

Form 10-300  
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

STATE: South Carolina	
COUNTY: Abbeville	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 14 SEP 1972	DATE

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
~~Town of~~ Abbeville Historic District

AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER: Boundaries: North, a line drawn from intersection of Cambridge and Washington Streets to intersection of Harrisburg and Haigler Streets; (cont'd)

CITY OR TOWN:  
Abbeville

STATE South Carolina	CODE 45	COUNTY: Abbeville	CODE 001
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**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Park	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
Miscellaneous

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:  
Abbeville

STATE: South Carolina	CODE 45
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**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.  
Abbeville County Court House

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Town Square

CITY OR TOWN:  
Abbeville

STATE: South Carolina	CODE 45
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**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
South Carolina Preliminary Survey of Historic Places

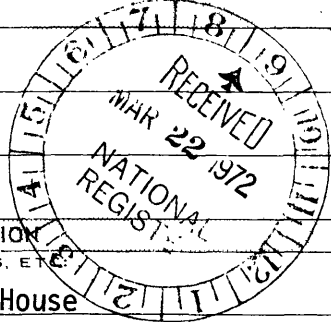
DATE OF SURVEY: 1969  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
S.C. Department of Archives and History

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

CITY OR TOWN:  
Columbia

STATE: South Carolina	CODE 45
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

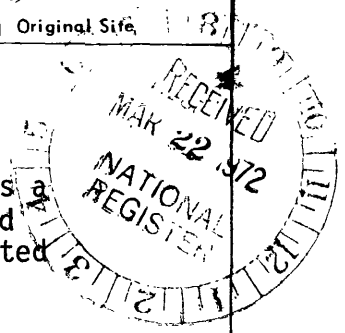
STATE: COUNTY: ENTRY NUMBER: DATE: FOR NPS USE ONLY

1-29-73

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 type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE



Located on a series of small hills, the town of Abbeville is a picturesque reminder of the 19th century. Quaint brickpaved streets remain intact in certain areas of town and are lighted by globe-style lamps (formerly gas, now electric).

THE BUSINESS DISTRICT

The old town green is surrounded by the business district square with many original, 19th century structures still standing. The town square proper has original brickpaved streets. Original mounting blocks, watering troughs and old city fire bell remain intact on town green which is bordered by old oak trees. Centrally located on the town green is the customary Confederate War monument.

Most of the original buildings surrounding the square are used by current business establishments. The old Eureka Hotel (c. 1890) still stands on the square and is currently operated as the Belmont Hotel. Five of the original bank buildings remain; two now house banking facilities while the other three are used as a cafe, a flower and gift shop and a finance company respectively. Only one of the five has been significantly altered. The Rosenberg Mercantile Company, founded in 1872, still occupies its original building on square. D. Poliakoff's Dry Goods Company, founded 1900, is located in the Knox Building, originally one of Abbeville's popular taverns.

The buildings surrounding the square reflect the town's early architecture and remain structurally unchanged although many are marred by neon signs and minor, modern additions. Other changes on the square include installation of parking meters and substitution of modern street lights for the original gas lights. With proper landscaping, protective zoning and adoption of architectural requirements, the town square area could be attractively restored, and revitalized for creative and profitable modern use.

1. The Press and Banner Building (on the square) - Originally the old Post Office building. Brick facade's central entrance and two large windows are surmounted by fanlights and are set in a series of three arches.
2. The Ace Hardware Company (on the square) - Erected 1831. Building's facade remains unaltered. Roof line is flat with central ornamental pediment. Second level has a central arch directly beneath pediment which is flanked on either side by a pair of smaller arches.
3. Old Bank Building (on the square) - Presently occupied by Abbeville Flower and Gift Shoppe. Two-story brick building has a pair of Ionic columns which flank central entrance and support simple frieze with dentil ornamentation.
4. The Opera House (on the square) - Built 1904. Three-story brick building with unusual brick sunburst design on main floor of facade. On National Register.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**SIGNIFICANCE**

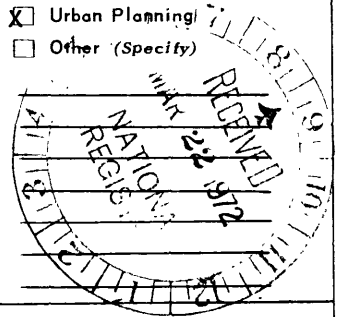
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                       |  |  |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century  | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century |  |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **c. 1785 to present**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

In 1764 a group of French Huguenots founded the near by village of New Bordeaux; it is believed that these settlers later named Abbeville, South Carolina, for the French city of Abbeville. Seat of Abbeville County which was formed from Ninety-Six District in 1785, the town of Abbeville was one of South Carolina's early centers of culture, agriculture and commerce in the Upcountry.

