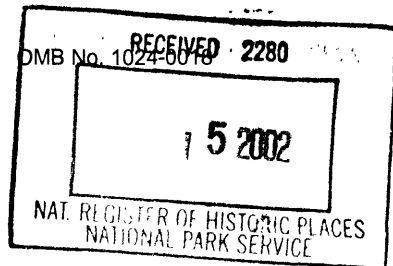


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

### National Register of Historic Places Registration Form



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This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. 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. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer to complete all items.

#### 1. Name of Property

historic name Andrew B. Murray Vocational School  
other names/site number Old Murray Vocational School

#### 2. Location

street & number 3 Chisolm Street not for publication   
city or town Charleston vicinity \_\_\_\_\_  
state South Carolina code SC county Charleston code 019 zip code 29401

#### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this  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  meets  does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. (  See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Mary W. Edmonds 4/8/02  
Signature of certifying official Date

Mary W. Edmonds, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, S.C. Dept. of Archives and History, Columbia, S.C.  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. (  See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

#### 4. National Park Service Certification

	Signature of the Keeper	Date of Action
I, hereby certify that this property is:		
<input type="checkbox"/> entered in the National Register	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.		
<input type="checkbox"/> determined eligible for the National Register	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.		
<input type="checkbox"/> determined not eligible for the National Register	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> removed from the National Register	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> other (explain):		

Andrew B. Murray Vocational School  
Name of Property

Charleston County, South Carolina  
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property  
(Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property  
(Check only one box)

Number of Resources within Property  
(Do not include previously listed resources)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Contributing

Noncontributing

3

3

0

buildings  
sites  
structures  
objects  
Total

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed  
in the National Register  
0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Category: EDUCATION  
DOMESTIC

Subcategory: School  
Single Dwelling

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Category: DOMESTIC

Subcategory: Multiple Dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Late 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> Century Revivals

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STUCCO  
walls STUCCO

roof CONCRETE  
other LIMESTONE; METAL  
BRICK; GLASS; ASPHALT

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Andrew B. Murray Vocational School  
Name of Property

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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.
x 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 a grave.
d a cemetery.
e a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
f a commemorative property.
g less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1923-ca. 1950

Significant Dates

1923
ca. 1950

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Hyer, David B.

Narrative Statement of Significance

Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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 #

Primary location of additional data:

- X State Historic Preservation Office
Other State agency
Federal agency
Local government
University
Other
Name of repository:
S.C. Dept. of Archives & History

Andrew B. Murray Vocational School  
Name of Property

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**10. Geographical Data**

Acreege of Property 1.22 acres

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Zone Easting Northing	Zone Easting Northing
1 <u>17 599060 3626600</u>	3 <u>17 599025 3626470</u>
2 <u>17 599000 3626600</u>	4 <u>17 599080 3626470</u>

\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Karen Nickless  
 organization Historic Charleston Foundation date 2-19-2002  
 street & number 40 East Bay Street telephone (843) 723-3546  
 city or town Charleston state SC zip code 29402

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets**

**Maps**

- A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

**Photographs**

Representative **black and white** photographs of the property.

**Additional items**

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

**Property Owner**

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Chisolm Street Partners, LLC  
 street & number 434 Marietta Street, NW, Suite 201 telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
 city or town Atlanta state GA zip code 30013

**United States Department of the Interior**  
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**National Register of Historic Places**  
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Section number 7 Page 5

Andrew B. Murray Vocational School  
Name of Property  
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**Narrative Description**

Andrew B. Murray Vocational School is a three-story masonry building located in downtown Charleston. Opened in 1923 as South Carolina's first vocational school, it continued to provide vocational training through day classes for public school students and night school classes for adults until it closed in 1970. From 1970 to 1995, it housed the Charleston County School District Offices. It was vacant from 1995 to 2001 (except for brief occupancy by the United States Coast Guard), when it opened as condominiums. The Murray Vocational School campus comprises three separate structures--the main school building, a two-story brick caretaker's house (ca. 1923), and a concrete block shop/gymnasium building (ca. 1950). While the buildings have been renovated for housing, many interior details remain in the main structure and there have been few exterior alterations.

