

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places JUN 05 1989  
Multiple Property Documentation Form

NATIONAL  
REGISTER

This form is for use in documenting multiple property groups relating to one or several historic contexts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900-a). Type all entries.

A. Name of Multiple Property Listing

Historic Resources of Union, S.C., c. 1823 - c. 1940

B. Associated Historic Contexts

The Growth and Development of Union, c. 1823 - c. 1940

The Commercial and Industrial Development of Union, c. 1878 - c. 1930

The Residential Development of Union, c. 1890 - c. 1925

C. Geographical Data

City Limits of Union, S.C.

☐ See continuation sheet

D. Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this documentation form meets the National Register documentation standards and sets forth requirements for the listing of related properties consistent with the National Register criteria. This submission meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60 and the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Planning and Evaluation.

Mary W. Edmonds

Signature of certifying official

Mary W. Edmonds, Deputy SHPO, S.C. Department of Archives and History

State or Federal agency and bureau

5/10/89

Date

I, hereby, certify that this multiple property documentation form has been approved by the National Register as a basis for evaluating related properties for listing in the National Register.

Amy Schlager

Signature of the Keeper of the National Register

7/17/89

Date

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## E. Statement of Historic Contexts

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Discuss each historic context listed in Section B.

The multiple property submission for the Historic Resources of Union, c. 1823 - c. 1940, includes two historic districts, an extension of an existing historic district, and two individual properties within the city limits of Union. These resources, dating from c. 1823 to c. 1940 and illustrating the historic and architectural development of Union from the early nineteenth century into the twentieth century, serve as visible reminders of the city's history. Located in a predominantly agricultural area of the South Carolina upcountry, Union developed as the governmental, commercial, industrial, and social center of Union County.

### Additional Information

The earliest white inhabitants of present-day Union County were Scots-Irish Presbyterians from Pennsylvania who settled near Fairforest Creek in the early 1750s.(1) The area was included in the Ninety-Six District when seven judicial districts were established in 1769. Union County (named for a "Union Church" shared by several area denominations) was created in this district on 12 March 1785. Union County was part of Ninety-Six District and later Pinckney District until 1800, when judicial districts were abolished and the county became Union District. In 1868 districts were replaced by counties as the major political subdivision in South Carolina, and the district became Union County once more.(2)

Union, the county seat, was surveyed prior to 1787 and was originally named Union Court House; it was subsequently named Unionville, a name which persisted into the late nineteenth century. A 1787 plat shows a courthouse and jail, and street names include Mountain, Grog, Judgment, Virgin, Batchler, Farr, and Union Streets, of which only the name Mountain survives today. When the county became Union District in 1800 Unionville became its seat.(3)

By 1826 Unionville boasted a population of two hundred, with about twenty houses, and Robert Mills noted in his Statistics of South Carolina that the town had a "handsome courthouse and jail, upon the most improved plan, having been lately erected here" and a "respectable academy and a Presbyterian Church." The fourth county courthouse and the jail were built under his supervision in 1825 and 1823, respectively; the jail was individually listed in the National Register in 1974.(4) Unionville was incorporated in December 1837 with town limits extending one-half mile in each direction from the courthouse. The town had a mayor and four wardens, with provisions for "patrol duty" and road maintenance. (5)

Unionville served as a crossroads near the Broad and Tyger Rivers on the roads from Spartanburg to Chester. Many local farmers and planters shipped wagonloads of cotton, the most commonly-grown crop in the area, through the town. The growth of up-country cotton from 1800 to 1860, and the resulting growth of slavery, changed both the economy and society of Unionville and Union District. The district's population grew rapidly, to almost 20,000 by 1850 (of which over half were slaves), while the town's population grew more slowly, to an antebellum high of 554 in the same year. Other products, in addition to cotton, included corn, grains, and livestock.(6)

The town developed gradually in the thirty years immediately before the Civil War and was well established by 1850. The Union Times was

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first published that year, followed by the creation of a post office in 1851. The Southern Business Directory for 1854 listed fifteen businesses in Unionville, which included a hotel, several doctors' and lawyers' offices, and such businesses as saddle, jewelry, shoe and boot, and carriage shops. The Spartanburg and Union Railroad was chartered in the early 1850s, with local merchant John L. Young as president; its completion in 1859 joined Charleston and Spartanburg by rail and provided Unionville with its first railroad.(7)

There was little or no direct impact on the town as a result of the Civil War until its final days, when the remnants of both the South Carolina and Confederate governments came to Unionville. In February 1865, a few days after Columbia and Charleston fell to advancing Federal armies, Governor Andrew G. Magrath moved the state government to the town. He established his headquarters in the Thomas N. Dawkins House, which was individually listed in the National Register in 1973.(8) President Jefferson Davis, accompanied by several members of the Confederate cabinet and a small military escort, left Richmond after it fell in early April and made his way south through Virginia and North Carolina. The refugee "government" reached Unionville by the end of the month and had a meal at the William H. Wallace House. Wallace, who served throughout the war in Virginia, rose to the rank of general and surrendered at Appomattox. The house is a key property in the East Main Street Historic District, part of this multiple property submission.(9)

