

CHAPTER 4 – CULTURAL AND HISTORIC RESOURCES

INTRODUCTION

Cultural and historic resources define what is unique about a community. Communities draw their identity from their social and cultural history, how they choose to preserve or discard that history, and how citizens interact with each other and the landscape that surrounds them. Places and facilities enlighten our sense of history and culture and establish important resources for the City to use in planning for the future.

4.1 LOCAL HISTORY

The City of Orangeburg was incorporated December 24, 1883. However, the pre-history of the community began much earlier, as Paleo-Indian humans with stone and bone tools moved into a cold land south of the great glaciers of ice approximately 14,500 years ago in search of the large and smaller animals they hunted to survive. New groups followed, constantly replacing or mingling with the earlier communities, evolving into the Cusabo, Cherokee, Catawba, and other Indian tribes that populated South Carolina prior to the beginning of recorded history in 1670 with the arrival of a group of settlers and establishment of Charles Towne and the Carolina colony.

Over the following years, Carolina hunters and traders advanced north along the many rivers leading into the American interior, and settlers fanned out along the Atlantic Coast and inland. The first European settler in the vicinity of present-day Orangeburg was named Henry Sterling. In 1704, he located a cabin at Lyons Creek and obtained a land grant, and is believed to have traded goods with the various Indian and a few hardy pioneers.

The Township Act of 1730 authorized the establishment of several townships in the interior of the South Carolina colony. One was the Edisto Township located along the “blackwater” Edisto River. Immigrants made their way along Indian trails to the Edisto in 1735 to establish a town on the north bank of the river. Many were German and Swiss farmers attracted to South Carolina by the promise of provisions for one year and that each family head would receive a lot and fifty acres for each member of the family. Additional settlers arrived in 1736 and a third group in 1737 brought along the Rev. John Urich Giessendanner to serve as pastor to the new Orangeburg community. Much of the early history of the district was maintained by Dr. Giessendanner, and by his nephew of the same name who continued his work until 1761. The Germans and Swiss soon began exporting corn, wheat, rice, hemp and cattle hides over the newly built “Charleston Road” or on barges down the Congaree River, and the new town attracted blacksmiths, carpenters, and other artisans soon afterwards.

The lengthy travel time and difficult roads to the colonial seat of government in Charleston made the people of Orangeburg grow self-sufficient as they had little choice but to rely on local resources for goods, services, and protection. Local rangers, justices of the peace, and support by the community militia maintained vigilance against Indian attacks and domestic problems. In 1768/9, the Royal Colony of South Carolina created new larger judicial districts including the Orangeburg District between the Savannah and Congaree Rivers. The smaller parishes and townships, including Orangeburg Township (as part of St. Matthews Parish) became subunits of the judicial district, later called counties.

The conflict between the “Tory” adherents of the British Crown and “Patriots” that favored the creation of a new republican form of government began with debates and hopes for accommodation regarding taxation and colonial rights. The debate quickly broke down in 1775 and escalated into a difficult civil war that lasted for seven years. South Carolina included major battles at Charleston, Camden, Cowpens, and nearby Eutaw Springs. After the revolution, the State of South Carolina redefined its organization of judicial districts in 1785, and again in 1791 and 1800.

Major changes came with Eli Whitney’s invention of the cotton gin in 1793 and the explosion of cotton as a cash crop soon thereafter. Farms raising tobacco, indigo, and other crops were quickly expanded into cotton plantations. Rails came to Orangeburg County in 1828 when a train depot was constructed in Branchville. The first branch of the railroad off the main rail line extended to , thus giving Branchville its name. The Branchville depot is known to be the oldest railroad junction in the world. Today, the old train depot is a railroad museum.

The cotton economy maintained and polarized the American question of slavery and was the major issue leading to the American Civil War which left devastation in Orangeburg County, the burning of homes, the courthouse, the jail, and cotton warehouses by the Union troops of William Sherman in 1865. As he marched with Sherman set up headquarters at the home of Judge Thomas Worth Glover on Whitman Street in downtown Orangeburg in February 1865.

The Orangeburg community struggled to rebuild out of the ruins left after the Civil War. Land could be purchased for less than one dollar per acre due to deflated prices. Cotton was scarce, so prices were inflated for those who could get the money to plant. Agriculture would slowly help rebuild stability in Orangeburg. South Carolina’s revised constitution under reconstruction reorganized the districts into counties and permitted residents to elect their own representatives to the state legislature for the first time although the Orangeburg County boundaries continued to change until 1908 with the creation of Calhoun County.

