

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

For NPS use only

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received FEB 5 1987

date entered  
MAR 22 1987

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

**1. Name**

historic William Elliott White House

and/or common

**2. Location**

street & number North White Street (S.C. Highway 160) N/A not for publication

city, town Fort Mill  vicinity of

state South Carolina code 045 county York code 091

**3. Classification**

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

**4. Owner of Property**

name Mrs. Anne Springs Close

street & number P.O. Box 100

city, town Fort Mill N/A vicinity of state South Carolina 29715

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. York County Courthouse

street & number 100 South Congress Street

city, town York state South Carolina 29745

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title S.C. Inventory of Historic Places has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date November 1975  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records South Carolina Department of Archives and History

city, town Columbia state South Carolina 29211

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## 7. Description

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<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved    date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

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### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The William Elliott White House is located in York County near the town of Fort Mill. It is a brick residence consisting of a two-story core with one-story wings on each side. The two-story core, which was built in 1831 for William Elliott White by contractor Thomas B. Hoover, has elements of Federal high-style composition and design. Elliott White Springs, a descendant of the original owner, acquired the house in 1911. He added the east wing in 1922, the west wing in 1936, and the greenhouse/pool in 1955. The east and west wings complement the design and materials of the original house and do not significantly impair its integrity. In addition, these wings are important for their association with the career of Elliott White Springs, a major South Carolina industrialist. The house basically achieved its present form in 1936; the 1955 greenhouse/pool addition, which is partially obscured by shrubbery, does not compromise its integrity.

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The core of the William Elliott White House is a two-story brick building with a formal five-bay facade and a central-hall, double-pile plan. The building has Flemish bond brickwork and a gable roof with stepped parapets. The facade (south elevation) features a central entrance with double-leaf doors and a semicircular fanlight beneath a brick arch with gauged voussoirs. A pedimented portico with slender Tuscan columns and a full entablature shelters the entrance. The windows on the first and second floors have nine-over-nine, double-hung sashes with louvered shutters and flat brick arches. There is a corbeled brick cornice on the facade.

The east and west elevations are partially obscured by the additions. These elevations are three bays wide, with twin brick chimneys. The gable ends are pedimented, with semicircular fanlights in the tympanae, and stepped parapets rising above the pediment. The chimneys have plaster necking bands and corbeled caps.

The north elevation is similar to the south elevation, but with a simple pedimented door surround instead of a portico. The central second-story window on the north elevation has a recessed brick panel in its lower span and a half-height sash above, reflecting the stair landing behind. The roofing is standing-seam metal.

The east wing consists of a one-story brick arcaded gallery with two semi-circular, twelve-over-twelve windows flanking each side of a French door with semi-circular fanlight and a keystone. This gallery is connected to a one-story, gable-roofed block containing a garage and other service rooms. The extension matches the brickwork and complements the composition of the original building. The west addition has a four-bay gallery with four six-over-nine windows connecting the main house to a one-story, three-bay block. Again, the brickwork and design of the wing complement the original house. A greenhouse and swimming pool are attached to the east wing.

### Interior

The original section of the house has a central-hall, double-pile plan and noteworthy plaster detailing. There is a formal parlor with pocket doors opening to a library on the west side of the hall. The parlor features built-in bookcases, plaster cornices, and a large plaster ceiling medallion with a chandelier. A formal dining room on the east side of the hall features paneled wainscoting. On each floor, the four main rooms have fireplaces

## 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 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 type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input 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 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 type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates** 1831,1922,1936,1955 **Builder/Architect** Thomas B. Hoover - Builder

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Located in York County near the town of Fort Mill, the William Elliott White House was built in 1831 by Thomas B. Hoover, a York County contractor, for William Elliott White. The house is architecturally significant for its adaptation of Federal design elements in upcountry South Carolina. In addition, it has historical significance as the site of what is believed to have been the last full meeting of the Cabinet of the Confederate States of America and as the home of Elliott White Springs (1896–1959), South Carolina textile magnate and author.

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

William Elliott White inherited an extensive amount of property upon the death of his parents in the early decades of the nineteenth century.(1) On March 31, 1831, he contracted with Thomas B. Hoover to construct this house for \$5,000.(2) White became a prominent York County landowner but later moved to Charlotte, North Carolina, where he died ca. 1865.(3) The house was passed through the family and was inherited by Elliott White Springs in 1911.(4) Elliott White Springs did not live in the house until his marriage in 1922, when he renovated and expanded the house. He later added wings and the greenhouse/pool.(5) At the death of Springs in 1959 the William Elliott White House was left jointly to his eight grandchildren, the children of Anne Springs Close.(6)

### Architecture

The William Elliott White House is a significant early-nineteenth century residence, with elements of the Federal high-style in its noteworthy design and details. The formal symmetry of the facade, the tall proportions and slender mullions of the windows, and the elegant south portico (which may have been derived from an architectural pattern book) are typical of the style. The pedimented gables, stepped parapets, and interior plan and detailing also indicate Federal-style design precedent. The expression of this high-style design in the then relatively undeveloped north central part of the state, as well as the high-quality craftsmanship of the brick and plaster work, are noteworthy. Very few comparable residences of this period have been identified in York County.

### Politics/Government

The William Elliott White House played an important part in Confederate President Jefferson Davis's flight through South Carolina in April 1865. Davis, along with most of his cabinet, a cavalry escort, supplies, and a portion of the Confederate archives and treasury, left Charlotte, North Carolina, on April 26, 1865, heading south and west.(7) Secretary of the Treasury George A. Trenholm and part of the cabinet spent the night at the William Elliott White House while Davis and the rest of the attendant cabinet members spent the night at nearby Springfield Plantation. The next morning, April 27,

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheets

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property approx. 8 acres

Quadrangle name Fort Mill, S.C./N.C.

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

### UTM References

A 

1	7	5	0	4	5	3	5	3	8	7	4	6	1	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

E 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

### Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundary of the William Elliott White House nomination is shown as the heavy yellow line on the accompanying York County Tax Map # 710, drawn at a scale of 1"=330'. The boundary includes the house and its landscaped lot.

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Debra J. Allen, National Register Assistant / Paul Gettys, Catawba Regional Planning / John E. Wells, Architectural Historian / Council; revised by J. Tracy Power, Historian, S.C. Department of Archives

organization S.C. Department of Archives and History date and History Revised December 1985

street & number 1430 Senate Street telephone (803) 734-8608

city or town Columbia state South Carolina 29211

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Charles E. Lee  
title State Historic Preservation Officer

date 1/26/87

For NPS use only  
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

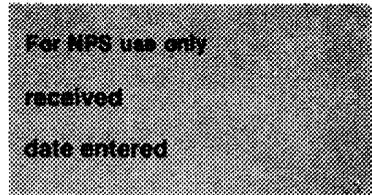
date 3/22/87

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: Chief of Registration date

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with marble inlay. The wings contain bedrooms, baths, kitchens, and other informal rooms.

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Lavis called a cabinet meeting on the lawn of the White House to elect a successor to Secretary Trenholm, who had resigned.(8) The President and cabinet members then continued on their way to Yorkville (present-day York).

Industry

Several of the owners of the William Elliott White House have been prominent citizens of the area, but the most significant was Elliott White Springs. Springs began his business career as a cotton weigher in 1919. In 1920 he became secretary-treasurer of the Kershaw Cotton Mills. When Colonel Leroy Springs, his father and founder of the Springs cotton mills, died in 1931, Elliott White Springs took over operation of the mills. By 1935 he was president of mills in Fort Mill, Lancaster, Kershaw, and Chester. The Springs mills were expanded and upgraded in the 1930s and 1940s into one of the most successful textile organizations in the Southeast. Springs paid particular attention to the productivity and morale of his employees, establishing company hospitals, stores, recreational facilities, and other institutions and programs designed to improve working conditions. The Springs mills contributed significant amounts of fabric and other goods to the American war effort in World War II. A quite controversial but effective advertising campaign for Springmaid sheets and other Springs products helped to make Springs Mills a household name after the war. Springs, through his cotton mills, was instrumental in the economic development and growth of much of Chester, Lancaster, and York counties from the 1930s to his death in 1959, creating thousands of jobs, civic and cultural facilities, and benefits to Springs employees and area residents. Through the Springs mills Elliott White Springs was a major influence in the textile industry and in the industrial development of South Carolina in the twentieth century.(9)

Elliott White Springs's career in the textile industry extended from 1919 to the 1950s. Since he had achieved significance in the textile industry in South Carolina prior to 1936, however, the fifty-year exclusion does not apply in this case.

