

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received DEC 14 1982
date entered

See instructions in How to Complete National Register Forms
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic President's Home of Harbison College

and/or common

2. Location

n of Abbeville on SC 20

street & number on SC Hwy. 20, North of the City Limits of Abbeville N/A not for publication

city, town Abbeville vicinity vicinity of congressional district

state South Carolina code 045 county Abbeville code 001

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>N/A</u> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<u>N/A</u> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Gerald S. Adams, Linda C. Adams, Jean C. Caldwell

street & number Route 4, Box 32

city, town Abbeville vicinity of state South Carolina 29620

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Abbeville County Courthouse

street & number Court Square

city, town Abbeville state South Carolina 29620

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Inventory of Historic Places In S. C. has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1980 federal state county local

depository for survey records S. C. 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 President's Home of Harbison College is a two-story brick residence located in a residential neighborhood near the City of Abbeville, South Carolina. A gift from Mrs. Samuel P. Harbison of Allegheny, Pennsylvania, to the Board of Missions for Freedmen of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America, provided funds to construct this house, which originally served as the residence of the Harbison College President and his family. Construction of the nearly-completed house was suspended late in the summer of 1906 when the college closed for a short time because of racial tensions; by May 1907 the house was being finished for use. Extensive alterations to the interior were made during a ca. 1952 remodeling of the house, but most walls and decorative features were retained. The exterior has had only minor changes, none of which significantly affect the integrity of the building from the time of its construction. The former campus has been subdivided, and the President's Home is now located in the midst of several houses of more recent construction. No other buildings from the Harbison College campus are extant.

Additional Information

The President's Home of Harbison College is a square two-story brick residence with a one-story attached brick kitchen to the rear. The walls, which are two bricks thick on the second story and three bricks thick on the first story, rest on a foundation that is four bricks thick. The bricks are laid in a variation of a pattern known as American Flemish Bond, which is composed of several courses of stretchers and a bonding course of alternating headers and stretchers. A brick belt course encircles the house between the first and second stories. Centrally located in the front slope of the hipped roof is a dormer with a Palladian-style louvered attic vent. Two interior chimneys also pierce the roof. Composition roofing has been laid over the original metal roof.

The central bay of the facade (southwest elevation) has a single door entrance with transom on the first story and a cameo window with keystones on the second story. One-over-one windows with louvered shutters flank the central bay on each story. A hipped roof porch extends the length of the facade. The southeast elevation is similar to the facade, although a small stoop rather than a porch provides access to the entrance. First story windows have flat brick arches; each second story window is surmounted by a rowlock course.

The northwest elevation has two windows on each story. The westernmost first story window is located in a polygonal bay which corresponds to the parlor in the interior. It and each of the second story windows are surmounted by rowlock courses; the other first story window has a flat brick arch. The northeast elevation (rear) is dominated by the original one story brick kitchen wing. This wing has a single window on its northwest and southeast elevations and a single door in the northeast elevation. A modern car shed with a gabled roof has been connected to the rear.

Exterior alterations include the rebuilding of the front porch which matches the original in shape and size, replacement of the original double doors with a single front door, and the addition of a double window on the rear to correspond to the present kitchen.

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 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 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 type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) Black History
<input type="checkbox"/> invention				

Specific dates 1906-07 **Builder/Architect** N/A

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The President's Home of Harbison College, located in a residential area on the outskirts of the City of Abbeville, South Carolina, is significant to black history and to education for its association with Harbison College, an institution of higher education for black students which was established by the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America. The two-story brick house was built in 1906-07 to serve as the residence of the college president and is the only remaining building of the Abbeville campus of Harbison College. From its incorporation in 1901 until it moved from Abbeville in 1910, Harbison College was a co-educational institution offering a liberal arts education combined with religious, industrial, and agricultural training--one of the few such colleges for blacks in South Carolina.

