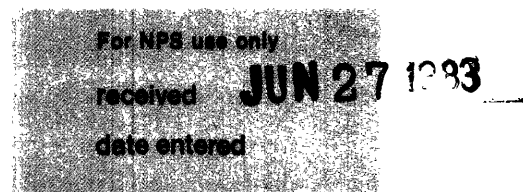


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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

historic Virginia Durant Young House

and/or common Fairfax Library

2. Location

U.S. 278

street & number south side of U.S. Highway 278,
between Laurens Avenue and Aiken Avenue N/A not for publication

city, town Fairfax N/A vicinity of congressional district

state South Carolina code 045 county Allendale code 005

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<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 type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: public library

4. Owner of Property

name Fairfax Library Association

street & number Highway 278

city, town Fairfax N/A vicinity of state South Carolina 29827

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Allendale County Courthouse

street & number Memorial Avenue and Barnwell Highway

city, town Allendale state South Carolina 29810

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

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

date 1979 federal state county local

depository for survey records South Carolina Department of Archives and History

city, town Columbia state South Carolina 29211

7. Description

Condition excellent good fair deteriorated ruins unexposed**Check one** unaltered altered**Check one** original site moved

date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Virginia Durant Young House is located next to the Fairfax Town Hall on U.S. Highway 278 in Fairfax, South Carolina. Originally the home and offices of woman suffragist Virginia Durant Young and her husband Dr. William Jasper Young, the building now houses the Fairfax Public Library. Probably built ca. 1881 for Dr. and Mrs. Young, the one-and-one-half story frame residence was enlarged several times by Dr. and Mrs. Young but has had only minor changes since the period of their occupancy and retains its historical integrity.

Additional Information:

The Virginia Durant Young house is a one-and-one-half story frame, weatherboarded, vernacular Victorian cottage. The house rests on brick piers and has an irregular U-shaped plan. The core of the house has a gable roof with boxed cornice and returns and features two interior chimneys and one exterior chimney now enclosed by the addition to the northwest of the house. Two gable-roofed dormers with louvered shutters pierce the front slope of the roof; a slightly recessed flat-roofed wing with a bracketed cornice extends from the right (northwest) side of the building. The facade (northeast elevation) has three bays: a central entrance with multi-paned transom and three-paned, half panelled sidelights is flanked by French windows. There is also a French window near the north corner of the main block in the northwest elevation in the facade of the northwest wing. A standing-seam metal, hipped porch roof, supported by chamfered posts with a turned balustrade, shelters the facades of the main block and the northwest wing. A polygonal bay with bell-cast roof and three four-over-four windows is on the left (southeast) elevation. This side of the house extends past the main core to form an ell and features a four-over-six window in the gable end, one six-over-six window in the first floor of the main block, and two six-over-six windows and a single entrance sheltered by a small porch in the ell. A one-room addition to the rear of this ell has a six-over-six window in all exposed elevations. The northwest side of the ell features a hip-roofed porch supported by chamfered posts with horizontal railings. The porch shelters the rear door of the main block and two doors and a six-over-six window in the ell. The rear portion of the porch was enclosed after 1920 as a bath and has one window with four vertical panes. This ell is said to have been used as Dr. Young's medical offices.

The northwest elevation of the main block has a window in the gable with louvered shutters. The northwest elevation of the addition to this side of the house features one six-over-six window. To the rear of this addition is another small addition with a single small window on each exposed elevation. Attached to this addition is a gable-roofed ell. The ell has two six-over-six windows and a brick flue in its northwest elevation, an exterior chimney and entrance on the rear elevation and two six-over-six windows on its northeast elevation.

Interior:

The first floor of the core of the house consists of two rooms on either side of a central stair hall. On the first floor, the beaded tongue-and-groove ceilings are twelve feet high. Walls are plaster with eight-inch baseboards and floors are medium-width painted boards. All four rooms have Victorian mantels with arched openings. Three of the four rooms have closets. The east room features a bay window with sawn ornamentation at the top of the reveal. The doorways of the two front rooms were enlarged about twenty-five years ago. A narrow, open-string stair with turned balusters and a newel post rises from the rear of the hall to the second floor. On the second floor are two rooms with plaster walls and tongue-and-groove ceilings. One room has a mantel with a sunflower design.

