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SOUTH CAROLINA INVENTORY FORM FOR HISTORIC DISTRICTS AND  
 INDIVIDUAL PROPERTIES IN A MULTIPLE PROPERTY SUBMISSION

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NAME OF MULTIPLE PROPERTY SUBMISSION: Lower Richland County Multiple Resource Area

PREFERRED NAME OF PROPERTY: Oakwood

HISTORIC NAME OF PROPERTY: Oakwood

COMMON NAME OF PROPERTY: Trumble Cottage

LOCATION: On S. C. Highway 48, 4 miles east of Gadsden

CLASSIFICATION: Building

OWNER: Douglas S. Darran  
 Route 1, Box 110  
 Gadsden, S. C. 29052

#### DESCRIPTION

Oakwood is a one-and-one-half-story, frame dwelling constructed in 1877. The property includes several outbuildings associated with the farm, including several that pre-date the house. The exterior of the house is essentially unaltered.

The house is sheathed in weatherboard siding. It has a tall hipped roof with composition shingle roofing. The facade (north elevation) is characterized by a one-story porch and a highly ornamented gabled dormer. The hip-roofed porch has turned porch posts and scroll-sawn brackets. The tall dormer has three multi-paned windows, imbricated shingle siding, and an applied wooden sunburst motif in its peak.

The side elevations feature cross-gable extensions of the roof and polygonal bays which project yet further beneath bell-cast roofs. Windows have six-over-nine sash and louvered shutters. Two tall brick chimneys with elaborate corbeling rise above the roofline.

A one-story, hip-roofed, frame ell at the rear (south elevation) may be an addition.

Two small log houses are located immediately to the south of the main house. These are believed to have been slave houses, relocated from an antebellum slave street elsewhere on the property. A frame well house, a log barn, a corn crib, and other agricultural structures are also located on the nominated acreage.

## SIGNIFICANCE

AREA OF SIGNIFICANCE: Architecture  
Agriculture

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: S (for office use only)

### SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANCE

Oakwood is significant architecturally and agriculturally as a virtually intact post-Civil War farmstead. The house, often referred to as Trumble Cottage, was constructed in 1877 for \$2,621.91 by James Trumble, a native of Liverpool, England, who came to Lower Richland County about 1850 and established a plantation.<sup>1</sup> Local tradition holds that he and Claudius Scott were both involved with building the railroad at Kingville, which ran between Oakwood and the Congaree River.<sup>2</sup> Indeed, they did contract to construct a railroad trestle over the Wateree River.<sup>3</sup>

This vernacular Victorian cottage with Queen Anne details is the second Trumble home on Oakwood Plantation, which earlier contained an antebellum structure burned near the end of the Civil War.<sup>4</sup> Though in Richland County, this area held a close relationship with Orangeburg. Therefore, it is not surprising that Trumble employed artisans and craftsmen from Orangeburg to construct his house.<sup>5</sup>

While the residence is of the immediate post-Reconstruction period, two of the outbuildings on the site probably are antebellum. Two slave cabins, probably moved from an original "slave street," where there are reportedly remains of log dwellings, sit immediately behind the main house. Also included are a double pen log barn, a corn crib, and another storage building which add to the agricultural integrity and significance of Oakwood.<sup>6</sup>

Owner of a successful mercantile business, a gin, and a minimum of 2700 acres of rich bottom land in "the Fork," James Trumble, as did most other wealthy planters, is also believed to have owned several dwellings with sizable tracts in the Sandhills area, known for its healthy environment.<sup>7</sup>

Oakwood remained in the Trumble family until March 27, 1924, when James's son Edwin Trumble, conveyed the house and property to The National Loan and Exchange Bank.<sup>8</sup> Successive owners have cared for Oakwood since that time.

ACREAGE: 7.0 acres

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: The boundary of the nominated property is shown as the black line on the accompanying Richland County tax map #36600, section 3, parcel 1, with a scale of 1 inch equalling 400 feet. It includes the historic buildings (house and several outbuildings) and the entire acreage of the parcel.

QUAD NAME: Wateree, S. C.

QUAD SCALE: 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCE POINT: 17/528805/3743757

OTHER INFORMATION:

## FOOTNOTES

- (1) "Account Book of James Trumble, 1877," in possession of Douglas C. Darran, Oakwood, Richland County, South Carolina; Interview with Joseph McCord Bates and Mrs. Benson S. Shoolbred, Eastover vicinity, South Carolina, September 1979.
- (2) Interviews with Mrs. J. E. Harmon and Douglas C. Darran, Eastover, South Carolina, July 1985.
- (3) "Accounts of Scott and Trumble," a ledger.
- (4) Interview with Mrs. Benson S. Shoolbred, Eastover, South Carolina, September 1979.
- (5) "Account Book of James Trumble, 1877."
- (6) Interview with Mrs. Benson S. Shoolbred, Eastover vicinity, South Carolina, September 1979.
- (7) Account Books of James Trumble, South Caroliniana Library, Columbia, South Carolina.
- (8) Deed Book CN, p. 133, Richland County Register of Mesne Conveyance, Richland County Judicial Center, Columbia, South Carolina.