

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: South Carolina	
COUNTY: Charleston	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 70-8-41-0026	DATE 8/25

1. NAME

COMMON:
Blake Tenements

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Same

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
2 and 4 Courthouse Square

CITY OR TOWN:
Charleston

STATE: South Carolina CODE: 41 COUNTY: Charleston CODE: 10

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Charleston County

STREET AND NUMBER:
The Center

CITY OR TOWN: Charleston STATE: South Carolina CODE: 41

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Register of Mesne Conveyance

STREET AND NUMBER:
Charleston County Courthouse

CITY OR TOWN: Charleston STATE: South Carolina CODE: 41

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
This is Charleston

DATE OF SURVEY: 1940-1941 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Gibbes Art Gallery

STREET AND NUMBER:
135 Meeting Street

CITY OR TOWN: Charleston STATE: South Carolina CODE: 41

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: S. CAR.
COUNTY: CHARLESTON
ENTRY NUMBER: 70-8-41-0026
DATE: 8/25

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Present Condition:

The interior needs considerable renovation in order to allow it to be used as an additional Charleston County Office Building, without altering the original design of the rooms or the interiors.

The following description was written by Mr. Albert Simons, FAIA, for his forthcoming Charleston Guide Book in preparation for the Charleston Convention of the Society of Architectural Historians:

"The word "tenement" today has a rather pejorative connotation which did not exist in the 18th century. In the language of today it could best be described as a duplex dwelling. The building covers the entire width of the lot with a barrel vaulted passage at ground level extending down the center of the building from the street to the yard at the rear. This passage, neither wide nor high enough for the passage of a horse drawn vehicle, was intended for pedestrians only.

At Blake's Tenements there are, on both sides of the passage, service entrances to the basements of each dwelling as well as windows for ventilation. The two south rooms in the basement probably served as kitchens; each has a large open fireplace. The south windows of both kitchens which show on the inside were walled up when the person ascending from the street to the floor above was constructed. This double exterior stairway must have been built before the Revolution because the treads and the platforms are paved with an English stone known as "nautiloid." Also the character of the iron railing with the ornamental scroll work in the center would not be very much later than the house.

On the south front of the building, the brickwork is laid in Flemish bond; the sides and rear are laid in English bond. On the east side the brickwork is less perfect because of the former presence of an earlier brick building two stories and a garret high which precluded the neat pointing of the brick.

Because of the obstruction of this older building, there are fewer windows on the lower stories of the east dwelling than on the west side of the west dwelling. The west dwelling must have been considered more desirable, and received a somewhat more elegant interior finish.

On the exterior, the window frames are set flush with the face of the brick work and are spanned by segmental relieving arches of row lock bricks with the spandrels between the frame and arch chocked with a stretcher in the middle and bats on the ends.

Originally the window sash in the basement consisted of six lights over six lights; on the first and second floors nine lights over nine lights; and on the third floor six lights over six lights, with wide strong muntins. But even such sturdy glazing bars could not withstand the wind pressures of the periodic tropical storms. All sash on the east and south sides have been replaced by sash with more slender muntins and on the first and second floors with six over six panes of glass,

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1760-1772

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Architecturally and esthetically valuable to the city are Daniel Blake's Tenements dating from 1760-1772. One of the few examples in Charleston of English bond brickwork, this early double house has spacious dimensions and is distinguished for the beautifully executed woodwork in principal rooms and for its notable wrought iron steps and porch railings.

Located on historic Court House Square, the building helps complete the character of the entire area, and it takes on added significance as the western boundary of a proposed courthouse park.

Enclosed as supplementary information are a neighborhood site plan, elevations for the gates and fences and a landscape plan for the park.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Stoney, Samuel Gaillard, (ed.), This is Charleston: A Survey of the Architectural Heritage of a Unique American City. Charleston, 1944.

McKee, Harley J., (ed.), Historic American Buildings Survey: Records of Buildings in Charleston and the South Carolina Low Country. Philadelphia, 1965.

Deas, Alston, The Early Ironwork of Charleston. Columbia, 1941.

