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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 for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Bennettsville Historic District (Boundary Increase)
other names/site number Playhouse Theater

2. Location

street & number Clyde Street between Main and Market Streets not for publication
city or town Bennettsville vicinity
state South Carolina code SC county Marlboro code 069
zip code 29512

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally.
(See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Mary W. Edmonds 4/21/93
Signature of certifying official Date

Mary W. Edmonds, Deputy SHPO, S.C. Department of Archives & History, Columbia, S.C.
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.
(See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. 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 6/3/93

Signature of Keeper Date

Signature of Keeper Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

| Contributing | Noncontributing | |
|---------------|-----------------|------------|
| <u>1</u> | <u> </u> | buildings |
| <u> </u> | <u> </u> | sites |
| <u> </u> | <u> </u> | structures |
| <u>1</u> | <u>0</u> | objects |
| | | Total |

Name of related multiple property listing
Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: RECREATION AND CULTURE Sub: Theater

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: SOCIAL Sub: Civic

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Late 19th and 20th Century Revivals;
Classical Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick

roof _____

walls Brick

other Cast Stone

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or a grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Significant Dates

1918

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Period of Significance

1918

Architect/Builder

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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 # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property Less than one acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

| | Zone | Easting | Northing | Zone | Easting | Northing |
|---|----------|-------------------------|----------|------|---------|----------|
| 1 | ___ | ___ | ___ | 3 | ___ | ___ |
| 2 | ___ | ___ | ___ | 4 | ___ | ___ |
| | <u>X</u> | See continuation sheet. | | | | |

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title H. Thomas Shaw, Branch Supervisor, Local Assistance Branch, South Carolina SHPO
organization S.C. Department of Archives & History date 20 April 1993
street & number P.O. Box 11,669, 1430 Senate Street telephone (803) 734-8610
city or town Columbia state SC zip code 29211

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name _____
street & number _____ telephone _____
city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7 Page 1

Bennettsville Historic District
(Boundary Increase)
Playhouse Theater
name of property
Marlboro County, South Carolina
county and State

The Bennettsville Historic District, listed in the National Register of Historic Places on 20 April 1978, includes the central portion of the town and is composed of both commercial, residential, and public buildings, churches, schools, and structures such as the town's water tower. Most of the historic resources date from the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The district is comprised of two non-contiguous segments.

The Playhouse Theater is a masonry, two-story building with a vault facade. The vaulted opening is defined by a pointed, cusped arch, radiating, molded voussoirs, and a dominant keystone. A heavy, bracketed and dentilled cornice projects from below the stepped parapet. Double windows with four-over-four sash symmetrically flank the vault at both levels. A single, centered window pierces the corbelled frieze above the keystone. Part of the cast stone watertable was removed in order to affix a false facade in the 1950s, which was in turn removed in 1988.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8 Page 2

Bennettsville Historic District
(Boundary Increase)
Playhouse Theater
name of property
Marlboro County, South Carolina
county and State

When the Bennettsville Historic District was listed in 1980 the facade of the Playhouse Theater was obscured by a false facade erected in the 1950s and was therefore excluded from the boundaries of the district. This facade was removed in 1988. The theater is immediately adjacent to the existing historic district and is now eligible for inclusion.

The Playhouse Theater, originally an opera house and theater, was built in 1918 for T.C. Crosland and J.W. Tyson.(1) Crosland and Tyson were Bennettsville realtors and developers involved in developing a new commercial area adjacent to the central business district. The theater was designed to hold 500 patrons and had a balcony. A large stage and orchestra pit, complete with a full-time orchestra hired to play for all the theater's productions, helped to attract plays--particularly musicals--which travelled the circuit from Broadway. Minstrel shows and other road shows also played at the theater for a number of years, alternating with silent motion pictures and with local uses such as American Legion shows and contests or high school plays and graduations. By 1930, as the popularity of motion pictures eclipsed the demand for plays and road shows, the Playhouse Theater was sold to O.C. Scarborough; it operated as a movie theater for nearly fifty years afterward.(2)

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8 Page 3

Bennettsville Historic District
(Boundary Increase)
Playhouse Theater
name of property
Marlboro County, South Carolina
county and State

Notes

(1) Marlboro County Deeds, Book 25, p. 285, Marlboro County Courthouse, Bennettsville, S.C.

(2) William L. Kinney, "Clyde Street Playhouse Popular," Marlboro Herald Advocate, 28 July 1988; Fay R. McLaurin, Interview with Frank Exum, Sr., Bennettsville, S.C., 24 March 1992; Interview with Mary McLaurin Weatherly, Bennettsville, S.C., 23 March 1992.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 10 Page 4

Bennettsville Historic District
(Boundary Increase)
Playhouse Theater
name of property
Marlboro County, South Carolina
county and State

UTM References

The previous UTM coordinates for the Bennettsville Historic District will not change as a result of this boundary increase.

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary increase is shown as the heavy black rectangle on the enclosed sketch map; a portion of the boundary of the existing Bennettsville Historic District is shown as the cross-hatched area adjacent to the boundary increase.

