

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

7. America at work **DATA SHEET**

**FOR NPS USE ONLY**  
RECEIVED JUN 21 1978  
DATE ENTERED OCT 10 1978

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC New Brookland Historic District  
AND/OR COMMON Old West Columbia

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER Lexington State Sp. 4 no. 7, 15  
CITY, TOWN West Columbia VICINITY OF \_\_\_\_\_ CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT # 2  
STATE South Carolina CODE 045 COUNTY Lexington CODE 063

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME Multiple ownership  
STREET & NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

CITY, TOWN \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_  
VICINITY OF \_\_\_\_\_

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Register of Mesne Conveyance Office

STREET & NUMBER Lexington County Administration Building  
CITY, TOWN Lexington STATE South Carolina

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE Inventory of Historic Places in South Carolina

DATE 1973 (update)  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

The New Brookland Historic District is the historical nucleus of the City of West Columbia. It emerged in 1894 as a planned residential community for operatives of the Columbia Duck Mill, one of the first hydroelectrically powered textile mills in the nation. More than 150 buildings record the transformation of a rural area, with five scattered residences in 1891, into a community of more than 5,000 persons by 1907.

The district is composed of approximately 20 early 20th Century commercial structures and the "mill village," a 24 block residential area east of the old business district and overlooking the Congaree River. Built in successive stages in 1894, 1896, 1899, 1907 and 1916, along tree-lined streets, the village's more than 135 houses are of one and two stories and of frame construction. Most are in good repair. Many have asbestos or imitation brick siding over the original clapboards. Most of the dwellings date from 1894-99 and are of three distinct types: the overseer's house of seven rooms, with distinguishing "L" shape; the eight-room duplex; and the four-room single family residence.

Northwest of the village, State and Meeting streets intersect to form the heart of the district's commercial area. Along these streets, rows of brick commercial buildings, which replaced wooden structures destroyed by fires in 1895 and 1905, represent the city's historical business core. Nearby on Center Street are the New Brookland Jail, c. 1908, and the Brookland Fire Station, c. 1925, also in the district. Another prominent structure included in the district is the Thompson Funeral Home, c. 1937-38.

### BUILDINGS AND SITES CONTRIBUTING TO THE CHARACTER OF THE DISTRICT:

1. NEW BROOKLAND'S OLD MAIN STREET (100 Block, State Street). Row of 11 brick commercial buildings of one and two stories, mostly built after the fire of 1905, as the town's first "fireproof" structures. Interiors are generally intact, with original cast metal ceilings. (Photographs # 1, 2)
2. EDWARD W. SHULL BUILDING (410 Meeting Street). Two story brick commercial range, built in 1906. Originally, cast iron balconies decorated the facade at the second level. Also, an early 20th Century, one story brick building with Romanesque arched openings, adjacent to the Shull Building. (Photograph # 3)
3. 300-306 MEETING STREET. An early 20th Century, two story brick commercial building, with arched openings and cast iron balcony at second level. (Photograph # 4)
4. THOMPSON FUNERAL HOME (200 State Street). Twentieth Century Georgian Revival style, two story brick building, constructed in 1936-37 by the mortuary. (Photograph # 5)
5. 200 BLOCK, STATE STREET. Row of early 20th Century brick commercial buildings, including a two story building with Romanesque arches and decorative brick cornice, and several single story buildings.

(continued)

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input checked="" 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES \_\_\_\_\_ BUILDER/ARCHITECT \_\_\_\_\_

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Located on the west bank of the Congaree River, New Brookland Historic District is a largely intact example of southern cotton mill towns from the late 19th Century. The first modern textile community in the Columbia area, New Brookland was developed as a residential area for workers in one of the nation's first hydroelectrically powered textile mills. The village remains essentially unchanged despite the threat of intrusions from surrounding development. Its architecture retains the homogeneity, scale and style of the original village setting.

**ARCHITECTURE:** Residences in the district, most of which were built between 1894 and 1907, exhibit a distinct form which may be called "mill village" as it is typical, in the Columbia area, to housing developments built in connection with mills. Characteristics of the form are: two-story frame construction with gabled roofs; rectangular massing, with the use of one-story shed-roofed extensions on the rear or side; shed-roofed porches with square pickets; low chimneys with corbeled caps; plain fascias and eave soffits; plain door and window surrounds; irregular fenestration; narrow wood siding; and low brick foundations. Commercial buildings, mostly dating after a 1905 fire and built by independent investors, also demonstrate architectural harmony. Characteristics include brick construction of one and two stories; large shop windows on the ground level; regularly spaced round-headed windows on the second level; decorative brickwork in the form of dentiled, saw-toothed and corbeled cornices; and cast metal ceilings in interiors.

