

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**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

Ridgeway Multiple Resource Area

historic

Historic Resources of Ridgeway
(Partial Inventory: Historic and Architectural Properties)

and/or common

2. Location

street & number The city limits of Ridgeway, South Carolina not for publication

city, town Ridgeway vicinity of congressional district Fifth

state South Carolina code 045 county Fairfield code 039

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 type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: vacant

Multiple Resource

4. Owner of Property

name Multiple Ownership (see individual inventory forms)

street & number

city, town vicinity of state

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Fairfield County Courthouse

street & number Corner of Congress and Washington Streets

city, town Winnsboro state South Carolina 29180

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Inventory of Historic Places
title in South Carolina

has this property been determined eligible? yes ☒ no

date 1979 (update) 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		Check one	Check one	See Ridgeway Historic District, #26 and #33
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> moved	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date _____	

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The multiple resource nomination for the Historic Resources of Ridgeway consists of two individual properties and one historic district (thirty-three properties) of local historic and architectural significance which are located within the city limits of Ridgeway, South Carolina. Although the properties, which include commercial, public, residential, educational, and religious buildings, span a time period from 1860 to ca. 1925, approximately 70% of them were constructed between 1890 and 1915. Viewed as a unit, the multiple resource properties, together with one individual property in Ridgeway already listed on the National Register of Historic Places, reflect the historical and architectural development of the town.

The town of Ridgeway (population 437) is located in southeastern Fairfield County. The surrounding area is primarily agricultural. Ridgeway serves mainly as a supply center for the local farmers. The town's one industrial facility, the Charm Factory, was constructed in 1967 and manufactures ladies clothing. The town is situated on major north-south highway US 21, which runs from Columbia, South Carolina, to Charlotte, North Carolina.

Scots-Irish settlers began moving into the area of Ridgeway as early as the 1770s. In 1799 a church was built in Newlands, as Ridgeway was then called, and South Carolina lowcountry planters began moving into the area as early as the 1820s. However, Newlands remained sparsely settled until the construction of the Columbia and Charlotte Railroad, which was completed in 1850. Ridgeway, as the town which grew up around the railroad depot came to be called, grew slowly; in the 1850s there were only four houses in the area around the depot.

After a period of economic depression following the Civil War, Ridgeway began to develop as a commercial center serving area farmers. By 1880 there were ten stores located in the commercial block.

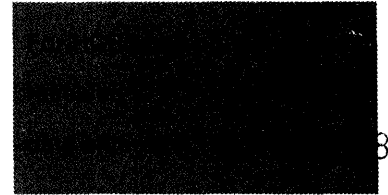
With an increase of prosperity among local farmers in the 1890-1910 period, brought about by a rise in cotton production with sustained high prices, Ridgeway entered a period of building activity that is reflected in the extant architecture of the town. A majority of the significant properties in the town were constructed during this period.

After 1910 a decrease in cotton production and prices produced a decline in prosperity in the area. In spite of the construction of a factory in 1967, the town has experienced relatively little growth since the first decades of the twentieth century. The buildings in the nomination for the Historic Resources of Ridgeway, most of which were constructed between 1890 and 1915, are representative of various periods of Victorian vernacular design. The Queen Anne, the Neoclassical, and the Georgian revival styles are represented in the town's more important buildings. The community developed in an east-west linear pattern paralleling the Southern Railway tracks, with the commercial district centered on Palmer Street, and the residential areas to the east and west along Palmer Street and Railroad Avenue. The commercial block is unified by a predominance of two story brick buildings with ornamental brickwork and cast iron. Most of the residential buildings are of frame and weatherboard construction, with a few brick buildings dating from the first years of the twentieth century. Uniform setbacks, aged trees, and extensive plantings contribute to the cohesiveness of the residential sections. The Ridgeway High School building and the associated Principal's House are

Continued

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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



80

Continuation sheet

Item number 7

Page 1

distinguished from the neighboring residential section by a greater setback and by the elevation of the site.

