Snow Inundates South Carolina, Except For Northwest Portions

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Record 18-inch South Carolina snowfalls of 70 years ago were at least equaled Saturday in a downdraft that inundated all but the northwest corner of the state.

At least one death by freezing was attributed to the storm.

The snow was moving northeastward during the afternoon and was ended before dark at Columbia as it moved out of the state.

The heaviest fall was at Orangeburg, which reported 18 inches shortly before the snowing ended there. That equaled the 1912 record at Smith's Mill and the 1914 record at Society Hill in Darlington County.

Charleston recorded up to six inches of snow, breaking the city's 1899 record of 3.9 inches.

Columbia's 14 inches was a record for the city and its heaviest fall since it had 8 inches in 1958. The city's record was set in 1914, at 11.7 inches.

A gusty wind piled the snow in drifts in most areas.

John Purvis, veteran meteorologist in charge of the National Weather Service office at Columbia, said "there were some drifts around shrubbery that were waist high."

"I've never seen snowdrifts like this before in South Carolina."

The freezing death occurred a mile east of Greeleyville in Williamsburg County. David McClary, 42, Rt. 1, Salters, was found frozen to death. Officers said he died of exposure.

The South Carolina National Guard had its vehicles out on emergency service. A spokesman said the Guard was providing help to hospital personnel in 14 towns.

STATE HOUSE BLANKETED — COLUMBIA — The South Carolina Capitol building stands at the end of Main Street in Columbia where more than 14 inches of snow fell Friday and Saturday. In the right hand corner of the picture, there's a man with his hands in his pockets, facing the State House. He was the only Columbian, around town early Saturday. (AP Wirephoto)