

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

FEB 12 2001

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This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Denmark High School
other names/site number Old Denmark High School

2. Location

street & number North Palmetto Avenue not for publication
city or town Denmark vicinity _____
state South Carolina code SC county Bamberg code 009 zip code 29042

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Mary W. Edmonds 2/6/01
Signature of certifying official Date

Mary W. Edmonds, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, S.C. Dept. of Archives and History, Columbia, S.C.
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:
 entered in the National Register Edson H. Beall 3/29/01
 See continuation sheet. Signature of the Keeper Date of Action
 determined eligible for the
 National Register
 See continuation sheet.
 determined not eligible for the
 National Register
 removed from the National Register

other (explain): _____

Denmark High School
Name of Property

Bamberg County, South Carolina
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)
N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed
in the National Register
0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Category: EDUCATION

Subcategory: School

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Category: VACANT

Subcategory: Not In Use

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)
19th and 20th Century Revivals:
Classical Revival

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)
foundation Brick
walls Brick
roof Asphalt
other Brick

Narrative Description
(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Denmark High School
Name of Property

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "X" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
[X] C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- a owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
b removed from its original location.
c a birthplace or a grave.
d a cemetery.
e a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
f a commemorative property.
g less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1920-1948

Significant Dates

1920
1932
1948

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Narrative Statement of Significance

Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
previously listed in the National Register
previously determined eligible by the National Register
designated a National Historic Landmark
recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

Primary location of additional data:

- [X] State Historic Preservation Office
Other State agency
Federal agency
Local government
University
Other

Name of repository:
S.C. Dept. of Archives & History

Denmark High School
Name of Property

Bamberg County, South Carolina
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 2.24 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Zone Easting Northing	Zone Easting Northing	Zone Easting Northing
1 <u>17 486909 3687505</u>	3 <u>17 486767 3687343</u>	5 <u>17 486864 3687397</u>
2 <u>17 486787 3687512</u>	4 <u>17 486857 3687340</u>	6 <u>17 486904 3687395</u>

___ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Jim Harrison (with assistance from SHPO staff)
 organization _____ date 12 March 2000
 street & number One South Main Street telephone (803) 793-5796
 city or town Denmark state SC zip code 29042

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

- A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white** photographs of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Jim Harrison
 street & number One South Main Street telephone (803) 793-5796
 city or town Denmark state SC zip code 29042

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National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

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Denmark High School
Name of Property
Bamberg County, South Carolina
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Denmark High School, on North Palmetto Avenue in Denmark, South Carolina, is located on a full city block of 2.24 acres. It is a one-story brick building constructed in 1920 as a rectangular building, with two later rectangular brick additions, the first constructed in 1932 at the northeast corner of the original building and set at a right angle and parallel to that building, forming a U-shape, and the second constructed in 1948 to extend the original building, and thus elongating one arm of the U-shape.

The original 1920 building is laid in five-to-one American bond pattern, contains a soldier course water table and features as its centerpiece a projecting parapet-gabled entrance pavilion with a double-leaf entrance and a two-tiered arched glass transom and archivolt. A cast stone coping caps the parapet of this pavilion. To either side of the central pavilion along the building's western elevation (façade) are alternating single and tripartite window groupings. Each window unit contains large six-over-six light double-hung sash and cast stone sills. The tripartite groupings are slightly recessed and have continuous recessed wood paneled friezes, while the single windows feature decorative chevron-designed brick and glazed color tile, lozenge-accented friezes. Windows throughout the original building are similarly grouped but without the decorative friezes. A hipped roof features exposed rafter tails and is clad in gray slates. A large tiered brick chimney for the building's heating system rises now from the rear (east) slope of the roof, but when constructed rose from the southern terminal roof slope. A double-leaf secondary entrance is located at the northern terminus of the building and central corridor, where there was once a covered walk accessing the now-demolished 1908 elementary school. When built in 1920 (and at least until 1942) the building featured an octagonal wood louvered cupola with belcast roof.

