

Form 10-300
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: South Carolina	
COUNTY: Chester	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
JUN 13 1972	

1. NAME

COMMON:
City of Chester Historic District

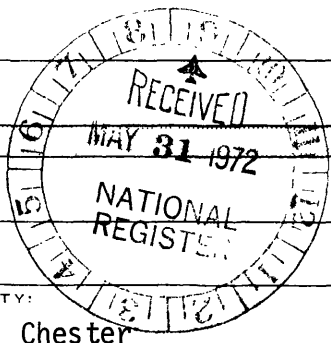
AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Boundaries: see continuation sheet

CITY OR TOWN:
Chester

STATE: South Carolina CODE: 45 COUNTY: Chester CODE: 023



3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Miscellaneous

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Chester STATE: South Carolina CODE: 45

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Chester County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:
Main Street

CITY OR TOWN: Chester STATE: South Carolina CODE: 45

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Survey of Historic Sites, Chester County

DATE OF SURVEY: December 1971 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
South Carolina Department of Archives & History

STREET AND NUMBER:
1430 Senate Street P.O. Box 11,188 Capitol Station

CITY OR TOWN: Columbia STATE: South Carolina CODE: 45

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:

COUNTY:

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

JUN 13 1972

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

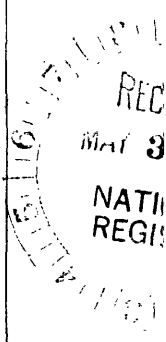
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Situated on a hilltop in the rolling piedmont section of South Carolina, the city of Chester has a large collection of mid-nineteenth century buildings. The public square on top of the hill has been the center of town activity since its beginning in the 1780's. The majority of the buildings now standing are nineteenth century. The Romanesque City Hall-Opera House, completed in 1891, dominates the skyline and can be seen from every approach to the city. The Confederate monument, a tall obelisk, stands at the eastern end of the square. The beautiful 1855 Greek Revival Courthouse is on the northeastern slope of the hill. Gadsden Street flows down the hill toward the east and is lined with many nineteenth century buildings.

Business activity, which once flourished on top of the hill, has sharply declined. Some of the old buildings are in need of paint and repair; however, they remain structurally unchanged and of pleasing design. With a proper plan for paint colors, sign designs, and street lights, the business area could be attractively restored. City council has acquired extensive parking areas immediately behind the buildings on either side of the hill and on the southern side of Gadsden Street.

1. Old Chester Hotel Building. Northside of Main St., facing Public Square. Very possibly the oldest commercial building in Chester. Mentioned in court records in 1854, but may be as early as 1840. Large three story brick building covered with stucco. Dentil trim and molded garlands and diamond design adorn the frieze. First Courthouse of 1788-1796 believed to be on this site.
2. Davega Building. North side of Main St., facing Public Square. Constructed between 1843 and 1863 by N. R. Eaves. Three story brick structure of extremely plain design. Wooden lentils with dentil trim enhance the building. Now occupied by Strickland & Hardin, attorneys, and Dr. Frank Pavese.
3. Chester County Courthouse. Main St. on northeastern slope of hill, just off the Public Square. Completed in 1855. Grey stucco building with columned portico.
4. Wilson Building. Southern side of Main St., facing Public Square, built in 1873. Large two story brick building covered with grey stucco. Simple arched windows edged with egg and dart design at second level. Four adjoining commercial buildings also built in spring of 1873. All of them retain original windows and ornamentation. In some instances street level store fronts have been altered, but upper levels are unchanged. The Wilson Building at one time housed the large mercantile establishment, S. M. Jones Co. Now occupied by Hattie's Book & Gift Shop and Emory's 5 & 10¢ Store.
5. Chester City Hall. Southern side of Main St., facing Public Square. Built 1890-91 as a town hall and opera house. This Romanesque brick structure was the center of cultural activity for many years. Pre-cast (see continuation sheet Item 7)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian | 16th Century | 18th Century | 20th Century
 15th Century | 17th Century | 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

In the 1750's settlers from Pennsylvania came into the Chester County area looking for good grazing land for their cattle. The counties of Chester, York, and Lancaster were named for the Pennsylvania counties from which these settlers came. By the 1780's the Chester area had grown enough to need a courthouse of its own. Before that Camden had served the district. The village of Chester grew up around the courthouse which was located on top of the town hill.

