

Form 10-300  
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: South Carolina	
COUNTY: Kershaw	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 71.5.45.0017	DATE 5/6/71

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
City of Camden Historic District

AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER: Camden town--bounded S. by city limits; E. by Southern R.R. right of way; N. by Dicey Creek Rd.; W. by Southern R.R. right of way.

CITY OR TOWN:  
Camden

STATE: South Carolina      CODE: 29020      COUNTY: Kershaw      CODE: 45

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
Miscellaneous

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:      STATE:      CODE:

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Kershaw County Court House

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Broad Street

CITY OR TOWN:      STATE:      CODE:  
Camden      South Carolina      45

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
Kershaw County Historic Survey

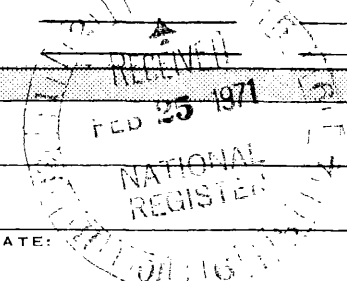
DATE OF SURVEY: 1968-69       Federal     State     County     Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
Camden District Heritage Foundation

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Box 710

CITY OR TOWN:      STATE:      CODE:  
Camden      South Carolina      45

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Camden, first called Fredericksburg (1733) then Pine Tree Hill (1758), was originally located south of the present town, which was named in honor of Lord Camden, British champion of colonial rights. Strategically located at junction of several Indian trails and at the head of the Wateree River, Camden provided a natural trading link between Charleston and the interior.

In 1774, wide streets were laid off running north and south, east and west. The town expanded northward as shown in a 1798 plat, known as the extended plan of Camden. The plat set aside six parks which formed the basis for the city's present 178 acres of beautiful parkland.

Most of the original town was destroyed by the fire of 1813. This accelerated growth northward to the Kirkwood area, north of Chesnut Street. Originally, the houses in this area were summer cottages, but by 1840 Kirkwood was a year-round residential area of handsome mansions and elaborate gardens, many of the mansions built around the cottages, which still survive at their core.

Outstanding examples of Camden architecture include:

1. Bethesda Presbyterian Church, an 1820 Robert Mills design, described by Mills as having "portico of four Doric columns... neat spire in the rear containing the bell...intricate steps at rear to the slave galleries...the floor and pews rise as they recede from the pulpit, giving every advantage to the audience." (Unaltered)
2. Quaker Cemetery, which now embraces all faiths and includes graves of several generations of prominent Camden citizens, began September 6, 1759 when Samuel Wily, a Quaker leader, offered 4 acres to the Quaker colony for the annual rent of "one pepper corn."
3. Mills Court House, erected 1826 from a Robert Mills design, originally with six Ionic columns supporting portico and entrance; remodeled in 1847 to its present appearance--four Ionic columns, second floor entrance, central stairway leading to second floor. The local Masonic lodge is in charge of maintaining the building.
4. Price House (c. 1835) owned by the city of Camden, adaptively used as a community center, fine example of Georgian architecture with Charleston influence, sole remaining example of the combination store-residence.
5. Greenleaf Villa, largest of Camden's many Charleston-type houses, only one with ornamental Dutch gable on street facade, built c. 1815 by Samuel Flake. Present owners are Mr. and Mrs. Eugene L. McDuffie.

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**SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian;       16th Century       18th Century       20th Century  
 15th Century       17th Century       19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1774 to present

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |  |   |  |
|--|--|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political           | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering                       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Historic     | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Science                        |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture                      |  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian            |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater                        |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Military                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation                 |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                             |   |  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Conservation |  |   |  |

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Architecturally and militarily significant, Camden was a center of activity in both the Revolutionary and Confederate Wars, and its architecture reflects the two centuries of its growth.

Occupied June 1, 1780, Camden became central British supply post in the South and, among a number of military actions in the Camden vicinity, were two major Revolutionary War engagements. In the Battle of Camden, August 16, 1780, American forces under Gates were completely routed by Cornwallis. Baron Johann De Kalb, German-born French citizen and American general, died from wounds received in this battle, and was buried by the British in Camden with full military honors. Eight miles north of Camden, the Battle of Hobkirk Hill was fought in April 1781, resulting in British evacuation of Camden and partial destruction of their fortifications.

In the Mexican War (1848), the DeKalb Guards of Camden achieved distinction in combat. James Polk Dickinson, Camden native and commander of the Palmetto Regiment, was mortally wounded at Churubusco.

During the Confederate War, Camden served as an important Confederate storehouse and hospital. One attending surgeon was Dr. G.R.C. Todd, brother-in-law of President Lincoln. Todd and his wife, a Camden native, are buried in Quaker Cemetery. Action of this war touched Camden twice: February 24-25, 1865, Sherman's troops briefly occupied the town, burning warehouses and stores; and April 18, 1865, Potter's troops destroyed locomotives and railroad cars. Camden contributed six generals to the Confederate cause. A pantheon in their memory stands in Kershaw Square.

Camden's varied architecture includes cottage-type, Georgian, Charleston-type with modifications and mansion-type houses. Several of the city's buildings were designed by noted architect Robert Mills.

Paramount among Camden's many historic visitors was President George Washington who stopped here on his Southern tour of 1791 and was honored with a large reception, lasting until the "wee sma' hours."

