

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY  
NOMINATION FORM

<u>Continuation Sheet</u>		<u>Item Number</u>	<u>Page</u>
<u>Name</u>	Historic Furman Institution Academic Location	Southeast of the intersection of South Carolina Hwy. 213 and county roads 70 and 23.	
	Building	<u>Classification</u>	Building
	Common		
<u>Owner</u>	Earl Belk et. al. c/o Irwin Belk 402 Drayton Street Winnsboro, S.C. 29180		<i>Winnsboro, S.C.</i>
<u>Representation in Existing Surveys</u>	South Carolina Inventory of Historic Places, 1983		

Description Constructed ca. 1837, the Furman Institution Academic Building is a rectangular, two-story, hip-roofed, brick building with a one-story extension on the right elevation and a one-story addition on the left elevation. The facade has three bays on each level. Single six-over-six windows with molded surrounds flank a double-leaf entrance with sidelights and transom on the first story. The second story has a large, arched, multi-paned window flanked by single windows. Flat brick arches surmount all bays except the second story central window. Windows have granite lugsills. Interior floor plan has a central hall on the first floor with a stairhall on the left. There are three rooms on the right of the hall and two on the left. Room partitions on the second floor have been removed. The building originally had a third floor which was reportedly removed after damage suffered in the earthquake of 1883.

Significance According to a synoptic history entitled "Furman's Fairfield Days; 1837-1851," Furman Institution was established by the Baptist Denomination in South Carolina in 1827 in Edgefield, but was moved to the High Hills of the Santee (now Stateburg) in 1828 because of financial difficulties. When the school was threatened with financial collapse again in 1834, the Reverend Jonathan Davis, chairman of the board of trustees, urged the board to move the school to his native Fairfield County. With the aid of his congregation at the Fairfield Church, Davis was able to purchase 557 acres of land for the school. A frame building was constructed ca. 1837 as a dormitory, classroom, and library, but burned in the same year.\*

Acreage .4 acres

Verbal Boundary Description The nominated property is shown as the red line on the accompanying Fairfield County Tax Map #166, with a scale of 1 inch equals 400 feet. It includes only the historic building and its immediate surroundings. The tax map showing this property is attached to the nomination for the Furman Institution Faculty Residence.

UTM Reference Point 17/488640/3799980

Other Information

\*The two present brick buildings were constructed between May 1837 and January 1838. Furman Institute suffered financial and ideological difficulties during its years in Fairfield County, but the theological department developed into one of the strongest in the state. Discussion was underway in 1841 to move the school to a place more favorable to the development of the theology department, but it wasn't until 1851 that South Carolina Baptists were able to raise the necessary funds for the removal to Greenville.<sup>1</sup> The Furman Institution Academic Building was used for classes and as a chapel.<sup>2</sup> This building, along with the Furman Institution Faculty Residence (#12), serves as a visible reminder of the early history of Furman University and its brief establishment in Fairfield County.

<sup>1</sup>Loulie Latimer Owens, "Furman's Fairfield Days; 1837-1851," (Winnsboro, S.C., 1949), pp. 2-10.

<sup>2</sup>Our Heritage, n.p., n.d., p.13.