Political Significance: John C. Calhoun, South Carolina's preeminent statesman and Abbeville county native, opened his first law office in Abbeville in 1807. During his years of public service, Calhoun held many high offices including Secretary of War, Vice-President, Senator and Secretary of State. He was the outstanding political philosopher of the period and originator of the doctrine of nullification. In later political activity Abbeville was site of one of South Carolina's most potent secession meetings on November 22, 1860. Approximately 3,000 people gathered on Magazine Hill (since called Secession Hill) to listen to notable speakers who urged immediate secession. As a result of this meeting, Abbeville selected the following delegates to the state secession convention in Columbia: Judge D.L. Wardlaw, Judge Thomas Thomson, Thomas C. Perrin (first signer of The Ordinance of Secession), Edward Noble, John A. Calhoun and John H. Wilson. Chancellor Francis Hugh Wardlaw, another Abbeville native, supervised drafting of The Ordinance of Secession.

Educational Significance: Robert Mills, in his Statistics of South Carolina, regarded Abbeville as "the original seat of learning in the upper country...attention to education was coeval with the settlement."

Theatrical Significance: The Abbeville Opera House, now restored and used frequently, dates from 1904. It was a center of culture and entertainment for the district where traveling theatre companies performed plays like "Ben Hur," "The Great Divide" and George White's "Scandals." Celebrities such as Jimmy Durante and Fanny Brice performed here.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Abbeville Historical Society. Abbeville County Bi-Centennial Historical Souvenir Program 1758-1958. Abbeville, South Carolina: 1958.  
 Dundas, F. de Sales. The Calhoun Settlement District of Abbeville, South Carolina. Staunton, Virginia: No Publisher, South Carolina State Library has copy, May 6, 1949.  
 Julien, Carl and Milling, Chapman. Beneath So Kind A Sky. Columbia, South Carolina: University of South Carolina Press, 1958.  
 Julien, Carl and Watson, H.L. Ninety-Six. Columbia, South Carolina: University of South Carolina Press, 1959.  
 Mills, Robert. Statistics of South Carolina. Charleston, S.C.: Hurlbut and Lloyd, 1826.

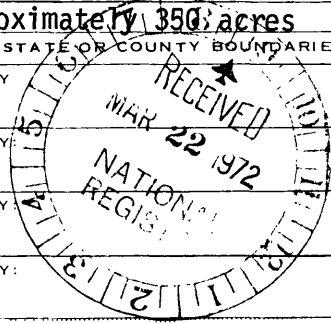
**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	34° 11' 00.9"	82° 23' 19"		0	0	
NE	34° 11' 00.9"	82° 22' 18"				
SE	34° 10' 19.8"	82° 22' 18"				
SW	34° 10' 19.8"	82° 23' 19"				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Approximately 350 acres

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

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

ORGANIZATION: South Carolina Department of Archives and History DATE: 12/13/71

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 NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

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. Lee  
 Title: Director, S.C. Department of Archives and History  
 Date: March 4, 1972

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

Robert M. Utley  
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 9/14/72

ATTEST:

Meredith  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: 9/14/72

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
South Carolina	
COUNTY	
Abbeville	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	14 SEP 1972

(Number all entries)

TOWN OF ABBEVILLE HISTORIC DISTRICT

2. Location

East, a line from intersection of S.C. Highway 72 and Brook Street to intersection of Cambridge and Washington Streets.

Southeast, S.C. Highway 72.

South, Seaboard Railroad tracks.

Southwest, a line drawn from the intersection of Long Branch and Vienna Streets to the intersection of Haigler and Orange Streets.

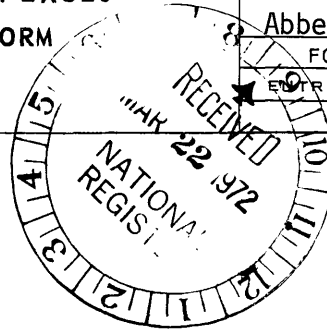
West, Haigler Street.



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	South Carolina
COUNTY	Abbeville
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	4 SEP 1972



(Number all entries)

TOWN OF ABBEVILLE HISTORIC DISTRICT

7. Description (Continuation Sheet #1)

5. Abbeville County Court House (on the square) - Erected c. 1900. Brick building has flat roof line with low parapet. Facade has two pair of Ionic columns and recessed main entrance. Unusual fenestration repeated on all faces of building.

RESIDENTIAL AREA

In the residential area, a number of old homes have been maintained or restored and are representative of a variety of 19th century architectural styles. Most of these are still in use as private homes. Several old gardens exist although some are poorly cared for and in danger of being lost.

Adding to the town's overall atmosphere is an abundance of large trees in both the residential and business districts.

- ✓ 6. The Burt House - (c. 1830) White, two-story house built in Greek Revival style with four, large, square columns supporting a pedimented front portico. On National Register.
- 7. Secession Hill - Site of November 22, 1860 secession meeting which was attended by about 3,000 people.
- 8. Trinity Episcopal Church - (1860) Gothic Revival architecture built on basilican plan. Central tower with corner pinnacles and recessed front entrance terminates with a spire and crowning cross. Stucco-over-brick exterior. On National Register.
- 9. The Quay-Adams House - Two-story frame house with dormers on third level and shed-roof porch on first level. House, built around original log cabin, is believed to be Abbeville's oldest house. Presently used as a temporary museum; city hopes to acquire as a permanent museum.
- 10. The Wardlaw-Klugh House - (1831) Two-story frame house, five bays wide. First floor porch supported by slender, round columns and enclosed by balustrade. Fine collections of antique glass, silver and china.
- 11. The Lee-Reid House - (1885) Excellent example of late Victorian architecture. Distinctive Bellcast Mansard roof. The central pavilion, three levels high, also has Bellcast Mansard roof. Decorative scrollwork brackets used extensively. Ornate balustrades enclose porches on first and second levels and balcony on third level of pavilion.
- 12. McGowan-Barksdale House - (1888) Home of Samuel McGowan, Confederate general, South Carolina Supreme Court justice and an outstanding South Carolina "Redeemer" during the Reconstruction period. Double-tiered portico shelters main entrance on southeast side of facade and is