Clafin College was founded in 1869 to provide education to freedmen and prepare them for citizenship. The South Carolina Agricultural and Mechanical Institute was created within Clafin College in 1872 to comply with the 1862 Land Grant Act, and the first college class of Clafin was graduated in 1879. In 1881, Bell Telephone began service with 14 subscribers. One year later, the Orange Cotton Mill began operation and put over 100 people to work. The city was incorporated in 1883, built a water system in 1887, and established a street trolley in 1888. Electric power came in the 1890s, and the South Carolina legislature established the Colored Normal Industrial Agricultural and Mechanical College of South Carolina as a separate institution in 1896. The 15-foot tall bronze Fireman’s Statue was erected on the square in 1902.

In the mid-1920s, the Edisto Memorial Gardens began to develop with the planting of azaleas on five acres of land along the Edisto River. In 1927, Orangeburg built the City Hall, City Jail, police headquarters, and an auditorium, *The Carolinian*. The Orange County Courthouse was built in 1928. This was the actually the fifth courthouse and was built two blocks away. The old courthouse site was purchased by the City and turned into a park and renamed Memorial Plaza.

The 1930s brought the economically devastating impacts of the boll weevil on cotton farming and the Great Depression. However, the decade also brought the first major electric project in the nation to Orangeburg County with the creation of a hydroelectric dam that connected the Santee and Cooper Rivers to form Lakes Marion and Moultrie.

Orangeburg’s contributions during World War II included the creation of the Hawthorne School of Aeronautics to train US and French pilots, and the establishment of Jennings Field (now the Orangeburg Municipal Airport). After the war, large numbers of veterans returned to

expand existing farms, build and establish new businesses. Many veterans used the GI Bill to attend college and the State legislature gave large sums of money to build new dormitories and athletic facilities at the newly renamed (in 1954) South Carolina State College.

Orangeburg became a major location during the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s, as SC State and Claflin students, faculty, and local residents participated in marches and rallies to oppose segregation. In February 1968, three young men were killed and 27 others wounded at the height of a protest to desegregate the All Star Bowling Alley when state police opened fire near the front of the campus. The event is commemorated by a memorial plaza at the site.

The Orangeburg-Calhoun Technical Education Center opened later in 1968, and expanded rapidly to provide technical and vocational education to local residents. The first South Carolina Festival of Roses was held in Orangeburg in 1972. Hillcrest Golf Club opened in 1973.

In 1992, South Carolina State College formally became South Carolina State University, and in 1993, the Downtown Orangeburg Revitalization Association (DORA) was founded to encourage the development, redevelopment, and improvement of downtown Orangeburg. *The Carolinian Auditorium*, renamed for former city administrator Robert Stevenson, was renovated in the late-1990s, and the Orangeburg County Community of Character program was created in 2000 as a collaborative effort by DORA, all of the cities, the County, *The Times and Democrat* newspaper, the Orangeburg Chamber of Commerce, and the Orangeburg County Development Commission (OCDC).

South Carolina State continued to grow replacing four older dormitories with the 771-bed Hugine Suites dormitory, the largest in South Carolina. In 2007, South Carolina State University hosted the first Democratic U.S. presidential candidate debate of the 2008 Presidential election campaign.

4.2 HISTORICAL PLACES AND DISTRICTS

Much of the City's unique charms and amenities are found in the historical buildings and places within the city. There are eight Historic Districts located within the City of Orangeburg with multiple properties located in the city and on the National Register. Seven of these historical districts were combined to form the "Historical Multiple Resource Area" nominated for and included on the National Register of Historic Places in 1985. The eighth was added in 1997.

A strong preservation community is committed to preserving cultural and historical resources, including the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the State of South Carolina Historic Preservation Office, the South Carolina Institute of Archeology and Anthropology, the Orangeburg County Historical Society, and the Orangeburgh German-Swiss Genealogical Society.

The Orangeburg County Historical Society is the primary caretaker of local history. The Society owns and operates the Alex Salley Archives, containing records, papers, and historical artifacts in the Salley Archives building located at the corner of Middleton and Bull Streets. Constructed in the 1960s, the Archives Building is staffed by volunteers on Tuesday mornings, Wednesdays, and the 1st Saturday of each month. Documentation includes genealogical files and information regarding government, schools, churches, families, businesses, and civic organizations from Orangeburg's past.

HISTORICAL BUILDINGS AND PLACES

Twenty-five (25) historical sites located within the City have been listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The inventory of historical places on the National Register includes 17 individual properties and eight historical districts with multiple properties. Listing a site

on the National Register recognizes the significance of the location and qualifies the owner(s) for certain federal tax benefits and assistance for preservation when funds are available. Designation also requires consideration of the impacts on the properties when they are affected by federal or federally assisted projects. The properties on the National Register are listed below:

| Table 4.1: Historical Place | Location | Era Constructed and Notes | Year Added to List |
|--|---|--|---------------------------|
| Orangeburg County Jail (The Pink Palace) | 44 St. John St. | 1860 (Burned in 1865 / rebuilt, and addition built in 1922) | 1973 |
| Tingley Memorial Hall, Claflin University | College Avenue, Claflin University Campus | 1908 | 1983 |
| Dixie Library Building | Bull Street at Middleton Street | Circa. 1850, moved in 1912 and again in 1955 | 1985 |
| F.H.W. Briggmann House | 1156 Amelia Street | Circa 1855 | 1985 |
| Enterprise Cotton Mills Building | Zeus Industrial Products, 501 Boulevard | 1896-1897 | 1985 |
| Major John Hammond Fordham House | 415 Boulevard | 1903 | 1985 |
| Mt. Pisgah Baptist Church | 310 Green Street | 1903 | 1985 |
| Orangeburg County Fair Main Exhibit Building | Magnolia Street | 1911 | 1985 |
| Williams Chapel A.M.E. Church | 184 Glover Street | Circa 1915-1925 | 1985 |
| Lowman Hall, S. C. State University | SCSU Campus | 1917 | 1985 |
| Hotel Eutaw | Russell St. at Centre St., Courthouse Square | 1926-1927 | 1985 |
| Hodge Hall, S. C. State University | SCSU Campus | 1928 | 1985 |
| Dukes Gym, S. C. State University | SCSU Campus | 1931 | 1985 |
| Amelia Street Historic District | Amelia Street between Treadwell & Summers Streets | 1890-1929, district includes 15 residences. | 1985 |
| Claflin College Historic District | Claflin University campus (portion) | Circa 1898-1917, district includes 5 education buildings and Tingley Memorial Hall | 1985 |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|------|
| East Russell Street Area Historic District | Sections of East Russell St. between Watson & Clarendon Streets and along portions of Oakland Place, Dickson & Whitman Street | Circa 1850-1930, district includes approximately 55 resources including a collection of one and two story houses. | 1985 |
| Ellis Avenue Historic District | Portion of Ellis Ave. between Summers Ave. and Wilson Street. | “Turn-of-the-Century” residences, and Ellis Avenue School (built 1931); District contains seven one and two story residential buildings. | 1985 |
| Orangeburg Downtown Historic District | General area around the public square | Circa 1850-1935, district includes collection of 44 buildings and one statue, including a livery stable, two churches, a post office, two lodge halls, city offices, and brick paved street. City’s first textile mill was lost a decade ago. Includes old Fire Station | 1985 |
| Treadwell Street Historic District | Along portions of Treadwell and Amelia Streets. | Circa 1890-1930. District contains approximately 40 period buildings, all but one were originally residences. | 1985 |
| Whitman Street Area Historic District | Along sections of Whitman, Elliott and East Russell Streets | Circa 1880-1925. District contains 12 period buildings, plus Judge Glover House (525 Whitman), built circa 1846, but substantially altered. | 1985 |
| Trinity Methodist Episcopal Church | 185 Boulevard | 1928-1944 | 1994 |
| William P. Stroman House | 1017 North Boulevard | Circa 1920s | 1996 |
| All Star Bowling Alley | 559 East Russell Street | Early 1960s, associated with the 1968 “Orangeburg Massacre” incident important to the Civil Rights movement | 1996 |
| Orangeburg City Cemetery | Corner of Bull Street and Windsor Street | Established 1889 | 1996 |
| South Carolina State College Historic District | 300 College Street | Circa 1917-1969, includes 14 structures / excludes Dukes Gymnasium (listed separately) and student center | 1997 |

In addition, the plan should recognize that additional historic resources on the National Register are located outside, but near to the city. The inventory of historical places on the National Register includes 17 individual properties and eight historical districts with multiple properties.

Listing a site on the National Register recognizes the significance of the location and qualifies the owner(s) for certain federal tax benefits and assistance

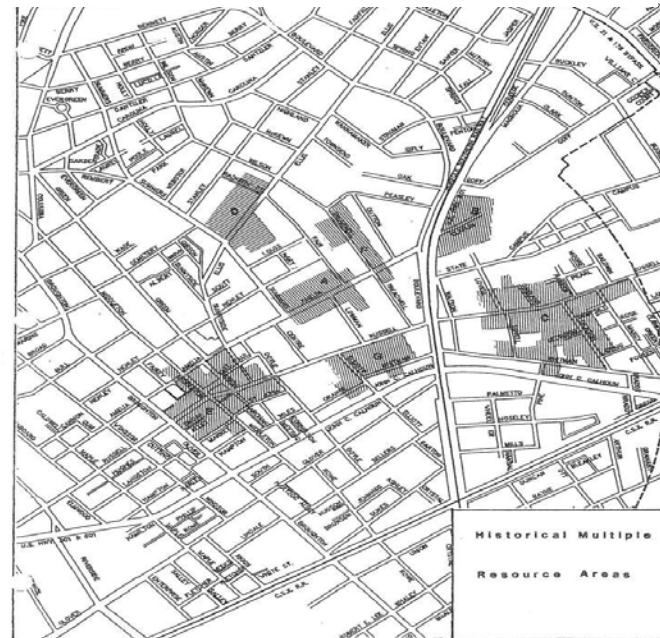
| Table 4.2: Additional NR sites Located Outside the City | Location | Era Constructed and Notes | Year Added to List |
|--|--|---|---------------------------|
| White House United Methodist Church | US 301 (10 miles north of the city near the I-26 interchange) | Circa 1850 | 1974 |
| Donald Bruce House | US 301 (2 miles north of the city limits, 1.4 miles from 178 Bypass) | Pre-1776 (moved between 1837-1857 to Middlepen Plantation, moved again (100 yards) in 1937) | 1978 |
| Alan Mack Site | Location information is restricted | Prehistoric archeological site | 1986 |
| Great Branch Teacherage | 2890 Neeses Highway | 1924-1925 | 2007 |

