

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

Minutes of the July 28, 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. Jon Marcoux, Ms. J. Haley Milner, Mr. Phillip D. Smith, and Ms. Karen Strickland.

Members Absent

Dr. A. V. Huff, Jr., Ms. Amy Moore, Dr. Karen Y. Smith, and Dr. Rhondda Robinson Thomas.

Call to Order

Dr. Lee called the meeting to order at 10:37 A.M. and welcomed everyone in attendance.

Introduction of Board Members

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

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 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 Department of Archives and History and highlighted the importance of the State Review Board's work. 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 Registration, Grant, 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 Ms. Ayanna Goines, African American History Consultant; Mr. Fielding Freed, Historic Architecture Consultant; Mr. Robert Larsen, Archaeologist; Mr. Christopher Tenny, Historic Architecture Consultant; and John Sylvest, Supervisor of Survey and Review & Compliance.

Approval of Minutes

The members received the minutes of the March 24, 2023, meeting by mail (or e-mail) in the packets prior to the meeting. Dr. Marcoux made a motion to approve the minutes as written, seconded by Ms. Milner. The motion was approved unanimously.

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. He also explained the procedure for submitting approved nominations to the National Park Service.

Consideration of Nominations

Beginning at 10:43, the following nominations were considered:

1. **Maude Callen Clinic (Pineville, Berkeley County)** was presented by the preparer, Ms. Brittany V. Lavelle Tulla of BVL Historic Preservation Research. During the public comment segment, Ms. Libba Carroll, director of the Sumpter Free Health Clinic, spoke and described her experiences occasionally working with Maude Callen near the end of Callen's career. She described efforts to preserve the clinic after Callen's 1991 death and explained how the Sumpter Free Health Clinic came into possession of the property. She described the restoration of the property and noted its rededication in late 2022. She said the organization planned to use the property for health education and a community resource center, in addition to using it to interpret Callen's life. Ms. Leila Caldwell spoke and recalled working with Callen and said she went to the same church as Callen. Ms. Strickland expressed appreciation for the Sumpter Free Health Clinic's desire to use the building as a resource center. Mr. Smith said that Callen had an amazing story that he had followed for a long time and expressed gratitude that greater exposure was being brought to her significance. Mr. Smith made a motion, seconded by Ms. Strickland, for approval of the nomination at the local level of significance. The Board approved the motion unanimously.
2. **Pleasant Grove School (Alcolu, Clarendon County)** was presented by the preparer, Ms. Christina R. Butler of Butler Preservation L.C. During the public comment segment, Louise McFadden thanked Ms. Butler for her work on the nomination. Ms. McFadden noted she was one of the last students to attend the school and was a cousin of Rebecca Scott, who later helped preserve the school. Ms. McFadden described how Scott led efforts to acquire the school property after it sat abandoned for several years and formed a committee to determine how to repurpose the school for the community's benefit. She said that Scott's grandson was now the director of the community center based in the school. George Frierson said he attended the adjacent church and had seen the school building all his life. He recalled its use as a voting precinct and for banquets and church services. He said that, after Pleasant Grove School closed, former principal Estelle Samuels went on to be his teacher at Alcolu Elementary School, and he expressed appreciation for her mentorship. Ms. Milner asked what future plans were for the school. Ms. Butler said the community had no concrete plans at the moment and were more focused on

stabilizing the building, but that they planned to continue to use it as a community center. Dr. Marcoux asked if the restoration plans included returning the windows to their historical configuration. Ms. Butler said they would probably keep the current window configuration but did plan to reveal and restore the original beadboard that remains in the interior. Ms. Strickland asked if the community had a budget for the restoration work, and Ms. Butler said not yet. Dr. Marcoux praised the nomination and said that more attention needed to be brought to surviving pre-equalization era African American schools. Ms. Milner added that that was especially true of schools like Pleasant Grove that also did not have a connection to the Rosenwald School program and whose construction reflected grassroots community efforts. Ms. Milner made a motion, seconded by Dr. Marcoux, for approval of the nomination at the local level of significance. The Board approved the motion unanimously.

3. **Borden Ice Cream Factory (Greenville, Greenville County)** was presented by the preparer, Ms. Caroline D. Wilson of Ryan LLC. Dr. Lee noted that a letter of support for the nomination had been received from Mayor Knox White of Greenville. During the public comment segment, Mr. Blake Navarro, project manager for property developer the Furman Company, spoke in support of the nomination and noted that one of the property's current owners once owned a local ice cream truck that was supplied by the Borden factory. Mr. Smith asked for additional information on the extent of alterations that have been made to the property. Ms. Wilson said that a significant portion of the historic fabric had been retained and the property still retains its industrial character. She said that the most extensive changes had been made to the 1967 warehouse building, largely due to the structure having sunk into the ground. Ms. Strickland asked what future plans were for the property, and Ms. Wilson said it would be mixed use with office and retail space. Dr. Marcoux made a motion, seconded by Ms. Strickland, for approval of the nomination at the local level of significance. The Board approved the motion unanimously.
4. **Greenville Pepsi-Cola Bottling Plant (Greenville vicinity, Greenville County)** was presented by its preparer, Ms. Kendra Waters of Ryan LLC. Ms. Milner asked what plans were for the property, and Ms. Waters said it would be used for office space. Mr. Smith said he grew up in Travelers Rest and passed by this building all the time but never knew what it had been historically, and he expressed appreciation for the nomination. Ms. Waters noted that the property owners planned to add historical signage to the site to indicate its historical association with the Pepsi company. Mr. Smith made a motion to approve the nomination at the local level of significance, seconded by Ms. Milner. The Board approved the motion unanimously.
5. **Sims High School (Union, Union County)** was presented by the preparer, Mr. Nathan Johnson of Rose Hill Plantation State Historic Site, who prepared the nomination on behalf of the Union County Tourism Commission. Mr. Johnson noted that seventy-two former alumni were unable to attend the Review Board meeting but had signed a petition in support of the nomination. During the public comment segment, Dr. Tom Crosby said he was a Sims graduate who later came back to teach biology. Dr. Crosby shared some additional information on the school's early history, its accreditation, and football accomplishments. Mr. Bill

Comer, an alumnus of Union High School, spoke and described his experiences playing on one of Union High School's first integrated football teams. He described some of Sims High School's football accomplishments and efforts to gain official recognition for a years-long winning streak. He also said that athletics helped bring the local Black and white communities come together during integration. Mr. Comer recognized Mr. Clifford Ray, a Sims graduate who also served as a drum major in the school band. Mr. Ray expressed gratitude for the education and skills he gained attending Sims High School. He also commented on the importance of athletics in fostering understanding. Mr. Joey Haney, Superintendent of Union County Schools, spoke and said that while he did not attend Sims High School he knew it was a pillar of the local community. He said its significance was based not just on the facilities but also the contributions that its alumni have made to society. He said the school district fully supported the nomination. Mr. Smith asked if the school district owned the school, and Mr. Johnson said yes. Mr. Smith asked what plans were for the school's future use, and Mr. Johnson deferred to the school district. Mr. Haney said they were considering several options including workforce housing and afterschool programs. Dr. Marcoux said the school appeared to be in great condition and complimented the district for their stewardship. Ms. Strickland made a motion to approve the nomination at the local level of significance, seconded by Mr. Smith. The Board approved the motion unanimously.

Other Business

Dr. Lee announced the following upcoming Review Board meeting dates:

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

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

The summer 2024 meeting is scheduled for Friday, July 26, 2024.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Dr. Lee asked for a motion to adjourn. Dr. Marcoux made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Ms. Milner. The meeting adjourned at 12:24 P.M.