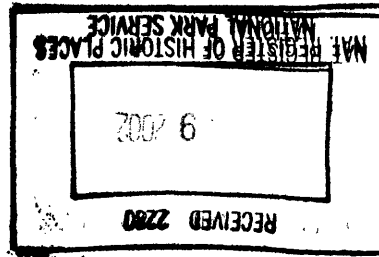


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Warrenville Elementary School
other names/site number Warrenville Graded School

2. Location

street & number 115 Timmerman Street not for publication
city or town Warrenville vicinity _____
state South Carolina code SC county Aiken code 003 zip code 29851

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Mary W. Edmonds 4/8/02
Signature of certifying official Date

Mary W. Edmonds, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, S.C. Dept. of Archives and History, Columbia, S.C.
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:
 entered in the National Register Edson H. Beall 5/22/02
 See continuation sheet. Signature of the Keeper Date of Action
 determined eligible for the
 National Register
 See continuation sheet.
 determined not eligible for the
 National Register
 removed from the National Register
 other (explain):

Warrenville Elementary School
Name of Property

Aiken County, South Carolina
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Contributing	Noncontributing
1	0
1	0

buildings
sites
structures
objects
Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)
N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed
in the National Register
0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Category: Education

Subcategory: school

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Category: Vacant/Not in Use

Subcategory:

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)
Early 20th Century Revival

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation	Brick
walls	Brick
roof	Built-up Tar and Gravel
other	Metal

Narrative Description
(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Warrenville Elementary School
Name of Property

Aiken County, South Carolina
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- x A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
x C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- a owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
b removed from its original location.
c a birthplace or a grave.
d a cemetery.
e a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
f a commemorative property.
g less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture
Social History

Period of Significance

1925-1952

Significant Dates

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

William Walter Simmons & Son

Narrative Statement of Significance

Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
previously listed in the National Register
previously determined eligible by the National Register
designated a National Historic Landmark
recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

Primary location of additional data:

- x State Historic Preservation Office
Other State agency
Federal agency
Local government
University
Other
Name of repository:
SC Department of Archives & History

Warrenville Elementary School
Name of Property

Aiken County, South Carolina
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 4 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Zone Easting Northing		Zone Easting Northing	
1	17 425200 3712120	3	17 425020 3712180
2	17 425180 3712210	4	17 425080 3712080

See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Lesley M. Drucker, Ph.D., RPA, Owner
 organization AF CONSULTANTS date June 30, 2001
 street & number 6546 Haley Drive telephone 803/787-4169
 city or town Columbia state SC zip code 29206

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

- A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Village Senior Apartments, LP
 street & number 1337 Assembly Street, 2d Floor telephone 803/765-1050
 city or town Columbia state SC zip code 29201

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.). **Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 5

Warrenville Elementary School
Name of Property
Aiken County, South Carolina
County and State

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

Warrenville Elementary School is a large, rectangular, two-story brick school building located at the west end of Warrenville mill village in Aiken County. The school occupies one-half of a block that also contains a vacant one-quarter lot and an armory building now occupied by Avondale Mills. The nominated school property includes four (4.0) acres and is bordered on the east by Verdery Street, on the south by Cloudman Street, and on the west by Timmerman Street. The front (north) entry of the building faces the Avondale Mills (armory) building. From its construction in 1925, Warrenville school was in continuous use until 1992 as an educational institution for mill village children. In 1954, two one-story wings (4,912 square feet) were added to the rear (south) and west sides of the building, creating its present C-shaped plan. Except for certain interior staircase and entry modifications and the modernization of plumbing and mechanical systems, the school otherwise retains its original appearance.

Resting on a concrete or cast stone basement and brick foundation, the original school building contains 18,008 square feet of habitable space capped by a built-up flat roofing system. The interior structure is of wood stud with wood floors and roof framing. Interior walls are plastered gypsum board.

The school's original brick and stone façade features baroque massing and is encircled by a full entablature and projecting cornice with a parapet above the roofline. The 1954 infill sections added simple massed brick wings on the west side (cafeteria/kitchen) and south side (two classrooms). This resulted in the creation of an open court on the east side between the original school building and the new south wing.

