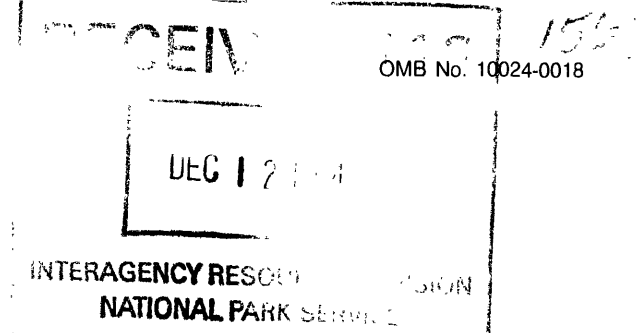


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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 an 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 The Donalds Grange No. 497, Patrons of Husbandry

other names/site number Grange Hall

2. Location

street & number S. C. Highway 184  not for publication

city or town Donalds  vicinity

state South Carolina code SC county Abbeville code 001 zip code 29638

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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 12/8/94  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Mary W. Edmonds, Deputy SHPO, S.C. Department of Archives & History, Columbia, S.C.  
State of 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 certifying official/Title Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the 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

Date of Action

Mary W. Edmonds

1/9/95

The Donalds Grange  
Name of Property

Abbeville, S.C.  
County and State

**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**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	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)

SOCIAL/meeting hall  
GOVERNMENT/town hall  
EDUCATION/library  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

SOCIAL/meeting hall  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Other:Depression-era functional  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone  
walls Stone  
\_\_\_\_\_  
roof Composition shingle  
other Wood  
\_\_\_\_\_

**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 in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations**

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

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or 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.

**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 # \_\_\_\_\_

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Social History

**Period of Significance**

1935-1944

**Significant Dates**

1935

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

**Cultural Affiliation**

**Architect/Builder**

**Primary location of additional data:**

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

Name of repository:

National Archives (WPA files)

The Donalds Grange  
Name of Property

Abbeville, S.C.  
County and State

---

## 10. Geographical Data

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**Acreage of Property** Less than one acre

### UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>11</u>   <u>7</u>	<u>3</u>   <u>75</u>   <u>6</u>   <u>90</u>	<u>3</u>   <u>80</u>   <u>3</u>   <u>6</u>   <u>20</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing
2			

3			
	Zone	Easting	Northing
4			

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.)

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## 11. Form Prepared By

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name/title Nan H. Barmore and Paul M. Gettys

organization The Donalds Grange No. 497 date \_\_\_\_\_

street & number Route 2, Box 1068 telephone (803) 379-2400

city or town Donalds state S. C. zip code 29638

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### 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 SHPO or FPO.)

name The Donalds Grange No. 497

street & number S. C. 184 telephone N/A

city or town Donalds state S. C. zip code 29638

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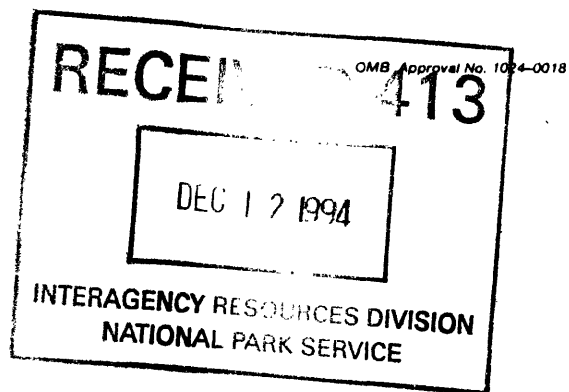
**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to 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 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 Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1



### NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

The Donalds Grange No. 497, a one-story building with a full basement, is located on S. C. 184, the Due West-Donalds Highway. Situated 200 yards within the town limits of the Town of Donalds, it is adjacent to the W. Maxie Agnew Branch Library. It was constructed in 1935 as a WPA project on one-fourth acre of land deeded to the Town of Donalds in 1934 by W. Maxie Agnew. Andrew J. May, a master builder, drew plans for the building to serve as both a town hall and a subordinate grange. From 1935 until 1940, the building was the town hall, the grange hall for Donalds Grange No. 497, and the local library. In 1940, a deed transferred ownership of the land and the Grange Hall to Donalds Grange No. 497. In 1959, a separate library was constructed. Since that time, the building has served as the grange hall.

