

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

56-57)

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: Olympia Union Hall

Other names/site number: _____

Name of related multiple property listing: _____

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

2. Location

Street & number: 119 South Parker Street

City or town: Columbia State: SC County: Richland County

Not For Publication: Vicinity: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

		<u>12/1/2016</u>
Elizabeth M. Johnson, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer:		Date
_____ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government		

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In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

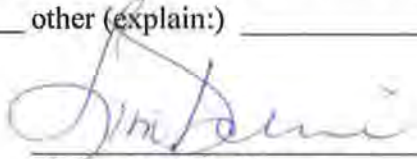
Signature of commenting official: _____ **Date** _____

Title : _____ **State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government** _____

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:) _____


Signature of the Keeper

1/24/17
Date of Action

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

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Structure

Object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
_____	_____	sites
_____	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

SOCIAL/meeting hall/union hall

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

VACANT/NOT IN USE

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

OTHER/vernacular

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property:

Foundation: Concrete

Walls: Concrete block, brick

Roof: Wood

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.)

Summary Paragraph

The union hall building at 119 South Parker Avenue in Columbia (vic.), Richland County, South Carolina is located in the heart of what was once the mill village for the Olympia and Granby textile mills. Much of the mill housing remains, maintaining the historic setting. The Olympia Union Hall is an imposing two story rectangular building of concrete block construction, with unusual and heavy brick buttresses at each exterior corner and in the center bays of each exterior wall. The building defies easy categorization by architectural style, and is best described as vernacular, though it tellingly offers the aspect of a fortress. Stepped end-walls along the east and west elevations obscure the building's gabled roof. Main entry to the building is via a set of double wooden doors in the building's southeast corner, beneath the southeast corner buttress. The union hall provides interesting architectural contrast both with the nearby nineteenth-century industrial mill buildings and the surrounding residences that compose the majority of the Olympia mill village.

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Narrative Description

Exterior

East elevation

Olympia Union Hall's east elevation overlooks South Parker Avenue (see photos 1, 14). This face of the building contains three uneven bays, marked by the three tall rectangular windows in the building's second story (see photo 14). These windows are double hung six-over-six sash windows. Bays are less obvious in the first floor: the southernmost bay contains the building's main entry, which is angled along its southeast corner (see photo 2). A single pane window of plate glass pierces the elevation between the first and second bay. Marked by a window in the second story, the east elevation's second bay is marked by one of the building's twelve heavy brick buttresses. The third bay contains the ghost of an earlier, large aperture now in-filled with cement blocks (see photos 1, 3, 7, 14). The east elevation is painted white from cornice to foundation. Two larger, heavy brick buttresses support the northeast and southeast corners of the building (see photos 1, 15). A small rectangular aluminum window pierces the half story above the second floor (see photos 1, 3, 14).

South elevation

The south elevation of Olympia Union Hall contains six bays, marked again by six tall rectangular windows matching those in the east elevation (see photo 4). A heavy brick buttress stands between the fourth and fifth bays in the first and second stories. The first floor contains two double hung sash windows in the first two bays. An unornamented wooden door pierces the third bay (see photo 4). A long cement staircase leads from ground level to this first floor door, and then on to a second unornamented door in the fourth bay of the second story (see photo 6). A single pane plate glass window marks the sixth bay of the first floor. The easternmost bay of the first floor contains the building's angled main entry door in its southeast corner. Two larger, heavy brick buttresses support the building's southwest and southeast corners.

West elevation

The building's west elevation contains three bays (see photo 4). In the first floor, double hung six-over-six sash windows mark the first and third bays (see photo 4). A narrow brick chimney marks the second bay, running up the building's face between the second and third bays in the second story (see photos 3, 5). The second story contains single hung sash windows in all three bays. These match the windows in the second story of the building's south and east elevations. A small rectangular aluminum window pierces the west elevation's half story. Heavy brick buttresses support the building's northwest and southwest corners.

North elevation

The building's north elevation contains six bays, marked by six tall rectangular windows matching those in the east and south elevations (see photos 12, 14). Heavy brick buttresses abut

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the building at the northeast and northwest corners, and in the center of the north elevation between the third and fourth bays.

Single hung sash windows matching those in the second story of the west, south, and east elevations mark the six bays of the building's north elevation. The first story sills contain grates. A heavy brick buttress divides the third and fourth bays in both the first and second floor. Larger brick buttresses form the building's northwest and northeast corners.

Interior

First level

The first level of the building is accessible via the angled entrance in the southeast corner (see photos 2, 10). Double wooden doors with large, single pane plate glass windows form the entry. Large, single pane plate glass windows stand in the east and south walls on either side of the double door entry. The double door entry opens onto an open anteroom (see photo 10). Wood studs and cinderblock partial walls make up smaller rooms visible toward the rear (west) of the building. The wooden staircase to the building's second level stands along the north wall. Wood beams, metal framing, and the wood flooring of the second level are visible in the ceiling throughout the first level. The floor is concrete throughout the east half of the first level. A small former bathroom along the north wall has wide tiles as finish. Hardwood flooring from several distinct periods is visible in the southwest corner of the first level. Damaged plaster has been removed to reveal the cinder block construction beneath in several areas of the first level.

