

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: South Carolina	
COUNTY: Richland	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	JUN 19 1973

1. NAME

COMMON:
Columbia City Hall

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Old United States Court House and Post Office

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Main at Laurel Streets

CITY OR TOWN:
Columbia

STATE: South Carolina CODE: 045 COUNTY: Richland CODE: 079

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
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 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)

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
City of Columbia

STREET AND NUMBER:
City Hall, Main at Laurel Street

CITY OR TOWN: Columbia STATE: South Carolina CODE: 045

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Richland County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:
Washington at Sumter Streets

CITY OR TOWN: Columbia STATE: South Carolina CODE: 045

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Preliminary Survey Of Historic Sites in South Carolina

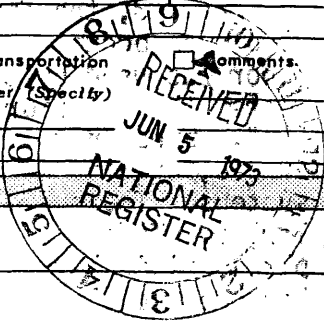
DATE OF SURVEY: 1969 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
South Carolina Department of Archives and History

STREET AND NUMBER:
1430 Senate Street

CITY OR TOWN: Columbia STATE: South Carolina CODE: 045

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



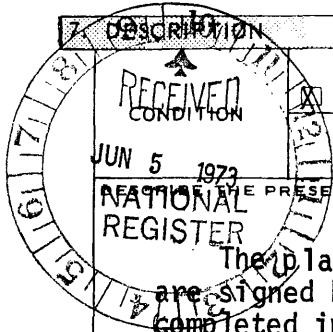
STATE:

COUNTY:

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DESCRIPTION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input 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		

THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The plans for the United States Court House and Post Office are signed by Alfred B. Mullett and dated 1870; the building was completed in 1874. It is constructed of beige Fairfield County granite, which is found in an area twenty miles north of Columbia. The plan is rectangular -- three stories above an arcaded basement. Wall surfaces are smooth ashlar with rusticated quoins on all corners. Window styles vary from story to story; first-story windows and doorways are arched; second-story windows are pedimented and framed with pilasters; third-story windows are framed by hood mouldings with keystones in the centers. A projecting beltcourse divides the floors.

Although the building is rectangular in plan, the central area dominates and gives the appearance of a central pavilion with wings. The longer north and south axes are emphasized by rusticated stone jointings in the central section of the lower level and by tripled oculi. A triangular pediment crowns the north and south facades. Below the roof balustrade and running the course of the building is a projecting cornice, supported by consoles. Eight chimneys extend beyond the roof.

Mullett's plans for the building included a hexagonal tower surrounded by windows under the roofline. This skylight, which no longer exists, was to provide natural light for the United States court room on the third floor. The court room was the focal point of the building with its richly-carved moldings, pilasters, mantels, and doors; its triple windows with oculi on the north and south sides, and its impressive skylight originally were outlined with exquisite ceiling decoration. The room also reveals Mullett's interest in integrating the exterior and interior design elements. He uses basic geometric shapes, such as circles, triangles, and rectangles, in this room and on the exterior.

The north and south sides of the room have three rectangular windows with triple oculi above them. This contrast between circular and rectangular motifs is carried out in the decoration of the interior walls. The main entrance to the room is on the east side. It is divided into three main sections by two pilasters which support beautifully carved consoles. The wall is further divided into five arched paneled areas above two mantel pieces on each end and three doorways in the center. The central doorway is composed of double doors and is flanked by single doors on each side. Circular panels and curved triangles fill the space between the doorways and the arched molding. Egg-and-dart, foliated scroll, and pearl moldings are used extensively. The west wall is a mirror of the east wall, except for the doorways, and provide a backdrop for the single court. The mantels and single doorways have been blocked up, and the double doors changed to glass doors, but the carving and wall surfaces are original and in excellent condition. The room now serves as City Council Chamber.

The ground floor of the building was to be used as a post office and consisted of one large room with a post office screen at one end. Cast iron columns with acanthus capitals and attic bases supported

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

4. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

Designed 1870, Completed 1874.

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input 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

The Old Court House and Post Office is one of the most impressive buildings in Columbia and commands a prominent position on upper Main Street. Designed in 1870 by Alfred B. Mullett, it is a superb example of Renaissance revival architecture in America.

A native of Taunton, England, Alfred B. Mullett and his family came to the United States and settled in Ohio when he was eleven years old. He went abroad for study and on his return entered into practice with Isaiah Rogers, a Cincinnati architect. In 1865 President Grant appointed him to the office of United States Supervising Architect where he remained for fifteen years. In this capacity he designed post office buildings for the cities of Boston, New York, and Philadelphia, and others. He also designed the United States Mint Building in San Francisco and the south wing of the Treasury Department in Washington, D. C.

The Columbia Post Office is beautifully designed and executed. The smooth granite walls contrast with richly carved decorative elements to create a strong three-dimensional effect. Each facade is of equal importance and the three window levels, although separated, relate well to one another. This Columbia building is one of Mullett's most beautifully proportioned structures and a fine example of the academic tradition in America.

Mullett's building has housed various functions of national or city government for nearly a hundred years. Inside its walls have operated the court system, postal business, internal revenue services, and, since 1937, the building has contained offices used by the city government. Aside from the State House, it is the oldest government building in Columbia.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Withey, Henry F. and Elsie Rathburn. Biographical Dictionary of American Architects (Deceased). Los Angeles: Hennessey and Ingalls, Inc., 1956. (Facsimile Edition, 1970).
 Koyl, George S. American Architectural Drawings. Philadelphia Chapter, American Institute of Architects, 1969.
 Hennig, Helen Kohn. Columbia, Capital City of South Carolina, 1786-1936. Columbia, South Carolina: Columbia Sesquicentennial Commission, 1966.

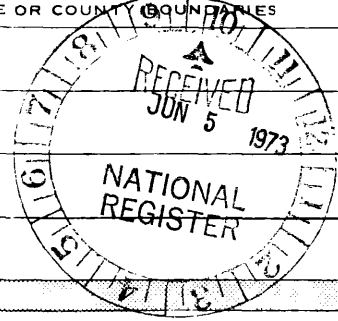
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				OR	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	0	'	"	0	'	"	34	00	38	81	02'	15"
NE	0	'	"	0	'	"						
SE	0	'	"	0	'	"						
SW	0	'	"	0	'	"						

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **Less than 1 acre.**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: **Florence Bacher Myers, Historic Preservation Division**

ORGANIZATION: **South Carolina Department of Archives and History** DATE: **May 5, 1973**

STREET AND NUMBER: **Post Office Box 11188, Capitol Station, Columbia**

CITY OR TOWN: **Columbia** STATE: **South Carolina** CODE: **045**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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:

National State Local

Name: Charles E. Lee
 Charles E. Lee

Title: State Liaison Officer for Historic Preservation
 State Liaison Officer for Historic Preservation

Date: May 1, 1973

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Robert M. Utley
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 6/19/73

ATTEST: [Signature]
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: 6 13 73

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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(Continuation Sheet)

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(Number all entries)

7. Description (Columbia City Hall)

the floor above. Pilasters of the same order flanked the walls. The second floor was divided into smaller rooms used by the internal revenue service. Throughout the years, the interior has been altered to meet changing needs. In 1902, James Knox Taylor, then Supervising Architect for the United States, drew up plans for the revision of the heating and plumbing systems. The sidewalks and an iron fence were also designed by Taylor.