The architectural integrity of the building has been largely maintained since its construction in 1935. Alterations have included the addition of plumbing and a rest room, the remodeling of steps to the basement, and the addition of iron-pipe railings on each side of the front steps.

The exterior walls and the foundation are built of fieldstone laid in cement, lime, and creek-sand mortar. There are stone piers at the corners and between each window on the sides. The building is 28 feet by 40 feet. The gable roof, running the length of the building, has an approximate six-and-twelve slope and is covered with composition shingles. The beams supporting the roof are exposed under the eaves. The front porch, which is twelve feet square, has a gable roof supported at the outside corners by fieldstone columns which measure two feet by two feet and are eight feet tall. The front steps are of fieldstone. The iron-pipe railings were added in 1963. Centered in the back of the building is a large exterior chimney, also constructed of fieldstone, which is an integral part of the wall. A fieldstone stairwell and steps, extending three feet below ground level, provide an outside entry into the basement.

In the basement a single eight-inch by ten-inch oak hand-hewn beam runs the length of the building under the center of the main floor. Eight-inch pine-log sleepers rest on this beam and on the masonry walls on either side, while the subflooring and the heart-pine flooring rest on the sleepers. Four fieldstone piers support the oak beam. The basement contains nine original

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**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 2

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handmade pine benches and seven original handmade tables. In the front right-hand corner are wooden steps, reconstructed in 1963, which lead to the main floor. Eleven single windows each with three panes provide light to the basement.

The main floor consists of the grange hall, a vestibule, and a rest room. There are fourteen single windows with six lights over six lights. The vestibule is directly inside the double front doors and is eight feet by eight feet. There are two small areas on either side of the vestibule, a Preparation Room on the right and an Anteroom on the left. These were originally separated from the main room by heavy curtains. In the early 1980s, a six-foot by six-foot rest room was created within the Preparation Room. The original heart-pine tongue-and-groove flooring extends the length of the building. The walls of the grange hall itself are exposed fieldstone. Rising above the walls is a pine cathedral-type ceiling supported by four pine log trusses. The peak of the ceiling is sixteen feet from the floor. The tongue-and-groove pine lumber used for the ceiling is also the sheathing for the roof. Both the ceiling design and the fieldstone construction allowed for the maximum use of building materials readily available to WPA labor forces in the 1935 Depression Era.

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**NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

The Donalds Grange No. 497 is significant for both its architecture and its contribution to the social development of the community and Abbeville County. Constructed in 1935 by local Works Progress Administration labor, the building served originally as the Town Hall, the local grange, and the public library. After 1940, it was the home of the grange and the library. In 1942, Donalds Grange No. 497 sponsored the Abbeville County Circulating Library, and the building became headquarters for the Abbeville County system until a self-contained library was built on adjacent property in 1959. Ever since its construction, the well-preserved fieldstone building has been the meeting hall for the agricultural and community-service organization known locally and most commonly as the Donalds Grange.

The architectural significance of the property stems from its local design and its construction by WPA labor. Typical of the vernacular style used in WPA public buildings, it is relatively unaltered. The fieldstone construction and locally produced lumber give evidence of the participation of local labor in the construction. It remains as an important example of Depression-Era public buildings.

The building has served as a cultural center for the Town of Donalds and the surrounding community since its construction. In 1934, W. Maxie Agnew deeded to the Town of Donalds a tract of one-fourth acre to satisfy the requirement of public ownership for construction of a Works Progress Administration building. Plans also assured the use of the building as the local grange. A banker, farmer, and leader in the community and the county, Mr. Agnew had been instrumental in organizing the Donalds Grange No. 497 in 1932 to serve the farmers of the surrounding areas. The Donalds Grange is one of the few in the state which has been continuously active since organization.

