their property, totaling 1800 acres, was located on

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Properties included within the boundaries of the Lower Richland County Multiple Resource Area already listed on the National Register of Historic Places:

Kensington Plantation House 1-25-71

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the Congaree River at the mouth of Gills Creek, just across the river from the Congaree Fort and trading post in Lexington County. These speculators thought that since their property was located near to Congaree Fort at a major crossroads in the frontier Upcountry, this virgin territory with rich, fertile soil was choice land for development. They were disappointed, however, because the population increased very slowly over the next thirty years. Only three others, Mary Russell, Thomas Brown, and George Haig, acquired title to lands in Lower Richland prior to 1740.⁹

The first English settlement was on Mill Creek (originally Raiford's) below the Bluff Road, where Philip Raiford, Thomas Wallexelson, John Pearson and others made their homes. Soon William, Arthur and Thomas Howell would come from Maryland, the Goodwyns and Taylors from Virginia, and the Reeses (originally Rees) from Pennsylvania.¹⁰

Additional settlers moved in the 1740s up the west bank of the Wateree, where were found such names as Hasford, Smith, Singleton, Puckett, Rayne, Dungworth, Toland, Allison, Broadway, Coran, Evans, Cook, Stark, and Odom, some of whom were original grantees of lands later comprising Goodwill Plantation.¹¹ (see Individual Inventory form.) Others settled at a point on the Wateree River known as 'The Raft'.¹² Lands higher up (Sandhills) were granted in the course of time, particularly after the McCord's Ferry Road was opened in 1768. So-called "Sandhillers," poor whites, or "degraded English humanity," were squatting, or securing titles, very early.¹³ Some of these were fugitives who had no desire to have their names recorded anywhere.

During the Revolutionary War, there were approximately 1200 to 1500 whites living within the bounds of the area which later became Richland County. A majority of these had come from Virginia or North Carolina and held considerable sway over South Carolina at the onset of the war. Officers of the regiment from this region were all from Virginia.¹⁴

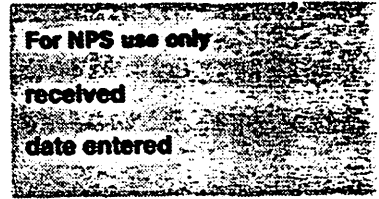
The population of Richland County in 1790 consisted of 2,479 free white persons, 14 other free persons, and 1437 slaves, with a total of 3,930.¹⁵ By 1800, the white population had not increased sizably, but the slave population reached 3,033, a significant increase, while free blacks numbered 135.¹⁶

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 in Lower Richland County at Horrell Hill, earlier called Meyer's Hill; but in December of 1799 the county seat and courthouse were moved to Columbia.¹⁷

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), and Joseph Joyner (later John McCord, then Grace Russell). Before 1783 ferries were maintained on the Wateree by a Mr. James, General Thomas Sumter, and Adam Fowler Brisbane.

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The county was particularly stricken by the Civil War, but precise property losses are difficult to calculate. Troops under the command of General Edward E. Potter destroyed a great deal of property from the Kingville vicinity to Columbia, much of it owned by the railroad.²⁸ On the Congaree River, the bridge and about one hundred feet of contiguous trestling were burned. At Kingville, flames consumed the hotel, depots, agent's house, and about three-thousand feet of track. The depot at Gadsden, the water tank, three-hundred feet of track, and eight freight cars were wiped out. From the one hundred and fifteenth mile marker (below Hopkins) to Columbia, everything was swept, including all buildings in and near the city, with the exception of the depot and agent's house at Hopkins, and the carpenter's house two miles below.²⁹

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.³⁰

The accompanying breakup 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 freed slaves.³¹ In Lower Richland County six tracts containing 9,398 acres were purchased and platted into 297 parcels.³² Only the Hopkins and O'Hanlon tracts near Hopkins, the Adams tract north of Cedar Creek (Lower Richland), and the Hickory Hill tract near Eastover appear to have been homesteaded.³³ The only freedmen's home associated with the South Carolina Land Commission that has been identified is the expanded ca. 1880 house of Samuel and Harriet Barber on the former Hopkins tract (see Individual Inventory form).

Of the large antebellum plantations, only the Singletons' Kensington, (listed on the National Register, 1971), now 3,800 acres, and the Hugers' and Heywards' Goodwill with 3,288 acres retain appreciable amounts of their original acreage.

Construction in 1871 of the Wilmington, Columbia and Augusta Railroad parallel to and above the 1842 South Carolina Railroad line, linked Lower Richland to further markets and generated the town of Eastover, which declined before 1930, due to the cotton depression of the early 1920s.³⁴

The boll weevil entered South Carolina in 1917. By 1921, it had spread over the entire state. Cotton production in the state dropped from 1,623,000 bales in 1920 to 493,000 bales in 1922, or nearly 70%. In two years, from 1920 to 1922, the acreage in cotton decreased from 2,964,000 acres to 1,912,000 acres, or 35.5%.³⁵ This disaster brought depression to such Lower Richland County communities as Eastover. Though these decreases can be attributed largely to the boll weevil, much lower prices and bad seasons also played their part.³⁶

Until the 1950s, the entire area known as Lower Richland, spanning a third to one-half of the county's 751 square miles and 480,640 acres, was almost exclusively undeveloped woodlands and farms.

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Industry

One property included in the Lower Richland County multiple resource nomination which is associated with the significance of industry in the county is Goodwill Plantation (see Individual Inventory form). On this property is located a building containing a grist mill, a saw mill, and a cotton gin. A mill pond is also located on the property. These resources contribute to an understanding of the plantation's development, as well as an understanding of farm industry in the area.

