

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received SEP 12 1985

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Springville Multiple Resource Area

and/or common

2. Location

Springville encompasses an area of approximately 12 square miles about
street & number 2 miles east of Darlington along sections of Co. Rd. 228, NA not for publication
S.C. Hwy. 34, and Co. Rd. 133.

city, town NA vicinity of

state South Carolina code 045 county Darlington code 031

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	NA in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> multiple resources	NA being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: vacant

4. Owner of Property

name See inventory forms

street & number

city, town vicinity of state

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Darlington County Courthouse

street & number Courthouse Square

city, town Darlington state South Carolina 29532

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title South Carolina Inventory of Historic Places has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☒ nodate 1985 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

☒ excellent
☒ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☒ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The nomination for the Springville Multiple Resource Area in Darlington County, South Carolina, consists of six individually nominated properties. Although the boundaries of the Springville community were never formally defined, it, nevertheless, existed as a cohesive rural community for most of the nineteenth century. The remaining resources which are included in this nomination are all residences and date from circa 1822 to about 1856.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Since the community of Springville was never incorporated, the boundaries are imprecise. However, it is commonly accepted that the area on the east bank of Black Creek north of Hood's Bridge at South Carolina highway 34 running along Springville Street (county road 228) for about four miles culminating about one-half mile north of the site of Lide's Bridge and also extending for about two miles east of Brunson's Bridge along county road 133 encompassed Springville east of Black Creek. The area west of Black Creek included in the Springville community began at Lide's Bridge (no longer extant) and extended west for about one mile.¹

At the height of its development in the 1850s, Springville contained about 35 permanent and seasonal residences with a permanent population exceeding 100 persons.² The density of settlement was such that if a circle with a radius of one mile was drawn from a point three-fourths of a mile north of the intersection of county road 133 and Springville Street, two-thirds of the original buildings would be within its circumference.

Several features of the physical environment greatly enhanced the attractiveness of this location, as first a summer retreat and later a permanent community, to Pee Dee planters. The Sand Hills on which Springville is located are the leading edge of the Middle Coastal Plain and the topography of the area is gently rolling to nearly level averaging 160 feet above mean sea level.³ These Sand Hills are deeply dissected by the numerous small streams originating here, which are about sixty feet lower in elevation than the ridges. There is also an abundance of mineral springs. The predominant soil type is soils of the Lakeland series of the Podzol great soil group which are excessively drained and very rapidly permeable, thus offering no suitable habitat for mosquitos.⁴ This combination of elevated ridges, healthful environment and abundant water supply provided an ideal setting for a summer community for the planter society in the first half of the nineteenth century.

The predominant landcover of Springville at the time of initial occupance and for the most part of the nineteenth century was longleaf pine with an understory of scrub oak and small areas of cypress-swamp hardwood and pond pine.⁵ Springville was primarily a rural residential community, and land use activity reflected this characteristic. Almost the only agricultural activity occurring there was in the form of kitchen vegetable gardens and ornamental gardens.

One further interesting landscape feature in Springville relates to the local silva. The sandy soil of Springville apparently is ideally suited as the habitat of a sub-species of Quercus Laurifolia (or Laurel Oak) referred to locally as the Darlington Oak. This tree proliferates in Springville and many century old specimens are found. A resident of Springville, Walter DuBose Woods, devoted much of his life to the propagation and promotion of this tree.⁶

Presently, most of the area is forested in cut-over blackjack and turkey oaks with scattered pines; also, areas of planted pines are present in significant acreage. Agricultural activity represents the second leading land use. Tracts in cropland are

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planted primarily in corn and soybeans in rotation with a second crop of winter grasses for hay and green manure.

Residential activity accounts for the remaining land use in Springville. As the thirty or so nineteenth century buildings no longer extant disappeared, some were replaced on the same site with buildings built in the twentieth century. Other new residential construction has occurred in recent years, though the infill has not changed the rural character to any great degree. The area where most build-up has occurred is off county road 133 about one and one-half miles from its intersection with Springville Street. Two small commercial establishments, a garage and a corner store of recent vintage, are built here. Just behind these establishments there is a small development of federally subsidized 235 housing dating from the early 1970s.⁷