The interior of the 1920 building contains an airlock vestibule with double-leaf doors mirroring those of the exterior but featuring a multi-paned glass transom and sidelights that cover the entire inner wall of the airlock and transmit light into the large T-shaped cross corridor. Corridors are double-loaded and approximately ten feet wide with at least twelve to fifteen-foot high beaded board ceilings; walls are plaster with dropped picture moulding. Several classrooms, two offices, and a combination library and study hall are all accessed from the corridors by wide, single-leaf horizontal paneled wood doors over which are oversized (approximately 5' tall x 4' wide) operable glass transoms. Additional operable ventilating windows, often paired, are present in many of the classrooms and other spaces to enhance air flow from the corridors in winter and cross ventilation from outside in the warmer months. The interior spaces still have their plaster walls, picture moulding, and beaded board ceilings; some of the classrooms retain their blackboards and cloak rooms. The library/study hall room features a door opening with six-light transom and flanking paired six-over-six light, double-hung sash windows which provided easy observation from one space to the other, light and air circulation. Two square wood support piers are also located within the larger library space.

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The 1932 addition includes a gymnasium, two restrooms, and four classrooms. The gymnasium addition is a rectangular brick building with a truncated gable-on-hip roof and exposed rafter tails at the eaves. It is connected to the main or original block by a single-loaded corridor, the exterior (southern) side of which contains nine-over-nine light paired windows and a double-leaf entrance with sidelights and transom to access the U-shaped courtyard. Some deterioration of material has occurred in one segment of this corridor due to a failed roof. The interior of the gymnasium is accessed from the corridor at the uppermost point of the tiered oak seating (bleachers) lining each side of the gym floor. The natural topography at this location of the parcel allows for a sunken-type athletic arena. Also evident within the gymnasium space are the heavy timber support piers and an impressive heavy timber roof truss system. Because the roof at the rear of the gymnasium has failed due to neglect during recent years, a significant portion of the gymnasium floor has rotted and collapsed. Classroom windows in this addition are either single or paired with nine-over-nine light, double-hung sash; however, the singles often flank the paired ones in a tripartite configuration. The corridor between the gymnasium and classrooms terminates at the rear (east elevation) of the building with a segmental arched entry portal that is accessed by masonry steps with pedestal walls and contains a double-leaf doorway with a fourteen-light transom. Two other single-leaf entrances at the rear of the gymnasium flank three paired windows and once provided access from the girls' and boys' dressing rooms to the athletic fields.

The 1948 addition or extension of the main (original) block approximately doubles the length of the building's façade and includes eight additional classrooms, two restrooms, and a teacher's lounge. Its walls are also laid in a five-to-one American bond pattern and in a similarly colored and textured brick. The soldier course water table extends uninterrupted from the original block; however, there is a slightly noticeable seam at the two buildings' juncture. Massing is similar to that of the original; the hipped roofline simply extends to the south along the same plane, only clad with composition/asphalt shingles instead of slates. Exposed rafter tails are evident on this building as well. Similarly too, this segment of the building features a centerpiece projecting entrance pavilion accessed by a wide masonry stair with flanking pedestal walls of brick and cast stone coping. The gable-front projection with exposed purlins and rafter tails contains a well-executed segmental-arched portal faced in sectioned limestone. Within the portal is a double-leaf wooden entrance door with an oversized (ten-light) frosted glass transom. Fenestration on the façade of this segment of the building consists of four sets of tripartite groupings, with single double-hung windows flanking paired ones. Cast stone window sills are still in evidence. The southern terminus of the building contains solid walls with a central segmental-arched entry portal that is accessed by masonry steps with pedestal walls and flanked by brick quoins. Within the portal is a double-leaf door with a ten-light transom.

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The interior of this section retains much of its original character, and a large double-loaded corridor provides interior connections to the eight classrooms, teachers lounge and the original 1920 building. Wood floors, plaster walls and ceilings are in evidence. For the most part this building is in good structural condition except for the southernmost rear room where the floor has collapsed due to heavy storage in that space over the years.

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Denmark High School
Name of Property
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Denmark High School, built in 1920 with substantial additions in 1932 and 1948, is significant as an excellent example of Classical Revival educational architecture and for its significance in education in the town of Denmark from 1920 to 1985.