Note: Walking Tour sites should be added within the notes column

The Historical Multiple Resource Area is illustrated on Map 4.1. There are 191 resources of historical or architectural significance in the Historical Multiple Resource Area. However, many of these resources are located in areas undergoing physical change or transitions in how the buildings and land may be used, and the City’s historical resources may be vulnerable to compromise, misuse, destruction, structural alteration, and environmental change.

The historical, architectural, or aesthetic character of the historical resource may be affected by changes to the resource, to use, access/ egress, or surrounding buildings and grounds that alter the setting. Historical resource and review requirements for compatibility or assurance of restoration standards may be needed to consider when the potential reuse or modifications are acceptable to the community as well as the owners, and if some alterations of the proposed changes may be desirable to preserve the resource for future generations and still meet the owner’s requirements.

MAP 4.1: LOCAL HISTORIC DISTRICTS



HISTORIC ZONING OVERLAY DISTRICT

Historic overlay zoning districts are intended to help protect and support the city's historic resources.

A "Historical Conservation Overlay Zone" was added to the City's zoning ordinance in 1993 to enhance and ensure the survival of its historical resources. However, the Overlay Zoning District has not been applied on the Zoning Map, and it should be added during the next update of the Zoning Map.

OTHER HISTORIC STRUCTURES AND PROPERTIES

In addition to the historic properties mentioned in the discussion of National Register of Historic Places above, the city has significant history and several neighborhoods contain historic homes and properties. The Orangeburg Downtown Walking Tour identifies 29 specific resources, many within the Historical Multiple Resources Area. Some of the more significant examples in the historical include:

- **The Pioneer Graveyard** on Bull Street, the burial site for many early citizens of Orangeburg Township prior to the establishment of church cemeteries. The first church was in the vicinity of the site.
- **The Judge Glover House** on Whitman Street built in 1846 and serving as General William Sherman's headquarters as he marched across the state in February 1865, is included within the Whitman Street Historical District.
- **The Dukes-Harley Funeral Home** at 1580 Russell Street was built in 1904 and occupied by the business in 1936 until an unfortunate fire gutted the building in 1999. The rebuilt family home at the site does not meet requirements for historical preservation.
- **The Orangeburg County Courthouse** was built between 1927 and 1929 at the former site of the Trinity United Methodist Church. It is the fifth courthouse built by the county. The first was burnt by the British in 1781 and the third by Union troops in 1865. The site of the third and fourth courthouses is now the downtown square at Memorial Plaza.
- **The Orangeburg Church of the Redeemer** was built in 1857 and survived the Civil War and a move from Boulevard to Russell Street. The church features a classic gothic interior and signed Tiffany stained glass window.

The Edisto Memorial Gardens on Highway 301 includes a marker relating the story of the defense on the Edisto River Bridge in 1865. A five acre plot nearby was planted with azaleas in the early 1920s and a city playground was built nearby in 1922. A greenhouse and a nursery facility were added in 1947, and a rose garden was planted in 1951. The Fountain was moved to the Gardens from the Square in 1950 in memory of local military veterans who died in war. The gardens now cover 110 acres of azaleas, roses, camellias, and other flowering plants among the giant oaks, cypress, and other native trees along the Edisto River. Other local resources in and close to the City include:

- The Hawthorne School of Aeronautics is featured in exhibits at the Orangeburg Municipal Airport that describe the facility responsible for training nearly 6,000 American and French pilots during World War II. The Methodist Oaks retirement community is located at the site of the school buildings, and the airfield got its start as Jennings Auxiliary Field.
- The Orangeburg National Fish Hatchery was created in 1911 to support the conservation, protection, and enhancement of endangered and recreational fish species. The hatchery's main station is located at 427 Lakeview Drive off the Highway 21 By Pass,

and includes the offices, educational aquarium center, outdoor recreation and education area, and indoor and outdoor fish production facilities. Visiting hours are 8:00 am to 3:30pm Monday through Friday.