The most significant result of the war, in Union as everywhere else throughout the South, was emancipation and its resulting disruption. The long process of rebuilding would be made more difficult by two major developments - the end of the cotton-based plantation system and the influx of thousands of newly-freed blacks into an economy and a society which had little room for competition. Many of the larger plantations and farms were gone, and many blacks bought or rented land from their former masters. Some of the plantations were operated as units, with blacks working for wages, which could mean a share of the crop, or services, or cash, or some combination of the three. Most of the plantations switched to cash payments as soon as possible after 1865. Though the cotton plantation system was gone, cotton was still the preferred crop, particularly in the South Carolina upcountry. In many instances farmers began to specialize and excluded those subsistence crops such as corn which had been common before 1860; they based their success or failure solely on cotton. In addition, small farmers in the postwar era increased cotton production; South Carolina produced 45 percent more in 1880 than it had in 1860. Union farmers, like many others in the South Carolina upcountry, grew more cotton, of better quality, and commanding better

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prices than the lowcountry produced after the Civil War, just as they had before it.(10)

Union District (which became Union County in 1868) was one of the more conspicuous areas in South Carolina during Reconstruction. Rhetoric, intimidation and physical violence on the part of those claiming to speak for the people's interests, whether Democrats or Republicans, ex-Confederates or ex-slaves, the Ku Klux Klan or the Freedmen's Bureau, were common. Perhaps the most notable incident was a Klan "raid" in February 1871, in which ten blacks accused of various crimes were taken from the Union jail by some six hundred Klansmen; two escaped, but the other eight were killed.(11)

In June 1877 a devastating fire, the worst in Union history, destroyed twenty-four buildings on both sides of Main Street, including the railroad station. The great extent of the damage was due both to Union's lack of a fire department and to the scarcity of brick buildings there. Most commercial buildings constructed during the economic boom of the 1870s were wooden and generally roofed with cedar shingles. The fire helped to spur brick construction in the town; by October 1877 the Weekly Union Times reported that ten large brick buildings and three small ones were in various stages of construction. A new brick railroad depot, for example, was built soon after the fire, and served for several years as both a passenger and freight depot. It is a key property in the Union Downtown Historic District, included in this multiple property submission.(12)

Union grew slowly in both size and population until the last decade of the nineteenth century. The 1880-81 South Carolina State Gazetteer and Business Directory described it as a "prosperous town of 1,000 inhabitants" with five churches, a bank, telegraph office, several grist and saw mills, and male and female academies. The directory also noted that Union "ships annually some 8,000 bales of cotton annually," a reference to the major crop of the county. In 1889 the Union Cotton Oil Mill Company was established to gin cotton and produce oil from the seeds, and also to sell feed and fertilizer. It is a key property in the Union Downtown Historic District, included in this multiple property submission.(13)

The dramatic growth of the South Carolina textile industry after Reconstruction, particularly in the piedmont (including Union and nineteen other counties) corresponded almost exactly with the decline of agriculture's preeminent place in the state economy. David L. Carlton, in his study Mill and Town in South Carolina 1880-1920, notes, "between the beginning of the cotton manufacturing boom in the 1880s and the approximate end of the Progressive era in 1920 the Palmetto State became the third largest textile producing state in the Union." Rural residents migrated to mill villages, which were

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self-contained communities providing not only housing but stores, schools, and churches. Some towns, such as Newry, Buffalo, and Vaucluse, were originally mill villages; others, such as Greenville, Spartanburg, and Union, grew significantly in size, population, and wealth as a direct result of textile mills.(14)

The impact of the industry on Union after 1890, utilizing cotton from local farms and creating jobs in the local mills, was enormous. Thomas Carey Duncan, the area's most prominent entrepreneur and textile industrialist, founded Union Cotton Mill in 1893. The mill boasted a clock tower, over 12,000 spindles and over three hundred looms, and electric light; it shipped its first finished cloth in May 1894. Duncan planned a second mill (named Union Cotton Mill Number Two) as early as 1894; it was completed by 1896 and boasted over 73,000 spindles, and claimed to be the largest cotton mill in the South. By 1902 Union had six cotton manufacturing plants, which consumed about 60,000 bales of cotton a year.(15)

Union's population grew dramatically during the first decade of the textile industry there, from 1,609 in 1890 to 5,400 in 1900. Only Greenwood, among South Carolina towns, had a faster growth rate in the 1890s. The commercial district grew as well. In 1894 the town boasted "thirty-six brick stores, two banks, an opera house, a three-story brick hotel (the Union Hotel), a printing office . . . three livery stables, two beef markets, and a buggy and wagon factory" in addition to the cotton mill and the cotton oil mill.(16)