The architecture of Springville during the nineteenth century was representative of the vernacular frame construction technology and design of nineteenth century South Carolina. The literature indicates that all of the buildings were uniformly of frame construction sheathed in weatherboarding and the six remaining properties reflect this tendency.⁸ The existing historic buildings in Springville are of vernacular forms in the central-hall plan, expressed in single-pile or double-pile form in two stories and one example in one and one-half stories. According to contemporary descriptions, the original buildings no longer extant, with the exception of those used as summer residences which were of one story, reflected this tendency as well.⁹ Although there is evidence that an architect was working in the area in the early 1850s, his role was apparently limited mostly to remodeling existing buildings and in only one instance did his work result in a complete building.¹⁰

SURVEY METHODOLOGY

In July 1985 Mary Watson Edmonds, John Wells and Tom Shaw, historians and architectural historians with the South Carolina Historic Preservation Office of the South Carolina Department of Archives and History, conducted site visits to the Springville area and surveyed the extant properties associated with the nineteenth century community and general area. Mary Edmonds and Tom Shaw also met with Horace Rudisill of the Darlington Historical Society during this period. Additional historical research was also conducted to supplement the information provided by local historians.

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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) social history

Specific dates ca. 1822-ca. 1856 Builder/Architect N/A

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The nomination for the Springville Multiple Resource Area is composed of six individually nominated properties. These properties, all residences, are all that remain of the old Springville rural community. Springville originated about 1820 as a summer retreat approximately two miles east of Darlington, South Carolina, along Black Creek. Although in subsequent years it developed into a permanent settlement, changing economic and social conditions after the Civil War ultimately led to the demise of this rural community as a cohesive unit by the early decades of the twentieth century. The Springville community reflects the trend of plantation owners to seek an elevated, well-drained, mosquito-free haven during the summer months. Pineland communities such as this often developed quite an active social life and, as in the case of Springville, were an important part of mid-nineteenth century rural plantation society. In addition, the six Springville houses are good examples of rural residences constructed between circa 1830 to circa 1860. The significance of the Springville Multiple Resource Area, then, encompasses both social history and architecture.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The Springville community dates from circa 1820 and was originally established as a summer retreat.¹¹ The Welsh, early settlers of Darlington District and ancestors of many Springville families, preferred the bottom lands along the Pee Dee River because they considered this type of soil better suited to their agricultural purposes.¹² As a result of this preference unhealthy conditions existed in the summer months on these plantations. Springville originated when the advantages of residing during the summer months in areas of higher elevation and well-drained soil were discovered. Additionally, abundant mineral springs and a large creek nearby were attractive features to the founding residents of the summer retreat.¹³ Hugh Lide was, according to tradition, the first to build a summer home in this area, which was in about 1820. He is also credited with naming the area Springville.

Soon after its initial occupancy, Springville rapidly began to attract seasonal residents. Indeed, so much so that lands were deeded in 1822 for use by the Springville Academy, which continued in operation until sometime between 1862 and 1868 at various locations around Springville.¹⁵ Apparently, there was even sufficient activity there by 1826 to warrant the establishment of a post office. However, post office records indicate that this service was discontinued in 1832, prior to the establishment of permanent residences in Springville.¹⁶

The year 1839 was pivotal in the evolution of Springville into a year-round community. The records indicate that it was around this time that many of the summer retreats were converted to primary residences.¹⁷ During the 1840s the town of Darlington was uncharacteristically plagued by malarial fever and many of the villagers sought out Springville in the summer months for respite. It is probable that some of these converts to the charms of Springville became permanent residents in later years.¹⁸

Springville reached its height of development in the 1850s by which time there were about thirty-five residences. Twenty-two or twenty-three of these were permanent and twelve or thirteen were summer residences.¹⁹ This number included homes on both sides of Black Creek. Since Springville was never incorporated, its boundaries are somewhat imprecise and the recollections of former residents must be relied upon.²⁰

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Although there was a predominance of permanent residences in Springville by the 1850s, most of the families derived their income from plantations in other parts of the district.²¹ The lands around Springville are light sandy soils that were considered unproductive and of little value to nineteenth century agriculturists. This lack of an economic base is what ultimately led to the demise of Springville as an active community. The Civil War and Reconstruction permanently changed the social and economic life of the region. In Springville, as was the case in much of the rural South, out of necessity many were forced to find new ways to make a living. By the time that conditions had improved, transportation had advanced to the point that it was easily possible to maintain a summer home much further away. Although the area of Springville continued to be occupied, it never recovered the vitality of the pre-war era.²²

The homesteads of Springville were intertwined through family ties from birth, by marriage, or through friendships that developed through the years. The properties included in the nomination provide insight into the dynamics of life in a rural nineteenth century planter community.