Architectural Significance. There is a high concentration of 19th Century buildings on the town hill and the streets leading to it. The residential area encompasses a variety of architectural designs. Two designs found most often in early Chester homes, the unadorned two story farm house and the tall two story house with double gallery front portico, are represented by several examples.

Political Significance. In 1807, Aaron Burr, former Vice President of the U. S., was a political prisoner being taken to Richmond to stand trial. He made an attempt to escape in Chester, calling upon the local citizens to come to his rescue. The rock upon which he stood to make his plea is on the sidewalk on the southern side of the Public Square.

Samuel McAliley, State Senator from Chester, cast the only dissenting vote against calling the Secession Convention whose Ordinance of Secession led to the Civil War. His brick store building still stands.

The oldest signer of the South Carolina Ordinance of Secession was John McKee of Chester, merchant and maker of grandfather clocks.

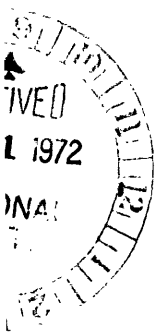
It is said that Andrew Johnson, seventeenth President of the U. S., was for a short time apprenticed to a Chester tailor, Alexander Hogge, and that he worked for Hogge at his shop near the present Courthouse.

Military and Transportation Significance.

As a railroad center, Chester was an important town during the Civil War. During the last months of the Confederacy, many important leaders found their way to Chester. The railroad had been destroyed beyond Chester. Generals Wheeler, Hampton, Chesnut, and Hood were in Chester at this time, as well as Governor McGarth and Major Mosley. The ladies of Chester organized groups to care for the wounded soldiers who arrived by train throughout the War. Fifty-five headstones in Evergreen Cemetery mark the graves of soldiers who died in Chester.

The Constitution of the Confederacy was rescued in Chester. It is now on display at the University of Georgia. (see continuation sheet Item 8)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Cauthen, Charles E. South Carolina Goes to War, 1860-1865. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1950.
Chester County Historic Sites. Central Piedmont Regional Planning Commission, 1971.
Chester Lantern for 1897.
Chester Reporter for 1876 to 1906.
Chester Standard for 1854 to 1857.
 Chestnut, Mary Boykin. A Diary from Dixie. New York: Houghton Mifflin Co. 1949.

(see continuation sheet Item 9)

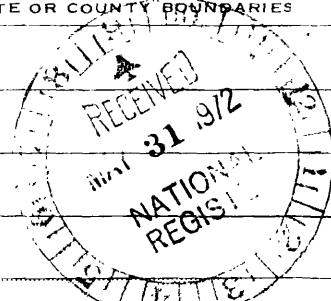
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY						O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES					
CORNER	LATITUDE			LONGITUDE			LATITUDE			LONGITUDE		
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	34°	42'	46.5"	81°	12'	45.4"	0	.	"	0	.	"
NE	34°	42'	26.9"	81°	12'	21.7"						
SE	34°	41'	52.7"	81°	13'	2.7"						
SW	34°	42'	12.6"	81°	13'	26.4"						

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **Approximately 300 acres**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Wright Caughman Historic Preservation Assistant

ORGANIZATION: South Carolina Department of Archives & History DATE: May 18, 1972

STREET AND NUMBER: 1430 Senate St. P. O. Box 11,188 Capitol Station

CITY OR TOWN: Columbia STATE: South Carolina CODE: 45

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name Charles S. Lef

Title Director, South Carolina Department of Archives and History

Date May 22, 1972

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Robert Van Zee
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 6/13/72