There were many public improvements made in Union in the early twentieth century. Major improvements included a new city hall, built in 1901, and the Union Carnegie Free Library, the first of fifteen Carnegie libraries in the state, built in 1905. The library is a key property in the South Street Historic District, listed in the National Register in 1983. Union was rechartered in 1907 and by 1911 it was known as the "City of Spindles", one of the growing cities at the center of the textile industry in the South Carolina piedmont. The town had come a long way from 1893, when it was viewed as "a little hamlet, as sweetly bound in slumber and quiet as the weariest world-sick, worn out individual could wish." A new brick post office was completed in 1912; it is a key property in the Union Downtown Historic District, included in this multiple property submission. A new courthouse was completed in 1913; it is also a key property in the Union Downtown Historic District. It replaced the 1825 courthouse designed by Robert Mills, which was demolished.(17)

The town continued to grow steadily into the 1920s. The 1920-21 city directory listed five large cotton and knitting mills, two hosiery mills, a cotton oil mill, a ginners, an ice factory, five banks, two newspapers, thirteen churches, a city government, an active Chamber of

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Commerce, and two railroad lines. The five-story Hotel Fairforest was built from 1924 to 1926; it was individually listed in the National Register in 1984. By 1927 Union had a population of 6,141, and with the suburbs included its population was almost 11,000.(18)

Significant trends in the textile industry throughout the 1920s had a great impact on Union economy and society. The county ranked fourth in South Carolina textile production in 1920, with over 300,000 spindles. Union Cotton Mill and Union Cotton Mill Number Two combined for nearly 90,000 spindles. Cotton prices, however, had dropped drastically in 1919, and the introduction of the boll weevil further crippled production in the county, which fell over 20 percent from 1919 to 1924. This drop in cotton production, along with an economic recession and trends toward labor reform in the mills and mill villages, changed the face of the textile industry in Union, and indeed across the state. By the end of the decade mill workers were striking for better working and living conditions; regional strikes in the spring of 1929 included the Union mills and others in the county. The mills later went on a three-weeks-a-month work schedule as a result of the recession, and labor problems continued to plague them well into the 1930s.(19)

The lean years of the 1930s ended a nearly forty-year period of physical and economic growth in Union. After the failure of five banks during the first years of the Depression, local merchant Harry M. Arthur opened the Arthur Depository, later known as the Arthur State Bank, in early 1933. It is a key property in the Union Downtown Historic District, included in this multiple property submission. The New Deal provided some jobs during this period through public works projects administered through the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), the Public Works Administration (PWA), and the Works Progress Administration (WPA). One of these projects included the 1938 high school next to the Main Street Grammar School/Union High School, which is a property in the East Main Street/Douglass Heights Historic District, included in this multiple property submission.(20)

Union was described in 1941, at the end of this period, in the Works Progress Administration's South Carolina: A Guide To the Palmetto State:

Union . . . is pervaded by a sort of lazy atmosphere that belies the bustling activity of its factories and mills. The plain-faced shops on both sides of the narrow main street draw farmers and mill villagers for trade. The ponderous brick courthouse . . . in addition to its legal functions, serves as a gathering place for farmers and mill workers when they come to town. Most of the

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streets . . . are paved. Mountain Street and North Church Street, the latter winding crookedly across town, are said to be former Indian trails. Gadberry Street . . . is still known as Poverty Flat; here the rowdiness of pre-dispensary saloons and questionable hotels made it nothing short of scandalous for 'ladies' of the community to be seen on the sidewalks. Pinckney Street . . . is called Wall Street, because of the little row of Negro shops. East of the railroad tracks, Main Street extends into a well-kept residential section, where the privacy of substantial houses and green-backed gardens is intensified by the shadows of oaks and magnolias. (21)

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NOTES

(1) Allan D. Charles, The Narrative History of Union County, South Carolina (Spartanburg: The Reprint Company, Publishers, 1987), pp. 8-9; Union's Tricentennial Tour of Homes (Union: n.p., 1970), p. 1; South Carolina Department of Agriculture, Commerce, and Industries, and Clemson College, South Carolina: A Handbook (Columbia: n.p., 1927), p. 343; William Rice Feaster, A History of Union County, South Carolina (Union: Union County Historical Foundation, 1977), pp. 1-2.

(2) Charles, pp. 7, 51-52, 63-64, 321.

(3) Charles, pp. 54, 57, 103, 113-14.

(4) Robert Mills, Statistics of South Carolina (Charleston: Hurlbut and Lloyd, 1826), p. 757; Charles, pp. 113-115.

(5) Towns of South Carolina: Incorporated Dates, Population, Utilities, Communications, County Political Representation, Pamphlet 8 of the Research, Planning and Development Board (Columbia: Research, Planning and Development Board, 1947), p. 59; Charles, pp. 112-13.

