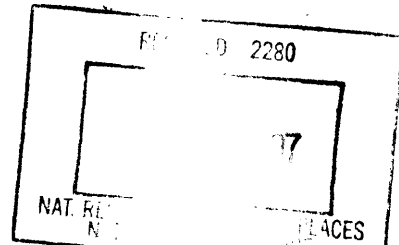


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form



1157

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 an 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 Florence Crittenton Home

other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

2. Location

street & number 19 St. Margaret Street  not for publication

city or town Charleston  vicinity

state South Carolina code SC county Charleston code 19 zip code 29403

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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  
Mary W. Edmonds/Deputy SHPO

8/13/97  
Date

Signature of certifying official/Title

State of 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 certifying official/Title \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

State or Federal agency and bureau \_\_\_\_\_

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register.  See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register  See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_

for  
Signature of the Keeper  
M. J. M. [Signature]

Date of Action  
9/25/97

Florence Crittenton Home  
Name of Property

Charleston, South Carolina  
County and State

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply)

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

**Category of Property**  
(Check only one box)

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

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	1	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	1	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)

DOMESTIC: institutional housing

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: institutional housing

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Early 20th Century American Movements

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICK

walls BRICK

roof COMPOSITION SHINGLE

other WOOD

**Narrative Description**

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

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.)

- Criteria A, B, C, D with checkboxes and descriptions.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- Criteria A-F with checkboxes and descriptions.

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- Documentation checkboxes: preliminary determination, previously listed, designated landmark, recorded by survey, recorded by engineering.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Health/Medicine

Social History

Period of Significance

1924-1947

Significant Dates

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Newcomer, John D.

Long, L.D., Construction Company

Stephenson, M.L., General Contractor

Primary location of additional data:

- Location checkboxes: State Historic Preservation Office, Other State agency, Federal agency, Local government, University, Other.

Name of repository:

Florence Crittenton Home  
Name of Property

Charleston, South Carolina  
County and State

### 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1/2 acre

#### UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

3	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing
4	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

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 Sarah Fick

organization Preservation Consultants, Inc. date March 1997

street & number Post Office Box 1112 telephone 803-723-1746

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 SHPO or FPO.)

name Florence Crittenton Programs of South Carolina

street & number 19 St. Margaret Street telephone 803-722-7526

city or town Charleston state SC zip code 29403

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

Florence Crittenton Home  
Name of Property

Charleston, South Carolina  
County and State

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreeage of Property 1/2 acre

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 

1	7
---	---

 Zone 

5	9	7	8	4	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

 Easting 

3	6	2	9	7	8	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

 Northing

3 

--	--

 Zone 

--	--	--	--	--	--

 Easting 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

 Northing

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 Sarah Fick

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**Additional Items**

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

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**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Florence Crittenton Home \_\_\_\_\_  
name of property  
Charleston, South Carolina  
county and state

Section 7 Page 1

**Narrative description**

Designed by Charleston architect John D. Newcomer and built between 1924 and 1932, the Florence Crittenton Home is a two and one-half story building with a front-gable roof, three-bay facade, and two lateral wings with hipped roofs. Gabled dormers are set at the slopes of the wings. Two-tier screened porches extend along the east and west sides of the rear section.

The principal front-gable elevation is three bays wide. A centered entry with transom and sidelights with a small gable portico on columns is flanked by paired 6/1 windows. The second level has three pairs of matching windows. The attic level is distinguished by an oriel on braces, with three windows and a hipped roof. Similar braces mark the deep eaves. The east wing has three window bays and the west wing originally had four (a one-bay extension to the west wing was added in 1968). The building was originally planned with wood exterior siding. About the time construction began, this was replaced by a two-brick thick veneer of red brick laid in common bond.

The building stands very close to the street, with a low brick retaining wall along the sidewalk. At the east side of the property is the driveway to the rear, where there are a small parking area, planting beds, a sunny patio, and shaded seating areas. A small stuccoed masonry chapel along the west property line was constructed in 1964.

The setting of the Florence Crittenton Home is residential. It is surrounded by single-family dwellings dating from the 1920s through the 1940s. At the opposite side of St. Margaret Street is a small apartment complex (Park Terrace Apartments) built on the site of the St. Margaret Home, which closed after 1950.

