

**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

## 1. Name of Property

Historic name: Ruth's Beauty Parlor

Other names/site number: Collins House

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

## 2. Location

Street & number: 1221 Pine Street

City or town: Columbia State: South Carolina County: Richland

Not For Publication:  Vicinity:

## 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this X nomination     request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property X meets     does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

    national     statewide X local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

X A     B     C     D

<p>_____</p> <p><b>Signature of certifying official/Title:</b></p> <p>_____</p> <p><b>State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</b></p>	<p>_____</p> <p><b>Date</b></p>
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<p>In my opinion, the property <u>   </u> meets <u>   </u> does not meet the National Register criteria.</p>	
<p>_____</p> <p><b>Signature of commenting official:</b></p> <p>_____</p> <p><b>Title :</b></p>	<p>_____</p> <p><b>Date</b></p> <p>_____</p> <p><b>State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</b></p>

Ruth's Beauty Parlor  
Name of Property

Richland, South Carolina  
County and State

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#### 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_

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Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

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#### 5. Classification

##### Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

##### Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

Ruth's Beauty Parlor  
Name of Property

Richland, South Carolina  
County and State

**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>          </u>	buildings
<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	sites
<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	structures
<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>          </u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 1

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Commerce/Trade – specialty store

Domestic – single dwelling

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Domestic – single dwelling

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## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Late Victorian: Queen Anne

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**Materials:** (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property:

Foundation: CONCRETE, BRICK

Walls: WOOD FRAME

Roof: ASPHALT SHINGLE/ COMPOSITIONAL ROOF

Other: CONCRETE

### 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. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

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### Summary Paragraph

The property at 1221 Pine Street in Columbia was constructed in 1910 on land purchased by Nathaniel H. Collins. The house is situated on less than an acre of land at the corner of Brayton Alley and Pine Street in the historic Waverly neighborhood.<sup>1</sup> The building is a two-and-one half story Queen Anne style house with an asymmetrical front façade and colonnaded porch. The architectural features of the interior and exterior are representative of an intact, early twentieth century Queen Anne style home, one of very few left in Waverly. In addition to the house on the property, there is also a storage shed that lies to the west, behind the main building. The main house is the only contributing resource on the property. The home is currently listed in the National Register as a contributing property to the Waverly Historic District.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> For information about the Waverly neighborhood, see the additional context section located under Section 8 of this form and the *Waverly Historic District, Richland County, South Carolina*, District Nomination to the National Register of Historic Places, November 1989.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*

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## Narrative Description

The home at 1221 Pine Street is a two-and-one-half story clapboard Queen Anne style house situated on less than one acre of land in the Waverly Historic District. Originally owned by Nathaniel Collins, the home was under construction in 1909 and finished by 1910.<sup>3</sup> The façade is asymmetrical with a one-story covered porch supported by round, wooden, Scamozzi Ionic style columns. The front porch also includes a turned balustrade and a beadboard ceiling. The front porch was initially a wraparound L-shaped porch, however the portion on the north elevation was enclosed and an additional front door was added to the façade.<sup>4</sup> The façade includes a pedimented gable entrance bay as well as additional pedimented gables on the east and west elevations over projecting rectangular bays. Front-facing gables include cornice returns on the gable ends with overhanging eaves. The home once had a second story balcony on the façade but this was later enclosed, likely in 1923.<sup>5</sup> The residence has classical detailing, a brick foundation, and a hipped-roof with lower cross gables. The façade also includes a pedimented gable dormer with leadlight glass windows. Leadlight glass is also seen above the façade's downstairs window and one interior door in the foyer.<sup>6</sup> First and second story windows are banded with molding on every exterior side. Glass in the windows was replaced in 1989.<sup>7</sup>

The south elevation contains seven windows including a canted bay window with overhanging pendants. The west elevation includes eight windows and a rear entry door with an attached partially covered cement porch. The north elevation includes ten windows and a pedimented gable on the second story. All elevations are asymmetrical on the home. The house has a composite roof with asphalt shingles.

The home stayed in the Collins family until 1998, when Nathaniel Collins's daughter, Ruth Collins Perry, sold the property to a real estate company. The home had become dilapidated and was classified by *The State* newspaper as a boarded-up house in 2001.<sup>8</sup> The home suffered from lack of maintenance and had undergone some exterior modifications in the late twentieth century. A major exterior modification was the addition of vinyl siding which had been added to the exterior clapboarding in the 1980s (**Figure 1**). All vinyl siding was removed in 2005 by the

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<sup>3</sup> Nathaniel Collins asked City Council in April of 1909 for waterlines to be connected to his new home at 1221 Pine Street, indicating that it had just recently been built. See Columbia City Council Minutes, 1909-1913. City of Columbia, Columbia.

<sup>4</sup> This addition was made during the period of significance and was intended as a waiting room that could be closed off from the rest of the Collins home for Ruth Collins Perry's beauty salon clients.

<sup>5</sup> It is not definitively known when the sleeper porch was enclosed on the second story of the home, it is suggested through newspaper records of permits acquired by Nathaniel Collins that it was made in 1923. *The State*, "Plan to Build New Frame Dwellings and Install Heating Systems," 16 November 1923; *The Sunday Record*, "New, Assembly Street Home To Be Built; Numerous Permits," 18 November 1923; *Columbia, June 1919* (New York: Sanborn Map Company, 1919), sheet 50; *Columbia, March 1956* (New York: Sanborn Map Company, 1956), sheet 50.

<sup>6</sup> The leadlight glass above the interior door in the foyer is where the door served as an additional exterior door to the home before part of the L-shaped porch was enclosed.

<sup>7</sup> *The State*, "Building Permits," 14 December 1989; Description of Real Estate from Sarah E. Collins to Ruth C. Perry, Beatrice C. Johnson, Etienne C. Johnson, and Verdelle C. Reynolds, n.d. (filed 29 April 1966), Deed Book 41, page 733, Richland County Register of Deeds, Columbia, South Carolina.

<sup>8</sup> *The State*, "Boarded Houses," 28 May 2001.

property's owner, Sylvie Dessau, and the original clapboarding was retained. Dessau bought the home in 2004 and restored the house to its appearance in the 1910s. The current exterior of the residence resembles the original architectural design of the home during the period of significance, though the home's original color is unknown.<sup>9</sup>

The interior of the home includes Queen Anne detailing throughout. There are eight main rooms and four closets in the downstairs of the residence including a foyer, bathroom, library, family room, two parlors, kitchen, and laundry room (**Figure 2**). The family room was used as Ruth's beauty parlor and the library as a waiting room. There are also two staircases including one located in the front foyer of the residence and a narrow staircase located in the rear of the home within the kitchen. Only the rear staircase has a door at the top of the staircase.<sup>10</sup> There are also four fireplaces downstairs, all of which have ornate mantels. Some walls have wainscoting and beadboard particularly in the kitchen and library.

All rooms downstairs have original crown molding and baseboards throughout as well as hardwood floors. Only the hardwood floor in the kitchen and entrance at the top of the rear staircase have been replaced from the original due to deterioration. Hardware throughout the home is also from the period of significance including door hinges, handles, and light fixtures.<sup>11</sup> There are two chimneys in the home supporting the five fireplaces.

The upstairs portion of the home also includes such original features as hardwood floors, crown molding, baseboards, and hardware. The closet of the master bedroom has wainscoting and beadboard on the ceiling. There are three bedrooms upstairs as well as a sleeping porch which was enclosed by the Collins family not long after constructing the home. There are two bathrooms, including one down the upstairs hallway and the other adjacent to the master bedroom closet. There are two fireplaces upstairs both in the same position as the two downstairs and having similar mantels.

The interior of the home underwent some modifications after 1966, when the Collins family no longer resided there. The house briefly became a multi-family dwelling with three separate apartments, including two downstairs and one upstairs. A temporary wall was placed at the top of the main staircase with a locking door that separated the upstairs apartments from the other two. There were two kitchens downstairs including an additional one where the current bathroom and laundry room is located. One kitchen was created upstairs in what is now a large closet

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<sup>9</sup> The clapboarding is currently painted a light green color with white painted molding on the exterior. The front entrance steps to the home remain a similar grey color as they did in a photograph from 1980. It is unknown what the exterior color of the home would have been during the period of significance, however the homeowners have chosen colors they believe would have been common for Queen Anne homes built during the early twentieth century. Sylvie Dessau, former homeowner of 1221 Pine St, interview with Carlie Todd, 25 October 2019; *1221 Pine Street House, 1980*, Sylvie Dessau's personal photograph collection, Columbia, South Carolina.

<sup>10</sup> The door at the top secondary staircase has existed in the home since the home's construction. It is not entirely known why the home contains two staircases at the front and rear of the home. Waverly resident and W.D. Chappelle's granddaughter, Diane Roye, discussed that several homes in Waverly had secondary rear staircases. She stated that her family had an additional hidden staircase in their home as an emergency exit for the family in case they were threatened by racial violence. Diane Roye, granddaughter of W.D. Chappelle and lifelong Waverly resident, interview with Carlie Todd, Ramon Jackson, Kat Allen, Frank Houston, Paige Weaver, and Rebekah Turnmire, 31 September 2019.

<sup>11</sup> Sylvie Dessau, former homeowner of 1221 Pine Street, interview with Carlie Todd, 25 October 2019.

space. Two bathrooms were made downstairs including in the closet of the formal parlor and a second bathroom next to the rear staircase. Modifications after the period of significance, were removed in 2005.<sup>12</sup>

The property is also surrounded by a wooden fence which encloses the north, south, and west sides of the property and was added in 2006.<sup>13</sup> Behind the main building is a wooden shed that is not original. The original shed was a wooden framed, shingle roofed, building intended for storage of automobiles and located less than ten feet south of the current shed on the property. Over time, the original shed became dilapidated along with the main building in the 1990s due to lack of maintenance. The roof of the original shed caved in and it was decided by property owners to demolish and reconstruct another shed slightly north of the previous building in 2005. The shed is a non-contributing resource.

Today, the home serves as a private residence, as it did in 1910. The lack of significant changes to the home indicates that the building retains its architectural integrity, representing the period when the home was built, and how the home would have appeared when the Collins family lived at the site.

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<sup>12</sup> Sylvie Dessau, former homeowner of 1221 Pine Street, interview with Carlie Todd, 25 October 2019.

<sup>13</sup> *The State*, "Certificate of Design Approval," 16 September 2006.

