

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

For NPS use only

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received **AUG 14 1985**  
date entered **SEP 12 1985**

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

**1. Name**

historic John M. White House

and/or common Springs Guest House

**2. Location**

street & number Corner of White Street and Skipper Street NA not for publication

city, town Fort Mill NA vicinity of

state South Carolina code 045 county York code 091

**3. Classification**

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

**4. Owner of Property**

name Springland, Inc.

street & number c/o Mrs. Anne Springs Close, P.O. Box 100

city, town Fort Mill NA vicinity of state S.C. 29715

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. York County Courthouse

street & number South Congress Street

city, town York state S. C. 29745

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title South Carolina Inventory of Historic Places has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1984  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records South Carolina Department of Archives and History

city, town Columbia state South Carolina

# 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<b>Check one</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<b>Check one</b>	<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 type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed				

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The John M. White House is a two-story, brick residence located on a landscaped lot in a commercial and residential area near the center of Fort Mill, South Carolina. It was constructed ca. 1872 for John M. White. The John M. White House displays elements of the Italian Villa style in its irregular plan and low-pitched, bracketed roof, as well as elements of the Second Empire style in its mansard-roofed central pavillion and decorative pedimented window hoods. The house has not been significantly altered and retains integrity of setting, location, materials, workmanship, and feeling.

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

The John M. White House is a large, two-story, brick residence with an irregular plan. The low-pitched roof with eaves has a boxed cornice, carved modillions, and paired brackets with pendants. Decorative, stuccoed chimneys pierce the roof. The facade (west elevation) features a central, inset pavillion with a high-pitched, wooden-shingled, mansard roof; highly decorative metal cresting; hooded dormers with round-arched windows; and finials. A one-story, hip-roofed front porch with decorative balustrade and brackets shelters numerous pairs of French doors and a central, double-leaf entrance, all with transoms and full-length, wooden shutters. The second level of the facade features four-over-four windows with lug sills, lintels, decorative pedimented hoods, and wooden shutters.

The rear(east) elevation displays irregular massing, an enclosed, one-story porch, and irregular fenestration.

The right (south) and left (north) elevations are less ornate than the facade and display irregular massing and fenestration. The central core on the left elevation features a pedimented projecting bay with four-over-four windows, pilasters with moldings, and two recessed wooden panels:

There have been few alterations to the house. A side porch was extended and enclosed and a modern kitchen was added in the rear.

The interior of the house contains a wide entrance hall flanked by front parlors with French doors which lead to the front porch. A bedroom, dining room, kitchen, and sunroom complete the first floor. Upstairs are three bedrooms and baths. The mantels, doors, and woodwork are original. An interesting feature is the dining room mantel which incorporated old carved bedposts. The home is furnished and maintained in keeping with its period of construction.

A one-story, gable-roofed, brick cottage flanks the house on the north side. It was constructed around the same time as the main house. Tradition holds that it was the home of a former family slave who was repatriated to Africa and later returned to live with her former masters. The cottage is plain with a central entrance flanked by single windows. There is also a carriage house/garage, portions of which appear contemporary to the house, and a modern storage building on the north side.

The John M. White House is currently used as a guest residence for Springs Industries Inc., whose corporate headquarters is across from this house on White Street. The area is maintained with trees, shrubs, and lawn. Various commercial buildings and offices line White Street; northeast of the house is a residential area. The large grounds provide an adequate buffer and an appropriate setting for the house.

## 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 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 type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

**Specific dates** ca. 1872 **Builder/Architect** N/A

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The John M. White House, located in a commercial and residential section of Fort Mill, South Carolina, was constructed ca. 1872 for John M. White, member of a prominent family in the Fort Mill Area. The house displays the builder's awareness of the Italian Villa and Second Empire styles. The John M. White house is significant because it exemplifies the transition between the popularity of these two architectural styles, and because it was constructed during a time of political, social, and economic uncertainty in South Carolina.

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

John M. White purchased the land on which the John M. White House was constructed from his brother, David H. White, in August 1872.<sup>1</sup> The house was probably built shortly after the purchase of the land.<sup>2</sup>

John M. White willed the property to his wife upon his death in 1877.<sup>3</sup> His widow, Addie White O'Dell, sold the property to Leroy Springs for \$2,500 in 1916.<sup>4</sup> The house has been subsequently owned by various branches of the Springs Company.<sup>5</sup>

### Architecture

The low-pitched, bracketed roof, the irregular plan, and the front veranda of the John M. White House represent elements of the Italian Villa style, which was popular in much of the United States in the mid-nineteenth century. Also evident are the mansard-roofed, central pavillion with arched windows, and the decorative, pedimented facade windows which reflect the Second Empire style. The combined use of elements of these academic styles represents a transition between these architectural styles, which are unusual in upper South Carolina.

The John M. White House is also significant in South Carolina's architectural history because it was built, with all its style and elegance during the struggle to recover from the devastation of the Civil War.<sup>6</sup>

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 3.5

Quadrangle name Fort Mill

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

### UTM References

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**Verbal boundary description and justification** The boundary of the John M. White House nomination is shown as the bold black line on the accompanying York County Tax Map #20-4, drawn at a scale of one inch equals 200 feet. The nominated property includes the historic house and outbuildings, an anohistoric storage building, and their immediate setting.

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

state NA code county code

state NA code county code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Debra J. Allen, National Register Assistant Paul Gettys, Community Development  
Catawba Regional Council of Govts.

organization S.C. Department of Archives and History date December 17, 1984

street & number 1430 Senate Street telephone 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 7/16/85

### For NPS use only

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

Keeper of the National Register

Entered in the  
National Register

date 9/12/85

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior  
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FOOTNOTES

<sup>1</sup>Book Y, pp. 193-194, York County Deeds, York County Courthouse, York, S. C.

<sup>2</sup>William R. Bradford, Jr., Out of the Past: A History of Fort Mill, South Carolina 1600-1980 (Fort Mill, S. C.: Bradford Publishing Co., 1980), p. 44; Risher R. Fairey, "The John M. White House of Fort Mill, S.C.," Camden, S. C., 1982. (Typewritten.)

<sup>3</sup>Fairey, p. 2; Book 42, p.496, York County Deeds.

<sup>4</sup>Book 42, p. 496, York County Deeds.

<sup>5</sup>Book 55, p. 94, Book 337, p. 337, Book 421, p.524, York County Deeds.

<sup>6</sup>Fairey, p. 1.

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Continuation sheet 2

Item number 9

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BIBLIOGRAPHY

Bradford, William R., Jr. Out of the Past: A History of Fort Mill, South Carolina 1600-1980. Fort Mill, S.C.: Bradford Publishing Co., 1980.

Fairey, Risher R. "The John M. White House of Fort Mill, S.C." Camden, S.C., 1982.  
(Typewritten.)

York, S.C. York County Courthouse. York County Deeds. Books Y, 42, 55, 337, 421.