

PH0690856

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED DEC 29 1977  
DATE ENTERED MAR 30 1978

# 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  
Central Graded School  
AND/OR COMMON  
Central School

## 2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER  
309 Academy Street  
CITY, TOWN  
Union  
STATE  
South Carolina  
VICINITY OF  
CODE  
045  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
#5  
COUNTY  
Union  
CODE  
087

## 3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: None

## 4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME  
University of South Carolina at Union  
STREET & NUMBER  
401 East Main Street, P. O. Box 729  
CITY, TOWN  
Union  
STATE  
South Carolina

## 5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.  
Union County Courthouse, Registry of Deeds Office  
STREET & NUMBER  
CITY, TOWN  
Union  
STATE  
South Carolina

## 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE  
Inventory of Historic Places in South Carolina  
DATE  
1973 (update)  
DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS  
S. C. Department of Archives and History  
CITY, TOWN  
Columbia  
STATE  
South Carolina

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Exterior: Built in 1891, Central Graded School is a plainly finished, gable-roofed, two-story brick building. The influence of the Richardsonian Romanesque style of architecture is shown in its bell tower with large round-headed openings and short, thick columns. The original portion of the building is T-shaped, with the square bell tower in one angle of the "T." The tower has two large Romanesque arches; on the first level the arch creates a small porch in which the main entrance to the building is recessed. A large Romanesque arch opening on the second level of the tower is glazed. The third level of the tower has an open colonnade of short, thick columns, set on a parapet faced with sheet metal and supporting a high pyramidal roof. Stones inscribed "School" and "1891" are set in the front face of the tower. The tower has drip courses and string courses of brick delineating the arched openings, and decorative brick bands between levels. Brickwork throughout the older portion is laid in American (or common) bond. Wooden box cornice and frieze outlined in molding continue around the building and are repeated in gable ends. The box cornice also appears under the tower roof and a frieze with molding runs below the colonnade. The majority of the windows are regularly spaced, have nine-light sashes, plain lintels and brick voussoirs. Rear portions of the building, added in 1899, 1904, and ca. 1930, generally match the style and construction of the original portion. The building was renovated in 1927.

Interior: The interior of the older portion, including 12 classrooms of simple and functional design, apparently remains essentially as it was when built.

Surroundings: Located on the site of the Unionville Female Academy (c. 1835), the school is a block from East Main Street, in the center of the city.

# 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Central Graded School occupies a significant place in the history of education in the Union area. Built in 1891, it is the oldest surviving public school building in Union County and has produced several prominent South Carolina educators. Architecturally, it is a good example of the plain, solidly built, "modern" school building of the late 19th Century, showing the influence of Richardsonian Romanesque architecture. Ownership of the building was transferred in 1976 to the University of South Carolina, Union Regional Campus.

Architecture: The influence of the Richardsonian Romanesque style current in the 1890s is evident in the large semi-circular arched openings of the bell tower; the prominence of the tower; and the variation in size of windows, those on the first floor being larger than those on the second. The building is typical of smaller institutional buildings of the Richardsonian Romanesque period, having substantial brick masonry walls and asymmetrical floor plan.

Education: Central Graded School was built in 1891, on the site of the Unionville Female Academy (c. 1835). An Act of the General Assembly, adopted December 24, 1892, created the Union School District and transferred the property from the Trustees of the Unionville Male and Female Academies to the Board of Trustees of the new school district. The school was "supplied with modern school appliances, such as folding desks, maps, charts, etc..." and intended as "a home institution where our children can have a good education without the expense of seeking it elsewhere." 2 Enrollment grew quickly, and the school was expanded several times. Many alumni later became educators prominent on the state level, including J. Rion McKissick, 19th president of the University of South Carolina. Throughout its history, the school has also been used for numerous public meetings.

The building was used until June, 1976. Plans for the structure call for its continued use in an educational capacity as the library for the Regional Campus of the University of South Carolina at Union.

1. "Catalogue of Union Graded Schools, Union, South Carolina, 1902-03, Twelfth Annual Session, with Rules and Regulations." Union: Union School District, 1903, p. 5.

2. Ibid., p. 3.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See continuation sheet.

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY ca. 2

UTM REFERENCES

A 

1	7	4	4	3	1	2	0	3	8	4	1	7	0	0
ZONE		EASTING				NORTHING								

B 

ZONE		EASTING				NORTHING							

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The southern boundary of the property on which Central Graded School is located starts at the junction of Academy Street and North Mountain Street. From this point it runs 342 feet north-northwest along North Mountain Street and continues in a straight line to the intersection of North Mountain Street and the southern property line of the John Carpenter estate. From there it follows the property line of the John Carpenter estate 264 feet east-northeast until it intersects with North Church Street. From there the line then runs south-southwest along North Church Street for 363 feet, intersects (continued)

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Robert P. Stockton

ORGANIZATION

S. C. Department of Archives and History

STREET & NUMBER

P. O. Box 11,669, Capitol Station

CITY OR TOWN

Columbia

Col. William J. Whitener, USA Ret.,  
Miss Fannie Lee Sparks and Miss Catherine  
Purcell, Union Co. Historical Foundation

DATE

November 7, 1977

TELEPHONE

(803) 758-5816

STATE

South Carolina

## 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

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

*Charles E. Lee* 12/15/77

TITLE Charles E. Lee  
State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

*W. S. ...*

DATE

3-30-78

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST: *Catherine Cole*

DATE

3-16-78

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE one

- "Catalogue of Union Graded School, Union, S. C., Twelfth Annual Session, with Rules and Regulations." Union School District, 1903.
- Free, Lousarah Bell. "Education in Union County, S. C., Prior to 1860." M.A. thesis University of South Carolina, 1929.
- "Historical Sketch of Union Schools." The Union Times, October 9, 1914.
- "Sketch of Unionville Female Academy." The Union Times, October 9, 1914.
- McKissick, J. Rion. Men and Women of Carolina. Columbia: University of South Carolina Press, 1948.
- Panek, R. T. "American Architectural Styles, 1600-1940." Dover, Massachusetts: Architectural Styles, 1976.
- "Report on Houses in Existence in 1850 within Union City Limits." The Union Daily Times -- Centennial Edition of 1950, December 9, 1950.
- South Carolina Statutes at Large, No. 269, A. D. 1892.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

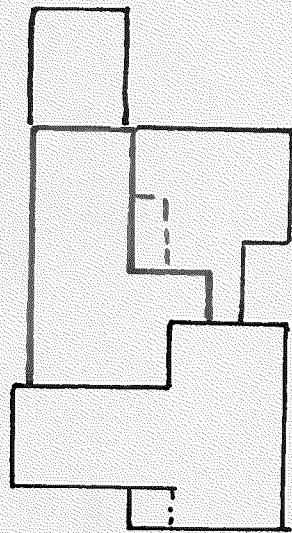
ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE TWO

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Pine Street, and continues in a straight line until North Church Street intersects Academy Street. The line then runs 202 feet west-southwest along Academy Street in a straight line to the beginning point of the boundary.

# Central School Union S.C.

Sketch of building AND additions  
Not drawn to scale



- 1891 Building
- 1899 addition
- 1964 additions
- ca. 1926-37 addition