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## 8. Statement of Significance

### Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

### Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location
- C. A birthplace or grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

### Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Ethnic Heritage/Black  
Social History

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**Period of Significance**  
1939-1943

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**Significant Dates**

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**Significant Person**  
(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

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**Cultural Affiliation**

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**Architect/Builder**

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**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

Ruth's Beauty Parlor is eligible under Criterion A at the local level of significance for its association with Ethnic Heritage: Black and Social History. From the late-1930s to 1943, the

home was used by Ruth Collins Perry as a beauty parlor that served Waverly's African American residents and Columbia's broader Black community (**Figure 3**). Ruth's Beauty Parlor is an intact and representative example of the many beauty shops in Columbia and across the state that fostered Black beauty culture, which developed as a cultural expression for African American women who were excluded and degraded by racialized white beauty standards.<sup>14</sup> Black beauty parlors like the one operated at 1221 Pine also served as both safe havens and spaces of social and political activism. The period of significance is based on the home's listing in *The Negro Motorist Green Book* from 1939 to 1943. In 1989, the home was listed as a contributing property in the Waverly Historic District nomination alongside 136 other contributing buildings.<sup>15</sup>

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**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

**Criterion A: (Ethnic Heritage: Black/African American; Social History)**

The property at 1221 Pine Street is significant for its association with Black beauty culture and entrepreneurship through its use as a beauty parlor and dressmaking shop from 1939 to 1943. As Ruth's Beauty Parlor, 1221 Pine was part of a long historical effort among African American women to create spaces for cultural and aesthetic expression in a society where beauty norms were defined by white standards, and where public space was often divided into distinct "black" and "white" spheres. In many cases, beauty parlors also served as vital spaces for Black social activism, allowing African American women to discuss and strategize on the political issues of the day and empowering shop owners to become influential leaders in their own right. As Ruth's Beauty Parlor, 1221 Pine is a relatively rare intact and representative example of this broader Black beauty shop movement in Columbia.

The construction of 1221 Pine in 1909-1910 reflects turn of the century Columbia's shifting racial geography and the surrounding Waverly neighborhood's transition from an early, predominantly white suburb to one of Columbia's foremost African American neighborhoods. As white Columbians increasingly chose to settle in newer neighborhoods where African Americans were unwelcome, Waverly became a destination for Black families looking to settle near the city's Black commercial and educational institutions. Waverly subsequently came to be home to a locally prominent class of African American community leaders, entrepreneurs, and activists, who found ways to prosper despite the prevailing social and political order of white supremacy.<sup>16</sup>

Among the Waverly residents who assumed positions of prominence in Jim Crow Columbia's African American community was Nathaniel Hamilton Collins (c.1874-1944), who first owned and oversaw construction of what later housed the beauty parlor run by his daughter, Ruth Collins Perry (1908-2005). The son of farmers and likely former slaves Robert and Martha Collins, Nathaniel Collins distinguished himself as a real estate agent, merchant, tailor, insurance broker, political activist, and the president and owner of multiple businesses, including the

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<sup>14</sup> Catherine Davenport Flowers, "SKIN DEEP: African American Women and the Building of Beauty Culture in South Carolina," M.A. thesis, University of South Carolina, 2015.

<sup>15</sup> *Waverly Historic District, Richland County, South Carolina*, District Nomination to the National Register of Historic Places, November 1989.

<sup>16</sup> *Waverly Historic District, Richland County, South Carolina*, District Nomination to the National Register of Historic Places, November 1989.

Collins Clothing Company. His wife, Sarah E. Collins (1882-1965), likewise became a well-known figure among Waverly's Black community, participating in a number of social and civic organizations and believed to have been one of the first African American women in Columbia to work as a real estate agent. Over time, the property at 1221 Pine Street was so closely identified with the family that it came to be known as "the Collins House" (Figure 4).<sup>17</sup>

Nathaniel Collins's success as a tailor likely had a substantial influence on the professional interests and careers of Ruth Collins Perry as well as her sister Etienne Collins (1915-2000), both of whom became involved with the clothing and fashion industry as seamstresses and designers. The interest and entrepreneurship that Ruth ultimately exhibited in opening her beauty parlor undoubtedly stemmed in part from the example set by her father, under whom she directly worked before opening her parlor. Ruth did seamstress work from the family home at 1221 Pine and played a significant role in her father's business, often being cited in Columbia newspapers as the point of contact for customers interested in alterations to clothing (Figure 5).<sup>18</sup> In 1938, Ruth Collins married Herman Perry, one of Columbia's first African American U.S. Postal Service carriers, who originally served as a mail carrier in New York City prior to marriage.<sup>19</sup> Herman's work with the postal service may be to credit for the documentation of 1221 Pine's significance as a beauty parlor, as the primary record of the parlor's operation at the house is *The Negro Motorist Green Book*, a national publication of black-owned businesses which were often listed through the effort of local postal carriers.<sup>20</sup>

Based on its documentation in the *Negro Travelers' Green Book*, Ruth's Beauty Parlor opened by 1939 and remained in operation until at least 1943. While little documentation remains of the specific activities that unfolded at the parlor, it likely served a similar role for Black Columbians as did other beauty parlors and barber shops across the city and state, providing a valuable sanctuary from the aesthetic and cultural dictates of white society, and a space in which African Americans could freely converse and provide community support.<sup>21</sup>

### *Black Beauty Culture and Spaces of Sanctuary*

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<sup>17</sup> See *Ibid.* for "Collins House." Various dates can be found for Nathaniel Collins's birth year, however the earliest known record from the 1880 census indicates he was then six-years-old. 1880 U.S. Census, Lower Township, Richland County, South Carolina, accessed through Ancestry.com online database. See the same source for the names of Collins's parents. See also Nathaniel H. Collins, Death Certificate, 9 December 1944 (b. 1879), file no. 14752, South Carolina Department of Health, copy in possession of author; and "Nathaniel H. Collins" gravestone (b. 1870), image available at Find-A-Grave memorial, <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/198368653/nathaniel-h-collins>. A World War II draft card for Collins's son, Nathaniel H. Collins, Jr., indicates his middle name was "Hamilton." See U.S. WWII Draft Cards Young Men, 1940-1947, accessed through Ancestry.com online database. Further information on the Collins family may be found in Additional Context.

<sup>18</sup> *The Columbia Record*, "Dressmaking," 11 June 1927.

<sup>19</sup> Herman Perry also served on the Subcommittee on Federal Employees for the Committee of Fundraising for the Good Samaritan Waverly Hospital along with Joe Wilson and Joseph Sumter. See *Good Samaritan Waverly Hospital*, N.D., Topical Papers, Modjeska Simkins Papers, University of South Carolina, Columbia.

<sup>20</sup> Jacinda Townsend, "How the Green Book Helped African American Tourists Navigate a Segregated Nation," *Smithsonian Magazine*, April 2016, accessed 20 February 2020, <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smithsonian-institution/history-green-book-african-american-travelers-180958506/>

<sup>21</sup> "Beauty Parlors," *The Negro Traveler's Green Book* (New York: Victor H. Green & Company, 1939-1943), Columbia, South Carolina.

Black beauty culture was a key component in combating racism during Jim Crow segregation, because it empowered African American women to become independent entrepreneurs, free from the confines of white business owners. These women in turn provided spaces of community shelter and activism through their beauty salons and clothing shops.<sup>22</sup> Despite the labor and time required to arrange going to a salon, the beauty parlor was a place of rest for black female bodies exhausted from meeting the needs of both white employers and the domestic labor of their own families. Salons became sanctuaries for African American women to indulge and empower themselves through taking time off their feet to rest, destress, and take time for themselves. Parlors tended to do more than just style hair—they also served as counseling centers and sanctuaries to the racial and gendered cruelties African American women faced.<sup>23</sup> It also allowed them to express their beauty among other African American women, outside of the racialized white beauty standards that declared their bodies and appearance as inferior.

Black “beauty culture,” as African American women decided to call their own field of hair and skin care in the early 1900s, subverted the racial order of Jim Crow.<sup>24</sup> It was seditious to claim that black women could be beautiful in the first place. For white southerners, “Beauty” was the exclusive right of white women during the antebellum and Jim Crow periods. Dozens of cosmetic powders cashed in on the trope of the southern belle in the state’s newspapers. With formerly enslaved people free and rapidly building a Black middle class, cosmetic companies recognized that Black women offered another market to sell skin lightening powders. White companies sought to capitalize on social distinctions tied up in African American hair texture and skin color since enslavement. Black women’s fight in the beauty industry, grew from the desire for products that would not permanently scar their bodies, degrade their skin color, and racialize their hair.<sup>25</sup>

Starting in-home hair salons was an affordable way to combat the beauty industry and supplement income alongside domestic work or escape domestic jobs altogether. Operating their salons independently from white owners and managers, allowed African American women to have much control over not only the financial aspects of their labor, but what could also be discussed freely and collectively among other African Americans. It allowed for open collective discussion of the racial violence, segregation, and other issues under Jim Crow that African Americans faced. Teachers, professionals, educated homemakers, and other Black women who pursued Black beauty culture planted seeds of activism through the industry that would later blossom in the civil rights era.<sup>26</sup>

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<sup>22</sup> Tiffany M. Gill in her book, *Beauty Shop Politics*, looks at African American female activism and argues the significance of the power of Black beauty salons as private meeting spaces for black females. See Tiffany M. Gill, *Beauty Shop Politics: African American Women’s Activism in the Beauty Industry* (Urbana, IL: University of Illinois Press, 2010).

<sup>23</sup> Margaret Williams Neal, interviewed by Leslie Brown, Charlotte, N.C. 7 June 1993, BTV.

<sup>24</sup> Flowers, “SKIN DEEP: African American Women and the Building of Beauty Culture in South Carolina,” M.A. thesis, University of South Carolina, 2015.

<sup>25</sup> Flowers, “SKIN DEEP,” 2015.

<sup>26</sup> Gill, *Beauty Shop Politics*, 115.

Between 1900 and 1960, African American-owned beauty salons proliferated throughout South Carolina.<sup>27</sup> In 1920, Black beauticians outnumbered white beauticians in South Carolina and every Southern state.<sup>28</sup> Columbia's city directories from 1917 to 1927 indicate the mass movement of black women into the beauty industry. In 1917, Columbia directories listed dozens of African American women as domestics, laundresses, seamstresses, cooks, and maids. These were common occupations of African American women during the period, with at least 82 percent of female domestic workers being Black in South Carolina in 1920.<sup>29</sup> Pauline Green stands out among these women as the single female barber among all African American male barbers. Even more exceptionally, she had opened a shop at 1208 Washington Street when most beauty parlors remained at-home businesses until the 1930s.<sup>30</sup> By 1927, there were so many African American "Beauty Parlors" listed in the Columbia directories that they received their own category separate from "Barbers." Increasingly, African American beauticians moved from their in-home businesses to the Black business district along Washington Street, and even more were creating businesses out of their homes.<sup>31</sup>

Ruth's Beauty Parlor was among another wave of salons that opened in the 1930s. Indeed, Black beauty culture proved relatively "Depression-proof" in South Carolina, with the number of beauticians in the state continuously climbing through the 1930s, an indication that Black beauty culture was a significant component of African American women's lives, identity, and connection with their communities. By 1940, African Americans became the nation's largest per capita consumers of cosmetic and hair preparations, and this growth continued throughout the Civil Rights Movement.<sup>32</sup> Along with Ruth's, which operated out of the Collins family home on Pine Street, other salons on nearby Harden and Washington Streets served the neighborhood women of Waverly as well as students from local Benedict College and Allen University.<sup>33</sup>

Despite the proliferation of Black beauty parlors in Columbia and South Carolina through the mid-twentieth century, relatively few examples of this movement are still extant. Within the immediately vicinity of 1221 Pine, only a few historical Black business buildings on Washington Street are extant, none of which were beauty parlors. A few Black-owned parlors remain in Columbia, however Ruth's Beauty Parlor is the only one still extant that had the distinction of being listed in *The Negro Motorist Green Book*. Indeed, Ruth's is believed to be the last extant *Green Book*-listed beauty parlor in the entire state of South Carolina.<sup>34</sup> While other parlors

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<sup>27</sup> Flowers, "SKIN DEEP," 2015; Also see Tiffany M. Gill, "Civic Beauty: Beauty Culturists and the Politics of African American Female Entrepreneurship, 1900—1965," *Enterprise & Society* 5, no. 4 (2004): 583-93.

