

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	<b>DATA SHEET</b>
RECEIVED	SEP 29 1977
DATE ENTERED	FEB 23 1978

**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 John Calvin Owings House  
 AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER  
787 West Main Street

CITY, TOWN  
Laurens

STATE  
South Carolina

VICINITY OF  
#5

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
#5

COUNTY  
Laurens

CODE  
045

CODE  
059

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME  
John Calvin Owings, II

STREET & NUMBER  
787 West Main Street

CITY, TOWN  
Laurens

VICINITY OF

STATE  
South Carolina

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.  
Laurens County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER  
Public Square

CITY, TOWN  
Laurens

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  
South Carolina Department of Archives and History

CITY, TOWN  
Columbia

STATE  
South Carolina

# 7 DESCRIPTION

## CONDITION

EXCELLENT  
 GOOD  
 FAIR

DETERIORATED  
 RUINS  
 UNEXPOSED

## CHECK ONE

UNALTERED  
 ALTERED

## CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE  
 MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

EXTERIOR: The John Calvin Owings House, built ca. 1896, is a 2½ story structure built in the Queen Anne Style. The house is set on a low, brick foundation. Exterior wall material is clapboard and shingle siding set in imbricated pattern. The steep, slate, hipped roof features cresting and finials. There are four projecting gables with decorative bargeboards and boxed cornices. Three of the five interior chimneys have corbeled caps. Encircling the side and front facades is a large one-story portico characterized by turned posts and balustrade, pendants in segmental arches, and bracketed cornice. A projecting shingled pediment sits atop the portico at the front entrance. The front entrance door is of oak with beveled glass, above which is a colored glass transom (colored glass transoms are also found in parlor windows). The majority of windows in the structure are 1/1.

Projecting front gable includes a second-story portico with horseshoe arch and spindle decoration. Gable end has double windows with multi-paned transoms which are surmounted by a small single window. A three-story circular turret projects on the east (left) side of the house, and an octagonal oriel flanks the west (right) side.

A brick kitchen to the rear of the structure was originally a separate building; however, several years after the house was built, the breezeway between the kitchen and the house was enclosed.

INTERIOR: The first floor of the Owings House consists of a central hall, back hall, two parlors with sliding doors, a dining room, two bedrooms, a butler's pantry, bath, and kitchen area. The second floor has a central hall, back hall, five bedrooms, and two baths.

The main feature of the interior is the central hall on the first floor. Outstanding are the oak paneling, the stairway with a square paneled newel post topped by an urn, latticework, windowseat niche, and original light fixtures with etched globes.

There are twelve individual fireplaces in the house, many of which feature glazed tile and mirrored overmantels.

Oak, the dominant wood throughout the structure, is found in the paneling, wainscoting, cornices, and some ceilings. Floors are of heart pine. Original lighting fixtures and wooden louvered blinds also characterize the interior.

SURROUNDINGS: There are four outbuildings included within the nominated acreage. All are in fair condition and appear to be contemporary with the 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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input 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

BUILDER/ARCHITECT John Calvin Owings  
George F. Barber and Company

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Built ca. 1896, the John Calvin Owings House is one of the most outstanding examples of Victorian (Queen Anne) architecture remaining in the city of Laurens, South Carolina. Owings, the builder of the house, played a prominent role in the political and economic activities of the city. The house is still in the possession of the Owings family.

John Calvin Owings was born October 24, 1857. As a young man he moved to Laurens and eventually formed a partnership with Charles B. Bobo, establishing the mercantile firm of Owings & Bobo. Mr. Owings was a life deacon in the First Baptist Church as well as a trustee for the Laurens City School District. He was also a member and director of the Chamber of Commerce and served as Mayor of Laurens from 1916-1918.

Ca. 1895, Mr. Owings had George F. Barber & Co., architects from Knoxville, Tennessee design a house to be built on West Main Street in Laurens. (J. C. Owings, II, grandson of the original owner/builder, has in his possession the original set of drawings and plans for the structure). Upon the death of Mr. Owings in 1953, the house was passed to his son, G. Edwin Owings and has since been deeded to his son, John Calvin Owings, II.

ARCHITECTURE: The John Calvin Owings House is an outstanding example of Queen Anne architecture. Characteristic of this style and of the Owings House is the blending of exterior surface materials (clapboard & shingle siding), high multiple roofs, turrets, oriels, cresting, turned spindles, and rambling porches. Significant in the interior is the oak paneling, staircase, mantlepieces, and latticework.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Interview with John Calvin Owings II, Laurens, South Carolina, May, 1977.  
 Information supplied by James Brownlee, Clerk & Treasurer, City of Laurens, 1977.  
 Obituary. "Funeral Rites for J.C. Owings Held on Tuesday." Laurens Advertiser, April, 1953.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 5 acres  
 UTM REFERENCES

A	1,7	4,0,5,5,6,0	3,8,1,7,2,2,0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

That parcel containing five (5) acres being bounded on the north by West Main Street, on the east by the property of Bailey Williams, on the south by the property of Mary Owings, and on the west by the property of T. C. Owings.

### 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 (Mary Ann Eaddy/Steve Smith: Historic Preservation Div.)

<u>Ruth K. LaForge, Preservation Planner, Upper Savannah Council of Governments</u>	DATE
<u>South Carolina Department of Archives and History</u>	<u>August 18, 1977</u>
<u>P. O. Box 11,669 Capitol Station</u>	TELEPHONE
<u>Columbia</u>	<u>(803) 758-5816</u>
	STATE
	<u>South Carolina</u>

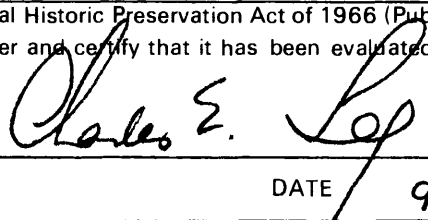
# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

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

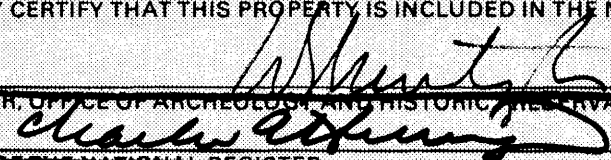


TITLE Charles E. Lee  
State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE 9/8/77

### FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
 ATTEST: 

DATE 2-23-78  
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER  
 DATE 2-23-78