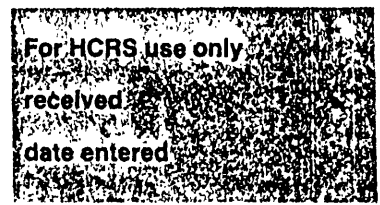
Additional Information

Harbison College was an outgrowth of Ferguson Academy, located in Abbeville, South Carolina, a black school which was established in the 1830's by the Reverend and Mrs. Emory W. Williams. Ferguson Academy had no formal association with the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America, although its teachers received some financial assistance from the church's Board of Missions for Freedmen. When the school encountered financial difficulty in 1891, the Board assumed the debt and became owner of the property in Abbeville.¹ The Reverend and Mrs. Williams resigned at the end of the school year, and the Reverend Thomas H. Amos was appointed principal.²

In 1898, Samuel P. Harbison, a wealthy member of the Board from Allegheny, Pennsylvania, provided funds for the purchase of an eighteen-acre tract of land on the outskirts of the city.³ Ferguson Academy subsequently moved to this site, and on 29 October 1901 a Certificate of Incorporation was granted which changed the name of the school to "Harbison College for Colored Youth." The certificate states that the institution was to be co-educational and that "special attention will be given to the cultivation of good character, of Industrial habits, and mental proficiency to teach, and the preparation of colored youth for future usefulness." The trustees were required to establish "a religious supervision over the pupils and provide for daily instruction in the English Bible," an industrial department, and a full literary course.⁴ Thomas H. Amos continued to head the institution as president.

A three-story brick dormitory known as Ferguson Hall was the first building to be constructed at the new site.⁵ During the summer of 1901, Henry Phipps Hall, a three-story brick dormitory for boys, was erected.⁶ An adjoining forty-seven acres were added to the original eighteen-acre tract in January of 1902, again as the result of a gift from Samuel P. Harbison.⁷ Harbison Hall, a two-story brick building containing a chapel, classrooms, President's office, library, and Y.M.C.A. meeting room was completed ca. 1904-05.⁸

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Interior: The interior of the President's Home of Harbison College has four major rooms on each story, with the original kitchen room attached to the rear. A central hall on each story bisects the house. The stairhall, which is perpendicular to the main hall, bisects the southeast half of the house. Decorative features throughout the house include paneled doors, molded door surrounds with bulls-eye corner blocks, and turned corner guards. A c. 1952 remodeling of the house included the application of new plaster to the walls and the addition of oak flooring over the original pine floor. Partitions were added to create bathrooms and closets, but only one original interior wall was removed.

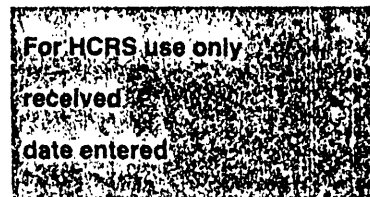
The first story consists of the original parlor, dining room, kitchen, study and guest room. The wall between the central hall and guest room was removed in the ca.1952 remodeling to create a large living room. In addition, the door from the hall to the parlor (present dining room) was removed and a larger entry cut. A carved mantel and overmantel with beveled glass mirror and a polygonal alcove framed by a semi-circular arch are dominant features of this room. Crown molding and picture molding have been removed and reused in cornices which are placed above the windows.

The guest room (present living room) mantel was damaged by fire and has been replaced by the original dining room mantel, which is similar to the parlor mantel, as well as to the one which it replaced. A wide segmental arch provides access to the rear of the house and defines the location of the original central hall. A single run open-string staircase with a square carved newel and turned balusters rises from the rear hall. The original dining room has been renovated as a modern kitchen. A large pantry adjacent to this room was partitioned to form a bath. The original kitchen now serves as a storage/furnace room.

The second story consists of four bedrooms with roughly the same dimensions as the four rooms below. The fireplace in the east bedroom has been closed, and the front hall has been partitioned to form a bath and two small closets. The two newel posts are simple, each terminating in a large ball. Original mantels in the west and south bedrooms feature egg and dart molding, colonettes, and overmantels with beveled glass mirrors.

Surroundings: The President's Home of Harbison College is situated on the crest of a ridge on a three-acre tract of land which was part of the original 65-acre Harbison College campus. A large front yard separates the house from South Carolina Highway 20. A frame garage and a frame barn of more recent construction are located in the back yard, as is the site of the brick privy which was contemporary to the house.