(6) Charles, pp. 74-77; Statistical View of the United States . . . Being a Compendium of the Seventh Census (1850) (Washington: A.O.P. Nicholson, Public Printer, 1854), p. 306.

(7) Charles, pp. 83, 146-149; Union's Tricentennial Tour of Homes, p. 2; The Southern Business Directory and General Commercial Advertiser (Charleston: Walker and James, 1854), p. 320; Fannie Lee Sparks, "Union's First Railroad," in Mannie Lee Mabry, Editor, Union County Heritage (Winston-Salem: Hunter Publishing Company for the Union County Heritage Committee, 1981), p. 428.

(8) Charles, p. 200; Governor Andrew G. Magrath Letterbook, 1864-65, Governor's Papers, South Carolina Department of Archives and History, Columbia, S.C.

(9) Charles, pp. 203-205; James W. Patton, The Proceedings of the South Carolina Historical Association, 1941 (Columbia: The South Carolina Historical Association, 1941), p. 14; Ezra J. Warner, Generals in Gray: Lives of the Confederate Commanders (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1959), p. 325.



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(10) Charles, pp. 211-213.

(11) Charles, pp. 215-228.

(12) Charles, pp. 158, 263-267.

(13) The South Carolina State Gazetteer and Business Directory For 1880-81 (Charleston: Southern Directory and Publishing Company, 1881), pp. 468-470; Charles, p. 299; Allan D. Charles, "Union County Industrializes," in Mannie Lee Mabry, Editor, Union County Heritage (Winston-Salem: Hunter Publishing Company for the Union County Heritage Committee, 1981), p. 400.

(14) Charles, pp. 297-308; David L. Carlton, Mill and Town in South Carolina 1880-1920 (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1982), p. 7 and passim.

(15) Charles, ibid.; The South Carolina State Gazetteer and Business Directory for 1890-91 (Charleston: Southern Directory and Publishing Company, 1890), pp. 389-391; Union Times, 18 January 1901; Allan D. Charles, "Industrialization and Labor in the Upcountry: A Case Study," Continuity: A Journal of History 9 (Fall 1984), 140, 142-43; "Union, South Carolina," The Exposition: Official Organ of the South Carolina Inter-State and West Indian Exposition 2:5 (April-May 1902), 622, 624.

(16) Abstract of the Twelfth Census of the United States, 1900 Third Edition (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1904), p. 147; Charles, p. 300.

(17) George S. Bobinski, Carnegie Libraries (Chicago: American Library Association, 1969), pp. 44, 134, 239; "Carnegie Will Give Union \$10,000 For a Library Building," Union Progress, 28 January 1903; Mrs. J.W. Nixon, "Early History of Union County," Weekly Union Times, n.d. clipping in South Carolina Inventory of Historic Places, Survey files, South Carolina State Historic Preservation Office, South Carolina Department of Archives and History, Columbia, S.C.; "Union, South Carolina," The Exposition 2:5 (April-May 1902), 617; Charles, pp. 339, Albert N. Sanders, "Union's Courthouses," Historical Newsletter (Union: Published by the Union County Historical Foundation) VIII:1 (April 1983), p. 6.

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(18) Charles, p. 387; Union, South Carolina City Directory, Volume II: 1920-1921, p. 1; R.M. Hope, et al., Union County: Economic and Social (Columbia: University of South Carolina, 1923), p. 30; National Register files, South Carolina State Historic Preservation Office.

(19) Carlton, passim.; Charles, pp. 390, 396-97, 404-07.

(20) Charles, pp. 408-09, 412; South Carolina: A Handbook, p. 343.

(21) Works Progress Administration, South Carolina: A Guide To the Palmetto State (New York: Oxford Press, 1941), pp. 400-01.

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Historic Resources of Union, S.C., c. 1823 - c. 1940

Union Downtown Historic District  
East Main Street/Douglass Heights Historic District  
South Street/South Church Street Historic District  
South Street Historic District (Boundary Increase)  
Union High School/Main Street Grammar School  
Corinth Baptist Church

Properties Within the City Limits of Union, S.C. Already Listed  
in the National Register and Contributing In Whole or In Part  
to the Historic Resources of Union, S.C., c. 1823 - c. 1940  
Multiple Property Submission:

|                                      |                 |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Herndon Terrace                      | 25 August 1970  |
| Judge Thomas N. Dawkins House        | 23 April 1973   |
| Merridun                             | 20 June 1974    |
| The Episcopal Church of the Nativity | 30 August 1974  |
| Union County Jail                    | 30 August 1974  |
| Gov. Thomas B. Jeter House           | 2 December 1974 |
| Culp House                           | 9 April 1975    |
| Meng House                           | 12 July 1976    |
| Central Graded School                | 30 March 1978   |
| South Street Historic District       | 19 May 1983     |
| Fairforest Hotel                     | 1 November 1984 |

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Additional Information

Historic Resources of Union, S.C., c. 1823 - c. 1940

While properties such as the Union High School/Main Street Grammar School (1909) and Corinth Baptist Church (1894) are significant as examples of Union's growth and development in the period c. 1890 - c. 1930, the impact of the general decline and occasional growth for the period c. 1930 - c. 1940 has yet to be evaluated. For this reason, the individual properties in this multiple property submission have periods of significance which end c. 1930, signifying the end of a clearly defined period of growth and development in Union.