Literature

Elliott White Springs was significant as the writer of short stories in the 1920s and 1930s which popularized the adventures of American and British pilots of World War I and told tales of the "lost generation" which attempted to adjust to modern life after the war ended. Springs's literary career began as a direct result of his own wartime experiences. He flew as a pilot in the Royal Flying Corps in 1917-18 and rose to the rank of captain and squadron commander. Springs shot

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down eleven German planes, qualifying him as one of the top American aces of the war.(10)

In 1926 Springs sent a manuscript which he titled "War Birds: Diary of an Unknown Aviator" to Liberty, a popular weekly magazine of the day. The magazine published "War Birds" in several installments which were enthusiastically received by the public and praised for their realism and sense of adventure. War Birds, which purported to be the diary of an American pilot killed in 1918, was eventually published in book form as if Springs had edited it. It is actually a composite sketch of American pilots serving in the Royal Flying Corps, written by Springs using a fellow pilot's diary, his own diary, family letters, and his recollections to create the "diary." It is told in a style which maximizes the excitement and danger of aerial combat and the rollicking adventures of off-duty pilots. It is still widely assumed that War Birds is an authentic diary edited by Springs.(11)

After the immense success of War Birds Springs wrote many articles and short stories for such magazines as Liberty, Harper's, and McClure's. Many of them were influential as an example of early fiction about the war. Some of the most important stories were collected in hardcover with such titles as Nocturne Militaire (1927), Above the Bright Blue Sky: More About the War Birds (1928), and The Rise and Fall of Carol Banks (1931). Springs also wrote two generally autobiographical novels about the war and its effect on his generation: Leave Me With a Smile(1928), and Contact: A Romance of the Air (1930). Springs's major significance as a writer came from the impact his stories had on an American public eager to read about the exploits of the World War pilots.(12)

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NOTES

(1) Case 64, File 463 and Case 43, File 740, York County Probate Records, York County Courthouse, York, S.C.

(2) Fort Mill (S.C.) Times, November 2, 1911.

(3) File 57, Envelope 2584, York County Probate Records, York County Courthouse; Risher R. Fairey, "The William Elliott (sic) White Homestead of Fort Mill, South Carolina," Camden, S.C., 1982. (Typewritten).

(4) File 57, Envelope 2584 and File 149, Envelope 5691, York County Probate Records; Book Y, p. 424, York County Deeds, York County Courthouse; The Lancaster (S.C.) News, March 15, 1940.

(5) The Lancaster (S.C.) News, March 15, 1940.

(6) File 421, Envelope 13097, York County Probate Records, York County Courthouse.

(7) James Elliott Walmsley, "The Last Meeting of the Confederate Cabinet," Bulletin of the Winthrop Normal and Industrial College of South Carolina 12 (June 1919): 9.

(8) Nora Marshall Davis, "Jefferson Davis's Route from Richmond, Virginia, to Irwinville, Georgia, April 2-May 10, 1865," The Proceedings of the South Carolina Historical Association (1941), pp. 13-14.

(9) Katherine Wooten Springs, The Squires of Springfield (Charlotte, N.C.: William Lofton, 1965), pp. 322-23; Walker Scott Utsey, ed., Who's Who in South Carolina (Columbia, S.C.: Current Historical Association, 1934-35), p. 449; Men of Achievement in the Carolinas (Charlotte, N.C.: Men of Achievement, Inc., ca. 1952), p. 323; Elliott White Springs, Clothes Make the Man (n.p., 1948), passim.

(10) He also won the Distinguished Service Cross (American) and the Distinguished Flying Cross (British). Helen Vassy Callison, "The Literary Achievement of Elliott White Springs" (Ph.D. dissertation, University of South Carolina, 1974), pp. 1-2, Appendix B, "The Princeton War Records," "Copy of War Department Records," and Clarke Olney, "The Literary Career of Elliott White Springs," Georgia Review 11 (Winter 1957): 401.