The Andrew B. Murray Vocational School, built in 1922, was designed by Charleston architect David B. Hyer. The school is a three-story U-shaped building covered with smooth stucco and with limestone detailing. The building is illustrative of the Neo-Classical style used in many civic and academic buildings of the period. The east (principal) façade has eleven bays, arranged symmetrically over a one-story fully rusticated base. The center section is composed of three bays set into a portico of four engaged, segmented, ionic pilasters of stone. A stone balustrade is inset between columns on either side of the front entry between the first and second floors.

The front entry is set between the first and second floors, and is accessed by a stone staircase with a cast iron railing in the center. The entry is finished with cut limestone and features an Adamesque-style doorway with a set of double-paneled wooden doors flanked by sidelights and capped with a large square transom, all surmounted by a double fanlight. The entry is further highlighted by the inscription, "Andrew B. Murray VOCATIONAL SCHOOL." The windows on this center section of the east façade are industrial metal windows with three panels of eighteen panes each; the bottom six panes are operable on each of the flanking panels.

The center section of the east façade is flanked on each side by one recessed bay and a three bay section. Each recess has a door located on the ground floor set into the rusticated base. The windows in these flanking sections are metal, capped with simple stone jack arches. A cornice and parapet of cut stone caps the east, north and south facades. The cornice is finely detailed with acanthus leaf decoration topped by a stone ledge with dentils.

The north and south facades are seven bays, also arranged into three sections, but simpler in detailing than the east façade. The west façade opens the U-shape into an interior courtyard. This is the least detailed of the facades, comprised only of smooth stucco finish with metal windows. The exterior facades of the courtyard are also simply detailed, with the recent addition of two iron balconies to the second and third floor of the east wall. The north side of the courtyard has remained as a partially open walkway.

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Andrew B. Murray Vocational School  
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The interior of the Andrew B. Murray Vocational School is primarily accessed through the main entry on the east facade. This entry leads into a double stair hall with original cast iron railings, although the original configuration of the double stair has been somewhat obscured by new partition walls. Two alternate stairs accessed from the front, first floor doors, have been retained. The entry hall, stairways, and main corridor hallways retain their original terrazzo floors. The interior spaces have largely been reconfigured, although the main corridor running north/south off the center stair is intact, with its original tiled walls.

The campus also contains two contributing structures that greatly enhance the value of the site. Located between the main school building and the shop/gymnasium building, the caretaker's house (ca. 1922) is a small two-story brick residence set back from the street. Laid in stretcher (running) bond, the structure has a one-story porch running across the three bays of the first floor on the east (front) facade. The porch is supported by two square, brick piers at the ends with its wooden entablature resting on the piers' stuccoed caps. The roof of the porch is standing seam metal. The porch ceiling is bead board. The second floor of the east facade has one six-over-six double hung sash window. A belt course consisting of a double row of header bricks runs along each of the facades directly below the second floor windows. A cornice of stretchers and headers is also present on each facade and is capped by a brick parapet. An interior end chimney is located along the south wall. The south facade has four bays and the north facade has two bays. All of the windows in the structure are new and have been replaced in-kind. A rear entry is located on the first floor, inset into the southwest corner of the structure. The interior has been largely gutted, although the chimney has been retained along with the ceiling joists. Also still visible is the ghost line of the original interior stair, located along the north wall. This stair is to be replaced in its original configuration. The caretaker's house was constructed to provide housing for the school's handyman and his family and also to ensure that someone was on-site to handle security and any emergency repairs and maintenance needs that arose. This is the only remaining example of a school caretaker's cottage remaining in the city.