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In 1902 the Harbison family had given a 209-acre farm near Abbeville to the college. This farm was to be used in the agricultural training program, as well as to provide a means of support for the students.⁹ A gift of five hundred books in 1903 formed the nucleus around which the college library was built. Three hundred of these volumes were designated as a library for ministers, regardless of denomination.¹⁰

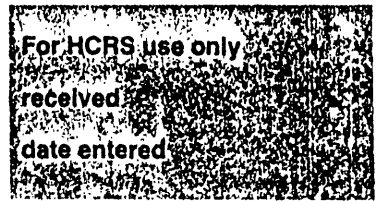
In the summer of 1906 President Amos was accused by local citizens of being involved in racial antagonism during a political campaign. He denied the charges but submitted his resignation as president nevertheless.¹¹ His successor, the Reverend Calvin M. Young, arrived at Harbison in September of 1906 and immediately began to attempt to calm the ill feelings which had resulted in Amos' resignation. Young closed the college temporarily until tempers had calmed down, following the advice of white citizens of the town. Young was a native of nearby Due West and was soon able to establish a good rapport with the citizens of Abbeville.¹²

The college's foremost donor, Samuel P. Harbison, had died in 1905, but his widow continued to support the college financially. It was reported in May of 1906 that she had offered a gift of \$2,500 to meet the cost of building a residence for the president, "an amount deemed amply sufficient to secure the desired end."¹³ Work on the building, which was known as "Pinehurst Cottage," ceased as a result of President Amos' resignation and the subsequent closing of the school. When President Young moved his family to Harbison in the fall of 1906, they lived in three rooms of Ferguson Hall, as had the Amos family before.¹⁴ Another setback for the college occurred when Ferguson Hall was destroyed by fire on 16 January 1907. Although at first many people felt that the fire may have been the work of an arsonist in light of the recent racial problems, it was later determined to have resulted in part from a stove with a defective flue.¹⁵

The school reopened in February of 1907, but the student body was much smaller than in previous years. As a result of the destruction of Ferguson Hall, the college girls and the Young family were housed in Henry Phipps Hall, while the boys lived either in the basement of Harbison Hall or in nearby cottages. Work to complete the President's Home was resumed.¹⁶

President Young strove to rebuild the institution in the wake of President Amos' resignation, its four-months closing, and the destruction of Ferguson Hall. He organized a school choir and a ministerial club which took the school program to the community and did much to soothe the racial tensions. Many of the members of the ministerial club went on to theological seminary.¹⁷

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A catalog for the academic year 1908-09 listed the curricula for both the normal and the preparatory departments. Students enrolled in the normal department studied English grammar and composition, mathematics (including three years of algebra and one year of geometry), history, geography, the natural sciences, ancient languages (including two years of Latin and one year of Greek), and other liberal arts courses. In addition, the Bible and spelling were taught all four years. Boys attended classes in agriculture, while girls were taught sewing and domestic science. Instrumental and vocal music courses were also offered. Special emphasis was placed on developing the students' public speaking ability.¹⁸

In keeping with the religious nature of the institution, the students were required to attend all religious services, including the Sabbath School, daily devotionals at breakfast and supper, the Chapel services at 9:00 each morning, Saturday night prayer meetings, and Sunday night Chapel services. A Young Men's Christian Association met each Sunday afternoon.¹⁹

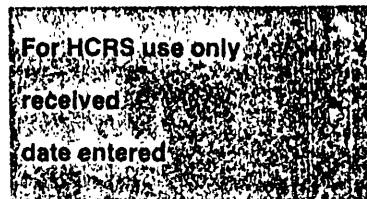
On 17 March 1910, a fire which was believed to be the work of an arsonist destroyed Harbison Hall and killed three students; several other students and a teacher were seriously injured. A second fire was set at the rear of the President's Home, but was extinguished before much damage could be done. The school was closed immediately, and the students were sent home. Citizens of Abbeville held a mass meeting on the afternoon following the fire at which they condemned the arsonist and called for the establishment of a reward fund to determine his identity. About \$300 was raised locally, but no one was ever arrested.²⁰

