

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	JAN 17 1977
DATE ENTERED	AUG 16 1977

**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

Lemuel Boozer House

AND/OR COMMON

Boozer-Harmon House

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

320 West Main Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Lexington

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

# 2

VICINITY OF

STATE

South Carolina

CODE  
045

COUNTY

Lexington

CODE  
063

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

**CATEGORY**

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

**OWNERSHIP**

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

**STATUS**

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

**PRESENT USE**

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERCIAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Mrs. Rice Boozer Harmon, Sr.

STREET & NUMBER

320 West Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Lexington

VICINITY OF

STATE

South Carolina

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Lexington County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Lexington

STATE

South Carolina

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Inventory of Historic Places in South Carolina

DATE

1973

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

South Carolina Department of Archives and History

CITY, TOWN

Columbia

STATE

South Carolina

# 7 DESCRIPTION

## CONDITION

EXCELLENT                     DETERIORATED  
 GOOD                             RUINS  
 FAIR                               UNEXPOSED

## CHECK ONE

UNALTERED  
 ALTERED

## CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE  
 MOVED      DATE \_\_\_\_\_

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Built ca. 1828-30, the Lemuel Boözer House is a one-story clapboard structure set upon a raised basement. It remains virtually unchanged since the 1840s, when a left rear ell and right wing were added. Approximately twenty-five years ago, the area between the six-foot high brick piers (supporting the original portion of the structure) was enclosed with concrete blocks, replacing earlier latticework.

A five-bayed porch extends across the front facade. Balustrade and columns are original, although corner brackets are not. The present stairway replaces an earlier one with straight railing. The central double doors are six-paneled with a six-light transom above. Two 9/9 windows flank each side.

The rear now reveals a perpendicular addition (ca. 1840). Prior to this, the rear was probably identical to the front and still features a door identical to the one on that facade. Greek Revival in design, the wing features a simple box cornice, pedimented gable with exterior chimney, and a porch supported by square, chamfered columns.

On the right side a one-room wing was added ca. 1840. The box cornice matches that of the rear addition, and it is covered by a hipped roof.

The main floor windows are 9/9. The windows in the basement area (which was enclosed ca. 1950) are 6/6 and 8/8. The low-gabled roof is covered with asbestos shingles. The original part of the house is flanked by chimneys with simple corbeled caps.

Interior: There are six rooms on the main floor, a basement room under the right wing (said to have been used as a kitchen), and another basement room beneath the rear bedroom wing.

A wide central hall is flanked by a parlor on the left and a dining room on the right. Adjoining the dining room is a bedroom, which is in the 1840s addition. Behind these front rooms are a small modern kitchen on the right and a bathroom on the left (these being located in the shed area of the original structure). The rear 1840s addition contains a bedroom.

The central hall and parlor are wainscoted, while the dining room is ornamented with a chair rail. The mantel in the parlor is simple, with molded shelf; diagonally-reeded panels are flanked by reeded pilasters. The plain dining room mantel has three recessed panels. These rooms, the hall, and the side bedroom retain their wide plank walls and ceilings.

Surroundings: Although located on Main Street, Lexington, South Carolina, the Lemuel Boözer House is surrounded by a large grassy lot. It is also shielded from view by two large magnolia trees. To the rear of the house stood a frame barn and several slave cabins which were torn down in the 1940s.

# 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 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

One of the oldest structures in the town of Lexington, South Carolina, the Lemuel Boozer House is also one of the most historic. Its builder, Lemuel Boozer (1809-1870) was a lawyer who served as State Senator, Lieutenant Governor of South Carolina, and State Circuit Judge. Boozer's descendants continue to own the property.

Lemuel Boozer served in the South Carolina House of Representatives (1834-39, 1850-51), and in the South Carolina Senate (1840-58, 52-56, and 1865-66). In 1860 he was a delegate to the National Democratic Convention in Charleston where he was one of three South Carolina delegates who did not walk out of the convention. Boozer was also an opponent of secession. Involved in reconstruction in South Carolina, Boozer was a delegate to the South Carolina Constitutional Conventions of 1865 and 1868. He was elected Lieutenant Governor of the State in 1868, and in the same year he was elected judge of the Fifth Judicial Circuit. According to John Reynolds' Reconstruction in South Carolina, Lemuel Boozer was "...a good lawyer and a man to whose integrity prominent citizens of all shades of political opinion united in bearing hearty testimony."<sup>1</sup> Upon Boozer's death on January 23, 1870, the General Assembly of South Carolina adjourned for the day and resolved that the flag be flown at half-mast for forty-eight hours.

Architecture: The Lemuel Boozer House is the only 19th Century raised cottage in the town of Lexington, South Carolina and is one of the town's oldest remaining structures. Constructed ca. 1828, it is an excellent example of the raised cottage of the Federal Period. Typical features include a low-pitched gable roof which extends over the front porch, a double doorway with transom both front and rear, exterior chimneys on either end, 9/9 windows, and a tall basement of brick piers. Although the house has been altered, the two additions are early (ca. 1840) and have not significantly altered the original fabric of the house.

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1. John S. Reynolds, Reconstruction in South Carolina (Columbia: The State Company, 1905), p. 113.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Boozer, Mary Elizabeth. The Boozer Family of South Carolina. Columbia: R. L. Bryan Company, 1970.

Columbia Daily Phoenix, January 25, 1970, p. 2.

Edgar, Walter B., ed. Biographical Directory of the South Carolina House of Representatives. Columbia: University of South Carolina Press, 1974

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1.5

UTM REFERENCES

A	1   7	4   7   7   6   3   0	3   7   6   0   3   2   0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY (Nancy Fox, Central Midlands Historic Preservation Officer)

NAME / TITLE

Kappy McNulty

ORGANIZATION

South Carolina Department of Archives and History

STREET & NUMBER

P. O. Box 11,669 Capitol Station, 1430 Senate Street

CITY OR TOWN

Columbia

DATE

September 15, 1976

TELEPHONE

803-758-5816

STATE

South Carolina

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE Charles E. Lee  
State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE 12-6-76

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 8/14/77

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST: Charles E. Lee

DATE 8.11.77

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE one

Reynolds, Emily B., and Faunt, Joan R. Biographical Directory of the South Carolina Senate. Columbia: South Carolina Archives Department, 1964.

Reynolds, John S. Reconstruction in South Carolina. Columbia: The State Company, 1905.

Wallace, D.D. History of South Carolina, Vol. III. New York: American Historical Society, 1934.

Information provided by Nancy Fox, Central Midlands Regional Historic Preservation Officer. February 1976.

Lexington County Courthouse, Lexington County, South Carolina. Lexington County Deeds and Wills.