ATTEST: William Murty
 Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

Form 10-3000
(Dec. 1968)UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM 72

(Continuation Sheet)



STATE South Carolina	
COUNTY Chester	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	JUN 13 1972

(Number all entries)

2. LOCATION. Boundaries:

Northwest. From northern rear corner of Coogler property facing southeast on York St. go SE across Walnut St. to rear boundary of properties facing southwest on Pine St.; thence NE to Hemphill Ave.; thence SW across Pine St. and Moore St. to rear boundary of properties facing southwest on Wylie St.; thence NW to Seaboard Air Line Railroad; thence SW to include SAL Depot and then SE to Maiden Lane; thence SW across Center St. to Mill St.

Southwest. From point above go SE to Pinckney St.; thence NE to intersection with Reedy St.; thence SE along southwestern side of Reedy St. for 100 yards and then NE for 50 yards; thence SE across West End St. to rear boundary of properties facing northwest on West End St.

of

Southeast. From point above go NE along rear boundary/properties facing northwest on across Oakland Ave. and Columbia St. and along Cadz St.; thence cross over Cadz St. at bend and go SE along Cadz St. to rear boundary of properties facing southeast on Church St.; thence NE across Church St. to Gadsden St.; thence NW across Gadsden St., Elliott St., and Irwin St. to rear boundary of properties facing northeast on Saluda St.; thence NE along rear boundary of properties facing northwest on Saluda St. on across Culp St. and Walnut St. to the northeastern side boundary of Mobley House property on the corner of Walnut and Saluda.

Northeast. From point above go NW across Saluda St. and York St. to the northern rear corner of Coogler property.

7. DESCRIPTION. (continued)

terra cotta insets embellish the archways and front facade. Now occupied by city administrative offices. Separate nomination on this building.

6. St. Joseph's Catholic Church. 110 West End St. on the western slope of the hill just off the Public Square. Built in 1839 as a Presbyterian Lecture Room. Brick construction. Bell tower and front entrance have been altered and side wings added.

Residential Area.

7. William H. Hardin House. 137 Wylie St. Built 1856. Two story clapboard house with double gallery, typical of Chester homes of the period. Remains in ownership of original family. Flooring, plaster, and woodwork are original. William Henry Hardin was Mayor of Chester in 1884-1885 and 1899-1907. Many family antiques, including a McKee grandfather clock, are in the house. Mrs. Edward H. Hardin owner.

Form 10-300a
(Dec. 1968)UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE South Carolina	
COUNTY Chester	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	JUN 15 1972



(Number all entries)

7. DESCRIPTION. (continued)

8. Whitlock-Smithwick House. 129 West End. Built 1855 by Middleton McDonald, an early intendant of Chester. Two story brick construction now covered with grey stucco. The front double gallery porches have been adorned with Victorian trim. This L-shaped house has wooden porches and banisters along the rear and side. Joel Smithwick owner.
9. Aunt Hill. 152 Center Street. Earliest records show sale in 1842, but believed to be much older. Two story frame house with shed roof porch extending across facade. Interior has small rooms, low ceilings, a central chimney, and an enclosed staircase. Miss Lola Hardin owner.
10. West End Wall. South side of West End St. from Henry St. to near Reedy St. A dry wall composed of large matched stones. Built to contain property which was approximately five feet higher than the road. The part in front of 132 through 134 West End St. built by Maj. N. R. Eaves before the Civil War.
11. Purity Presbyterian Church. 135 Wylie St. Built 1855. Victorian Gothic design with two spires, one of which is approximately 80 feet tall. Brick construction laid in common bond. Expanse of windows between the two spires set in a massive Gothic arch, the lower part of which has five arched stained glass windows. The upper level has six dominant stained glass circles.
12. Holst House. 116 Pinckney St. Built 1847 by Count Charles Von Holst of Denmark. Two story house with double gallery porch. Fanlight over first floor doorway. Some of original mantels, hinges, and doorknobs remain.
13. Dr. Ambrose Wylie House. 127-129 Wylie St. Built 1855. Two story frame house with one story front porch. Interior has wide pine flooring and plain woodwork.
14. Jackson House. 124 York St. Built 1855. Two story frame house with one story front porch supported by square columns. Situated directly on the street. Foundation supported by tree trunks. Occupied by owner, Mrs. J. S. Jackson.
15. Brawley House. York St. Built 1838. Two story frame house with one story front porch. Fanlight over front doorway. Has a raised basement, once used for cooking and dining.
16. Mobley House. 143 Saluda St. Built 1851. Three story brick residence with double gallery portico. Interior hall walls are of brick also. Built by Middleton McDonald, an early intendant of Chester, and sold in 1854 to S. W. Mobley who was also an intendant of Chester. Occupied by owner, Mayor Edward Dawson.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE South Carolina	
COUNTY Chester	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER JUN - 5 1972	DATE JUN 13 1972