The Florence Crittenton Home retains integrity to its original period of construction. The building has remained in service for its original purpose, a residence and school for unmarried pregnant women, to the present. Exterior alterations, dating to the 1960s, have been limited to enclosure of porches at the rear wing, the one-bay infill at the east wing, extension of the west wing, and construction of a separate chapel. The present modernization program has improved kitchen and residential spaces to comply with code requirements, and will include exterior and roofing repairs.

The interior of the Florence Crittenton Home retains its historic integrity despite the alterations of the 1960s. Principal first floor spaces are the entry foyer and main hallway, parlor, lower stair, dining room and lounge (Green Room). These areas retain their original function, layout and floor-to-ceiling heights. Plaster walls remain throughout except at the east wing (original chapel remodeled as offices in 1964). Plaster ceilings remain except at the dining room, where leaking from second floor showers forced the replacement of plaster with acoustical tile in the 1960s.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Florence Crittenton Home \_\_\_\_\_  
name of property  
Charleston, South Carolina  
county and state

Section 7 Page 2

Smooth sheetrock recently replaced the tile, restoring the historic appearance of the ceiling.

First level flooring has typically been replaced. Wall-to-wall carpet covers the principal spaces (main hallway, Green Room, offices); office, foyer and parlor feature vinyl flooring from the 1960s. There is new quarry-tile flooring at the rear hallway and food service areas.

In 1964 while the east chapel wing was being remodeled as offices, the east first floor porch was enclosed. It is now an integral part of the food service area. At the rear southwest, the original laundry room has been used for food storage since the 1960s. Instead of plaster, the original kitchen areas have beaded-board wall surfaces. During the first quarter of the twentieth century, vertical beaded board or tongue-in-groove paneling was the preferred sanitary surface for kitchens and baths.

Two small additions to the building date to the 1960s. In 1966 a one-story, one-bay infill addition was placed at the east side of the projecting entry bay to improve efficiency of the office area. In 1968 a full-height one-bay extension was added to the end of the west wing to provide classroom, residential and office space.

Phase One of the modernization program has been completed. Kitchen and food service areas were improved with new equipment and traffic patterns. Office spaces were slightly reconfigured and the floor level raised at a section of the secondary east hallway. To meet code, fire-rated walls were provided between the business and residential areas of the building.

The only significant changes were the enclosure of an interior window at the south wall of the parlor, and the addition of a wall at the south end of the Green Room. The west porch remains open and is accessed from the Green Room. To provide fire-rating for the second floor, the original open banister at the upper stair was replaced by a rated fire wall. The lower stair retains its first floor banister and newel.

The residential areas of the Florence Crittenton Home are at the second level. Average residency is 28 young women. There is a mix of private single rooms and large dormitory rooms which include the original nursery at the south end of the building. Porches at the east and west elevations were enclosed for additional sleeping rooms during the 1960s. Besides this alteration, changes at the second level have generally been limited to bathroom upgrades. During the 1960s the original nurse's room was reworked to provide the existing five-stall shower room. Most of the tubs have been removed from the original small bathrooms, and the toilets and lavatories upgraded. For the comfort of residents, hardwood floors are covered with strip or wall-to-wall carpet.

The Florence Crittenton Programs of South Carolina is engaged in a three-year modernization program timed to coincide with its Centennial Celebration. The goals are to improve efficiency and livability of the building while bringing it into

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Florence Crittenton Home \_\_\_\_\_  
name of property  
Charleston, South Carolina  
county and state

Section 7, 8 Page 3  
=====

compliance with modern building code requirements. The program also includes periodic maintenance of the structure and exterior details.

Phase One has been completed. It included repairs to joists, roof and flashing, as well as improvements to the first floor interior. Phase Two will begin in the summer of 1997. It will include repair to windows, wood trim, and soffits. The basement boiler room at the southwest side of the building will be reworked. Interior second level alterations will be targeted toward code compliance without loss of capacity. One bedroom and bath will be combined as a larger bath with handicap access, and the nurses' office will be converted as a bedroom. Hallways and doors will be improved to provide fire-rating. One-hour fire doors will be installed at all the rooms to replace the 20-minute doors added during an earlier renovation. Fire-rating of the second floor will be improved by adding flooring throughout the attic level, which is presently floored only above the hallway. The added flooring will not alter the visual qualities of the second floor. Plans for Phase Three (1998) will be completed as funds allow. It will further upgrade the second floor interior without substantive changes to layout or function.