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(11) Callison, pp. 11-47. For example, Olney, pp. 402-03, accepts the story of Grider as diarist and Springs as editor.

(12) Olney, pp. 403-05, 408-09; Callison, pp. 59-72, 153-57.

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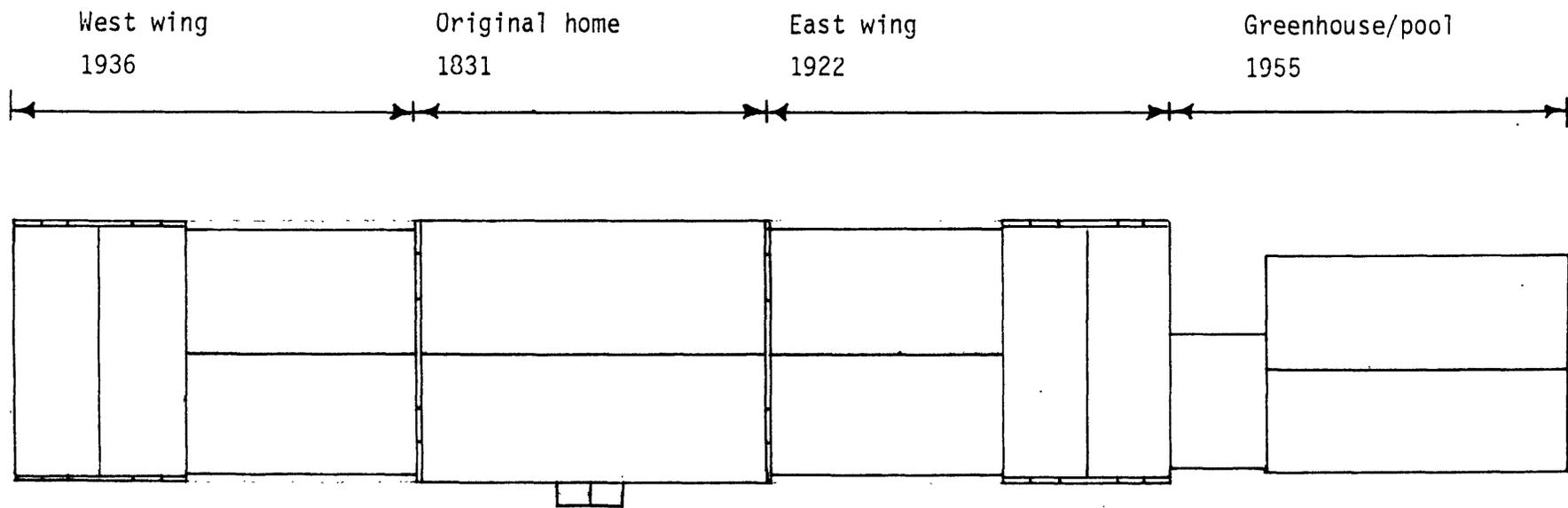
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- Davis, Nora Marshall. "Jefferson Davis's Route from Richmond, Virginia, to Irwinville, Georgia, April 2 - May 10, 1865." The Proceedings of the South Carolina Historical Association (1941): 11-20.
- Fairey, Risher R. "The William Elliott White Homestead of Fort Mill, South Carolina." Unpublished typescript, Camden, S.C., 1982.
- Fort Mill (S.C.) Times, November 2, 1911.
- The Lancaster (S.C.) News, March 15, 1940.
- Men of Achievement in the Carolinas. Charlotte, N.C.: Men of Achievement, Inc., ca. 1952.
- Olney, Clarke. "The Literary Career of Elliott White Springs." Georgia Review 11 (Winter 1957): 401-411.
- Springs, Elliott White. Clothes Make the Man. n.p., 1948.
- Springs, Katherine Wooten. The Squires of Springfield. Charlotte, N.C.: William Lofton, 1965.
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- . York County Probate Records.



William Elliott White Homestead, Fort Mill, S.C., showing original home and additions with dates of construction. Not to scale.

Source: Catawba Regional Planning Council