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
South Carolina	
COUNTY	
Abbeville	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	14 SEP 1972

(Number all entries)

TOWN OF ABBEVILLE HISTORIC DISTRICT

7. Description (Continuation Sheet #2)

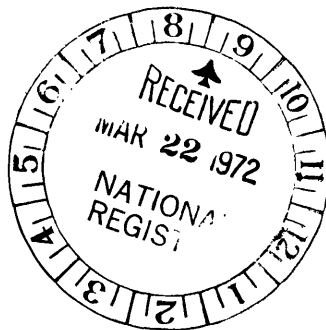
surmounted by a high gable centered with decorative elliptical window. Fine hall mantel bears an inscription attributed to a Scottish son-in-law: "East, West -- hame is best."

13. The Gary-Harris-Wren House - (1885) Built by Eugene B. Gary, South Carolina Supreme Court justice and lieutenant-governor 1890-94. White clapboard house with small central gable set in flat roof line. Main floor porch extends full width of facade; six slender posts have ornamental scrollwork capitals. Main entrance featuring transom and sidelights is flanked on either side by a pair of windows and louver shutters.

14. The Harris House - (1896) Built by John Harris, former president of Abbeville Mills. Spacious home features first floor veranda which extends width of facade and continues along side walls. On second level, above central entrance, is a pedimented portico. Porch and portico are supported by slender columns and enclosed with balustrades. House contains elegant furnishings made by the old Abbeville Furniture Company.

15. The Gary-DuPre House - (c. 1885) Greek Revival, two-story house with stucco exterior. Front portico has four Ionic columns supporting pediment with dentil ornamentation.

16. The Shillito-Townsend House - (c. 1830) Two-story white frame house, unaltered since construction. Shed-roof porch on first level supported by unusual square posts which diminish in size from base to capital.



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
South Carolina	
COUNTY	
Abbeville	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
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(Number all entries)

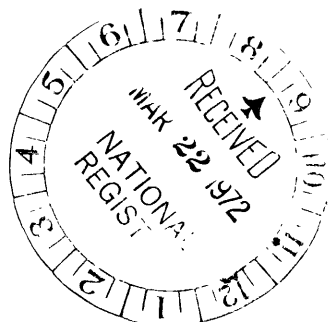
TOWN OF ABBEVILLE HISTORIC DISTRICT

8. Significance

Military Significance: Although a powder magazine and arsenal were built in the town soon after its establishment, Abbeville was not directly involved in military affairs until the outbreak of the Confederate War. In January 1861, the "Minute-Men of Abbeville" organized and stood ready to fight for the Confederate cause. J.Foster Marshall, John Simkins, A.J. Lethgoe, James M. Perrin and Augustus Marshall Smith, five of the town's outstanding citizens, became Confederate colonels. At the close of the war President Jefferson Davis and the Confederate government held the last Council of War in Abbeville on May 2, 1865 at the home of Major Armistead Burt, one of Davis's personal friends. It was here that the decision was made to "abandon all hope of effecting any other purpose than Mr. Davis's escape to the west."

Commercial Significance: Nestled in the rich farming district of the South Carolina Piedmont, Abbeville has served, since its beginning, as a market town for the surrounding rural area. The town also became an important transportation center with the advent of the Southern Railroad (early 1830s) and the Seaboard Railroad (1883).

Architectural Significance: Abbeville is a physical record of the life-style of a small, 19th century Southern community. Its brickpaved, tree-lined streets; the spacious houses which exhibit a variety of architectural designs; and the town green are visible reminders of an earlier era. On a recent visit to Abbeville (April 1971), Russell V. Keune, Director of Field Services for the National Trust, made the following comment on the necessity of preserving Abbeville's historic town square area: "The Opera House is set on the town square, again another one of the excellent examples of urban spaces in South Carolina that merits attention for its protection and preservation."





S.C. NATIONAL BANK

NORTH MAIN STREET

TRINITY STREET

WASHINGTON STREET

← TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Rosenberg Mercantile Co.

McLellan's

Bolen's Furniture Co.

Land's Gift Shop

Cato's

Savitz Record Center

TOWN SQUARE

D. POLIAKOFF'S DRY GOODS COMPANY

ABBEVILLE COUNTY COURT HOUSE

ABBEVILLE OPERA HOUSE

PICKENS STREET

PICKENS STREET

← PRESS AND BANNER BUILDING

ACE HARDWARE

SOUTH MAIN STREET

BELMONT HOTEL