Members of the community, and especially of the grange, furnished materials and constructed the Depression-Era building. Using two-horse wagons, they hauled fieldstones from their farms. The name of one such farm site, "Old Rocky Hill," is self-explanatory. Fieldstones were chosen because they were plentiful and a cheap building material, and their removal improved the fields for agricultural purposes. Uninitiated in

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masonry construction, the WPA labor force initially attempted to lay the fieldstones, only to return the following morning to find them lying awry where they had fallen during the night. W. Fred May, a contractor who had built his home of like material, was then called in to teach the inexperienced their craft. Local landowners also contributed the pine poles which frame the cathedral-type ceiling of the building, the oak hand-hewn sill which supports the main floor, and the heart-pine flooring. The Grange Hall, as it soon came to be known locally, housed not only the Town Hall and the grange, but also the library.

In 1940, the Town of Donalds deeded to the "Donalds Grange Hall" the building and lot. Organized as an agricultural and a community-service organization, the group promoted library services prior to the WPA Library Project of 1935 and continued to do so during the Depression. With library development left to local initiative, Donalds Grange No. 497 and W. Maxie Agnew became synonymous with the promotion and sponsorship of library services in Abbeville County.

The Abbeville County Library had been organized in the county seat of Abbeville in 1936 as a WPA project. The first "bookmobile," a wooden body on a Dodge chassis, was constructed by Andrew J. May (who had earlier drawn the plans for the Donalds Grange building), with the assistance of his nephew Arvel May. W. Hood Moore, a driver from 1937 through 1941, has supplied the only known pictures, which show youth and adults in both town and rural areas being served by this bookmobile bearing the sign "WPA Project, Abbeville County Free Library." Not until 1948 would this vehicle be replaced. When a driver brought the new truck to the county for everyone to see, amazingly, he found Donalds, with a population of approximately 300, but somehow missed the town of Abbeville. Apologies followed.

Remaining in Abbeville only a short time, the Abbeville County Free Library was brought to the college town of Due West by W. Maxie Agnew and other members of the Library Board. In 1942 Mr. Agnew and the Donalds Grange No. 497 revived interest in the program and began sponsoring the Abbeville County Circulating Library, no longer under WPA auspices, as a community service project. It was moved to Donalds, where the Grange Building provided facilities and housed the books. After this move, the Board of the Abbeville Circulating Library made an agreement with the State Library Board to obtain state aid. A separate



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library building was completed adjacent to the Grange Hall in 1959, largely with funding from Grange projects.

The decline of agriculture in South Carolina and the elimination of Grange insurance programs have changed the nature of the Grange organization. Farmers no longer constitute the majority of the membership of Donalds Grange No. 497. Instead, it draws from the local and the surrounding community primarily those who continue a dedication to the tradition of public service.

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Continuation Sheet

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Continuation Sheet**

Section number 10 Page 8

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundaries of the National Register nomination coincide with the property boundary of the Donalds Grange No. 497. These are shown on the attached plat prepared by Barry K. Dunn, R.L.S., dated March 10, 1994. The boundaries measure 149.68 ft. by 49.87 ft. by 151.40 ft. by 49.74 ft. and include approximately 0.172 acre.

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**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

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Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

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

Name of Property: Donalds Grange No. 497

Location: S. C. Highway 184  
Donalds, South Carolina

County: Abbeville

Name of Photographer: Paul M. Gettys, Catawba, S. C.

Location of Original Negatives: Paul M. Gettys, Catawba, S. C.

