

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received SEP 30 1982
date entered

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

1. Name

historic Razor and Clardy Company Building

and/or common same

2. Location

street & number 202 South Main Street NA not for publication

city, town Mullins NA vicinity of ~~congressional district~~

state South Carolina code 045 county Marion code 067

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 checked="" 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>NA</u> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<u>NA</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 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 N. Bryant Cooper and Franklin B. Cooper

street & number 202 South Main Street

city, town Mullins NA vicinity of state South Carolina 29574

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Marion County Records Building

street & number Main Street

city, town Marion state South Carolina 29571

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Inventory of Historic Places in South Carolina has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1981 federal state county local

depository for survey records South Carolina 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 Razor and Clardy Company Building is a brick commercial building constructed ca. 1914 in the central business district of Mullins, South Carolina, for the Razor and Clardy Company. The building has had very few alterations since its construction and effectively conveys the essence of an early twentieth century commercial enterprise.

Exterior: The Razor and Clardy Company Building is a one-story, brick commercial building with a metal storefront and a stepped brick parapet. The facade (northeast elevation) has metal pilasters and a metal entablature framing two recessed entrances and their flanking glass display windows. There are two surviving metal pilasters; there was apparently a third, at the left end of the facade, that was removed at an unknown time. The pilasters have Tuscan capitals and support a full entablature with heavy modillions in the cornice. Each entrance on the facade has double glass doors with wooden stiles and rails and the original brass hardware. The glass display windows have bronze frames and marble panels beneath the windows. The ceilings of the display areas have wooden coffering. The floors of the entranceways are tiled, with colored tiles spelling out "Razor & Clardy Co." Canvas awnings on metal frames shelter the entrances. In the area above the display windows and awnings and beneath the entablature, glass tiles are set between six bracing metal piers; red stained glass spells out the name "Razor & Clardy Co." twice on the facade and once on the right (northwest) elevation. The parapet above the entablature is brick with a soldier course lowest and Flemish-bond brickwork above. There is a rectangular panel in the center of the parapet outlined by rowlock courses. The parapet has cement coping outlining stepped panels on the ends of the facade and a peaked panel in the center.

The storefront, with its metal entablature and glass display area, is carried around the right side for one bay. The bricks of the facade have textured surfaces; this brick is carried around the right side for one bay, after which a different brick without the surface texturing is used. The Flemish bond with raked joints is continuous from the facade. There are seven casement windows with single panels of wired glass along the upper reaches of this elevation. Each window is protected by metal bars. This elevation also has regular basement vents.

The left (southeast) elevation is a party wall. The rear of the building (northwest elevation) is of common brick laid in common bond. A central entrance with double doors and a metal awning is flanked by three bays on either side, each with a two-over-two, double-hung sash window on the main level and a small gallery window above. The southernmost bay of this elevation lacks the two-over-two window and instead has an off-center, smaller window. All windows of the south elevation have cement sills, wired glass, and metal security bars. A brick flue and three metal downspouts are also on this elevation.

The Razor and Clardy Building has a flat built-up roof behind its parapet, with a small frame structure towards the rear enclosing an air-conditioning unit.

Interior: The interior of the Razor and Clardy Company Building is open with ceilings approximately twenty feet high. A mezzanine level extends over the rear portion of the store; a gallery runs along the north wall at the same level. A row of wooden paneled pillars carrying the load of the roof beams runs down the center of the store. The floor of the building is heart pine over a concrete base. The walls are plastered. A pressed-metal cornice and ceiling is carried through the building. The cornice has an

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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 type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates ca. 1914 **Builder/Architect** unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Razor and Clardy Company Building, located in the central business district of Mullins, South Carolina, is a well-preserved and largely unaltered early twentieth century vernacular commercial building. The brick building, constructed ca. 1914 for the Razor and Clardy Company, is representative of the prevalent mode of commercial building design. In addition, the store is significant as the most intact early twentieth-century commercial building remaining in Mullins and one of the most intact such buildings in the state.

Additional Information: On 1 May 1914 Razor and Clardy Company purchased a lot measuring 55 feet by 126 feet in downtown Mullins from George Yarboro.¹ Plans for the construction of a new commercial building on the lot were made immediately. A covenant between George Yarboro and the Razor and Clardy Company for a party wall, dated 1 May 1914, signaled the construction.² The new building was one of the largest commercial buildings that had been constructed in the small town of Mullins.³ The Razor and Clardy Company, which occupied the building, sold men's and ladies' clothing and accessories. The company remained in business under the same name with the same families owning the property until 1975.⁴ In 1978 the store was purchased by its present owners, N. Bryant Cooper and Franklin B. Cooper.⁵ The store is currently being utilized as a real estate office and a retail store.