Second level

Wooden stairs along the north elevation provide access to the building's second level. The second level is an open floor plan (see photo 9). Heavy wooden trusses are visible in the ceiling (see photos 8, 9). Cinder block construction is visible behind these wooden trusses in the east and west elevations. Hardwood flooring from several distinct periods is visible in the far west edge of the second floor. The wooden sills and casings are in bad condition on this level of the building. Plaster in the walls is damaged and peeling away from the cinder block below in several places throughout the second level.

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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.)

SOCIAL HISTORY

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Period of Significance

1946 - 1975

Significant Dates

1946
1951

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

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.)

The Olympia Union Hall at 119 South Parker Avenue in Columbia (vic.), Richland County, South Carolina is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places at the local level of significance under Criterion A in the area of social history. The building's association with the Textile Workers Union of America (TWUA) Local 254 situates it within the broader narrative of Columbia's economic history. The Olympia Union Hall is an important vestige of the built environment born of Columbia's long history with the textile industry: it recalls mill workers' efforts to organize in defense of their rights and maintain and improve the social services once provided by the Olympia Mill company. The union hall building stands as visual reminder of the struggle between workers and mill management that characterized Columbia's early twentieth-century textile economy and the all-important civic support the union provided for families in Columbia's Olympia community. The period of significance extends from the building's completion in 1946 to 1975, when Columbia became the site of the first chapter of the Carolina Brown Lung Association, a group that worked to bring attention to the health problems associated with conditions that they encountered in textile mills, specifically a condition known

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as byssinosis, or brown lung disease. The Olympia Union Hall would serve as the site of early organizational meetings and health screenings carried out by the Carolina Brown Lung Association in 1975.

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

Criterion A: Social History

The history of the Olympia Union Hall building is deeply intertwined with the history of the Olympia mill community. As Olympia Mill began to close down its operations in 1939, civic services previously provided by the mill company – the neighborhood’s schools, the park, etc. – began to disappear from the neighborhood. Formation of the Textile Workers Union of America’s (hereafter TWUA) Local 254 and the subsequent construction of its Union Hall building in Olympia represent the tense labor relations born of the mill industry, and mill communities’ efforts to protect the rights of textile workers and provide civic services to their families.¹

Columbia’s Olympia Cotton Mill was constructed in 1899, designed and managed by the regionally prolific firm of Whaley and Company. Olympia Mill was one of three mills in the Columbia area known collectively as the Whaley Mills. Though construction of the mills provided a new economic structure and opportunity for the South, it also resulted in the construction of mill owned housing that so frequently accompanied the construction of large textile mills. On average, mill workers in Columbia and South Carolina worked for wages roughly 60% less than those earned by industrial laborers elsewhere in the United States. Contemporary social commentators detailed unsanitary and hazardous conditions for mill workers. Millhands walked a delicate tightrope. Mill owners not only controlled the mills and the wages, but they often also controlled the housing, schools, and churches within the mill communities. The brand of industrial paternalism practiced in South Carolina mill villages was not wholly disadvantageous for mill hands and in many ways they benefitted from the services offered. In the Olympia Mill community these services included schools, a communal garden plot, recreation facilities, and pastureland.² But by ceding control of so many aspects of daily life to mill ownership, millhands also provided a rather large stick with which mill owners could discipline laborers who stepped out of line.

¹ Edwards-Pitman Environmental, “Olympia Mill and Village: Upper Richland County, South Carolina Historical and Architectural Inventory” (Richland County Conservation Commission, June 2002), <http://nationalregister.sc.gov/SurveyReports/Olympia2002SM-2.pdf>; Fuller, Abigail A., “North Carolina Textile Workers Win Union Recognition from J.P. Stevens, 1976 - 1980,” *Global Nonviolent Action Database* (Swarthmore College, May 13, 2013), <https://nvdatabase.swarthmore.edu/content/north-carolina-textile-workers-win-union-recognition-j-p-stevens-1976-1980>; Botsch, Robert E., *Organizing the Breathless: Cotton Dust, Southern Politics, and the Brown Lung Association* (University Press of Kentucky, 2015).

² Edwards-Pitman Environmental, “Olympia Mill and Village: Upper Richland County, South Carolina Historical and Architectural Inventory.”

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Early efforts to organize Columbia workers in labor unions met with halting success. The National Union of Textile Workers (NUTW) participated in the city's annual Labor Day parade of 1900, marching in promotion of reform in child labor legislation, establishment of a state bureau of labor with the power to inspect mill facilities, and reduced working hours for mill employees. The NUTW found little support in the Columbia community, suggesting that Columbia's textile workers were loath to risk their present living conditions with mill communities in hopes for improvement.³

It should be noted, also, that millhands did not view the sort of reforms that the NUTW proposed as universally favorable. Child labor laws, especially, were viewed as a threat not only to family wages, but also to male prerogative. Men, who already felt that they had lost a large measure of their independence and control in the move from field to factory, often viewed those who agitated for reform as a threat to the power that they held over dependents within their own households. These Progressive reformers were imbued with a missionary zeal and thought they were performing a genuine good, but to millhands it appeared that these outsiders wanted to impose their values upon them and held a condescending attitude towards life in the mill village.⁴

