

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED MAY 16 1977
DATE ENTERED DEC 6 1977

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

Walker Hall

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

ST of Sparta

Cedar Spring - Highway 56 South

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Spartanburg

X VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

4th

STATE

South Carolina

CODE

045

COUNTY

Spartanburg

CODE

083

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- MUSEUM
- COMMERCIAL
- PARK
- EDUCATIONAL
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ENTERTAINMENT
- RELIGIOUS
- GOVERNMENT
- SCIENTIFIC
- INDUSTRIAL
- TRANSPORTATION
- MILITARY
- OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

State of South Carolina

c/o Newton F. Walker, Superintendent
South Carolina School for the Deaf
and Blind

STREET & NUMBER

Highway 56 South

CITY, TOWN

Spartanburg

X VICINITY OF

STATE

South Carolina

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Spartanburg County Court House

STREET & NUMBER

Magnolia Street

CITY, TOWN

Spartanburg

STATE

South Carolina

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Historic Places in the South Carolina Appalachian Region

DATE

1975

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL x Regional

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

South Carolina Appalachian Council of Governments

CITY, TOWN

Greenville

STATE

South Carolina

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT DETERIORATED
 GOOD RUINS
 FAIR UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Walker Hall is a Greek Revival-Italian Villa style structure. The central portion and east wing were constructed of brick ca. 1857-59, and the dome originally was surmounted by a Mansard roof. This roof was replaced by a flat roof in the late 1880s. Although the exact date is not known, architectural and historical evidence suggests that the building was stuccoed sometime after the original construction. The west wing was designed by the noted Philadelphia architect Samuel Sloan in 1884. Its design is identical to the east wing, giving the structure a symmetrical appearance. The front facade features a pedimented portico, supported by Corinthian columns on an arcaded base. The entrance to the building is at the basement level. The east and west wings are divided into three bays, the central section of which is recessed with a gallery featuring a series of arches supported by slender columns with intercolumnar balustrades.

A rear annex was constructed in 1921 by Pittman Construction Company of Atlanta, Georgia. Its design is in conformity to the original structure. The addition is not stuccoed and contains a dining room, kitchen, auditorium and offices. The east wing was first remodeled on the inside in 1917 and again in 1954, and is now used as a dormitory. It contains 3/2 windows with horizontal muntins, while the remaining portions of the building have the original 6/6 sash configuration. All cornices feature dentil molding.

Interior: A central entrance hall rises the full height of the building with a circular skylight in the center of the ceiling. Four balustraded stairways lead from the ground floor to the first floor. The first and second floors are encircled with balustraded balconies supported by Corinthian columns. The wings contain offices on the ground level with dormitory rooms and classrooms on the upper floors.

Surroundings: Walker Hall, situated on the 147-acre campus of the South Carolina School for the Deaf and Blind, is located in the community of Cedar Spring, 4 miles south of Spartanburg on S. C. Highway 56.

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 checked="" 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 1857-59/1884 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Edward C. Jones/Samuel Sloan

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Located four miles from Spartanburg at Cedar Spring, Walker Hall is an example of Greek Revival-Italian Villa architecture. Constructed ca. 1857-1859, it stands as a monument to the Walker family, who, for 127 years, have been involved in the education of deaf and blind children in the state of South Carolina.

The School for the Deaf and Blind was founded in 1849 as a private endeavor by Reverend Newton Pinckney Walker, a young Baptist minister who had become interested in the work for the deaf because his wife had three deaf relatives. Reverend Walker believed that South Carolina's deaf children should be educated in the state, as may be evidenced by his comments in his report to the Board of Commissioners for the Deaf, Dumb & Blind, dated October 1, 1850:

It will be remembered that the 22nd day of January 1849, marked the commencement of our effort. Having long desired to see an Institution of the kind in the State...but seeing no one venture on the enterprise, I resolved if the strongest effort of my life could advantage the solitary condition of the mute, I would make that effort, however incompetent I felt for such an undertaking.¹

(Prior to 1849, the South Carolina legislature had appropriated a sum of money each year to send mute children to the American Asylum in Hartford, Connecticut.)

