

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED MAY 28 1980
DATE ENTERED AUG 7 1980

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Benjamin McCoy House (preferred)

AND/OR COMMON

Banbury Cross

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Kershaw County Secondary Road #15

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Cassatt

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

VICINITY OF

Fifth

STATE

South Carolina

CODE

045

COUNTY

Kershaw

CODE

055

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE

BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- MUSEUM
- COMMERCIAL
- PARK
- EDUCATIONAL
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ENTERTAINMENT
- RELIGIOUS
- GOVERNMENT
- SCIENTIFIC
- INDUSTRIAL
- TRANSPORTATION
- MILITARY
- OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

John T. French

STREET & NUMBER

Route 2

CITY, TOWN

Cassatt

VICINITY OF

STATE

South Carolina

29032

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Kershaw County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Broad Street

CITY, TOWN

Camden

STATE

South Carolina

29020

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Inventory of Historic Places in South Carolina

DATE

1978 (update)

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

South Carolina Department of Archives and History

CITY, TOWN

Columbia

STATE

South Carolina

29211

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE		CHECK ONE	
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE		
<input checked="" 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				

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Benjamin McCoy House is located approximately 2.5 miles south of Cassatt in Kershaw County, some 12 miles northeast of Camden, the county seat. It stands on a one acre, tree-shaded lot adjacent to county road No. 15; the setting is rural and agricultural.

The two-story, hewn heavy timbered, framed house was erected, according to local tradition, ca. 1820, and construction techniques employed in the main block corroborate this early date. The building has a rectangular plan that measures approximately 36 feet x 32 feet. It stands on random rubble stone piers, and wood shingles cover the gable roof and the shed roofs of the the porches and addition; although replacements, the shingles resemble the original. Originally all elevations, except the first story of the facade (north-west elevation) were sheathed in clapboard or weatherboard, but this siding, which had badly deteriorated, was replaced with modern wood shiplap siding; the butted horizontal board siding of the facade's first story remains unchanged. Exterior, double-shouldered brick chimneys anchor both gable ends of the house; these chimneys have distinctive massive bases which are trapezoidal in profile. Both chimneys were recently carefully dismantled and reassembled with flue liners; the present configuration duplicates the original, and the bricks were relaid using soft mortar.

The facade has three bays symmetrically arranged; each bay has a single 6 over 6 window except the center bay of the first story which has a single-leaf four-paneled door. This light pattern is repeated on the remaining elevations. Although nineteenth-century louvered and paneled shutters are appropriate, they are not original to this house. Four evenly spaced, chamfered posts support the shed roof of the porch. The porch has a simple balustrade, and it rests on brick piers covered with concrete; these are infilled with concrete blocks; physical evidence indicates that the porch platform and balustrade are probably not original, but rather, are turn-of-the-century replacements. Shallow denticulated cornices are found on the main block and porch eaves and beneath the balustrade; these are recent additions.

The brick chimneys dominate the northeast and southwest elevations. Although the northeast wall has one window and the other has two, these windows were installed ca. 1900. Originally these walls were solid. Nineteenth-century additions to the southeast elevation were destroyed by fire ca. 1939, and shortly after this the present shed addition and porch were built. The original southeast elevation closely resembled the facade.

The main block of the house has a hall-parlor plan. The center single-run staircase with winders has been restored to its original form. The upper story also has two rooms. Exposed ceiling joists and some of the original random-width board floors remain; most of the tongue and groove, wide-board walls and door and window architraves are original. The characteristic fireplace apron border treatment, an important dating tool, remains unchanged in the parlor (northeast room) and is only slightly altered in the den (southwest room). This construction, frequently found in eighteenth- and early nineteenth-century buildings, has the lateral board notched into the longitudinal floor board. The parlor hearth has a flat arch, and a segmentally arched hearth is found in the den. The mantels, bookshelves, and most of the wood work is modern; it is noteworthy that the replacement mantels are tall, approximating the placement of the originals. The attic has no ridge pole, and the collar beams are mortised into the rafters and nailed. A few of the thin, narrow wood shingles and the wide board sheathing remain; these are probably original.

continued...

