National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form



See instructions in How to Complete National Register Forms

Type all entries—complete applicable sections

Historic Reso	ources of Ne			
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nd/or common				w. way
2. Location				
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lty, town Newberry		vicinity of	congressional district	Third
tate South Carolina	code	045 county	Newberry	code 071
3. Classifica	tion			
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7. Description

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Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The multiple resource nomination for the Historic Resources of Newberry consists of ten individual properties, seven historic districts, and an extension of an historic district already listed on the National Register of Historic Places, all of which are located within the city limits of Newberry, South Carolina. The properties included in this nomination represent a substantial expansion of the city's six previous National Register listings in both number and historical scope. While the previous listings covered a time period from the 1850s to the early 1890s, the properties contained in this nomination offer a comprehensive view of the city's evolution from ca. 1820 until ca. 1935 as revealed in its surviving built environment. They include commercial, residential, religious, public, and industrial buildings and depict a continuum of healthy growth and development of the community in an integrated mosaic of architectural eclecticism.

Today, Newberry, with a population of some 11,000, is the bustling county seat of Newberry County. Geographically, economically, and culturally, it centers an outlying county community which encompasses a radius of fifteen miles and 31,000 persons. Almost half of the land within the city limits is devoted to residential use. The central business district (between Harrington, Calhoun, and Boundary Streets, and the Southern Railway line) is the center of retail, financial, administrative, and governmental activities in Newberry County. Other major land uses are contained in Newberry College and in the industrial facilities of the Newberry Cotton Mills, and the Oakland Mill.

Newberry was established in 1789 as the seat of government for the recently created Newberry County; in that year a two acre courthouse site was donated to the county. The earliest streets in the town were Republican, Church, Union, Market, Second, and Boundary; today they are respectively known as Main, College, Caldwell, Rriend, Nance, and Boundary. A plat of 1823 shows an incorporated area of eight acres in six blocks surrounding the courthouse with streets thirty-three feet wide and with lots of one-fourth acre. By 1826 the growing village contained, besides a new courthouse designed by Robert Mills, several stores and taverns, and some twenty or thirty dwellings.

The growth of Newberry was stimulated as cotton became the principal crop of the district and the economy of the area shifted from one based on self-sufficient farms to one based on larger farms using more slave labor. The 1840 town of 300 to 400 inhabitants, of which half were black, was bounded east by Calhoun Street, south by the village cemetery on Caldwell Street, west by the present Southern Railway line, and north by Scott's Creek. The only brick buildings at that time were the Newberry Hotel, Robert Stewart's store, the courthouse, and five or six buildings surrounding the courthouse square. Main Street did not extend past the south door of the courthouse. An 1848 description remarked that the village of some 1,000 inhabitants was "remarkable for nothing in particular," with two inns, six dry goods stores, an apothecary shop, cabinet makers, saddle and harness makers, blacksmith shops, and an extensive machine shop engaged in manufacturing cotton gins.

Two railroads passing through Newberry were constructed in the mid-nineteenth century, the Greenville and Columbia Railroad and the Laurens Railroad. The result of available rail transportation to Newberry, located in an agricultural area economically dependent

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on cotton production, was an immediate boost to real estate values and population. By 1860 the town population had reached 1,637, with more than half black, and 1860 saw a building spurt, according to the <u>Newberry Sun</u>.

Although Newberry did not suffer the destructive loss of buildings that Columbia and Charleston experienced during the Civil War, the financial grimness of the war and Reconstruction halted all real development during those periods. As in the case of many southern towns built predominantly of wood, calamitous fires occurring sporadically in the nineteenth century demolished most of the older buildings, until by 1890, only twenty buildings constructed before 1840, and these "mostly remodeled," remained.

