



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

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 Gilfillin & Houston Building
other names/site number Greenville Bakery; Greenville Auto Sales

2. Location

street & number 217-219 East Washington Street not for publication
city or town Greenville vicinity _____
state South Carolina code SC county Greenville code 045 zip code 29601

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 4/27/04
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 Edman H. Beall
 See continuation sheet.
 determined eligible for the National Register
 See continuation sheet.
 determined not eligible for the National Register
 removed from the National Register
 other (explain): _____

Edman H. Beall
Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action 6/9/04

Gilfillin & Houston Building
Name of Property

Greenville 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: Commerce/Trade

Subcategory: Business
Specialty Store

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Category: Commerce/Trade

Subcategory: Business
Specialty Store

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Late 19th & Early 20th Century
American Movements/Commercial Style

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick
walls Brick
roof Synthetics
other Wood

Narrative Description

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

Gilfillin & Houston Building
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.
- 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

ca. 1915

Significant Dates

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

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:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:
Stone & Associates, Inc.,
Greenville, S.C.

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National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

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Gilfillin & Houston Building
Name of Property
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The Gilfillin & Houston Building, a two-story brick commercial block constructed ca. 1915, is located at 217-219 East Washington Street, on the corner of Washington and Irvine Streets, in the city of Greenville, Greenville County, South Carolina.

The building's façade, laid in five-to-one American or common bond, is organized into two storefront sections, each being flanked by rusticated brick pilasters two stories in height. Each section contains a rehabilitated commercial storefront with a recessed single-leaf entrance with glass transom, and flanking brick bulkhead and display windows divided into three segments. Between the middle pilasters is a single-leaf wood and glass paneled entrance door with a single-light transom that leads to a stair access to the second floor. Above this entrance and both storefronts is a wooden frieze and cornice that visually divides the building's two levels. The second level consists of regular fenestration. Above each storefront section are six one-over-one light, double-hung windows arranged in two groups of three. Each window features a limestone sill and jack arched head. Above the building's central stair entrance is a window identical in detail to the other twelve. Located beneath each of the upper floor's windows is a limestone lozenge set within the field of brick. A corbeled brick course surmounts the upper floor's windows and projects the uppermost part of the building's façade to the same plane as the four rusticated pilasters.

The façade's visual division is accentuated further by the presence of a metal cornice that breaks or is open at the center. This projecting cornice, visually supported by a shallow bracket located atop each of the building's four pilasters, takes the form of an architrave and frieze adorned with guttae. The cornice wraps the corner of the building at Irvine Street.

Crowning the building's façade is a curvilinear brick gable and parapet embellished with a central circular, limestone-keyed and brick-surrounded cartouche containing the letters "G" and "H" intertwined. Flanking this decorative element and at either end of the façade's parapet are brick-surrounded large limestone lozenges. Between these and denoting the lower portions of the parapet are groups of three smaller brick-surrounded, limestone lozenges, the middle lozenge being slightly larger in size. The building's parapet features a cast stone coping that wraps onto the Irvine Street elevation and terraces down toward the rear of the building.

The Irvine Street elevation consists of a storefront display window with wooden cornice identical to that on the building's East Washington Street façade. This element is simply a typical expression of a street corner building as the details wrap onto the secondary elevation. Near the rear of the first floor are three one-over-one light, double-hung sash windows with limestone sills and jack arched heads, as well as a rear entrance with a jack arched head. On the second level are six windows identical to those on the first level, the one nearest the street corner being separated slightly from the other five.

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Gilfillin & Houston Building
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The roof is a single slope built-up wood sheathing deck over rough-sawn southern yellow pine rafters.

The interior, containing 4,000 square feet of floor space on each level, retains some of its original fabric, while most of it has been up-fitted to accommodate its long-term tenants over the years. The Gilfillin & Houston Building was rehabilitated in 1999 in an effort to revive downtown Greenville's commercial district.

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Gilfillin & Houston Building
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The Gilfillin & Houston Building is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C as an excellent example of the vernacular expression of the commercial style built in the first quarter of the twentieth century in downtown Greenville, during a significant boom period in the city's growth and development as a commercial and textile manufacturing center.

