

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

207

10-1-90 2280

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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 Aiken, Hugh, House  
other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

2. Location

street & number 1 Parkside Drive not for publication \_\_\_\_\_  
city or town Greenville vicinity \_\_\_\_\_  
state South Carolina code SC county Greenville code 045 zip code 29609

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant \_\_\_ nationally \_\_\_ statewide X locally. ( \_\_\_ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Mary W. Edmonds 2/13/03  
Signature of certifying official Date

Mary W. Edmonds, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, S.C. Dept. of Archives and 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): \_\_\_\_\_

for  
Signature of the Keeper Edson H. Beall Date of Action 4-11-03

Aiken, Hugh, House  
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5. Classification

Ownership of Property  
(Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property  
(Check only one box)

Number of Resources within Property  
(Do not include previously listed resources)

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

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

Contributing	Noncontributing
1	0
1	0

buildings  
sites  
structures  
objects  
Total

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed  
in the National Register  
0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Category: Domestic

Subcategory: single dwelling

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Category: Domestic

Subcategory: single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Late 19th and 20th Century  
Revivals

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation stone  
walls wood  
roof asphalt shingle  
other

Narrative Description

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

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**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 in 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  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

1952  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

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

**Cultural Affiliation**

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

**Architect/Builder**

Ward, William Riddle  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

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

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

(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:  
Palmetto Preservation Works,  
Greenville, S.C.

Aiken, Hugh, House  
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**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreeage of Property** 4.90 acres

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	17	372911	3	17	_____
2	17	_____	4	17	_____

\_\_\_ See contlnuation 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 Robert C. Benedict  
 organization Palmetto Preservation Works, LLC date July 2002  
 street & number 411 Hampton Ave. telephone 864-271-5220  
 city or town Greenville state SC zip code 29601

**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 Mr. and Mrs. Richard Pennell  
 street & number 1 Parkside Drive telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
 city or town Greenville state SC zip code 29609

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The Hugh Aiken House is a one and one-half story, frame residence constructed in 1952 on a lot of less than 5 acres at 1 Parkside Drive in Greenville, South Carolina. It was designed in 1948 by noted Greenville architect William ("Willie") Riddle Ward for Hugh K. Aiken, president and treasurer of Piedmont Paint and Manufacturing Company.<sup>1</sup> The house was constructed in the Colonial Revival style on an extensively landscaped lot adjacent to the North Main Street area of Greenville.

The Hugh Aiken House is located on 4.9 acres on Parkside Drive at West Avondale Drive two blocks from North Main Street in Greenville. The immediate area is comprised of other historic and non-historic residences. Two significant residences, Broad Margin and the Francis Hipp House, are within the same block of Avondale Drive. Broad Margin was designed by Frank Lloyd Wright and constructed in 1954. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is only one of two Wright-designed properties in South Carolina. The Francis Hipp House was constructed in 1948 for one of Greenville's leading businessmen, Francis Hipp, son of the founder of Liberty Life Insurance Company and a former head of the state economic development board. Many of the other homes within the immediate area were constructed during the post World War II boom of the 1940's and 1950's and were part of the Northgate planned development by Utopian Developing Company which originated in 1939.

The original structure of the Hugh Aiken House contained approximately 3,100 square feet on a single level over a basement. The foundation is stone complementing the flagstone steps and front porch floor and the retaining walls of the landscaping. The exterior is lapped wood siding. Willie Ward's design approach emphasized compatibility with the configuration of the lot and its heavily-wooded, natural setting and falling topography. The focal point of the lot is small pond fed by natural springs. The pond is accented with stone retaining walls and provides a natural setting for the front yard in contrast to the close proximity to downtown Greenville. Ward assured compatibility through a design emphasizing a main entry section and two adjacent, angled sections of the house. The central section consists of a formal entrance hall, living room, den and loggia. The loggia connects to adjacent rear halls flanking the loggia and provides access to the other areas of the house comprised of the bedrooms, dining room, kitchen, breakfast room and children's activity room (formerly the garage). The prominence of the main entry section emphasizes the formality of this area of the house while the angled sections accommodate less formal rooms. The Colonial Revival design of the Hugh Aiken House has a low-pitched (9/12 pitch) roof accented with four original roof gables and a prominent front porch. The main entry section of the house features a prominent, Tabernacle surround of the front door with classical detailing. A large, tapered stone chimney dominates the front elevation of the house and a second tapered, stone chimney accents the south elevation of the house. This chimney is flanked by two decorative roof vents. The original windows are six over six or eight over eight panes except for three large, plate glass windows within the loggia overlooking the

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<sup>1</sup>Hill's City Directory, (Richmond: Hill Directory Co., Inc. Publishers, 1950-51), 30.