For the almost twenty years following the Civil War the only major building constructed in the town was the City Hall/Opera House, built in 1882. With the establishment of the Newberry Cotton Mills in 1884, however, the town experienced renewed economic prosperity and growth. The mill provided employment and a residential village for 300 operatives and a monthly payroll of \$12,000. In 1907, the combined mill population of Newberry and Mollohon, a cotton manufacturing firm established in 1901, was 1,800 persons, comprising a substantial portion of the town's population of approximately 5,028 persons (1910 census).

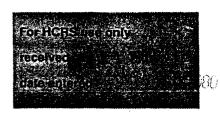
By 1895 the expansion of the mill's residential village west of the Southern Railroad tracks almost equaled in land area the entire remaining town development to the east of the rail line. A list of businessmen indicated a flourishing commercial community which exceeded 100 enterprises. These included three hotels, two residences, three newspapers, four dentists, four banks, sixteen groceries, and eighteen dry goods and general merchandise stores, along with three druggists, five stables, five insurance agents, and manufactories engaged in making cotton seed oil, carriages and wagons, furniture and coffins, and lumber and corn meal.

Recent development in Newberry has generally been on the outskirts of the city. This development has not substantially affected the character of the individual properties and historic districts included in this nomination.

Architectural development in Newberry corresponded with the community's economic growth. Several antebellum planters' homes remain within the corporate limits, being for the most part vernacular farmhouses enlarged and adapted to the Federal, the Greek Revival, and the Italianate styles. A construction hiatus following the outbreak of the Civil War was superseded by a period of heavy construction in the Victorian era, with the Queen Anne and the classic revival being the predominant building modes. The vernacular buildings of this period exhibit the influence of these styles, as well as the influence of the Eastlake and of the Gothic Revival styles. The end of the nineteenth century marked the beginning of Newberry's most prolific construction. The neoclassical was favored among the architects and builders of this era, with the later Gothic Revival, the Richardsonian Romanesque, and the Renaissance Revival represented as well. Many of Newberry's more important public and religious buildings date from this period. A great many smaller vernacular residences, including the Newberry Cottton Mills operatives' houses, were built at this time.

Architecture in Newberry displays a remarkable consistency of scale, proportion, and design

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quality, irrespective of periods of construction. An important factor in establishing and maintaining the character of the town is the ubiquitous work of the contractor C.C.("Cam") Davis, whose quality carpentry and masonry construction is representative of Newberry's general prosperity. The city's economic health attracted numerous nationally prominent architects for the design of public and religious buildings. The lesser buildings maintain a consistency of scale in their neighborhoods as well. The development of neighborhoods followed patterns of social status, further intensifying visual continuity in each district. Haphazard development has not been a factor in most areas of Newberry, although the east Main Street area has been increasingly affected by modern building.

SURVEY AND PLANNING METHODOLOGY

The first move towards developing a preservation approach to conserving Newberry's historical resources was in 1973 with the publication of The History of Newberry County, 1749-1860 by Thomas H. Pope, prominent Newberry attorney and preservationist. From 1977 to 1979 the Central Midlands Regional Planning Council conducted a communitywide comprehensive survey to identify and evaluate the significant historical values comprising Newberry's built environment. This work was done in conjunction with National Register nominations prepared in 1974 for the Newberry Public Square Historic District by the South Carolina Department of Archives and History and the Oakhurst and the Newberry College Historic District nominations prepared jointly by the Central Midlands Planning Council and the South Carolina Department of Archives and History in 1978-79.

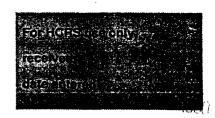
The present nomination is a joint venture of the Regional Planning Council and Archives and History Department based on a comprehensive street by street survey of the city's historical resources to identify and evaluate properties significant for either architectural, historical, or cultural significance. The nomination does not include properties having archeological values.

Methodology for the preliminary community survey to identify and evaluate Newberry's most significant historical resources involved a comprehensive field investigation to locate, record, and map every extant property in any way illustrative of the community's historical development. Supplementing the field survey was exhaustive research, including personal interviews with present and former property owners, examination of published histories, historic house data, genealogies, biographical collections, and newspapers. Where appropriate, searches were also made of title, tax, and insurance records relating to historic properties.

