

PH0505374

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED SEP 29 1977  
DATE ENTERED NOV 28 1977

# 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  
Sylvania  
AND/OR COMMON

## 2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Proceed Sw from Bradley on S.C. 221/10, turn left on Millway Road, go 1 1/2 miles, turn right on Calabash Road, first house on left

CITY, TOWN

Bradley

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

3

STATE

South Carolina

VICINITY OF

CODE  
045

COUNTY

McCormick

CODE

065

## 3 CLASSIFICATION

### CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

### OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH

### PUBLIC ACQUISITION

- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

### STATUS

- OCCUPIED
  - UNOCCUPIED
  - WORK IN PROGRESS
- ### ACCESSIBLE
- YES: RESTRICTED
  - YES: UNRESTRICTED
  - NO

### PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERICAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER:

## 4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME  
Frank J. Wideman, Jr.

STREET & NUMBER

Sylvania

CITY, TOWN

Bradley

STATE

South Carolina 29819

VICINITY OF

## 5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

McCormick County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

McCormick

STATE

South Carolina

## 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Inventory of Historic Places in South Carolina

DATE

1973 (update)

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

S. C. Department of Archives and History

CITY, TOWN

Columbia

STATE

South Carolina

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Sylvania, built ca. 1825, is a one and one-half story white clapboard structure set on a low brick foundation. Built in a rectangular plan with a central hall, it has double exterior chimneys with corbeled caps on each end of the house. The gable roof of medium pitch is covered by cypress shingles and has a boxed cornice with returns. A large gabled dormer projects from the center of both front and rear facades. On the front facade the dormer is embellished with a Palladian window located above an arcaded veranda which has six columns and simple balusters. On the rear facade the dormer is incorporated into a double portico with a double door opening onto both levels. The front and rear doorways have semicircular fanlights and double paneled doors. The majority of the windows are 9/9. A one-story wing is attached to the left side facade. The wing is said to have originally contained the kitchen connected by a breezeway. It has recently been modernized and slightly enlarged.

Interior: Sylvania features a typical floor plan of a central hall with two rooms on each side, the front two rooms being larger and more sophisticated in detail. On the second story a central hall originally separated one room on each side, but the right side has been partitioned to accommodate a bath and dressing area. Attached to the left side of the house is the kitchen area which has been slightly enlarged for modern bath and kitchen facilities.

The interior contains numerous outstanding details. The wide central hall has heart pine paneling and a single-flight open string stairway with brackets. A unique grapevine design is stencilled below the cornice and above the wainscoting in the central hall and up the staircase. (This design is unusual and has not been noted in any other area structures.) The colors in the stencilling have retained their brilliant hues and are completely intact.) Equally outstanding is the craftsmanship manifested in the woodgrained doors and wainscoting, as well as in the marbled baseboards in the hall and both front rooms.

The main doorways feature fluted trim with corner blocks. The wooden mantels in the dining room and parlor are carved in the Regency style with pilasters, sunburst designs, and gouge work. A molded chair-rail is also noted in the two front rooms. Throughout the structure the floors are heart pine, and most walls are plaster.

Surroundings: The area is well landscaped: an old formal boxwood garden in the front yard is enclosed by a picket fence which repeats the arcades (in reverse) of the front piazza. There are several outbuildings located near the house. The smokehouse is brick while the remaining structures are clapboard. They include a well-house, office (or perhaps slave cabin), carriage house, barn, and "play-house." The construction dates vary, but most of these structures appear to date from the 19th Century. A recent addition to the Sylvania property is a swimming pool, located to the left of the main house.

# 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) Local History
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The significance of Sylvania lies in its detailed craftsmanship and atypical architecture, both of which set it apart from other structures in the McCormick County area. The Hearst and Wideman families who have lived at Sylvania have also made important contributions to the region's development.