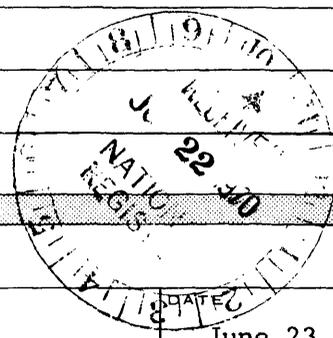
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		32° 46' 37"	79° 55' 54"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1/8

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Mrs. James W. Fant, Historic Resources Division
 ORGANIZATION: S. C. Dept. of Archives and History
 DATE: June 23, 1970
 STREET AND NUMBER: PO Box 11,188 Capitol Station 29211 1430 Senate Street
 CITY OR TOWN: Columbia STATE: South Carolina CODE: 41

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

<p>As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:</p> <p>National <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> Local <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Name: <u>Charles E. Lep</u></p> <p>Title: <u>Director, S. C. Department of Archives and History</u></p> <p>Date: <u>June 25, 1970</u></p>	<p>NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION</p> <p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p><u>Ernest Allen Connally</u> Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation</p> <p>AUG 25 1970</p> <p>Date: _____</p> <p>ATTEST:</p> <p><u>William J. Huntley</u> Keeper of The National Register</p> <p>Date: JUL 20 1970</p>
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
South Carolina	
COUNTY	
Charleston	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
70-8-41-0426	5/25

(Number all entries)

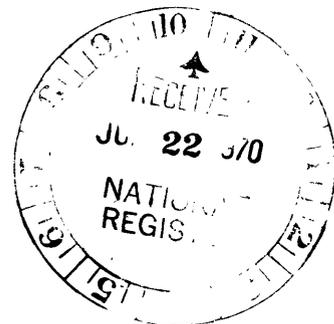
Blake Tenements
7. Description

departing from the uniform size of panes still surviving on the west and north sides of the building.

The floor plans of the two dwellings mirror each other and repeat on all three floors, consisting of a large south room, then a stair hall the full width of the building and then a north room not quite as deep as the front room. The framed kitchenettes at the corners of the north side are later accretions and will be removed. In the northwest room on the first floor a partition has been added parallel to the east wall giving a passage to the rear entrance from the west stair hall. The proper mouldings have been replaced on the room side of the partition so that the room has not been disfigured. The south rooms in both dwellings and on the first and second floors have wood wainscots with moulded chair rails and walls above paneled. These panels are not the customary beveled kind but have flat fields within the stiles and rails with a small double bead mould replacing the inner edges of the bevel. Above the paneling is a full wood cornice. The south rooms on the second floor are the drawing room and are given greater elaboration of detail; the mantel piece in the east side is enriched by brackets with hand carved foliation. In the west drawing room the original mantel piece has been succeeded by a large and ornate replacement in the Adam style popular early in the 19th-century in Charleston. In the reception room, the replacement is smaller and less florid but in the same character.

Throughout this building, the original flooring of wide random width boards has remained in place. Most of the "iron mongery" of H and L hinges and box locks are still on the doors and the building has suffered comparatively few changes over the years."

The building is empty at present, subject to renovation as part of proposed Court House Park. If money cannot be obtained for the proposed and necessary renovation, the Tenements will probably have to be demolished.



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(Continuation Sheet)