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**F. Associated Property Types**

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I. Name of Property Type \_\_\_\_\_

II. Description

See continuation sheet

III. Significance

IV. Registration Requirements

☒ See continuation sheet

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☒ See continuation sheet for additional property types

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## G. Summary of Identification and Evaluation Methods

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Discuss the methods used in developing the multiple property listing.

See continuation sheet

☒ See continuation sheet

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## H. Major Bibliographical References

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See continuation sheets

☒ See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional documentation:

- ☒ State historic preservation office  
☐ Other State agency  
☐ Federal agency

- ☐ Local government  
☐ University  
☐ Other

Specify repository: S.C. Department of Archives and History, Columbia, SC

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## I. Form Prepared By

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Section F. Associated Property Types

I. Name of Property Type: Residences

II. Description

The predominant construction material of the residences included in this multiple property submission is frame with weatherboard sheathing, there are, however, several masonry or shingled examples. The scale of the housing ranges from very modest bungalows to large and impressive estates. There is a roughly even mix between one and two story housing stock; a number of instances of one and one-half story buildings are also present. Roofs are generally either gable or hip and are covered with composition shingle, which in some instances is a replacement material. There are still examples of metal roofs extant though. Foundations are usually brick although some are of the pier form rather than continuous. As with many residential districts there are a variety of architectural stylistic influences evident. Property types, therefore, have been defined on the basis of commonality of form or stylistic characteristics, based on those provided by Virginia and Lee McAlester in A Field Guide to American Houses.

Subtypes:

A. Gabled-front and Wing

This type is considered to be a descendant of Greek revival styled houses. A side-gabled wing is added to the gable-front plan to give a compound, gable-front and wing shape. The vernacular version of this type became most popular after the proliferation of the railroad when sawmill lumber became abundant and balloon framing techniques had been introduced. The most typical variations are the one or two story hall-and-parlor version with an added gable-front wing. This provided for a more flexible floor plan. Stylistic decoration typically follows contemporary or local fashion and examples of styles popular from the mid-nineteenth through the early twentieth century are usual. Examples of this type included in this Multiple Property Submission are of the two-story version of the form (504 East Main Street, 410 Perrin Avenue, and an Italianate influenced example at 508 East Main Street).

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## B. Central Passage Double-pile

This house type presents its wide facade to the street and is descended from Georgian central-hall plans and frequently rests on a raised base. Symmetry of fenestration is usual and typically there are four rooms to a floor separated by a central passage. Several of this residence plan are contained in this Multiple Property Submission (Example: 430 East Main Street).

## C. Victorian Era Houses (c. 1860 - c. 1900)

American architecture in the last half of the nineteenth century, the Victorian era, reflected a series of stylistic influences, such as Second Empire, Stick, Queen Anne, and Eastlake. Although these styles emanated from Europe they quickly took root here and indigenous progeny developed. These stylistic influences were spurred on by the expansion of the railroads and rapid industrialization that made mass produced building components possible (such as doors, windows, roofing, siding and decorative elements). The introduction of balloon framing techniques also helped to make these influences predominant in the latter half of the nineteenth century. Great freedom in choice of materials and the way in which they could be assembled allowed the development of complex forms previously so expensive as to be rarely employed in common buildings. While many of the styles of this period were loosely based on Medieval antecedents and were characterized by the use of multi-textured multi-colored walls, strongly asymmetrical facades and plans, and steeply-pitched, complex roof forms, there was little concern with precise historical detailing. Indeed, free adaptation and combination of details from both Medieval and classical precedents were typical. This mixture of stylistic metaphor tends to obscure transitions between closely related evolutions of the styles of this period; this is particularly true with vernacular interpretations. Transitional, or hybrid, forms contribute to the great variety of architectural diversity in this period. The principal styles associated with the Victorian period are the Second Empire, Stick, Queen Anne, Eastlake, Shingle, Richardsonian Romanesque and various vernacular interpretations. Although there are no truly pure examples of the formal styles of the period reflected by the properties included in this multiple property submission the influence of certain of the formal styles is evident. One property, for instance, (111 Douglass Heights) exhibits characteristics of Second Empire, Stick, and



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transitional neoclassical influences. The influence of the Queen Anne style is the most prevalent stylistic influence evidenced by properties included in the submission (423 East Main Street). A common variation of the Queen Anne is the form referred to by the McAlesters as "free-classic with lower cross gables" in both one (434 East Main Street) and two-story (417 East Main Street) versions. There are a number of examples that reflect the transition between late Queen Anne and the neoclassical style which became popular at the turn of the century (706 East Main Street).

