

Form 10-300  
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: <b>South Carolina</b>	
COUNTY: <b>Union</b>	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	<b>AUG 30 1974</b>

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
**Union County Jail**

AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Main Street**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Union**

STATE: **South Carolina** CODE: **045** COUNTY: **Union** CODE: **087**

**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 type="checkbox"/> Object	<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
**Union County**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Union County Courthouse**

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

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
**Union County Courthouse**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Main Street**

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

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
**Inventory of Historic Places in South Carolina**

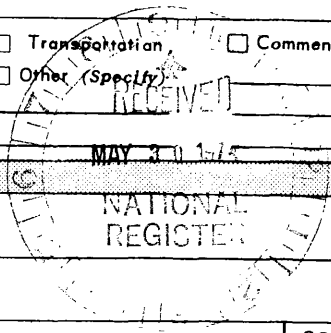
DATE OF SURVEY: **1973**  Federal  State  County  Local

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: \_\_\_\_\_

ENTRY NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

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**AUG 30 1974**

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" 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		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

EXTERIOR

The Union County Jail, designed by Robert Mills, is of granite ashlar construction; the blocks were quarried from nearby Murphy Shoals. The walls average 21 inches thick. The structure is two-storied in the Palladian style with a high hipped roof that was originally pierced by four chimneys.

There are three arched openings to the entrance porch with the date "1823" inscribed over the center arch. The barred windows, doors, and a ventilator were arranged to provide free circulation of air throughout the building.

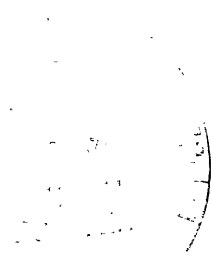
Since 1900 there have been two additions to the building. On the left side of the structure is a one-story stuccoed wing that houses the sheriff's apartment; a two-storied fieldstone addition containing administrative offices and utility rooms is located to the rear.

INTERIOR

Mills' original floor plan has undergone extensive alteration, and most of the original interior features have been changed. The basic H-shaped design (with a hall running parallel to the entrance porch) has been modified and the circular stairway to the second floor has been enclosed.

The second floor was originally a large room used for hanging criminals; it is now used as a cellblock, and the original fittings have been removed.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



**3. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian |  16th Century |  18th Century |  20th Century  
 15th Century |  17th Century |  19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1823**

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 type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture                      | _____                                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input checked="" 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

Robert Mills, South Carolina native and nationally known for his design for the Washington monument, was the architect of the Union County Jail, built in 1823 during his decade of work in South Carolina.

ARCHITECTURE:

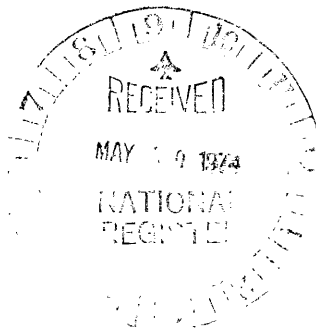
Robert Mills was the first native-born architect regularly trained for the profession. While serving as Federal Architect, he designed the old Treasury, the U.S. Post Office Building, and the Patent Office in Washington, D.C.

Mills' work is characterized by the innovative technical aspects employed in his designs for government structures. He was an advocate of fireproof construction; in his prison and institutional designs, he incorporated many ideas which were radical for the era. Mills recommended that there be no basement dungeons, for he felt that most breakouts occurred as a result of tunneling to the outside from a basement area. He also recommended that a caretaker's apartment be placed to overlook the prison (the sheriff's apartment at Union is probably an outgrowth of this idea).

SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN:

Robert Mills was interested in providing decent living conditions for those in prison. Cells, as in the Union Jail, were to be one-roomed and were arranged to provide for adequate ventilation. Basement dungeons were not to be used because of their unhealthy nature, and buildings were to be made as fireproof as possible to insure prisoner safety.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Marsh, Blanche. Robert Mills -- Architect in South Carolina, Columbia: The R.L. Bryan Company, 1970. p. 63 and 139.

Gallagher, H.M. Pierce. Robert Mills -- Architect of the Washington Monument, New York: Columbia University Press, 1935 (dust cover).

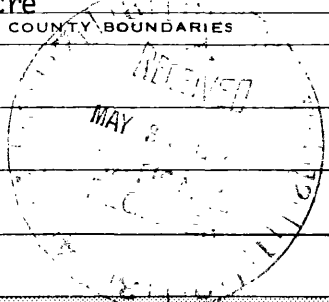
**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

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
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	34	42	55
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"	81	37	38
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"			
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: less than an acre

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
William H. Brabham, Historic Preservation Division

ORGANIZATION: South Carolina Department of Archives and History      DATE: April 8, 1974

STREET AND NUMBER:  
1430 Senate Street

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

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

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  
 Title State Historic Preservation Officer  
 Date May 20, 1974

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

At. Wentz  
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 5/30/74

ATTEST:  
Charles W. Hennig  
 Acting Keeper of The National Register

Date 8-30-74