This building, listed in Greenville city directories at 315-317 East Washington Street from ca. 1915 to 1928 but at 217-219 East Washington Street since, was built as a speculative development project for Gilfillin & Houston, a real estate and insurance company founded in 1899 by Eugene Alexander Gilfillin (1875-1958) and Louis Houston.¹

From ca. 1915 to 1930 the Gilfillin & Houston Building housed the Greenville Bakery. It was briefly vacant, but within a few years was occupied by tenants in the automobile sales and supplies industry. In 1933 it housed Goodrich Silvertown, an automobile tire retailer, and the B.F. Goodrich Rubber Company Warehouse. From 1935 to 1950 it was occupied by Greenville Auto Sales, a Ford dealership that was one of the first automobile dealers in the city. From 1950 to 1972 the building housed Tires, Incorporated, an automobile tire retailer. Occupants in the 1970s included Carolina Furniture Showroom and the Wayside Shop, a home furnishings and carpet retailer.²

In 1999, Charles and David Stone of C & D LLC purchased the building and renovated it; it now houses Stone and Associates, Upstate Fitness, and Faye Galloway Company, Realtors.

Gilfillin & Houston also developed the Davenport Apartments at 400-402 East Washington Street, designed by architect Joseph T. Lawrence, built in 1915-16, and listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1982. Lawrence's design for the Davenport Apartment Building features three curvilinear gables on its interior court, and the striking similarity between those gables and the curvilinear gable on the parapet and other decorative features of the Gilfillin & Houston Building may indicate that Lawrence also designed the Gilfillin & Houston Building.³

¹ Lisa Reynolds, Stone and Associates, Greenville, S.C., Interview with William Gilfillin, Greenville, S.C., 14 March 2002; "Business Man of City Dies," *Greenville News* (Greenville, S.C.), 24 August 1958.

² Greenville City Directories, 1917-18, 1919, 1921-22, 1923, 1924, 1928, 1930-1980 (these directories were published as *Hill's Greenville City Directory* by the Hill Directory Company, Richmond, Va., or as *Miller's Greenville, S.C., City Directory* by E.H. Miller, Asheville, N.C.).

³ Davenport Apartments, National Register of Historic Places Files, South Carolina State Historic Preservation Office, South Carolina Department of Archives and History, Columbia, S.C.; John E. Wells and Robert E. Dalton, *The South Carolina Architects 1885-1935: A Biographical Dictionary* (Richmond: New South Architectural Press, 1992).

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Gilfillin & Houston Building
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Select Bibliography

"Business Man of City Dies." *Greenville News* (Greenville, S.C.), 24 August 1958.

Davenport Apartments, Greenville, Greenville County, S.C., National Register of Historic Places Files, South Carolina State Historic Preservation Office, South Carolina Department of Archives and History, Columbia, S.C.

Hill's Greenville City Directory, 1928, 1931, 1933, 1935, 1937, 1940-1980. Richmond, Va.: Hill Directory Company.

Miller's Greenville, S.C. City Directory, 1917-18, 1919, 1921-22, 1923, 1924, 1930. Asheville, N.C.: E.H. Miller.

Lisa Reynolds, Stone and Associates, Greenville, S.C. Interview with William Gilfillin, Greenville, S.C., 14 March 2002.

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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Gilfillin & Houston Building
Name of Property
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Verbal Boundary Description

The boundaries of the nominated property are shown as the black line marked "Gilfillin & Houston Building" on the accompanying Greenville County Tax Map 43-5-8, Parcel 5, Lot 8, drawn at a scale of 1' = 80'.

Boundary Justification

The boundary is restricted to the historic building and the city lot on which it is located.

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Gilfillin & Houston Building
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The following information is the same for each of the photographs:

Name of Property:	Gilfillin & Houston Building
Location of Property:	217-219 East Washington Street, Greenville, SC
Name of Photographer:	Pamela Brown
Date of Photographs:	July 2002 and June 2003
Location of Original Negatives:	Stone & Associates, Inc., 219 B East Washington Street, Greenville, SC

1. Facade
2. Facade right oblique, from corner of East Washington Street and Irvine Street
3. Facade, parapet detail
4. Facade, parapet detail showing cornices and pedestals
5. Facade, detail showing parapet and brick entablature
6. Facade, entrance detail showing corbelled brick pilasters
7. Right elevation