- Zion Church is located on US Highway 301, five miles south of the city. The church was built before the Civil War and replaced in the 1880s.

POTENTIAL SURVEY RECOMMENDATIONS

- ❑ Further Research & Investigation: Gaps in information, including areas in the city that have not been surveyed.
- ❑ National Register – Additional properties identified as eligible and still in existence...
- ❑ Interagency Cooperation – Coordination with the County to identify properties in the adjacent unincorporated areas....
- ❑ Public Policy – Effects of development and land uses on historic properties and preservation of significant view sheds when forming policies and decisions.
- ❑ Historic District Designation –Neighborhoods worthy of local historic district designation...
- ❑ Heritage Tourism –Opportunities to promote tourism opportunities to explore and educate groups and the general public and assist the development of the city as a destination and validate local pride in the City’s identity and history.
- ❑ Historic Markers – Historical markers as visual signage aids and identification of significant areas, including important historic properties that are no longer in existence.
- ❑ Adaptive Reuse of older buildings - A classic example is the conversion of old factories and warehouses into residential lofts, restaurants, or art studios. Another is reuse of shopping centers and their parking lots for residential infill development.

The South Carolina National Heritage Corridor passes through Orangeburg County as it traverses the State from the Mountains in Oconee County to the low country plantations and Charleston. Designated by the US Congress in 1996, the SCNHC is intended to preserve historic resources, educate residents and visitors, facilitate cultural tourism, and define programs and projects that can achieve economic benefits from increased tourism. The SCNHC has provided National Park Service grant resources for numerous historical and natural resource preservation projects along the corridor, including Trinity Community Church, the I.P Stanback Museum and Planetarium, the Chamber of Commerce, Edisto Memorial Gardens, and the Arthur Rose Museum at Claflin University. The SCNHC program is strongly supported and promoted by the South Carolina Traveler magazine.

4.3 CULTURAL ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT VENUES

The City of Orangeburg provides a focal point for the expression of local and regional culture, the arts, and social activities. As the county seat and the center of the County’s social life, many cultural resources have been established within or near to the City, including government and commercial centers, churches, schools, and locations for entertainment and recreation.

The Orangeburg County Fine Arts Center, located just outside the Edisto Memorial Gardens in the old River Pavilion is home to the performing arts, visual arts and literary arts. A terrace garden overlooks the river. Exhibits located in the 2nd floor gallery feature local and regional art, pottery, needlework, miniatures, and other presentations. The Fine Arts Center also supports local arts organizations and schools through sub-grants, and “arts and education” programs through the center’s broad range of activities, workshops, exhibits, seminars, plays, concerts, arts and crafts, performances, luncheons, and tours. The Arts Center facility is owned by the City and leased to the Arts Council, a chartered non-profit organization founded to provide facilities for the enjoyment and participation of individuals in the Arts and Historical Heritage. The two-story building is adequate for most functions. Last renovated in 1984, it is being renovated in 2017-2018.

In addition to the Fine Arts Center, a local performing group, the **Orangeburg Part-Time Players**, secured and renovated the old Edisto Theatre downtown (renamed **Blue Bird Theatre**) for live performances.

Stevenson Auditorium is located in the City office complex on Middleton Street in downtown Orangeburg. Built in 1927, this complex was designed to serve as the cultural and administrative center of town. The auditorium has seating for 613, following major renovation in 2000, and inclusion of handicapped accessible modifications designed to meet ADA requirements. It is used about 200 days out of the year.

The auditorium serves as a catalyst for economic development of the downtown area and enrichment of the arts.

The Edisto Memorial Gardens provide 110 acres of flowering plants and trees on the Edisto River. Centennial Park, the Azalea Garden, and the Rose Garden pond area are frequently rented for weddings and receptions. Other sites throughout the gardens, such as the Sensory Garden, may be rented and used as well. The Chapel of Hope provides a small non-denominational structure for intimate events of a solemn nature. The Spray Park provides an active water recreation area with regular hours and opens throughout each summer. Private rentals are booked after regular business hours.

The Horne Wetlands Park is a major addition to the gardens located between the rose garden and the river. The wetlands park boardwalk is one element that is part of the City’s on-going 10-Year development plan for the Edisto Memorial Gardens. The plan includes 2,500 feet of boardwalks, observation decks, a boat dock, and an interpretative shelter to allow wildlife and plants to be viewed in their native settings.

INSTITUTIONAL VENUES

Major institutions affect everyday life for most residents of the community. Education and religious institutions provide facilities that may also support cultural activities in addition to their primary use by providing meeting rooms, event venues, and even some sponsorships for participants.

South Carolina State University adds considerably to the inventory of cultural facilities and resources available to the Community. Among these are:

- ✧ **The Martin Luther King Auditorium** is the largest cultural auditorium facility in the City with seating capacity for 1,000.
- ✧ **The Henderson-Davis Theatre** is located in Turner Hall and provides a seating capacity for 400.