Criteria utilized in both the preliminary survey and in development of the National Register nomination included:

- 1) evidence of historical, and/or cultural associative values
- 2) architectural merit
- 3) architectural incidence in the community

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- 4) effect of alterations and impairment to original fabric
- 5) effect of the building on the neighborhood/community environment

Data collection procedures included:

- 1) definition of the study area as the municipal limits
- 2) identification of buildings by owner, style, date, and locus on individual survey forms and tax maps
- 3) recording of individual buildings and neighborhood streetscapes with photographs
- 4) evaluation of buildings to determine classification as pivotal or contributing
- 5) mapping of properties to illustrate juxtaposition of pivotal, contributing, and non-contributing

8. Significance

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Specific dates	•	Builder/Architect		

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The multiple resource nomination for the Historic Resources of Newberry consists of ten individual properties, seven districts, and an extension of an historic district already listed on the National Register of Historic Places which are of historic and architectural significance to the town of Newberry, county seat of Newberry County, South Carolina. Spanning a time period from ca. 1820 to ca. 1935, these properties join the four individual properties and two historic districts in Newberry listed on the National Register to serve as a visible reminder of the town's history. Founded to serve as a county seat, the town of Newberry has also served as an economic and cultural center for Newberry County. The evolution of Newberry is reflected in the notable historic and architectural resources which remain extant within the city limits. The town grew from a village, whose development was stimulated by the expansion of the cotton economy into the Upcountry of South Carolina in the early nineteenth century and by the introduction of railroad transportation in the mid-nineteenth century, into a prosperous town with several textile mills in the early twentieth century.

Newberry County was one of six counties created in 1785 from a division of the old district of Ninety-Six. The land for a courthouse and public buildings was given to the county by John Coates and surveyed in 1789. A small log building, constructed in 1795 as the courthouse, was replaced in 1801 by a frame building measuring forty-four feet by forty-eight feet. By 1810 the growing village could boast a number of physicians and lawyers, as well as an academy, a library society, a public burial ground, and a district post office.

By 1820 the expansion into the Upcountry of an economy based on cotton had transformed the area from a small farmer society into a society increasingly dominated by planters with an expanding slave population. Many of the leaders of the political and commercial life of the village of Newberry owned nearby cotton plantations, which were managed by resident overseers. The Francis B. Higgins House, the oldest documented residence remaining in Newberry, was constructed ca. 1820 for Francis Higgins, an attorney and planter.

At the outbreak of the Civil War Newberry was a thriving market town for area farmers, served by two railroads, the Greenville and Columbia Railroad, which reached the town in 1851, and the Laurens Railroad, which reached the town in 1854. Rail lines enabled farmers to purchase at cheap rates essential fertilizers for continued cultivation of the surrounding depleted cotton lands. Substantial residences built in Newberry in the years before the Civil War by planters, merchants, and businessmen who shared the prosperity generated by the railroad included the Osborne Wells House, built ca. 1860 by Osborne Wells, a prominent Newberry builder, planter, and brick merchant; Timberhouse, built ca. 1858 by Jacob Kibler, a planter who owned 68 slaves in 1850; and Gildercrest, built ca. 1857 by William F. Nance, co-owner of the local newspaper.

Following the extension of the railroads to the town was the establishment in 1857 of Newberry College by South Carolina Lutherans. By 1859 the college had an enrollment of 175 students.

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a faculty of seven distinguished scholars, and an imposing two-story stuccoed Gothic building constructed at a cost of \$18,000. From its founding the college has served as the acknowledged core of the city's educational and cultural life, drawing to Newberry a continuing flow of academicians and students from throughout the nation.

Newberry's participation in the cause of the Southern Confederacy was fervent. The entire student body of the college volunteered for army service, forcing the institution's closing. For a culture and economy built on slave-produced cotton, the aftermath of the Civil War was disastrous in the loss of capital, resources, and manpower. As a result, in the years following the war the town experienced limited development.