**Statement of significance**

The Florence Crittenton Home is eligible for the National Register under Criterion A, for its significance in Health/Medicine and Social History. It is also eligible under Criterion C, for its significance in Architecture.

The Florence Crittenton Home is significant for its long association with the development of social and child welfare programs in Charleston, and for its statewide leadership in caring for the needs of unmarried mothers and their babies. Since its establishment as the Christlove Mission of the King's Daughters in 1897, the organization has sheltered women during their pregnancies, provided them with education and employment training, and assisted them to plan for the care of their newborn children. Since 1932 over 10,000 women have stayed in the home on St. Margaret Street. Residents have come from every county in South Carolina and several other states, particularly North Carolina, Georgia and Florida.

The special-purpose building designed in 1923 as the Florence Crittenton Home and Training School is still in use. Alterations have been limited to minor remodelings and two small additions. The Florence Crittenton Home is a significant example of early twentieth century institutional architecture that retains integrity of design, material, setting and function.

**Additional information**

The Florence Crittenton movement was begun in 1883 in New York City by Charles N. Crittenton and named for his daughter Florence. In 1890 Crittenton envisioned a national organization, and began Crittenton Homes in San Francisco and Los Angeles.



**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Florence Crittenton Home \_\_\_\_\_  
name of property  
Charleston, South Carolina  
county and state

Section 8 Page 4

=====

In 1895 the first headquarters of the National Florence Crittenton Mission was established in Washington DC.<sup>1</sup>

Crittenton traveled widely on speaking tours, and by 1897 a total of forty-six Florence Crittenton Homes were active. Many of them were begun in cities where Crittenton had addressed church and civic leaders. Others were shelters that had begun independently and then affiliated with Crittenton's organization.<sup>2</sup>

The Florence Crittenton Programs of South Carolina began in Charleston in 1897. The city was shocked that year when a pregnant young single woman, disgraced and without resources, committed suicide. Led by Miss Claudia G. Tharin, several local women organized the Christlove Mission of the King's Daughters to provide protection and support for unmarried expectant mothers. They invited Charles Crittenton to speak in Charleston in 1897, after which he donated money for the Christlove Mission.<sup>3</sup>

In 1899 the Charleston group affiliated with Crittenton's national organization. They rented a building on Ashton Street to use as a "rescue house" and designated it the Florence Crittenton Home and Training School. The name reflects the two goals of the program: to provide a refuge for expectant mothers, and to train them for employment so that they could support themselves and their children.

Contributions from Crittenton and local philanthropists were supplemented by the City of Charleston which granted an appropriation of \$25 monthly to the Florence Crittenton Home. In 1904 the organization bought a new residence, a large house on Washington Street. At about this time, recognizing that Florence Crittenton had become a rescue home for the whole state, the organization began fund-raising solicitations throughout South Carolina.<sup>4</sup>

After using the Washington Street house for twenty years, the managers of the Florence Crittenton Home bought a "large suburban lot" on St. Margaret Street, and engaged architect John D. Newcomer to design a new building. It would stand directly opposite St. Margaret's Home, where the Florence Crittenton residents would gain work experience.<sup>5</sup> (This sanitarium began as St. Margaret's Home for Incurables in about 1910. Under the leadership of Miss May Tharin, in 1917 the home moved into a new facility, also designed by Newcomer.<sup>6</sup>)

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<sup>1</sup> Otto Wilson, Fifty Years' Work with Girls, 1883-1933. A Story of the Florence Crittenton Homes (Alexandria VA: The National Florence Crittenton Mission, 1933), chapter 1.

<sup>2</sup> Bronwyn Mayden, "Florence Crittenton Homes Then and Now: One Hundred and Eleven Years of Service" (Washington DC: Child Welfare League of America, 1996).

<sup>3</sup> Wilson, Fifty Years' Work with Girls, pp. 233-234.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid. Claudia Tharin, fundraising letter, May 1924, in Dorothy Meacham and Sandra Fowler, "Historical Data" (Charleston: unpublished MS, Florence Crittenton Programs of SC, 1996).

