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Ashtabula is significant as an excellent example of low-country plantation architecture brought by Charleston families who settled around Pendleton, first settlement in South Carolina above Camden and incorporated as a town in 1790. Important too were the inhabitants of Ashtabula, members of families prominent in community and state. Francis Pelzer, a one-time occupant, pioneered in the textile industry of the state.

The Gibbes family, who had moved from Charleston to up-country South Carolina near Pendleton were responsible for the construction of the main part of Ashtabula. Its architecture thus embodies distinguishing characteristics of early nineteenth century up-country homes built by prosperous low-country people who resettled because of better air, water, and climate. The drawing room windows, similar to French windows, are especially noteworthy as examples of transplanted low-country architecture.

Ashtabula is closely associated with the lives of prominent local, state, and national figures. All of the early owners were members of the Pendleton Farmers Society, founded in 1815 and still active, and were leaders in the community's educational, religious, and social life.

Mrs. Lewis Ladson Gibbes, wife of the founder of Ashtabula, was Maria Drayton (one of the Draytons of Drayton Hall, Charleston), niece of Arthur Middleton, signer of the Declaration of Independence. Her son, Lewis R. Gibbes, studied botany in the fields of Ashtabula and is listed in Wilson Gee's South Carolina Botanists.

Dr. O.R. Broyles, who purchased the house in 1837, was widely known for his advanced agricultural practices and for such inventions as the subsoil plow. John C. Calhoun was a frequent guest of Dr.Broyles at Ashtabula.

The next owner (1851), James Latta, was a leader in introducing fine cattle stock into the up-country. He imported from England one of the first ship loads of Hereford cattle.

MAJOR	BIBLIOGRAPHICAL R	EFERENCES			3							
Fuller, Elizabeth Belser, ed. <u>Anderson County Sketches</u> . Anderson: Drake House Publishers, Inc., 1969 Vandiver, Louise Ayer. <u>Traditions and History of Anderson County</u> . Atlanta: Ruralist Press, 1928												
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tional 89-665 in the evalua forth b level o Na Name	As the designated State Liaison Officer for the Na- tional 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is: National State Oral Coral Coral Name Title Director, South Carolina Department Archives and History						I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register. <u><u><u></u></u><u><u><u></u></u><u><u></u><u><u></u></u><u><u></u><u><u></u></u><u><u></u><u></u><u></u><u></u><u></u><u></u><u></u></u></u></u></u></u>					
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Form 10-300a (Dec. 1968)	UN	ITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE	STATE South Carolina COUNTY Anderson				
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During the Confederate era, a number of prominent low-country families, such as the Adgers, relocated in the Pendleton area. In 1863 Robert Adger bought Ashtabula for his daughter, Mrs. O.A. Bowen. Both the Latta and Adger families were wealthy and were substantial contributors to the Confederacy.

In 1880 Ashtabula became the property of the industrial leader, Francis Pelzer, who organized the Pelzer Manufacturing Company and for whom the great cotton mills and town of Pelzer are named.

Running along the Ashtabula boundary for more than 140 years has been the old stage road from Pendleton to Greenville, built in the 1790s as a route to old Pickensville, now gone.

Always lived in and a center of activity, Ashtabula was acquired in 1962 by the Foundation for Historic Restoration in the Pendleton Area and now serves as a historic house museum.