Flush times in the mill villages, especially in the years around World War I, when wages in the mills increased threefold from 1916-1919, also militated against labor activism. A reduction in demand, coupled with a glut in the labor force when soldiers returned home, led to wage cuts, decreased social services, and longer working hours. These structural changes led to increasing tension between capital and labor, leading to growing labor activism in the mill villages. The economic pressures produced by the Great Depression would exacerbate these tensions. By 1934, half of South Carolina's textile workers were members of the United Textile Workers (UTW) union. On September 3 of that year, the UTW led a widespread general textile strike at mills from Maine to Alabama – Columbia's mills and mill workers were involved. This marked an important turning point in South Carolina's history of labor relations: struggle and unrest between mill owners and workers continued throughout the Depression years of the 1930s.⁵

Sale of the Olympia Mill and its associated village in 1939 signaled an important shift in the community's structure and organization. Village staples formerly owned by the mill – the communal garden plot, recreation facilities, and pastureland – were sold. Demographics began to change within the community, too: during the mill's heyday, the village was composed entirely of mill workers, but non-textile workers began moving into the community after 1939. The Textile Workers Union of America (TWUA) was founded the same year the Olympia Mill and village were sold, and played an important role in organizing Columbia's textile workers prior to

³ Ibid.; *The State*, July 8, 1901.

⁴ Bryant Simon, *A Fabric of Defeat: The Politics of South Carolina Millhands, 1910-1948* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1998), 11-35.

⁵ Edwards-Pitman Environmental, "Olympia Mill and Village: Upper Richland County, South Carolina Historical and Architectural Inventory"; Kohn, August, *The Cotton Mills of South Carolina* (Columbia, SC: SC Department of Agriculture, Commerce and Immigration, 1907).

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the organization's merger with the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union (ACTWU) in 1976.⁶

Columbia's Union Hall was constructed in the early 1940s atmosphere of community erosion as well as broader shifts in the structure of the textile industry. Prior to the construction of its hall on South Parker Street in 1944, the Local 254 chapter of the TWUA had been meeting in the Olympia High School auditorium, which was located in the shadow of the nearby Olympia National Guard Armory (1936-37). Their proximity was perhaps not coincidental: labor unrest in the Olympia area in the 1930s made that location a logical choice for construction of a National Guard Armory and the Guard had frequently been deployed in a manner that favored mill management over labor. Subsequent construction of a fortress-like union hall in the middle of the village, within view of the mill and at some remove from the armory, would have indicated a not-so-subtle defensive posture in a region where unionism was constantly embattled. Construction of the union hall was still underway in 1945, overseen by chairman of the building committee R.H. Matthews. The project was estimated to cost the Local 254 a total of \$11,000. Construction of the imposing union hall in heavy cinder block and bolstered by distinctive brick buttresses communicated the union's commitment to permanence in the neighborhood.⁷ The message was an important one in an era when southern unionism was attempting to consolidate and grow its membership in the wake of World War II. The dedicated union hall suggested to the surrounding community that the organization was strong and permanent.

The TWUA's Local 254 served an important social function in the Olympia Mill community in the decades following the dissolution of services once provided by the mill. Local 254 hosted its regular meetings of thirty-five to forty people within the union hall throughout the 1940s and 1950s. Former mill workers recalled the social pressure to join the union in the mid 1940s, when the mill produced sheets, pillowcases, and cloth for uniforms for the Army during WWII. Because it was a government-run mill, "you almost had to join the union." In their heyday, the Olympia Union Hall served all five mills in Columbia: Granby, Olympia, Capital City, Richland, and Palmetto. During that era the union's executive board met in the union hall building on Tuesday nights. The first level contained some office spaces, and was accessible via the building's main entry and a side door. The upper floor served as the union's big gathering space, and where they gathered to ratify executive decisions. The second level's open floor plan provided a convenient area to set up chairs and take a vote on matters that required approval of the membership.⁸

Local 254 provided food for neighborhood families during months-long strikes in the 1950s, and hosted Labor Day cookouts in celebration of the mill's holiday. The organization also negotiated pension plans for the mill's textile workers. Locals recall that the mill's biggest strike was in 1951, when the union waged a three-month battle for higher wages. Local 254 provided

⁶ Botsch, Robert E., *Organizing the Breathless: Cotton Dust, Southern Politics, and the Brown Lung Association*, 193.

⁷ "Textile Union Begin Work on New Labor Hall," *The State*, December 31, 1945.

⁸ Oral history interview with James R. Oswald, interview by Lee Ann Kornegay, June 2016.

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groceries to striking union members in periods like this, thus playing a vital role in allowing workers to sustain themselves and their families while on strike.⁹

Criterion Consideration G

While the Olympia Union Hall did not achieve significance less than fifty years ago, its significance does extend into a period less than fifty years ago. The TWUA, and the Olympia Union Hall, continued to play an important role in labor relations in Columbia and across the state of South Carolina in the second half of the twentieth century. Importantly, the Union Hall was the location of early organizing efforts by the Carolina Brown Lung Association, which would establish their first chapter in Columbia in 1975. The period of significance for the Olympia Union Hall, therefore, extends to include these organizing efforts in the mid-1970s.

