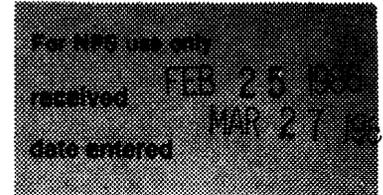


**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

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



Continuation sheet Item number Page

Name: Historic: Limestone Springs Historic District
Location: At the end of College Drive, and adjacent to Limestone College Campus

Common: Limestone Springs Historic District
Classification: District

Owners: Multiple Ownership (see continuation sheet)

Representation in Existing Surveys: South Carolina Inventory of Historic Places, 1985.

Description: The Limestone Springs Historic District includes ten buildings and one site associated with Limestone College and the community of Limestone Springs. The focal point of the district is the historic section of the Limestone College campus, which contains nine buildings constructed between ca. 1837 and 1941. The buildings on the campus are oriented towards a central lawn and fountain. Also included in the district are a limestone quarry that was mined in the nineteenth and early twentieth century and a mid-nineteenth century church building. The limestone quarry is located adjacent to the historic section of the campus and the Limestone Springs Baptist Church is adjacent to the quarry.

Key properties which contribute to the character of the district:

1. Winnie Davis Hall: Constructed in 1903 to house the Winnie Davis Hall of History, this two-story, brick Victorian Gothic building features a crenellated central tower, projecting central bay with gable, and grouped lancet windows. Winnie Davis Hall was individually listed on the National Register in 1977.

4. Limestone Springs Hotel Building: This four-story, brick building, which was constructed ca. 1837 as a hotel, is the oldest building on the campus of the college. Several changes have been made to the building since its construction. Originally the building faced south, but around 1897 the north elevation became the main facade. The porch on the south elevation shown in an 1846 engraving has been removed as has the porch added to the north elevation around 1897. The building was originally rectangular in form, but the addition of the Curtis Administration Building and the Dixie Lodge Building now give the appearance of a "T" Plan. (41)*

5. Curtis Administration Building: Added to the Limestone Springs Hotel Building in 1899, this two-story, brick building features a rectangular central tower with decorative pediment and ribbed dome. The two-story pedimented portico with Doric columns was added in 1939.

*Footnote numbers

6. Dixie Lodge Building: Built in 1911-12 to house a dining hall, dormitory space, and literary society halls, this four-story, brick building connects to the rear (south elevation) of the hotel building. The Dixie Lodge Building features grouped windows and a metal cornice with modillions. Around 1925 one-story wings were added on the south and east.

8. Hamrick Hall of Science: This two-story, brick building was completed in 1925 as a science hall. The facade features a two-story, limestone, Doric portico with simple entablature and cornice. The main entrance has a pediment and recessed double doors. A one-story, brick addition was added to the rear in 1961.

9. Carroll School of Fine Arts Building: This two-story, brick, Neo-Classical style building was completed in 1925. The facade features a two-story, pedimented portico with Doric columns.

10. Nesbitt's Quarry: This site was the location of a limestone quarry at least by 1820. The quarry was worked through much of the nineteenth and early twentieth century. Although most of the limestone was removed by the open pit method, some underground shafts of approximately 100 to 150 feet were excavated from the walls of the quarry. Since the site was abandoned in 1953, the quarry has filled with water.

11. Limestone Springs Baptist Church, 907 O'Neal Street: This one-story, brick church was constructed in 1846 to serve the students and residents of Limestone Springs. The building features a two-tiered tower on the facade and brick quoining. The main entrance, in the tower, has double doors beneath a semicircular transom. The upper level of the tower features wooden pilasters, rounded arch vent windows, and small pediments on each elevation. The original windows of the church were replaced with modern casement windows around 1960.

Other properties contributing to the character of the district:

2. Granberry Gymnasium: Brick gymnasium building constructed in 1927.

3. Eunice Ford Hall: This brick building was constructed in 1935 as a dormitory and attached to the Limestone Springs Hotel Building with a brick connector.

7. Ebert Dormitory: This brick building was constructed in 1941 as a dormitory and attached to the Limestone Springs Hotel Building with a brick wing.

Significance: The Limestone Springs Historic District is a significant collection of properties reflecting the history of the area in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries as a popular resort, as a center of lime production, and as a center of female education.