<sup>28</sup> Bureau of the Census, Fourteenth Census, 1920, vol. 3 and 4.

<sup>29</sup> Flowers, "SKIN DEEP," 2015.

<sup>30</sup> Flowers, "SKIN DEEP," 2015.

<sup>31</sup> *Columbia City Directories*, Columbia: Walsh Directory Company, 1917, 1922, 1927.

<sup>32</sup> Robert E. Weems, *Desegregating the Dollar: African American Consumerism in the Twentieth Century* (New York: New York University Press, 1998), 34.

<sup>33</sup> *Carver Theater, Richland County, South Carolina*. Nomination to the National Register of Historic Places, July 2003.

<sup>34</sup> This determination is based upon consultation with the South Carolina Historic Preservation Office, the South Carolina African American Heritage Commission, and The Green Book of South Carolina. This claim only refers to extant beauty *parlors*, not beauty schools or barber shops. In Columbia, the only extant barber shop listed in the *Green Book* is Holman's Barber Shop, while the only listed beauty school still extant is Madame Bradley's Beauty School. Among the listed Black beauty parlors that have been demolished are several in the Black business district of Washington and Taylor Streets (Amy's, Obbie's, Morgan's, and Madame Peters) and Workman's Beauty Parlor

served the same sort of community role, being listed in the *Green Book* provided Black-owned businesses with wider exposure as a known safe-haven for African American travelers. In that sense, listed businesses like Ruth's were better-positioned to provide services and sanctuary to Black out-of-towners who may not have the benefit of direct, personal knowledge of what amenities were available in the local area. Consequently, 1221 Pine has a notable association with this national network of grassroots Black knowledge, which helped African American travelers navigate outside their communities during Jim Crow and find some protection from humiliation or violence by white business owners.<sup>35</sup>

### *Civil Rights Activism*

As an intact, historical Black-owned beauty parlor, 1221 Pine also has potential associations with civil rights activism and community organizing that often unfolded within such spaces. Being independent from a white employer's control, African American-owned businesses like Ruth's often provided vital support for organizations like the NAACP. Such groups needed not only financial and public support for their efforts but also logistical support and spaces that were safe from violence to conduct their activism within. Small Black-owned businesses were crucial to the Civil Rights Movement not only in producing leaders for it, but also for facilitating and gaining public support for it. Frequently perceived by whites as the last place where African Americans would engage in political organizing, beauty parlors like Ruth's often served as covert sites of strategizing, consciousness-raising, and even programming.<sup>36</sup>

Black beauty salons in downtown Columbia as well as those in Waverly were politically powerful institutions because of their location as a meeting ground between the older women of Waverly and younger female college students at Benedict and Allen.<sup>37</sup> This intersection of older working women, homemakers, and co-eds in the beauty parlors would prove impactful as the Civil Rights Movement progressed. College students who were vocal in civil rights efforts would intermingle with female domestic workers and have greater opportunities to discuss the problems facing Columbia's black residents. Students at Allen University and Benedict College were engaging in activism (most notably the sit-in movement), and these female students would get their hair done at these salons, likely discussing activism in those spaces.<sup>38</sup>

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along Blanding Street. The following is the location and years that the demolished Black beauty parlors were listed in the *Green Book* for Columbia: Amy's, 1125 ½ Washington Street (1947-55); Obbie's, 1119 ½ Washington Street (1947-55); Morgan's, 2342 Washington Street (1948-50); Madame Peters, 1906 Blanding Street (1939-41); Workman's, 1825 Taylor Street (1950-55). See Victor H. Green, *The Negro Motorist Green Book* (New York, 1939-1955).

<sup>35</sup> Victor H. Green, *The Negro Motorist Green Book* (New York, 1939-1943). Also see, Historic Columbia, "Columbia's Green Book Sites, Preservation Efforts," accessed October 31, 2019, <https://www.historiccolumbia.org/GreenBook>.

<sup>36</sup> Taylor Branch, *Parting the Waters: America in the King Years 1954-1963*, (New York: Simon & Schuster, 1989) 145-486.

<sup>37</sup> Catherine Flowers argues this point in her master's thesis that the location of these beauty parlors meant that old and young Black women were engaging with one another about the issues they were facing in activism efforts and served as sanctuaries from racial violence. See Catherine Davenport Flowers, "SKIN DEEP: African American Women and the Building of Beauty Culture in South Carolina," M.A. thesis, University of South Carolina, 2015.

<sup>38</sup> Allen and Benedict students were engaged in a nationwide sit-in movement just down the block from beauty shops on Washington Street. Simon Bouie was arrested after he sat at an Eckerd's Drug Store downtown in 1960. The same year, five students from Benedict and Allen again sat at a segregated lunch counter and requested service. Of hundreds of sit-in cases throughout the country, the Supreme Court heard seventeen; four of them were from

Some beauticians became facilitators of activism and activists themselves. Bernice Robinson of Charleston was one such parlor owner who believed it was her responsibility to politically educate African American women who visited her salon. Robinson was crucial to civil rights activism in the South Carolina Low Country as she became an activist and teacher for the Citizenship School movement alongside her cousin, activist Septima Clark. The program's goal was to teach African American adults to read and write well enough to pass citizenship tests and vote in local, state, and federal elections. Bernice Robinson's success with the program on Johns Island, led to beauticians becoming the most heavily represented group among instructors of Citizenship Schools in the South.<sup>39</sup> Robinson's salon became a meeting place for activists to strategize voter registration drives and to distribute NAACP literature, being instrumental in getting NAACP membership in Charleston from three hundred in 1947 to over a thousand in 1951.<sup>40</sup>

Most Black beauticians around the state kept their political involvement discreet. Indeed, a local reporter was shocked to discover Bernice Robinson had been running the citizenship schools out of her beauty salon for three years before any white person in Charleston caught on.<sup>41</sup>

Unsurprisingly, the extent of Ruth Perry Collins' political activism is unclear. Collins was a public financial supporter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and chose to directly identify her business with the Association's work on behalf of Black rights, enrolling "Ruth's Beauty Shop" as a member of the organization in 1941. Perry very well may have also been among the many shop owners who, while perhaps not vocal activists, nonetheless provided pamphlets and political materials for women to peruse while they sat under dryers.<sup>42</sup>

The last mention of Ruth's Beauty Parlor operating at 1221 Pine Street is in the 1943 *Negro Motorist Green Book*.<sup>43</sup> Based upon Census Records and Columbia City Directories, Ruth Collins Perry likely decided to close her parlor temporarily to raise a family.<sup>44</sup> The 1940 Census shows that Herman and Ruth had just had a son named Herman Perry, Jr.<sup>45</sup> In 1955, she opened a popular clothing boutique at 1312 Pine Street which served numerous women in the Waverly

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South Carolina. Monrad G. Paulsen, "The Sit-In Cases of 1964: 'But Answer Came There None,'" *The Supreme Court Review*, 1964, no. 1 (1964): 140-141.

<sup>39</sup> Gill, *Beauty Shop Politics*, 115.

<sup>40</sup> Flowers, "SKIN DEEP," 2015.

<sup>41</sup> Catherine Davenport Flowers, "SKIN DEEP: African American Women and the Building of Beauty Culture in South Carolina," M.A. thesis, University of South Carolina, 2015, 26.

<sup>42</sup> *The Palmetto Leader*, "NAACP Membership Roll Continued," 15 March 1941. Catherine Flowers, interviewed by Carlie N. Todd, Columbia, S.C., 30 September 2019. In this correspondence, Flowers stated that she found no information to indicate that Black beauty parlors in South Carolina were targeted by white supremacists, and such establishments were often the last places expected to serve as hotbeds of activism among African American communities.

<sup>43</sup> Victor H. Green, *The Negro Motorist Green Book* (New York, 1943).

<sup>44</sup> This is seen in census records when her son was born around the same time that she closed the parlor and moved in with her husband briefly along Assembly Street. She does not return to live on Pine Street based upon census records, city directories, and advertisements for her boutique at 1312 Pine Street. It is not entirely clear what she was doing occupationally between 1943 and 1955 or whether she was working outside of her home.

<sup>45</sup> Herman Perry Jr. was their only child.

community (**Figure 6**).<sup>46</sup> The home became a rental property until 1998.<sup>47</sup> Ruth, known in the Waverly neighborhood as “Mama P,” continued to run her dressmaking business at 1312 Pine Street until 1998, almost fifty years later. In a 1995 interview with Allen University and Benedict College students, she said “if you have a goal, you must persevere,” and that running a business as an African American woman during Jim Crow segregation “was not easy” but it made “a woman or man out of you.”<sup>48</sup>

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## **Developmental History/Additional Historic Context Information (if appropriate)**

### ***Developmental History of Waverly***

Waverly was one of three African American neighborhoods developed throughout Columbia in the late nineteenth century.<sup>49</sup> Prior to the Civil War, the Robert Latta family, and later Lysander D. Child’s family, divided their plantation properties on the east of Harden Street and south of where Benedict College and Allen University are currently situated, into the city’s first residential suburb: Waverly.<sup>50</sup> Waverly grew sporadically throughout the late nineteenth century, exhibited through the various styles of architecture and lot sizes.<sup>51</sup> As Columbia’s first planned residential suburb, Waverly was home to several prominent African American families in Columbia including the Collins family.<sup>52</sup> During the Jim Crow era, Pine Street became an epicenter of affluent professional African Americans, many of which owned businesses or served as medical practitioners.<sup>53</sup> By 1943, the Waverly neighborhood was predominantly African American as indicated by the 1940 United States Census Record.<sup>54</sup> The Collins family lived in the home from 1910 to 1966 and the property remained in the possession of Ruth Collins Perry until 1998.<sup>55</sup>

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<sup>46</sup> 1956 *City Directory*, Columbia, South Carolina.

<sup>47</sup> *Columbia, March 1956* (New York: Sanborn Map Company, 1956), sheet 50.

<sup>48</sup> Ruth Collins Perry, interview with Allen University and Benedict College students, December 1995; Lori D. Roberts, *The State*, “Students Find Past in Their Presence,” 12 December 1995.

<sup>49</sup> The other two African neighborhoods were Northwest Columbia and South Columbia. African American were not forcefully segregated by law to these neighborhoods, but they developed often as mixed-race communities. Waverly was initially a mixed-race community in the late nine-tenth century but became predominately African American by 1930. See John Hammond Moore, *Columbia and Richland County: A South Carolina Community, 1740-1990* (Columbia, SC: University of South Carolina Press, 1993) 385.

<sup>50</sup> Applied History Program, “Historical and Architectural Survey of Waverly: Columbia’s First Suburb,” (unpublished report, University of South Carolina, 1987), 4; *Five Points District Nomination, Richland County, South Carolina*, district Nomination to the National Register of Historic Places, May 2019; *Waverly Historic District, Richland County, South Carolina*, District Nomination to the National Register of Historic Places, November 1989.