Boundary Justification

The boundary increase to the previously-listed Bennettsville Historic District includes the Playhouse Theater and its immediate setting.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section Photos Page 5

Bennettsville Historic District
(Boundary Increase)
Playhouse Theater
name of property
Marlboro County, South Carolina
county and State

The following information is the same for each of the photographs:

Name of property: Bennettsville Historic District (Boundary Increase)
 Playhouse Theater
Location of property: Marlboro County, South Carolina
Date of photograph: March 1992
Photographer: Joe Gonzales
Location of negative: Marlboro Historic Preservation Commission,
 Bennettsville, S.C.

- 1) Facade
- 2) Right elevation

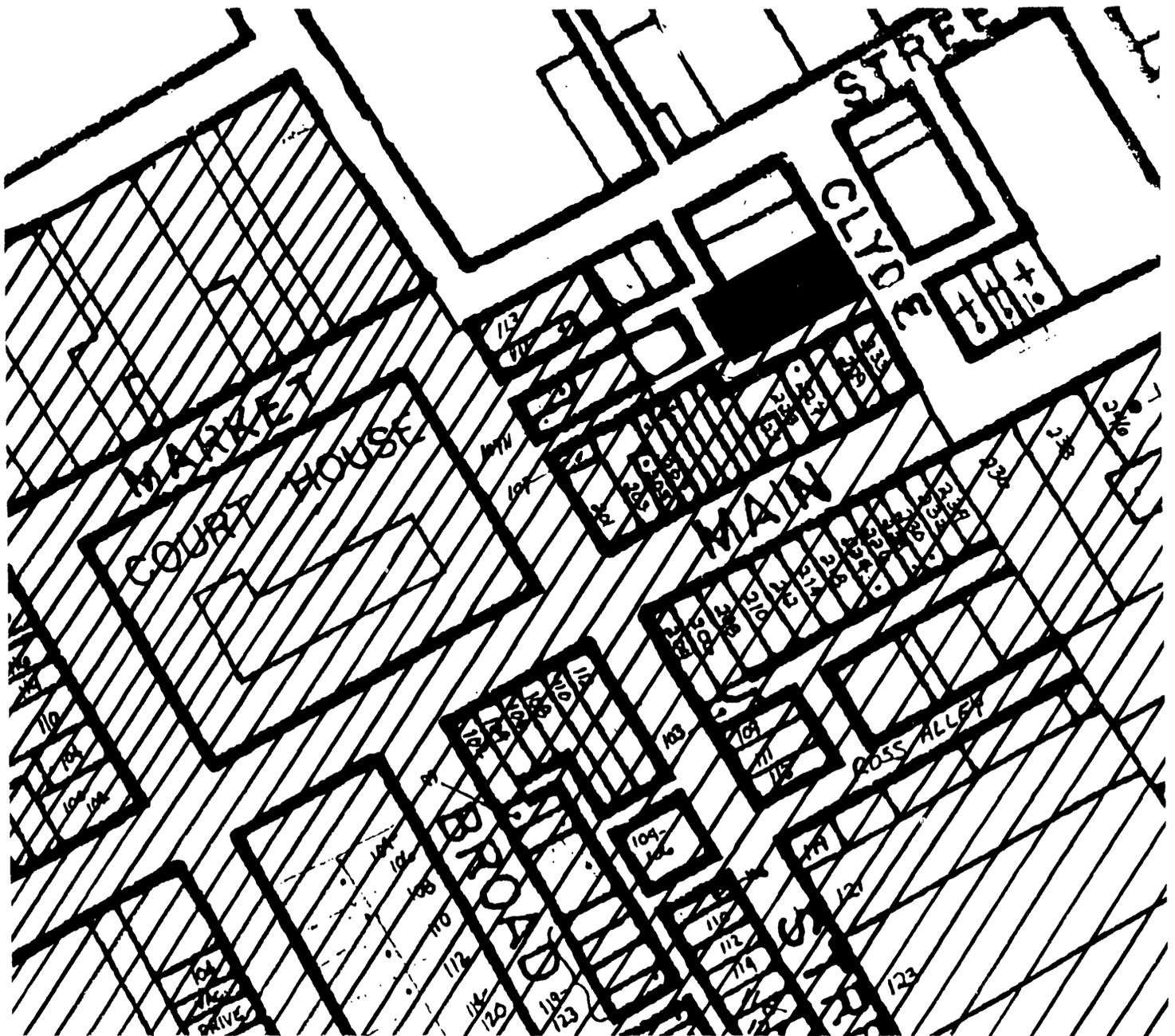
Bennettsville Historic District (Boundary Increase)
Playhouse Theater
Marlboro County



Existing District Boundaries



Boundary Increase



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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 93000438

Date Listed: 6/3/93

**Bennettsville Historic District
(Boundary Increase)**
Property Name

Marlboro
County

SC
State

N/A
Multiple Name

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.

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

=====
Amended Items in Nomination:

U.T.M.: The U.T.M. coordinate for the building represented in this boundary increase is : 17 620720 3831250.

This correction should not be counted as a technical error for the purposes of State Program Review.

This revision has been confirmed with Andy Chandler of the SC SHPO.

DISTRIBUTION:

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