In the early nineteenth century the Limestone Springs were known as Nesbitt's springs. Wilson Nesbitt, the owner of the springs, was operating a limestone quarry and kiln near the springs by 1820. Nesbitt was an iron manufacturer and limestone was used in the smelting of iron ore.(42)

In 1837 the Limestone Springs Company purchased 300 acres containing the lime kiln and springs from Nesbitt and built a four-story, brick

hotel.(43) The relatively cool climate was believed to be healthy and waters from the Limestone Springs were said to restore strength and appetite. According to an 1841 advertisement guests would find " 'Baths, cold, warm, and shower, always ready at a moments notice.' "(44) Dances held in the hotel and races at a nearby track appealed to those seeking recreation as well as health.(45) For a time the hotel enjoyed a brisk trade, attracting many lowcountry visitors, but the company was not able to make a profit on its investment and the hotel was closed around 1844.(46)

In 1845 Thomas Curtis, a native of England and a scholar and Baptist minister, and his son William Curtis, also a Baptist minister, purchased the Limestone Springs property.(47) In 1845 the Curtises opened the Limestone Springs Female High School in the hotel building.(48) The school was nonsectarian and in the most advanced department, courses included philosophy, theology, algebra, geometry and higher mathematics, chemistry, geology, astronomy, English poetry and composition, French, and Classical studies.(49) The popularity of the school grew, and by 1859 there was an enrollment of 151, including students from North Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Louisiana, Tennessee, Alabama, and Mississippi as well as South Carolina.(50)

In addition to administering the school, the Curtises founded the Limestone Springs Baptist Church and began a business in the quarrying, burning, and sale of limestone, which was sold to builders, contractors, and merchants.(51)

After the death of Thomas Curtis in 1859, his son continued to operate the school. During the Civil War and Reconstruction the school experienced financial difficulties and in 1871 Curtis was forced to sell the property.(52)

During the 1870s attempts by new owners to revive the school were only moderately successful.(53) In 1877 the current owners, Thomas H. Bomar and Charles Petty, persuaded Peter Cooper, a New York philanthropist and founder of Cooper Union, to lend financial support to the school. In return Cooper took a mortgage on the property. It was believed that the sale of lime from the quarry could result in large revenues for the school and Cooper provided loans to make improvements in the burning of lime, to build a tram railroad to carry lime to the main railway, and to purchase machinery to make barrels in which to ship the lime.(54)

Cooper's plan of establishing a school similar to Cooper Union on the campus failed to materialize and in 1880 he donated his share of the Limestone High School property to the Spartanburg Baptist Association to be used for educational purposes and canceled the mortgage. The association purchased the remaining interest in the property from Bomar and in 1881 the school reopened as the Cooper-Limestone Institute for Young Ladies.(55) In 1898 the name was changed to Limestone College.(56)

In 1883 in order to pay debts the Cooper-Limestone Institute sold the property containing the quarry and kilns to W.H.H. Richardson, who expanded the lime manufacturing operations.(57) Lime production at Limestone Springs under various owners continued through the late nineteenth century. Lime shipped from Limestone Springs was sold for agricultural purposes and for building products.(58)

Lee Davis Lodge was appointed president of Limestone College in 1899, serving until 1923. Under his direction the curriculum was broadened and academic standards raised. The Winnie Davis School of History, which promoted the study of Southern history and literature, was developed as a result of his devotion to the South.(59) In 1921 the control and direction of Limestone was given to the State Convention of the Baptist Denomination of South Carolina.(60) At the time of Lodge's death in 1923, the enrollment of the college was 230.(61)

Robert Granberry became president after the death of Lodge. During his tenure (1923-1951) the school continued to gain status academically and in 1928 was admitted into the Southern Association of Colleges.(62)

The limestone quarry and kilns, which had continued in operation until around the First World War, were reopened in the 1930s as a source of crushed stone. Mining continued until 1953 when the quarry was exhausted.(63)

Acreage: Approximately 12 acres

Verbal Boundary Description: The boundary of the Limestone Springs Historic District is shown as the dark line on accompanying Cherokee County tax map 100-04 which is drawn at a scale of 1"=100'. The nominated property includes the largest concentration of historic resources with the smallest number of noncontributing associated with the development of Limestone College and the community of Limestone Springs.