Members of Columbia's Local 254 were involved in organizing the Carolina Brown Lung Association between 1973 and 1975 – Columbia's Mike Szpak and Frank Blechman were particularly involved in organizing efforts. The Carolina Brown Lung Association (BLA) partnered with the existing union chapters to aid in their ongoing efforts to address occupational hazards associated with textile millwork, specifically a condition known as byssinosis, or brown lung disease.¹⁰ Together the BLA and Local 254 hosted free screenings for mill workers at the union hall building. For a few days a team of expert doctors from New York were on hand at Olympia Union Hall to measure mill workers' lung function. At that time mills were reluctant to pay workers' compensation for ailments resulting from mill conditions, and being screened was controversial within the mill community. In April of 1975, the TWUA shifted its work organizing for revised OSHA standards from Greenville to Columbia. More than 125 people attended the first mass meeting of the Carolina Brown Lung Association (BLA) – dedicated to improving working conditions for workers handling cotton – organized by the TWUA on April 25 of that year.¹¹ Local former mill workers recall that many of their neighbors suffered and died from Brown Lung, and that the union hall building was a refuge for mill workers who were otherwise disadvantaged. The building continued to serve as a safe space where members of the mill community could express grievances. Indeed, one of the reasons that the Carolina Brown Lung Association chose Columbia as the site for its initial chapter was because union organization was stronger there than elsewhere in South Carolina. At the Olympia-Pacific Mills between 80-90 percent of workers were unionized by the mid-1970s.¹² This level of union activity was especially notable for South Carolina, and the South generally, where unionism lagged far behind the rest of the nation.

⁹ Hinshaw, Dawn, "Old Union Hall Anchors Mill Community," *The State*, February 19, 2012, sec. News; Lee Ann Kornegay, Interview with Larry Gamble, June 2016.

¹⁰ Mary Lee Gosney, "Whatever Happened to Brown Lung: Compensation for Difficult to Diagnose Occupational Diseases," *Berkeley Journal of Employment & Labor Law* (Spring 1979), 102-168.

¹¹ Robert E. Botsch, *Organizing the Breathless: Cotton Dust, Southern Politics, and the Brown Lung Association* (Lexington, KY: University Press of Kentucky, 1993), 73, 193.

¹² Botsch, *Organizing the Breathless*, 61-63. The Columbia Chapter of the Carolina Brown Lung Association continued to function until February 1990.

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The TWUA continued its good work as the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union (ACTWU) through merger with the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America (ACWA, formed 1914) in 1976. The ACTWU gained national attention in 1976 when it brought a case against J.P. Stevens & Co. for failing to negotiate a contract with the labor union representing workers at the company's plants in Roanoke Rapids, North Carolina. At that time, J.P. Stevens & Co. was one of the largest employers in Greenville, South Carolina, which was considered the textile capital of the state. National settlement in 1980 gained the ACTWU its first-ever collective bargaining agreements for more than 3,000 Stevens workers at ten plants in the Carolinas and Alabama. The ACTWU's campaign against J.P. Stevens is best remembered for its strategic "corporate campaign," wherein it used "negative publicity to isolate the company and other corporations and banks."¹³

Workers at Olympia Mill continued to organize throughout the 1980s. Several meetings during these periods were so well attended that the crowd had to gather outside the Olympia Union Hall building. Textile mills across the country began to shut down as mill jobs moved overseas, and unions lost considerable bargaining power. Reflecting this erosion, the Olympia Union Hall building closed in 1996, and passed into private hands in 1998. It functioned as studio and exhibition space for local artists in the early 2000s, and is now vacant. Though it has not served as a meeting space for textile unions or Local 254 in more than twenty years, the union hall building is still fondly remembered for its central role in the mill community. Columbians recall the crucial role the building played as gathering place for the union, as community gathering point, and in support of the Olympia community in times of financial and social challenge. It was an important, symbolic element in the social and cultural fabric of the mill community that formed Columbia's economic backbone throughout the twentieth century.¹⁴

Union hall buildings currently listed in the National Register of Historic Places vary widely in style and appearance; Columbia's Union Hall adds additional variety to an already diverse group. Constructed in 1900 by the Whitefield Fish and Game Club, Whitefield Union Hall in Whitefield, Lincoln County, Maine contains elements of the Queen Anne style.¹⁵ Searsport Union Hall in Searsport, Waldo County, Maine is Italianate in design and divided in the Renaissance manner. Constructed in 1863, the Searsport Union Hall contains tall arched windows in all exterior walls.¹⁶ The 1890 Danforth Union Hall in Danforth, Washington County, Maine is also a two-story building, but has a hipped roof and features a heavy central

¹³ Fuller, Abigail A., "North Carolina Textile Workers Win Union Recognition from J.P. Stevens, 1976 - 1980," *Global Nonviolent Action Database* (Swarthmore College, May 13, 2013), <https://nvdatabase.swarthmore.edu/content/north-carolina-textile-workers-win-union-recognition-j-p-stevens-1976-1980>; Taylor, Charles D.M., "Worker Organizing in South Carolina: A Community-Based Approach," in *Communities in Economic Crisis: Appalachia and the South* (Temple University Press, 2011), 108 – 109.

¹⁴ Hinshaw, Dawn, "Old Union Hall Anchors Mill Community"; Lee Ann Kornegay, Interview with Bob Guild, Video, June 2016.

¹⁵ Mitchell, Christi A., "Whitefield Union Hall, Maine: Nomination to the National Register of Historic Places" (National Park Service, October 20, 2006), <http://focus.nps.gov/nrhp/GetAsset?assetID=da25c3b1-bb0a-4b9c-b369-a2ea038f45f6>.

¹⁶ Beard, Frank A. and Reed, Roger G., "Waldo Union Hall, Maine: Nomination to the National Register of Historic Places" (National Park Service, January 1986), <http://focus.nps.gov/nrhp/GetAsset?assetID=44de2b04-0daf-460d-8b5c-3a4a03f07d65>.

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bell tower.¹⁷ Granite, Montana's Miners Union Hall (c. 1890) is a two-story brick building constructed by the town's now-extinct Miners Union and used primarily for social events.¹⁸ South Superior Union Hall in Wyoming, constructed in 1921 by the United Mine Workers of South Superior, is also a two-story brick building. Unlike the other brick union halls, though, South Superior Union Hall sits on a "parallelogrammatic" footprint.¹⁹

Olympia Union Hall's location makes it more historically significant than does its architecture, however. Rarity of union hall buildings throughout the South reflects the relative unpopularity of unions in the region; unions took greater hold and exercised greater influence in the Northeast and the West. The structure of the southern economy made union organization more difficult than in other areas of the country and as a result fewer unions existed in the South. By the 1950s only 17% of southern laborers were union members as compared to 40% in the rest of the nation.²⁰ The relatively small number of union hall buildings in the South reflects this regional difference in union strength and influence.²¹ The Olympia Union Hall building is thus a rare and important artifact of Columbia's involvement in the South's history of unionized labor activism. While unions had less of an impact on the American South as a region, the Olympia Union Hall nonetheless represents nearly fifty years of union activity within the Olympia mill village during the second half of the twentieth century.

¹⁷ Mohny, Kirk F., "Danforth Union Hall, Maine: Nomination to the National Register of Historic Places" (National Park Service, April 14, 1987), <http://focus.nps.gov/nrhp/GetAsset?assetID=49e03e36-c78b-40a6-b865-5e3339f5a96c>.

¹⁸ Conklin, David G., "Miners Union Hall, Montana: Nomination to the National Register of Historic Places" (National Park Service, October 11, 1974), <http://focus.nps.gov/nrhp/GetAsset?assetID=c5d9f927-e37d-483f-956c-575239895e5b>.

¹⁹ Starr, Eileen, "South Superior Union Hall, Wyoming: Nomination to the National Register of Historic Places," April 1983, <http://focus.nps.gov/nrhp/GetAsset?assetID=d7f79f62-8304-4b87-aead-6ef8514acee1>.

²⁰ Bryant Simon, "Rethinking Why There Are So Few Unions in the South," *Georgia Historical Quarterly*, Summer 1997, 465–84.

²¹ Simon, "Rethinking Why There Are So Few Unions in the South," 465–84.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

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National Register nominations

Beard, Frank A., and Reed, Roger G. "Waldo Union Hall, Maine: Nomination to the National Register of Historic Places." National Park Service, January 1986. <http://focus.nps.gov/nrhp/GetAsset?assetID=44de2b04-0daf-460d-8b5c-3a4a03f07d65>.

Conklin, David G. "Miners Union Hall, Montana: Nomination to the National Register of Historic Places." National Park Service, October 11, 1974. <http://focus.nps.gov/nrhp/GetAsset?assetID=c5d9f927-e37d-483f-956c-575239895e5b>.

Mitchell, Christi A. "Whitefield Union Hall, Maine: Nomination to the National Register of Historic Places." National Park Service, October 20, 2006. <http://focus.nps.gov/nrhp/GetAsset?assetID=da25c3b1-bb0a-4b9c-b369-a2ea038f45f6>.

Mohney, Kirk F. "Danforth Union Hall, Maine: Nomination to the National Register of Historic Places." National Park Service, April 14, 1987. <http://focus.nps.gov/nrhp/GetAsset?assetID=49e03e36-c78b-40a6-b865-5e3339f5a96c>.

Olympia Union Hall
Name of Property

Richland Co., S.C.
County and State

Starr, Eileen. "South Superior Union Hall, Wyoming: Nomination to the National Register of Historic Places," April 1983. <http://focus.nps.gov/nrhp/GetAsset?assetID=d7f79f62-8304-4b87-aead-6ef8514acee1>.

Newspaper articles

Hinshaw, Dawn. "Old Union Hall Anchors Mill Community." *The State*. February 19, 2012, sec. News.

"Textile Union Begin Work on New Labor Hall." *The State*. December 31, 1945.

The State. July 8, 1901.

Oral history interviews

Lee Ann Kornegay. Interview with Bob Guild. Video, June 2016.

———. Interview with Larry Gamble, June 2016.

----- Interview by Lee Ann Kornegay. Interview with James R. Oswald, June 2016.

Reports and surveys

Edwards-Pitman Environmental. "Olympia Mill and Village: Upper Richland County, South Carolina Historical and Architectural Inventory." Richland County Conservation Commission, June 2002. <http://nationalregister.sc.gov/SurveyReports/Olympia2002SM-2.pdf>.

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): _____

Olympia Union Hall
Name of Property

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10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 0.31

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: 33.983374 | Longitude: -81.034007 |
| 2. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 3. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 4. Latitude: | Longitude: |

Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

- | | | |
|----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 2. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 3. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 4. Zone: | Easting : | Northing: |

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

The property is bounded by South Parker Avenue to the east, by adjacent property to the north, by a city park to the west and south.