The main (north-facing) two-story façade of the school is defined by slightly projecting central and end pavilions. The central pavilion features four full-height brick pilasters beneath a Classical entablature. The entablature contains a frieze of four stone rondelles under a pediment featuring a bullseye window with cut keystones. A flagpole stands on the roof behind the central pediment. The central pavilion is approached by a wide stair with pedestal wall. Glazed, double-leaf entry doors with a multi-light transom are located within the bracketed pediment. Two secondary entrances on the main façade each have a single-leaf door and six-light transom approached by a stair with pedestal wall.

The projecting central pavilion contains three sets of paired windows above the central entry and one set of paired windows beside it. Both floors of the central pavilion are flanked by one bay of paired windows and a single window over the secondary entrance at each end of the façade. Each of the windows contains six-over-six light, double-hung wood sashes. All of the front windows feature cast stone lintels with raised keystones.

The original building's side (east and west) elevations feature four banks of gang windows containing six-over-eight light, double-hung wood sashes. Each gang contains six windows. Entrances on the first level are accessed by either stone or concrete side stairs and feature double-leaf nine-light paned or single-panel solid wood doors.

Floor plans of the original school building indicate a first-floor entry flanked by the principal's office, women's teacher lounge and boys' and girls' restrooms. Horseshoe-shaped corridors provide access to three classrooms and a cafeteria along the front and sides of the building and a large, two-story auditorium at the rear of the building. The building's second floor houses six additional classrooms, two small restrooms, and the auditorium balcony.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 6

Warrenville Elementary School
Name of Property
Aiken County, South Carolina
County and State

The interior of the school building is accessed through a short entrance hall containing a double staircase to the second floor and a single reverse flight to a classroom entry landing. A balustraded apron wall at the top of the double staircase protects hallway corridor traffic from the stair opening. The original building's corridors and classrooms feature the original plaster, wood baseboards and wainscot with chair rail. Classroom ceilings feature the original crown molding. Classroom doorways are topped by a transom and have horizontal raised wood panels on the bottom half and six-light upper panels. Hallway corridors are pierced by hopper-style, six-light classroom windows located high on the walls to increase air circulation. Some of the plaster on the interior walls of the corridors, stairwells, and classrooms has been water and wear damaged. The brick walls, wood floors, wood wainscot, chair rail, and crown molding are, however, in good condition.

The school auditorium contains the original stage with a molded proscenium arch at the front and a balcony faced with beaded board wainscot, which also faces the entire room. Three banks of original wooden seating fill the auditorium.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 7

Warrenville Elementary School
Name of Property
Aiken County, South Carolina
County and State

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Warrenville Elementary School, originally known as Warrenville Graded School and sometimes now called Old Warrenville School, is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A and C. The school is located in the Aiken County town of Warrenville. It is an excellent example of the Classical Revival style of school architecture that flourished as a direct result of expanded state support for education in the first quarter of the 20th century. It also represents a key component of the paternalistic social and economic system that characterized textile mill villages in piedmont South Carolina from 1900 – 1945.

The mill village of Warrenville retains several buildings of historical and architectural note dating from the late 1800s through 1950, including the “stylistically significant 19th century mill with a tower that is relatively free of alteration, a management row [of buildings], an imposing school building, and an architecturally significant Methodist Church building” (Scardaville 1984a). Warrenville Elementary School is one of seven school buildings in Aiken County designed by W. W. Simmons & Son, an obscure South Carolina architectural firm (Wells and Dalton 1992:160-161) working out of Augusta, Georgia during the 1920s and active through 1951. Simmons produced his most notable designs in 1925 and 1926 when he provided plans for Langley High School, an addition to North Augusta School, Windsor School, Warrenville School, Montmorenci School, Talatha School, and Dunbarton School. His work in Georgia included design of the Administration Building at the Agricultural and Mechanical Institute in Cochran (1926).

The first phase of textile mill development in the South Carolina Piedmont was during the antebellum period, while the second phase occurred from the Civil War through the 1870s. Mill construction and associated village growth boomed during the third phase from 1880 to 1920, as management sought to provide new mill workers, fresh from the farm, with the necessities of life. These developments led to the rise of cotton mill paternalism, which characterized textile mill villages until World War II.

