

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 James, William Apollos, House
other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 208 North Dennis Avenue not for publication _____
city or town Bishopville vicinity _____
state South Carolina code SC county ~~Marlboro~~ LEE code 061 zip code 29010

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ___ nationally ___ statewide X locally. (___ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Mary W. Edmonds 8/20/99
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:
X entered in the National Register _____
___ 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): _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Mary W. Edmonds

10/10/99

James, William Apollos, House
Name of Property

Lee 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	
<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	buildings
<u>1</u>		sites
		structures
		objects
<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	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: Domestic

Subcategory: Single dwelling

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Category: Recreation and Culture

Subcategory: Museum

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)
Twentieth-Century Revivals:
Colonial Revival

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)
foundation _____
walls Wood; Weatherboard

roof Asphalt
other _____

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

James, William Apollos, House
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

1903-1930

Significant Dates

1903
1911

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:

- State Historic Preservation Office
 - Other State agency
 - Federal agency
 - Local government
 - University
 - Other
- Name of repository:
S.C. Department of Archives & History

James, William Apollos, House
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10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Zone Easting Northing	Zone Easting Northing
1 <u>17</u> <u>570180</u> <u>3786600</u>	3 <u>17</u> _____
2 <u>17</u> _____	4 <u>17</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 John J. Winberry
 organization Department of Geography date 1 November 1998
 street & number University of South Carolina telephone (803) 777-2388
 city or town Columbia state SC zip code 29208

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 Lee County Historical Society
 street & number 208 North Dennis Avenue telephone _____
 city or town Bishopville state SC zip code 29010

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended(16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.). **Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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James, William Apollos, House
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The William Apollos James House, at 208 North Dennis Avenue in Bishopville, is a two-story frame vernacular rendition of the Classical Revival style popular at the turn of the twentieth century. The house was built in 1903 as a lateral-gabled, one-story Folk Victorian cottage with center gabled dormer. It was occupied by the James family in January 1904. A second story with hip roof, as well as a hip roofed wraparound porch with boxed classical piers, was added in 1911. The central gabled dormer was simply relocated upward to the current roof, and a polygonal bay with central entrance was also added at this time.

The William Apollos James House follows the standard central-hall with four-over-four pattern of rooms. The original house had four rooms, and the dining room and kitchen extended off the east elevation to form an ell with an open porch on the south side of the house. These back rooms were covered by a gable roof which runs perpendicularly to the line of the roof of the main part of the house. A chimney in the roof peak of this wing stands between the dining room and kitchen; this part of the house retained its one-story configuration after the second story was added to the main house. At some time during the early twentieth century indoor bathrooms were added and the back porch was enclosed as a sunroom. The core of the house has an asphalt-shingled hipped roof with two stuccoed interior chimneys piercing the side slopes. The one-story hip roofed front porch wraps the north elevation and contains a side entrance through a polygonal bay into the living room. The porch roof is supported by twelve boxed piers which replaced and added to the the original six turned posts when the second story was added. The front door, which is original, is framed by a three-light transom and three lights along each side with square and rectangular underpanels. The diagonal beaded-board siding on the front porch wall defines the original extent of the front porch; it is similar to that commonly found in houses of this period in Lexington County, where Mrs. James, as Lottie Lee Barr, was born and reared. Two symmetrically-arranged shutterless windows on the first floor and three windows on the second floor, with their original louvered shutters contain four-over-four light sash. A gabled dormer is above the center second-story window and features a boxed raking cornice and frieze, as well as a decorative louvered vent. The entire main block of the house is encircled by a simple boxed cornice and frieze. The back of the house has separate shed roofs over the second floor and first floor bathrooms, and the kitchen and dining room are contained within a gabled ell with boxed cornice, frieze, and returns which extends from the east elevation of the main house. The enclosed porch at

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the rear is covered by a flat roof; its screen door, originally over the front door, has the scrollwork and spindles typical of the Folk Victorian form. The carport, added in the 1950s, is partially supported by one of the original turned posts from the front porch.

The interior of the house has been altered little since 1911. The focus of the central hall is the single-flight staircase with square balusters and heavy turned newels. The five original mantelpieces, one of which contains a mirrored overmantel, grace the fireplaces on the first floor. Most of these were outfitted with coal boxes and grates. Other interior features include beaded board wainscoting, either mitered or bull's eye corner block-type window and door surrounds, multi-paneled doors with period box locks and porcelain knobs, and a built-in multi-light and wood paneled cupboard in the dining room.

