

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PH0686468

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
OCT 19 1978

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED DEC 1 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 Hampton County Courthouse

AND/OR COMMON

## 2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER U. S. Highway #278

CITY, TOWN

Hampton

VICINITY OF

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

#1

STATE

South Carolina

CODE

045

COUNTY

Hampton

CODE

049

## 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 Hampton County

STREET & NUMBER U. S. Highway #278

CITY, TOWN

Hampton

VICINITY OF

STATE South Carolina

## 5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Hampton County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER U. S. Highway #278

CITY, TOWN

Hampton

STATE South Carolina

## 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Inventory of Historic Places in South Carolina

DATE 1973  FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS South Carolina Department of Archives and History

CITY, TOWN Columbia STATE South Carolina

# 7 DESCRIPTION

## CONDITION

## CHECK ONE

## CHECK ONE

EXCELLENT

DETERIORATED

UNALTERED

ORIGINAL SITE

GOOD

RUINS

ALTERED

MOVED      DATE \_\_\_\_\_

FAIR

UNEXPOSED

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Hampton County Courthouse was constructed in 1878 as the official seat of government for the newly created county of Hampton. The only courthouse Hampton County has ever known, the Hampton County Courthouse was built in the Victorian Italianate style which was popular in the last quarter of the 19th Century. Although the architect of the building is unknown, local tradition indicates that elements of the courthouse design were derived from similar courthouses designed in the state during the 1820s by Robert Mills.

As originally constructed, the Hampton County Courthouse was a two-story structure constructed of brick laid in the common bond pattern. Three bays wide in the "ABA" configuration, the structure featured 4/4 windows capped with stilted segmental arches on the second floor and flat brick lintels on the first floor. The hip roof had four triangular pediments with open cornices and rondelles located in the center of all four sides of the building. Originally there were four corbel capped chimneys located on the west side of the building and one corbel capped chimney located on the east side. The entablature which encircled the courthouse was bracketed, as was typical of Victorian period architecture. The original entrance portico was located in a projecting bay on the front (north) facade. Symmetrical semi-elliptical stairways, supported by brick, rose to the second floor. The balustrade and hand rails were wrought iron. The flat roofed portico was supported by four Tuscan columns. Brackets around the cornice matched those featured on the remainder of the building.

In 1925, the Hampton County Courthouse was renovated and additional wings were added to the north (front) and south (rear) facades according to plans drawn up by Lafaye and Lafaye, Architects of Columbia, South Carolina. The building's current appearance dates from the 1925 renovation. The design of the north and south additions follows the same general style of the original structure. Each wing is two bays deep, which makes the entire structure ten bays deep. Treatment of the entablature, pediments, corner pilasters and windows match those of the 1878 building. In 1925, all chimneys were removed from the original courthouse and the main entrance was changed from the second to the first floor. The stairway and portico were removed and both doorways were recessed approximately two feet. At present, a narrow portico supported by four Tuscan columns covers the main entrance. The second floor doorway is located behind a semi-elliptical arch.

The interior floor plan of the courthouse remains essentially as it was originally. The architraves of the original doors remain intact, as do many of the window lintels.

Plans are currently underway for the restoration-renovation of the courthouse. In 1977, the building was sandblasted as a preliminary part of this project. Plans for the restoration-renovation include a placement of a portico similar to the original on the front facade and the placement of an additional wing across the rear of the building.

**SURROUNDINGS:** The Hampton County Courthouse is located in the central square of Hampton, South Carolina, a town of approximately 2600 people. Hampton is the county seat of Hampton County, an agricultural area whose population is approximately 15,000.

Also located within the nominated acreage are two small modern annexes situated directly to the rear of the courthouse, and a circa 1935 two-story brick annex located directly to the east of the courthouse. All three of these annexes house county offices. They have been included within the nominated acreage because of their very close proximity to the courthouse and their location in the courthouse square.

# 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 type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE           | <input 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 type="checkbox"/> 1900-                | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS         | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY               | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION              |   |   | Local History                                       |

SPECIFIC DATES 1878

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Located in the center of the town of Hampton, South Carolina, the Hampton County Courthouse was constructed in 1878 as the seat of government for the newly created Hampton County. Since that date, the Hampton County Courthouse has been a focal point of community life. Today, the Courthouse is widely regarded by residents of Hampton County as the most notable landmark remaining in the county.

In 1877, a group of citizens residing in the northwest section of Beaufort County petitioned the General Assembly of South Carolina to form a new county in order to provide them with better political representation. As a result, on February 18, 1878, the General Assembly enacted a law which established Hampton County as the thirty-third county in the state. Named after Governor Wade Hampton, the new county was to be administered by a Board of five County Commissioners who were empowered to establish a county seat and provide suitable buildings for county activities. A site for a new county seat was chosen on the basis of its central location. In a spirit of public interest, prominent local citizens donated land for the courthouse square and building materials for the construction of the courthouse building. Although the architect chosen for the new courthouse is unknown, local tradition indicates that the plan of the building was drawn from similar courthouses designed in the state during the early 1800s by Robert Mills. The Hampton County Courthouse was dedicated by Governor Wade Hampton in 1878.