(Number all entries)

8. SIGNIFICANCE. (continued)

Commercial Significance. As a courthouse town for a farming area, Chester has served and is serving as a market for the surrounding countryside. During the 1870's and well into the twentieth century, two large "time stores" stood side by side on the top of the hill. These buildings still stand, their exteriors relatively unchanged. With proper restoration the commercial district of Chester's historic area will once again be the center of commerce.

Theatrical Significance. The City Hall-Opera House was the scene of many traveling shows, as well as local talent productions. Plans are in the making for a complete restoration of the theatre.

Literary Significance. Mary Boykin Chestnut, wife of General Chestnut, was a refugee in Chester in March and April of 1865. Part of her popular Diary from Dixie was written during her stay in Chester.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES. (continued)

- Gaston, Arthur Lee. Remarks and Reminiscences, 1948.
Hudson, Joshua. Sketches and Reminiscences. Columbia, S. C.: The State Co., 1903.
May, John Amasa and Joan Reynolds Faunt. South Carolina Secedes. Columbia, S. C.: The University of South Carolina Press, 1960.
White, Bessie McFadden. Old Homes of Chester. Chester, S. C.: Chester Reporter, 1848.

*On a recent field trip to Chester, Russell Wright, A.I.P. of Reston, Virginia, stated that the restoration of the city's collection of unaltered 19th Century commercial buildings would afford " a unique opportunity to revitalize the shopping area on the square."