Architecture: The Razor and Clardy Company Building is representative of a vernacular commercial building mode that developed in the United States by the late nineteenth century. The mode was defined by an elaborate facade containing a sheltered entrance and plate-glass display areas, and a longitudinal hall on the interior for the display of merchandise. This basic form could be elaborated with diverse stylistic elements, which were often worked in cast iron or other metals. The Razor and Clardy Building exemplifies this form, with two sheltered entrances recessed in the facade and flanking plate-glass display areas on both sides. The facade of the building is articulated with classical pilasters and an entablature, which help give visual order to the composition. The Razor and Clardy Building is noteworthy for the quality of the workmanship and the materials, including the metalwork, the stained glass and glass tile, the mosaic tiles of the entranceways, the wooden coffered ceilings of the display windows, and the pressed-metal interior cornices and ceilings. The brickwork of the building is also noteworthy, with three different grades of brick utilized: fine textured brick laid in Flemish bond with raked joints on the facade, untextured brick in Flemish bond on the one exposed side wall, and common brick in common bond with flush joints on the rear and on the party wall. The exceptional state of preservation of the Razor and Clardy Building is noteworthy as well.

Commerce: Many commercial buildings were constructed in small towns across South Carolina during the prosperous early years of the twentieth century; however, most of these stores have been substantially altered or destroyed. The Razor and Clardy Company Building remains essentially intact, retaining many of its early interior furnishings. This high degree of integrity, particularly of its interior, makes Razor and Clardy a significant illustration of commercial enterprise in the early twentieth century.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property approximately .16

Quadrangle name Mullins, S.C.

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

1	7	6	6	0	8	4	0	3	7	8	5	9	2	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D

Zone		Easting				Northing								

E

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H

Zone		Easting				Northing								

Verbal boundary description and justification The boundary of the Rasor and Clardy Company Building nomination is shown as the red line on the accompanying Marion County Tax Map, #6, which is drawn at a scale of 100 feet to the inch. The nominated property includes the significant building.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state NA code NA county NA code NA

state NA code NA county NA code NA

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Mr. Edwin P. Rogers, Jr. Historic Preservation Planner John Wells, Mary Watson S.C. Dept. of Archives & History
organization Pee Dee Regional Council of Governments date July 7, 1982

street & number Post Office Box 5719 telephone (803) 669-3138

city or town Florence state South Carolina 29502

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 Sept 7, 1982
title State Historic Preservation Officer date

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Entered in the National Register

date 10/29/82

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only
received
date entered

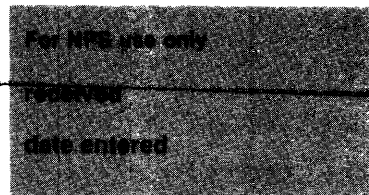
Continuation sheet 1 Item number 7 Page 1

anthemion motif, while the squares of the ceiling have patterns of bead-and-reel and egg-and-dart molding.

The building has built-in display shelves and cabinets along its northwest and southeast walls and along the center of the building between the supporting pillars. On the southeast wall is a Stetson hat display case with a three-faceted mirror. Two enclosed dressing rooms are at the rear of the building on the southeast side; a built-in counter, or service desk, is on the north side. A steel safe marked "Razor & Clardy," manufactured by the Cary Safe Co. of Buffalo, New York, is behind the counter. A large staircase rises from the rear of the store to the mezzanine level, which was originally used for merchandise display. The balcony of the mezzanine is intact, although the mezzanine itself has been closed in for the accommodation of storage and mechanical services.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

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Continuation sheet 2

Item number 9

Page 1

Bibliography

Cooper, N. Bryant. Mullins, S.C. Interview, 18 March 1982.

Marion, S.C. Marion County Records Building. Deed Book A-5; Covenant Between
George Yarboro and Razor and Clardy Company, 1 May 1914.

Sanborn Map Company. Mullins, Marion County, South Carolina. New York: Sanborn
Map Co., 1924.

Rasor and Clardy Company Building
Footnotes

¹Marion County Deed Book A-5, p. 225, Marion County Records Building, Marion, S.C.

²Covenant Between George Yarboro and Rasor and Clardy Company, 1 May 1914, Marion County Records Building.

³Sanborn Map Company, Mullins, Marion County, South Carolina (New York: Sanborn Map Co., 1924).

⁴Interview with N. Bryant Cooper, Mullins, S.C., 18 March 1982.

⁵Ibid.