

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED SEP 2 1980  
DATE ENTERED NOV 24 1980

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC Col. J.A. Banks House (preferred)  
AND/OR COMMON Banks House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 104 Dantzler Street  
CITY, TOWN St. Matthews VICINITY OF Second  
STATE South Carolina CODE 045 COUNTY Calhoun CODE 017

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY OWNERSHIP STATUS PRESENT USE  
 DISTRICT  PUBLIC  OCCUPIED  AGRICULTURE  MUSEUM  
 BUILDING(S)  PRIVATE  UNOCCUPIED  COMMERCIAL  PARK  
 STRUCTURE  BOTH  WORK IN PROGRESS  EDUCATIONAL  PRIVATE RESIDENCE  
 SITE  PUBLIC ACQUISITION  ACCESSIBLE  ENTERTAINMENT  RELIGIOUS  
 OBJECT  IN PROCESS  YES: RESTRICTED  GOVERNMENT  SCIENTIFIC  
 BEING CONSIDERED  YES: UNRESTRICTED  INDUSTRIAL  TRANSPORTATION  
  NO  MILITARY  OTHER: vacant

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Mrs. Margaret B. Rone  
STREET & NUMBER 726 Fairway Lane  
CITY, TOWN Columbia VICINITY OF South Carolina STATE 29210

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Calhoun County Courthouse  
STREET & NUMBER  
CITY, TOWN St. Matthews STATE South Carolina 29135

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Inventory of Historic Places in South Carolina  
DATE 1978 (update)  FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL  
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS South Carolina Department of Archives and History  
CITY, TOWN Columbia STATE South Carolina 29211

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Col. J.A. Banks House, located within the city limits of St. Matthews, South Carolina, is an interpretation of Classical and Colonial elements with free adaptation of Queen Anne characteristics. The Banks House was originally built ca. 1893 as a private residence for Col. J.A. Banks; the house took its present form in a major rebuilding during 1909-1910. Marion H. Banks, the son of Col. Banks, is believed to have designed the enlarged house.

Exterior: The original house, built ca. 1893, was, according to an early photograph, a one-story house with a gable roof, two interior chimneys, and a porch spanning the breadth of the facade, supported by turned posts with sawn brackets. With the 1909-1910 rebuilding, the house assumed its present form, a two-story weatherboarded mass with a gable roof, brick foundation, two interior chimneys, and ells attached to the southeast and southwest elevations.

The facade (northeast elevation) is a roughly symmetrical composition dominated by a central entrance pavilion with a colossal Corinthian semicircular portico. The portico is approached by a broad flight of stairs, which is splayed outwards at its base. The four columns are of brick, coated with plaster, and have fibrous plaster capitals. The entablature consists of a compressed, unornamented architrave and frieze, surmounted by a large projecting denticulated and modillioned cornice. A balustraded parapet originally crowned the portico. A raised pediment, set back from the portico, forms a cross-gable. This pediment features a cornice identical to the portico cornice, a fanlight in the tympanum, and a metal acroterion.

Spanning the breadth of the facade, and running behind the Corinthian portico, is a one-story porch. Tripled Ionic columns, with a common pedestal, stand at each end of this porch. An entablature, similar to that of the main portico but without the modillion blocks, crowns the porch, with a concave recess behind the colossal Corinthian portico. Balustrades with square balusters embellish the porch and its roof.

The fenestration, although balanced, is irregular. An entranceway with sidelights and transom, framed by pilasters, is flanked on the first floor by a tripartite bay window to the right, and a single 1 over 1 sash to the left. A Palladian door on the second floor is flanked by double windows on both sides. The Corinthian cornice is continued from the entrance pavilion as the roof cornice.

The northwest elevation has a colossal tetrastyle Corinthian portico spanning the breadth of the main block. Corinthian pilasters at the corners of the elevation reflect the columns. A balustraded parapet originally crowned this portico. The roof gable behind this portico forms a pediment with a louvered Palladian window in the tympanum. The elevation behind the portico has two single bays to the left, then a bay projecting at 45 degrees from the initial wall plane, with a door to the portico on the first floor, and a door to a small balcony on the second. A bay with double windows maintains this advanced plane to the right.