Between 1895 and 1945, economic and social conditions in South Carolina were fundamentally changed as industrialization transformed a traditionally agrarian lifestyle. Educational reforms that focused on compulsory education at the turn of the 20th century caused a great deal of political and social unrest between poor white workers and middle class urban whites and between poor whites and blacks. This labor unrest continued into the 1920s and 1930s (Scardaville 1984b:40-52). Significant changes in industrial technology, products, and labor management characterized the final phase of the textile industry from 1941 through the 1980s (Scardaville 1984a; Scardaville 1984b:7-9, 38; Scardaville et al. 1989:2; Edgar 1998).

Between 1900 and 1930, the State of South Carolina passed a number of laws aimed at improving education as well as educational facilities (Hope 1924; Thompson 1927; Scardaville et al. 10-11)). The 1910 School Building Act, for example, required that buildings constructed with state funds follow approved design plans for small one-, two-, three-, or four-room schools. For larger schools, school districts were encouraged to use registered architects for design planning. During this period of increased state support for education, new schools were built across the state by some of the state’s leading architects (Scardaville 1989:15-36; Robeson 2000). After 1920, design standards commonly called for brick and stone school construction and certain key design elements, such as increased classroom size, greater classroom versatility, a more healthful atmosphere, and student safety (Scardaville et al. 1989:17-19).

During this period, mill schools in South Carolina developed separately from other schools and school systems, but were subject to the same design standards. Mill village elementary and high schools received money not only from public funds but also from mill management itself. Thus, mill schools typically ranked higher than their state-only funded counterparts in terms of physical quality of construction and quality of education. For example, mill schools before 1920 were less likely to be one-room schools.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 8

Warrenville Elementary School
Name of Property
Aiken County, South Carolina
County and State

Mill owners designed their schools to instill habits of regularity, neatness, kindness, obedience, and self-control among the workers' children, who would eventually become mill workers. Management favored compulsory education, but not child labor laws, which prohibited the employment of children under the age of 12 after 1905. By the 1920s, most mill schools had libraries and auditoriums, which served an important function as community centers. Gardening, singing, domestic science, manual training, and drawing were typical mill school classes (Scardaville et al. 1989:25-28).

Under the paternalistic management system, operatives lived in mill village housing, made mercantile purchases from mill stores using mill scrip, attended mill churches and sent their children to mill elementary schools. Mill management created pressure to send children into the mills instead of school. Although their children were required to attend school until the age of 12, school attendance was not strictly enforced. School quality and length of term varied. Student-teacher ratios were high, often 50 – 75 students of various grade levels assigned to one teacher. In the early years of Warrenville School, graduating students received class rings in recognition of the end of their formal schooling, since they were old enough to work in the mills and could not afford further education after elementary school (Willis interview 2001; McLaughlin interview 2001).

Before 1900, Warrenville was known as Aiken Station. In 1832, Aiken Station was a designated stop on the SC Canal and Railroad line, the world's longest railroad at that time, extending 130 miles from the interior town of Hamburg (Savannah River) to the port town of Charleston. The towns of Clearwater, Langley, Bath, Graniteville, Vacluse, and Warrenville grew up along the original railroad line around various industries, especially cotton mills (Vandervelde 1999: 69, 205-206). Warrenville Elementary School was built approximately 500 feet south of the old SC Railroad and Canal Company tracks.

The Warren cotton mill and village were named after Charles Warren Davis, the first president and treasurer of the Warren Co., which remained an independent corporation from its creation in 1897 until 1918 when it was absorbed by the larger Graniteville Manufacturing Co. The history of the Warren Company is largely unrecorded. By 1903, the Warren mill was the third largest cotton mill in the Horse Creek valley with 32,000 spindles, 900 looms, capitol stock of \$500,000, and a high credit rating (Scardaville 1984a). In 1907, the Warren mill employed 485 people and the village population was 987. Public buildings built from 1899 to 1918 included a school and two churches. The company invested \$3,000 in the original school building, a frame structure located on the same site as the present Warrenville School. Operating expenses were shared by the Warren Co. and Aiken County, with the company contributing \$350 and the county contributing \$900 annually (Scardaville 1984a).