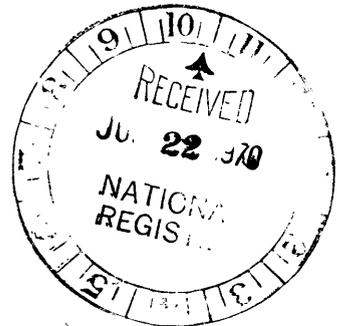
STATE South Carolina	
COUNTY Charleston	
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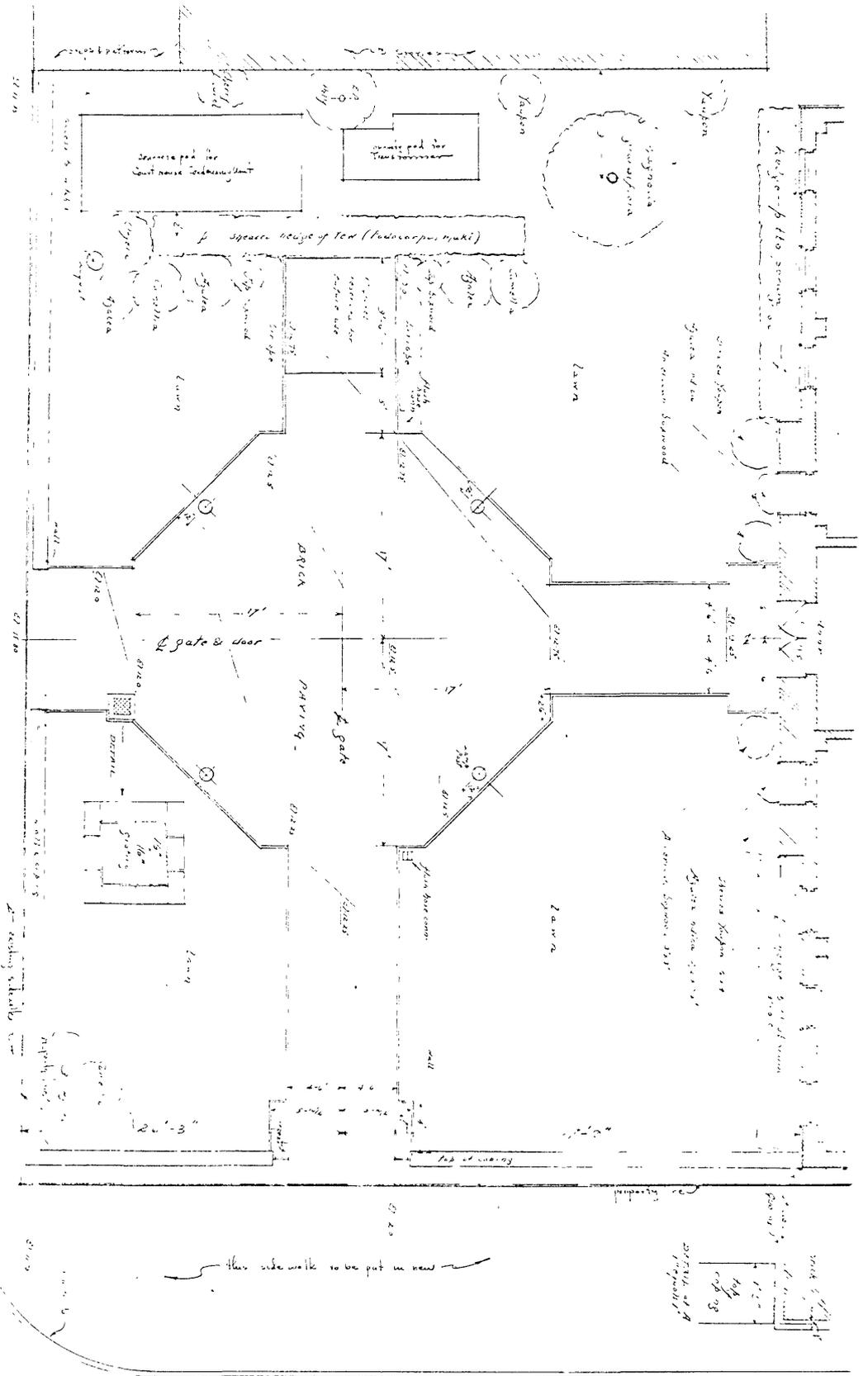
(Number all entries)

Blake Tenements

9. Major Bibliographical References

Whitaker, Charles Harris, (ed.), The Octagonal Library of Early American Architecture: Charleston, South Carolina. vol. 1, A. I. A.

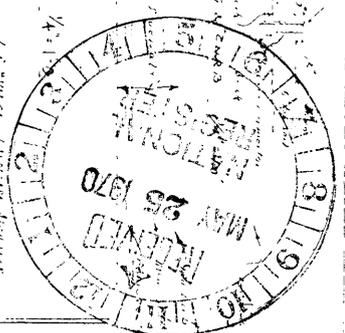




PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF NEW COURT HOUSE
 CONTRACT NO. 22

Notes:
 1. Foundation for columns to be 4' x 4' x 4' concrete.
 2. Foundation for walls to be 12" x 12" concrete.
 3. Foundation for stairs to be 12" x 12" concrete.
 4. Foundation for doors to be 12" x 12" concrete.
 5. Foundation for windows to be 12" x 12" concrete.

DETAIL: MAIN STAIRING & ELEVATOR
 1. Stairing to be 12" x 12" concrete.
 2. Elevator to be 12" x 12" concrete.



CHAS. E. HARRIS & SONS
 ARCHITECTS
 1000 K STREET, N.W.
 WASHINGTON, D.C.

CONTRACT NO. 22
 CONTRACT VALUE \$1,000,000.00
 CONTRACT DATE 1/1/70

"Meeting Street"

UNITED STATES
POST OFFICE
1896 C.

BROAD STREET



N

CHARLESTON COUNTY
COURT HOUSE
1752-1788

117.9'

117.9'

COURT HOUSE SQUARE
138.9'

2-4 COURT HOUSE
"SQUARE OR
BLAKE TENEMENTS"
1760.C.

20.25'

PROPOSED
SITE OF
COURTHOUSE
PARK

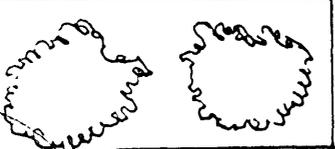
CHARLESTON
COUNTY
OFFICE
BUILDING
1970

MEETING STREET

HIBERNIAN
SOCIETY
1840

ST. MICHAELS
CHURCH
1751 - 1761

CITY
HALL
1801



FIREPROOF
BUILDING
1822-27

CHALMERS ST.

NEIGHBORHOOD SITE PLAN
NOT TO SCALE