<sup>51</sup> Moore, *Columbia and Richland County: A South Carolina Community, 1740-1990* (Columbia: University of South Carolina Press, 1993), 278; Students in the Applied History Program, “Historical and Architectural Survey of Waverly,” 1-14.

<sup>52</sup> Applied History Program, “Historical and Architectural Survey of Waverly: Columbia’s First Suburb” (class paper, University of South Carolina, 1987), pg. 4, Hanging File: Waverly, Richland County Public Library, Columbia.

<sup>53</sup> Ginetta V. Hamilton, *Waverly: A Historical Perspective through the Eyes of Senior Citizens Passing it On*. (Columbia, 1996) 14.

<sup>54</sup> Applied History Program, “Historical and Architectural Survey of Waverly,” 14-15. To further view this demographic shift, see the United States Census Records for the neighborhood between 1910 to 1940.

<sup>55</sup> Description of Real Estate from Sarah E. Collins to Ruth C. Perry, Beatrice C. Johnson, Etienne C. Johnson, and Verdelle C. Reynolds, n.d. (filed 29 April 1966), Deed Book 41, page 733, Richland County Register of Deeds, Columbia, South Carolina.

### The Collins Family

The Collins House currently is a site reflective of the self-sufficiency and triumph of African American entrepreneurs in the Waverly community and the city of Columbia. During the Jim Crow era, the home served as a sanctuary against the challenges and violence of segregation in Columbia for African Americans as a beauty parlor and dressmaking shop listed in the Green Book from 1939 to 1943.<sup>56</sup> In addition to the home being a business, the Collins family themselves consisted of significant entrepreneurial members and leaders. The Collins family played an integral role in Columbia prior to desegregation in South Carolina as entrepreneurs, teachers, and community activists. The family consisted of Nathaniel H. Collins, Sarah C. Collins, Ruth Collins Perry, Etienne Collins Johnson, Beatrice Collins Johnson, and Verdelle Collins Reynolds. The Waverly home served as the epicenter for the development and flourishing of this prominent family.

### **Nathaniel H. Collins**

Nathaniel H. Collins (c.1874 – 1944), was the head of the Collins family and was born in Columbia, South Carolina to Martha and Robert Collins. Nathaniel Collins was an African American real estate agent, merchant tailor, insurance broker, community activist, and president and owner of multiple businesses including the Collins Clothing Company. His multiple businesses were situated along Washington Street, part of Columbia’s “Black Downtown” which included the Victory Savings Bank, Nathaniel Frederick’s Law Offices, the Blue Ribbon Taxi Company, Mutual Grocery Store, and numerous other businesses ranging from beauty salons to funeral homes.<sup>57</sup>

He began his career as a tailor at 1107 Washington Street and was one of two tailors that served African Americans in the city, the other being I.S. Leevy. Advertisements in *The Southern Indicator* and *The Columbia Record*, indicate that Nathaniel Collins regularly competed with “Columbia’s Leading Merchant Tailor,” I.S. Leevy, whose tailoring shop was located at 1221 Taylor Street (**Figure 7**).<sup>58</sup> Nathaniel Collins was commonly advertised as “The Man That Fits Men.”<sup>59</sup> After great success, he created the Collins Clothing Company up the street at 1125 Washington Street in 1913.<sup>60</sup> In addition to the clothing store, Nathaniel Collins often used his home at 1221 Pine for tailoring and other clothing alterations as indicated by his daughter Ruth Collins, who did seamstress work for her father and other Black tailors in her youth.

The Collins Clothing Company continued to grow throughout the 1910s, becoming chartered with a capital of five-thousand dollars from by South Carolina Secretary of State in 1916.<sup>61</sup>

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<sup>56</sup> “Beauty Parlors,” *The Negro Traveler’s Green Book* (New York: Victor H. Green & Company, 1939-1943), Columbia, South Carolina.

<sup>57</sup> *The South Carolina Encyclopedia*, s.v. “Black Business Districts,” by Damon Fordham, accessed October 30, 2019, <http://www.scencyclopedia.org/sce/entries/black-business-districts/>.

<sup>58</sup> *The Southern Indicator*, “I.S. Leevy Tailoring Advertisement,” 15 February 1913; *The Columbia Record*, “Tailors,” 6 January 1909. Note that *The Southern Indicator* was one of the lead African American newspapers in Columbia, South Carolina, and that *The Columbia Record*, was the evening paper for the city of Columbia.

<sup>59</sup> *The Columbia Record*, “Tailors,” 6 January 1909; *The Lexington Dispatch*, “N. H. Collins Advertisement,” 31 August 1910; *The State*, “The Shoe You Prefer” 17 December 1910.

<sup>60</sup> *The Southern Indicator*, “Collins Clothing Company Advertisement,” 15 February 1913.

<sup>61</sup> Note that there was not a designated South Carolina Secretary of State official between 1877 and 1924. For more information on the charter, see *The State*, “New Enterprises Are Authorized: Collins Clothing Company of

Advertisements in local Columbia newspapers describe the growth of the clothing company through “special bargains” and “invitations” to female customers, stating that they “can save one third of the ACTUAL COST” and to “watch the growth of the big C.”<sup>62</sup> Advertisements also indicate the creation of additional departments including a tailoring department, shoe department, and cleaning department.<sup>63</sup>

We have begun a new way to make your old clothing look new. All work done by hand. No Steam Press to Break Off the Buttons and pack down the shoulder pads in the coat, but all work done in the ‘Old Workmanlike Manner.’ We call for your clothing and deliver them in 12 working hours. Prices on all work are reasonable. Cleaning Department. Phone 4677.<sup>64</sup>

In 1921, Nathaniel H. Collins decided to expand from his clothing business and start the Industrial Building and Loan Association of South Carolina. With a capital stock of three hundred thousand dollars, the company catered to African American clients and was located at 1125 Washington Street along with the Collins Clothing Company.<sup>65</sup> *The Southern Indicator* advertised the company in an article as “a real race building and loan association” that guaranteed protection in investment and advised “all who can as well as those who feel that they cannot, to subscribe for shares in the same.”<sup>66</sup> The company offered loans for buying houses with payable installments as low as twenty-five cents.<sup>67</sup>

In June 1924, the Collins Clothing Company failed to be economically viable and declared bankruptcy.<sup>68</sup> Prior to the company’s bankruptcy, Nathaniel Collins deed over the property of 1221 Pine Street to his wife, Sarah E. Collins, on January 24<sup>th</sup> of that year.<sup>69</sup> The family also struggled to pay property taxes between 1924 to 1929, repeatedly being listed in *The Columbia Record* or *The State* “City Sheriff’s Sale.”<sup>70</sup> These property tax notices were always paid by the family eventually.

While this was an economic setback for the family, the Collins were resilient and determined to overcome their financial troubles. In 1925, Nathaniel Collins became the superintendent of the Columbia district manager of the National Benefit Life Insurance Company which employed

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Columbia has \$5,000 Capital. Other Concerns Form,” 24 June 1916; *The State*, “New Concerns Form,” 11 July 1916.

<sup>62</sup> *The Southern Indicator*, “Collins Clothing Company Advertisement,” 15 February 1913.

<sup>63</sup> *The Columbia Record*, “Collins Clothing Company Advertisement,” 19 June 1922; *The Columbia Record*, “Collins Clothing Company Advertisement,” 19 April 1918.

<sup>64</sup> *The Columbia Record*, “Collins Clothing Company Advertisement,” 19 June 1922.

<sup>65</sup> *The State*, “Notice of Application for Charter,” 14 August 1921.

<sup>66</sup> *The Southern Indicator*, “A Real Building and Loan Association,” 3 September 1921.

<sup>67</sup> Directors of the company included Bishop W. D. Chappelle, Dr. E. A. Huggins, I. B. Lewie, Dr. I. M. Daniels, G. Lee Ratliff, I. E. Dickson, H. E. Taylor, Jas Veal, W. M. Dixon, and W. H. Winthrop. See *The Southern Indicator*, “Homes on Easy Terms,” 3 September 1921.

<sup>68</sup> *The State*, “Bankrupt Notice,” 23 June 1924. It is unclear through sources why the business failed. However, it appeared that the family quickly recovered from the economic set back.

<sup>69</sup> Description of Real Estate from Sarah E. Collins to Ruth C. Perry, Beatrice C. Johnson, Etienne C. Johnson, and Verdelle C. Reynolds, n.d. (filed 29 April 1966), Deed Book 41, page 733, Richland County Register of Deeds, Columbia, South Carolina.

<sup>70</sup> See *The Columbia Record*, “City Sheriff’s Sale,” 13 September 1924; *The State*, “City Sheriff’s Sale,” 15 January 1927; *The State*, “City Sheriff’s Sale,” 19 January 1929.

1500 African American men and women, located at 1001 Washington Street.<sup>71</sup> To help the family, Ruth Collins Perry started dressmaking for I. S. Leevy's Department Store, which had moved to 1131 Washington Street by 1927.<sup>72</sup> The home was also temporarily rented out in 1925 to generate additional income.<sup>73</sup> In addition to his district manager's position, Nathaniel Collins created and presided over another company called The Waverly Realty Company which offered loans, rental properties, and various properties and houses for sale in the Waverly and Colonial Heights communities.<sup>74</sup>

Nathaniel H. Collins not only served his community as a businessman but was also an activist for improving the conditions of African Americans in Columbia during Jim Crow. As early as 1914, Nathaniel Collins along with other merchants such as I.S. Leevy were listed as leaders and members of a memorial committee that demanded the Richland Board of Commissioners improve the conditions of African American schools in the county. Their involvement was reported in *The Southern Indicator* under the profoundly titled article, "Free Public School Conditions for Colored People in Columbia."

The agitation among the rank and file as well as the leaders of the colored people in Columbia to improve our school conditions resulted some months ago in the appointment of a committee of representative men to prepare a memorial to present to the board of school commissioners. The memorial was prepared submitted to a mass meeting held at Sidney Park church and there a committee was then selected to present the memorial to this board [...] The memorial is a strong and convincing paper and will doubtless have effect. The members of the school board who were present, some of them were absent, expressed themselves as being in sympathy with us and is willing to do all that is possible for colored people; but said they did not see their way clear to act just at present upon any of the requests made, but would consider them carefully and take action just as soon as possible.<sup>75</sup>

Nathaniel Collins also was also active in supporting the Republican Party and delegates who advocated for African Americans. One of the earliest political actions he took was in 1916 when he signed a petition for the recall of Democratic city councilman, C.M. Asbill.<sup>76</sup> Nathaniel Collins was also the Waverly Precinct Chairman for the Republican County Convention of Richland County in the 1930s.<sup>77</sup> The Republican County Convention was created to help elect delegates to the Republican State Convention and ultimately obtain local and state political offices.<sup>78</sup> As a mostly African American district, the Waverly precinct was one of the strongest and most active in Civil Rights efforts in the city. Reverend James A. Hinton and Modjeska Monteith Simkins were among some of the most prolific leaders in the early Civil Rights movement in South Carolina. Hinton, a Waverly resident, later became president of the state

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<sup>71</sup> *The Palmetto Leader*, "Advertisement for the National Benefit Life Insurance Company," 17 January 1925.