Warrenville Graded School was built on a four-acre tract in 1925 as an Aiken District school. At that time, the original frame building was demolished and its wood was used to build two mill houses on Timmerman Street. The building plan of the new school was similar to that other schools built during this period and included two stories with classrooms built around a central auditorium. In 1954, a one-story addition was built to house two classrooms and a cafeteria (Scardaville 1984a; Head 1992). No exterior alterations and few interior ones appear to have been made since that time.

The Warren Mill complex and village continued to expand after World War II. Between 1948 and 1951, the company initiated substantial village improvements, including paved street and sidewalks, and the construction of additional mill houses. Running water and indoor baths were added to all houses in 1949, and composition roofs were removed from all buildings in the village and replaced by slate roofs, except for the school which exhibits a built-up gravel roof.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 9

Warrenville Elementary School
Name of Property
Aiken County, South Carolina
County and State

In the 1950s, however, the Graniteville Company began to follow an industry-wide movement by selling its worker housing. Mill owners found the cost of mill village upkeep a financial liability once the traditional advantages of company ownership were eliminated. Workers no longer needed the paternalism of company owners as minimum wage laws initiated under the New Deal had increased their ability to own their own homes, buy cars, and increase their independence as they began to live further from the mill. In the early 1980s the Warren Division of Graniteville Company closed. It reopened in 1985 as a dye plant for denim yarn. Avondale Mills bought the Warren mill from the Graniteville Company in April 1996.

When the Graniteville Company schools were consolidated under the Aiken County Board of Education, the company deeded the property to the Aiken County Consolidated School District for as long as it was used to educate area children. Warrenville Elementary School closed to students in 1992 and has since remained vacant and not in use. In 2001, the building and the four-acre property on which it stands were deeded to Village Senior Apartments, LP for rehabilitation as apartments.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 10

Warrenville Elementary School
Name of Property
Aiken County, South Carolina
County and State

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

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1998 *South Carolina: A History*. University of South Carolina Press, Columbia.
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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 11

Warrenville Elementary School
Name of Property
Aiken County, South Carolina
County and State

INTERVIEWS:

- February 2001 Pat Willis, reporter for *The Villager*. Mark Richardson, interviewer.
Notes stored at JBM Properties, LLC in Columbia.
- 6 February 2001 Sharon McLaughlin, reporter for *The Villager*. Mark Richardson, interviewer.
Notes stored at JBM Properties, LLC in Columbia, SC.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 12

Warrenville Elementary School
Name of Property
Aiken County, South Carolina
County and State

Verbal Boundary Description:

Warrenville Elementary School is located at 115 Timmerman Street in the Town of Warrenville. The boundary of the nominated property is shown as the black line marked "Warrenville Elementary School" on the accompanying Aiken County Tax Map, Town of Warrenville, # 20-080, drawn at a scale of 1" = 100'.

Boundary Justification:

The nominated property is restricted to the 1925 school building and its L-shaped 1954 wings, and the town parcel on which it is located, the property historically associated with the school.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number Photographs Page 13 Warrenville Elementary School
Name of Property
Aiken County, South Carolina
County and State

The following information is the same for each of the photographs:

Name of Property:	Warrenville Elementary School
Location of Property:	115 Timmerman Street, Warrenville, SC
Name of Photographer:	Mark Richardson
Date of Photographs:	
Location of Original Negatives:	SC Department of Archives & History 8301 Parklane Road, Columbia SC 29223-4905

1. Main (north) façade, looking southeast
2. Main (north) façade, looking south
3. Front (north) entry, looking south
4. Side (east) elevation, looking west
5. Side (west) elevation, looking northeast
6. Rear (south) elevation showing 1954 infill section and "open court," looking northwest
7. Side (west) elevation showing one-story add-on cafeteria wing
8. Boys' restroom, first floor, showing 1954 fixture modifications
9. Hall at bottom of double staircase, first floor, front (north) entry
10. Double staircase, first floor, front (north) entry
11. Balustraded apron wall and hallway corridor at top of double staircase, second floor
12. Hallway corridor, first floor
13. Classroom, second floor
14. Auditorium, first floor, looking toward proscenium
15. Auditorium, first floor, looking from proscenium toward balcony
16. Auditorium balcony at rear of auditorium, second floor