

PH0508390

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
**DATA SHEET**  
 OCT 31 1977  
 RECEIVED  
 DATE ENTERED MAR 21 1978

# 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 *\*\**  
Elizabeth White House  
AND/OR COMMON

## 2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER  
421 North Main Street

CITY, TOWN  
Sumter

STATE  
South Carolina

VICINITY OF  
5th

COUNTY  
Sumter

CODE  
045

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
5th

CODE  
085

## 3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: (to be used as art gallery)

## 4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME  
Sumter Gallery of Art

STREET & NUMBER  
219 West Liberty Street

CITY, TOWN  
Sumter

STATE  
South Carolina

## 5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.  
Sumter County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER  
Main Street

CITY, TOWN  
Sumter

STATE  
South Carolina

## 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE  
Inventory of Historic Places in South Carolina

DATE  
1973 (update)

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS  
South Carolina Department of Archives and History

CITY, TOWN  
Columbia

STATE  
South Carolina

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

# 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 type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Erected in the 1850s, the Elizabeth White House is a one and one-half story cottage, in a vernacular version of the Greek Revival style.

Exterior: The house is of frame construction, on brick piers, and measures approximately 49 feet square. The symmetrical facade is dominated by a one story portico with a pedimented roof supported by four square paneled columns and two pilasters. A tripartite window is centered in the portico pediment. Two gabled dormers flank the pediment with twin chimneys rising from the roof ridge to accent the symmetry of the design. The main entrance, with sidelights and transom, is centered in the facade. Originally, four regularly spaced windows also extended across the front facade; however, the window to the left of the entrance has been converted into a door. Windows have plain narrow surrounds, six lights to a sash and louvered shutters. A bold entablature, consisting of a box cornice with molding and a plain frieze, follows the perimeter of the house and is repeated in the pediment and gable ends. The house has been altered by an early 20th Century addition of two dormer rooms, a fire escape, and the enclosure of a shed porch, all on the east or rear side of the building.

Interior: The main entrance leads to a large central hall, with a simple dog-leg stairway. The hall is flanked by four rooms of equal size, with fireplaces centered in the partition wall between the rooms. Located to the rear of the structure is the addition containing two kitchens, a porch and a bath. The second floor, originally containing two rooms separated by a central hall, has been altered by the addition of the rear dormer rooms and various partitions.

Surroundings: The house is located on a three acre wooded lot, in an old residential area of Sumter substantially encroached upon by commercial development. Also located on the property is a small frame structure, said to have been the original kitchen. It has been altered and enlarged and was adaptively used as Elizabeth White's studio.

# 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Elizabeth White House, built c. 1854, is significant architecturally as an example of vernacular Greek Revival design; for its association with individuals prominent in the development of Sumter; and for its association with Elizabeth White (1883-1976), a nationally recognized artist from whom the house takes its name.

According to tradition, the Elizabeth White House was built c. 1850 by Dr. John Independence Miller. Research has failed to link Mr. Miller with the property, however, and it appears more probable the house was built by John E. Brown, merchant, c. 1854. In 1886 the property was acquired by the Anthony White family whose members were prominent in the political, social and commercial development of Sumter. The property remained in the White family until the death of Elizabeth White in 1976.

Architecture: The house is typical of cottages built in South Carolina Midlands during the middle part of the 19th Century. It represents a vernacular interpretation of Greek Revival architecture, with the emphasis on symmetry characteristic of the style, but with deviation from academic design evident, particularly in the portico columns and decorations of the dormer gables.

Art: Miss Elizabeth White (1883-1976) has been recognized nationally for her work in oil, pastels and etchings. Her work has been exhibited at the Smithsonian Institution (1939), the New York World's Fair (1939), and the International Biennial Exhibition of Art in Venice, Italy. One of her etchings was chosen to hang permanently in the Library of Congress (1939).

Under provisions of Miss White's will, the property has been transferred to the Sumter Gallery of Art which is restoring the structure for use as an art gallery.

Politics/Government: Anthony White, grandfather of Miss Elizabeth White, who lived in the house, served in the South Carolina House of Representatives in 1880-81.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Britt, Margaret. "Elizabeth White." (Unpublished biography.) Sumter Gallery of Art.

Edgar, Walter B., ed. Biographical Directory of the South Carolina House of Representatives. Columbia: University of South Carolina Press, 1974. I, p. 436. (continued)

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY ca. 3

UTM REFERENCES

A	17	560920	3754180	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

## VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Located at 421 North Main Street the property contains approximately 3 acres and is bounded on the north by land belonging to Alfred Scarborough, on the east by the right-of-way of Anne Park and also on the east by property belonging to Dr. G.C. Cooper; on the south by property belonging to W. Loring Lee, Jr., W. Loring Lee, Sr., and V.C. Barringer; and on the west by North Main Street.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Robert P. Stockton

ORGANIZATION

South Carolina Department of Archives and History

STREET & NUMBER

P. O. Box 11,669 Capitol Station, 1430 Senate St.

CITY OR TOWN

Columbia

Wayne Gray, Santee-Wateree Regional Planning Council

DATE

October 7, 1977

TELEPHONE

(803) 578-5816

STATE

South Carolina

# 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 Charles E. Lee  
State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE *October 31, 1977*

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST: *W. D. ...*  
*W. D. ...*

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE *3-26-78*

DATE *3-10-78*

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE one

Moulton, Brenda Shipley, project chairman. Sumter County Historical Vignettes. Sumter: Sumter County Tricentennial Committee, 1970. n.p.

Nicholes, Cassie. Historical Sketches of Sumter County: Its Birth and Growth. Sumter: Sumter County Historical Commission, 1975. pp. 376-383.

Smithsonian Institution Archives. Memorandum of Accession, April 14, 1939, and other related documents. Washington, D. C.

Sumter County Deeds, Book 00, p. 219; Book P, p. 200; Book QQ, p. 404; Book ZZ, p. 604. Sumter County Register of Mesne Conveyance Office and South Carolina Department of Archives and History.