

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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

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

For HCRS use only

received  
date entered

**1. Name**

historic China Grove

and/or common same

**2. Location**

street & number S. C. Highway 512 approximately 1.5 miles southeast of its intersection with S.C. Highway 513. not for publication

city, town Union Crossroads  vicinity of congressional district Sixth

state South Carolina code 045 county Georgetown code 043

**3. Classification**

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

**4. Owner of Property**

name Mr. & Mrs. B. M. Chandler

street & number Route 3, Box 139

city, town Georgetown  vicinity of state South Carolina 29440

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Georgetown County Courthouse

street & number Screven Street

city, town Georgetown state South Carolina 29440

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Inventory of Historic Places in South Carolina has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1978  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

China Grove is located in rural Georgetown County about two miles from the Williamsburg County line in the Old China Grove Community. Architectural and historical analyses suggest a ca. 1830-1835 construction date, making its probable builder James Snow III (1809-1865). It is a typical late eighteenth and early nineteenth century South Carolina farmhouse.

### Exterior:

China Grove is a two-story frame house situated on brick pier foundations. The facade (west elevation) is three bays wide and has a one-story shed porch with six freestanding pillars and plain balustrade. The entrance has a five-pane transom with sidelights and is flanked by louvered shutters. The freestanding pillars, balustrade, and main door are 1948 replacements. The siding is weatherboard, with flush board on the first story facade. There are three second story and two first story six-over-six double-hung windows with louvered shutters.

The north elevation has three windows in two bays. Above the window to the rear is a triangular louvered vent which was inserted in 1948. The south elevation is similar except that the rear window is somewhat smaller.

The rear (east) elevation has a 1948 one-story shed porch addition with freestanding pillars built to resemble the front porch except that it is screened and has exposed rafter ends. The second story has a single central window.

China Grove is divided laterally into two sections, each section having its own roof line. The front section is two stories and has a steeply pitched gable roof. The rear one-story portion has a shed roof which is identically angulated and contiguous with the porch addition. The gable roof is covered with composition shingles over older, but not original, wood shingles. The pedimented gables have small central windows and a boxed cornice with return which extends around the roof line. Two interior chimneys project from the roof's eastern slope. The chimney at the southern end has been rebuilt.

The attic rafters are hand hewn and numbered, with pegged half lap joints. Hand hewn joists rest on a false plate. All nails examined were cut. The weatherboard has vertical sash saw marks. A check under the house showed hewn sills.

### Interior:

China Grove has a central-hall-with-rooms-on-each-side floor plan. The two upper story rooms are used as bedrooms. The floors, all interior doors but one, and the twelve inch wide beaded top baseboards are original. The doors in the formal front rooms and hallway have reeded door frames which match the reeded pilasters on the remaining original mantel. The straight staircase has a heavy hand shaped newel post.

Changes made during the 1948 renovation include new ceilings, wainscoting in the south front room, and new entry and rear hall doors. All mantels have been cut down by eight inches, and new wider hearths have been laid down over the original brick ones. Bathrooms and closets have been added both upstairs and down.

## 6. 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. 1830-35 Builder/Architect Unknown

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

China Grove is located in rural Georgetown County, near Black Mingo Creek about two miles from the Williamsburg County line. It takes its name from the Old China Grove area of the county in which it is situated. Its exact building date is unknown, but architectural analysis and historical research suggest a construction date of ca. 1830-1835, making its probable builder James Snow III. China Grove is exemplary of the typical late eighteenth and nineteenth century South Carolina farmhouse type and is a rare survivor from this period in northwestern Georgetown County.

### Additional Information

Although local tradition has attributed the construction of China Grove to James Snow (1730-1793), architectural and structural analyses of the house suggest that it was built after 1820. Since the son of James Snow, James Snow, Jr., had died by 1820, it is believed that the house was built after his death. James Snow III (1809-1865), the first known occupant of China Grove, reached maturity and married ca. 1830-1832. Local tradition indicates that his son Jeremiah was born at China Grove in 1836. Therefore, James Snow III probably constructed the house ca. 1830-1835. In his Narrative of Reminiscences in Williamsburg County Samuel McGill described James Snow III, a farmer of means, as a "devout Christian." Snow helped to found Union Methodist Church, about one mile from the China Grove place.<sup>1</sup> He was an active lay religious leader, both locally and at the conference level. The Minutes of the Conferences of the Black River and the Williamsburg Circuits show him to have been a frequent delegate from Union Church, from 1857 until his death in 1865. He served as secretary to the Second Quarterly Conference for Williamsburg Circuit in 1863.<sup>2</sup>

Jeremiah J. Snow (1836-1892) was the eldest son of James Snow III.<sup>3</sup> He showed early intellectual promise, excelling in classical studies at an early age.<sup>4</sup> Perhaps due to his father's influence, he became a minister, joining the Methodist Conference in 1863. Soon after, he was appointed chaplain to Colonel Witherspoon's Regiment (Third Regiment, South Carolina State Troops) and spent the winter of 1863-1864 in Georgetown.<sup>5</sup>