The previous Denmark School, which once stood adjacent to this school, was a two-story brick building for grades one through ten constructed in 1908 according to designs by Charles Coker Wilson, prominent Columbia architect. An eleventh grade was added to the school in 1911. The new Denmark High School opened for the 1920-21 year with E.T. Spigner as its first principal and housed grades seven through eleven, with the elementary grades remaining in the old school building. The two schools were connected by a covered walkway and the old auditorium and lunchroom served both the Denmark Elementary School and Denmark High School.

The school was significantly enlarged in 1932 with a gymnasium, additional classrooms, and restrooms, and after a twelfth grade was added to Denmark High School in 1948 the building was enlarged again to include additional classrooms and restrooms as well as a teacher's lounge; the fifth and sixth grades from the elementary school moved into the 1948 addition as well.

In 1957 the Denmark High School and Olar High School were consolidated to form a new Denmark High School, with a new brick building constructed on South Palmetto Avenue not far from this building. After the 1908 building, still serving as an elementary school, was demolished in the 1960s a few grades of the Denmark Elementary School moved into this building and occupied it until about 1985, when a new elementary school was constructed. The Denmark High School has been vacant since that time.¹

The original 1920 building was likely the design of Charles Coker Wilson, since it closely resembles other examples of his schools of the same period. Other Wilson school designs of the Classical Revival or Colonial Revival mode in the 1920s era not only contained cupolas [such as Rosewood Elementary School in Columbia and Greenwood High School, in Greenwood, to name only two], but also contained the chevron-patterned and glazed color tile friezes and similar floor plans, functional layouts and architectural treatment that this building includes. Wilson is supposed to have designed a \$28,400 addition to the Denmark Grade School in 1928; whether his design was what was finally built in 1932 as the gymnasium and classroom addition or not is still open to debate.² Nothing further is known about the possible or probable involvement by other architects in any part of this building.

The roof of the building has recently been repaired by the owner and a matching sub-grant provided from the South Carolina Department of Archives and History. Further rehabilitation and repair work has been planned by the owner, with adaptive reuse in mind for the entire building.

¹ Bamberg County Deeds, 1907 and 1939; Interviews with numerous Denmark citizens by Jim Harrison, 1999-2000.

² John E. Wells and Robert E. Dalton, The South Carolina Architects, 1885-1935: A Biographical Dictionary (Richmond, VA: New South Architectural Press, 1992), p. 219.

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Denmark High School
Name of Property
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REFERENCES

Bamberg County Courthouse, Bamberg, S.C.
Bamberg County Deeds, 1907 and 1939

Jim Harrison, Denmark, S.C.
Interviews with numerous Denmark citizens, 1999-2000

Wells, John E. and Robert E. Dalton. The South Carolina Architects, 1885-1935: A Biographical Dictionary. Richmond, VA: New South Architectural Press, 1992.

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Denmark High School
Name of Property
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Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the nominated property is shown as the black line marked "Denmark High School" on the accompanying Bamberg County Tax Map 038-05, drawn at a scale of 1" = 100'.

Boundary Justification

The boundary of the nominated property is restricted to the historic school and the city lot on which it is located.