**COMMUNITY PLANNING:** Brookland or New Brookland existed as a community in the 1880s, but its real stimulus was the opening of the Columbia Duck Mill by the Columbia Mills Company, in 1894, on the Columbia side (east) of the Congaree River. The company built its "model mill village" on the opposite side of the Congaree, adjacent to New Brookland, on a height with a view of the city of Columbia and the mill, to which there was access via a bridge. The mill village consisted of about 40 "particularly well built" houses, with "ample gardens" on streets 40 and 50 feet wide. Six acres, with a stream and shade trees, were set aside as a park (not included within the district). Described as "the finest mill village south of New England," the village was called "Aretasville."<sup>1</sup> It was named for Aretas Blood a New Hampshire millionaire who was president of the mill company. The community's older names, Brookland and New Brookland, however, persisted until 1938 when the town name was changed to West Columbia. The company built an unspecified number of additional houses in 1896, 40 or more houses in 1899, twelve in 1907 and a final group of single story houses on Augusta Street in 1916.

<sup>1</sup>  
The State, Columbia, South Carolina, June 3, 1894.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

(see continuation sheet)

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY ca. 34 acres

QUADRANGLE NAME \_\_\_\_\_

QUADRANGLE SCALE \_\_\_\_\_

UTM REFERENCES

A 

1	7	4	9	5	2	2	0	3	7	6	1	3	8	0
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1	7	4	9	5	2	0	0	3	7	6	0	9	4	0
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ZONE EASTING NORTHING

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C 

1	7	4	9	4	7	0	0	3	7	6	0	9	4	0
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D 

1	7	4	9	4	7	0	0	3	7	6	1	3	8	0
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E 

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F 

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G 

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H 

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

(see continuation sheet)

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

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Nancy Fox, Central Midlands Regional Planning Council

Robert P. Stockton

ORGANIZATION

DATE

South Carolina Department of Archives and History

November 28, 1977

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

P. O. Box 11,669, Capitol Station

803/758-5816

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Columbia

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 May 23, 1978

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE 10/10/78

ATTEST:

DATE Sept 13, 1978

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

Oct 10, 1978

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6. BROOKLAND FIRE STATION (430 Center Street). Two story brick building in the 20th Century Gothic Revival style, built c. 1925. (Photograph # 6)
7. NEW BROOKLAND JAIL (426 Center Street). One story brick building with barred windows and parapeted "false front" facade, built c. 1908. (Photograph # 7)
8. TYPICAL OVERSEER'S HOUSE (106 Court Avenue). Two story frame dwelling, with distinguishing "L" shape, built c. 1894. (Photograph # 8)
9. TYPICAL SINGLE FAMILY TENANT HOUSE (210 Oliver Street). Two story frame dwelling, with one story side extension, built c. 1894. (Photograph # 9)
10. TYPICAL DOUBLE FAMILY TENANT HOUSE (300 Block, Carpenter Street). Two story frame duplex dwelling, built c. 1894. (Photograph # 10)
11. TYPICAL 20TH CENTURY MILL VILLAGE HOUSE (Augusta Street). Vernacular one story frame cottage, built c. 1916. (Photograph # 11)
12. OLD STATE ROAD (State Street). Historic transportation and trading route linking Charleston with the South Carolina upcountry.
13. AUGUSTA HIGHWAY (Meeting Street). Historic road from Granby to Augusta, Ga. The eastern end was redirected to terminate at Columbia, at this point, after the Columbia Ferry was established by a legislative act of 1799. The Columbia Bridge Company was established, by a legislative act of 1818, to build the first bridge over the Congaree at this point.

INHARMONIOUS STRUCTURES INCLUDED WITHIN THE HISTORIC DISTRICT:

14. BANKERS TRUST BUILDING (131 State Street). Two story concrete block with stone facade, built in 1950s.
15. H. A. DIXON REAL ESTATE (414 Center Street). One story brick veneer house, converted to office. Built in 1950s.
16. APARTMENT BUILDING (422 Center Street). Mid-20th Century, one story range of apartments.
17. EVANS GROCERY (Carpenter Street). One story concrete block, brick veneered front facade.

Surroundings: East of the village, an undeveloped 17-acre greenway stretches along the Congaree River. (It is not included within the nominated acreage.)