<sup>72</sup> *The Columbia Record*, "Dressmaking," 11 June 1927.

<sup>73</sup> *The Palmetto Leader*, "For Rent," 17 October 1925; *The Palmetto Leader*, "For Rent," 31 October 1925; *The Palmetto Leader*, "For Rent," 7 November 1925

<sup>74</sup> *The Palmetto Leader*, "The Waverly Realty Company," 29 May 1926.

<sup>75</sup> *The Southern Indicator*, "Free Public School Conditions for Colored People in Columbia," 11 April 1914.

<sup>76</sup> *The Columbia Record*, "Papers have been filed with Governor Manning, After a Check Which is Said to Have Found Sufficient Number of Boni Fide Electors to Make Election Mandatory," 3 March 1916.

<sup>77</sup> *The Palmetto Leader*, "Political Notice," 20 February 1932.

<sup>78</sup> Williams Hall in the Waverly neighborhood was commonly used for the Republican County Convention of Richland County. Six delegates and six alternates were typically chosen to bring forward to the Republican State Convention

conference of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP).<sup>79</sup> Simkins, who grew up in Waverly, was a leader in African American health reform and the Civil Rights movement in South Carolina during the 1930s until her death in 1992.<sup>80</sup>

Nathaniel Collins was involved with various community service organizations. In 1898, he became a member of the Colored Knights of Honor in Columbia, the segregated African American sect of the Knight of Honor fraternal organization.<sup>81</sup> The organization provided basic support and protection for fellow members. Nathaniel Collins was also a member of the Goodfellows Club in Columbia, which was an African American social service group that supported and provided necessities, such as food, for needy African American families.<sup>82</sup> In the last decade of his life, he served as a Sunday school teacher, trustee, treasurer, and steward of the Bethel A.M.E. Church.<sup>83</sup>

### ***Sarah C. Collins***

The wife of Nathaniel H. Collins, Sarah E. Collins (1882-1965) was in many ways just as influential as her husband within the African American community in Columbia. Sarah Collins was one of the first and few African American female real estate agents in Columbia during Jim Crow segregation and was often listed in the local Columbia newspapers' real estate columns as buying and selling property.<sup>84</sup> In addition to being an entrepreneur, she also assisted her husband in his multiple business ventures and served her community as a school teacher.<sup>85</sup>

Sarah Collins was also an educated woman, obtaining her bachelor's degree from Allen University in 1896.<sup>86</sup> The trend of higher education in the Collins family continued after Sarah, with her children, Beatrice, Ruth, Verdelle, Nathaniel Collins Jr., and Etienne attending colleges. This was especially significant during Jim Crow segregation in South Carolina when so many barriers stood in the way of the higher education of African American men and women. The attainment of a four-year college degree as an African American was, itself, a push back against the racist limitations and barriers that kept African Americans as second-class citizens.

Sarah Collins also devoted much of her time to serving various African American missionary efforts as well as being involved with supporting the Waverly community. She served as the secretary of the Woman's Home and Foreign Missionary Society, which often held their

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<sup>79</sup> Indus A. Newby, *Black Carolinians: A History of Blacks in South Carolina from 1895 to 1968* (Columbia: University of South Carolina Press, 1973), 107; *Waverly Historic District, Richland County, South Carolina*, District Nomination to the National Register of Historic Places, November 1989, 23-24.

<sup>80</sup> For more information on Modjeska Monteith Simkins involvement with Civil Rights, see *Modjeska Monteith Simkins House, Richland County, South Carolina*, Nomination to the National Register of Historic Places, March 1994.

<sup>81</sup> *The State*, "Colored Knights of Honor," 16 April 1898.

<sup>82</sup> *The Columbia Record*, "Hundred Negroes Join Goodfellows" 23 December 1925.

<sup>83</sup> Bethel A.M.E. Church is currently listed on the National Register of Historic Places for architectural significance. *Bethel A.M.E. Church, Richland County, South Carolina*, Nomination to the National Register of Historic Places, May 1982; *The State*, "Nathaniel H. Collins' Funeral Held at Bethel," 20 December 1944.

<sup>84</sup> *The Sunday Record*, "Three Dozen Real Estate Transfers Recorded in Richland During Week," 3 June 1928.

<sup>85</sup> *The Los Angeles Times*, "History Maker," 14 December 1978.

<sup>86</sup> *The State*, "Allen's Commencement," 26 May 1896.

conventions at Bethel A.M.E. Church.<sup>87</sup> During World War I, she was very active in the Colored Women in United War Work campaign as a part of Ward 7 along with Mrs. R.C. Chappell.<sup>88</sup> The organization campaigned for the support of the war effort through publicity and education efforts. Sarah Collins also participated as a worker for the Fourth Liberty Loan campaign which raised between \$65,000 and \$75,000 in war bonds.<sup>89</sup> Ruth Collins Perry along with her mother were both members of the Columbia's Women Council and took part in the American Life Pageants held by the organization during the 1950s.<sup>90</sup> In her later years, she left Columbia and moved to Pasadena, California, to live with her daughter, Verdelle Collins Reynolds.<sup>91</sup> The home was overseen by Ruth Collins Perry, the last direct relative who lived in Columbia.

### ***Etienne Collins Johnson***

Following in the footsteps of both her father, Nathaniel, and her older sister, Ruth, Etienne Collins Johnson also started her own clothing business in New York City and was a model. Etienne pursued a bachelor's degree of Arts from Allen University and graduated in 1943.<sup>92</sup> In 1942, she married Arnold Johnson who, during World War II, served as a U.S. Army consultant. Etienne, while pursuing her studies at Allen, traveled back and forth from New York City, working as one of the very few African American employees for the Consolidated Edison Company in the city.<sup>93</sup> After World War II, the couple moved permanently to Harlem where Etienne created two fashion boutiques including one in at the Hotel Theresa on the mezzanine floor and the other called Etienne's Fashions at 482 Lenox Avenue.<sup>94</sup> Some of the famous women who were regular customers and who she often outfitted included Lena Horne, Ella Fitzgerald, Sarah Vaughan, and Josephine Baker.<sup>95</sup> Evelyn Cunningham recalled Etienne as being a "classy lady" with "great dignity," having the "nicest boutique in Harlem in those days."<sup>96</sup>

Her husband was also a prominent Harlem businessman who was credited, along with Adam Clayton Powell and Lloyd Iams, for "leading the fight" to desegregate businesses along 125<sup>th</sup> Street, New York City, in the 1940s. He was a board member of the Urban Harlem Development

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<sup>87</sup> The Collins family were members of the Bethel A.M.E. Church their whole lives and Sarah Collins was particularly active in the church. *Bethel A.M.E. Church, Richland County, South Carolina*, Nomination to the National Register of Historic Places, May 1982. *The Southern Indicator*, "Women's Missionary Meeting at St. Matthews," 14 November 1914.

<sup>88</sup> *The Columbia Record*, "Colored Women in United War Work," 2 November 1918.

<sup>89</sup> The campaign would have raised over \$100,000 if the influenza epidemic had not hit South Carolina in 1918. *The Columbia Record*, "Colored Workers in Bond Canvass," 25 October 1918.

<sup>90</sup> *Programs for Women's Role in American Life Pageants, 1949-1951*, Columbia Women's Council, Topical Papers, Modjeska Simkins Papers, University of South Carolina, Columbia.

<sup>91</sup> Sarah Collins likely left Columbia in 1955 to live in Pasadena, since this was also the time that her daughter Verdelle moved there. The home was also converted into rental property in 1955, likely contributing to her move. *The Columbia Record*, "Mrs. Sarah Collins Obituary," 20 November 1965.

<sup>92</sup> "Program for the 1943 Commencement Exercises for Allen University," *Allen University and Benedict College, 1930-1990*, Topical Papers, Modjeska Simkins Papers, University of South Carolina, Columbia.

<sup>93</sup> *The Palmetto Leader*, "Marriage and Announcements," 3 April 1943.

<sup>94</sup> See *Hotel Theresa, New York County, New York*, Nomination for the National Register of Historic Places, May 2005.

<sup>95</sup> Jonathan Gill, *Harlem: The Four Hundred Year History From Dutch Village to Capital of Black America* (New York: Grove Press, 2011), 371.

<sup>96</sup> Sondra K. Wilson, *Meet Me at the Theresa: The Story of Harlem's Most Famous Hotel* (New York: Atria Books, 2004) 111.

Corp and the Metropolitan Museum of Art and an outspoken advocate of the police civilian review board which reviewed the actions of police officers and violence against African Americans in the city. During the 1960s and 1970s, he was president of the Small Business Chamber of Commerce and served on the ad hoc committee of the Small Business Development and Opportunities Corporation and the United Council of Harlem Organizations.<sup>97</sup>

### ***Verdelle Collins Reynolds***

Verdelle Collins Reynolds (1916-1987) was the youngest of the Collins siblings and, like her mother and sister, Beatrice, pursued a career in education and teaching.<sup>98</sup> Verdelle's early grade school education was in the segregated Columbia school system. Like her other sisters, she sought higher education and excelled in her studies, particularly in music. She was an accomplished musician as a concert pianist, organist, and lyric soprano soloist and often taught piano lessons to local Waverly residents. At the age of seventeen she obtained a four-year scholarship at Talladega College, an American Missionary school in Talladega, Alabama, where she earned her bachelor's and later master's degrees in music.<sup>99</sup> Her experience at Talladega College was the first time Verdelle attended a white school with white teachers and students. It is unclear what her experience was like at Talladega College as one of very few African American students during Jim Crow to attend the college, however it is clear through her future actions as an educator that the experience affected her.

After receiving her masters, she returned to Columbia and developed the Reynolds School of Music which enrolled 200 students while also teaching music in Richland public schools. She married another Columbia educator, John Reynolds, in 1939, who later became a counselor at Pasadena City College in California. In 1943, Verdelle was named "Woman of the Year" in Columbia for her contribution to "creative music, teaching, and community involvement."<sup>100</sup>

In 1955, Verdelle moved to Pasadena, California, becoming a fourth-grade teacher and rising to principal of Marshall Fundamental School. In 1978, she was named superintendent of the Pasadena School District, the first time in the school district's history that an African American or a woman held the position.<sup>101</sup> She earned another master's degree in Administration at Pasadena Nazarene College and did graduate work "equivalent to a doctorate at Columbia University and UCLA." She and her husband, John, also started the Preschool and Education Center of Pasadena in which their daughter, Bettye Reynolds, served as the director. All their children were heavily involved in education throughout California. Her oldest son John Reynolds Jr. served as a counselor in the Pasadena School District and her youngest son, Nick, was an administrator in the Los Angeles School District. She was a member of Pasadena Community Church and also taught Sunday school there while her husband, John Reynolds, served as the minister.<sup>102</sup>

Nathaniel and Sarah Collins also had two other children, including Beatrice Collins Johnson (the oldest) and one son, Nathaniel H. Collins Jr. Both Beatrice and Nathaniel Collins Jr. had

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<sup>97</sup> *Daily News* [New York, NY], "Arnold P. Johnson Obituary," 9 June 1994.

<sup>98</sup> See the 1920 United States Census Record for Columbia, South Carolina.

