

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED SEP 29 1977
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**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
Witherspoon-Hunter House
AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
15 West Liberty Street
CITY, TOWN
York
STATE
South Carolina
VICINITY OF
COUNTY
York
CODE
045
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
#5
NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CODE
091

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Mrs. Agnes Hunter Lawton
STREET & NUMBER
15 West Liberty Street
CITY, TOWN
York
VICINITY OF
STATE
South Carolina

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
York County Courthouse
STREET & NUMBER
Congress Street
CITY, TOWN
York
STATE
South Carolina

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
Inventory of Historic Places in South Carolina
DATE
1973 (update)
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS
S. C. Department of Archives and History
CITY, TOWN
Columbia
STATE
South Carolina
FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<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 Witherspoon-Hunter House was probably built between 1823 and 1831 and is located in the town of York, South Carolina. Constructed of wood, the structure rests upon a raised brick basement. It consists of a two-story front section covered by a gable roof, and a one-story L-shaped annex at the rear.

A double-tiered portico on the front of the structure is supported by three square columns supporting a pediment. (This portico appears to be a later addition.) On the first level of the portico there are two single doors with four-light transoms above. Opening onto the upper level of the portico are two jib doors which have hinged panels at the bottom.

An exterior chimney is located on each side facade, and a one-story porch extends along a portion of the left side facade. Windows are 9/9 and have louvered shutters. The roof is currently covered with asphalt shingles.

The rear elevation reveals the L-shaped one-story annex. A porch originally extended along the rear of this section; however, the right portion has been enclosed for a bathroom. Another bathroom enclosure has also been added to the second floor of the rear facade.

INTERIOR: The first floor of the structure consists of six rooms. The front doors open directly into a dining room on the right and a parlor on the left. Located behind these rooms are a kitchen (modern) on the right; with a sitting room, library, and bedroom on the left. An enclosed staircase in the sitting room leads to the second level which is one room deep, having a central hall flanked by a bedroom on each side. There are a total of six fireplaces. All the mantels appear to be original.

SURROUNDINGS: The structure is located in the town of York; a new bank is located next door. Included within the nominated acreage is a small brick building. It is not known when this structure was built; nor is its original purpose known. It appears to be of the same period as the main 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 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

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Witherspoon-Hunter House was probably built ca. 1825 and is significant as having been the home of two of York, South Carolina's leading families. It is also significant architecturally, being an example of an early 19th Century upcountry townhouse.

This structure was probably built by Thomas B. Hoover. In 1823 Hoover bought three contiguous lots (comprising a total of one and one-half acres) for \$550. In 1831 Hoover sold this property to Isaac D. Witherspoon for \$3,000, the deed reading "...the lot whereon the said Thomas B. Hoover now resides...."¹

Isaac D. Witherspoon (1803-1858) was a lawyer and prominent figure in both local and state politics. He served in the South Carolina Senate between 1840 and 1856, and while a member also served as Lieutenant Governor between 1842 and 1844. He was a Trustee of South Carolina College (1842-44, 1845-57), and a presidential elector in 1844. Upon Witherspoon's death in 1858 in Virginia, a public meeting was held at the York County Courthouse to pay tribute to him.

Witherspoon's son, Isaac D. Witherspoon (1833-1901) was also a lawyer, a member of the South Carolina Senate, and a Trustee of South Carolina College. From 1882 until 1898 he served as judge of the Sixth Judicial Circuit.

In 1880 the house was sold by the executor of the estate of I.D. Witherspoon to John Jackson Hunter (1844-1913). A veteran of the War Between the States, Hunter established a successful dry goods business in York in 1876. He also served as mayor of the town. The house remains in the Hunter family today.

¹York County Deeds, Book L, p. 406.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE one

Marsh, Blanche. Plantation Heritage in Upcountry South Carolina. Asheville, North Carolina: Biltmore Press, 1963.

"Public Meeting." The Yorkville Enquirer, August 5, 1858.

Reynolds, E. M., and Faunt, J. R. Biographical Directory of the Senate of the State of South Carolina, 1776-1964. Columbia: S. C. Archives Department, 1964.

Wardlaw, Joseph G. Genealogy of the Witherspoon Family with Some Account of Other Families with Which It Is Connected. Yorkville, S.C.: The Enquirer Office, 1910.

South Carolina Department of Archives and History. York County Deeds. Book K, pp. 78-81; Book L, p. 406; Book B-2, pp. 723-724.