- ✧ **The Fine Arts Building** houses the Barbara A. Vaughn Recital Hall and the FAB gallery exhibition space used for professional and student exhibitions. Visual Arts program studios are located on the 1st and 2nd floors. The Arts Center also includes a picnic shelter and a River Stage.
- ✧ **The Oliver C. Dawson Stadium** is a 22,000-seat multi-purpose stadium located on the SC State University campus. Opened in 1955, the stadium received major renovations in 1994, and is home to the South Carolina State Bulldogs college football team and the women's college soccer team. The stadium took its current name in 1984, named after former athletic director Oliver C. Dawson (1910–1989), an inductee of the South Carolina Athletic Hall of Fame.

These facilities are available for community use and present a variety of performances including concerts, plays, lectures, poetry reading, etc. The University also has a symphony orchestra, concert choir, gospel choir and the Henderson-Davis Players, among other performing groups, including the South Carolina State University Marching 101 Band.

South Carolina State University, Claflin University and Orangeburg-Calhoun Technical College have banded together to form a Community for Higher Education Council (CHEC). The mission of the Council is to expand the overall educational experience at each institution as well as affect quality of life improvements to the community as a whole. The CHEC publishes a Cultural Calendar of events sponsored by each institution as well as the Orangeburg County Fine Arts Center.

Claflin University adds to the list of cultural facilities and resources available to the community. The 800-seat capacity **W.V. Middleton Fine Arts Center** hosts nationally known artist and performances in addition to supporting local talent events.

Claflin University has its own television and radio studio, used for such programs as Teen Talk and local programming by Time Warner Studios. A Living and Learning Center has been added featuring a **Performing Arts Center**. This facility is used to accommodate smaller performing groups and audiences of about 150 people, and is housed in a renovated historical building.

Orangeburg-Calhoun Technical College (OCtech) opened in 1968 and has over 2,700 students as of May 2017. Located at 3250 Saint Matthews Road, the OCtech mission is to provide relevant training and education in a flexible environment that promotes success and self-reliance for students, and fosters economic development for the region. The multiple buildings on campus include the 37,000-SF Student Life and Community Center, completed in 2003 which features public meeting rooms, the Tourville Learning Lab, a Cyber Café, and offices for student services, the administration, and the president. The recently completed Gressette Building houses the library, student lounge, campus bookstore and academic offices.

PUBLIC SCHOOL RESOURCES

Two of the three Orangeburg County School Districts serve the City of Orangeburg. Orangeburg County School District Five is the largest public school district in the County and includes most of the City and areas to the north, east, and southeast. Orangeburg County School District Four includes the Edisto community and portions of the County to the west and northwest of the City. School facilities provide buildings and recreation facilities for the public education system. In addition, some school facilities also may be used to hold public meetings or support community needs, such as community meetings, emergency resource centers, or additional recreation facilities (three schools currently provide part time access to their gyms through the City of Orangeburg Parks and Recreation Department). These facilities provide

valuable cultural resources, and are listed below. A more complete inventory of school facilities is provided in the Community Facilities element.

| <u>OCSD5 School Facilities:</u> | <u>Location</u> | <u>Potential Asset</u> |
|---|---|---|
| Orangeburg-Wilkinson High School | 601 Bruin Parkway | |
| Bethune-Bowman Middle High School | 4857 Charleston Highway, Rowesville, SC | |
| Orangeburg High School for Health | 770 Stilton Road | |
| Orangeburg District 5 Technology Center | 3720 Magnolia Street | |
| Robert E. Howard Middle School | 1255 Belleville Road | Basketball Gymnasium (coordinates w/OP&R) |
| William Clark Middle School | 919 Bennett Street | Basketball Gymnasium (coordinates w/OP&R) |
| Bethune-Bowman Elementary School | 4857 Charleston Highway, Rowesville, SC | |
| Brookdale Elementary | 394 Brookdale Drive | Basketball Gymnasium (coordinates w/OP&R) |
| Felton Laboratory School | 300 College Avenue | |
| Marshall Elementary | 1441 Marshall Street | |
| Mellichamp Elementary | 350 Murray Road | |
| Nix Elementary School | 770 Stilton Road | |
| Rivelon Elementary | 350 Thomas B. Ecklund Circle | |
| Sheridan Elementary | 1139 Hillsboro Road | |
| Whittaker Elementary, | 790 Whittaker Parkway (Wilkinson Heights) | |
| <u>OCSD4 School Facilities</u> | <u>Location</u> | <u>Potential Asset</u> |
| Edisto High School | 500 R M Foster Road, Cordova, SC | |
| Carver-Edisto Middle School | 2018 Carver School Road, Cope, SC | |
| Edisto Elementary | 136 Woodolive Lane | |
| Edisto Primary | 3239 Cordova Road, Cordova, SC | |
| Star Center for Learning | 6064 Slab Landing Road, Cope, SC | |