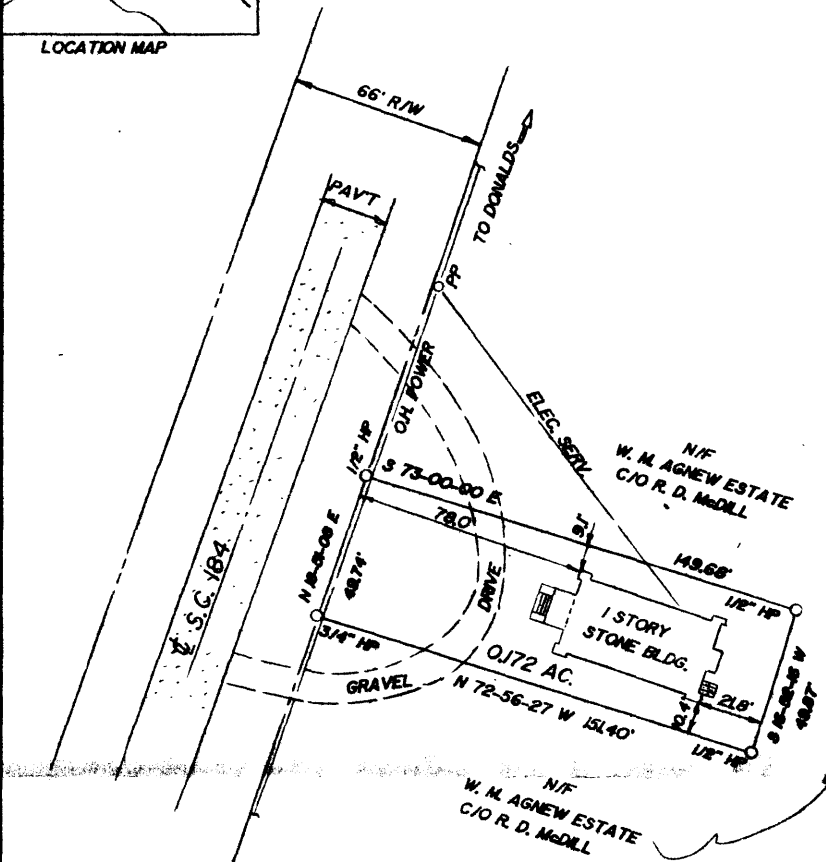
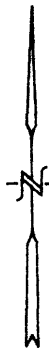
Date of Photographs: April 4, 1994

1. West (principal) facade
2. West oblique view
3. Southeast oblique view (rear of building showing chimney)
4. Northeast oblique view (rear and north side)
5. Southeast oblique view (rear and south side)
6. Southeast oblique view (south side)
7. Detail of roof eave and exposed beams
8. Detail of stone work at southeast corner



LOCATION MAP

REFERENCE PLAT



I CERTIFY THAT TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE AND BELIEF, THE SURVEY SHOWN HEREON MEETS OR EXCEEDS THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE MINIMUM STANDARDS MANUAL FOR THE PRACTICE OF LAND SURVEYING IN SOUTH CAROLINA AND MEETS THE REQUIREMENTS FOR A CLASS B SURVEY AS SPECIFIED THEREIN, AND THERE ARE NO OTHER ENCROACHMENTS OTHER THAN SHOWN HEREON, AND THE PROPERTY IS NOT LOCATED IN A DESIGNATED FLOOD ZONE.

*Barry K. Dunn*  
BARRY K. DUNN S.C. R.L.S. & P.E. # 8857

PROPERTY DESIGNATION \_\_\_\_\_

DEED BOOK REFERENCE 65 PAGE NO. 510

PROPERTY SURVEY FOR

**DONALDS GRANGE  
NO. 497**

LEGEND

- |       |       |            |
|-------|-------|------------|
| (NEW) | (OLD) |            |
| ●     | ○     | IRON PIN   |
| ▲     | △     | NAIL & CAP |
| ■     | □     | AS NOTED   |

SEAL

STATE SOUTH CAROLINA

COUNTY ARBEVILLE

**DUNN & DUNN, INC.**  
Engineers & Land Surveyors

SCALE 1"=50'

DATE 3-10-94



2708 North Main Street  
Anderson, South Carolina  
Phone (803) 224-4288