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FOOTNOTES

(1) Robert E. Coker, "Springville: A Summer Village of Old Darlington District," South Carolina Historical Magazine 53 (July 1952): 190 and Eliza C. Ervin and Horace F. Rudisill, eds., Darlingtoniana (Columbia, S.C.: The R.L. Bryan Co., 1964), p.88.

(2) Coker, "Springville," pp. 190-211; Ervin, Darlingtoniana, pp. 87-95 and News and Press (Darlington, S.C.), 13 July-10 August 1911. This number does not include slaves because they were listed in the census by owner not place of residence and most lived on the working plantations.

(3) South Carolina Water Resources Commission, State Water Assessment, Report No. 140, Sept. 1983, p. 191 and U. S. Department of the Interior, Geological Survey, Darlington East, S. C., Washington, D. C., 1963.

(4) U. S. Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service, Soil Survey Darlington County, S. C. (Washington, D. C.: Government Printing Office, October, 1960), pp. 64,79,80-83.

(5) Ibid., p. 64.

(6) Chapman J. Milling, Forward to Darlingtoniana, ed. by Eliza C. Ervin and Horace F. Rudisill (Columbia, S. C.: The R. L. Bryan Co., 1964), p.vii.

(7) Steven Carter and Associates, Darlington County Land Use Update and Growth Management Policy, (Darlington, S. C.: Darlington County Planning Commission, 1977), passim.

(8) Coker, "Springville," passim.; Ervin, Darlingtoniana, passim.; and News and Press, 13 July-10 August 1911.

(9) Coker, "Springville," passim; Ervin and Rudisill, Darlingtoniana, passim; News and Press, 13 July-10 August 1911; Edwin C. Dargan, Harmony Hall (Columbia, S. C.: The State Company, 1912), passim.

(10) Ervin and Rudisill, Darlingtoniana, p. 90.

(11) Coker, "Springville," p. 190; News and Press, 13 July 1911.

(12) Thomas D. Rice and F. W. Taylor, Soil Survey of the Darlington Area (Reprint from Field Operations, Bureau of Soils, 1902), p.291.

(13) Coker, "Springville," p. 190.

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(14) Dargan, Harmony Hall, p. 13.

(15) Coker, "Springville," p. 191.

(16) Although a cartographic symbol representing the existence of a post office appears on a map of Darlington County by E. M. Stoeber as late as 1873, postal records suggest the 1826-1832 dates. Ibid.

(17) Coker, "Springville," p. 206; News and Press, 27 July 1911.

(18) News and Press, 3 August 1911.

(19) W. A. Brunson, Glimpses of Old Darlington (Columbia, S. C.: The State, 1910), p.18.

(20) News and Press, 13 July-10 August 1911.

(21) Edwin C. Dargan in his reminiscences of Springville recounts that his family owned a plantation sixteen miles from Harmony Hall, the family residence in Springville. This was the common practice in Springville since "the poor land around it would not have supported its occupants." It was from these distant plantations that the Springfield families derived their income. "Most of the Negroes were kept on this plantation where they worked under the direction of an overseer but with frequent visits and general management from the home place." Dargan, Harmony Hall, p. 25; Coker, "Springville," p. 200.

(22) Coker, "Springville," p. 191.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

See inventory forms. Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References

A

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Zone Easting Northing

B

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Zone Easting Northing

C

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

D

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

E

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

F

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G

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H

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Verbal boundary description and justification

The general boundaries of the Springville community are shown on the accompanying map entitled "Springville, Darlington, S.C." drawn on a scale of 1"=1/2'. The boundaries for the properties included are shown on the individual inventory forms.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	N/A	code	county	N/A	code
-------	-----	------	--------	-----	------

state	N/A	code	county	N/A	code
-------	-----	------	--------	-----	------

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Tom Shaw, Architectural Historian

organization S. C. Department of Archives and History date July 24, 1985

street & number 1430 Senate Street

telephone (803) 758-5816

city or town Columbia

state South Carolina 29211

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 State Historic Preservation Officer.

