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South Carolina	
COUNTY:	
Georgetown	
FOR NPS USE ONL	Y
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The Old Market Building in which the new Georgetown County Rice Museum is located stands in the town's core commercial district, an area especially zoned for its protection by the city and governed by the city's Architectural Review Board, as well as by the Georgetown County Historical Commission.

The present building, erected 1842, replaces an old wooden market building which stood on the same site until destroyed by a hurricane. The second building, of brick, with a bell tower and clock, has been used as a market, jail, printing shop and police department.

In early days, the second floor of the building served as Town Hall, while the open bottom floor was used as a market for the sale of agricultural products and domestic animals. It was also used as a slave market.

Some years later, probably following the Confederate War, the lower floor was enclosed.

The bell in the quaint, town-landmark tower served for many years as a fire alarm. Funds for its purchase were raised by popular subscription and the bell's inscription identifies it as "cast by Henry N. Hooper and Co., Boston, 1866. Town of Georgetown, Inc., 1805."

A tablet on the second floor reports that "the first major repairs to the old market since its erection in 1842 were made in 1966. At thie time the tower was strengthened with new timbers as needed. Also the roof of the cupola and banisters around the bell were replaced. A new weathervane was installed atop the cupola. The four faces of the ancient clock were refinished

To depict the story of Georgetown's principal economic crop of the 19th century, the Georgetown County Rice Museum is being developed in the Old Market Building. The tale will unfold as one moves systematically among maps, dioramas, pictures, and artifacts. The visual picture will carry one slowly through the clearing process; the construction of the rice fields with their ditches, dikes and flood gate; the rice planting, cultivating, harvesting, winnowing; its processing at the mill; and shipment to world-wide ports. Many of the hand tools actually used will be in an exhibit which the viewers can touch. The Rice Mill will be a working model so that it can easily be seen how rice was processed.

Restoration plans also call for a stairway at the rear of the building, a viewing deck to overlook the Sampit River, rest rooms on the second floor, and air conditioning.

SIGNIFICANCE			
PERIOD (Check One or More as Ap	opropriate)		
Pre-Columbian	16th Century	18th Century	20th Century
☐ 15th Century	☐ 17th Century	🔀 19th Century	
SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable	and Known)		
AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check	k One or More as Appropri	iate)	
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X Commerce	Literature	itarian	
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☐ Conservation	Music	☐ Transportation	

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Both use and location make the Old Market Building a crucially significant landmark for Georgetown, one of South Carolina's three oldest port cities. Its use as town hall and market shows its central role in political and commercial life. Its central location on Front Street, the town's main business street, provides visual impact and proclaims the modern city's connections with the past. Loss of the building would do irreparable harm to Georgetown. Its current adaptive use is excellent in every way, tying together the main economic success of the past, rice, with one of the main economic activities of today, tourism.

Long-needed by Georgetown, and enjoying the support and active help of many interested segments of the town who are working to preserve this mutual town heritage, the Rice Museum will be of value to residents as well as to the tourist. It will offer both educational and economic benefits.

The project is being conducted by the County Historical Commission, a non-paid group appointed by the Governor of South Carolina. Only Rice Museum on the east coast, it will be operated on a non-profit basis.

9.	9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES																
	Writers' Program of the WPA, South Carolina: A Guide to the Palmetto State. (New York, Oxford University Press, 1941).																
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	As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:								National Cauch	Register	r. Our Co	Tire	lly				
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