It was not until 1884 and the building of the three-story Newberry Cotton Mills (Boundary Street-Newberry Cotton Mills Historic District, #6) that the town regained economic health. The establishment of the the mill shrewdly capitalized on available surplus labor from surrounding farms. Twenty thousand bales of cotton were annually converted into cloth, which was shipped from Newberry to New York and Norfolk. The mill's financial success led to expansions in 1894 and 1910 by Lockwood and Greene, the Providence, Rhode Island, engineering firm which had designed the mill in 1883. Between 1884 and 1910 eighty-one one-story and twenty-two two-story frame residences (Boundary Street-Newberry Cotton Mills Historic District) were constructed by the Newberry Cotton Mills for the factory operatives.

The owners of several of the finer residences constructed in Newberry in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries were associated with the cotton mills in Newberry. The imposing Zaccheus Wright Mansion (Caldwell Historic District, #C-3) was built in 1912 by Zaccheus F. Wright, fourth president of Newberry Cotton Mills. The George Mower House was constructed in 1893 for George S. Mower, the director of the Newberry Cotton Mills. The George W. Summer House (Caldwell Historic District, #C-4), built ca. 1912, was purchased by George W. Summer, Newberry merchant and organizer of the Mollohon (cotton) Manufacturing Company.

The economic well-being enjoyed by Newberry in the early twentieth century is reflected in the monumental courthouse (Newberry Public Square Historic District Extension, #A-1), constructed in 1908 at a cost of \$50,000, and in the commercial buildings on the 1300 block of Main Street, most of which were constructed between 1900 and 1920 (Newberry Public Square Historic District Extension). Several notable churches were built in Newberry in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, such Central Methodist Church (Newberry Public Square Historic District Extension, #A-22), constructed in 1901, and the Newberry First Baptist Church (Caldwell Street Historic District, #C-1), constructed in 1907.

Unlike most South Carolina towns, Newberry is fortunate to have had its historical development and the contributions of its citizens recorded in printed form. The nineteenth century published reminiscences of John Carwile and John Belton O'Neal and the scholarly work of contemporary historian Thomas H. Pope are recognized authoritive sources of local history and have been basic to the compilation of this nomination.

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Architecture: Newberry has an extraordinarily wealthy architectural heritage, which is comprehensively documented by the nomination for the Historic Resources of Newberry. The elements of the nomination range from ca. 1820 to ca. 1935 and reflect the consistent cultural wealth of Newberry during that time span. Several locally and nationally prominent architects exercised their considerable talents in Newberry. The community has managed to retain a significant quantity of its architectural masterpieces in conjunction with its continued growth.

Several larger antebellum homes remain within the city limits of Newberry, reflecting the adaptation of Federal and Greek Revival stylistic elements to the South Carolina vernacular forms. The Francis B. Higgins House, the Stewart House, and Timberhouse are examples.

The eclectic styles of the Victorian era were readily adapted to the economically prosperous community of the later nineteenth century. The George Mower House, with its multiple textures, asymmetrical form, and polygonal towers, is an outstanding example of the Queen Anne style. The Baker House (Main Street Historic District, #M-14) reflects the Italianate taste, with its deep bracketed eaves, its low hipped roof, and its rooftop belvedere. St. Luke's Episcopal Church (Main Street Historic District, #M-26) is an early Gothic Revival church, with traceried lancet windows, exterior buttresses, and gable end rose windows. The Martin House (Main Street Historic District, #M-28) is enriched by heavy carpenter's ornamentation in the Eastlake mode.