The town maintains integrity as of 1920, when its greatest prosperity was terminating. The scale of the town, the relationship of the commercial, educational, and residential districts, and the absence of major intrusive elements produce a distinct and unusually well preserved period setting.

Survey Methodology: The present nomination is the product of a comprehensive survey of Ridgeway's historical resources done by a team of graduate students of Applied History from the University of South Carolina, working in conjunction with staff members of the Central Midlands Regional Planning Council. The team's goal was to identify and evaluate properties of significant architectural, historical, or cultural value. A comprehensive field survey was conducted in October-November 1979 to locate, record and map properties of significant value. This field survey was supplemented by archival and library research, personal interviews with property owners and local historians, and research in county land and tax records. Resources examined included newspapers, census records, published genealogies, historic house data, agricultural records, biographical collections and published histories.

Criteria utilized in both the preliminary survey and in development of the National Register nomination included:

1. evidence of historical, and/or cultural associative values.
2. architectural merit.
3. architectural incidence in the community.
4. effect of alterations and impairment to original fabric.
5. effect of the building on neighborhood/community environment.

Data collection procedures included:

1. definition of the study area limits based on a preliminary survey conducted by the team leader.
2. identification of buildings by style, owner, date, and location on individual survey forms and tax maps.
3. recording of individual buildings and neighborhood streetscapes with photographs, including aerial photographs of the commercial block.
4. evaluation of buildings to determine classification as pivotal, contributing, or noncontributing.
5. mapping of properties to illustrate the distribution of pivotal, contributing and noncontributing categories.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archaeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archaeology-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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) local history

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Included in the multiple resource nomination for the Historic Resources of Ridgeway are two individual properties and one historic district (thirty-three properties) which are of historic and architectural significance to the town of Ridgeway. Dating from the time period between 1860 and 1930, these properties join one individual Ridgeway property already listed on the National Register of Historic Places to serve as a visual reminder of the town's history. Most of the properties were constructed between 1890 and 1915 and reflect the prosperity Ridgeway experienced during this period as a supply center for the surrounding agricultural area.

The earliest settlers in the Ridgeway area were Scots-Irish Presbyterians who began moving into the area by the late eighteenth century. Many came from other settlements in South Carolina and from North Carolina. South Carolina lowcountry planters of English and French Huguenot extraction began emigrating to the area as early as the 1820s. One of these planters, Edward Gendron Palmer, of Saint James Parish, Santee, moved into the area around 1824. In the first half of the nineteenth century settlement in the vicinity of Newlands, as Ridgeway was then called, was scattered. Cotton was the main crop and local planters experienced considerable difficulty in transporting their product to market. As a result, Palmer joined about 1845 with a group of Fairfield County planters and Charleston, South Carolina, businessmen in promoting a railroad from Charleston to Charlotte, North Carolina. The South Carolina legislature passed enabling legislation for construction of the Columbia and Charlotte Railroad in December 1846. The North Carolina legislature passed a similar act the following month. The route of the railroad, which was completed in 1850, followed the ridge of high land running from Columbia to Charlotte and passed through Newlands and Palmer's plantation. Ridgeway, as the town which grew up around the Columbia and Charlotte Railroad depot came to be called, grew slowly. In the 1850s only four houses stood within sight of the depot; the only one of these houses still standing is the Century House, which was listed on the National Register in 1971. The first general store in the area was built about 1860 by David H. Ruff, who came to Ridgeway from the Fairfield County community of Blythewood (called Dukoo at that time) about the time of the Civil War broke out. This frame, weatherboarded commercial building is still standing (Ruff's Old Store, Ridgeway Historic District, #7). About 1870 Ruff built the first Methodist Church in Ridgeway, Ruff's Chapel.

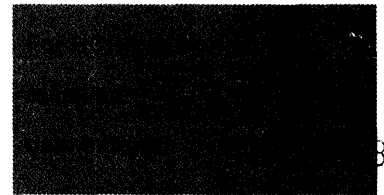
The Civil War did not materially affect Ridgeway until February 17 and 19, 1865, when General Pierre Beauregard established his headquarters in the Century House. The embattled Confederates were forced out of the town on 20 February. The next day the depot and many of the area houses were burned by General William T. Sherman's troops.