Olympia Union Hall
Name of Property

Richland Co., S.C.
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Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)
These boundaries represent the current parcel boundary for the Olympia Union Hall
(Richland County Parcel R08816-02-04).

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Meg Southern
organization: Historic Columbia
street & number: 1601 Richland Street
city or town: Columbia state: SC zip code: 29201
e-mail megsouthern@gmail.com
telephone: 301-788-7197
date: June 26, 2016

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.)

Olympia Union Hall
 Name of Property

Richland Co., S.C.
 County and State

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: Union Hall

City or Vicinity: Columbia

County: Richland

State: South Carolina

Photographer: Meg Southern

Date Photographed: January 2016

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

Photo number	Description of View	Camera facing
1	Southeast aspect	Northwest
2	Main entry, in southeast corner of building	Northwest
3	Northeast aspect	Southwest
4	Southwest aspect	Northeast
5	West elevation	East
6	Second level entry on south elevation	North
7	Interior detail, former opening in east wall	East
8	Interior detail, roof framing in second level	West
9	Interior, second level	East
10	Interior, first level	Southeast
11	Interior detail, wall plate and ceiling timbers	West
12	Exterior detail, corner buttress, northwest corner	Southeast
13	Exterior detail, windows in north elevation	South
14	East elevation	West
15	Exterior detail, brick detail in corner buttresses	West

Olympia Union Hall
Name of Property

Richland Co., S.C.
County and State

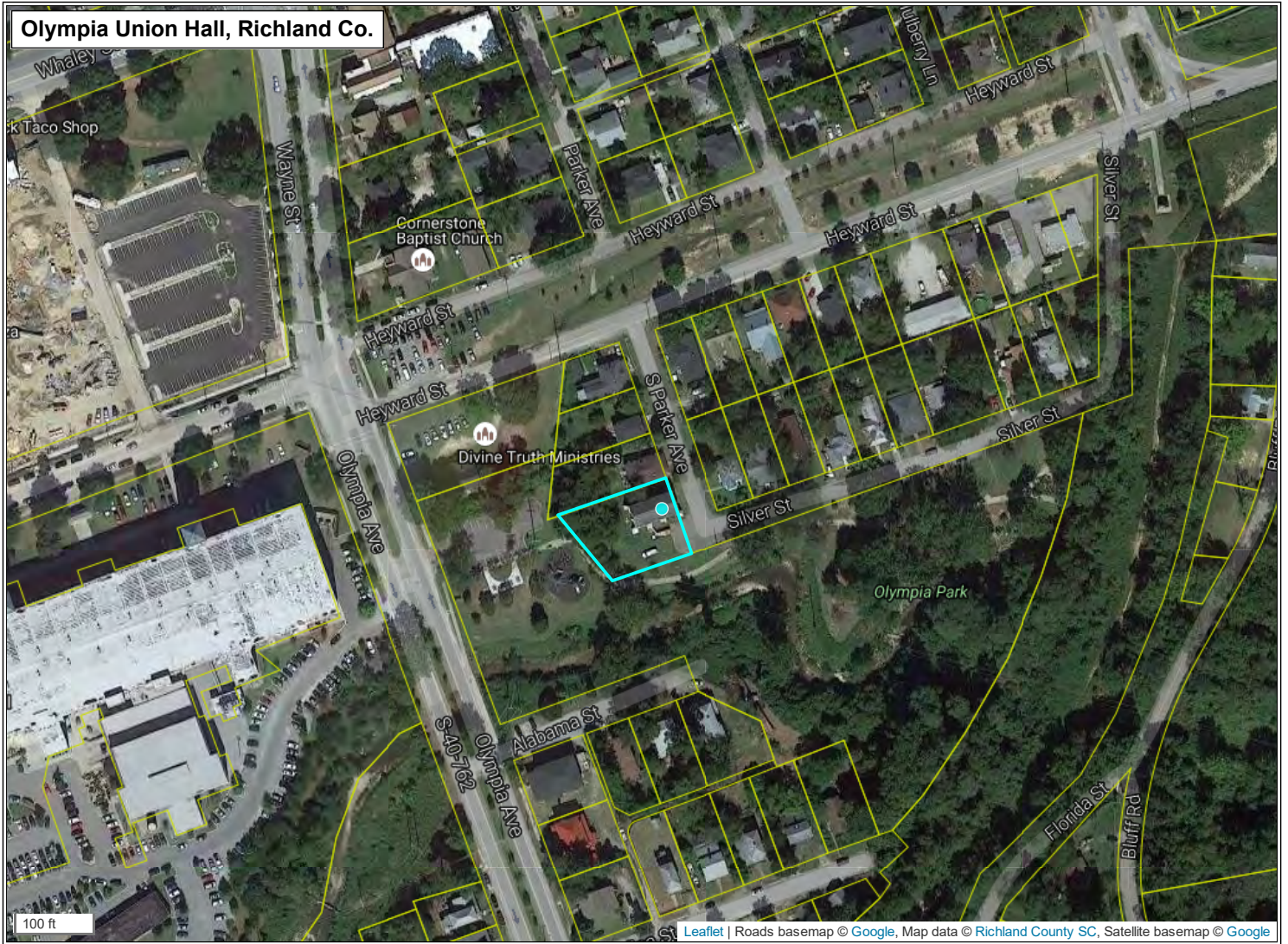
Historic images

Figure 1: Union Hall in 1971, viewed from the southeast. Photograph on file in the Russell Maxey collection at the Richland County Public Library.