PRIVATE SCHOOL RESOURCES

The private schools in the Orangeburg area also provide cultural resources to the community including meeting space and recreational entertainment venues. Albeit they may be closed to the public, they may impact surrounding properties when events occur. The inventory of private schools includes the following campus resources:

| <u>Private School Facilities:</u> | <u>Location</u> | <u>Potential Asset</u> |
|--|-------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Garden City Preparatory School for Boys | 908 Willington Road | |
| Orangeburg Preparatory Schools | 2651 North Road | |
| Wesley Christian School | 492 Broughton Street | |
| Vanard Mendinghall Jr. Academy | 1204 Decatur Street, NE | |

LIBRARIES

The Orangeburg Branch of the Orangeburg County Library System is located at 510 Louis Street, and serves as a community center offering a variety of programs for children and adults including storytelling and art for pre-school youth, tutoring and language classes, writing workshops, and yoga. The library branch operates six days a week (Monday – Saturday) with variable hours during the day. The Library building has had several problems with flooding after heavy rains over the past several years, and a new library facility is proposed for construction in 2019 or 2020.

PUBLIC PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES

Public parks and recreation centers also provide buildings and grounds for cultural activities. Key venue facilities for cultural events include:

- ✧ **Orangeburg Community Center/Gymnasium** located at 410 Broughton Street provides a 2,300-SF building to accommodate 700- persons with two basketball courts, concession stands, restrooms, and multi-purpose rooms.
- ✧ **Orangeburg Canteen Community Center** on Middleton Street
- ✧ **Albergotti Park** provides a Picnic Shelter on Riverside Drive in addition to playgrounds, ballfields, and tennis courts
- ✧ **Duncan Street Playground** off Magnolia Street features a Picnic Shelter, swings, and a Basketball Court
- ✧ **Glover Street Park** provides a picnic shelter
- ✧ **Mirmow Field** provides avenue to serve American Legion, Claflin University, and Dixie Pre-Majors Baseball teams at a facility located at the corner of Whaley Street and Rowe Street
- ✧ **Zimmerman Community Center** on Peasely Street is available for rental and supports a baseball field
- ✧ **Hillcrest Park** provides a golf course and clubhouse, tennis courts and ballfields

PRIVATE FACILITIES

Event venues also include a number of private facilities. **The Orangeburg County Fair** is not a part of the County government, but was organized in 1911 by a group of local stockholders that set up the Orangeburg County Fair Association. They purchased two properties totaling 32.65 acres off Magnolia Street south of Whaley Street, built exhibit halls, and held the first fair in November that year. The stockholders added a racetrack and a caretaker’s residence in 1912. Football and baseball bleachers were added and in 1916, Clemson and the Citadel played the first college football game held in Orangeburg. Additional land was added over the years and several buildings were

constructed by the County through with lease agreements. The annual County Fair continues to be held each fall and the Association continues as a 501(c) 3 non-profit corporation. The facilities include several large exhibit barns and sheds at 350 Magnolia Street.

The Orangeburg Country Club has a grand ballroom, four banquet halls and a full range of amenities. The Broughton, the Liberty Room, Ross Centre, D'Vine on Russell, and the Cinema are a few of the private event venue rental resources that serve the city and offer banquet, meeting, and reception rooms. The Matriarch B&B, Holiday Inn, Baymont Inn, Fairfield Inn, Hampton Inn, and many other hotels provide additional private for-rental facilities.

Downtown Orangeburg, the Prince of Orange Mall, and other commercial retail centers provide additional private resources and support for local social interaction and commerce.

MUSEUMS & MEMORIALS

- ✧ Many of the museum and exhibition resources have been discussed above. The list below reiterates their value to the community:
The I.P. Stanback Museum and Planetarium, located on the campus of the South Carolina State University, provides scientific and technological programs in a purpose-built 16,000-SF building constructed in 1980. The planetarium offers a variety of programs throughout the year.
- ✧ **The Arthur Rose Museum** at Claflin University
- ✧ **The Alex Salley Archives Building managed by the Orangeburg Historical Society**
- ✧ **The Dixie Library**
- ✧ **The Judge Glover Home** on Whitman Street
- ✧ **The Hawthorne School of Aeronautics Exhibit at the Orangeburg Municipal Airport.**
- ✧ **The Orangeburg National Fish Hatchery** aquarium center and fish production facilities.
- ✧ **Edisto Memorial Gardens** includes many activities and special activity areas, including the following:
 - American Rose Society Award of Excellence Test Garden
 - Andrew Berry Terrace Garden
 - Boat Landing
 - Butterfly Garden
 - Centennial Park
 - Horne Wetland Park
 - Mountain Brook
 - Noisette Garden

- Orangeburg County Fine Arts Center and Garden
- Sensory Garden
- Summers Memorial Park
- Water Wheel
- Veterans Memorial Park

❖ **The Orangeburg Downtown Square** is the location of the former county courthouse facilities and includes several monuments and relics of the City's past. The old First Presbyterian Church of Orangeburg Cemetery is located across the street.