<sup>99</sup> *The Los Angeles Times*, "History Maker," 14 December 1978.

<sup>100</sup> *The Los Angeles Times*, "History Maker," 14 December 1978.

<sup>101</sup> *The Los Angeles Times*, "History Maker," 14 December 1978.

<sup>102</sup> *The Los Angeles Times*, "History Maker," 14 December 1978.

successful professional careers and obtained higher educations at Hampton Institute in Norfolk, Virginia.<sup>103</sup> Like her mother and sister Verdelle, Beatrice Collins Johnson also taught as a home economics teacher for the Kimberley Park Grade School in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. Nathaniel Collins Jr. later pursued a career with the Pulmans Steam Railroad Company.<sup>104</sup> This Black entrepreneurial family transcended severe and often violent barriers of race and gender to become outspoken leaders in their communities.

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<sup>103</sup> *The Palmetto Leader*, “Locals and Personals,” 9 January 1926.

<sup>104</sup> 1940 United States Census Record.

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---

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested  
 previously listed in the National Register  
 previously determined eligible by the National Register  
 designated a National Historic Landmark  
 recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_  
 recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_  
 recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office  
 Other State agency  
 Federal agency  
 Local government  
 University  
 Other  
Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):** \_\_\_\_\_

---

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** 0.14

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

**Latitude/Longitude Coordinates (decimal degrees)**

Datum if other than WGS84: \_\_\_\_\_

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- |                        |                       |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Latitude: 34.007310 | Longitude: -81.018120 |
| 2. Latitude:           | Longitude:            |
| 3. Latitude:           | Longitude:            |
| 4. Latitude:           | Longitude:            |

**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The nominated property is located on the corner of Pine Street and Brayton Alley and is less than an acre. Boundaries on the western side of Pine Street fifty-two feet and extending back, therefrom one hundred twenty feet and being in shape a rectangular parallelogram; bounded on the north by property formerly of Brayton; east by Pine Street, whereon it fronts; south by public alley and west by another lot.

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The selected boundaries consist of the historic parcel sold to Nathaniel Collins in 1910, then transferred to his wife, Sarah Collins, in 1924 and later their daughter, Ruth Collins Perry in 1966. TMS R11406-08-07. The property boundaries have remained the same even after the property left the hands of the Collins family. The area is less than an acre.

---

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title: Carlie N. Todd, PhD Student, with SHPO assistance  
organization: University of South Carolina, Public History Program  
street & number: 1520 Senate Street, apt 114  
city or town: Columbia state: South Carolina zip code: 29201  
e-mail cntodd@email.sc.edu  
telephone: 843-231-1402  
date: 12/18/2019

---

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

## **Owner Information**

Owner's Name (individual, organization, corporation, etc.): Brent Girard and Robbie Robertson

Name of Contact Person (if different from above):

Mailing Address: 1221 Pine Street, Columbia, South Carolina, 29204

Telephone: 1-803-917-9585

E-mail address (if available): [brentgirard18@gmail.com](mailto:brentgirard18@gmail.com)

## **Photographs**

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

## **Photo Log**

Name of Property: Ruth's Beauty Parlor

City or Vicinity: Columbia

County: Richland

State: South Carolina

Photographer: Carlie N. Todd

Dates Photographed: November 3, 2019; February 14, 2020

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

1 of 42: East (primary) elevation of Ruth's Beauty Parlor, looking west, photo taken by Carlie Todd, February 2020.

2 of 42: East (primary) elevation of Ruth's Beauty Parlor, looking west, photo taken by Carlie Todd, February 2020.

3 of 42: Ionic style front porch columns on the east elevation of Ruth's Beauty Parlor, looking west, photo taken by Carlie Todd, November 2019.

4 of 42: Front porch on the east elevation, looking north, photo taken by Carlie Todd, February 2020.

5 of 42: North elevation of Ruth's Beauty Parlor, looking west, photo taken by Carlie Todd, November 2019.

6 of 42: Enclosed portion of front porch on the north elevation of Ruth's Beauty Parlor, looking southeast, photo taken by Carlie Todd, November 2019.

7 of 42: North elevation gable of Ruth's Beauty Parlor, looking south, photo taken by Carlie Todd, November 2019.

8 of 42: North elevation leadlight exterior window, looking south, photo taken by Carlie Todd, November 2019.

9 of 42: West elevation porch, looking east, photo taken by Carlie Todd, November 2019.

10 of 42: West elevation of Ruth's Beauty Parlor, looking east, photo taken by Carlie Todd, November 2019.

11 of 42: West elevation of Ruth's Beauty Parlor, looking northeast, photo taken by Carlie Todd, November 2019.

12 of 42: Backyard and noncontributing shed on property, looking west, photo taken by Carlie Todd, November 2019.

13 of 42: South elevation of Ruth's Beauty Parlor, looking northwest, photo taken by Carlie Todd, February 2020.

14 of 42: Brayton Alley, looking west, photo taken by Carlie Todd, November 2019.

15 of 42: Bottom of foyer in the Collins House, looking west, photo taken by Carlie Todd, November 2019.

16 of 42: Foyer staircase in the Collins House, looking northwest, photo taken by Carlie Todd, November 2019.

17 of 42: Leadlight glass above foyer door, looking north, photo taken by Carlie Todd, November 2019.

18 of 42: First parlor in the Collins House, looking southwest, photo taken by Carlie Todd, November 2019.

19 of 42: First parlor in the Collins House, looking east, photo taken by Carlie Todd, November 2019.

20 of 42: Second parlor in the Collins House, looking east, photo taken by Carlie Todd, November 2019.

21 of 42: Second parlor fireplace in the Collins House, looking west, photo taken by Carlie Todd, November 2019.

22 of 42: Bay windows in second parlor, looking south, photo taken by Carlie Todd, November 2019.

23 of 42: Second parlor closet and previous hallway, looking east, photo taken by Carlie Todd, November 2019.

24 of 42: Kitchen of the Collins House, looking south, photographer standing on secondary staircase, photo taken by Carlie Todd, February 2020.

25 of 42: Kitchen and stove, looking south, photo taken by Carlie Todd, November 2019.

26 of 42: Kitchen fireplace, looking east, photo taken by Carlie Todd, November 2019.

27 of 42: Laundry room in the Collins House, looking east, photo taken by Carlie Todd, November 2019.

28 of 42: Rear staircase in kitchen, looking north, photo taken by Carlie Todd, February 2020.

29 of 42: Third parlor in the Collins House, looking west, photo taken by Carlie Todd, November 2019.

30 of 42: Library in Ruth's Beauty Parlor, looking east, photo taken by Carlie Todd, November 2019.

31 of 42: Upstairs hallway in Collins House, looking west, photo taken by Carlie Todd, November 2019.

32 of 42: Upstairs hallway, looking west, photo taken by Carlie Todd, November 2019.

33 of 42: Upstairs enclosed sleeping porch, looking northeast, photo taken by Carlie Todd, November 2019.

34 of 42: Upstairs hallway bathroom, looking west, photo taken by Carlie Todd, November 2019.

35 of 42: First upstairs bedroom, looking southeast, photo taken by Carlie Todd, November 2019.

36 of 42: First upstairs bedroom, looking southwest, photo taken by Carlie Todd, November 2019.

37 of 42: Second upstairs bedroom, looking west, photo taken by Carlie Todd, November 2019.

38 of 42: Interior of second upstairs bedroom closet, looking west, photo taken by Carlie Todd, November 2019.

39 of 42: Second upstairs bedroom fireplace, looking west, photo taken by Carlie Todd, November 2019.

40 of 42: Third upstairs master bedroom, looking southeast, photo taken by Carlie Todd, November 2019.

41 of 42: Second upstairs bathroom, looking north, photo taken by Carlie Todd, November 2019.

42 of 42: Upstairs closet room adjacent to master bedroom, looking west, photo taken by Carlie Todd, November 2019.

## Index of Figures

1 of 7: circa. 1980s photograph of the home's façade, looking northwest, showing vinyl siding. Unknown photographer. Courtesy of Brent Girard.

2 of 7: 2019 architectural sketch of interior of home. Courtesy of Sylvie Dessau

3 of 7: circa 1920s photograph of Ruth Collins Perry. Photographer Richard Samuel Roberts. Courtesy of the South Caroliniana, University of South Carolina.

4 of 7: circa 1920s photograph of Nathaniel Collins. Photographer Richard Samuel Roberts. Courtesy of the South Caroliniana University of South Carolina.

5 of 7: Photograph of a dress mannequin belonging to Ruth Collins Perry found in the attic of the home by homeowner, Brent Girard. Photograph taken by Carlie Todd, February 2020.

6 of 7: 2019 photograph of the house at 1312 Pine that Ruth Collins Perry used for her boutique and dressmaking store after 1955. Photograph taken by Ramon Jackson.

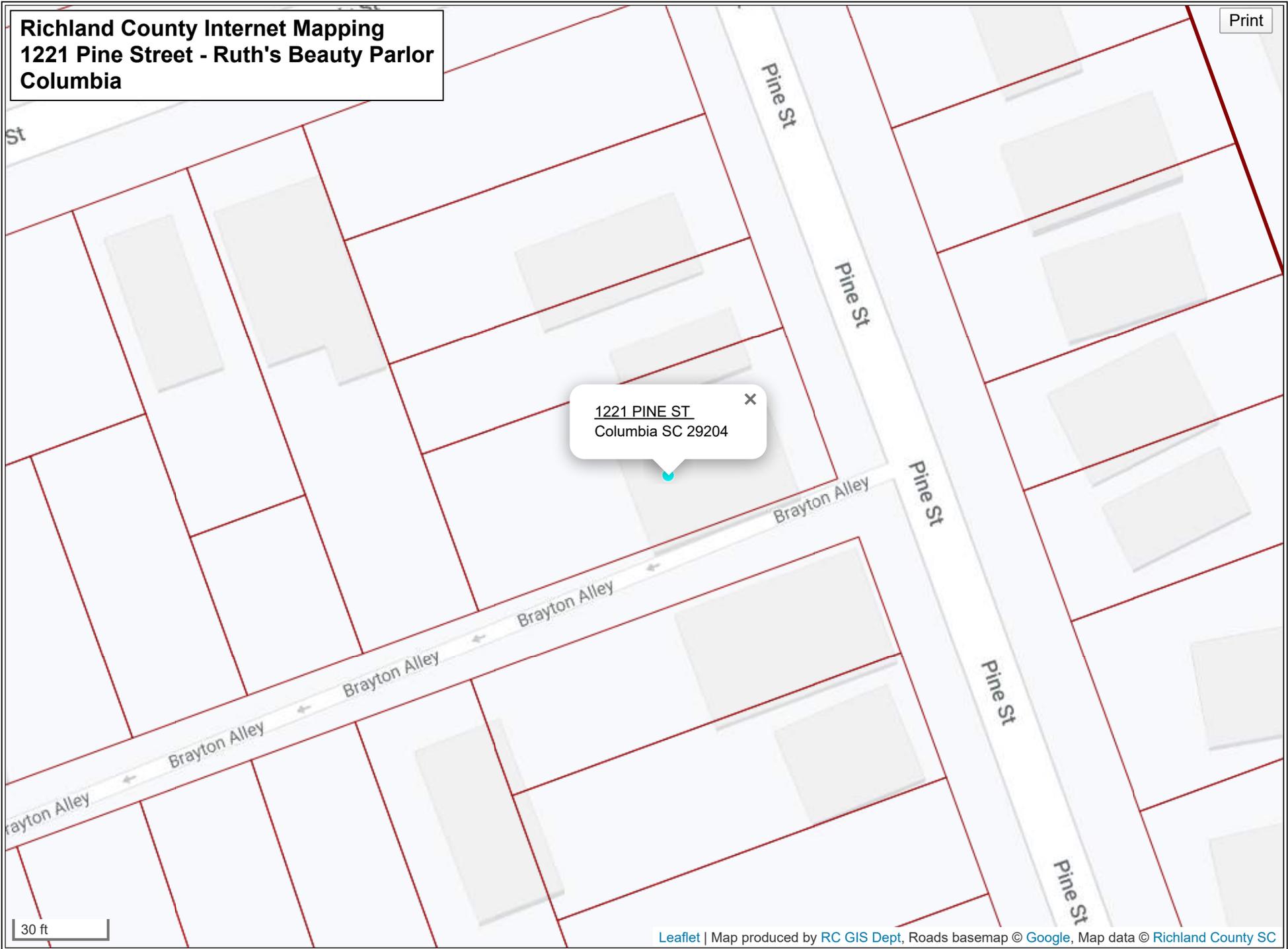
7 of 7: Advertisement for the Collins Clothing Company in *The Southern Indicator*, 15 February 1913, alongside I.S. Leevy's tailoring and clothing company.