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 type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) women's history
	<input type="checkbox"/> invention			

Specific dates ca. 1881 **Builder/Architect** N/A

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Virginia Durant Young House, located in the small Allendale County, South Carolina town of Fairfax, is a one-and-a-half story frame vernacular Victorian cottage associated with the career of Virginia Durant Young, journalist, novelist, humanitarian, and internationally recognized leader of the woman suffrage movement in South Carolina and the nation. The house was probably built ca. 1881, shortly after Mrs. Young and her husband, Dr. William Jasper Young acquired the property. The house served not only as their residence but also as the office for Mrs. Young's newspaper, the Fairfax Enterprise, and as the office for Dr. Young's medical practice. The property is presently used by the town of Fairfax as its public library.

Additional Information:

Virginia Durant Young was born on 10 March 1842 in Georgetown, South Carolina. Her mother died when she was a child and a resultant close relationship with her father molded her advanced ideas about the roles of men and women. Young married Benjamin H. Covington in 1858 and apparently lead the life of an ordinary wife and homemaker for the over twenty years of their marriage. Young did, however, begin to write and published short stories and a novelette during this time under various pen names. Although she leveled mild criticism at the institution of marriage in some of these works, Young did not evidence interest in the reforms for which she would later fight. Covington died in Mississippi in 1879 and Virginia Durant Young returned to South Carolina. While visiting friends in Brunson, South Carolina, she met Dr. William Jasper Young, a liberal-minded physician from nearby Fairfax and nine years her junior. They were married in December 1880. Shortly after their marriage, Dr. and Mrs. Young acquired property in Fairfax and probably built the Virginia Durant Young House soon after.

Virginia Durant Young first became involved in reform work through the Women's Christian Temperance Union about 1886. She put her writing talents to work for the temperance cause and turned out numerous letters-to-the-editor and journal articles as well as a weekly temperance column for the Hampton Guardian and public lectures. In 1889 Young became part owner and editor of the Varnville Enterprise which she used as a vehicle to express her views on temperance. In 1890 she was elected corresponding secretary of the state WCTU.

Also in 1890, Young, along with Viola Neblett of Greenville, was instrumental in forming the South Carolina Equal Rights Association (SCERA); a year later at the first statewide meeting Young was elected president. The SCERA was a suffrage organization only, rather than feminist, as were most of the Southern women's groups formed to work for the vote. As SCERA president, Virginia Young recruited both men and women to be members of the organization, which she directed to work toward a single goal of gaining the vote. Through her speeches and extensive correspondence, Mrs. Young acquired such a wide network of contacts throughout South Carolina and the nation that she was asked by the Woman's Progressive Society of England to be its corresponding secretary in America. In 1892, Mrs. Young persuaded Robert R. Hemphill to introduce a joint resolution in the Senate to allow women to vote and hold office; not unexpectedly this resolution failed. Through Hemphill she continued her campaign to convert the South Carolina General Assembly to her cause by asking for her personal enfranchisement,

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Description (continued)

There are three rooms in the southern rear ell. Access to this ell is from doors on the porch. Two of the rooms have fireplaces on their interior walls. The walls, floors, and ceilings are finished like those in the main block. The third room has a fireplace in its south corner and a board ceiling and narrow-board floor.

The one-story addition to the northwest side of the house consists of a single room with a fireplace on the southeast wall. There are two interior doorways on the southwest wall; one leads to a bath, the other to a small room that contains a doorway leading to two larger rooms. The room at the western end of the ell, a kitchen, has a fireplace on the southwest wall.

Surroundings:

The Virginia Durant Young House is located on a tree-shaded lot in the center of Fairfax next to the town hall. The nominated area contains no outbuildings.

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Significance (Additional Information Con't)

a move which also failed. Before the South Carolina Constitutional Convention met in Columbia in 1895, Virginia Durant Young planned a push for suffrage. Her plan included a statewide tour with Viola Neblett, Laura Clay, Helen Morris Lewis, and Harriet Upton Yates, leaders of the national movement, joining her to speak for the cause. On September 17, 1895 Mrs. Young, with Miss Clay and Mrs. Neblett, addressed the Constitutional Convention. In spite of Young's efforts, the constitutional amendment for woman suffrage failed to pass.