The two-story rectangular shop/gymnasium building that completes the Murray School campus was constructed in 1948 of concrete block, faced with brick laid in a five course American bond. The east (main) facade of the gymnasium is five bays with a single bay one-story brick entry with a metal shed roof. The entry is flanked by two-story vertical bays of glass blocks. Two smaller bays of glass block top the entry. The other windows on this facade are simple wooden windows with the exception of a three part lunnete-type window in the gable end. The north and south facades of this building have the same original industrial styled wooden windows. Both facades feature a large central bay that was utilized when the first floor was the auto shop. The first floor will be used as parking for the condominiums and the north garage bay will remain. An exterior stair has been added to the north facade.

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Just inside the front entrance of the gymnasium/shop building is a double concrete staircase that is lit by the vertical bays of glass block. The first floor of the structure has a cement floor and little detailing, as it was used for utilitarian purposes. Two garage doors are located on the north and south walls and there is a coal furnace located along that west wall that will be retained. What appears from the exterior to be a second and third floor is actually one story with a mezzanine. Originally utilized as a "recreational hall and basketball court,"<sup>1</sup> this floor has its original wooden athletic floor and two metal stairs leading to metal viewing balconies along the east and west walls. The ceiling with its exposed I-beams and wood rafters has been retained. A stage that was located at the west end of this floor has been removed.

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<sup>1</sup> Charleston News and Courier (Charleston, S.C.), 19 June 1950.

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**Statement of Significance**

Andrew B. Murray Vocational School is historically significant under National Register Criterion C as a representative example of school architecture in South Carolina. It is exceptional in that the site contains not only South Carolina's first vocational school<sup>2</sup>, but also a caretaker's house and a gymnasium/shop. The complex exemplifies the importance placed on practical education in the first half of the twentieth century. As the white vocational school, Andrew B. Murray Vocational School also stands as an example of the segregated public school system of South Carolina in the years before the 1954 *Brown vs Board of Education* Supreme Court decision. As a boys' school that became coed in the mid 1930s<sup>3</sup>, with differing curriculum for the different genders, it illustrates differences in the teaching of boys and girls at public schools in South Carolina.

The property that is now occupied by the Murray Vocational School campus, was, until the last years of the nineteenth century, marshy land adjacent to the Ashley River. In 1909 Andrew Buist Murray, a Charleston businessman and philanthropist, encouraged the city to fill approximately 50 acres of mudflats and marshes south of Tradd Street to South Battery Street. The lots reclaimed from these lowlands became Murray Boulevard (named for and donated to the city by Andrew B. Murray), and the early-twentieth century neighborhood of Charleston's lower western peninsula.<sup>4</sup> Chisolm Street, one of the streets made by the fill, was named for the Chisolm family, who operated a rice and lumber mill complex (c.1830) at the present day corner of Tradd Street and Murray Boulevard. Directly opposite the school complex on Chisolm Street is "the Horse Lot", a former grazing area that was created from the millpond that serviced the Chisolm Mill.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Annual Report of the State Superintendent of Education of the State of south Carolina: 1923 (hereafter Annual Report: DATE) (Columbia, S.C.: 1923), p. 51.

<sup>3</sup> "Andrew B. Murray Vocational School." Brochure (n.d.), Charleston County Public Schools Archive.

<sup>4</sup> Jonathan H. Poston, The Buildings of Charleston: A Guide to the City's Architecture (Columbia: University of South Carolina Press, 1997), p. 295.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid, p. 303.