CULTURAL EVENTS AND SERVICES

Annual events and services include numerous festivals and events held in Orangeburg and Orangeburg County throughout the year. A partial listing of some of those events includes these events below:

- **Grand American Hunt** (Early January) - Coon hunting enthusiasts from throughout the US - Orangeburg County Fairgrounds.
- **Henderson-Davis Players Presentation** (January to June)
- **Orangeburg Part-Time Players Presentation** (Early March) - The Bluebird Theater.
- **Car Show on the Square** (Early April) - The Orangeburg Square.
- **S.C. Philharmonic Orchestra/S. C. State University Choir Concert** – (Mid-April) - Martin Luther King Auditorium.
- **S.C. Festival of Roses in Orangeburg** (Late April) - Weekend of family fun and entertainment, music, sports, races, arts and crafts.
- **Senior's Day at the Rose Festival** (Late April) - Tour of Roses, entertainment and refreshments for senior citizens.
- **Orangeburg Part-Time Players Presentation** (Late June) - the Bluebird Theater.
- **DORA Block Party Dance** (August) – Downtown Orangeburg.
- **S.C. Queen of Roses Pageant** (Late September) - Stevenson Auditorium.
- **Orangeburg County Fair** (September or October).
- **Holiday Arts & Crafts** (Mid-October) -First Baptist Church of Orangeburg Family Life Center.
- **The Regional Medical Center Christmas Tree Lighting Program** (Late November or early December).
- **Children's Garden Christmas** (Late November through December -Lighted displays of Christmas in Edisto Memorial Gardens.
- **Orangeburg County Christmas Parade** (Early December).
- **S.C. State University Choir Concert and Claflin University Concert Choir (Early December).**

4.5 CULTURAL AND HISTORIC RESOURCES GOALS AND POLICIES

The Community appears to be committed to the arts and to providing opportunities for broad based citizen participation to match local interests.

For the most part existing facilities are adequate for their intended function, following improvements to Stevenson Auditorium in 2000. Additional planned improvements to Stevenson include expansion of restrooms and development of a courtyard between Stevenson and eventual home to Council Chambers (Old Fire Station). With additional improvements to certain other facilities, they could become they could be outstanding.

The Community is also cognizant of its history and is committed to historical preservation, recognizing that the future is built on the past.

| GOAL | POLICY | ACTION | STATUS |
|---|---|--|---------------|
| Goal 4.1: Promote Greater Appreciation of the Community’s Cultural Facilities and Events | Policy 4.1.1: Preserve the character of historic neighborhoods and districts. | Maintain and circulate a comprehensive calendar of events, including continued publication of notices i n t h e newspaper. | |
| | | Create community date-book on City of Orangeburg website. | |
| | | Encourage student participation in cultural events. | |
| Maintain Cultural Facilities in Structurally Sound and Aesthetically Pleasing Conditions to Maximize Use and Foster Community Pride. | Stevenson Auditorium is the City’s primary cultural facility and a source of community pride. | Promote and maintain Stevenson Auditorium as the primary cultural facility and a source of community pride. | |
| | | Continue use of Stevenson Auditorium to foster the arts, and accommodate civic & public events | |

| GOAL | POLICY | ACTION | STATUS |
|---|---|--|---|
| | | <p>The Fine Arts Center also is an integral part of the cultural composite of the City. These facilities and others should be maintained in show-case condition to maintain support to the arts and the cultural development of the Community.</p> | |
| <p>Promote and Encourage Interest in All Aspects of the Community's History</p> | | <p>Commit to preserving and maintaining historically accurate properties and increasing public awareness</p> | |
| <p>Bring About a Closer Relationship Among Persons in the Community Who Are Interested in History.</p> | | <p>Increase support of and participation in historical preservation.</p> | |
| <p>Encourage the Preservation of Historical Sites, Materials, and Records of the Community.</p> | <p>Strategies designed to help implement this goal include:</p> | <p>Identify and restore selected properties.</p> | |
| | | <p>Educate public on the importance and benefits of historic preservation</p> | |
| | | <p>Apply Historic Conservation Zoning protection for properties and areas of historical significance identified herein.</p> | |
| <p>Link the Community's Cultural Facilities and Resources with the <u>Heritage Corridor</u></p> | | <p>Chamber is in an excellent position to provide the much needed link to the corridor and promote economic activities associated with use of the corridor</p> | <p>Orangeburg Chamber of Commerce has been designated as an official stop on the Heritage Corridor.</p> |
| | | | |