

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**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** Chamberlain-Kay House

historic Charles C. Chamberlain House

and/or common Chamberlain-Kay House (preferred)

**2. Location**

street & number 205 River Street \_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Belton \_\_\_ vicinity of congressional district Third

state South Carolina code 045 county Anderson code 007

**3. Classification**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name Alice S. Kay (Mrs. William P.)

street & number 205 River Street

city, town Belton \_\_\_ vicinity of state South Carolina 29627

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Anderson County Courthouse

street & number Courthouse Square

city, town Anderson state South Carolina 29621

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

Inventory of Historic Places  
title in South Carolina has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1978 (update) \_\_\_ federal  state \_\_\_ county \_\_\_ local

depository for survey records South Carolina Department of Archives and History

city, town Columbia state South Carolina 29211

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> moved
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date <u>ca. 1911-1922</u>

### **Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

Located in an older residential area adjacent to the town square in Belton, South Carolina, the Chamberlain-Kay House was built as a residence for Charles C. Chamberlain ca. 1854. The house is an adaptation of the Piedmont Farmhouse type, with period elaborations and additions that characterize the evolving architectural taste of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The house is believed to be the oldest house in Belton.

Exterior: The Chamberlain-Kay House is a two-story, three-bay frame building supported on a brick foundation. A one-story ell projects from the right side of the southeast elevation. The house is sheathed with board and beveled batten siding on the first floor, and stained cedar shingles on the second floor. The gable roof is covered with Burris Company tin shingles. Exterior louvered shutters are mounted on the first floor windows.

A shed porch supported by eight evenly spaced square posts with capitals extends across the facade (northwest elevation). A standing seam tin roof covers the porch. Sawn porch brackets complement the bargeboards on the porch and main gable roof.

The front door is centered on the facade, and is framed by transom and sidelights. Applied anthemion ornaments embellish the front door.

Two brick chimney stacks are symmetrically located on either side of the central hall. One brick chimney stack is centrally located in the rear ell, between the dining room and the keeping room.

Between 1911 and 1922, the house was repositioned on its original site. Specifically, this entailed turning the house from its original southwest orientation, facing town square, to its present northwest orientation, facing River Street. This move was necessitated by residential development created by the subdivision of the original parcel associated with the house and the establishment of River Street. Portions of a grove of cedar trees, which at one time bordered the original carriage drive, are still visible in neighboring lots to the southwest. This move has not adversely affected the integrity of the property.

Alterations to the original building include the addition of a small bathroom ell, projecting from the left side of the southeast elevation; the enclosure of the original porch on the west side of the ell in 1948; and, a kitchen addition accomplished by the extension of the southeast ell in 1964. Board and beveled batten siding on the porch enclosure and kitchen addition and bargeboards on the latter, duplicate the historic details. The original windows have been modified from multi-light sash to one over one sash.

Interior: The first floor of the Chamberlain-Kay House features a central hall, divided into two sections, and flanked on each side by one room. A quarter-turn staircase with a landing rises from the rear section of the central hall. Access to a bedroom on the right and a parlor on the left is possible through two doors on each side.

Continued

# 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input 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**    ca. 1854                      **Builder/Architect**

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

The Chamberlain-Kay House was built ca. 1854 as a residence for Charles C. Chamberlain. It is considered to be the oldest surviving residence in Belton, South Carolina. Architecturally, the Chamberlain-Kay House exemplifies the effect of the changing architectural tastes and fashions on a vernacular house form in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

The Chamberlain-Kay House was one of the first houses built in Belton. The origin and early development of Belton were interwoven with the construction of the Greenville and Columbia Railroad, which was completed as far northward as Belton by March 1853. Charles C. Chamberlain was the first supervisor of the line from Belton to Greenville, and after the incorporation of Belton in 1855, he was chosen as the first intendant. A plat of January 1854 reveals that by that date Chamberlain had constructed a residence bordering the town square. In June of 1855 he offered the house for sale, and by June 1858 he had moved to Alabama.

After a brief ownership by the Greenville and Columbia Railroad Company, to whom Chamberlain had conveyed the property, it was purchased by Ira C. Williams in 1860. During Williams' lifetime the house is believed to have been the site of many political rallies and gatherings, as a result of his friendship with many political figures. His widow sold the house and twelve acres of land to W. K. Stringer in 1906. After several additional owners, the house was purchased in 1946 by William and Alice S. Kay, who continue to reside there.

Architecturally, the Chamberlain-Kay House represents the influence of the changing tastes and fashions of the later nineteenth and early twentieth centuries on a vernacular form. The original board and beveled batten siding, as well as the bargeboards and brackets, represent the Carpenter Gothic fashion, while the doorway, with its transom and sidelights and its anthemion ornament, represents the Greek Revival. The metal shingles on the roof, as well as the cedar shingles on the second story, represent the variegated textures of the Queen Anne style. Each successive style was imposed upon the basic form, creating the amalgamative building surviving today.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

# 10. Geographical Data

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Acreeage of nominated property 0.45

Quadrangle name Williamston, S.C., 1957

Quadrangle scale 1:62500

UMT References

A 

1	7	3	6	3	1	2	5	3	8	2	1	0	5	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

B 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

C 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

D 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

E 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

F 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

G 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

H 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

**Verbal boundary description and justification** The boundary of the Chamberlain-Kay House nomination is shown as the red line on the accompanying map entitled "249-03" and drawn at a scale of 100 feet to the inch. The nominated property includes all significant buildings and structures.

**List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries**

state code county code

state code county code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Mark Schader, Historic Preservation Planner S.C. Appalachian Council of Governments Mary Watson, John Wells S.C. Dept. of Archives & History

organization S.C. Appalachian Council of Governments date July 21, 1980

street & number Post Office Box 6668 telephone (803) 758-5816

city or town Greenville state South Carolina 29606

# 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title Charles E. Lee State Historic Preservation Officer date 9/25/80

*[Dark shaded area containing illegible text and signatures]*

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**



80

Continuation sheet

Item number 7

Page 1

In the southeast ell are the original dining room and the keeping room. Two bedrooms are on either side of the central hall on the second floor.

Surroundings: The Chamberlain-Kay House is surrounded by detached houses in an older residential neighborhood. A small frame building of no historical significance is located on the property, immediately behind the main house.

United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet

Item number 9

Page 2

Acts of the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina Passed in December, 1855.  
Columbia, S.C.: E. H. Britton and Co., State Printers, 1855, p. 461.

Advertisement. The Gazette and Advocate (Anderson, S.C.), 13 June 1855, p. 3.

Anderson County Tricentennial Commission. Anderson County Sketches. Anderson,  
S.C.: Drake House, Inc., 1969, p. 9.

Anderson, S.C. Anderson County Clerk of Court. Records of Mesne Conveyance. Deed  
Book DD, pp. 284, 532; Deed Book EE, p. 538; Deed Book H, p. 139.

Herd, Elmer Don, Jr. "Early History of Belton, S.C., 1700-1860: Revised, with  
Addition Materials on Later Periods." Research paper, University of South  
Carolina, 1961, pp. 31, 32.

"Souvenir Edition: Belton." The Anderson Intelligencer, 30 September 1896, p. 18.

Vandiver, Louise Ayer. History and Traditions of Anderson County. Atlanta, Ga.:  
Ruralist Press, 1928, p. 194.