The southwest elevation features a two-story ell to the left and a one-story ell to the right, with a two-tiered porch in between. The two-story ell is weatherboarded, with an exterior end chimney and a gable roof. Fenestration is irregular. The

continued....

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES ca. 1893, 1909-1910

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Located within the city limits of St. Matthews, South Carolina, the Col. J.A. Banks house was built ca. 1893 as a residence for Col. J.A. Banks, and rebuilt in its present form in 1909-1910. The house is significant both as a free interpretation of Classical and Colonial elements, and for its association with a locally prominent individual.

According to local tradition, the original portion of the house was constructed ca. 1893 for James Arthur Banks. A letter postmarked 8 December 1909 indicates that the rebuilding of the house, which included the addition of the second story and the classical porticos, was near completion on that date.

J.A. Banks (1859-1924), who received the honorary title of colonel by appointment to the staff of Governor D.C. Heyward, was a prominent merchant, farmer, banker, and civic leader in the town of St. Matthews. Besides managing a cotton farm, Banks with a partner, Edward Wimberly, operated a store from ca. 1888 to ca. 1907, which, according to Wimberly's obituary, did "the largest business of any store between Columbia and Charleston." He also served as the president of the Home Bank of St. Matthews, which he had helped to organize.

Active in public service, Banks was mayor of the town of St. Matthews and a member of the school board trustees. In addition, he represented Orangeburg County in the South Carolina House of Representatives from 1904-1908. After Calhoun County was formed, he represented that county in the South Carolina Senate from 1912 to 1920. Banks also served as president of the South Carolina Agricultural and Mechanical Society (State Fair Association) and as president of the State Warehouse Association.

After Banks' death in 1924 the house eventually passed to his son, James A. Banks, Jr. Presently, a granddaughter of Col. Banks, Mrs. Margaret B. Rone, owns the house.

Architecture: The Col. J.A. Banks House is a free interpretation of Classical and Colonial elements, composed in the exuberant fashion common to the early Twentieth century. The building incorporates as well certain features of the residual Queen Anne style--the asymmetrical plan, the variegated roofline, and the multiple textures. Significant architectural features are the two colossal Corinthian porticos; the juxtaposition of the colossal order with the lesser Ionic order on the facade; the concave recess of the second floor facade balcony, in response to the convex colossal portico; the gable pediments with Palladian windows; the elliptical arch of the stair hall; and the original leaded and beveled windows and mirrors.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Banks, David Houser. St. Matthews, S.C. Interview, 3 May 1978.

Banks, C.R. St. Matthews, S.C. Interview, 18 April 1980.

**UTM NOT VERIFIED  
ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED**

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1 1/3  
UTM REFERENCES

Latitude 33° 39' 45"

Longitude 80° 46' 42"

A									
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING						
C									

B									
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING						
D									

## VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundary of the Col. J.A. Banks House nomination is shown as the red line on the accompanying map entitled "Col. J.A. Banks House, St. Matthews, South Carolina" and drawn at a scale of 200 feet to the inch. The nominated property includes the entire tract owned by Mrs. Margaret B. Rone.

## LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE John Wells, Mary Watson, Suzanne Pickens  
Historic Preservation Division

ORGANIZATION South Carolina Department of Archives and History

DATE May 19, 1980

STREET & NUMBER Post Office Box 11,669, Capitol Station

TELEPHONE 803-758-5816

CITY OR TOWN Columbia

STATE South Carolina 29211

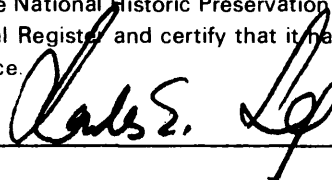
# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL \_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_ LOCAL x

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

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE



TITLE SC SHPO

DATE 8/8/80

### FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER



DATE 11-24-80

ATTEST W. D. Duke

DATE 11/13/80

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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

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



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porch, with access to the main body of the house and both ells, is of wood with turned posts and sawn brackets, possibly retained from the 1893 house. An exterior stair connects both levels of the porch. A skirt roof shelters the lower level of this porch.