Religion

Early settlers to the Richland County area were largely without ecclesiastical direction. In Lower Richland, Congaree Baptist was organized November 30, 1765. Richland County branches of the Congaree congregation included Sandy Level Baptist Church (ca. 1785 near Blythewood), Colonel's Creek Baptist (ca. 1800), Beulah Church (1805), and Good Hope Baptist (constructed ca. 1857, dismissed from Congaree, 1866).³⁹ Only Congaree, Sandy Level and Good Hope (see Individual Inventory form) remain as antebellum buildings.

The first Episcopal services in the rural county are believed to have been held in Lower Richland in a slave chapel built on William Clarkson's Middleburg Plantation ca. 1820. Zion Protestant Episcopal Church grew out of this chapel in 1845, being organized by a few white families. Zion's current 1911 church building in Eastover (see Individual Inventory form) replaced another on the same site. St. John's Episcopal Church, Congaree, was built on property donated by planter-physician Dr. William Weston in 1859. The original church building burned on December 26, 1981, and has since been reconstructed.⁴⁰

Post-Civil War churches in Lower Richland County include the St. Thomas' Protestant Episcopal Church, founded as a mission to the black residents of Lower Richland (see Individual Inventory form), the ca. 1885 Richland Presbyterian Church near Gadsden (see Individual Inventory form), and the ca. 1891 Hopkins Presbyterian Church.

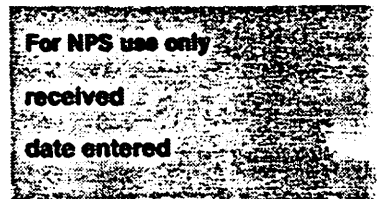
Architecture

Many of the buildings included in the nomination are significant architecturally. They display the range of vernacular building types and stylistic influences that were predominant from the early nineteenth to the early twentieth century in the county. Several of the buildings are excellent examples of the leading architectural styles of the era and embody the distinctive characteristics of those styles. Several buildings are the work of distinguished professional architects. A number of the buildings nominated possess high artistic value in their design and workmanship.

The Farmers and Merchants Bank Building (1910) (see Individual Inventory form) is the work of the noted Columbia architectural firm, Wilson & Sompayrac. The senior member of this firm, Charles C. Wilson, was active in South Carolina and the region from 1891 to 1933. The building is a relatively elegant design, expressing well its multiple purposes. Adjacent to this property is the J. A. Byrd Mercantile Store (ca. 1910) (see Individual Inventory form), which, with its elaborate and sophisticated facade of blond brick, cast stone, and marble, has high artistic value.

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FOOTNOTES

¹ Edwin L. Green, A History of Richland County, Volume One, 1732-1805 (Baltimore, Md.: Regional Publishing Company, 1974), p. 1.

² Ibid.; "Guide Maps to the Development of South Carolina Parishes, Districts, and Counties," South Carolina Department of Archives and History, Columbia, S. C.

³ Green, p. 1.

⁴ Robert Mills, Statistics of South Carolina (Charleston, S. C.: Hurlbut and Lloyd, 1826; reprint ed., Spartanburg, S. C.: The Reprint Company, 1972), pp. 692-93.

⁵ Green, p. 8.

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ Mills, Statistics of South Carolina, p. 692.

⁸ Green, p. 26.

⁹ William F. Medlin, Richland County Landmarks: Vol. I., Lower Richland (Columbia, S. C.: Ben Franklin Press, 1981), pp. 94-95.

¹⁰ Mills, Statistics of South Carolina, p. 692.

¹¹ Green, p. 26; Robert L. Meriwether, The Expansion of South Carolina 1729-1765 (Philadelphia, Pa.: Porcupine Press, 1974), p. 30.

¹² Medlin, p. 95.

¹³ Green, pp. 30-31.

¹⁴ Ibid., p. 83.

¹⁵ Population Schedules of the First Census of the United States, 1790: South Carolina (Washington, DC: National Archives Microfilm Publications, 1958).

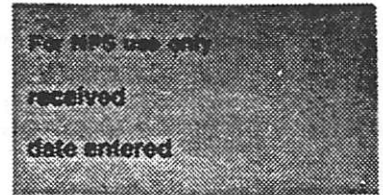
¹⁶ Population Schedules of the Second Census of the United States, 1800: South Carolina (Washington, DC: National Archives Microfilm Publications, 1965).

¹⁷ Green, pp. 156, 201.

¹⁸ Ibid., pp. 113-119, 311.

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³⁴Derrick, "Transportation," pp. 354-355.

³⁵Department of Agriculture, Commerce and Industries, and Clemson College, South Carolina: A Handbook (Columbia, S. C.: n.p., 1927), p. 130.

³⁶Ibid.

³⁷State Board of Agriculture of South Carolina, South Carolina Resources and Population, Institutions and Industries (Charleston, S. C.: Walker, Evans, and Cogswell, 1883), pp. 545-549.

³⁸Ibid.

³⁹Green, pp. 122-131.

⁴⁰Central Midlands Regional Planning Council, Central Midlands Historic Preservation Survey (Columbia, S. C.: CMRPC, 1974), p. 269; Thomas Boston Clarkson, Sr., "History of Zion Church Richland," 1870, Manuscript Minutes, Zion Episcopal Church, South Caroliniana Library, Columbia, S. C.: Laura Jervey Hopkins, History of St. John's Episcopal Church 1858-1958 (n.p.: n.p., n.d.), pp. 12-13.

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Department of Archives and History. "Agriculture, Industry, Social Statistics, and Mortality Schedules for South Carolina, 1850-1880." Columbia, S.C.: Department of Archives and History Microfilms, 1971.
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