The town known as "Hampton Courthouse" soon grew up around the new courthouse building and in 1879 the town was officially incorporated. (This name "Hampton Courthouse" was subsequently shortened to Hampton.) Several citizens instrumental in the construction of the courthouse built substantial Victorian residences in the new county seat and by 1879 Hampton had the county's first newspaper, The Hampton Guardian. Subsequently, the Hampton County Courthouse has served as the focal point of activity in town and county events for 100 years. Until 1976 all county offices were housed in the Courthouse and the building is still in active use as the governmental center of Hampton County. Closely connected with all aspects of life in Hampton County, the courthouse square has for thirty-six years been the site of the Hampton County Watermelon Festival. One of the oldest festivals in South Carolina, this yearly event has been of great local importance to the area.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY
OCT 19 1978
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED DEC 12 1978

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9

PAGE 1

Anderson, Martha Bee. "Hampton County Courthouse Save Our Courthouse! 200th Birthday Gift to Bicentennial County." The Hampton County Guardian. June 23, 1978.

Anderson, Martha Bee. "In the Beginning the Signers." The Hampton County Guardian. February 15, 1978.

Hampton County Courthouse Records; Probate Court; Deed Book 8D.

Hampton County Tricentennial Committee. Both Sides of the Swamp. Columbia, S. C.: R. L. Bryan, 1970.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

<b>FOR NPS USE ONLY</b>	
RECEIVED	OCT 19 1978
DATE ENTERED	DEC 12 1978

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

10

PAGE

2

---

or U. S. Highway 278; on the east by East First Street; south by South Oak Street; and on the west by West First Street or U. S. Highway 601.