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rear deck. The windows flanking the front chimney serving the living room have large, four-light transoms. Shutters are used with most of the windows. Distinctive gable vents with louvers accent the roof gables.

The interior is characterized by a formal entry hall, living room, den and loggia in the main entry of the house. This area of the house has 10' high ceilings, 1 ½" wide, hardwood floors, 8" high baseboard, chair rail and highly decorative cornices which were characteristic of Willie Ward designs. The focal point of the living room is the fireplace mantle with fluted, Doric columns, distinctive trim molding and a cross in the upper right corner. As throughout the original part of the house, the door hardware is original and of a Colonial Revival style. The loggia features the aforementioned large, plate glass windows and a double, French door providing access to the rear deck. The walls of the original structure are lathe and plaster. The den has paneled wainscoting, built-in book cases, original fireplace mantle and a half-bath. A nine-light, French door provides separate ingress and egress from the den to the front porch.

A curved hall provides a graceful transition from the loggia to the rear hall and the dining room. The crown molding of the rear hall is more subdued although the chair rail, hardwood floors and 8" high baseboard provide continuity from the more formal, adjacent rooms. The dining room has the same detail and size of the chair railing, baseboards although the cornice is highly decorative. The dining room ceiling is nine feet in height and two adjoining windows with eight over eight panes are a focal point of the dining room overlooking the front porch and yard.

The kitchen and breakfast room were remodeled by a previous owner although the cabinetry closely resembles the original cabinetry thereby retaining much of the original character of the kitchen. Reclaimed heart pine plank flooring replaced the original linoleum floors and granite countertops have been added. The original windows and doors of these rooms have been retained.

The alterations of the Hugh Aiken House are limited and have been sensitive to the original character of Willie Ward's design. The garage has been converted into a children's room and the attic was partially enclosed with the addition of two bedrooms and a bathroom. A gable dormer was added to the second floor of the rear elevation in order to provide windows and light to the additional two bedrooms. The dormer complements Ward's original design with an appropriate scale, lapped wood siding, similar windows and a lunette roof vent gable. Selective interior detailing has not affected the architectural integrity. For example, the original light fixtures have been updated and replaced with fixtures that are consistent with Ward's selections. The architectural firm of Hollis and Crocker of Spartanburg designed the alterations including the second floor addition for the current owners. Alterations to the historic landscape have been minimal with a stone bridge recently added to the front yard and the addition of a rear deck by a previous owner. The alterations have not compromised the overall historic character of the Hugh Aiken House and have been sensitive to Willie Ward's level of detail and craftsmanship.

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The Hugh Aiken House possesses architectural significance as one of William ("Willie") Riddle Ward's most distinctive single-family residential designs. It is an excellent representation of a Willie Ward architectural plan with the high degree of detail and quality of craftsmanship associated with one of South Carolina's most noted architects of the Twentieth Century. It is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under criteria C.

The Hugh Aiken House was constructed in 1952 in the Colonial Revival style as a single-story frame residence at what is presently One Parkside Drive in Greenville, South Carolina. It is presently owned by Richard and Nancy Pennell who purchased the house in 1996 and rehabilitated it shortly thereafter. It was designed in 1948 by Willie Ward and constructed in 1952 for Hugh K. Aiken, president and treasurer of Piedmont Paint and Manufacturing Company.<sup>2</sup> Hugh Aiken was previously employed by DuPont in Chicago and was convinced to relocate to Greenville in 1929 by his friend, J.E. Sirrine, a noted architect of the region. Upon establishing a residence in Greenville, Aiken founded Piedmont Paint and Manufacturing Company which became a leading source for industrial coatings with clients such as Singer, Square D, and Purolator. Hugh Aiken retired in 1968 and passed away in 1978. Piedmont Paint and Manufacturing Company was acquired in 1988 by Morton, International.<sup>3</sup>

The architecture of the Hugh Aiken house is significant because of its association with Willie Ward and the influence of the design and setting upon other residences within the "North Main Street" area of Greenville. The immediate area is considered to be one of Greenville's most desirable residential neighborhoods retaining much of its original character. One of South Carolina's most architecturally significant homes, Broad Margin (designed by Frank Lloyd Wright, 1954), is within the same block as the Hugh Aiken House and was constructed shortly thereafter. The site of the Hugh Aiken House possesses many of the same characteristics as the Broad Margin site with falling topography, numerous hardwood trees and a creek.

By the time Willie Ward designed the Hugh Aiken House in 1948, he had become one of South Carolina's most influential architects. A native of Eutaw, Alabama, he was born in 1890 and a graduate of Auburn University. Ward was first employed by the architectural firm of Hill and Stout which had ties to noted architect Stanford White. While employed at Hill and Stout during the early 1900's, Ward was a graduate student in architecture at Columbia University. Ward served in the army during World War I and was stationed in Paris, France. During that time, he attended classes at Ecole des Beaux-Arts. Upon his discharge, he recalled the advice of a friend in New York, Haskell

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<sup>2</sup>Ibid.