After the defeat at the convention, membership in the SCERA declined. Virginia Young however, remained dedicated to the cause of woman suffrage. In 1896, she addressed the South Carolina Legislature on the subject of presidential suffrage for women. She continued to give speeches in South Carolina and at National American Woman Suffrage Association conventions and to write for the movement.⁷ After her 1895 suffrage campaign, Virginia Young began to devote more time to her newspaper, which had an all female staff, and to her writing. In 1899, Young became the sole owner of the paper, renamed the Fairfax Enterprise.⁸ One of the few women in the South to own and edit a weekly paper, Mrs. Young was one of the few female members of the South Carolina Press Association from 1891 until her death in 1906.⁹ Young's later fictional writings, in contrast with her earlier works, reflect her views on temperance, suffrage, and a positive-thinking cult called "mental science." These works included three novels: Beholding as in a Glass (1895), A Tower in the Desert (1896), and One of the Blue Hen's Chickens (1901).¹⁰

Virginia Durant Young died on November 2, 1906, after a brief illness.¹¹ She willed their home, which had been in her name, to her husband.¹² Dr. Young, who had always provided both financial and moral support for his wife's activities, continued to live and practice medicine in the house.¹³ Upon his death, he left the home and its grounds to the town of Fairfax to be used for a public library.¹⁴

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Continuation sheet 3

Item number 9

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Footnotes

¹Barbara Bellows Ulmer, "Virginia Durant Young: New South Suffragist " (M.A. thesis, University of South Carolina, 1979), pp. 3-8.

²Deed Book 4-I, p. 636, Barnwell County Clerk of Court, Barnwell County Courthouse, Barnwell, South Carolina.

³Ulmer, p. 16; "Death Has Taken Mrs. Young," The State (Columbia, S.C.), 3 November 1906, p. 1.

⁴Ulmer, pp. 18-19; Susan B. Anthony and Ida Husted Haper eds., The History of Woman Suffrage, vol. 4: 1883-1900 (Indianapolis, Indiana: Hollenbeck Press for Susan B. Antony, 1902), p. 922.

⁵Ulmer, p. 24: Virginia Durant Young to Charles James McDonald, 15 May 1893, Charles James McDonald Papers, South Caroliniana Library, Columbia, South Carolina.

⁶Ulmer, pp. 35,36,38,55-61; Anthony & Harper, p. 923; Paul E. Fuller, Laura Clay and the Woman's Rights Movement (Lexington, Kentucky: University Press of Kentucky, 1975), pp. 62-63, 66-67; "Mrs. Virginia Durant Young Dead," The News and Courier (Charleston, S.C.) 3 November 1906, p.1; Foy Stevenson, "Virginia Durant Young - Pioneer for Woman's Rights," Sandlapper (February 1974), p. 38.

⁷Stevenson, pp. 38,41; Ulmer, pp. 87-88; Anthony and Harper, pp. 922-924.

⁸"Death Has Taken Mrs. Young;" "Inequalities," Ledger of Dr. W.J. Young, Virginia Durant Young Papers, Fairfax Library Association, Fairfax, S.C.; Virginia D. Young, ledger, Virginia Durant Young Papers; Ulmer, p. 17; Fairfax Enterprise, 28 February 1906, Virginia Durant Young Papers.

⁹Ulmer, p. 91; "A 'Liberated' Southern Woman," The Liberator, September 1904, Virginia Durant Young Papers.

¹⁰Edwin Anderson Alderman, et al., eds., Library of Southern Literature, vol. 15: Biographical Dictionary of Authors (New Orleans, La.: Martin and Hoyt Co., 1910), p. 487; Ulmer, p. 91-97.

¹¹"Death Has Taken Mrs. Young."

¹²Bundle 291, Pkg. 4, Barnwell County Probate Office, Barnwell County Courthouse, Barnwell, South Carolina.

¹³Stevenson, p. 36, 41, 42; Will Book A, p. 31-32, Allendale County Probate Office, Allendale, South Carolina.