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.



Olympia Union Hall
Columbia vic., Richland Co.

Sparker Ave

Olympia Union Hall

© 2016 Google

Google Earth

125 ft

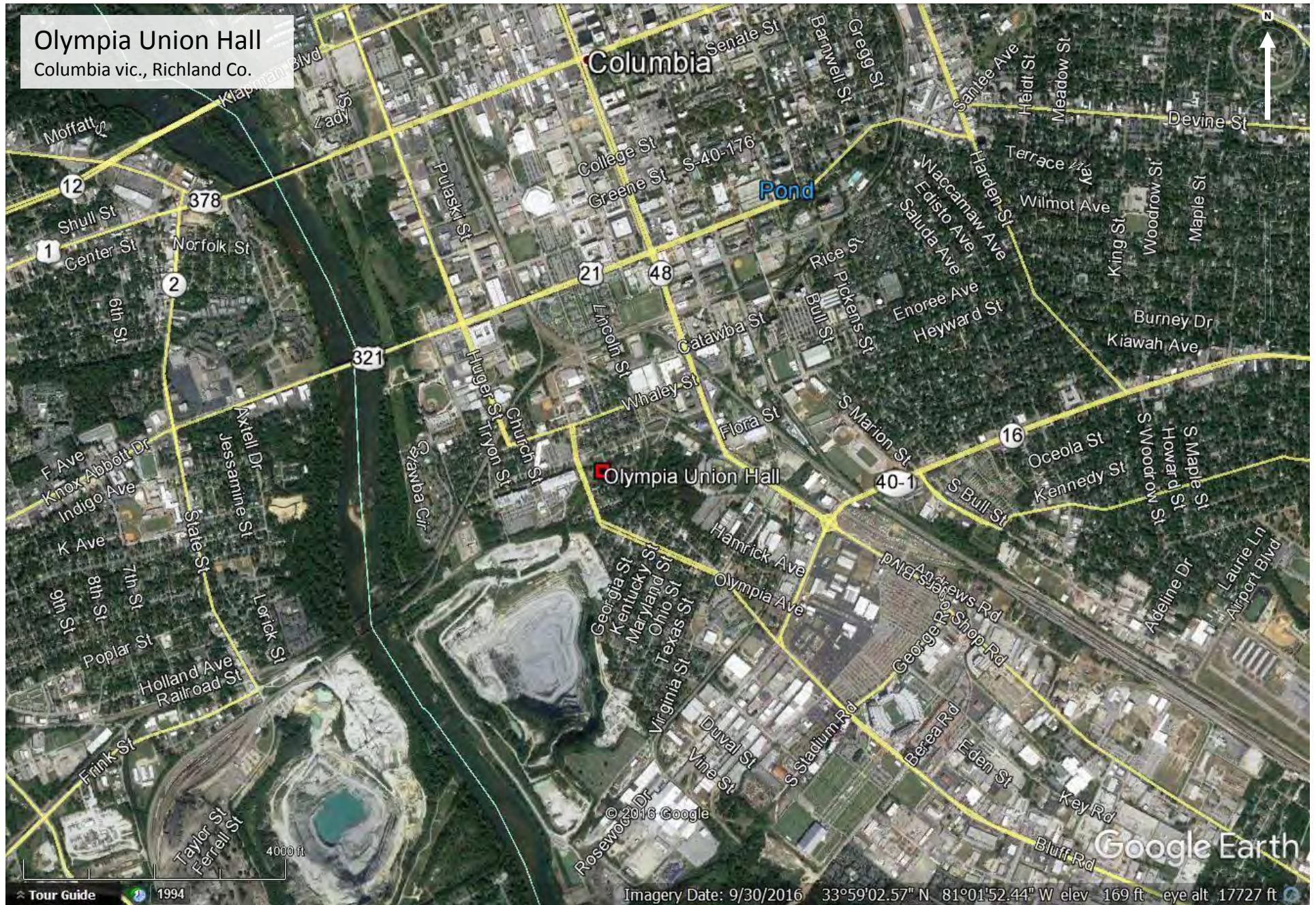
Tour Guide

1994

Imagery Date: 9/30/2016 33°59'02.10" N 81°02'04.71" W elev 152 ft eye alt 697 ft

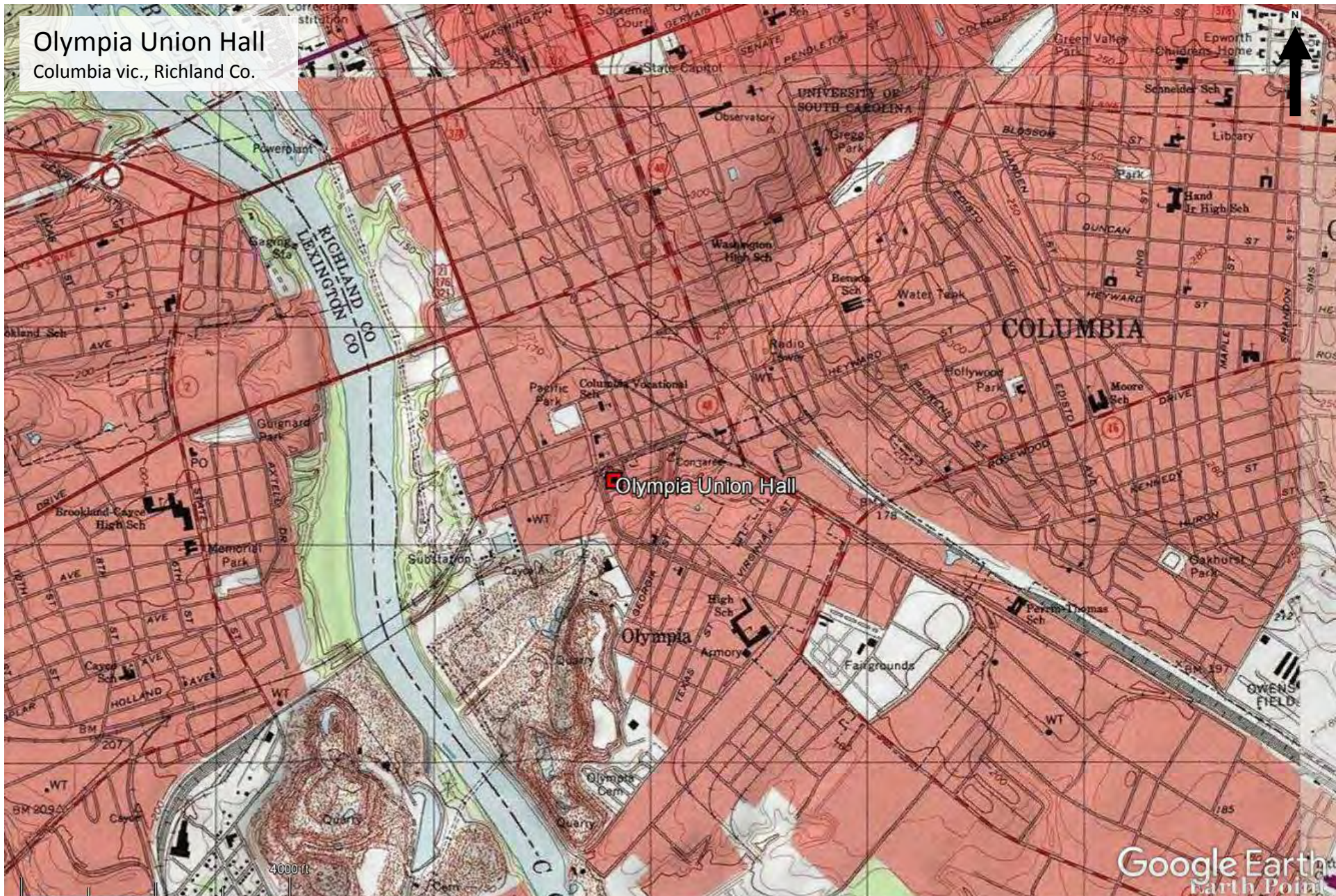
Olympia Union Hall

Columbia vic., Richland Co.



Imagery Date: 9/30/2016 33°59'02.57" N 81°01'52.44" W elev 169 ft eye alt 17727 ft

Olympia Union Hall
Columbia vic., Richland Co.







POSTED
NO TRESPASSING







WARNING
No Trespassing
Penalty \$500





















UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action:

Property Name:

Multiple Name:

State & County:

Date Received: 12/9/2016 Date of Pending List: 1/11/2017 Date of 16th Day: 1/26/2017 Date of 45th Day: 1/24/2017 Date of Weekly List: 2/1/2017

Reference number:

Nominator:

Reason For Review:

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal | <input type="checkbox"/> PDIL | <input type="checkbox"/> Text/Data Issue |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SHPO Request | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Photo |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Waiver | <input type="checkbox"/> National | <input type="checkbox"/> Map/Boundary |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Resubmission | <input type="checkbox"/> Mobile Resource | <input type="checkbox"/> Period |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other | <input type="checkbox"/> TCP | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Less than 50 years |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> CLG | |

Accept Return Reject 1/24/2017 Date

Abstract/Summary
Comments:

Recommendation/
Criteria

Reviewer Lisa Deline Discipline Historian

Telephone (202)354-2239 Date _____

DOCUMENTATION: see attached comments : No see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.



SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF
ARCHIVES • HISTORY



December 1, 2016

Paul Loether
National Register Chief
U.S. Department of the Interior
National Park Service
1201 Eye (I) Street, NW (2280)
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Mr. Loether:

Enclosed is the National Register nomination for the Olympia Union Hall in Columbia (vicinity), Richland County, South Carolina. The nomination was approved by the South Carolina State Board of Review as eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C at the local level of significance. We are now submitting this nomination for formal review by the National Register staff. The enclosed disk contains the true and correct copy of the nomination for the Olympia Union Hall to the National Register of Historic Places.

If I may be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me at the address below, call me at (803) 896-6179, fax me at (803) 896-6167, or e-mail me at vharness@scdah.sc.gov.

Sincerely,

Virginia E. Harness
Architectural Historian
State Historic Preservation Office
8301 Parklane Rd.
Columbia, S.C. 29223