Early in the 1840s, Reverend Walker had journeyed to Georgia to learn sign language, and in 1849 he established in his home in Cedar Spring a school for deaf mutes with five pupils. A few months later he purchased the old hotel building in Cedar Spring and operated his school there for several years. In 1855 a Department for the Blind was added. The expenses of the school proved too great for Reverend Walker, and in 1855 he petitioned the legislature to take over the school as a state supported institution, which it did in 1856.

The school was growing, every year adding more and more pupils. The need for a new building was evident. In 1857, the well-known Charleston architect Edward C. Jones was commissioned to design a new building. A contract was drawn with Owen, Allen & Brothers to build the center edifice and the east wing, which were completed in 1859.
(continued)

¹N. P. Walker, "Report to the Board of Commissioners for the Deaf, Dumb & Blind," October 1, 1850.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Earle, Marie Montgomery. "A History of the First Fifty Years, South Carolina School for Deaf & Blind." M.A. Thesis, University of South Carolina, 1930.

Foster, Vernon. "One Hundred Years at Cedar Spring." Columbia, S. C.: The State Magazine, February 13, 1949.

(continued)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 3 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	1 7	4 1 9 ⁶⁰⁰ 0 6 0	3 8 6 3 ²⁵⁰ 0 2 5	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The property being nominated is a rectangular section measuring approximately 300' by 250' and is situated on the main drive of the campus of the S.C. School for the Deaf & Blind. Included within the acreage is a circular drive in front of building and a landscaped area between this drive & the main campus drive.

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

Beckie Downing, Historic Preservation Division

ORGANIZATION

S. C. Department of Archives and History

STREET & NUMBER

P. O. Box 11,669, Capitol Station

CITY OR TOWN

Columbia

(Georgianna Graham, Appalachian Council of Governments and Edna Brown, Administrative Assistant, S. C. School for the Deaf and Blind)

March 10, 1977

TELEPHONE

(803) 758-5816

STATE

South Carolina 29211

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

TITLE Charles E. Lee, State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE 4/14/77

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

W. M. ...
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHITECTURE AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE 12/6/77

ATTEST: *Beckie Downing*
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER
DATE 12-5-77

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CONTINUATION SHEET

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The original building was constructed of brick, with a pedimented portico supported by Corinthian columns on an arcaded base and surmounted by a dome. It had a Mansard roof originally, which was removed sometime after 1866 due to faulty design and construction.²

The school continued under the operation of Rev. Walker's son, N. F. Walker after his father's death in 1861. During the difficult years of the Civil War and Reconstruction, the school closed and reopened on three different occasions. In 1876, however, the Walker family resumed their operation of the school and in 1883 added a department for black children and purchased a building for them.³

In 1884, a contract was made with the Philadelphia architect Samuel Sloan for design of the west wing, which was completed in 1885. Repairs and renovations were also made at this time and again in 1917 and 1954. The annex at the rear of the building was built in 1921 by the Pittman Construction Company of Atlanta, Georgia.

Today, with more than 30 major buildings on the campus, the school is actively involved in the education of over 600 handicapped children each year. It is still a boarding school and therefore provides services in all areas of growth and development in a student's life. The focus of programs has always been educational but with strong emphasis on social and humanitarian values and development. Vocational and technical education courses are also emphasized.

²James Orr, "Message of His Excellency the Governor on the Subject of the Institution of the Deaf, Dumb and Blind at Cedar Spring, South Carolina," (Columbia: F. G. DeFontaine, State Printer, 1866), pp. 9-10.

³"One Hundredth Anniversary," (Spartanburg, S. C.: South Carolina School for Deaf and Blind, 1949), p. 9.

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