Newberry's most important buildings date from the first decade of the twentieth century. The Newberry County Courthouse (Newberry Public Square Historic District Extension, #A-1) is an impressive essay in monumental neoclassicism. The Newberry Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church (Main Street Historic District, #M-17) is a late Gothic Revival edifice. Both of these buildings were designed by Frank P. Milburn. The Central Methodist Church (Public Square Historic District Extension, #A-22) is a monumental building in the Richardsonian Romanesque style, designed by Chattanooga architect Reuben H. Hunt. The church features granite and brick walls, deep arcades, and a three-story tower with a tiled roof. The Newberry Post Office (Public Square Historic District Extension, #A-22), now the Newberry-Saluda Regional Library, was built in 1911, according to designs by James Knox Taylor, in a Renaissance Revival mode. The Zaccheus Wright Mansion (Caldwell Street Historic District, #C-3) is an outstanding example of residential neoclassicism. The Newberry First Baptist Church (Caldwell Street Historic District, #C-1) was designed by Columbia architect Charles Coker Wilson in a Roman Revival style.

Newberry's architectural heritage includes many vernacular building types; numerous central hall farmhouses are included, an example being 1300 Drayton Street (Boundary Street-Newberry Cotton Mills Historic District, #37). 1905 Harrington Street (Harrington Street Historic District, #7) is a typical shotgun house. Four Victorian raised cottages remain in Newberry, being included in the Vincent Street Historic District and in the Harrington Street Historic District. Newberry has a great wealth of Victorian vernacular residences, which are preserved and maintained.

The Newberry builder C.C. ("Cam") Davis is represented by over twenty buildings in Newberry. Davis worked in numerous styles and built according to designs by several architects, but his work is of a consistent high quality.

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Community Planning: The village associated with the Newberry Cotton Mills (Boundary Street-Newberry Cotton Mills Historic District) is a relatively intact specimen of late nineteenth century community planning. The village grew with the expansion of the Newberry Cotton Mills, with the major periods of construction coming in 1884, 1887, 1895, 1896, and 1910. In addition to the mill operatives' houses, which were owned by the mill, the community includes Willowbrook Park, which was established in 1909 for recreational use by the mill operatives. The park featured a bandstand, a meandering stream, and appropriate plantings. The community also contains the Willowbrook Employees' Club House, designed for recreational programs for the mill employees, and several commercial concerns catering to the community. An academy building was destroyed in 1978. The mill village represented an essentially independent, self-contained community, designed to provide for all aspects of the operatives' lives, with exceptional provisions made for their welfare and entertainment. The Newberry Mills are still in operation, and the houses of the mill village are largely intact and maintained.

Industry: The Newberry Cotton Mill, built in 1884, was the second of some thirty-nine cotton mills built between 1881 and 1901 in South Carolina by the Boston, Massachusetts, engineering firm of Lockwood and Greene. A firm history, published in 1958, listed the Newberry mill as one of the most important works in the development of the southern textile industry. In addition to transforming the area's economic climate by furnishing employment to some 500 area workers, the board of director's minutes in 1884 claimed it to be the first textile mill in the South to be operated by steam generated power. Its factory style, executed in yellow brick, is similar to many other Lockwood and Greene designs for the late nineteenth century.

Landscape Architecture: Wells Japanese Garden and the Newberry Cotton Mills' Willowbrook Park represent unique historical resources for city residents. The garden manifests an appealing exotic character with its oriental plants and ornamental structures, including a gatehouse and a teahouse. Although Willowbrook Park no longer contains the bandstand, rustic bridges, and specimen plantings of its original state, historical photographs and recollections of many older residents attest to its place as a favorite local landmark and an enduring exemplum of one aspect of the social-humanitarian concern exhibited by the owners of the Newberry Cotton Mills towards the welfare of the mill workers.

<u>Politics/Government</u>: As the county seat of Newberry County, the town of Newberry has had five courthouses. The first, a small log building, was constructed in 1795; the second courthouse, built of wood, was completed in 1801. Robert Mills designed the third courthouse, completed in 1823. In 1849 since the Mills courthouse was considered unsafe, it was razed. Completed in 1853, the fourth courthouse, which was listed on the National Register in 1971, is currently used as a community hall. The fifth courthouse was designed by Frank P. Milburn. Constructed in 1908, this building continues to serve as the center of government for Newberry County.

