

File # 10-5-53  
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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY  
NOMINATION FORM

Continuation Sheet 1 Item Number \_\_\_\_\_ Page 1

<u>Name</u>	Historic	Lutheran Theological Seminary	Location	4201 Main Street
	Common	Building: Beam Dormitory	Classification	Building
<u>Owner</u>	Lutheran Church in America, Synods in Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina Southeastern and Florida, 4201 Main Street, Columbia, S. C.			

Representation in Existing Surveys Inventory of Historic Places in South Carolina 1979  
(update), South Carolina Department of Archives and History

Description

Beam Dormitory was completed in 1911 with Charles M. Robinson as architect and Wise Granite Co. as contractors. The three-story (2 floors over a raised basement) rectangular granite structure was the first structure to be built at the present location of the Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary.

The structure is 156' long and 60' wide and has two floors set over a high raised basement. Constructed of granite with a gable roof, the Beam Dormitory features a central recessed rectangular core with projecting end pavilions. Central castellated entrance pavilions are located on both the front and rear facades. These pavilions feature front and side arches and are surmounted by a flat roof with crenellated parapet. Fenestration consists of symmetrically placed pairs of plate glass windows with scrollwork mullions. The west facade features stained glass windows in the same pattern of fenestration. Concrete panels are (continued on back)

Significance

Designed by architect Charles M. Robinson, Beam Dormitory was built in 1911 as the first building at the Columbia location of the Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary Campus. Since its construction, the Seminary has played an important part in the religious and educational history of Columbia and has made the city a major center for the Lutheran Church. The Lutheran Seminary had its inception in 1830 and subsequently went through a variety of locations until a decision was made to construct a permanent campus in Columbia. Beam Dormitory was the first structure to be constructed at the Columbia location and was designed for use as classrooms, dormitory, library and chapel. The Seminary was state chartered in 1921 and accredited in 1944 and at present is considered to be the only accredited South Carolina Theological school. The Seminary is now owned and operated by 5 Lutheran Church of America synods in 8 southern states.

Acreage Approximately 19,530 square feet

Verbal Boundary Description Located in the Eau Claire section of Columbia, the nominated acreage is bounded on all sides by property belonging to the Lutheran Church of America and consists of a rectangle measuring 186' by 105'.

UTM Reference Point Columbia North 17/496430/3766650

Other Information

Description -- continued

placed between the first and second story windows and a granite stringcourse is located beneath the first story windows on all facades. The ground floor features an irregular placement of windows and doors suited for utilitarian purposes. In the 1960s a fire escape was added to the west end of the rear (north) facade. The gable roof features a wooden balustrade and is accented by corner finials.

Changes in the original structure include removal of a wooden octagonal cupola in the 1950s; replacement of the end pavilion gable oculi glass with wooden louvers; replacement of the original slate roof with composition shingles in the 1940s; and the dismantling of chimney stacks when central heating replaced the old furnace in the 1950s.

The interior configuration of the building remains relatively intact with each floor featuring a wide central hallway extending the length of the building and flanked on each side by small rooms. Designed to functionally serve seminary training, dormitory and administrative needs, the structure continues to be used for its original purpose. The main floor and second floor of the structure have recently been renovated preserving the majority of the original wall configuration. The most extensive alteration to the interior has been the placement of a wall structure at the south end of the entrance hall to de-emphasize the Main Street exit from the interior.