<sup>3</sup>Hugh Aiken, Jr., interview by author, 23 June 2002.

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Martin, that Greenville represented an excellent opportunity for the young and talented architect. He moved to Greenville and established a partnership with Martin which lasted until 1925. His first architectural commission in Greenville was designing a residence for W.E. Mason at the intersection at Manley and Pettigru streets. Shortly thereafter Ward received architectural commissions to design such buildings as the Laurens City Hall, a hospital and library in Laurens, Whitmire Mill and Triune United Methodist Church in Greenville. His commercial designs ranged from gas stations and car dealerships to buildings at the YWCA's Camp Burgiss Glen. Ward designed approximately 133 residences statewide during his 41 years in Greenville and left a legacy that make his architectural designs highly sought after residences.<sup>4</sup> The R. Perry Turner House (1937) and the Robert G. Turner House (1935) in Greer, South Carolina, were designed by Ward and listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1999.

Willie Ward considered the Hugh Aiken House to be his "modern house" according to a former associate and employee, Bob Farmer. The distinctive loggia and angled footprint of the Aiken residence were features that Ward was especially proud of with this design.<sup>5</sup>

Willie Ward is primarily remembered for his residential architectural, however his commercial designs are associated with numerous architecturally distinctive buildings that are well-known in the Upstate of South Carolina. Such commercial structures include the Elks Club Building (downtown Greenville), Triune United Methodist Church (Greenville), Fidelity Federal Savings and Loan Building (Greenville), Tyler Hospital (Greenville - demolished) and Laurens City Hall.<sup>6</sup>

In 1957 Ward designed his last house, the R.D. Sellers House in Greenville. He turned his practice over his employee, Bob Farmer, and announced his retirement by stating "Here are the keys, I'm retiring to Alabama."<sup>7</sup> He retired to his hometown of Eutaw, Alabama where he spent several years overseeing the restoration of the 150-year old First Presbyterian Church. He died in a Tuscaloosa Nursing Home in 1984.<sup>8</sup> Ward left a legacy in Greenville where homes designed by him are highly

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<sup>4</sup>Alyce Atkinson, "Willie Ward: Architect left a legacy of style and quality in Greenville," The Greenville (SC) News-Piedmont, 8 April 1984, 1F and 3F.

<sup>5</sup>N. Jackson Thacker, A.I.A., interview by author, 23 June 2002.

<sup>6</sup>John E. Wells and Robert E. Dalton, The South Carolina Architects 1885 – 1935: A Biographical Dictionary (Richmond: New South Architectural Press, 1992), 194-195.

<sup>7</sup>Thacker interview.

<sup>8</sup>Atkinson, 3-F.



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sought after and are considered to be more marketable with higher real estate values than comparable homes.<sup>9</sup> He is also still highly regarded among local architects who sometimes copy his details and recall his painstaking eye for highly detailed architectural drawings.<sup>10</sup>

**Verbal Boundary Description**

The boundary of the nominated property is shown as the black line marked "Hugh Aiken House" on the accompanying copy of Greenville County GIS Map 01760000300300, dated 28 June 2002 and produced at a scale of 1" = 100.'

**Boundary Justification**

The nominated property includes the historic house and its historic landscaped setting.

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<sup>9</sup>Peggy Major, interview by author, 23 June 2002.

<sup>10</sup>Allen Freeman, A.I.A., interview by author, 7 May 2002.

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

Name of Property: Hugh Aiken House  
Location of Property: 1 Parkside Drive, Greenville (Greenville County), SC

Name of Photographer: Kevin Chastine  
Date of Photographs: 26 March 2002  
Location of Original Negatives:

1. House - front East elevation
2. House - front East elevation
3. House - front East elevation
4. House - front East elevation
5. House - side South elevation
6. House - rear West elevation
7. House - side/rear North elevation
8. House - side North elevation
9. House - porch details front East elevation
10. House - rear deck and second floor addition
11. House - main entry door front East elevation
12. House - window details front East elevation
13. Living room
14. Mantel - living room
15. Living room
16. Loggia
17. Loggia
18. Loggia
19. Main entry foyer
20. Main entry foyer
21. Den
22. Rear hall
23. Rear hall
24. Dining room
25. Dining room
26. Kitchen
27. Kitchen
28. Children's play room (former garage)
29. Child's bedroom (upstairs addition)
30. Stairway to second floor (addition)
31. Second floor hall (addition)
32. Second floor child's bedroom (addition)
33. Second floor child's bedroom (addition)