To the rear of the house are a ca. 1920 noncontributing frame garage (of no particular architectural distinction and in poor repair) and a modern noncontributing small storage building sheathed in asbestos shingle siding. A cook's house, chicken yard and henhouse, small barn, and other outbuildings were torn down many years ago; however, the locations of some of these are still evident.

The house is situated in a setting of mature trees and shrubs, and the historic landscape contributes to the significance of the property. Among the many trees is a cucumber magnolia at the front, several oaks, two *Magnolia grandiflora*, a *Stewartia malacodendron*, approximately fifty dogwoods, and several pines, pecans, elms, and mimosa. The principal shrub of the side garden is the camellia, where there are at least fifty different varieties, including multiple plantings of Elizabeth Arden, *Magnoliaflora*, Pink Perfection, Rosea Superba, Betty Sheffield, Debutante, Rev. John Drayton, White Empress, Lady Clare, Marie Bracey, Ville de Nantes, Mathotiana Supreme, Wildfire, Lady Vansittart, Kramer's Supreme, Adolphe Audusson, Silver Waves, Gen. George Patton, Kumasaka, Prince Eugene Napoleon, and Faith. Within the house and side lots are also multiple plantings of ligustrum, Burford holly, Judas tree (redbud), boxwood, roses, *Spirea thunbergii*, Rose-of-Sharon (althea), sasanquas, kerria, Savannah holly, eleagnus, as well as azalea and nandina. Perennials such as daylilies, spider lilies, scilla, iris, and several varieties of daffodils, as well as English ivy and lirioppe, adorn the ornamental garden. A rear garden, reserved for vegetables and fruit trees and plantings, today includes seven figs, three pears, seven peaches, two apples, as well as two scuppernong grape vines. The brick-walled remnants of a flower pit are still extant at the south elevation of the house.

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The William Apollos James House, built in 1903 and substantially altered in 1911, is significant as an excellent example of an early twentieth-century vernacular rendition of a Classical Revival style residence which grew from a modest Folk Victorian cottage. It is also significant for its association with William Apollos James (1857-1930), prominent state representative, agriculturalist, businessman, and community leader of Lee County. Important too is the collection of historic and interesting flora contained within its ornamental and fruit garden.

James, born near Bishopville (then in Sumter District), was educated in the local schools and at Moore's Business University in Atlanta, and was well-read, particularly in history, politics, agriculture, and economics. As his obituary noted, "In everything which seemed to promote the farming interest, he was ready to take a hand." He was a long-time secretary of the South Carolina Grange, and was instrumental in the organization of the Farmer's Alliance in Bishopville, helping to found the Cooperative Grange Store there in 1897, and serving as its first manager. In 1902, a group of Bishopville citizens voted for the second time in five years to organize a new county with Bishopville as the county seat—their first attempt, in 1898, had been struck down by the South Carolina Supreme Court—and were successful in founding Lee County, named for General Robert E. Lee. William Apollos James was not only one of eight commissioners appointed to set out the boundaries of the new county but also served as secretary of the commission established to oversee construction of a new county courthouse. He organized the Farmer's Loan and Trust Company in 1906 and served as the bank's president for more than twenty years. James, who considered himself a "Jeffersonian democrat," also served on the Lee County school board and was elected to one term representing the county in the South Carolina House of the Representatives, serving on four standing House committees, including the Committee on Education, in 1913-14. In 1886 he was married to Lottie Lee Barr of a Lexington County family. They had five daughters and one son, all of whom either grew up or lived in the house. William Apollos James died in this house in 1930.¹

¹ Lee County, South Carolina: A Bicentennial Look at Its Land, People, Heritage, and Future (Bishopville: Lee County Bicentennial Commission, 1976), p. 18; Lee County Leader and Vindicator (Bishopville, S.C.), 14 March 1902, 11 January 1906; James Family Papers, William Apollos James House, Lee County Historical Society, Bishopville, S.C.; "Bishopville Citizen Dead," Lee County Messenger (Bishopville, S.C.), 21 August 1930; "William Apollos James," in David Duncan Wallace, History of South Carolina (New York: American Historical

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The house was donated to the Lee County Historical Society in 1995, and presently serves as its headquarters.