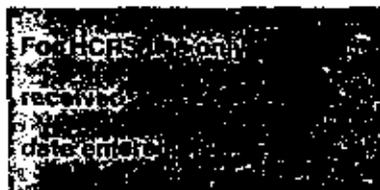
After the war, Snow was a circuit rider until his health failed, forcing his retirement in 1869. He continued to fill in pulpits when called upon.<sup>6</sup> He also "engaged his pen as a means of support."<sup>7</sup> Because of ill health, he left his China Grove home and moved to Kingstree, Williamsburg County, South Carolina, where he died in 1892.<sup>8</sup>

### Architecture:

China Grove is architecturally significant as a surviving representative of the typical South Carolina farmhouse form in rural Georgetown County. The central-hall plan, with

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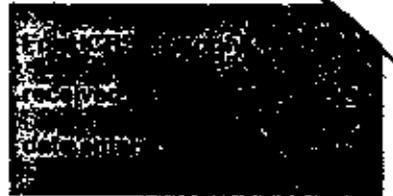
Continuation sheet 1

Item number 7

Page 1

Surroundings:

China Grove is surrounded by pasture and open farm land.

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service****National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Continuation sheet 2

Item number 8

Page 2

rooms to either side, a stair in the hall, and windows located centrally in the walls of their respective rooms, are integral to the type. China Grove's two brick chimneys are located on the interior walls of the four-room first floor, where they can serve all the rooms on that floor, as well as the two rooms of the second floor. The entrance has sidelights and a transom framing the door; this door surround, as well as the interior door surrounds and the mantels, are decorated with a consistent pattern of staggered vertical planes. These details and arrangements, which are indicative of the Greek Revival period, help establish the probable construction date of the house in the 1830s.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 8.26

Quadrangle name Rhems, S.C.

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

**UMT References**

A	<u>1</u> <u>7</u>	<u>6</u> <u>4</u> <u>8</u> <u>5</u> <u>1</u> <u>8</u>	<u>3</u> <u>7</u> <u>2</u> <u>0</u> <u>9</u> <u>4</u> <u>2</u>	B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

**Verbal boundary description and justification** The nominated property is shown as the red line on the accompanying Georgetown County Tax Maps #428 and #429. The boundaries include the house and its immediate environs, while excluding the surrounding pastures, farmlands, and woodlands. The maps are at a scale of 1 inch = 400 feet.

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

state	code	county	code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Rebecca Starr Cultural Resources Technician	Kathy Hendrix Waccamaw Regional Planning & Development Council
organization	South Carolina Department of Archives and History	date
street & number	P. O. Box 11,669 Capitol Station	telephone
city or town	Columbia	state
		South Carolina 29211

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national     state     local

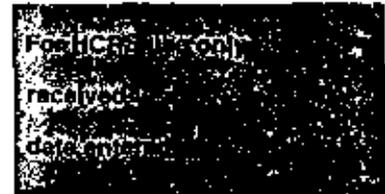
As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage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

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Charles E. Lee (CF)    date 2/8/82  
 Charles E. Lee  
 title State Historic Preservation Officer

**For HCRS use only**  
 I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register  
 \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Keeper of the National Register  
 Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Chief of Registration

United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

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



Continuation sheet 3

Item number 9

Page 3

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pp. 1, 6-9, 13, 23, 26, 30.

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"The Snow Family of Georgetown and Williamsburg Counties of South Carolina"  
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of the Census, Eighth Agriculture Census, 1860. Georgetown County, South  
Carolina, p. 9.

Wells, John. Architectural Historian, South Carolina Department of Archives  
and History. Columbia, South Carolina. Interview, 6 August 1980.

## FOOTNOTES

<sup>1</sup>South Carolina State Plat to William G. Bellune, 15 February 1839, Vol. 41, p. 296; South Carolina Department of Archives and History, Columbia, S.C.: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Seventh Population Census, 1850, Georgetown County, p. 306; U.S. Bureau of the Census, Seventh Agriculture Census, 1850, Georgetown County, p. 705, and Eight Agriculture Census, 1860, Georgetown County, p. 9, South Carolina Department of Archives and History; Interview with John Wells, Architectural Historian, South Carolina Department of Archives and History, 6 August 1980; Samuel D. McGill, Narrative of Reminiscences in Williamsburg County (Kingstree, S.C.: Kingstree Lithographic Co., 1952), p. 194; L.W. Konopa, "The Snow Family of Georgetown and Williamsburg Counties of South Carolina," 1974, South Caroliniana Library, Columbia, S.C.

<sup>2</sup>Kingstree Church Book, 1857-1869, pp. 1, 6-9, 13, 23, 26, 30, South Caroliniana Library.

<sup>3</sup>Konopa.

<sup>4</sup>McGill, p. 194.

<sup>5</sup>Albert Deems Betts, History of South Carolina Methodism (Columbia, S.C.: The Advocate Press, 1952), pp. 308, 512; Konopa.

<sup>6</sup>Betts, pp. 504, 512; Konopa.

<sup>7</sup>McGill, p. 194.

<sup>8</sup>Konopa.

RHEMS QUADRANGLE

SOUTH CAROLINA

7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

1:249,000 FEET

33°37'30"

79°22'30"

215.11 N.E.  
(OUTLAND)

ROME 2.5 MI. 546

250 47

1.3 MI. TO S.C. 41

49

50

571

519

China Grove  
17/648518/3720942

Browns Branch

Mingo

Creek

Peters

Creek

Roane Hill

St. Lukes Ch.

650,000  
FEET