CURRENT PRESERVATION PROJECTS Although no legal mechanism for architectural conservation now exists in the city, it is expected that this nomination will serve as a catalyst in the development of a preservation ordinance in providing a basis for evaluative criteria and survey identification for documenting local landmarks. In conducting the survey for the nomination, the Central Midlands Regional Planning Council preservation staff

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worked closely with private owners, the county historical society, city officials, and administration in explaining the National Register program and the procedures necessary for the establishment of protective controls to conserve the built environment. Much of the survey work was accomplished with the assistance of historical society members. Interest in preservation has been expressed by many private property owners, city authorities, and the Newberry County Historical Society. These entities are already involved in a number of preservation activities, vis:

- -Newberry County is currently engaged in the restoration of the Old Courthouse now the community hall.
- -In 1976 the county historical society began preservation of the Gauntt House, an early nineteenth century frame house reputed to be the town's oldest dwelling. The house was relocated in 1972 from its original site at 1316 College Street to the city waterworks property on the west side of Nance Street. Final use of the property has not yet been determined by the society. The building was not included in this nomination because of missing documentation on its provenance and rehabilitation history.
- -The City of Newberry is currently sponsoring rehabilitation of forty houses in Mollohon Textile Mill Village with \$286,000 in HUD Community Development funds.
- -A number of privately owned dwellings, long vacant and in disrepair, are now being rehabilitated with sensitive attention to preservation of the historic fabric by the owners. Especially notable projects because of their key visual impacts in their respective neighborhoods are the Ragland House (Main Street Historic District, #M-11) and three adjacent nineteenth century cottages on Boundary Street.
- -The Association for Greater Newberry, consisting of city business leaders, is currently considering a grant-in-aid program to assist owners of commercial buildings around the public square in renovating their properties (many vacant) to conserve the historic business district.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheets

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state code	county	code		
11. Form Prepared By				
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name/title Nancy Fox, Regional Historic Pr organization Central Midlands Regional Pla		S.C. Department of Archive History September 5, 1980		
street & number Columbia	telephone	803/798-1243		
city or town South Carolina	state Sou	uth Carolina 29210		
12. State Historic Prese	ervation Offic	er Certification		
The evaluated significance of this property within the	state is:			
national X state	local			
As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer f 665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the according to the criteria and procedures set forth by it State Historic Preservation Officer signature	ne/National Register/and certify	that it has been evaluated		
title SC SAPO		date 9/25/80		
For HCBs use only I hereby certify that this property is included in the	ne National Register	gate 1/2/19/2015		
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Personal Interview held June - August, 1979 with the following Newberry citizens:

Keitt Purcell, Vincent St. houses; Cyril Hutchinson, McKeene Hutchinson; Mrs. Sarah Davis Wallace, C. C. Davis; Miss Margaret Paysinger, Houseal family; Mrs. Price Padgett, Poole House; Mr. & Mrs. E. E. Westwood, Timberhouse; Mr. & Mrs. J. O. Ullman, Ward Cottage; Thomas H. Pope, Newberry Mills; Mrs. Toy Cousins, Cousins House; Miss Cynthia Martin, Martin House; Wright Cannon, Wright family and houses; Mrs. Ida Satterwhite, Gildercrest; Mrs. Corrie Havird, Nance House; L. E. Gatling, Jr., Dewey Kinard, Arnold Hiller and Frank R. Jones, Newberry Mills; Dr. Ralph Baker, ARP Church, Baker House; Mrs. Frances Rutherford, Rutherford House; Cato Coleman, Bethlehem Baptist Church; Mrs. Minnie Clary, Clary House; T. E. Epting, First Baptist Church; Louis Floyd, city cemeteries; Fulmer Wells, commercial buildings, Wells House, Garden.

Historical Researchers: W. Fulmer Wells, Mrs. Helen Harley, Mrs. Maude Ross, Newberry Citizens.