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Construction began on the Murray Vocational School main school building in 1922. The *Annual Report of the State Superintendent of Education* noted that school construction had been non-existent during the World War, but "remarkable progress" was being made to recover.<sup>6</sup> Industrial education was, according to the report, at "the very heart of our industrial and economic life. Time was when this work was laughed at as 'bread-and-butter' education. Now this attitude is rarely found. Intelligent work is a guarantee of progress and prosperity."<sup>7</sup>

According to the 1922 *Report*, some of the impetus toward industrial education came from the federal government, the State Legislature having accepted federal funding through the Smith-Hughes law of 1918 for the promotion of industrial education.<sup>8</sup> However, the money for the construction of the school was local. Andrew B. Murray donated the land and \$150,000 towards the \$220,000 construction price, with the school district paying the rest.<sup>9</sup>

Murray Vocational School was what was known as a "Unit-Trade School," a school that included training in a specific trade as well as "all subjects that go to increase the general intelligence of the student." However, industrial education for girls, which at this time was home economics, was not yet taught in the Charleston County schools, and Murray opened as an all-male school.<sup>10</sup>

Andrew B. Murray Vocational School was designed by architect David B. Hyer. Hyer began his career in Charleston in 1905 as a civil engineer. In 1908 he became the superintendent of construction at the Charleston Navy yard, and he later worked for Simons-Mayrant Company and Todd & Benson, Architects. He opened his own practice in 1912.<sup>11</sup> His extant commissions in Charleston include a three-story addition to the Crafts School at 67 Legare Street (school 1881; addition, 1915), Buist

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<sup>6</sup> Annual Report: 1922, p. 24.

<sup>7</sup> Annual Report: 1922, p.25.

<sup>8</sup> Annual Report: 1922, p.135.

<sup>9</sup> Charleston Evening Post (Charleston, S.C.), 22 September 1923.

<sup>10</sup> Annual Report: 1923, p. 136.

<sup>11</sup> John E. Wells and Robert E. Dalton, The South Carolina Architects, 1885-1935 (Richmond, VA: New South Architectural Press, 1992), p.79.

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School at 103 Calhoun Street (1920), and 133 Ashley Avenue, his home.<sup>12</sup> Murray Vocational School was one of his larger projects.<sup>13</sup> On its opening *The Charleston Evening Post* called it "unquestionably one of the finest buildings in the South for vocational instruction."<sup>14</sup>

The 1923 *Annual Report* described the organization and operation of the Murray Vocational School:

Trade courses in auto mechanics and wood working, and the necessary related subject matter (science, math and drawing), were offered to all boys over fourteen years of age who were interested in preparing themselves to follow either of the above types of work. One hundred fifty-eight boys enrolled for work...throughout the nine months the school was in session, attending six hours per day for five days per week, fifty per cent of the time or three hours each day being devoted to practical work in either of the above trades, the remaining time devoted to the related and non related subjects which made a well rounded course of instruction.

Thirteen hundred and ten men and boys enrolled in ninety different classes with a total average attendance of eight hundred twenty-one or sixty-two per cent. Eighty-nine instructors were employed; eighty-three off evening, two for part-time and four for all-day classes."<sup>15</sup>

The structure of the building was tailored to vocational education. Located on the first floor were the carpenter shop, machine shop, auto mechanics shop, lunch room, lavatories, and boiler room. The second floor contained offices, classrooms, drafting rooms, the library, and the sheet metal shop. The third floor had a print shop, laboratory, lecture room, and classrooms. The construction was considered to be fireproof.<sup>16</sup>

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<sup>12</sup> Poston, The Buildings of Charleston, pp. 389-90, 489.

<sup>13</sup> Wells and Dalton, The South Carolina Architects, p. 79.

<sup>14</sup> The Charleston Evening Post (Charleston, S.C.) 22 September 1923.

<sup>15</sup> Annual Report: 1923, p.51.

<sup>16</sup> The Charleston Evening Post (Charleston, S.C.) 22 September 1923, p.9.

