

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JAN 18 1976

DATE ENTERED MAY 28 1976

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
~~The~~ Nickels-Milam House
AND/OR COMMON
The Milam House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER *506 Laurel ...*
~~Route 1, Mountville~~ --NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CITY, TOWN CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
Laurens VICINITY OF # 4
STATE CODE COUNTY CODE
South Carolina 045 Laurens 059

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input 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	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Mr. Cecil Milam
STREET & NUMBER
Route 1
CITY, TOWN STATE
Mountville VICINITY OF South Carolina

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Laurens County Courthouse
STREET & NUMBER
Public Square
CITY, TOWN STATE
Laurens South Carolina

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
Inventory of Historic Places in South Carolina
DATE
1973 --FEDERAL STATE --COUNTY --LOCAL
DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS South Carolina Department of Archives and History
CITY, TOWN STATE
Columbia South Carolina

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 Milam House is a three-story frame structure constructed ca. 1828 and is a variation of Greek revival style architecture.

Exterior: Extending the length of the front facade is a two-story porch which was probably a later addition. The porch is supported by six slender wooden columns, each of which is actually three columns joined together to form one. The columns lead into slender wooden arches which ornament each bay on both levels of the porch. Each of the two floors has 6/6 windows and a central paneled door with sidelights and transom. A small pediment containing a window ornaments the central bay of the front facade. A scalloped molding runs along the eave of the cornice. The original granite steps lead up to the main floor porch.

The two side facades each feature two brick chimneys, 6/6 windows, and two small windows. On the right side there is also a small porch which has three simple wooden columns. At the rear of the structure is a small wing which was added sometime after 1920.

Because the wood had decayed, the lower level of the front porch was shortened, and parts of several columns were replaced by stone supports ca. 1920. Sometime after this date, the balustrade along the upper level of the porch was removed. The exterior, which was originally clapboard, was covered by composition shingles a few years ago. Plans are now being made to restore the exterior to its original appearance.

Interior: The interior is basically unaltered. The first floor has the typical four room, divided by a large central hallway, plan. The second floor contains three bedrooms and a small sitting room, while the third floor is the attic story (and may have been used as a schoolroom).

Wide baseboards, wainscotting, and paneled doors appear throughout the structure. The original hardware remains on several doors. Fireplaces with the original mantels appear in all the main rooms, but the mantel in the parlor is especially noteworthy with its shell motifs.

In most of the main rooms the area between the chair-rail and baseboard remains as painted originally -- to look like walnut. Wide board panelling appears in several rooms, scroll design stair brackets ornament the main staircase, and a brick herring-bone pattern remains on one of the hearths. An extra staircase which leads directly from the right front room to the room above is of special interest.

The right rear room on the main floor has been converted into a kitchen but with very little alteration to the room itself. The only major structural alteration to the interior has been the addition of a small wing off the end of the central hallway, containing a bathroom and a small storage area.

Surroundings: Included in the nominated acreage are several barns and the family cemetery which is located directly across the road from the house. A cedar-lined driveway leads to the cemetery.

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 checked="" 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 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
ca. 1828

BUILDER/ARCHITECT
Dr. John Nickels^{7. 11. 00}

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Milam House was constructed ca. 1828 by Dr. John Nickels, a prominent and wealthy figure in the Lisbon Community (about 8 miles outside of Laurens, South Carolina). His wealth is documented by an 1850 inventory and appraisal of his estate which included 2,425 acres of land and 78 slaves. The house remained in the possession of Dr. Nickels' descendants until ca. 1920 when it was sold to Mr. and Mrs. Charles L. Milam.

Prominent figures in the religious, political, and social history of Laurens County have inhabited this structure.

Religion: The family of Dr. Nickels was instrumental in the founding of Lisbon Presbyterian Church. His wife, Jane Simpson Nickels, made an effort to get a Presbyterian church in the neighborhood in 1853 but failed. His daughters, Isabella Nickels Wright and Catherine Nickels Holmes, succeeded with the organization of Lisbon Presbyterian Church in 1871. Services were held at the Milam House until the church was completed sometime in the 1880s. Local tradition maintains that the church was constructed on land donated by the Nickels family. Although no deed exists, the church is adjacent to the house, and the Nickels land surrounded it.

Catherine Nancy Nickels, Dr. Nickels' daughter, married the minister and educator, Reverend Zelotes Lee Holmes. At one point, Reverend Holmes served as pastor of Lisbon Presbyterian Church and is also noteworthy as the builder of the Octagon House (National Register property) in Laurens.

Politics: Mr. Charles L. Milam purchased the property ca. 1920, and it has remained in his family since that time. Mr. Milam represented Laurens County in the South Carolina House of Representatives from 1937 until 1956.

Architecture: The Milam House exemplifies the type of structure built by wealthy farmers in the upcountry of South Carolina during the early 19th Century.

Although its exterior shows characteristics of Greek revival architecture, the Milam House is especially noteworthy for its interior, which is basically unaltered. The original moldings, paneled doors, and mantels remain in good condition as does the wide-board flooring and much of the original hardware. Most of the painted simulated walnut wainscoting remains on the first floor,

(continued)

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Bolick, Julian Stevenson. A Laurens County Sketchbook. 1973, pp. 237, 241.

Edgar, Walter B., ed. Biographical Directory of the South Carolina House of Representatives, vol. 1, Session lists 1692-1973. Columbia, South Carolina: University of South Carolina, 1974.

(continued)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 5

Latitude N. 34° - 25' - 35"
Longitude W. 82° - 00' - 18"

UTM REFERENCES

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE
Katharine N. McNulty, Historic Preservation Staff

(Mrs. C. Bryson Pulley
Waterloo, S.C.)

ORGANIZATION
South Carolina Department of Archives and History

DATE
7/23/75

STREET & NUMBER
P. O. 11,669, Capitol Station, 1430 Senate Street

TELEPHONE
(803) 758-5816

CITY OR TOWN
Columbia

STATE
South Carolina

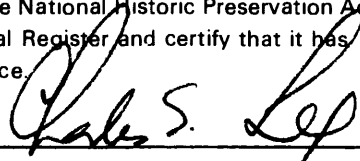
12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL STATE LOCAL X

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



TITLE
Charles E. Lee
State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE
12/29/75

FOR NPS USE ONLY
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE
5/28/96

ACTING DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION
ATTEST:

DATE
5-25-76

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE one

and the original paint still covers the walls of the upstairs hallway.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE two

Jones, F.D., and Mills, W.H., D.D., eds. History of the Presbyterian Church in South Carolina Since 1850. Columbia, South Carolina: R.L. Bryan Co., 1926.

Laurens County Office: Probate Judge Estate Papers. C 172, Bundle 111, Package 20, Estate of Dr. John Nickels.

"Minutes of the Session of the Presbyterian Church, Lisbon." Philadelphia Board of Publication No. 821. (in possession of Cecil Milam)

Pulley, Laura Madden. "Historical Sketch of Lisbon Presbyterian Church, 1871-1971." July 30, 1972. (available at Lisbon Presbyterian Church)