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

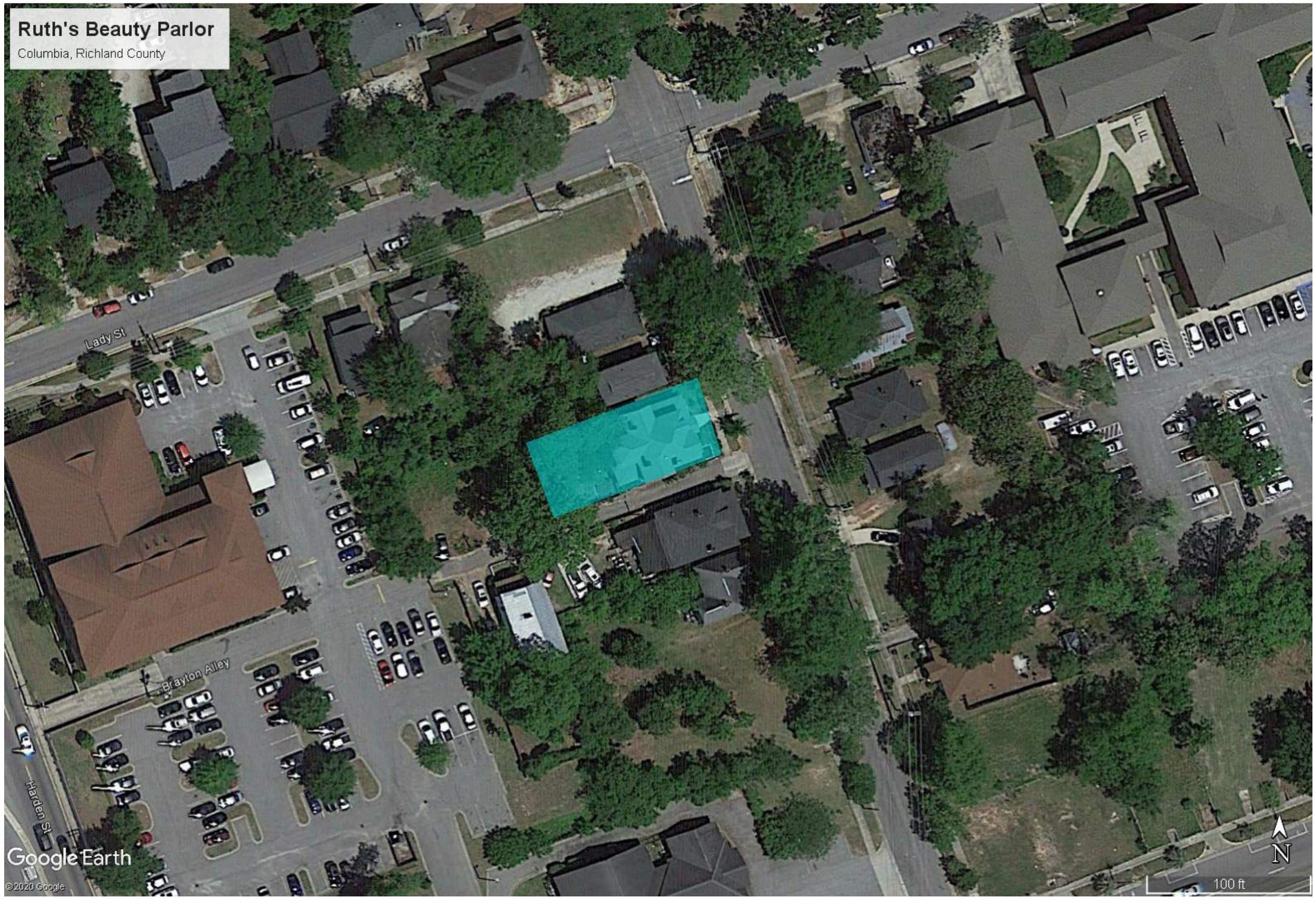
**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

