

Form 10-300
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: South Carolina	
COUNTY: Edgefield	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER MAR 23 1972	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:
Town of Edgefield Historic District

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Edgefield

STATE <u>South Carolina</u>	CODE <u>45</u>	COUNTY: <u>Edgefield</u>	CODE <u>037</u>
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3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____ _____
		<input type="checkbox"/> Comments	_____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Public and Private

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Edgefield

STATE:
South Carolina

CODE:
45

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Edgefield County Court House

STREET AND NUMBER:
Court House Square

CITY OR TOWN:
Edgefield

STATE:
South Carolina

CODE:
45

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
South Carolina Preliminary Survey of Historic Places

DATE OF SURVEY: 1969 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
South Carolina Department of Archives and History

STREET AND NUMBER:
1430 Senate Street, P.O. Box 11,188 Capitol Station

CITY OR TOWN:
Edgefield

STATE:
South Carolina

CODE:
45

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:

COUNTY:

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered Some	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered Many	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Edgefield developed around Court House Square, village green deeded to the town in 1787. Several significant buildings surrounding the landscaped square remain unaltered, and the initial layout of town has not changed. More than forty 19th century buildings are within the historic area, including three house museums.

There are a number of 19th century Greek Revival homes with large central halls and the basic four rooms over four floor plan. Edgefield's houses are noted for beautiful fanlights and unusual doorways. Many have heart pine floors, board or plaster walls, central medallions, window boxing, wainscoting, six-panel doors. A few retain original trompe l'oeil to simulate woodgrains finer than that available in the area. Descendants of original owners still own homes, original antiques, valuable documents and letters.

Five churches (Episcopal, Baptist, Catholic, Presbyterian and Methodist) represent Georgian, Victorian Gothic, and modified Gothic architectural styles.

1. Trinity Episcopal Church - Built 1836. Red-brick building with central tower. Octagonal belfry surmounted by spire with cross.
2. St. Mary's Catholic Church - Cornerstone laid February 10, 1858. Designed by John R. Niernsee, architect of the South Carolina State House. Granite exterior with buttresses.
3. Episcopal Rectory - Built 1826. Raised-cottage style. Beautiful semielliptical fanlight over double-door entrance.
4. Willowbrook Cemetery - Distinguished South Carolinians buried here include: Francis W. Pickens, John Gary Evans, Francis Hugh Wardlaw, Preston Brooks and Matthew C. Butler.
5. Edgefield County Court House - Built c. 1839. Red-brick exterior. Greek Revival portico supported by four Tuscan columns. Portraits of significant lawyers and judges on display here.
- ✓6. Halcyon Grove - Built 1815 by Andrew Pickens, Jr., who lived here while serving as governor (1816-18). Architectural features include unusual lattice columns and double-tiered piazza.
7. Mims-Norris House - Built 1818. Continuously occupied by six generations of the original family.
8. Magnolia Dale - Built 1830 by Connecticut architect who followed typically South Carolina antebellum floor plan of central hall with two rooms on each side. Front portico supported by four, fluted Tuscan columns.

S E E I N S T R U C T I O N S

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1787 to present**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Politically, militarily and agriculturally significant, Edgefield has been an influential community since its founding and has served as county seat since 1791. Its tree-lined streets provide an ideal setting for architecturally significant antebellum buildings.

First permanent settlers of the Edgefield area arrived in the 1760s from Pennsylvania, Virginia, North Carolina, the South Carolina Lowcountry, England and Scotland. By the 1780s the village of Edgefield had developed into the commercial center for the district with a number of silversmiths, cabinet makers and artisans.

Much of Edgefield's significance results from its large number of important political figures: ten former South Carolina governors; five lieutenant-governors; several U.S. Congressmen and Senators including Benjamin Ryan Tillman, Preston Brooks and Strom Thurmond.

Militarily, the Edgefield area was important during the Revolution due to its vital location on the route between British-held Augusta and British-held Ninety-Six. Important patriots of the area were the Hammonds, Simkins, Butlers and Middletons. Edgefield leadership in U.S. military life continued in the Mexican War with such outstanding men as Colonels William B. Travis, James Bonham and Pierce M. Butler. During the Confederate and Spanish-American Wars, Edgefield furnished many distinguished generals. In Reconstruction days, Oakley Park, Edgefield plantation owned by General Martin W. Gary, was site of organization of the Red Shirts.

As commercial center for the area's many cotton plantations Edgefield has been vitally involved in agriculture. By 1823 there was an active society in Edgefield devoted to improving agricultural processes.