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 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/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES ca. 1820

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Benjamin McCoy (? - 1861) was reputedly living in the Kershaw district as early as 1797; he and his wife do appear in the Census of 1800. McCoy became a prosperous planter, and shortly before his death he owned 25 slaves and more than 3250 acres. The property including the Benjamin McCoy House was bequeathed to Chapman L. McCoy in 1861; Sarah McCoy acquired the property in 1874; she and her husband W. F. Humphrey deeded the land to James Stokes in 1903. In 1936 L. A. Stokes purchased the part of the Stokes property that included the house; the house passed from Stokes to N. E. Collins (1951), to J. G. Lopez (1961), and finally to the present owner John T. French (1974).

Architecture: According to local tradition the house was built for Benjamin McCoy ca. 1820. It is one of the earliest, if not the earliest, house in Kershaw County. The following structural evidence points to a construction date in the early nineteenth century: the use of heavy timber frame construction with hewn, rather than sawn, members; the monumental exterior brick chimneys; the absence of a ridge pole and the presence of thin, narrow wood shingles and wide board sheathing; interior details such as the use of the hall-parlor plan; exposed ceiling joists, random width board floors, and tongue and groove board walls; and the arched hearth corroborate the ca. 1820 date. None of the historic fabric of the building repudiates an early nineteenth century construction.

The McCoy House is an excellent example of the type of residence lived in by an upper middle-class planter in the South Carolina midlands. Prosperous farmers in this area built modest but sturdy houses, and the McCoy House characterizes these antebellum dwellings. Earlier in the century, according to local residents, several of these well-constructed houses were standing in northeastern Kershaw County, but now the McCoy House is the only one remaining in the Cassatt area. That it has survived relatively intact, retaining essentially its original form and much of its nineteenth-century fabric, is indeed significant.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Gray, W. Wayne. "Benjamin McCoy House." Typewritten. South Carolina Department of Archives and History.

Gray, W. Wayne. Preliminary National Register Form. Typewritten. South Carolina Department of Archives and History.

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1

UTM REFERENCES

UTM NOT VERIFIED

A | 17 | 552155 | 3798425 |
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundary of the Benjamin McCoy House nomination is shown as the red line on the accompanying map entitled, "Kershaw Co., Map No. 218" and drawn at a scale of 400 feet to the inch.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Robert E. Dalton, Coordinator
 Historic Preservation Division

Wayne Gray, Santee-Lynches Council
 For Governments

ORGANIZATION	DATE
South Carolina Department of Archives and History	April 17, 1980
STREET & NUMBER	TELEPHONE
Post Office Box 11,669, Capitol Station	(803) 758-5816
CITY OR TOWN	STATE
Columbia	South Carolina

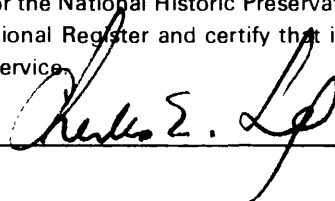
12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL STATE LOCAL X

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



TITLE

DATE

5/19/80

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER



KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

8/7/80

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:



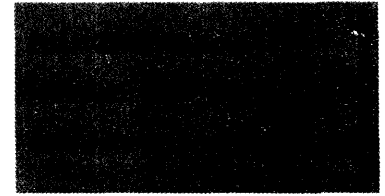
DATE

7/16/80

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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



Continuation sheet

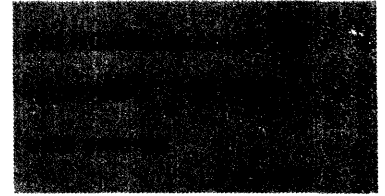
Item number 7

Page 1

None of the original dependencies have survived. A few yards southwest of the house stands a small frame barn, and a second, similar barn is located a short distance to the northeast; both of these are modern buildings.

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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



Continuation sheet

Item number 9

Page 2

Kershaw County Will Book A, pp. 357-361, Kershaw County Courthouse, Kershaw County.

The Second Federal Census 1800 South Carolina Kershaw County. Kershaw County: Kershaw
County Historical Society, 1970, p. 19.