(continued)

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Private and public efforts are being made to revitalize the historic district for ongoing commercial and residential use. Private investment has opened several new businesses in vacant buildings along State and Meeting streets. City officials, recognizing the value of the mill village in providing housing for low and moderate income families, have acquired \$108,000 in Community Development Funds for a demonstration project. Twenty of the village dwellings will be rehabilitated through \$5,000 direct grants to individual home owners. The program is designed to prevent further physical decline and maintain the traditional low-density, village appearance.

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INDUSTRY: The mill village was constructed to house operatives of the Columbia Duck Mill, established by the Columbia Mills Company in 1894. The State newspaper of April 26, 1894, described it as "the largest cotton factory in the South." It was also one of the first large textile mills in the nation with all-electric power. (The mill itself is not included within the historic district.)

COMMERCE: The Columbia Mills Company did not operate a store, preferring to allow employees to purchase where they pleased. Consequently, commercial development by private individuals was stimulated. Surviving on State and Meeting streets, in the district, are fire-resistant brick buildings which replaced earlier wooden stores destroyed by fires in 1895 and 1905.

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- Columbia Daily Record, Nov. 30, 1907. Copy in possession of Mrs. Rosalie Shull, Lexington, S.C.
- Columbia The State, April 26, 1894; June 3, 1894; July 5, 1896; March 5, 7, 8, 1905.
- Green, Edwin L. A History of Richland County. Columbia: R.L. Bryan Co., 1932.
- Interview with Roy P. Price, Sr., funeral director, Thompson Funeral Home, Nov. 1, 1977.
- Interviews with village residents: Miss Rosalie Shull, Mrs. Antha Snelgrove, Mrs. Beulah King and W.E. Autrey, July, 1977.
- Kohn, August. The Cotton Mills of South Carolina. Columbia: South Carolina Department of Agriculture, Commerce & Immigration, 1907.
- Kohn, August, ed. The Water Powers of South Carolina. Charleston: South Carolina State Department of Agriculture, Commerce & Industries, 1910.
- McCord, David J. The Statutes at Large of South Carolina, Vol. IX. Columbia: A.S. Johnson, 1841.
- Mills, Robert. Atlas of the State of South Carolina -- A New Facsimile Edition of the Original Published in 1825. Columbia: Bostick & Thornley, 1938.
- Passer, Harold C. The Electrical Manufacturers. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1953.
- Sanborn Insurance Map of New Brookland, 1906. Copy in South Caroliniana Library, University of South Carolina, Columbia, S.C.
- Shand, Gadsden E. The Columbia Canal; History of the Canal and Its Development. Columbia: Columbia Railroad, Gas & Electric Co., 1914.
- Smith, Fenelon DeVere. "The Economic Development of the Textile Industry in the Columbia, S.C. Area, from 1790 through 1916." Diss. University of Kentucky, 1952.
- Summitt, S.C. Our News Letter, April 1, 1896. Copy in Lexington County Museum, Lexington, S.C.



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Starting from a point at the northeast corner of State and Court Streets, proceed approximately 500 feet eastward to intersection of Oliver and Court Streets; thence proceed northeastwardly along Oliver for approximately 450 feet to its intersection with Alexander St., thence proceed south along Alexander for approximately 1,500 feet to its intersection with Augusta St.; thence proceed along the arc of Augusta St. running southwestwardly for approximately 280 feet to rear property line of structures located on south side of Augusta; thence proceed west following rear property lines for approximately 1,800 feet to State St.; thence proceed north along State St. for approximately 260 feet to its intersection with Spring Street; thence proceed west approximately 260 feet along Spring St.; thence proceed north-northwestwardly along rear property lines of property on east side of Shuler St., crossing Center St., to the northwest corner of property line of Old Brookland Fire Station (430 Center St.), for a total of approximately 420 feet; thence proceed east for approximately 80 feet to southwest corner of Lithoprint, Inc., Center St; thence proceed north for approximately 45 feet; thence proceed northeast for approximately 300 feet to a point on Meeting St. directly opposite west property line of the Murphy property; thence proceed north for approximately 190 feet to northwest corner of Murphy property; thence proceed east for approximately 175 feet following rear property line of the Murphy property to the middle of an alley; thence continue to proceed east, following rear property line of 300-306 Meeting Street to its intersection with Highway 378; thence proceed southeast to its intersection with Meeting Street; thence proceed west along Meeting Street to its intersection with State Street; thence proceed south to northeast corner of State and Court, the point of origin.

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PROPERTY OWNERS

New Brookland Historic District

West Columbia, South Carolina 29169