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Welsh Neck is an area located in a bend of the Great Pee Dee River opposite the present community of Society Hill. In 1736 Welshmen from the Delaware area explored this region. They petitioned for a grant of land along the river to be set aside for the use of Welsh Baptists who were contemplating a move to South Carolina. In 1736 and again in 1737 the colonial government, with permission from George II, set aside an immense tract of land on both sides of the Pee Dee: the entire length of Darlington County now bordering the river was within the bounds of these two grants. Many settled in this bend of the river which, by 1738, was called James Neck but soon came to be known as Welsh Neck. In 1738 a Baptist church was established there and the community flourished. The low-lying lands in the Welsh Neck were subject, however, to frequent floodings. Although the land continued to be cultivated, planters moved their homes to higher ground on the same side of the river or to the hills and higher land on the west side, in the vicinity of Long Bluff. Evacuation of the Welsh Neck was virtually complete when, ca. 1798, the Baptist church was moved to a point atop the first hill on the west side of the Pee Dee. This formed the nucleus of what was to become the village of Society Hill. Today Welsh Neck is an unoccupied, wooded area.

Long Bluff, a settlement on the east side of the Pee Dee River near the present town of Society Hill in Darlington County took its name from one of the longest bluffs on that river, extending without break for about three miles. Land had been settled in this area as early as 1748, and the community of Long Bluff developed on the public road leading from Cheraw Hill (present-day Cheraw) to Georgetown.

A parish known as St. David's was created in 1768 by Act of the General Assembly. The boundaries of this parish became the boundaries for the Cheraws District under the Circuit Court Act of 1769. Although the parish church for St. David's was constructed at Cheraw Hill between the years 1770 and 1772, the location of the courthouse and jail for the new judicial circuit was determined in 1770 to be "at the Long Bluff." The courthouse was completed and court first held on November 16, 1772. The Reverend Nicholas Bedgegood, pastor of the Welsh Neck Church preached the "sessions sermon" in accordance with custom. The parish of St. David, with its center at Cheraw, was over-shadowed in many ways by the judicial organization centered in Long From 1772 until 1791 court was held in Long Bluff for the Cheraws Bluff. District. New counties were formed in 1785 from the Cheraws District, creating new centers of political activity. Although county courts were held in these counties, the circuit court continued to be held at Long Bluff until As a result of the Revolution, no court was held at Long Bluff between 1791. 1778 and 1782, but regular sessions commenced again in 1783. The courthouse building was taken down ca. 1817, but the equity courts continued to be held in Long Bluff until 1824.

About 1785 the name of Long Bluff was changed to Greeneville in honor of General Nathaniel Greene of Revolutionary fame. By 1798 the inhabitants on the Pee Dee in the Welsh Neck had moved across the river to the hills beyond Long Bluff, and the Welsh Neck Baptist Church moved about that time to the new community. The community took the name Society Hill, which subsequently became the successor to Greeneville in that locality. The town of Long Bluff S

PERIOD (Check One or More as .			
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Academy, Tater	professor at Un	iversity of South	Carolina
<u>Enoch Hanford</u> (Academy, Tater	professor at Un	ncipal and board m iversity of South	ember of St. David's Carolina
He later taught	<u>Furman</u> (1809-18 at Furman Univ ed for him in 1	ersity, becoming i	sh Neck Baptist Chur ts president. The
<u>Dr. J. H. Thorr</u> University of S), one of the earl	y presidents of the
became Chancell	1 (1819-1893), f lor of the Unive of <u>History of th</u>	rsity of the South	hop of Texas, later at Sewanee, Tenness
		8), builder of the a liberal arts col	e town of Hartsville lege for women.
Architecture: Socie homes in the Georgia tings, many are two-	an mode. Constr	ucted on large lot	

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9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES	
Erwin, Eliza Cowan and Horace Frasi Columbia: The R. L. Bryan Compa	ier Rudisill. <u>Darlingtoniana</u> . any, 1964.
Gregg, Alexander. <u>History of the O</u> Company, 1867.	Old <u>Cheraws</u> . New York: Richardson and
Townsend, Leah. <u>South Carolina Bap</u> Florence Printing Company, 1936.	otists, 1670-1805. Florence: The
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FORM PREPARED BY	
NAME AND TITLE:	Horace Rudisill
Staff Historic Preservation Divis	
South Carolina Department of Archive	
1430 Senate Street	
CITY OR TOWN:	STATE CODE
Columbia	South Carolina 045
12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION	NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION
As the designated State Liaison Officer for the Na- tional 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. The recommended	n National Register.

