

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

For NPS use only

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

received **AUG 5 1988**
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Shuler-Gilmore House

and/or common Gilmore House (preferred)

2. Location

street & number South of intersection of State Street (Hwy. 176) and Eutaw Road (Hwy. 453) N/A not for publication

city, town Holly Hill vicinity of

state South Carolina code 045 county Orangeburg code 075

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

4. Owner of Property

name Miss Cora Gilmore

street & number P.O. Box 32

city, town Holly Hill vicinity of state South Carolina 29059

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Orangeburg County Courthouse

street & number Amelia Street

city, town Orangeburg state South Carolina 29115

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

A Survey of Historical Sites in the
title Lower Savannah Region has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1971, updated in 1972 and 1976 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

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Gilmore House is a two-story white frame plantation plain style house prominently sited on 2½ acres along Hwy. 176, the old State Road, which serves as the main thoroughfare of Holly Hill, South Carolina. According to local historical sources, the house was built around 1840 by Mr. Samuel Shuler of long-leaf virgin pine and is considered the oldest standing house in town. The house served as the town's first official post office beginning in 1848 (postal contract #3125) with Samuel Shuler as post master and was also used as a boarding house for teachers in its earlier years. Sale of the house by its first owner, Mr. Shuler, to Dr. J. L. B. Gilmore some years after its construction placed the house in the hands of the Gilmore family, members of which were involved in Holly Hill's early commercial development, and who still own it today. A 1905 remodeling of the house probably added a long rear kitchen wing and Victorian embellishments such as the bracketed eaves on the front facade. These now-historic turn-of-century additions give the house an evolutionary character which does not detract from its earliest form.

Additional Information

Typical of the plantation plain style house, the Gilmore House has two large two-story brick exterior chimneys with white necking and the combination of gabled and shed roofs typical of this house form. The single-bay second story porch with balustrade, likely a later addition, projects over the front porch which extends across the house's entire first floor facade.

Side and overlights of the main entryway appear original to the house. The single window to the right of the entryway is a to-the-floor window, the practical function of which is not readily explainable unless related to the house's early use as a post office. The asymmetry set up by this window and the two to the left of the entryway is indicative of the fact that the rooms off the center hall plan to the right are more narrow than those on the left.

Unlike Numertia Plantation, a similar house in the area built in the same year, the fenestration pattern of the Gilmore House's upper floor facade is set out of line with the first floor windows. While there is physical evidence that the upper floor doorway was shifted to the left somewhat and is of Victorian styling, the irregular placement of the windows is inexplicable. An asphalt composition roof covers most of the house, but a tiled roof remains on a section of the rear wing.

A rectangular clapboard addition likely made to the house's rear in 1905 provided a kitchen and a dining room. Some of the house's windows have been replaced as evidenced by the varying pane configurations, and the brick pier foundations of the house have been enclosed with latticework. The western end of the front porch has been screened in. Based on

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<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 type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input 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 type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
Specific dates	ca. 1840, 1905	Builder/Architect	unknown	

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Gilmore House constructed around 1840 and prominently located on Hwy. 176, the Old State Road, is a local landmark thought to be the oldest standing residence in the small town of Holly Hill, South Carolina. The 2-story white clapboard house is significant as the location of the town's first official post office (Gilmore, p.11) and architecturally as an exponent of the plantation plain style house form, as embellished with Victorian era additions, which characterizes much of southeastern rural residential architecture. The house's original owner, Samuel Shuler, was the town's first official postmaster by Mail Contract No. 3125 (Gilmore, p.11). Subsequent ownership of the house around 1850 by Dr. James L. B. Gilmore Sr., a planter and physician, placed the house in the Gilmore family whose early descendants were community leaders in commerce and education and whose family members own it today.

Additional Information

The early mail route of which Holly Hill (prior to 1852, known as Holly Hills) was a stop included mail service from Ridgeville to Sumterville, (Gilmore, p.11) and contributed to early communications and hence commercial development of this portion of the state. When the Eutawville Railroad Company completed its rail line from what is now Pregnall to Holly Hill on January 6, 1886, the right-of-way crossing nearly bisected the plantation of W. Dennis Gilmore, James L. B. Gilmore, Sr.'s eldest son, who had obtained ownership of the Gilmore House property by that date according to local historical sources. (Gilmore, p.20) Adding to its role as early post office, the Gilmore House was also used as a boarding house for teachers (Gilmore, p.90), although dates of this commercial usage are not known.

While local historical sources indicate that Mr. Samuel Shuler erected the Gilmore House, documentation has not been found which clarifies his role, whether as designer of as the person who had the house built. Given characteristics like the irregular spacing between windows, the house is likely the work of a local builder using the then popular plain style form.

From an architectural standpoint, the Gilmore House is a good representation of a plain style house form as built from the late 1700s to around the 1870s in the Southeast but as modified in 1905 to reflect Victorian conventions of style and other contemporary needs. Though some alterations to interior finishes have been made, interior spaces maintain a strong sense of their original spaces and detailing.

According to a local source, the elaborately carved mantels in the house are said to be the work of Jacob and Frederick Rast, two well-known carpenters in the area at that time.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Gilmore, Leroy Hart. Holly Hill - A Town Grows Around a Tree.
Published by Dr. Edward C. Gilmore, c.1953.
See Continuation Sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 2.5

Quadrangle name Holly Hill, SC

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A

1	7	5	5	4	5	2	0	3	6	6	9	60
Zone		Easting				Northing						

B

Zone		Easting				Northing						

C

Zone		Easting				Northing						

D

Zone		Easting				Northing						

E

Zone		Easting				Northing						

F

Zone		Easting				Northing						

G

Zone		Easting				Northing						

H

Zone		Easting				Northing						

Verbal boundary description and justification The boundary of the Gilmore House nomination is shown as the black line on the accompanying Orangeburg County Tax Map #347-02. The nominated property includes the house, associated historic outbuildings, and their immediate surroundings.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county N/A code

state N/A code county N/A code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Ermine Matheny and Syd Janney, 2229 Fairhaven Cir. Atlanta, GA 39305 (404)231-2229

organization The Ivy Garden Club date November 7, 1986

street & number P.O. Box 64 telephone (803) 496-3608

city or town Holly Hill state South Carolina 29059

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Mary W. Edmonds
title Mary W. Edmonds, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
South Carolina Department of Archives & History date

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

Omry Schlager
Keeper of the National Register

date 9/19/88

Attest:

Chief of Registration

date

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available information from local sources, it is unclear what historic changes (in addition to adding kitchen, etc.) were made to the house in 1905, although it is likely that the Victorian porch bracketing, upper porch, brick entry stairs, and second floor doorway were added then.

Interior

The attached sketch of the house's lay-out shows its central hall plan intact on its first and second floors. The original house contains five fireplaces with carved mantels; the most decorative of these are found in the front rooms off the stair hall and are almost federalist in style. Delicate dentil mouldings echoing the design of the exterior cornice board remain in all the original rooms, and doors retain their original hardware. The house's interior features, including wide pine paneling on the walls and ceilings, are surprisingly unaltered but painted. Interesting features of the rear addition are the diagonally set paneling and slightly vaulted wooden ceiling of the dining room.

Besides the rear addition, a small room off the right side of the central hall has been converted to a bathroom. Ceilings have not been covered over except in one room upstairs where tongue and groove was installed, and contemporary mock paneling wallboard has been placed in one room. While fireplaces have been closed off for the placement of gas space-heaters, the woodwork of each mantel is intact.

Surroundings

Although the Gilmore House has commercial neighbors on either of its sides, the setting of the house retains its strictly residential character. A dirt driveway which encircles a simple landscaped area in front of the house and the existence of some old oak trees along the property's street facade suggest the house's early beginnings, although its historic landscaping is not documented.

Outbuildings extant on the property include a small shed, a dilapidated shed-roofed building covered over with brush, and a storage building of more recent vintage. Of these, the small shed with its wide boards held in place with square-headed nails appears the oldest. The date 1933 in paint appears on the inside walls. According to Miss Cora Gilmore, a smokehouse to the rear of the house was taken down. For a period of time a small building on the grounds was supposedly used as a magistrate's office. A root cellar in bad condition is located just to the main house's southeast corner. The two sheds contribute to the historic character of the property, as do the storage building and root cellar.

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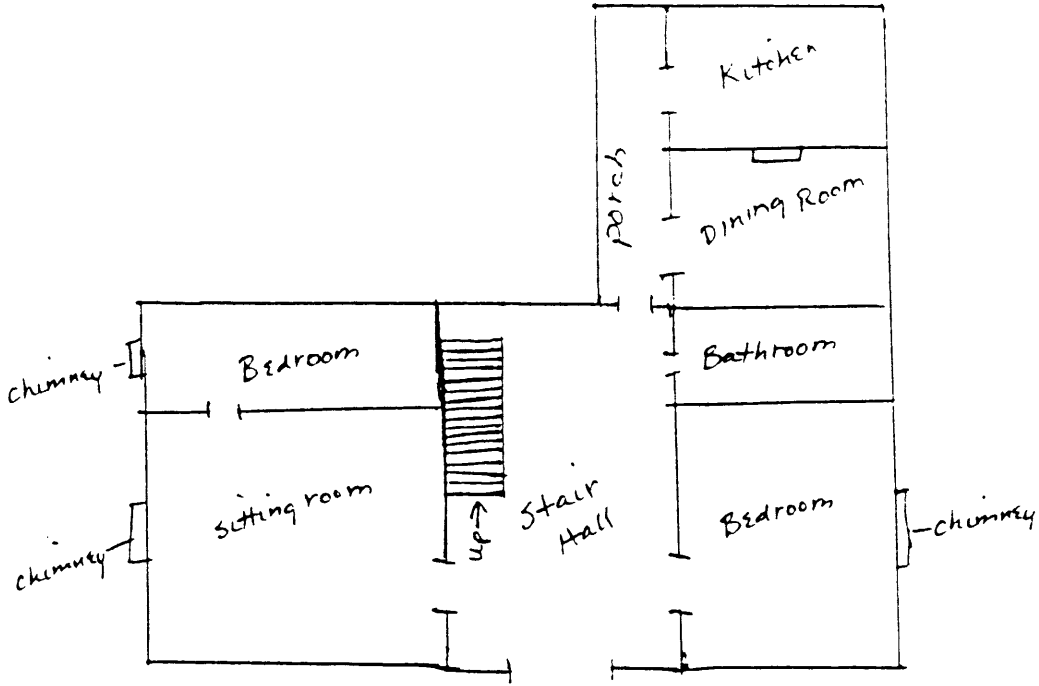
BIBLIOGRAPHY

1847 Mail Routes, Vol. 74, United States Postal Record Group,
The National Archives, Washington, D. C.

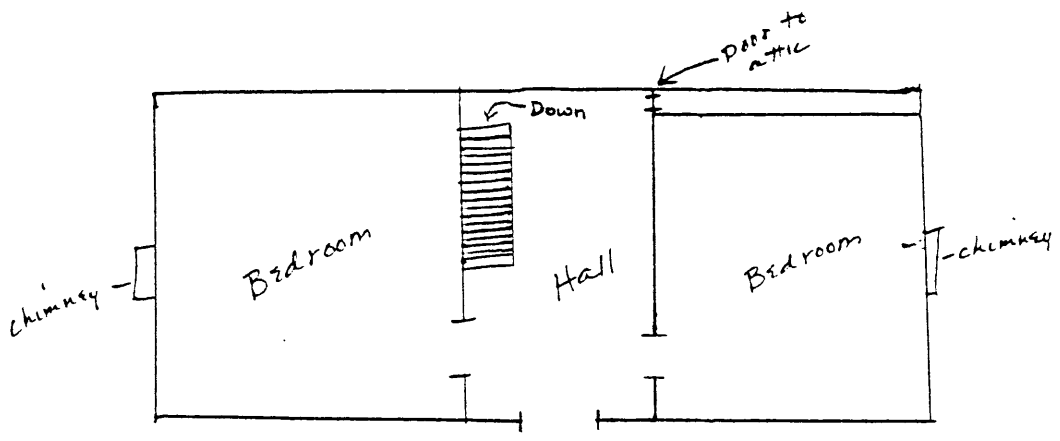
Interviews:

Gilmore, Cora. Holly Hill, S. C. Interview, February 1986.

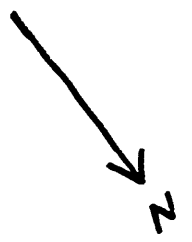
Rhame, W. H., Jr. Holly Hill, S. C. Telephone Interview,
November 1986.



First Floor



Second Floor



Gilmore House
 Floor Plan
 Holly Hill, S.C.
 March 1986
 Ermine Matheny
 NOT TO SCALE

Nominated Property Boundary

SHED-ROOFED
BUILDING

STORAGE
BLDG.

SHED

GILMORE HOUSE

ROOT
CELLAR

DRIVEWAY

Nominated Property Boundary

Nominated Property Boundary

STATE STREET



MAIN STREET

GILMORE HOUSE SITE PLAN
HOLLY HILL, S. C.
ORANGEBURG COUNTY
JULY 1988
NOT TO SCALE

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National Park Service

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SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 88001470

Date Listed: 9/19/88

Gilmore House
Property Name

Orangeburg
County

SC
State

N/A

Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

Amy Schlager

Signature of the Keeper

9/19/88

Date of Action

=====
Amended Items in Nomination:

This collection of buildings and site should be considered an historic district.

Discussed and concurred in by South Carolina SHPO on September 19, 1988.

DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)