After a period of economic depression following the Civil War, Ridgeway began to develop as a commercial center serving area farmers. The town had a commercial block with ten stores by 1880. Besides Ruff's Old Store, only one of these survive, Thomas's Old Store (Ridgeway Historic District, #26), constructed ca. 1875.

Continued

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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



30

Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 2

Between 1890 and 1910, when a rise in cotton production was accompanied by sustained high prices (the value of the cotton crop in South Carolina rose 23% from 1900 to 1906), local farmers and Ridgeway as an agriculture supply center entered a period of prosperity. Substantial commercial buildings such as Ruff Furniture Store (Ridgeway Historic District, #11) and the Johnson Building (Ridgeway Historic District, #12) were constructed during this era of prosperity. Residences built during this period included the imposing Charles P. Wray House (Ridgeway Historic District, #2), built about 1910 by Charles Wray, a prosperous railroad and bank official; the Walter Ruff House (Ridgeway Historic District, #13), one of the largest houses in Ridgeway, which was built about 1904 by Daniel Walter Ruff, a prominent Ridgeway merchant; and the J. Spann Edmunds House (Ridgeway Historic District, #17), built ca. 1906 by J. Spann Edmunds, another local merchant. The two story brick Ridgeway Town Hall (Ridgeway Historic District, #10), was built ca. 1904.

After 1910 the decline of cotton prices, the boll weevil, and severe soil erosion brought a parallel decline in local prosperity and resulted in a developmental lag for the town. In the late 1930s the population of Ridgeway was 404; in 1970 it had grown to only 437. Cotton was replaced as the main agricultural commodity by beef cattle and plantation pines. The construction of the Charm Factory in 1967 has had little economic impact upon the town since most of the employees commute from other sections of Fairfield County. With the coming of Interstate Highway 77, presently under construction two miles west of the town, the cohesive nature of the district will be threatened by increasing population pressure and demands for growth and modernization.

Commerce: The prosperity which Ridgeway enjoyed between 1890 and 1915 was largely generated by the role of the town as a market for surrounding farmers. Most of the commercial buildings located in Ridgeway's commercial area were constructed during this period. Built of brick, they reflect the prosperity of the merchants. Several of the more imposing residences remaining in Ridgeway were also constructed by merchants.

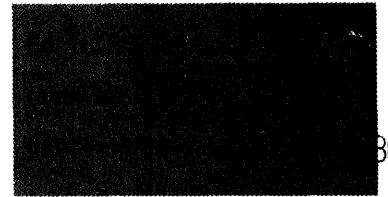
Architecture: Ridgeway's architecture is representative of the South Carolina vernacular building forms, with a marked introduction of Victorian eclecticism corresponding to the period of the community's greatest prosperity. The evolution of the town is reflected in an unusually intact collection of late nineteenth and early twentieth century buildings.

Ruff's Old Store and Thomas's Old Store are early frame commercial buildings, with a format and details showing the adaptation of the Greek Revival to a vernacular form. The Monroe Wilson House and the Isaac C. Thomas House (Ridgeway Historic District, #1) are vernacular residences enriched by carpenter's ornamentation, indicative of the prosperity associated with the late nineteenth century. The Reid H. Brown House (Ridgeway Historic District, #3) and the R. Charleton Thomas House, (Ridgeway Historic District, #4), while more restrained in their detailing, are also fine examples. The two Thomas Company store buildings (Ridgeway Historic District, #5, #6), the Johnson Building, the Ruff Furniture Store, and the Ridgeway Town Hall reflect the emergent commercial district of the early twentieth century. These are brick buildings, with cast-iron ornamentation; they superseded the earlier frame commercial buildings. The

Continued

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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



Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 3

Charles P. Wray House, a two story Neoclassical residence, was built for a prosperous railroad and bank official. The scale of the colossal portico and the quality of the terracotta and wooden ornamentation establish this as the most impressive building in Ridgeway. The introduction of the fashionable Neoclassic style into the town marked the peak of Ridgeway's economic and social growth.