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Murray continued to provide vocational education until 1970, but the decades did see some changes. In the 1930s girls were allowed to attend Murray. Girls studied cosmetology, home economics, or "distributive education" (sales).<sup>17</sup> By the early 1940s the emphasis had changed to preparation for war. In November of 1940 the *Charleston Evening Post* carried a long article with photos of men attending night school at Murray, titled "They Are After Employment and Would Help Uncle Sam." One hundred men, most of whom had been employed by the WPA, were spending their afternoons in training at Murray hoping "to work their way back into steady employment and [to] prepare themselves to be of assistance to their country in the event of a national emergency." Forty-five year old James Read, declared, "I'm too old to fight [but] they tell me a man who knows something about machinery is about as important as a soldier in the kind of war they have now."<sup>18</sup> Murray continued to train workers for the war effort. In 1941 Murray School received \$25,410 from the federal government to "add equipment and other facilities for the training of workers for the Charleston navy yard."<sup>19</sup>

After World War II the Murray campus expanded, but for a very different reason. In 1950 the school built a new \$170,000 structure to house a new automobile repair shop, a welding shop, offices, and a gymnasium. Having a new automobile shop was the main impetus for construction. The shop in the old school building had been designed when cars were twelve and one half feet long. To get the cars from the late 1940s into the shop it was necessary to "run them through the door and up against one of the supporting pillars, then jack them up and slide them sidewise into the building."<sup>20</sup> The new building was built with two large bays to allow easy access for cars. (One is extant, and the old shop is now used for parking.) Also in the 1950s a home economics room and metal working shop were added by adding a floor to a space that had been two stories high.<sup>21</sup>

Murray Vocational School continued to provide vocational training to girls and boys, and evening classes to adults until 1970, when it closed its doors. The Charleston County School District occupied the building with their administrative offices until 1995, and, except for a brief occupancy by the US Coast Guard, the building was vacant until recently.

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<sup>17</sup> Charleston News and Courier (Charleston, S.C.) 9 February, 1957.

<sup>18</sup> Charleston Evening Post (Charleston, S.C.) 11 November 1940.

<sup>19</sup> Charleston Evening Post (Charleston, S.C.) 7 July 1941.

<sup>20</sup> The News and Courier (Charleston, S.C.) 19 June 1950.

<sup>21</sup> The News and Courier (Charleston, S.C.) 26 January 1957.

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**Verbal Boundary Description**

The boundary of the nominated property is shown on the attached plat recorded 18 July 2000 in Plat Book EE, page 141 in the Charleston County Register of Mesne Conveyance.

**Verbal Boundary Justification**

The nominated property include the entire parcel historically associated with the Murray Vocational School.

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The following information is the same for each of the photographs:

Name of Property: Andrew B. Murray Vocational School  
Location of Property: 3 Chisolm Street, Charleston  
Charleston County, South Carolina  
Name of Photographer: Katherine Saunders, Historic Charleston Foundation  
Date of Photographs: 3 December 2001  
Location of Original  
Negatives: Historic Charleston Foundation, 40 East Bay St., Charleston, S.C. 29402

1. Andrew B. Murray Vocational School Complex
2. Andrew B. Murray Vocational School, Facade
3. Andrew B. Murray Vocational School, Facade
4. Andrew B. Murray Vocational School, Façade and south elevations
5. Andrew B. Murray Vocational School, Façade, cornice detail
6. Andrew B. Murray Vocational School, West (rear) elevation
7. Andrew B. Murray Vocational School, North elevation, looking east
8. Andrew B. Murray Vocational School, North elevation, detail
9. Andrew B. Murray Vocational School, West elevation interior courtyard
10. Caretaker's House, facade
11. Caretaker's House, façade and south facades
12. Caretaker's House, north elevation
13. Caretaker's House, west (rear) elevation)
14. Caretaker's House, south elevation
15. Caretaker's House, east and north elevations
16. Caretaker's House, interior south Wall
17. Shop/Gymnasium, façade
18. Shop/Gymnasium, façade
19. Shop/Gymnasium, façade entrance
20. Shop/Gymnasium, façade entrance
21. Shop/Gymnasium, west (rear) elevation
22. Shop/Gymnasium, south elevation