The Edgefield Advertiser, published since 1836, is South Carolina's oldest newspaper with continued legal identity.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Chapman, John A. History of Edgefield County. Newberry, South Carolina: Elbert H. Aull, 1897.

Julien, Carl and Watson, H.L. Ninety-Six. Columbia, South Carolina: University of South Carolina Press, 1950.

Julien, Carl and Milling Chapman. Beneath So Kind A Sky. Columbia, South Carolina: University of South Carolina Press., 1958

King, Joe M. A History of South Carolina Baptists. Columbia, South Carolina: R.L. Bryan Company, 1964.

WPA. South Carolina: A Guide to the Palmetto State. New York: Oxford University Press, 1941.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE			LONGITUDE		
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	33 °	47	54"	81 °	56	10"
NE	33 °	47	54"	81 °	55	00"
SE	33 °	47	12"	81 °	55	00"
SW	33 °	47	12"	81 °	56	10"

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Approximately 480 acres

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Nancy R. Ruhf, Historic Preservation Division

ORGANIZATION: South Carolina Department of Archives & History DATE: 12/10/70
11/23/71

STREET AND NUMBER: 1430 Senate Street, P.O. 11,188 Capitol Station

CITY OR TOWN: Columbia 29211 STATE: South Carolina CODE: 45

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

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 State Local

Name Charles E. Lee
 Title Director, S.C. Department of Archives & History
 Date 11-23-71

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Ernest A. Connally
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

MAR 23 1972

Date _____

ATTEST: William H. ...
 Keeper of The National Register

MAR 9 1972

Date _____

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STATE	
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(Number all entries)

(7) Description

TOWN OF EDGEFIELD HISTORIC DISTRICT

9. Holmewood - Built 1834 by William Prothro. Owned by Francis Hugh Wardlaw, one of the drafters of The Ordinance of Secession. Greek Revival with white clapboard exterior. Six columns support front portico. Double-door entrance with semicircular fanlight.
10. Oakley Park - Built 1835 by Daniel Bird. Owned by General Martin W. Gary, "The Bald Eagle of the Confederacy." Presently used as house museum and shrine to Red Shirts sponsored by United Daughters of the Confederacy.

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STATE South Carolina	
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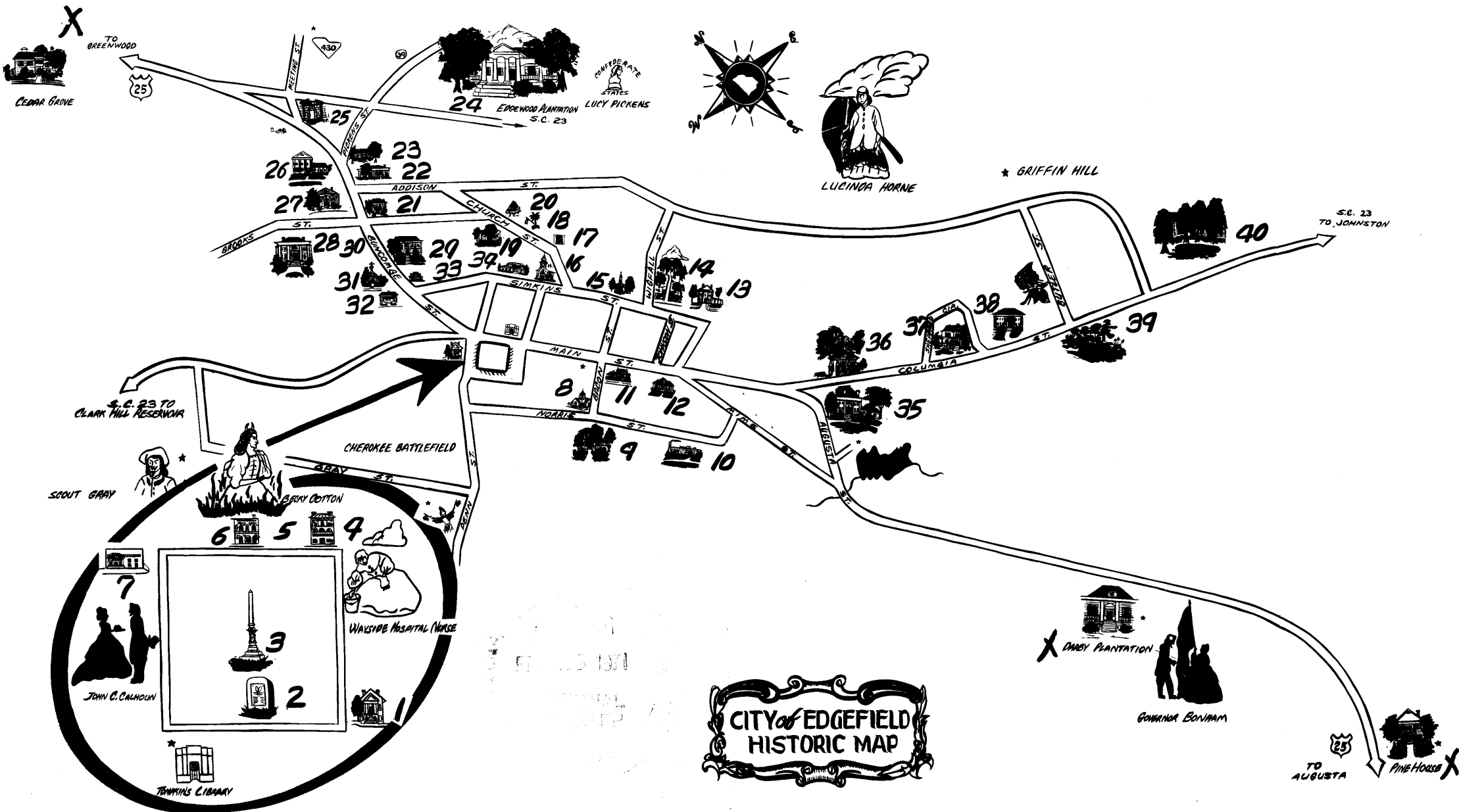
(Number all entries)