date

For NPS use only

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

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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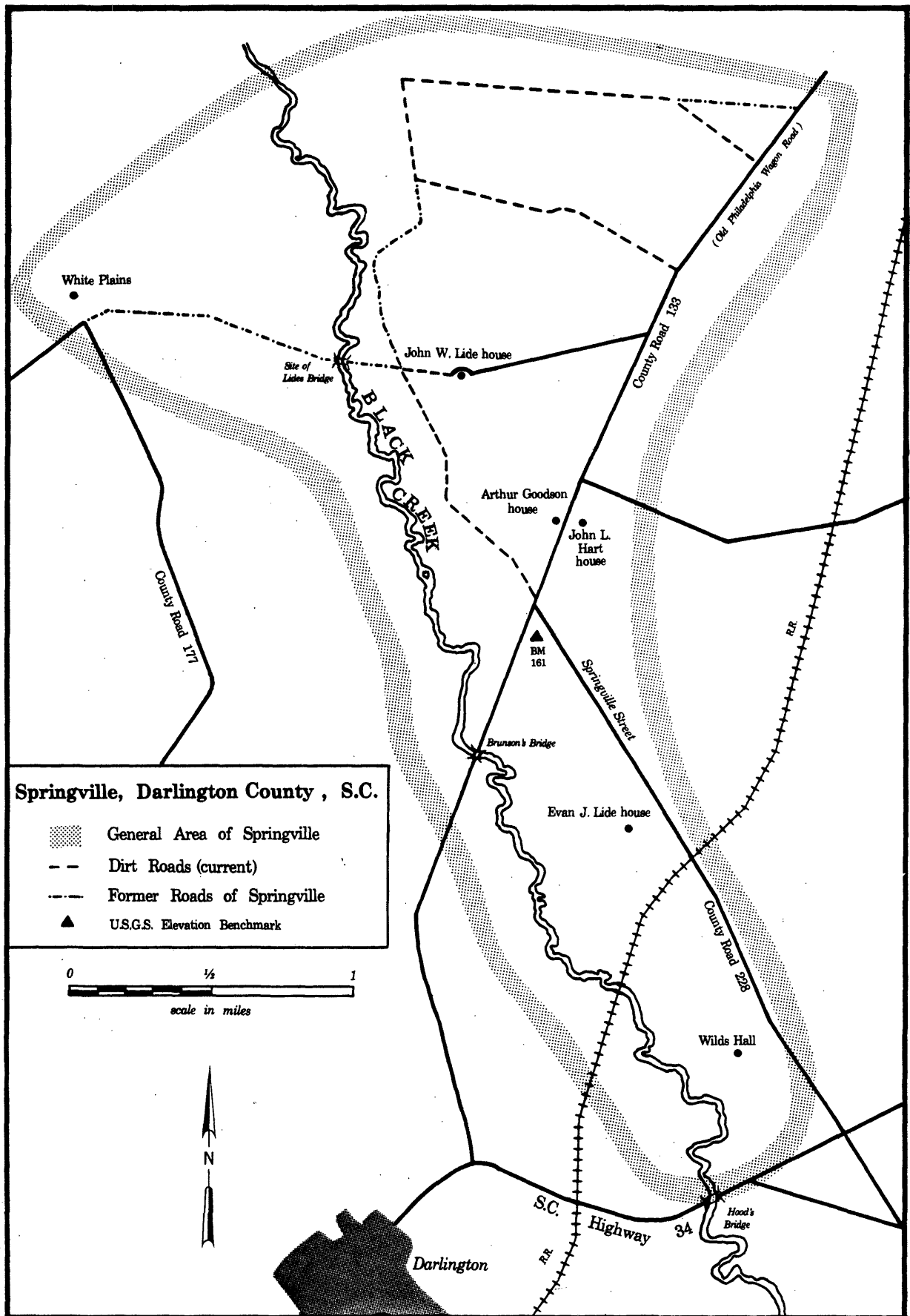
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Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

dnr-11

Name Springville MRA
State SOUTH CAROLINA

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

1. Goodson, Arthur, House

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Shelton Byers 10/10/85

Attest

2. Hart, John L., House

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Shelton Byers 10/10/85

Attest

3. Lide, Evan J., House

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Shelton Byers 10/10/85

Attest

4. Lide, John W., House

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Shelton Byers 10/10/85

Attest

5. White Plains

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Shelton Byers 10/10/85

Attest

6. Wilds Hall

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Shelton Byers 10/10/85

Attest

7.

Keeper

Attest

8.

Keeper

Attest

9.

Keeper

Attest

10.

Keeper

Attest