<u>UTM Reference Points:</u>	A. 17/440740/3879310	B. 17/440920/3879210
	C. 17/441140/3879110	D. 17/441140/3878990
	E. 17/441060/3878840	F. 17/440720/3878850
	G. 17/440630/3878880	H. 17/440820/3879100
	I. 17/440770/3879100	J. 17/440640/3879070

Other Information:

Level of Significance: State

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

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Inventory—Nomination Form**

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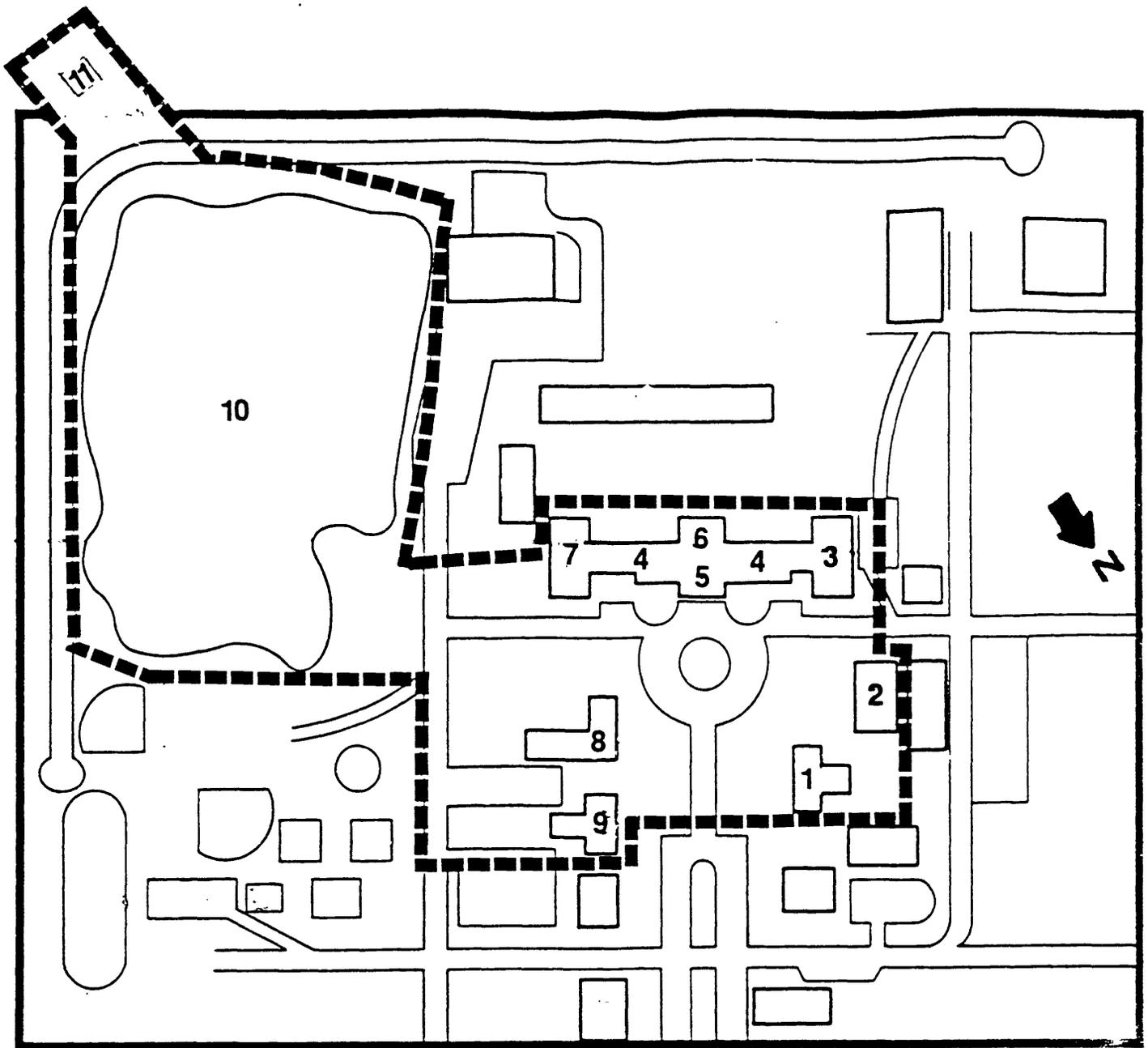
Limestone Springs Historic District - Owners

Limestone Springs Baptist Church

Trinity Baptist Church Tr.
907 O'Neal Street
Gaffney, S.C. 29340

All other properties

Limestone College
1115 College Drive
Gaffney, S.C. 29340



LIMESTONE SPRINGS HISTORIC DISTRICT
GAFFNEY, SOUTH CAROLINA

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Winnie Davis Hall | 7. Ebert Dormitory |
| 2. Granberry Gymnasium | 8. Hamrick Science Hall |
| 3. Eunice Ford Dormitory | 9. Carroll Fine Arts Building |
| 4. Limestone Springs Hotel | 10. Nesbitt's Quarry |
| 5. Curtis Administration Building | 11. Limestone Spring's Baptist Church |
| 6. Dixie Lodge Building | |

SKETCH MAP - NOT TO SCALE