(8) Significance

TOWN OF EDGEFIELD HISTORIC DISTRICT

Schools flourished in rural areas as well as in town, and Furman University was first established here and later moved to Greenville. Edgefield Female Academy, under the administration of William B. Johnson (first president of the Southern Baptist Convention), provided educational facilities for the young ladies of the area.

After the 1830s, plantation churches gradually moved into town. Edgefield Baptist Church, constituted 1784, contributed significantly to the organization of the Southern Baptist Convention and produced the convention's first president. The Lutheran, Episcopal, Catholic and Methodist denominations have been active in Edgefield since the 18th century; however, the Presbyterian church was established later (1877).



- ★ COURTESY CENTER
- 1 COURT HOUSE 1839
- 2 GOVERNOR MARKER
- 3 CONFEDERATE DEAD
- 4 PLANTATION HOUSE
- 5 EDGEFIELD ADVERTISER 1836
- 6 SITE 1st COURT HOUSE
- 7 PLANTER'S HOTEL

- 8 1st METHODIST CHURCH
- 9 MAGNOLIA DALE
- 10 KENDALL MILL
- 11 BANTY - CANTELDO 1798
- 12 BONHAM HOME
- 13 D.A. TOMPKINS HOME
- 14 BACON GARDENS
- 15 TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

- 16 PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
- 17 1st BAPTIST CHURCH 1825
- 18 WILLOWBROOK CEMETERY
- 19 PINE TERRACE
- 20 SITE OF FURMAN UNIVERSITY
- 21 FOURSQUARE
- 22 ADAMS - MIMS
- 23 HOLMEWOOD

- 24 EDGEWOOD PLANTATION
- 25 MORRIS HOME 1796
- 26 CARROLL HILL 1840
- 27 BROOKS
- 28 ANTIQUE SHOP (ASHBYWOOD)
- 29 HALYON GARDEN 1810
- 30 SITE GOV. M'DONALD'S OFFICE
- 31 ST. MARY'S CHURCH 1859

- 32 LAWYER ROW
- 33 SITE RYAN HOTEL
- 34 HISTORIC OFFICES
- 35 OAKLEY PARK
- 36 GOV. THURMOND BIRTHPLACE
- 37 GOV. SHEPPARD'S HOME
- 38 CAMELLIA HALL
- 39 SLAVE IRIS GARDEN

- 40 EAST HILL
- ★ CHEROKEE BATTLEFIELD
- ★ LION'S CLUB
- ★ DARBY PLANTATION
- ★ PINE HOUSE
- ★ POTTERSVILLE
- ★ CEDAR GROVE

Map by Nancy C. Mims, Edgelyield, S. C.
Published by Civic League - Courtesy Center

X = nearby site, not within district

LETTERGRAPH PRINTING CO.