

PH0690741

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

8. The Contemplative Society

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RECEIVED MAY 4 1977  
DATE ENTERED NOV 23 1977

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM



SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

## 1 NAME

HISTORIC

William Berly House

AND/OR COMMON

## 2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

121 Berly Street

\_\_NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Lexington

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

# 2

STATE

South Carolina

CODE

045

COUNTY

Lexington

CODE

063

## 3 CLASSIFICATION

### CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

### OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH

### PUBLIC ACQUISITION

- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

### STATUS

- OCCUPIED
  - UNOCCUPIED
  - WORK IN PROGRESS
- ### ACCESSIBLE
- YES: RESTRICTED
  - YES: UNRESTRICTED
  - NO

### PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERCIAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER:

## 4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mr. and Mrs. S. Benjamin Swanson

STREET & NUMBER

121 Berly Street

CITY, TOWN

Lexington

VICINITY OF

STATE

South Carolina

## 5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Lexington County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Lexington

STATE

South Carolina

## 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Inventory of Historic Places in South Carolina

DATE

1973 (update)

\_\_FEDERAL  STATE \_\_COUNTY \_\_LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

South Carolina Department of Archives and History

CITY, TOWN

Columbia

STATE

South Carolina

# 7 DESCRIPTION

## CONDITION

EXCELLENT  
 GOOD  
 FAIR

DETERIORATED  
 RUINS  
 UNEXPOSED

## CHECK ONE

UNALTERED  
 ALTERED

## CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE  
 MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The William Berly House is a two-story clapboard structure located in the town of Lexington, South Carolina.

The front facade is characterized by a one-story porch supported by four square columns. The wall under the porch is covered by flush board siding. A central door is flanked by two windows on each side. Three windows are located on the second level of the front facade, above the porch.

Exterior chimneys are located on the side facades of the main section of the house. The right facade features two windows on both sides of the chimney, while a one-story wing, consisting of two rooms, adjoins the left side.

The rear elevation reveals a one-story shed wing which extends across the width of the house. This wing adjoins the one-story left wing. The rear shed wing has also been extended by modern additions.

Windows in the main portion of the structure are 9/9 and originally featured paneled shutters (removed ca. 1900).

The house originally featured a central open breezeway known as a "dogtrot." A large room with a smaller shed room was located on each side. On the left side, the one-story wing was also connected to the main portion of the house by a dogtrot. These breezeways were enclosed ca. 1900.

The interior maintains its original wide-board ceilings and walls, and the original flooring is intact in most of the rooms. All the mantels are original. Alterations have been made to the interior, however, primarily at the rear of the house. These include bathrooms and a modern kitchen.

Surroundings: Included within the nominated acreage is an outbuilding which was originally the ice house. Directly across from the Berly House is the Fox House Museum (National Register, 1970). The Berly House visually unifies the museum complex which includes the Ernest Hazelius House (National Register, 1973).

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The William Berly House is important to Lexington, South Carolina due to its association with the early history of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod of South Carolina-- a dominant force in the history of Lexington County. Located upon part of the 102 acres purchased in 1833 by the Evangelical Lutheran Synod of South Carolina and Adjacent States for the establishment of a seminary and classical academy, it was later used as a residence by the Reverend William Berly, a leading religious and educational figure in area Lutheranism during the mid-19th Century. The house also visually completes the Fox House Museum Complex which is directly across the street. This complex includes two properties that are listed in the National Register of Historic Places--the Fox House and the Ernest Hazelius House. The history of all three structures is interrelated.

It is not clear as to when the structure now known as the Berly House was erected; however, it was probably in existence at the time of the Synod's land acquisition. It is believed to have been used as one of the campus structures in the seminary's early years.

The seminary and classical academy was located in Lexington until 1856 when it moved to Newberry, South Carolina, becoming Newberry College (National Register of Historic Places, 1976). In 1860, the Lexington property was purchased by the Reverend William Berly.

William Berly (1810-1873) served various Lutheran churches in the piedmont area of the state and was a former principal of the Literary and Classical Institute. Between 1841-47 he served as Secretary of the South Carolina Synod; and between 1849-51 and 1863-65 he was President of the Synod. He also served as principal of the Female Academy in Lexington.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Carwile, John B. Reminiscences of Newberry. 1880; rpt. Columbia: R.L. Bryan, 1970.

(see continuation sheet)

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Longitude: 81° 14' 29"

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1.17 acres

Latitude: 33° 59' 14"

UTM REFERENCES

A 

ZONE	EASTING			NORTHING					

C 

ZONE	EASTING			NORTHING					

B 

ZONE	EASTING			NORTHING					

D 

ZONE	EASTING			NORTHING					

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Property bounds east on Berly Street, north on property belonging to the daughters of the late Mrs. Bessie Kyzer, west on property belonging to Dr. Sidney Riley, south on property belonging to Mr. Harold Looney.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Kappy McNulty Horace Harmon, Director of Lexington County Museum

ORGANIZATION

DATE

South Carolina Department of Archives and History March 10, 1977

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

1430 Senate Street 803-758-5816

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Columbia South Carolina

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

*Charles E. Lee*

TITLE Charles E. Lee  
State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE 4/14/77

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

*Robert B. Rethig*

DATE 11/23/77

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

*John* KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST: *Charles Harmon*

DATE 11.17.77

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE one

The History of the Synod Committee, ed. A History of the Lutheran Church in South Carolina. Columbia: R.L. Bryan, 1971.

Julien, Carl, and Martin, Chlotilde R. Sea Islands to Sand Hills. Columbia: University of South Carolina Press, 1954.

South Carolina Department of Archives and History. Lexington County Deeds, W, pp. 458-460; U, pp. 330-331.