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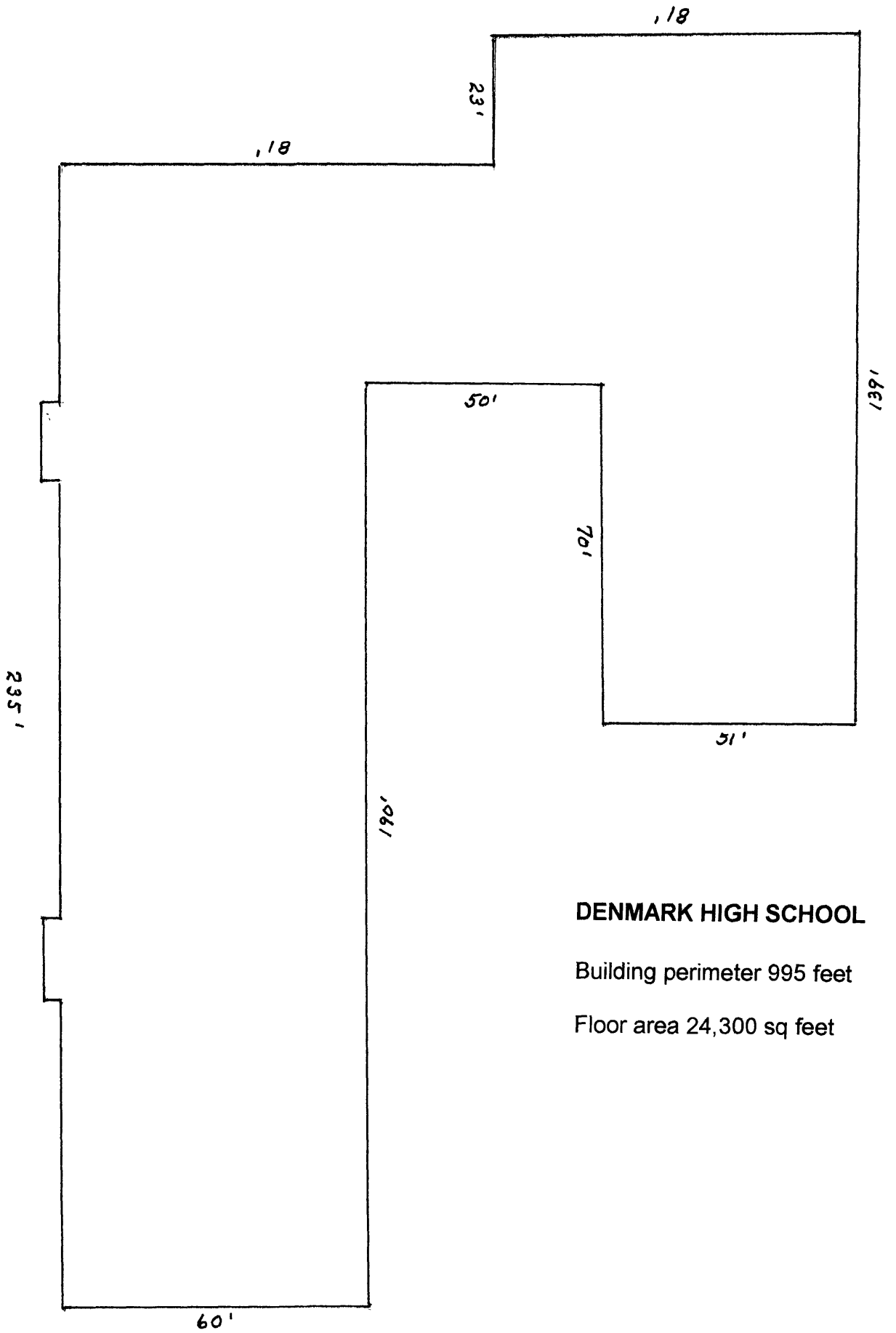
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Denmark High School
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The following information is the same for each of the photographs:

Name of Property: Denmark High School
Location of Property: South Main Street, Denmark
Bamberg County, S.C.
Name of Photographer: Jim Harrison
Date of Photographs: June 2000
Location of Original Negatives: S.C. Department of Archives and History, Columbia, S.C.

1. Facade left oblique
2. Facade left oblique
3. Facade, left entrance detail
4. Facade, right oblique, left entrance detail
5. Detail of eaves, original 1920 building
6. Original 1920 building
7. Detail of eaves and decorative brickwork
8. Original 1920 building (R), 1932 addition (C and L), and 1948 (far L)
9. Rear elevation
10. Rear elevation
11. Rear elevation, entrance detail
12. 1932 gymnasium (L), original 1920 building (R)
13. 1932 gymnasium
14. 1932 and 1948 additions
15. Facade, right entrance detail
16. 1948 addition, entrance detail
17. Interior doorway and transom, view toward facade left entrance
18. Hallway
19. Classroom doorway and transom
20. Classroom
21. Typical doorway
22. Typical classroom with blackboards
23. Ceiling in 1932 gymnasium



DENMARK HIGH SCHOOL

Building perimeter 995 feet

Floor area 24,300 sq feet

