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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY
NOMINATION FORM

Continuation Sheet

Item Number

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Name Historic Ensor-Keenan House

Location 801 Wildwood Avenue

Common

Classification Building

Owner William J. Keenan
Post Office Box 3218
Columbia, South Carolina 29203

Representation in Existing Surveys

Description: Located on a large secluded estate in the Eau Claire section of Columbia, the Ensor-Keenan House is one of Columbia's most notable residential structures. It is a one and one-half story building. Its most distinguishing feature is a central projecting pavillion with a steeply pitched hipped roof. The pavillion also features a window with an arch, as well as brackets along its cornice. Flanking this projection are large gables, each featuring a 6/6 window with louvered shutters and an arched panel above.

The one-story porch, supported by slender columns extends across the front facade. Bracketed portico eaves feature a small pedimented gable which accentuates the central entrance. The double-door entrance is further defined by a fanlight and sidelights. Opening onto the porch are French-style doors, located on either side of the entrance.

The gable roof features twin interior chimneys.

Significance: The Ensor-Keenan House is significant as the only residential structure in Columbia with Italianate influences. It is also significant as the home of Joshua Fulton Ensor, M.D. Dr. Ensor came to Columbia following the War Between the States and in 1870 became second medical superintendent of the State Asylum (South Carolina State Hospital). He later served as postmaster of Columbia and was an active leader in the State's Republican Party. He also farmed, his home being located on a large estate of which approximately 80 acres were purchased in the early 1900s. Part of this property became the new home of the Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary which is still located there.

Today, the structure is the home of William J. Keenan, a prominent Columbia businessman.

Acreage 11.19 acres

Verbal Boundary Description TMS 225-01-1A; extending 1109' along Monticello Road, 609' along Wildwood Avenue, 314' along Timrod Street, and an eastern property line of 796'

UTM Reference Point Columbia North A: 17/496060/3767120 B: 17/496340/3766720

C: 17/495960/3766640

Other Information