**Richland County Internet Mapping**  
**1221 Pine Street - Ruth's Beauty Parlor**  
**Columbia**

Print



**Ruth's Beauty Parlor**  
Columbia, Richland County



# Ruth's Beauty Parlor

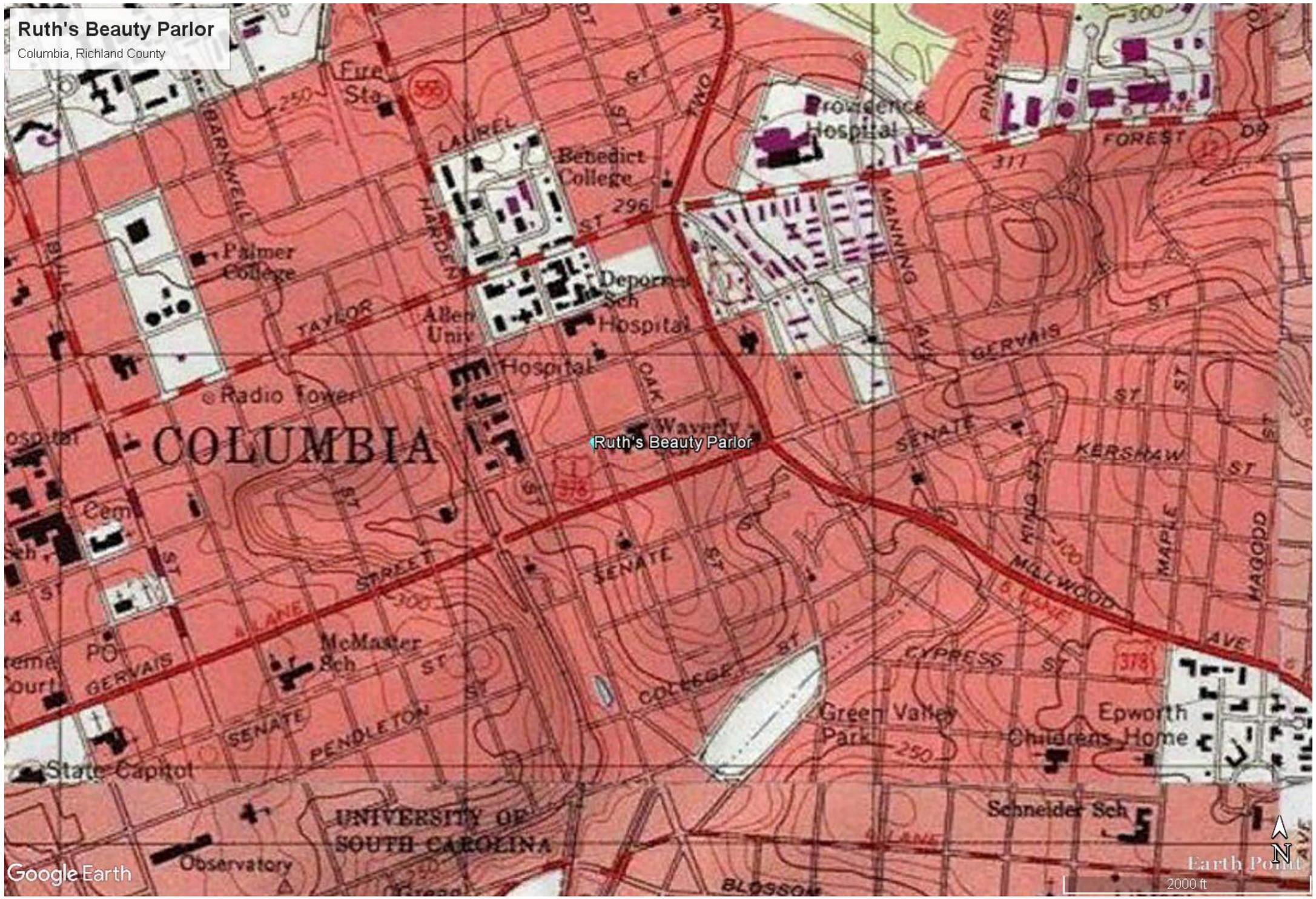
Columbia, Richland County

Ruth's Beauty Parlor



Ruth's Beauty Parlor

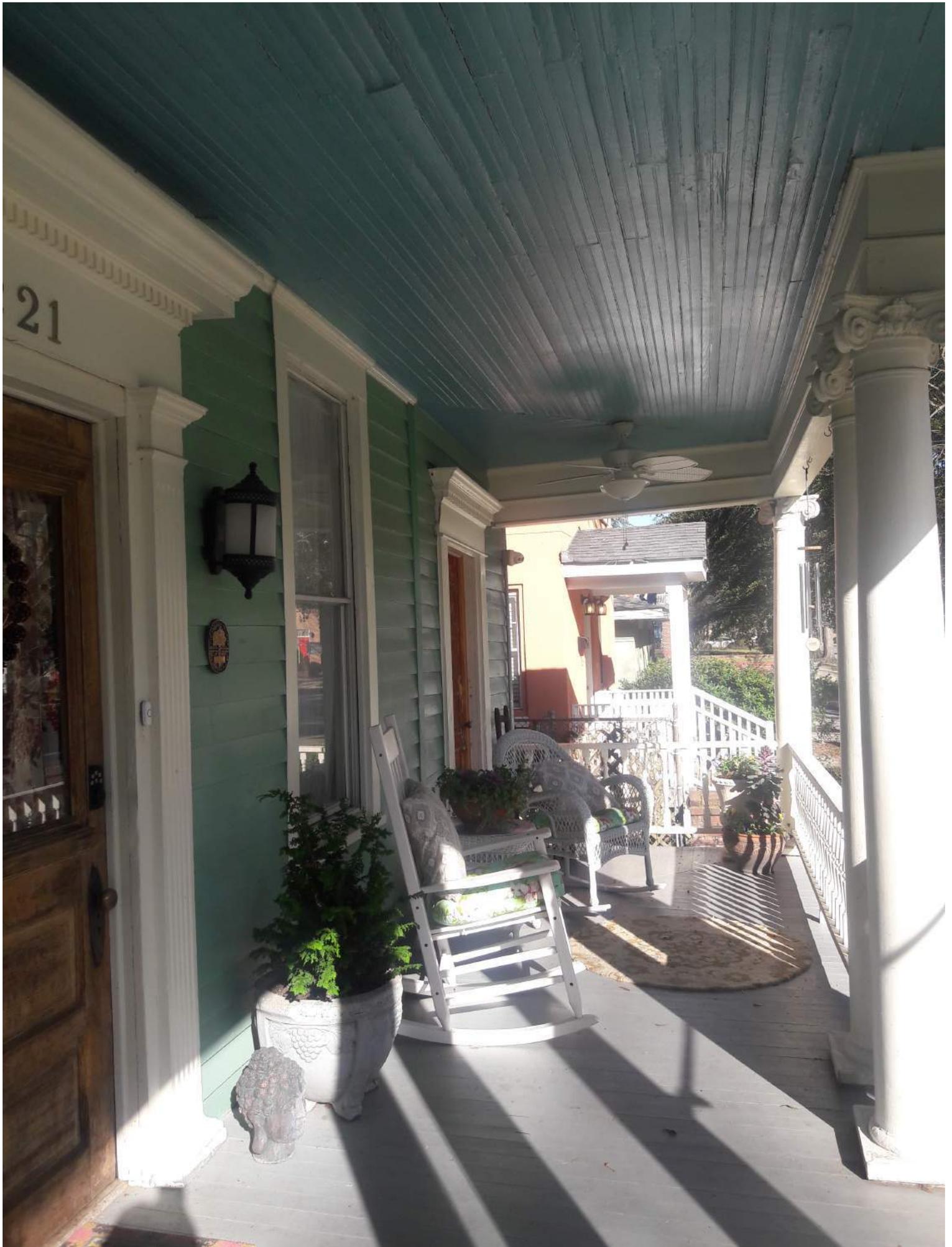
Columbia, Richland County



















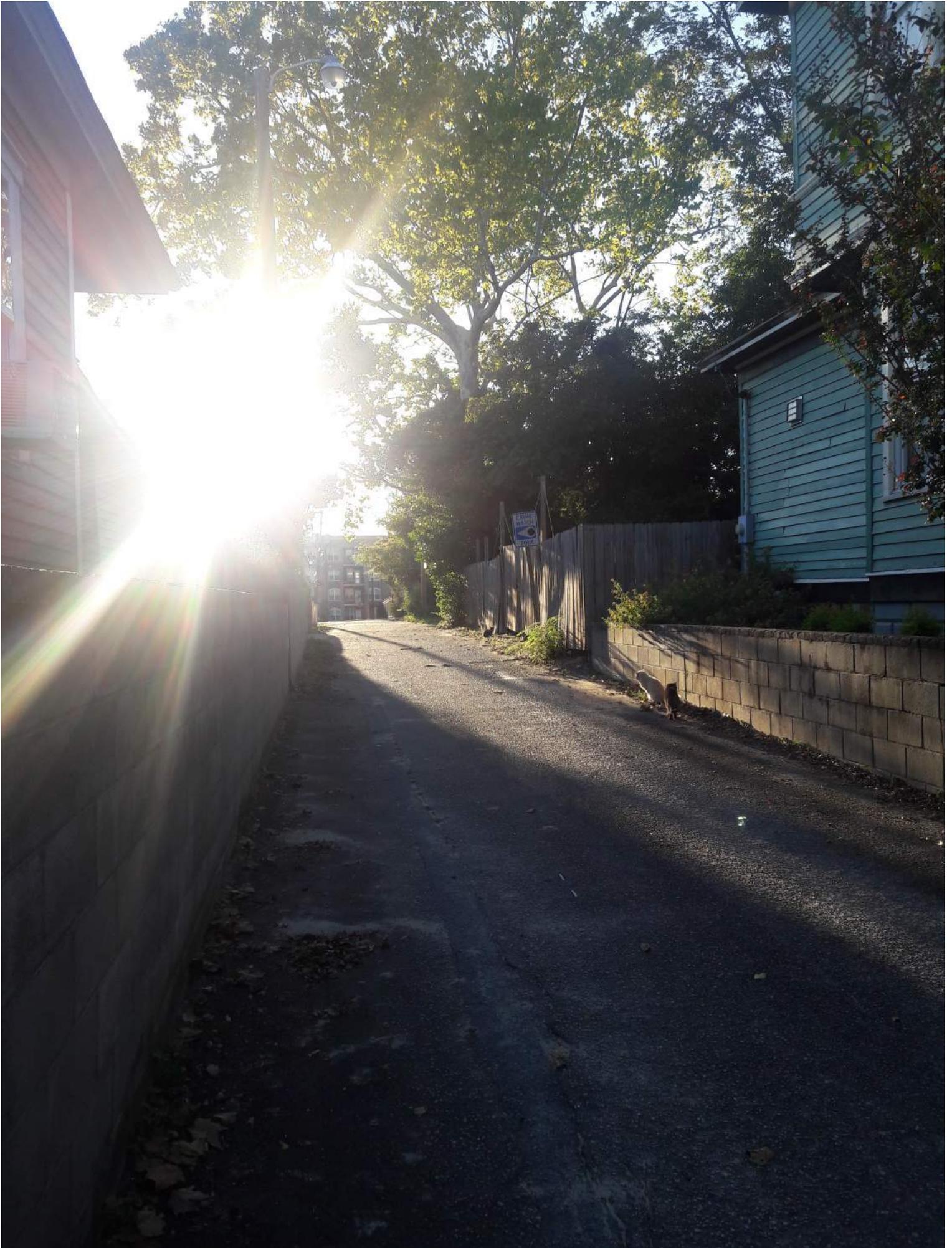








































































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Ar. Columbia	5:34	10:32pm
Ar. Newberry	5:46	10:44pm
Ar. Laurens	5:58	10:56pm
Ar. Greenville	6:10	11:08pm
Ar. Spartanburg	6:22	11:20pm
Ar. Abbeville	6:34	11:32pm
Ar. Greenwood	6:46	11:44pm
Ar. Athens	6:58	11:56pm
Ar. Atlanta	7:10	12:08pm
Ar. Columbia	7:22	12:20pm
Ar. Newberry	7:34	12:32pm
Ar. Laurens	7:46	12:44pm
Ar. Greenville	7:58	12:56pm
Ar. Abbeville	8:10	1:08pm
Ar. Athens	8:22	1:20pm
Ar. Atlanta	8:34	1:32pm
Ar. Columbia	8:46	1:44pm
Ar. Newberry	8:58	1:56pm
Ar. Laurens	9:10	2:08pm
Ar. Greenville	9:22	2:20pm
Ar. Spartanburg	9:34	2:32pm
Ar. Abbeville	9:46	2:44pm
Ar. Greenwood	9:58	2:56pm
Ar. Athens	10:10	3:08pm
Ar. Atlanta	10:22	3:20pm

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Rev. D. F. Thompson of Greenwood was in the city this week.

## BROOKLYN TABERNACLE

BIBLE STUDY ON

ABRAHAM, THE HEBREW.

"I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing."—Verse 2.

ABRAHAM is one of the great characters in history. God's promises made to him constitute the foundation of faith for Jews, Christians and Mohammedans, although many of them are not aware of the fact. The Jews are Abraham's descendants through Isaac and Jacob; while Mohammedans represent especially Ishmael and Esau. Christians profess to have become heirs to the chief blessings promised to Abraham's Seed, by becoming joint-heirs with Christ Jesus, whom they consider the antitype of Isaac.

The New Testament claim is that the Church of Christ is the antitype of Isaac, Isaac's wife and joint-heir; and that Christ and the Church, as the Spiritual Seed of Abraham, will be God's agency in blessing the nations. But much of the New Testament teachings was lost during the Dark Ages. Christians forgot that they were called to be joint-heirs in Messiah's "in thy seed shall all Kingdom, to bless be blessed." Instead, they got the narrow view that merely the Elect would be saved, who to all eternity would look over the battlements of Heaven and see all others of mankind in torture, and hear their groans to all eternity.

Only now are Bible students getting back to the teachings of Scripture. Only now are we learning the true import of St. Paul's words, "If ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's Seed, and heirs according to the promise."

God's Call to Abraham. Abraham's birthplace was Ur, one hundred twenty miles north of the Persian Gulf. His father Terah was a heathen. Polytheism prevailed—the worshiping of many gods. From Ur, the family migrated to Haran, about five hundred miles in the direction of Palestine. There Abraham remained until Terah's death.

God's dealings with Abraham, according to St. Stephen (Acts 7: 2), began while he was in Ur. God enticed him out of his evil surroundings, to be the founder of a new nation, holy and obedient to God. The migration from Ur to Haran took the family away from the idolatrous scenes of the metropolis to pastoral life. In harmony with the Divine call, Abraham, the seventy-five year old, his wife Sarah, and his nephew Lot, with their flocks and herds, moved to Canaan after the death of Terah.

Abraham's Great Faith in God. Abraham was full of faith. This feature of his character especially endeared him to the Almighty, who, because of it, styled him His friend. The Bible does not claim that Abraham was perfect. The reverse of this is declared—"There is none righteous [perfect], no, not one." (Romans 3:10). None measure up to the glorious image of God represented by Adam.

Abraham was not the friend of God because of his great education, nor for his wonderful intellectual powers. Nevertheless, he had intellectual powers. The fact that he was very rich indicates that he was a good manager. His skill as a leader was shown when Lot and the wealthy Sodomites were taken captive by Chedorlaomer. Abraham promptly armed three hundred and eighteen of his servants, pursued the victors and recovered the spoils.

But it was not for his skill as a general that God loved Abraham. The special quality that God esteemed in him is repeatedly mentioned in the Bible as having been his faith. "Abraham believed God."

Children of Abraham. Abraham's children, from God's standpoint, include only those who have faith in God. The original evidence of his faith and obedience was circumcision of the flesh, figuratively representing a turning away from sin to obedience to God. Circumcision has become largely a ceremony with the Jews. Such faithless circumcision entitles them to no special Divine favor. But all Jews who still trust in the promises made to Abraham will soon be recipients of marked evidences of Divine blessing through Messiah, who soon is to set up God's Kingdom.

St. Paul explains that all true Christians become the Spiritual Seed of Abraham—heirs of certain spiritual promises, as the natural seed are heirs of certain earthly promises, not yet fulfilled. As the natural seed must maintain circumcision to mark their separation from the Gentiles, so the Spiritual Seed must have circumcision of the heart—separating them from the world and from sin, marking them as "peculiar people, zealous of good works."

We exhort both Jews and Christians to honesty and faithfulness—obedience to God; the one class, that they may inherit the Heavenly promises; the other, that they may be ready for the inheritance which will be theirs as soon as the Heavenly, Spiritual Seed of Abraham shall have been completed by the First Resurrection.

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The attention of our readers is called to the advertisement of the special service at Wesley M. E. church, Sunday Feb. 9th, which appears in another column.

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