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## D. Eclectic Houses (c. 1880 - c. 1940)

The Eclectic movement evolved in the late-nineteenth century as architects whose principal training came from the European schools of design built houses for wealthy clients. Initially, most of these were in the Italian Renaissance, Chateausque, Beaux Arts, Tudor or Colonial revival styles. This movement gained impetus following the Colombian Exposition in Chicago in 1893 where correct historical interpretation of European styles was the major emphasis of the designs for the pavilions and the neoclassical phase was popularized. This early emphasis on period styles was eclipsed when the Craftsman and Prairie styles, also considered eclectic, swept the country in the early decades of the twentieth century as the dominant housing form. Technological innovations after World War I that perfected inexpensive techniques for veneering stone and brick to traditional balloon-frame buildings facilitated renewed interest in period housing. This resulted in period fashions that drew upon the full spectrum of European and American Colonial antecedents.

Examples from this genre of American architecture included in this multiple property submission feature a variety of styles. The Dutch Colonial revival style with its characteristic gambrel roof was used on a number of properties that were either built (605 East Main Street and 701 East Main Street--which was also used in the McAlesters to illustrate the type) or substantially remodeled (418 East Main Street) during this period. The neoclassical style is also one of the more popular stylistic influences present in residences included in this submission (441 Perrin Avenue, 522 East Main Street, and 523 East Main Street are all two-story versions, 107 Douglass Heights is a one-story example). There is an isolated example of Italian Renaissance influenced style house also present (713 East Main Street). Later eclectic styles are prevalent as well. The Prairie influence is evident in its four-square form (121 Douglass Heights) as are numerous craftsman bungalows (105 Douglass Heights, 110 Douglass Heights, 118 Douglass Heights, and 420 Perrin Avenue). The last building phase significantly represented is the Tudor revival (601 East Main Street).

## III. Significance

These properties are significant for their association with the residential development of Union from the mid-nineteenth through the early twentieth century and as a reflection of the diverse

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architectural styles and influences in residential architecture during that period. Also many of these homes were associated with leading community and business leaders of Union during this period. These resources should be listed under the ARCHITECTURE area of significance.

## IV. Registration Requirements

To qualify for listing residences included in this multiple property submission should retain integrity of materials, design, craftsmanship, feeling and association to the period of significance of the nomination. Acceptable alterations include minor alterations to windows or doors, replacement roofing materials, and minor additions and alterations.

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I. Name of Property Type: Commercial Buildings

II. Description

Masonry construction (brick) dominates the commercial buildings which are included in this multiple property submission; all of these commercial properties are located in the Union Downtown Historic District. The majority of these are of one or two stories with typical show window fronts at street level. Many retain their original recessed entrances. A number also have transoms present above the glassed store fronts. Most of these buildings are rectangular in shape and roofs typically are mono-pitched or flat with a tarred surface covering. Foundations are of brick. Typical of many townscapes, many of these buildings are connected in row form; some of these share common walls with multiple store fronts and house several businesses. The most frequent change is modernization of street level store fronts and the addition of modern signage. Additions to the rear of commercial buildings is also common.

The forms of the commercial buildings contributory to the Union Downtown Historic District generally conform to five of the compositional types identified by Richard Longstreth in The Buildings of Main Street: A Guide to American Commercial Architecture. These types are the one-part commercial block, two-part commercial block, enframed window wall, two-part vertical block, and those types which are combinations of these forms.

Subtypes:

A. One-Part Commercial Block

One-part commercial blocks are single story buildings, usually a simple box form with a decorated facade. Apparently this form developed during the mid-nineteenth century and rapidly proliferated to become a common feature in towns and cities. This form exists both as a single, freestanding entity and in grouped units. Although typically small in scale, some examples are quite large and imposing. Decorative and stylistic elements are subject to popular taste and the dominance of contemporary fashion. Notable examples of this type in the Union Downtown Historic District are 203 East Main Street, 215 North Gadberry Street, and 200 South Gadberry Street.

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## B. Two-Part Commercial Block

The two-part commercial block is a common type of composition found with small and moderate sized commercial buildings. Usually this form is limited to between two and four stories that are distinctly separated into two zones by a horizontal division. While they may or may not be stylistically similar these zones are clearly separate. The two-part division reflects differences in functional use. Most often the single-story lower zone is dedicated to public activities such as retail, banking, or service offices. On the other hand, the upper zone typically accommodates more private spaces such as offices, hotel rooms, or meeting halls. This compositional type has been employed to host a myriad of functional usages and, along with its one-part counterpart, dominates the core of small cities and towns. This form emerged as one of the most popular commercial types in the mid-nineteenth century and its popularity continued through the mid-twentieth century. The most frequent alteration to this type is at the street level zone and includes alteration to store windows and entrances. Notable examples in the Union Downtown Historic District are 208 East Main Street and 206 North Gadberry Street, which are both key properties, and 122/122 1/2 West Main Street.