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Form 19-3000 (July 1969)	UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL PARK SER		South Carolina	
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Welsh Neck-Lo	ng Bluff-Society Hill Hi tion (con't) l	storic Distric	t	
or Greenevill	e and its buildings have	e since complete	ely disappeared.	
site of Long	f Historical and Recreat Bluff and plans to locat gs. Today Long Bluff is	e the site of t	the courthouse, jail	
	is today a rural commun the Welsh Neck-Long Blut		tangible evidence o	of th
Historic prop	erties in Society Hill i	nclude:		
with a gabled	iah H. Evans House: Thi roof and a one-story fi earlier house burned by	ront verandah.	It was constructed	boar ca.
is of Georgia the one-story	<u>ford House</u> : Known local n design and was constru verandah has a hip root two side wings.	icted ca. 1803.	The roof is gabled	, an
constructed of the house. (a two-storied	use: Originally a much a. 1810. Its earliest k ther changes were made b clapboard dwelling with connected on the right	nown owner was by subsequent ov single story f	John F. Wilson who wners. Today it app	enla ears
lished this of to the preser	<u>k Baptist Church</u> (site): hurch's congregation in t location ca. 1798. Th he third one on the site	1738 in the Wel ne present brick	lsh Neck area; it wa	s mo
structure has verandah. Be	of <u>Welsh Neck Baptist</u> cross gables with deco tween the columns are an and the left side entrar	rative brackets rch-motifs which	and a one-story fro	nt
6. <u>W</u> . <u>A</u> . <u>Can</u> of the Victor go restoratio	<u>ragan House</u> : The Carrag ian period. It is in th n.	gan House is Soo ne Second Empire	ciety Hill's most el e style and will soc	abor on un
in Darlington today. Of re	<u>hurch</u> : Completed in 183 County and is the oldes ctangular design, the c arched central entrance	st remaining chu lapboard buildin	urch structure in th ng has a front centr	e co al b
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Dec NED UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE	STATE South Carolina
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NATIONAL INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM	FOR NPS USE ONLY
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Weish Neck-Long Bluff-Society Hill Historic District No. 7 Description (con't 2)	
8. <u>Coker-Rogers Store</u> : Extensively remodeled in the 1890 this 1860s structure houses the oldest mercantile establis to have remained in continuous operation by one family. T the clapboard building is two-storied with a gable roof. projection adjoins the main section of the building.(actua	hment in the county he front section of A rear one-story
9. <u>Sompayrac Store</u> : This one-story gabled structure, ant Theodore Sompayrac. It has a central door with 12/12 wind	
10. <u>L. E. Carragan Store</u> : This unpainted warehouse-type er used as a place of business; it is currently owned by t Hill. (probable construction date is shortly after the War	he town of Society
11. <u>Old Society Hill Library</u> : Dating from December 7, 18 one of the first public lending libraries in the state. M location to the grounds of St. David's Academy, the small structure contained some 2,000 volumes.	oved from its original
12. <u>St. David's Academy</u> : St. David's Society founded thi near present day Welsh Neck Baptist Church for the purpose youth of all denominations. The academy was relocated to 1840 and the current building, part of the public school s constructed in 1957.	of educating the its present site ca.
13. John K. McIver House: Constructed ca. 1800 by McIver board structure is two-storied and has a gambrel roof with story front verandah has arched lattice insets between the	returns. The one-
14. <u>Factory Site</u> : One of the first water-powered cotton was built in 1812 by Governor David Rogerson Williams and during his lifetime. It is now in ruins.	
15. <u>Rocky Dundee</u> : This antebellum one-story house has a verandah supported by four columns. The central double en transom lights. (constructed prior to 1830)	
16. <u>Croly Hill</u> : Probably built as a summer house, this 1 two-storied with clapboard siding and a large single-level was built on the homesite of Mrs. Croly, a Tory sympathize tion.	front verandah. It
17. <u>Bellevue</u> : Colonel J. Nicholas Williams built this la as a wedding gift for his son. The two-storied clapboard with fine Greek revival details. Its graceful portico is columns and a roof balustrade of wrought iron. The entabl motif and the fanlight over the central door is noteworthy	structure is Georgian supported by Ionic ature has a Greek

