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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

### 1. Name of Property

historic name Thornwell-Elliott House  
other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

### 2. Location

street & number 118 Confederate Street  not for publication  
city, town Fort Mill  vicinity  
state South Carolina code SC county York code 091 zip code 29715

### 3. Classification

<b>Ownership of Property</b>	<b>Category of Property</b>	<b>Number of Resources within Property</b>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<b>Contributing</b>	<b>Noncontributing</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<u>      </u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:  
Historic Properties of Fort Mill

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

### 4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

Mary W. Edmonds 4/21/92  
Signature of certifying official Date  
Mary W. Edmonds, Deputy SHPO, S.C. Dept. of Archives & History  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official Date  
\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

### 5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register.  
 See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register.  See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_

Patrick Andrus 6/11/92  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

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**6. Function or Use**

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**Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)**Domestic: single dwelling

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**Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)**Domestic: single dwelling

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**7. Description**

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**Architectural Classification**

(enter categories from instructions)

Late Victorian

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**Materials (enter categories from instructions)**foundation Brickwalls Wood: weatherboard

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roof Asphaltother 

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**Describe present and historic physical appearance.**

The Thornwell-Elliott House, 118 Confederate Street, was the home of Rev. James H. Thornwell, pastor of the Unity Presbyterian Church from 1882 to 1905. The house is a one-story frame residence with weatherboard siding built about 1877. The L-shaped house has a lateral gable to the left and a front-facing gable to the right. The front gable has a rounded-arch louvered vent and decorative bargeboard. The porch has a hip roof, chamfered posts with decorative brackets, and turned balustrade. Two doors, one single window, and two sets of paired windows are placed within the porch area. Windows have six-over-six lights. The north side has a bracketed cornice. The south side has three pairs of windows. There is a modern carport with shed roof to the rear of the house.

The Thornwell-Elliott House falls within the Residences property type. It is an example of the subtype Victorian Era Houses. Built about 1877, it has many of the characteristics of vernacular houses built during the Late Victorian period, including decorative woodwork, such as bargeboard and brackets.

**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally     statewide     locally

Applicable National Register Criteria     A     B     C     D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)     A     B     C     D     E     F     G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Period of Significance

Significant Dates

Architecture  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

c.1877 - c. 1920  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

c. 1877  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Person

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_

Architect/Builder

Unknown  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Thornwell-Elliott House is significant for its connection with Rev. James H. Thornwell, Jr., pastor of the Presbyterian Church in Fort Mill from 1882 to 1905 and a leader in the religious life of the town. It is also significant for its architecture, which provides an excellent example of Late Victorian vernacular design, with some elements of the Queen Anne style.

The Thornwell-Elliott House was built in the period of growth in Fort Mill following the location of the railroad and the development of the town as a market center. During this period, there was an expansion of residential properties.<sup>1</sup> The exact date of construction of the house is unknown. The property was conveyed from T. B. Withers to A. W. Parks in January 1874.<sup>2</sup> Subsequent deed transfers refer to the property as the Parks lot and house.<sup>3</sup> It can thus be assumed that the house<sup>4</sup> was built prior to its sale by Parks to Samuel Elliott White in 1877.<sup>4</sup> The Rev. James H. Thornwell, Jr., pastor of Unity Presbyterian Church, resided in the house and maintained his office in the front room. The house remained in the Thornwell and related Elliott family until 1970.<sup>5</sup> Thornwell came from a very prominent family within the Presbyterian denomination. His father, Rev. James H. Thornwell, Sr., was President of South Carolina College, now the University of South Carolina, from 1852 to 1855. He was also a leading theologian within the Presbyterian church, and an important figure in the creation of a separate denomination in the South after the outbreak of the Civil War.<sup>6</sup> Thornwell Orphanage in Clinton, S.C. was named in his honor. Rev. Thornwell, Jr. was minister at Unity from 1882 to 1905, and became a leader in Fort Mill's developing culture and society. He was one of the twenty-five original stockholders in the Fort Mill Manufacturing Company in 1887.<sup>7</sup> Unity Church flourished during his tenure. After his departure, his son-in-law, Dr. James B. Elliott, lived in the house during the early 1900s, and the Elliott family owned the house until 1970. Dr. Elliott was a leading physician in the community. Both he and Rev. Thornwell

See continuation sheet

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

See full list of bibliographical references in the Multiple Properties submission, Historic Properties of Fort Mill. the following references pertain to this individual nomination:

Mack, B. Bayles. Fort Mill, S.C. Interview, 25 April 1990.

York, S.C. York County Courthouse. Clerk of Court.

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

**Specify repository:**

S. C. Department of Archives and History, Columbia, S.C.

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreege of property less than 1 acre

**UTM References**

A 

1	7
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5	0	5	1	4	0
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3	8	7	3	5	9	0
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Zone Easting Northing

B 

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Zone Easting Northing

C 

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D 

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See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

Parcel 20-06-08-08 as listed in the York County tax records, and is represented on the accompanying map, drawn at a scale of 1" = 200'.

See continuation sheet

**Boundary Justification**

The boundary includes the entire city lot which historically has been associated with the property.

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Paul M. Gettys  
organization Paul M. Gettys Associates date 28 September 1990  
street & number 4180 Cureton Ferry Road telephone (803) 329-3567  
city or town Catawba state S. C. zip code 29704

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maintained an office in the front room of the house.<sup>8</sup>

FOOTNOTES:

<sup>1</sup>The Herald (Rock Hill, S.C.), 7 January 1899.

<sup>2</sup>Deed Book Y, p. 2, Clerk of Court, York County Courthouse, York, S.C.

<sup>3</sup>Deed Book B-4, p. 637, Clerk of Court, York County Courthouse, York, S.C.

<sup>4</sup>Deed Book A-1, p. 345, Clerk of Court, York County Courthouse, York, S.C.

<sup>5</sup>Interview with B. Bayles Mack, Fort Mill, S.C., 25 April 1990.

<sup>6</sup>B. M. Palmer, The Life and Letters of James Henley Thornwell. (Richmond, VA: Whittet & Shepperson, 1875).

<sup>7</sup>Louise Pettus, The Springs Story: Our First Hundred Years. (Fort Mill, S.C.: Springs Industries, Inc., 1987), p. 18.

<sup>8</sup>Interview with B. Bayles Mack, Fort Mill, S.C., 25 April 1990.

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PHOTOGRAPHS

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Name of Property: Thornwell-Elliott House  
Historic Properties of Fort Mill  
multiple property submission  
Location of Property: York County, South Carolina  
Photographer: Paul M. Gettys  
Location of Negatives: Paul M. Gettys Associates, 4180 Cureton Ferry  
Road, Catawba, S. C. 29704  
Date: May 1990

1. Facade (SW)

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SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 92000644

Date Listed: 6/11/92

Thornwell-Elliott House  
Property Name

York SOUTH CAROLINA  
County State

Fort Mill MPS  
Multiple Name

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This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

for *Macl M. ...*  
Signature of the Keeper

9/4/92  
Date of Action

=====  
Amended Items in Nomination:

Section No. 8

The period of significance was amended to show only the date of construction, c. 1877, since the significance of the 1920 ending date shown in the original nomination was not demonstrated in the text.

This change was confirmed by phone with the South Carolina SHPO (7/22/92).

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DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)