## C. Enframed Window Wall

The enframed window wall developed as a way to achieve a greater degree of order over the composition of the facades of small and moderate-sized commercial buildings. The enframing of the center section through the use of a wide, frequently continuous, border succeeds in visually unifying the facade as a single compositional arrangement. These surrounds may be found on buildings ranging from a single story to multi-story high rises. This form first began appearing at the turn of the twentieth century and continued in popularity through the 1940s. It was used on buildings serving a variety of purposes from retail shops to office buildings and theaters. The Union Downtown Historic District contains several examples of the form in both one and two-story versions. One of these, 104-106 West Main Street, is a key property in the district. Other examples are 315 East Main Street and 222-224 East Main Street.

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D. Two-Part Vertical Block

This commercial form began to appear in the late-nineteenth century and reflects the efforts of the academic movement to achieve a sense of unity in the exterior composition of tall commercial buildings. The effect was achieved by dividing the facade into two distinct, though related, zones. The base, or lower zone, is typically one to two stories in height. The shaft, or upper zone, is the dominant compositional element. A minimum height of four stories is necessary to effect the degree of verticality required for a building to be considered for this compositional type. Most frequently this type is employed for such uses as hotels, department stores and office buildings. The Hotel Fairforest is the sole example of this type in the Union Downtown Historic District.

E. Combinations and Exceptions

As with any system that relies on grouping properties by some common element there will be those that do not easily fit into a single category, or may defy categorization all together. These have been classified as combinations and exceptions. The Union Downtown Historic District has one such property. The People's State Bank/Arthur State Bank is a combination of the two-part commercial block form and of the arcaded block. An arcaded block is characterized by a series of tall, usually evenly spaced, round-arched openings extending across a wide facade. This form is frequently associated with banks and large retail stores.

III. Significance

The commercial buildings of Union's Downtown Historic District are significant as the focus of commercial and economic activity and as a collection of buildings associated with the growth and development of the town. Architecturally it is significant as a typical example of a small South Carolina piedmont town and the impact of the textile industry on the commercial development on them. These resources should be listed under the ARCHITECTURE and COMMERCE areas of significance.

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### IV. Registration Requirements

To qualify for listing these properties must be relatively intact examples of one of the identified subtypes. Although some changes may have occurred over time, the property should be considered contributing if they are recognizable to the period of significance of the district, retain their original plan with only minor modification, possess the original materials or those in common use during the period and convey their historical integrity. Acceptable alterations include moderately altered storefronts, modern signage, and marquees or awnings and additions to non-primary elevations.

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I. Name of Property Type: Buildings Associated With Education

II. Description

All of the properties included in this category in this multiple property submission are of masonry construction and date from the twentieth century. Two of the three properties (both schools) are of brick construction and feature decorative brickwork and quoins, classical decorative and compositional elements, are elevated on bases and reflect the stylistic influences of the twentieth century academic movement. The other building is a stuccoed masonry residence converted to an administration building.

III. Significance

The properties related to education represent the early twentieth century trend in public education in small towns in South Carolina to provide centralized educational facilities for the entire town, and often much of the surrounding area. This accounts for the large scale of the buildings in relatively small communities. Furthermore, these buildings reflect the continuing growth and development of Union during this time period. Resources of this type should be listed under the ARCHITECTURE and EDUCATION areas of significance.

IV. Registration Requirements

Properties to be listed should retain the integrity of their original materials and design and should convey their historic character and function. Typical alterations include changes to windows and secondary additions.



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I. Name of Property Type: Public Buildings

II. Description

There are certain governmental and public buildings associated with towns and cities that are seats of county government. Union is no exception. Two public buildings, a courthouse and a post office, contribute to this multiple property submission as key properties in the Union Downtown Historic District. Typically, these are two of the more imposing and substantial buildings in the downtown. Both are of brick masonry construction and feature classical design elements. Decoration is in the neoclassical style and is executed in masonry. The Union County Courthouse dates from 1911 and the Union Post Office from 1912.

III. Significance

These properties are significant because they reflect the rapid growth and development of Union, a textile center, at the turn of the century. Architecturally they are significant as good examples of early twentieth century public architecture. These resources should be listed under the ARCHITECTURE and POLITICS/GOVERNMENT areas of significance.

IV. Registration Requirements

To be considered contributory, public buildings should retain the integrity of their original design and construction materials and convey their historic character from their period of significance. Alterations may include some changes to windows or doors and secondary additions in keeping with the original character of the property.