Form 10-300 UNITED STATES DEPARTMEN	SERVICE
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	ion has been compatible with the earlier
unadorned frame buildings of a pur	ercantile establishments still operate in rely functional design. Although modern I impact is lessened by the rural nature of
Francis Marion's regiment on the u Kolb as colonel of the Upper Pee D	Society Hill include Abel Kolb, colonel of upper Pee Dee and Lemuel Benton who succeede Dee Regiment. Benton was also sheriff of th later elected first Congressman from the are
<u>Political</u> : Equity courts were hel was held there until 1791. From 1 Bluff for the Cheraws District.	ld in Long Bluff until 1824, and circuit cou 1772 until 1791 law courts were held at Long
was a center of activity for the U In 1774 Judge William Henry Drayto " maintain the laws, the rights the hazard of your lives and your address to the judge to the effect a British Parliament to tax them: and an attempt which we are determ	nined to oppose at the hazard of our lives a ent was made by the grand jury at Long Bluff
Bluff. The fall of Charleston to	lution, Tories were placed in jail at Long the British changed the situation and Whigs Bluff. The British erected a stockade at rge numbers of prisoners.
Many of Society Hill's citizens ha affairs of county and state. They	ave become quite influential in political / include:
<u>Samuel Wilds</u> (1775-1810), mem atives, Solicitor, and Circui	nber of the South Carolina House of Represen it Judge.
), Governor of South Carolina (born at Cente is homeplace after retiring from public offi
	Circuit Judge and United States Senator.
	d United States Consul to Venice in 1845.
Henry <u>McIver</u> (1826-1903), Sol Carolina Supreme Court.	icitor, and later Chief Justice of the South

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

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Wolch Nock Long Dluff Society

Welsh Neck-Long Bluff-Society Hill Historic District No. 8 Significance (con't -- 2)

<u>General J. S. McQueen</u> (1826-1903), lawyer and member of Congress for approximately 12 years (1848-1860).

Religion: In 1738 a Baptist church was established at Welsh Neck. As the <u>church grew</u>, its influence increased. Its ministers preached or assisted weak congregations up and down the Pee Dee River. Other Baptist churches formed from this church, such as Catfish, Mars Bluff, Lynches Creek, Cashaway, Beauty Spot, Cheraw Hill, and others. Welsh Neck Baptist Church was moved to Society Hill in 1798. Welsh Neck Baptist Church was the second center of Baptist influence in South Carolina. The First Baptist church in Charleston, established by 1699, was the first.

<u>Archeology</u>: Welsh Neck and Long Bluff are considered excellent potential archeological sites. Plans for excavation at Long Bluff are now in process.

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Welsh Neck-Long Bluff-Society Hill Historic District 8. Significance

An excavation has now been done at a site on the west bank of the Pee Dee River in the Long Bluff area. Evidence of a late 18th Century town was found on this exploratory dig.

A comprehensive archeological survey has not been done in the Welsh Neck-Long Bluff area; therefore, a sketch map would not be possible. At present there are no plans for concentrated archeological work in the Welsh Neck-Long Bluff area. There is, however, an acknowledged potential here, and future excavations will be encouraged.

There are essentially three historic areas combined within this nomination. Both the Welsh Neck and Long Bluff areas are historic sites with potential archeological value. This area has not been urbanized, and acres of wooded land remain. Society Hill is a small southern community whose history can be directly linked with both Long Bluff and Welsh Neck.

Within the entire district there are approximately 250 structures. Scattered over the area are about 60 trailers. There is a small subdivision on the outskirts of Society Hill, and a few truckstops are located on the road leading to and passing through Society Hill. The necessity of drawing recognizable boundaries (i.e., using public roads and property lines) resulted in the inclusion of some intrusions on the fringe of the district. Although the number of intrusions might appear large in proportion to the number of historic properties, the heart of the district is relatively free of intrusions with only about five sites that could be considered historically unimportant.

The Welsh Neck-Long Bluff area is actually the site of a frontier community. As a result of the historically related nature of the area, it is necessary to include a larger amount of acreage.

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Welsh Neck-Long Bluff-Society Hill Historic District 9. Major Bibliographical References (continued)

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Information received from Edwin P. Rogers, Jr., Historic Preservation Planner, Pee Dee Regional Planning and Development Council, Florence, South Carolina.

KEY TO STREET MAP OF SOCIETY HILL HISTORIC DISTRICT

- 1. Judge Josiah H. Evans House
- 2. Enoch Hanford House
- 3. J. F. Wilson House
- 4. Welsh Neck Baptist Church
- 5. Parsonage of Welsh Neck Baptist Church
- 6. W. A. Carragan House
- 7. Trinity Church
- 8. Coker-Rogers Store
- 9. Sompayrac Store
- 10. L. E. Carragan Store
- 11. Old Society Hill Library
- 12. St. David's Academy
- 13. John K. McIver House
- 14. Factory Site
- 15. Rocky Dundee
- 16. Croly Hill
- 17. Bellevue