Society, 1934), Volume IV: 349-50; Interview with Mrs. Carolyn James Winberry, granddaughter of William Apollos James, Columbia, S.C., 10 August 1997.

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BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

INTERVIEW

John J. Winberry, interview with Carolyn James Winberry, granddaughter of William Apollos James, Columbia, S.C., 10 August 1997.

UNPUBLISHED SOURCES

William Apollos James House, Lee County Historical Society, Bishopville, S.C.
James Family Papers

PUBLISHED SOURCES

Lee County, South Carolina: A Bicentennial Look at Its Land, People, Heritage, and Future.
Bishopville: Lee County Bicentennial Commission, 1976.

Lee County Leader and Vindicator (Bishopville, S.C.), 14 March 1902, 11 January 1906.

"Bishopville Citizen Dead," Lee County Messenger (Bishopville, S.C.), 21 August 1930.

"William Apollos James," in David Duncan Wallace, History of South Carolina, IV: Biographical Volume. New York: American Historical Society, 1934.

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James, William Apollos, House
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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundary of the nominated property is shown as the black line marked "William Apollos James House" on the accompanying Lee County Tax Map 030-10-036, Parcel 367, drawn at a scale of 1" = 100'.

VERBAL BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The nominated property is restricted to the historic house and landscaping and their immediate settings.

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James, William Apollos, House
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The following information is the same for each of the photographs:

Name of Property: William Apollos James House
Location of Property: 208 North Dennis Avenue
Bishopville, Lee County, S.C.
Location of Negatives: South Carolina Department of Archives and History, Columbia, S.C.

1. Historic photograph of original one-story facade
Date of Photograph: ca. 1909
Photographer: Unknown
2. Facade, right oblique
Date of Photograph: 13 October 1998
Photographer: Andrew W. Chandler, South Carolina SHPO
3. Facade, left oblique
Date of Photograph: 13 October 1998
Photographer: Andrew W. Chandler, South Carolina SHPO
4. Facade, left oblique, with porch detail
Date of Photograph: 13 October 1998
Photographer: Andrew W. Chandler, South Carolina SHPO
5. Facade, gable detail
Date of Photograph: 13 October 1998
Photographer: Andrew W. Chandler, South Carolina SHPO
6. Facade, porch with entrance detail
Date of Photograph: 13 October 1998
Photographer: Andrew W. Chandler, South Carolina SHPO

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7. Porch detail, with diagonal beaded-board siding
Date of Photograph: 13 October 1998
Photographer: Andrew W. Chandler, South Carolina SHPO
8. Left elevation with polygonal bay
Date of Photograph: 13 October 1998
Photographer: Andrew W. Chandler, South Carolina SHPO
9. Left elevation with polygonal bay, detail
Date of Photograph: 13 October 1998
Photographer: Andrew W. Chandler, South Carolina SHPO
10. Rear elevation, carport, with original turned column from front porch
Date of Photograph: 13 October 1998
Photographer: Andrew W. Chandler, South Carolina SHPO
11. Front stair and hall
Date of Photograph: 13 October 1998
Photographer: Andrew W. Chandler, South Carolina SHPO
12. Dining Room
Date of Photograph: 13 October 1998
Photographer: Andrew W. Chandler, South Carolina SHPO
13. Dining Room, built-in china cabinet
Date of Photograph: 13 October 1998
Photographer: Andrew W. Chandler, South Carolina SHPO
14. Second-floor stair and hall
Date of Photograph: 13 October 1998
Photographer: Andrew W. Chandler, South Carolina SHPO

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15. Second-floor door and molding surround
Date of Photograph: 13 October 1998
Photographer: Andrew W. Chandler, South Carolina SHPO
 16. Second-floor door, hardware detail
Date of Photograph: 13 October 1998
Photographer: Andrew W. Chandler, South Carolina SHPO
 17. Garden, Old-fashioned rose
Date of Photograph: 13 October 1998
Photographer: Andrew W. Chandler, South Carolina SHPO
 18. Garden, Path
Date of Photograph: 13 October 1998
Photographer: Andrew W. Chandler, South Carolina SHPO
 19. Garden Plantings
Date of Photograph: 13 October 1998
Photographer: Andrew W. Chandler, South Carolina SHPO