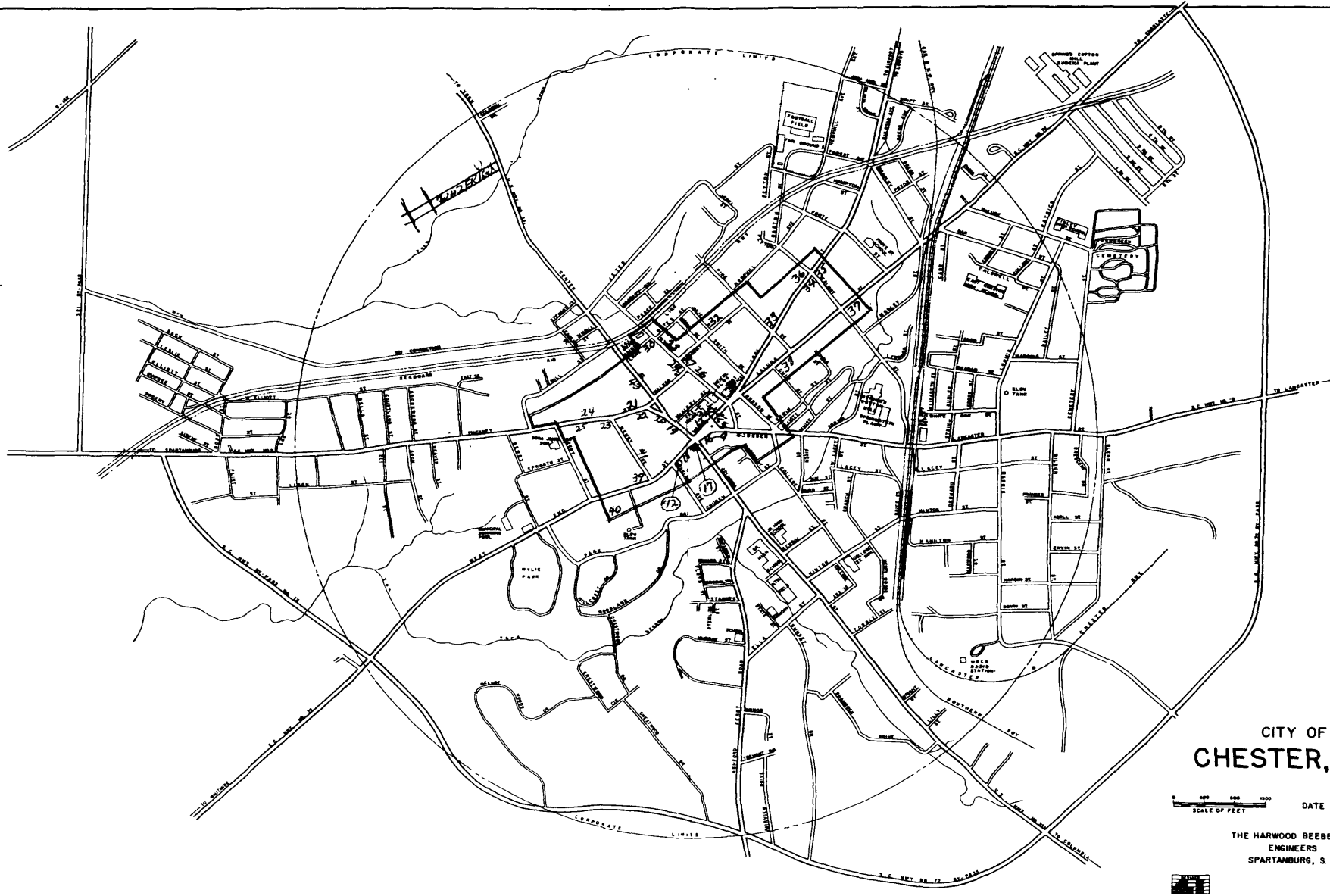


IDENTIFICATION FOR CITY MAP

CHESTER, SOUTH CAROLINA

1. Chester Hotel Building
2. Davega Building
3. Agurs Building
4. Graham Building
5. Chester County Court House
6. Balser Building
7. Masonic Temple
8. Marion Building
9. Chambers Building
10. Simril Building
11. Hamilton Building
12. Joseph Wylie Building
13. Wilson Building
14. Melton Building
15. Heyman Building
16. Richmond Nail Building
17. City Hall
18. St. Joseph's Catholic Church
19. Old Jail
20. St. Mark's Episcopal Church
21. Stricker House
22. J. J. McLure House
23. Holst House
24. Ambrose Wylie House
25. Bell House

26. Purity Presbyterian Church
27. William H. Hardin House
28. A. P. Wylie House
- 29.. Hardin Cottage
30. Fischel House
31. M. H. White House
32. Walker House'
33. Jackson House
34. Gaston House
35. Brawley House
36. S. M. Jones House
37. Mobley House
38. Coleman House
39. Whitlock-Smithwick House
40. Antebellum Terraces
41. Henry-McFadden House
42. Whitlock-Lutz House
43. Aunt Hill



CITY OF
CHESTER, S. C.

0 1000 2000
 SCALE OF FEET DATE FEBRUARY, 1956

THE HARWOOD BEEBE CO
 ENGINEERS
 SPARTANBURG, S. C.