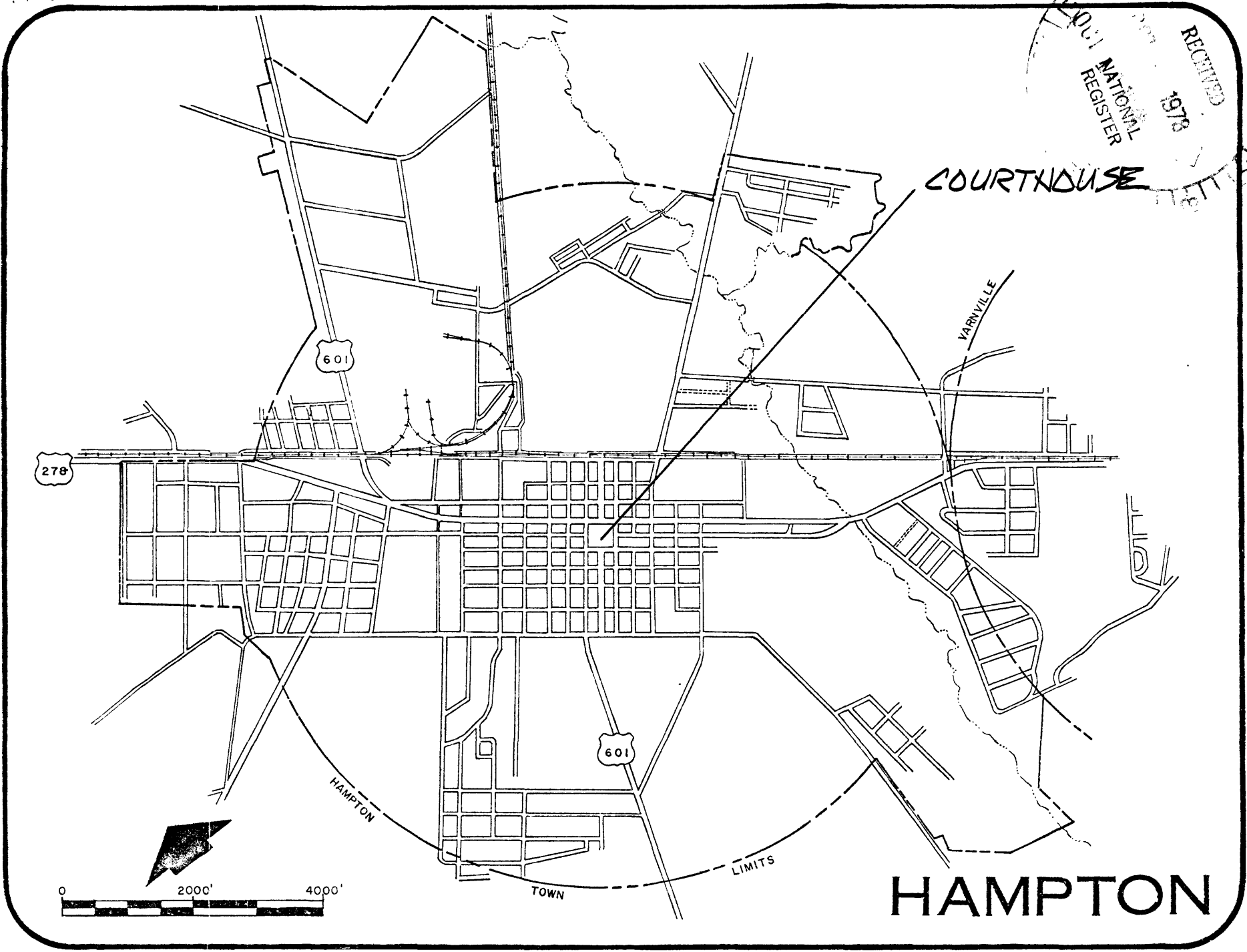
RECEIVED  
1978  
NATIONAL  
REGISTER

COURTHOUSE

VANVILLE

BLUFF

HAMPTON



601

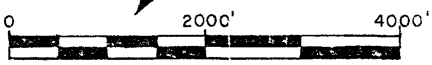
278

601

HAMPTON

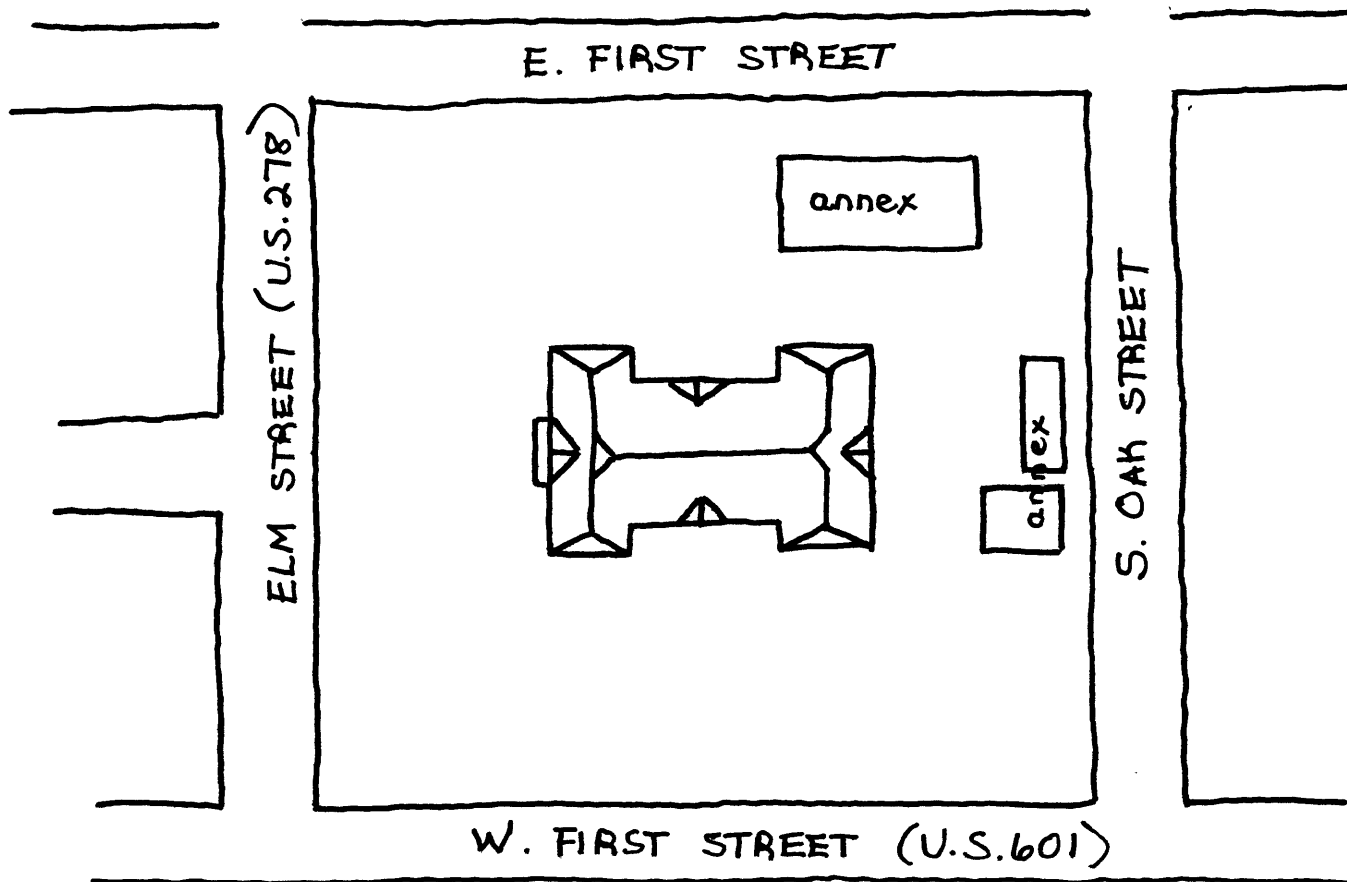
TOWN

LIMITS



Supplemental Enclosure  
Map of Hampton, South Carolina  
Lowcountry Council of Governments  
1975 Scale- 1" = 2000'





Hampton County Courthouse  
Hampton, South Carolina

SKETCH MAP NOT TO SCALE

Julie Burr Sept. 1978



OCT 19 1978  
Supplemental Enclosure  
Sketch map of Hampton County  
Courthouse site - Not to scale  
Drawn by Julie Burr - Sept. 1978  
DEC 1 1978