In its report of 1911, the Board of Missions for Freedmen stated that several towns had made offers of sites to encourage relocation of the college. Prominent citizens of Abbeville circulated a petition requesting that the college remain at their town. This would have been the choice of the Board except that, "the culprit who did the burning was unapprehended, and presumably still living in the community, and might in an evil hour be tempted to repeat his wicked deed."²¹

The Board chose the Town of Irmo, South Carolina, as the new location for the college. Samuel P. Harbison had been a proponent of agricultural training, so at the request of the Harbison family, when the school reopened in the fall of 1911, its name was changed to Harbison Agricultural College and only boys and young men were accepted.²² The name was changed twice more--in 1929 to Harbison Agricultural and Industrial Institute, and in 1946 to Harbison Junior College--and it became co-educational again in 1933, but it never achieved the same status that the old Harbison College in Abbeville had enjoyed. The school closed permanently in 1958.²³

The Abbeville campus was subdivided and sold in two parcels in 1918 and 1928, both to R. B. Ferguson.²⁴ In 1952 the Ferguson heirs sold the President's Home to Franklin S. Howie, whose widow sold it to the present owners in 1976.²⁵ Extensive renovations were made to the interior during the Howie ownership, but the exterior remains basically intact.

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FOOTNOTES

¹Inez Moore Parker, The Rise and Decline of the Program of Education for Black Presbyterians of the United Presbyterian Church U.S.A., 1865-1970 (San Antonio: Trinity University Press, 1977), p. 167; Presbyterian Church in the United States of America (PCUSA), Board of Missions for Freedmen, 26th Annual Report (Pittsburgh: n.p., 1891) p. 7.

²Parker, p. 168.

³Deed Book 20, Office of Clerk of Court, Abbeville County Courthouse, Abbeville, S. C., p. 375; PCUSA, Board of Missions for Freedmen, 37th Annual Report (1902), p. 8.

⁴Deed Book 24, Abbeville, S. C., pp. 220-221 (Certificate of Incorporation).

⁵"Fires," Press and Banner (Abbeville, S. C.), 23 January 1907.

⁶PCUSA, Board of Missions for Freedmen, 37th Annual Report (1902), p. 8.

⁷Ibid.; Deed Book 22, Abbeville, S. C., p. 557.

⁸Harbison College, Twenty-Seventh Annual Session of Harbison College, (Formerly Ferguson Academy) [Catalog: 1908-09] (n.p.: n.p., [1908]), p. 5; PCUSA, Board of Missions for Freedmen, 40th Annual Report (1905), pp. 6-7.

⁹Deed Book 25, Abbeville, S. C., p. 47; Harbison College, Twenty-Seventh Annual Session, p. 6; PCUSA, Board of Missions for Freedmen, 38th Annual Report (1903), p. 7.

¹⁰Harbison College, Twenty-Seventh Annual Session, p. 13; Parker, p. 168.

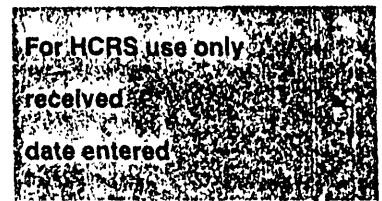
¹¹"Harbison College: Statement of Conditions Which Led to Resignation of President Amos," Press and Banner, 12 September 1906; PCUSA, Board of Missions for Freedmen, 42nd Annual Report (1907), p. 8.

¹² 42nd Annual Report, p. 8.; "Card," Press and Banner, 17 October 1906; "More From President of Harbison College," Press and Banner, 23 March 1910; Interview with Vivian Young Jones, Columbia, S.C., 2 April 1982.

¹³PCUSA, Board of Missions for Freedmen, 41st Annual Report (1906), pp. 13-14.

¹⁴Harbison College, Twenty-Seventh Annual Session, p. 5; PCUSA, Board of Missions for Freedmen, 41st Annual Report (1906), p. 165, 42nd Annual Report (1907), p. 9; Sanborn Map Company, Maps of the City of Abbeville (August 1906), Sheet No. 2.

