



Greenville County Planning and Zoning

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Memorandum

To: Ennis Fant, Chairman, Planning & Development Committee
cc: Tee Coker, Rashida Jeffers-Campbell, Tyler Stone, Nicole Miglionico
From: Suzanne Terry, Planner II
Date: June 13, 2023
Re: Application for Recommendation for Historic Property Designation:
Cedar Falls Park

The Greenville County Historic Preservation Commission has been asked by the property owner, Greenville County on behalf of District 26 Councilman Rick Bradley, to request County historic designation for Cedar Falls Park, located at 201 Cedar Falls Road in unincorporated Fountain Inn. The Commission voted to approve the application for recommendation at its May 18, 2023 meeting.

Cedar Falls Park is a place of historical significance to the Fountain Inn area of Greenville County. Early industrialists built a dam along the river in 1820 to provide electricity to a sawmill, textile mill, and cotton gin. In 1910, a larger dam was built to power nearby Fork Shoals Mill. The dam operated for four decades until it was torn down in 1950. The County has preserved the ruins of the old mill on the park site.

Therefore, staff is requesting that the Planning and Development Committee forward this request to County Council for consideration to be added to the County's Historic Property Inventory.

A copy of the application is attached.



**Greenville County Historic Preservation Commission
Application for Recommendation for Historic
Property Designation**

The Greenville County Code of Ordinances, Chapter 8, Section 7.1-8, authorizes Greenville County Historic Preservation Commission to make recommendations for historic designation to the Greenville County Council. Owners of properties proposed to be designated historic shall be notified in writing of the Commission's desire to so designate. **No property shall be designated without the owner's written consent.** Completed applications, including all required attachments, should be mailed to: **Greenville County Historic Preservation Commission, Attn: Planner, Historic Preservation-301 University Ridge, Suite 3800 Greenville, SC 29601.**

OFFICIAL USE ONLY: Application #: _____ Date Received: _____	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Approval Granted by Historic Preservation Commission _____ (date granted)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Approval Granted by Planning and Development Committee _____ (date granted)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Approval Granted by County Council _____ (date granted)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Approval Not Granted by _____ (date denied)
_____	_____
Authorized Signature	Date

1. Property Information		
Name of Historic Property: Cedar Falls Park		
Street Address: 201 Cedar Falls Road		
City: Fountain Inn	South Carolina	Zip Code: 29644
PIN #: 0578030101103		
Is the property located in the unincorporated area of Greenville County? (select one) If "No" see below.		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		
If located in a municipality, has said municipality approved authorization of jurisdiction? Attach relevant documentation.		
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		
2. Owner Information		
Name of Property Owner: County of Greenville		
Mailing Address: 301 University Ridge Suite 2400		
City: Greenville	State: South Carolina	Zip Code: 29601
Phone: _____	Email: _____	
Signature of Owner's Approval for Application for Designation		
Ownership of property: Private <input type="checkbox"/> _____ Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> _____		

3. Historic Significance

Eligibility Requirements

(Attach all relevant documentation)

- Listed on the National Register of Historic Places **OR**
- Determined eligible for the National Register by SC Dept. of Archives and History **OR**
- It is at least 75 years old* **AND**
- Architectural design and/or construction materials are of historical significance to Greenville County's development; **OR**
 - Structure is associated with person or group of political, economic, religious, social, artistic or literary significance to Greenville County; **OR**
 - Structure is associated with person or group of scientific, religious, political, business, literary, the arts, or other professional significance to Greenville County

*Historic Preservation Commission may waive 75-year requirement

Check if waived on _____ date.

Attach Narrative Description

Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a summary paragraph that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Note applicable areas of significance, periods, dates, persons, cultural affiliation, and/or architect/builder. Cite all books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this description.

See attached narrative.

The Cedar Falls Park consists of two separate dams and ruins associated with various industrial buildings and structures formerly located on the Reedy River. The construction on the property occurred over various stages from the 1820s through 1910. Hudson Berry built a small dam that spanned a northwest fork of the river in the 1820s to power a textile mill, grist mill, sawmill, and cotton gin. The dam is constructed of stone and concrete and is approximately 15 feet in height and 30 feet in length. An eight-inch-high concrete curb was also built across the river at the top of the shoals to channel water towards the dam in dry season. There are stone foundation ruins of some of the 1820s building about 40 yards west of the dam. Around 1910, a large dam was built across the entire river in order to supply electricity to the Fork Shoals Mill and surrounding community. The large dam is around 20 feet tall and constructed of stone and concrete. There are stone wall abutments on either side of the dam about 35 feet tall with spillway ports on the western side.¹

Remains of the foundation piers for the penstock pipe remain along the river spanning about 50 yards downriver from both dams. The large concrete generator pier used in producing electricity still stands (approximately ten feet in height) near the last penstock pier. Once the Fork Shoals Mill began buying its electrical power from Duke Power, the power plant buildings were demolished in 1950.²

Cedar Falls Park opened in 2010 and is currently owned by Greenville County and is a public park. The County has preserved the ruins of the old mill on the site. In addition to the preservation of the historic ruins, the park includes walking and biking trails, a playground, a picnic shelter, a volleyball court, and public restrooms.³

¹ Pg 74, Greenville County Recreation District, *Greenville county, South Carolina Historic Resource Survey*.

² *Ibid.*, 74.

³ "Cedar Falls Regional Park Master Plan," August, 2009.





Cedar Falls Regional Park

Greenville County, SC

Master Plan

August, 2009

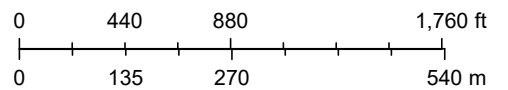


Cedar Falls Park



June 13, 2023

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Greenville County GIS Division, Greenville, South Carolina, Greenville County GIS Division, Greenville, South Carolina 29601, Greenville County, South Carolina GIS Division