Current Preservation Projects: There exists at present no legal mechanism for architectural conservation or protection in Ridgeway. However, there is a high level of interest in preservation among local residents, who were extremely helpful in assisting the survey team. Three preservation projects, one public and two private, are currently in progress:

1. The Town of Ridgeway with a Fiscal Year 1978 Historic Preservation Grant is currently restoring the Century House for use as a library, town meeting hall and community center. The Ridgeway Garden Club has been extremely active in support of this project.
2. A private owner is in the process of renovating the Charles P. Wray House, which is in a considerably deteriorated condition. He is currently concentrating on stabilizing the structure and providing weather protection, including painting.
3. A private owner moved the Rosborough House (Ridgeway Historic District, #33) from its original site near the Presbyterian Church to preserve it from demolition. The new site is on Railroad Avenue. The owner is in the process of carrying out extensive repairs and remodeling to render the house habitable.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet

UTM NOT VERIFIED

10. Geographical Data

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

Acreage of nominated property See Individual Inventory Forms

Quadrangle name Ridgeway, S.C.

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References See Individual Inventory Forms

A

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Zone Easting Northing

B

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Zone Easting Northing

C

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

D

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

E

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

F

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

G

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

H

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Verbal boundary description and justification

See Individual Inventory Forms

MRA - city limits of Ridgeway

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 Jack Meyer, Carol Reardon, Nancy Wall, Jane Britton

Mary Watson, John Wells
S.C. Department of Archives
and History

John Thomas, Nancy Matthews, Bert Fersner, Keith Sanders

organization Graduate Students, University of S.C.

date

street & number

telephone

city or town Columbia

state South Carolina

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Charles E. Lopez

title

SC SHPO

date

9/25/80

For HCRS use only

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

Keeper of the National Register

Attest

W. T. Dubois

Chief of Administration

date

11/20/80

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service
National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet

Item number 9

Page 4

Bolick, Julian Stevenson. A Fairfield County Sketchbook. Clinton, S.C., 1963.

Central Midlands Regional Planning Council. Central Midlands Historic Preservation Survey. Columbia, S.C., 1974.

Chadwell, Mary. Ridgeway. Columbia, S.C., 1979.

Clark, Thomas D. Pills, Petticoats and Plows: The Southern Country Store. Indianapolis, 1944.

Fairfield County Land and Tax Records, City of Winnsboro.

Federal Census Records, Fairfield County, South Carolina, 1850, 1860, 1880, 1880.

Handbook of South Carolina: Resources, Institutions and Industries of the State. Columbia, S.C., 1907.

Lander, Ernest McPherson, Jr. A History of South Carolina, 1865-1960. 2nd edition. Columbia, S.C., 1970.

McMaster, Fitz Hugh. History of Fairfield County South Carolina from "Before the White Man Came" to 1942. Columbia, S.C., 1946.

Mills, Robert. Statistics of South Carolina Including a View of its Natural, Civil and Military History, General and Particular. Charleston, S.C., 1826.

Moore, Mrs. A. T. Manuscript history of Ruff's Chapel. August 29, 1937.

National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form. Century House. St. Stephen's Episcopal Church and Cemetery.

Reynolds, Emily, and Faunt, Joan Reynolds. A Biographical Directory of the South Carolina Senate 1776-1964. Columbia, S.C., 1964.

South Carolina: Resources and Population, Institutions and Industries. Charleston, S.C., 1883; reprint edition, Spartanburg, S.C., 1972.

Whitaker, Urban, and Davis, Bruce E. The World and Ridgeway, South Carolina. Columbia, S.C., 1967.

Winnsboro, S.C. News and Herald. March 1877 - May 1970.

Works Progress Administration. South Carolina Writer's Project. American Guide Series. South Carolina, A Guide to the Palmetto State. New York, 1941.

Personal interviews held October - November 1979 with the following Ridgeway citizens: George von Elbrecht, Charles Moore, Nancy Ruff, Walter Ruff, Margarite Scott, Laura Thomas, and Robert W. Thomas.