<sup>5</sup> Wilson, Fifty Years' Work with Girls, p. 236.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Florence Crittenton Home \_\_\_\_\_  
name of property  
Charleston, South Carolina  
county and state

Section 8 Page 5

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In late 1923 the directors of the Florence Crittenton Home awarded a contract to L. D. Long Construction Company. Construction began just as Charleston's post-World War economy began to collapse. A lack of funds soon brought the project to a halt, so the uncompleted building was weatherproofed while the organization raised money for completion. In 1926 or 1927 the house on Washington Street was sold, and the organization returned to placing its clients in private homes.

Eventually M. L. Stephenson, General Contractor, began work on the new building, scheduling phases as they could be budgeted. A photograph from early 1928 shows a roofing crew atop the building, which had no window sash. By that time the Florence Crittenton Home was in operation at St. Margaret's Place, interior construction was still incomplete. Finally, in 1931 the Florence Crittenton Home and Training School received a legacy that financed completion of the building. A "beautiful structure, modern in every particular, with many fine large rooms..." it was formally opened in April 1932.<sup>7</sup>

Because the Florence Crittenton Home in Charleston is the only one to have been established in the state, residents have traditionally come from across South Carolina, and also from other southern states. Much of its financial support, too, has come from outside Charleston. The 1931 legacy that financed completion of the Florence Crittenton Home and Training School was a gift from a Columbia estate.<sup>8</sup>

Today, the Florence Crittenton Programs of South Carolina is one of thirty-five independent Crittenton agencies in the country. In its centennial year, its primary mission remains as it was established by Claudia Tharin, to provide a shelter and training center for young unmarried mothers.

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<sup>6</sup> John E. Wells and Robert E. Dalton, The South Carolina Architects 1885-1935. A Biographical Dictionary (Richmond VA: New South Architectural Press, 1992), p. 130. Charleston, South Carolina, City Directories, various dates.

<sup>7</sup> Post Partum Vol. 13, No. 1 (Spring-Summer 1996). Photographs in Meacham and Fowler, "Historical Data." Charleston City Directories.

<sup>8</sup> Wilson, Fifty Years' Work with Girls, pp. 235-236. Claudia Tharin, fundraising letter, May 1924, and Florence Crittenton Training School 1932 Annual Report (in Meacham and Fowler, "Historical Data").

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Florence Crittenton Home \_\_\_\_\_  
name of property  
Charleston, South Carolina  
county and state

Section 9, 10 Page 6

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 \_\_\_\_\_. "Florence Crittenton Programs of SC. Renovation." Charleston: Allan Wendt, Architect, Inc. October 1996.  
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**Verbal boundary description**

Charleston County Assessor's Office Tax Parcel Number 463-15-01-039, the property known as 19 Saint Margaret Street.

**Boundary justification**

The nominated parcel includes the entire parcel historically associated with the Florence Crittenton Home.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Florence Crittenton Home \_\_\_\_\_  
name of property  
Charleston, South Carolina  
county and state

Section Photographs Page 7  
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Location of Original Negatives: State Historic Preservation Office  
South Carolina Department of Archives and History

The following information is the same for all photographs:

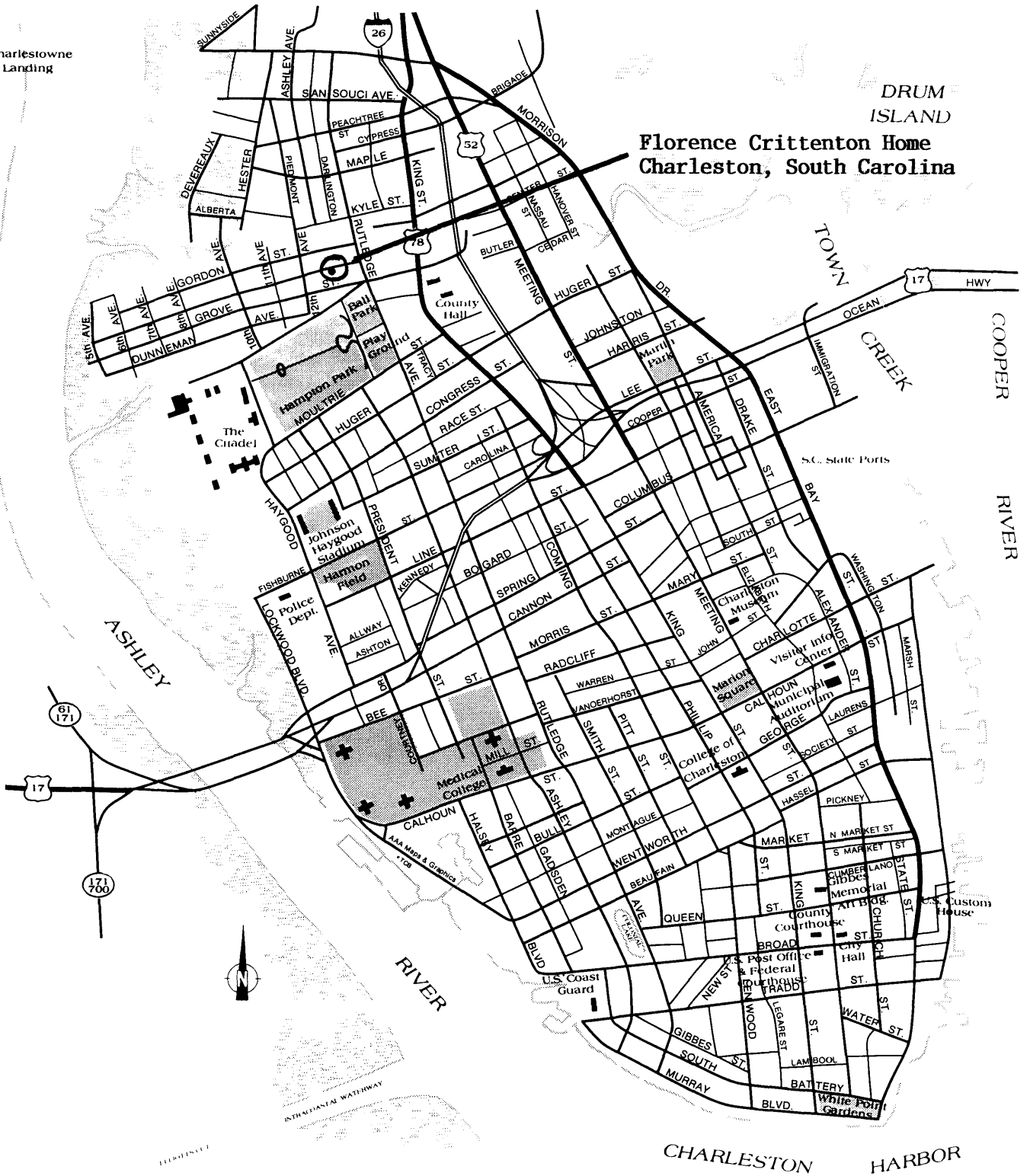
Name of Photographer: Sarah Fick  
Preservation Consultants, Inc.  
Date of Photographs: March 1997

Photo# View

- 1 North facade, camera facing south.
- 2 Principal facade bays, camera facing south.
- 3 Rear elevation, camera facing west.
- 4 West elevation porch, camera facing east.
- 5 Streetscape, St. Margaret Street, camera facing southwest.
- 6 Chapel and west elevation, camera facing south.
- 7 Interior, entry foyer, camera facing south.
- 8 First floor lounge (Green Room), camera facing north.
- 9 Second floor, hallway at west wing, camera facing west.
- 10 Second floor, dormitory at east sleeping porch, camera facing south.

