

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

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Name: Historic: Spencer House Location: 817 N. Main Street

Common: Gene McLendon House Classification: Building

Owner: Mr. Gene McLendon  
817 N. Main Street  
Bishopville, S.C. 29010

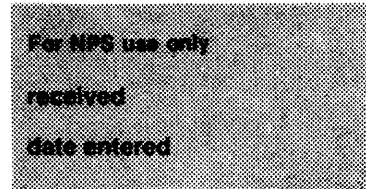
Representation in Existing Surveys: South Carolina Inventory of Historic Places, 1981.

Description: A house is shown on this site in 1821 and the rear section may date from this period. The main section of the house is a large two-story, frame structure constructed ca. 1845. The house is five bays wide and two rooms deep. On the main (south) facade is a two-story, pedimented portico supported by four square frame pillars with Doric motif capitals. In the gable field of the pediment is an elliptical sunburst design. On the second story behind the portico is a balcony with a rectangular railing and spindles. The house has two exterior end, brick chimneys with a stucco finish. Windows are six-over-six sash. In the central bay of the main facade are large double door entrances on both stories. These doors have multi-light transoms and sidelights. At the rear of this section is a one-story, gable roof ell with a large exterior brick chimney. The interior of the house has not been significantly altered and retains its Greek Revival style woodwork and mantles.

Significance: The Spencer House is a notable vernacular Greek Revival residence constructed ca. 1845. It was constructed by Charles Spencer, a leading Bishopville merchant of the 19th century. A house is shown on this site in 1821 and part of this original home may have been retained in the ca. 1845 construction. Spencer was born in 1821 and was a native of Connecticut. He moved to Bishopville in the early 1840s and along with his partner and relative, William Rogers, he operated one of Bishopville's most prominent stores of the mid-19th century. The exact relation between Spencer and Rogers is not known but it is believed they were cousins. Family legend states that Spencer modeled his home after Rogers' which was built several years earlier. The two houses are both very similar in floor plan and appearance. In addition to being a prominent merchant, Spencer was also postmaster of Bishopville from 1845 to 1866 (39). The 1860 census shows Spencer as possessing real estate valued at \$4,500 and personal property valued at \$23,000 (40). The house was sold by the Spencer family in the 1890s to Dr. J.E. McClure, a noted physician. Dr. McClure is supposed to have installed the first telephone in Bishopville in this house in the early 1900s. Upon his death the house passed into the hands of his daughter, Mrs. Gene McClure McLendon, who still occupies the house. Few changes have occurred and the house retains its original appearance.

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Acreage: Approx. .5 acre.

Verbal Boundary Description: The boundary for the Spencer House is shown as the black line on accompanying Lee County Tax Map 30-03, lot 08 which is drawn at a scale of 1" = 100'. The boundary is a rectangular lot measuring 200' by 150' encompassing the house and front yard. This boundary contains all property historically associated with the Spencer House.

UTM Reference Point: 17/570142/3787460 (Bishopville East Quad)

Other Information: