

**State Board of Review Meeting
National Register of Historic Places
South Carolina Department of Archives and History
State Historic Preservation Office**

Minutes of the March 24, 2023 Meeting

The State Board of Review meeting was held in the Wachovia room of the South Carolina Archives and History Center, 8301 Parklane Road, in Columbia, South Carolina.

Members Present

Dr. J. Edward Lee (Vice-Chair), Dr. A. V. Huff, Jr., Dr. Jon Marcoux, Ms. J. Haley Milner, Ms. Amy Moore, Dr. Karen Y. Smith, Mr. Phillip D. Smith, and Ms. Karen Strickland.

Members Absent

Dr. Rhondda Robinson Thomas.

Call to Order

Dr. Lee called the meeting to order at 10:30 A.M. and welcomed everyone in attendance.

Recognition of Bill Kinney

Dr. Lee began the meeting by noting the recent death of the Commission's late Chair, Mr. Bill Kinney, who passed away in February. Dr. Lee expressed deep appreciation for Mr. Kinney's many years of service on the State Review Board, including his long tenure as the Board's Chair.

Introduction of New Board Member

Dr. Lee introduced new board member J. Haley Milner, Assistant Curator and Outreach Coordinator, Savannah River Archaeological Research Program, Savannah River Site, Aiken.

Recognition of Retiring Board Member

Dr. Lee acknowledged the retirement of board member Ms. Patricia Lowe Smith and thanked her for her service on the board.

Introduction of Board Members

Each of the board members were invited to introduce themselves. Each member stated their name and professional affiliation.

Approval of Minutes

The members received the minutes of the November 18, 2022, meeting by mail (or e-mail) in the packets prior to the meeting. Ms. Moore made a motion to approve the minutes as written, seconded by Ms. Strickland. The motion was approved unanimously.

Remarks

Dr. Lee invited Dr. W. Eric Emerson, director of the Department of Archives and History and State Historic Preservation Officer, to offer remarks. Dr. Emerson noted Mr. Kinney's passing and expressed thanks for his long service on both the State Review Board and the South Carolina Archives and History Commission. He said the Commission would pay similar tribute to Mr. Kinney at their upcoming meeting. Dr. Emerson welcomed attendees to the South Carolina Archives and History Center and thanked them for being present at the meeting. He explained some of the functions of the State Historic Preservation Office and highlighted the importance of the State Review Board's work. He also acknowledged Dr. Louis Venters, Professor of History from Francis Marion University, who was in attendance with his class. Dr. Lee then invited Ms. Elizabeth M. Johnson, Deputy State Historic Preservation officer, to offer remarks. Ms. Johnson welcomed attendees and acknowledged the National Register Staff, including Mr. Brad Sauls, Supervisor of Survey, Registration, Grants, and Local Government Programs, and National Register co-coordinators Ms. Virginia Harness and Dr. Edwin Breeden. Ms. Johnson also noted several other SHPO staff members in attendance, including Mr. Christopher Tenny, Historic Architecture Consultant; Mr. Robert Larsen, Archaeologist; and Ms. Kenya Lane, African American History Consultant. She also noted Mr. Kinney's passing and expressed appreciation for his support of SHPO staff and his dedication to the State Review Board.

Explanation of Procedure

Dr. Lee outlined the procedure that would follow for considering each of the nominations, explaining that presenters would have five to eight minutes for each nomination, to be followed by statements and comments from visitors; questions from board members; uninterrupted board discussion; and a board decision.

Consideration of Nominations

Beginning at 10:37, the following nominations were considered:

1. **Culclasure-Geiger Farmstead (St. Matthews, Calhoun County)** was presented by the preparer, Mr. Andrew Chandler of CWA Preservation Services, LLC. During the public comment segment, property owner Mr. Fred Gantt said that his granddaughter would soon be moving onto the property, allowing it to be maintained into the future and its history to be continued. He later noted the dilapidated state of the property when his family first acquired it years ago. Mr. Gantt's son, Mr. Fred H. Gantt, also spoke and expressed pride at the work the family has done to the property over the years and recalled going there to do work as a child. During questions from the board, Dr. Smith asked that the nomination inventory clarify that the nine contributing objects were the gravestones found in the family cemetery. Mr. Smith asked if the house had ever been raised or if its brick foundation was original. Mr. Chandler said the house had not been raised and the

house did have its original foundation, which consisted of brick as well as stone. Ms. Moore made a motion, seconded by Dr. Smith, for approval of the nomination at the local level of significance. The Board approved the motion unanimously.

2. **Hutchinson House (Additional Documentation) (Edisto Island, Charleston County)** was presented by the preparer, Ms. Christina R. Butler of Butler Preservation L.C. During the public comment segment, Mr. John Girault of Edisto Island Open Land Trust, the property's owner, thanked Ms. Butler for her work on the nomination and said the Trust has been working closely with Hutchinson family descendants on the project, and that they had wished to attend the meeting but were unable. Mr. Chandler said he worked on the original Hutchinson House nomination and was excited by the work that's been done on the property and the effort to more fully document its history. During questions from the board, Dr. Marcoux said he was familiar with archaeological work that had been done at the site and asked if there were plans in the future to add that as an area of significance to the nomination. Mr. Girault said the Trust had received funding to conduct further archaeological work on the property which they hoped could be the basis for additional on-site educational programming. Ms. Moore noted the property's pristine appearance and asked how much replacement material had been used during the restoration. Ms. Butler said that a large amount of siding came off the house when the dilapidated porch was pulled away but that as much of it had been saved as possible. Some of the original siding is in storage and cannot be reapplied to the house. She said that the house's original brick piers are intact and noted plans to restore the house's original wraparound porch. Ms. Moore asked how common was the cooperative land acquisition through which the Hutchinson family first obtained the property. Ms. Butler said it was used mostly in the Lowcountry and seemed rare in other parts of South Carolina. Ms. Strickland asked why the presumed builder of the house was not officially listed in the nomination as its builder, and Ms. Butler said that the builder's identity was based on oral history that, while likely accurate, nonetheless could not be completely confirmed. Mr. Smith asked if the wraparound porch would be reinstalled using the same type of log piers that failed over time. Ms. Butler said the team working on the property had discussed that question at length and the current plan was to reinstall the porch using treated lumber in proper footers. Mr. Smith said it was a fantastic project and noted he was familiar with it through the work of students from the American College of the Building Arts. He also noted that Ms. Butler had been his professor when he was a student and that they were now colleagues. Mr. Smith made a motion, seconded by Ms. Milner, for approval of the nomination at the local level of significance. The Board approved the motion unanimously.
3. **Scott's Branch High School (Summerton vicinity, Clarendon County)** was presented by the preparers, Ms. Rebekah Turnmire and Dr. Bobby Donaldson, both of the Center for Civil Rights History & Research, University of South Carolina. During the public comment segment, Ms. Bea Rivers, who was a student at Scott's Branch during the *Briggs v. Elliot* case, said the nomination was part of a long struggle to bring recognition to the activism of Summerton residents. She expressed thanks to Dr. Donaldson and his staff for all their work on the nomination. Mr. Robert McFadden, former director of the Summerton Community Action Group, said work

on the nomination began several years ago and that local residents have gone a long time without receiving the recognition they deserve for sacrifices that were made as part of local education activism associated with *Briggs v. Elliott*. He recalled his experience as one of the first students to desegregate Summerton's historically white schools. He said that bringing more recognition to those struggles had long been a goal of his, and he noted the Summerton Community Action Group's prior installation of a memorial and park at the Scott's Branch grounds. Ms. Jannie Harriot, former chair of the South Carolina African American Heritage Commission, said she had previously worked with Summerton groups to bring more attention to the community's significance and was delighted at the nomination's consideration. She emphasized Summerton's significance to the national story of school desegregation as well as the broader integration of African Americans into public life. During questions from the board, Ms. Moore complimented the quality of the nomination. Ms. Strickland made a motion, seconded by Mr. Smith, for approval of the nomination at the national and local levels of significance. The Board approved the motion unanimously.

4. **Walhalla High School (Walhalla, Oconee County)** was presented by its co-preparer, Mr. John Sherrer of Rogers Lewis Jackson Mann & Quinn, LLC. During the public comment segment, Ms. Caroline Harris, one of the property's owners, expressed thanks for the Board's consideration. Mr. Robert Lewis of Rogers Lewis Jackson Mann & Quinn said the owners had great plans for the property and he was excited to be working with them. Mr. Sherrer noted that Ms. Janie Campbell of Rogers Lewis Jackson Mann & Quinn had also worked on the nomination. During questions from the board, Ms. Moore asked what future plans were for the property, and Ms. Harris said it would be a hotel. Mr. Smith said the building was a remarkable architectural example and asked why it was not also being nominated under Criterion C. Mr. Sherrer said that had been done primarily on SHPO advisement, and Ms. Harness said the Preliminary Information Form (PIF) initially used to evaluate the property's eligibility had primarily focused on its educational significance, which is why staff only recommended it as eligible under Criterion A: Education. She noted that the National Park Service has traditionally allowed properties to be nominated under a single area of significance even if they may also be eligible under others. Ms. Moore made a motion to approve the nomination at the local level of significance, seconded by Dr. Marcoux. The Board approved the motion unanimously.
5. **Arial Mill (Easley, Pickens County)** was presented by the preparer, Ms. Caroline Wilson of MacRostie Historic Advisors/Ryan LLC. During questions from the board, Ms. Milner asked what plans were for the property, and Ms. Wilson said it would house apartments. Dr. Marcoux made a motion to approve the nomination at the local level of significance, seconded by Ms. Milner. The Board approved the motion unanimously.
6. **York Graded School (York, York County)** was presented by the co-preparer, Ms. Sara Johnson of the Culture & Heritage Museums (CHM) of York County. During the public comment segment, Zachary Lemhouse, Historian for CHM, said the nomination has been a collaboration among CHM staff and thanked Ms. Johnson for leading efforts to prepare it. He also thanked the board for their consideration.

Ms. Trish Startup of the York County Manager's office read a letter of support for the nomination from County Manager David Hudspeth and said the County was proud to support the nomination as the property's owner. Mayor Michael D. Fuesser of the Town of York praised the work that had been done on the nomination and thanked the Review Board for their consideration. During questions from the Board, Mr. Smith asked if a full architectural study had been completed of the property in its current state. Ms. Johnson said there were floorplans but no other detailed drawings had been done. In response to another question from Mr. Smith, she said the building's slate roof was ungraded and had been restored in the early 2000s. Mr. Smith made a motion to approve the nomination at the local level of significance, seconded by Ms. Moore. The Board approved the motion unanimously.

Other Business

Dr. Lee explained the procedure by which the approved nominations would be submitted for review by the National Park Service. He also announced the following upcoming Review Board meeting dates:

The summer 2023 meeting is scheduled for Friday, July 28, 2023.

The fall 2023 meeting is scheduled for Friday, November 17, 2023.

The spring 2024 meeting is scheduled for Friday, March 22, 2024.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Dr. Lee asked for a motion to adjourn. Ms. Moore made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Smith. The meeting adjourned at 12:01 P.M.