The one-story ell, attached to the southern corner of the house, has a gable roof and an enclosed end chimney. This ell is encircled by a porch. Victorian posts and brackets support the porch on the southwest, but on the southeast and northeast aspects of the ell, which are visible from the front of the house, the triple Ionic columns used on the lesser northeast portico are repeated.

The southeast elevation has four symmetrical bays beneath a pedimented gable. The three bays to the right have single 1 over 1 sash windows on each floor, while the fourth bay is enclosed by the southern ell and its gable roof.

The exterior of the Banks house is in varying stages of deterioration. Although the walls and roofs appear sound, the columns and porch roofs are collapsing. Several of the colossal Corinthian columns have fallen, and most of the column capitals have crumbled. The fragments of the capitals have been preserved, but they are beyond repair. Further deterioration and collapse of the columns is inevitable. The portico roofs, lacking support, are sagging and collapsing. The porches on the southwest elevation are not beyond repair, although there has been some deterioration.

Interior: The Banks House has an irregular double-pile plan, with an axial stair hall. There are eleven major rooms (eight in the main body), two large pantries, and two and a half baths. Ceilings are 12 feet high in the main body. Floors are diagonal oak. Most walls and ceilings are lath and plaster.

The north room on the first floor has sliding wooden doors opening into the stair hall. A tripartite bay window is framed by an elliptical arch, supported by two Ionic columns. The bay is flanked by beveled-glass mirrors. The massive rectilinear mantelpiece also has a beveled glass mirror.

Another sliding wood door opens from the stair hall into the east room. The dining room, the west room in the main block first floor, has a plate rail around its walls.

The main stair has a square newel post and turned balusters; the treads are wide and the risers low. The stair runs to a landing, which is lit by a stained-glass window, then turns for a run to the second floor. An elliptical arch with Renaissance foliated consoles spans the stair hall.

Most of the door and window architraves in the main body of the Banks House feature single bands of egg-and-dart molding. Victorian door frames, possibly reused from the 1893 house, are irregularly employed in both ells. The original wooden Venetian blinds remain intact in most windows.

The plaster ceiling of the second floor North bedroom has been replaced with a wooden ceiling, owing to water damage. Otherwise, the interior is in fair to good condition.

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Surroundings: The Banks House is located at the edge of a residential district in St. Matthews, adjacent to the Southern Railway Tracks. Two outbuildings are included in the nominated property: a fowl house and a workshop. Both are one-story, weather-boarded, gable-roofed frame structures. The property remains in the possession of the descendants of Col. J.A. Banks who plan to rehabilitate and reuse the house.

**United States Department of the Interior  
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**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**



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- Obituary of Col. J.A. Banks. The State (Columbia, SC), 3 September 1924, p. 10.
- Obituary of Edward Wimberly. The State (Columbia, SC), 23 June 1907, p. 1.
- Orangeburg, S.C. Orangeburg County Clerk of Court. Deed Book 29, pp. 696, 697, 698.
- Orangeburg, S.C. Orangeburg County Clerk of Court. Plat Book 1, p. 19.
- Reynolds, Emily Bellinger and Faunt, Joan Reynolds, ed. Biographical Directory of the Senate of the State of South Carolina, 1776-1964. Columbia, SC: South Carolina Archives Department, 1964, p. 175.
- St. Matthews, S.C. Calhoun County Clerk of Court. Deed Book 26, p. 87.
- St. Matthews, S.C. Letter in possession of C.R. Banks. Mrs. J.A. Banks to Dingle Banks, December 1909.
- St. Matthews, S.C. Letter in possession of C.R. Banks. D.H. Efird to Mrs. J.A. Banks, 2 November 1925.
- St. Matthews, S.C. Letter in possession of C.R. Banks. Members of the General Assembly of South Carolina to J.A. Banks, 31 January 1917.
- Wallace, David Duncan. The History of South Carolina. Vol. 4. New York: The American Historical Society, Inc., 1934, p. 540.

Col. J.A. Banks House

St. Matthews, South Carolina

scale 1" = 200'