In 1767 John Hearse was granted land "near the Long Cane,"<sup>1</sup> which is in the vicinity of present-day Sylvania. The 1790 Census records Hearse as residing in the area. Deeds for this area were destroyed in the mid-19th Century; however, numerous Hearst and Wideman family papers remain and are maintained at Sylvania. According to tradition and family papers, Joseph Hearst, a descendant, acquired much property which later became that of his son, John. This John Hearst (ca. 1792-ca. 1847) is thought to have built Sylvania in 1825. (The date "1825" is inscribed on the left rear chimney approximately 25 feet above ground.) Dr. John Wardlaw Hearst, his son, was a member of the South Carolina House of Representatives between 1850-55 and 1865-66.

John Hearst died ca. 1847. According to tradition, after his death the property was acquired by James H. Wideman, whose family has owned Sylvania since that time. Frank Wideman, Sr., owner of the property during the 20th Century, was appointed by Franklin D. Roosevelt as Assistant U.S. Attorney General in charge of the Justice Department Tax Division. Frank Wideman, Jr., his son and the present owner, restored the structure between 1969 and 1971 and resides there today.

Architecture: Built ca. 1825, Sylvania contains several unusual architectural details. The carving of the Regency mantels and doorways is delicate and sophisticated while the grained and marbled woodwork is exceedingly well-executed, achieving a "trompe l'oeil" effect. Most notable of all, however, is the stencilled grapevine design located in the central hall.

<sup>1</sup>. S. C. Department of Archives and History, Grant Book CCC, p. 131.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Heads of Families at the First Census of the United States, 1790, South Carolina.  
 Washington: Government Printing Office, 1908, p. 60.

Edgar, Walter B., ed. Biographical Directory of the S. C. House of Representatives,  
 Vol. I. Columbia: University of South Carolina Press, 1974, pp. 362, 366,  
 370, 397. (Continued)

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY ca. 12.75 acres  
 UTM REFERENCES

A	_____	_____	_____
ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	
C	_____	_____	_____

	Longitude	Latitude
A	-- 34° - 00' - 42" N	82° - 14' - 29" W
B	-- 34° - 00' - 33" N	82° - 14' - 17" W
C	-- 34° - 00' - 29" N	82° - 14' - 23" W
D	-- 34° - 00' - 38" N	82° - 14' - 30" W
B	_____	_____
ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
D	_____	_____

### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated property commences at a point approximately 875' west of Millway Road. From that point it extends 1050' south, thence 530' west, thence 1050' north along a fire lane, thence 530' east along Calabash Road to the point of origin. The property is bounded on the north by Calabash Road and on all other sides by other Sylvania property.

### 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 Kappy McNulty, Historic Preservation Division Ruth K. LaForge, Upper Savannah  
 ORGANIZATION S.C. Department of Archives and History DATE August 3, 1977 Historic Preservation Planner  
 STREET & NUMBER 1430 Senate Street TELEPHONE (803) 758-5816  
 CITY OR TOWN Columbia STATE South Carolina

# 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 National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

*Charles E. Lee*

TITLE Charles E. Lee  
State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE 9/8/77

### FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST: Robert B. Rettig DATE 11/28/77  
 DIRECTOR OF OFFICE OF ARCHITECTURE AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
 ATTEST: William J. Cole DATE 10.4.77  
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE one

Harrison, Wade C. "Sylvania." Troy, S. C., 1948. (Unpublished paper.)

"Our Old Roads." The Index Journal, September 24, 1949, p. 4.

South Carolina Department of Archives and History. Grant Book CCC, pp. 131, 253.

\_\_\_\_\_. W. P. A. transcripts. Abbeville Wills, Vol. 3, pp. 249-250.

Sylvania, Bradley, S. C. Miscellaneous Hearst and Wideman Family Papers.

"Frank Wideman Rites Scheduled at Washington." [newspaper clipping, source and date not cited].

"Cedar Spring ARP Cemetery Stones of Hearst Family." [newspaper clipping, source and date not cited].