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I. Name of Property Type: Buildings Associated with Transportation

II. Description

Buildings associated with transportation included in this multiple property submission are restricted to two properties related to railroads - both are depots. Typically, the most recognizable building connected with railroads is the depot. Usually of frame or masonry construction, they occupy a place of prominence in smaller towns and cities. This is the case in Union where both are located just off of Main Street. By the end of the nineteenth century many railroads had adopted designs peculiar to their companies. Southern Railway, owner of both of these depots, continued this practice. These depots, like many of their others, are of masonry construction, and feature long profiles with wide, overhanging bracketed eaves, hipped roofs and facilities for handling both passengers and baggage.

III. Significance

These properties are significant as testimony to the increasing importance of rail transportation to the textile industry both in delivering raw materials and shipping manufactured goods. These properties reflect the commercial and industrial growth and development of Union at the end of the nineteenth and beginning of the twentieth century. Resources of this type should be listed under the ARCHITECTURE and TRANSPORTATION areas of significance.

IV. Registration Requirements

In order to be considered contributory, buildings associated with transportation should retain the integrity of their original design, material, workmanship and siting. Acceptable alterations may include changes to loading platforms and service bays, non-original roofing material and minor alterations to windows.

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I. Name of Property Type: Buildings Associated with the Production of  
Cotton Seed Oil

II. Description

Most cotton seed oil mills employed the use of a number of materials depending on the size and function of the particular structure. Masonry was commonly used for the primary building which housed the presses and production machinery. Frequently, there were other structures that served as temporary storage and other utilitarian uses that were made of lumber or sheet metal. A masonry smokestack is also usually present. The arrangement of the structures usually relates to the manufacturing process.

III. Significance

The cotton seed oil industry was an ancillary industry related to textiles. The seed was a by-product of cleaning, or ginning, the cotton. The oil was extracted from the seeds and used for cooking, salad oil and in the production of paint and soap. The mash was used for feed. The industry in South Carolina was active until the late 1920s when cotton prices became depressed and soon afterwards the boll weevil struck. This resource should be listed under the INDUSTRY area of significance.

IV. Registration Requirements

Because of the utilitarian nature of these buildings and the lack of an active industry for a number of years a greater degree of deterioration through neglect and alteration is to be expected. Typical alterations include patching with non-original, non-matching materials, alteration to loading docks and doors, and filling of window openings.

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I. Name of Property Type: Black Churches

II. Description

Most of the churches built by black congregations date from no earlier than the late-nineteenth century. The period following the Civil War was one of economic hardship for blacks. They depended mainly on economic cooperation with the white population whose opportunities were easier. Once economic readjustment had occurred, black congregations in Union were able to construct more permanent places of worship. Rural churches tended to be frame with wood siding. Churches located in small towns and cities, however, were often of masonry, usually brick, construction and larger in scale than their rural counterparts. The church included in this Multiple Property Submission, Corinth Baptist Church, is typical of many late-nineteenth century black churches of small towns. It is executed in the influence of the Gothic revival style, has a multi-story corner bell tower, and has pointed arch windows and entrance portal. Its gable roof is also typical of churches of this period although twin corner spires of different heights appear in many plans. Due to high cost, original stained glass windows are rare though they may have been added subsequently.

III. Significance

The resources of this property type are reflective of the growth and expansion of black congregations in Union. Architecturally, they are significant as good, basically intact examples of late nineteenth - early twentieth century religious architecture as manifested by Union's black community. These resources should be listed under the ARCHITECTURE, RELIGION, and ETHNIC HERITAGE/BLACK areas of significance.

IV. Registration Requirements

Properties to be listed should retain the integrity of their original materials and design and should convey their historic character and function. Typical alterations may include some changes to windows or doors and secondary additions which do not adversely affect the visual integrity of the property.

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## Section G. Summary of Identification and Evaluation Methods

In 1978 the Catawba Regional Planning Council and the South Carolina State Historic Preservation Office of the South Carolina Department of Archives and History sponsored a survey of historic properties in the city of Union. This survey led to the listing of the South Street Historic District in the National Register in 1983. In 1984 the Survey staff of the State Historic Preservation Office conducted research, a reconnaissance survey, and an intensive survey to identify and record all properties within the city limits which were eligible for the South Carolina Inventory of Historic Places and to identify those properties potentially eligible for the National Register. Field work for the survey was completed in October 1985 and the staff concluded that four historic districts and three individual properties were potentially eligible for the National Register.

In 1986 the SHPO identified a multiple property submission in Union as one of its priorities. From early 1987 to the summer of 1988 the Survey and National Register staff reviewed survey information, made additional site visits, and conducted historical research concerning the growth and development of Union and the history of buildings nominated individually and as parts of historic districts. Staff members involved in the project included Mary W. Edmonds, Division Head, Survey and Registration Division; Martha W. Fullington, Survey Manager; H. Thomas Shaw, Survey Architectural Historian; E. Thomas Sims, Survey Historian; Andrew W. Chandler, National Register Manager; and J. Tracy Power, National Register Historian. Photographs from earlier survey efforts were field-checked for current accuracy and additional photographs were taken as needed.

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