Charlestowne Landing

DRUM ISLAND  
Florence Crittenton Home  
Charleston, South Carolina



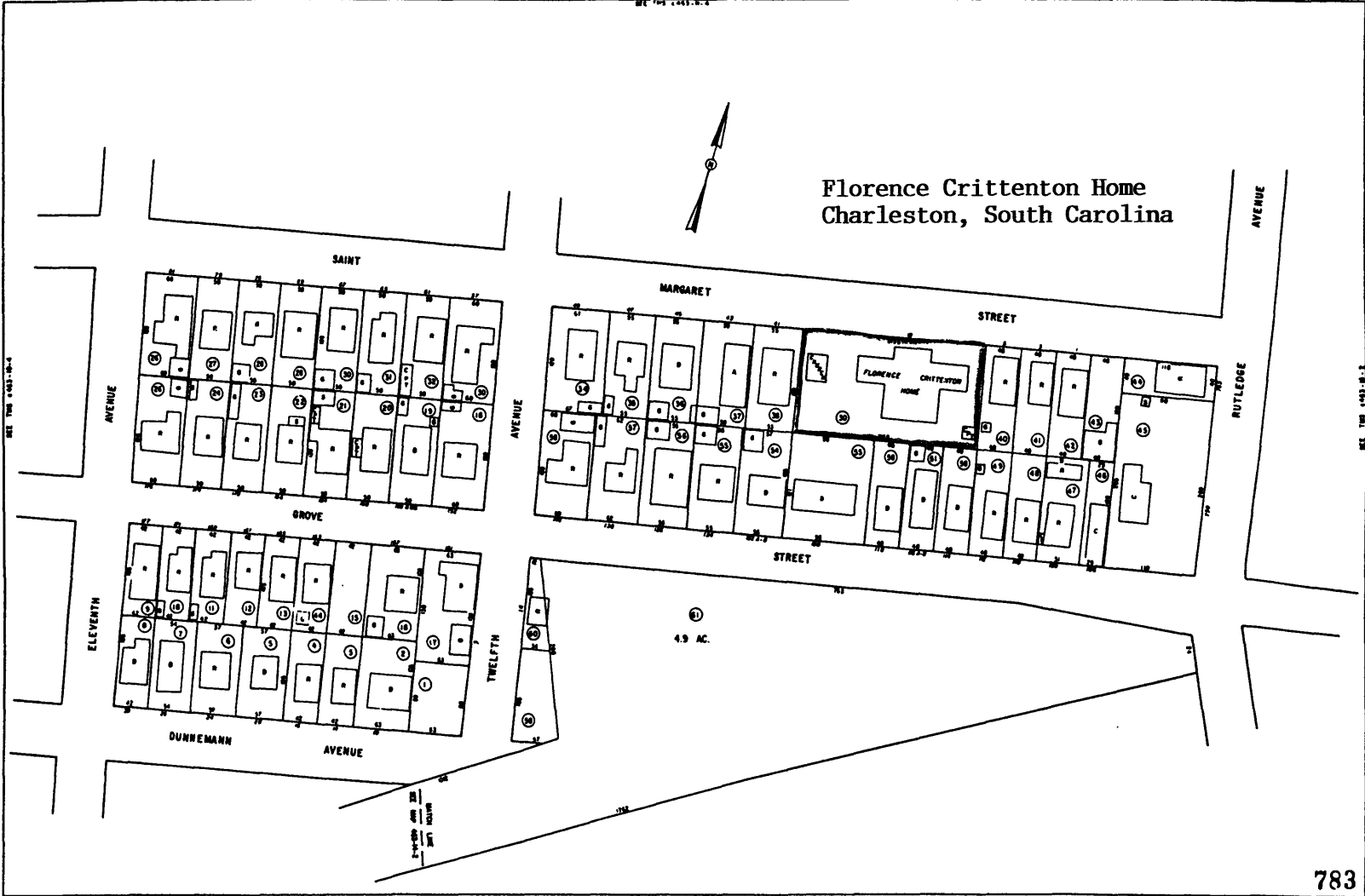
COOPER RIVER

ASHLEY RIVER

RIVER

CHARLESTON HARBOR

Florence Crittenton Home  
Charleston, South Carolina



783

APPROXIMATE SCALE IN FEET  
0 50 100 200  
TAX MAP COMPILED FROM DEED PLAT RESEARCH AND FIELD RECONSTRUCTION. ALL DIMENSIONS ARE TO THE NEAREST FOOT. BUILDINGS ARE NOT PLOTTED TO EXACT SCALE OR LOCATION. BASED ON AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY FEBRUARY 1947.

TAX MAP PREPARED BY THE COUNTY ASSESSOR'S OFFICE THE CHARLESTON COUNTY BOARD OF ASSESSMENT COM. THIS RESERVES THE EXCLUSIVE RIGHT TO SELL THIS MAP AND REUSE OR REPRODUCTION FOR BEARER IN WHOLE OR PARTIFIED.

TAX DISTRICT NO.	7-1
SCHOOL DISTRICT NO.	20
AREA:	CITY OF CHARLESTON
AERIAL PHOTO NO.	3-608

TAX MAP NUMBER	
1" = 400'	1" = 100'
C 463-15-1	
CHARLESTON COUNTY S C	