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Julien, Carl. Beneath So Kind A Sky. Columbia, South Carolina. 1955. University of S.C. Press.  
 Kirkland, Thomas J. and Kennedy, Robert M. Historic Camden (Volumes I&II). Columbia, South Carolina. 1905. The State Company.  
 Landers, Lt.-Col. H.L. The Battle of Camden. Washington, D.C. 1929.  
 McCrady, Edward. The History of South Carolina In The Revolution. 1780-83. New York. 1902. McMillain Comapny  
 Mills, Robert. Statistics of South Carolina. Charleston, South Carolina. 1826.  
 Moseley, J.L. and Wittkowsky, George H. Kershaw County Economic and Social. Columbia, South Carolina. 1923.  
 White, William Lindsay. Bernard Baruch. New York. 1950.  
 WPA. South Carolina: A Guide to the Palmetto State. New York. 1950.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Oxford University Press

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES  
DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY

CORNER	LATITUDE			LONGITUDE		
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	34°	16'	44"	80°	37'	03"
NE	34°	16'	44"	80°	35'	38"
SE	34°	13'	48"	80°	35'	38"
SW	34°	13'	48"	80°	37'	03"

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES  
DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY  
OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES

LATITUDE			LONGITUDE		
Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
°	'	"	°	'	"

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1,794 acres

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:  
**Nancy R. Ruhf, Historic Resources Coordinator I**

ORGANIZATION: **South Carolina Department of Archives and History** DATE: **2/14/71**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**1430 Senate Street, P.O. Box 11, 188 Capitol Station**

CITY OR TOWN: **Columbia** STATE: **South Carolina** CODE: **45**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name: Charles E. Lep  
 Title: Director, South Carolina Department Archives & History  
 Date: February 14, 1971

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Ernest A. Connally  
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

MAY 6 1971

Date \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:  
William M. Stuebel  
 Keeper of The National Register

APR 9 1971

Date \_\_\_\_\_

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COUNTY	
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7. CITY OF CAMDEN HISTORIC DISTRICT--DESCRIPTION

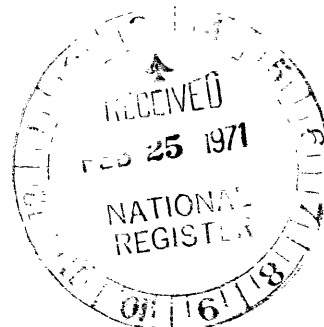
6. "Tanglewood", 612 Laurens Street, built as a wedding gift for Mr. and Mrs. Issac Alexander. Typical Up Country home with raised basement, wide first floor porch and central hall from front to rear. One of the few Camden houses still owned by the original family, "Tanglewood" is the home of Mrs. J.E. Cahill.

7. South Hill, built c. 1835, fine example of the raised-cottage design used extensively in this era. Thought to have been the first of General James Cantey's summer homes, South Hill was remodeled in 1850 by his son, Zach. Now owned by Mrs. Newell C. Bolton.

8. "Kamschatka", built c. 1845 by General James Chesnut, home of Kirkland family for many years. After a long period of disrepair, renovated in 1938 by the late William F. Buckley and Mrs. Buckley, who lives here.

9. Horse Branch Hall, a good example of Camden's many mansion-type houses, built c. 1840 by John and Isabel Scota McRae. Six large square columns support front portico, double stairways lead to second floor piazza, fine double door entrance has fanlight and sidelights. McRae designed a running water system for the house and laid out grounds and terraces. Now owned by Mr. and Mrs. Irl Daffin.

10. "Sarsfield", last of many Chesnut-family town houses, built c. 1837 by General and Mrs. James Chesnut. Constructed of brick from outbuildings at "Mulberry" (Chesnut family's country home), "Sarsfield" has semi-circular portico with Corinthian columns, identical side porches supported by C Doric columns. Mrs. James (Mary Boykin) Chesnut was author of A Diary From Dixie, an eye-witness account of the Confederate War years. Now home of Mrs. A.H. Ehrendou.



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(Number all entries)

CITY OF CAMDEN HISTORIC DISTRICT--SIGNIFICANCE

held in a home originally located at the corner of King and Fair Streets, now at 1415 Mill Street.

At the outbreak of the French Revolution, many pro-French meetings were held in Camden. In 1793, Camden graciously received the infant French Republic's Citizen-Minister to the U.S., Edmond Charles Genet.

In 1825, Camden again extended hospitality to a Frenchman, the Marquis de Lafayette, who was invited "to perform the pious office" of laying the cornerstone for a monument to DeKalb. In memory of Lafayette's visit, two rows of cedar saplings were planted; one row still stands.

Bernard M. Baruch, wealthy financier and adviser to President Franklin Roosevelt, was born in Camden. The Camden Hospital, a gift to the city from Baruch, was erected in memory of his father, a Camden physician.

In the realm of sports, Camden's organized turf activity began as early as 1802. The U.S. Equestrian team trains on the city's excellent courses. Since 1930 Camden's Carolina Cup Steeplechase, sanctioned by the National Hunt and Steeplechase Association and the United Hunt Association, has been run annually at the famous Springdale Course. The Colonial Cup Steeplechase, a 1970 South Carolina Tricentennial event, was also run here, with the richest steeplechase purse ever offered in America.

