

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY
NOMINATION FORM

| <u>Continuation Sheet</u> | Item Number | Page |
|---|--|------|
| <u>Name</u> Historic Hunter House | <u>Location</u> North side of county road 3; approximately 3 miles northeast of Ridgeway, S.C. | |
| Common | <u>Classification</u> Building | |
| <u>Owner</u> Rodney H. and Nancy Jeanette Lee P.O. Box 412 Ridgeway, S.C. 29130 | | |

Representation in Existing Surveys South Carolina Inventory of Historic Places, 1983

Description The Hunter House is a one-and-one-half-story, weatherboarded building on a raised brick basement. The L-shaped house, which is said to have been constructed before 1820, has a gable roof and exterior end chimneys. The roof is covered with standing seam metal; the chimneys and the exterior of the basement level are stuccoed. Windows on the main level of the house are nine-over-nine. Those on the basement level are six-over-six.

The five-bay facade (south elevation) features a pedimented porch sheltering the three central bays. The porch rests on stuccoed piers (approximately 6 feet); the roof of the porch is supported by square wood posts connected by elliptical arches and a plain balustrade. A flight of wooden steps with a plain balustrade leads to the porch. The facade beneath the porch is sheathed in flushboard. The central, six-panel door has a *

Significance The Hunter House is a locally significant example of an early nineteenth-century residence on a raised basement. The house is reputed to have been built by Abraham Ferguson (? - 1824), although this has not been documented. Ferguson did, however, own property in the area, and construction characteristics and stylistic characteristics of the house indicate that it could have been built during Ferguson's lifetime.¹

Ferguson was a locally prosperous planter for the period. At the time of his death in 1824, he owned over 1000 acres of land and sixteen slaves. His principal cash crop was cotton, but he also grew corn and fodder. His livestock included forty-four cattle, thirty geese, twenty-nine sheep, six horses, and forty hogs.² **

Acreage 3.4 acres

Verbal Boundary Description The nominated property is shown as the red line on the accompanying Fairfield County Tax Map #187, drawn at a scale of 1 inch equals 400 feet. It includes only the historical house and its setting.

UTM Reference Point 17/506010/3797920

Other Information

*four-light transom.

The house has an ell on the rear and a small wing on the west elevation. A porch on the east elevation of the rear ell has a turned balustrade; the section of the house protected by this porch is also sheathed in flushboard.

The interior of the house also features wide board walls and Federal style mantels.

** The house later became the residence of Anna Ferguson, adopted daughter of Abraham Ferguson, and her husband, George R. Hunter.³ In 1860 Hunter, who owned over 2000 acres of land valued at \$37,700 and twenty-five slaves, was one of the largest landowners in Fairfield County. Only about 3 percent of the 707 farms in the county in 1860 were valued at over \$30,000.⁴

¹Bolick, A Fairfield Sketchbook, p. 54; File 48, Pkg. 734, Fairfield County Probate Court Records, County Records on Microfilm, South Carolina Department of Archives and History, Columbia, S.C.

²Ibid.

³Ibid.; William B. Elkin, surveyor and draftsman, and R.E. Elkin, surveyor, Map of Fairfield County, South Carolina, 1876.

⁴Eighth Census, 1860: Agriculture, p. 737, South Carolina Department of Archives and History; McMaster, History of Fairfield County, pp. 48-49; Population Schedule of the Eighth Census of the United States, 1860: South Carolina [Slave Schedules] (Washington; National Archives Microfilm Publication, 1967), microcopy no. 653, roll no. 1235, Fairfield County, p. 56.