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15 "Fires;" "Harbison College: Destruction of Ferguson Hall - Significant Correction," Press and Banner, 30 January 1907; PCUSA, Board of Missions for Freedmen, 42nd Annual Report (1907), pp. 8-9.

16 Jones Interview; PCUSA, Board of Missions for Freedmen, 42nd Annual Report (1907), pp. 8-9.

17 Jones Interview, 2 April 1982; Parker, p. 169.

18 Harbison College, Twenty-Seventh Annual Session, pp. 6-7, 12.

19 Ibid., pp. 13-14.

20 "Disastrous Fire at Harbison College," Press and Banner, 23 March 1910; "More from President of Harbison College," PCUSA, Board of Missions for Freedmen, 45th Annual Report (1910), pp. 11, 202.

21 PCUSA, Board of Missions for Freedmen, 46th Annual Report (1911), p. 10.

22 Ibid., pp. 10-11; "Negro College for Irmo: Harbison will Rebuild in Lexington County--Wins Over Other," Press and Banner, 14 December 1910; "Harbison College: Statement of Conditions Which Led to Resignation of President Amos."

23 Parker, pp. 171, 172, 174.

24 Deed Book 37, Abbeville, S. C., p. 115; Deed Book 51, Abbeville, S. C., p. 85.

25 Deed Book 87, Abbeville, S. C., pp. 313-14; Deed Book 122, Abbeville, S. C., p. 296.

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Hadden, Ursula Mae Gray, Abbeville, S.C. Interviews, February 1982, 29 June 1982.

Harbison Agricultural College. Thirty-First Annual Session of Harbison Agricultural College (Formerly Ferguson Academy, out of which subsequently grew Harbison College) [Catalog: 1913-14]. n.p.: n.p., [1913].

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Jones, F.D. and Mills, W.H., eds. History of the Presbyterian Church in South Carolina Since 1850. Columbia: R.L. Bryan, 1926.

Jones, Vivian Young, Columbia, S.C. Interviews, 2 April 1982, 28 June 1982.

Jones, Vivian Young. "Hail Harbison." (Souvenir Program: The Harbison Reunion), August 30-31, 1980.

McMillan, Lewis K. Negro Higher Education in the State of South Carolina. n.p.: n.p., 1952.

Parker, Inez Moore. The Rise and Decline of the Program of Education for Black Presbyterians of the United Presbyterian Church U.S.A., 1865-1970. San Antonio: Trinity University Press, 1977.

Presbyterian Church in the United States of America. Board of Missions for Freedmen. Annual Report. Pittsburgh: n.p., 1891, 1900, 1901, 1902, 1903, 1904, 1905, 1906, 1907, 1908, 1909, 1910, 1911, 1912.

Press and Banner (Abbeville, S.C.). "Card." 17 October 1906.

_____. (Abbeville, S.C.). "Commencement of Harbison College." 10 May 1905

_____. "Disastrous Fire at Harbison College." 23 March 1910.

_____. "Fiends Work at Abbeville." 23 March 1910.

_____. "Fires." 23 January 1907.

_____. "Harbison College: Destruction of Ferguson Hall--Significant Correction." 30 January 1907.

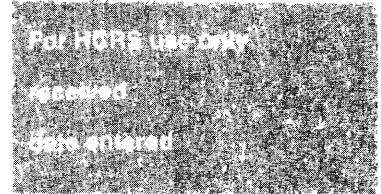
_____. "Harbison College: Statement of Conditions Which Led to Resignation of President Amos." 12 September 1906.

_____. "More From President of Harbison College." 23 March 1910.

_____. "Negro College For Irmo: Harbison Will Rebuild in Lexington County--Wins over Other." 14 December 1910.

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_____. "Rev. C.M. Young: To be President of Harbison College." 26
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_____. "Work of Incendiary." 23 March 1910.

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South Carolina. 2nd. edition. Columbia: The State Company, 1908.

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A Study of the Private and Higher Schools for Colored People in the United
States. Vol. II. Washington, D.C.: Government Printing-Office, 1917.