

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any 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.



### 1. Name of Property

Historic name: Standard Oil Company Headquarters

Other names/site number: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of related multiple property listing: \_\_\_\_\_

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

### 2. Location

Street & number: 1600 Meeting Street

City or town: Charleston State: S.C. County: Charleston

Not For Publication:  Vicinity:

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this x 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 x meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

\_\_\_ national \_\_\_ statewide x local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

x A \_\_\_ B x C \_\_\_ D

<p><u>Erick M. Johnson</u></p> <p><b>Signature of certifying official/Title:</b></p>	<p><u>12/16/2014</u></p> <p><b>Date</b></p>
<p>_____  <b>State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</b></p>	

Standard Oil Company Headquarters  
Name of Property

Charleston, SC  
County and State

In my opinion, the property \_\_\_ meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register criteria.

---

**Signature of commenting official:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

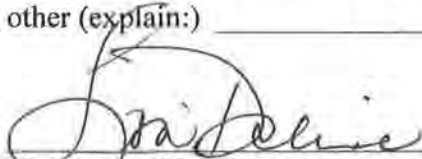
---

**Title :** \_\_\_\_\_ **State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government** \_\_\_\_\_

**4. National Park Service Certification**

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:)

  
Signature of the Keeper

2/3/15  
Date of Action

**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

Standard Oil Company Headquarters  
 Name of Property

Charleston, SC  
 County and State

Structure

Object

**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>3</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>3</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register \_\_\_\_\_

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

COMMERCE/TRADE: business

INDUSTRY/PROCESSING/EXTRACTION: manufacturing facility

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

COMMERCE/TRADE: business

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Standard Oil Company Headquarters  
Name of Property

Charleston, SC  
County and State

---

## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE 19<sup>TH</sup> AND 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY REVIVALS: Classical Revival

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Materials:** (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: Foundation: brick, concrete; Walls: brick, concrete; Roof: synthetics; Other: concrete

### Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

---

### Summary Paragraph

The Standard Oil Company Headquarters building at 1600 Meeting Street is located on the east side of Meeting Street in the northern portion of the peninsular city of Charleston just south of the city of North Charleston. The building is situated on a tract of land that is 2.42 acres of high ground in an area primarily occupied by industrial enterprises, with the exception of historic Magnolia Cemetery, located just to the south of this parcel. The Standard Oil Company Headquarters building is a masonry structure, laid out in a U-shape and fronting on what was formerly known as "Refinery Avenue." **It is two stories on a raised basement**, with a raised two-story piazza wrapping the north and west elevations along with a portion of the east elevation. Associated with this building, and located directly to the east, are two ancillary buildings, believed to be a garage/vehicle repair shop, and a laboratory and asphalt sales building (later used for storage).



Standard Oil Company Headquarters  
Name of Property

Charleston, SC  
County and State

---

## **Narrative Description**

There are three buildings directly associated with each other and the general administration of the Standard Oil Company in Charleston. They were all constructed around the same time, 1926, and are situated at an entrance to the **larger overall site of the Standard Oil Company's Charleston Refinery. Included on the original architectural drawings along with the Headquarters Building and the Garage, was an octagonal guard house. It was located directly north of the Headquarters building across Refinery Avenue, but is no longer extant.**<sup>1</sup>

### **Headquarters Building (building #1)**

#### **Exterior:**

The Standard Oil Company Headquarters building and ancillary buildings are located at 1600 Meeting Street in the upper peninsula of the city of Charleston, just south of the city of North Charleston. The Headquarters building was commissioned in 1926 and designed by the engineering department of Standard Oil Company of New Jersey.<sup>2</sup> The building is two stories on a raised basement and is constructed of brick. A raised, concrete, two-story piazza wraps the north and west sides of the building, along with a portion of the east elevation as well. The piazza is supported by large paneled reinforced concrete square columns with simple corbeled caps and unadorned wrought iron balustrades. The plan of the building is laid out in a U shape with the opening facing south. The main entrance is located on the north **elevation and fronts on what was historically "Refinery Avenue" which served as the main entrance into the Charleston Refinery for the Standard Oil Company of New Jersey.**<sup>3</sup> The main (or 2<sup>nd</sup>) floor of the building can be accessed at the top of a large concrete staircase flanked by high brick cheek walls. The cheek walls are adorned with a simple concrete cap. The bottom five steps fan out and there is a simple wrought iron balustrade and handrail running up the center of the staircase. Concrete pillars punctuate the start of the cheek walls and match the columns on the piazza in detail.

The building is entered through double wooden doors centered on the north elevation. The doors have two recessed panels below a large single-light pane of glass. The door surround consists of wide sidelights and a tripartite transom. The side lights match the doors in design and profile. The building is pierced by double-hung, single-light, true-divided-light wooden windows at regular intervals throughout all three levels. Each window is accentuated with a brick header course laid vertically. Secondary entrance doors are single wooden paneled doors with a

---

<sup>1</sup>On file with Flyway, LLC 478 King St. Suite A, Charleston, SC.

<sup>2</sup> Architectural drawings for this building are dated August 1926. On file with Flyway, LLC 478 King St. Suite A, Charleston, SC.

<sup>3</sup> This is noted in many Charleston newspaper articles as well as on the original architectural drawings of 1926.

Standard Oil Company Headquarters

Charleston, SC

Name of Property

County and State

single-light transom above. The building was renovated and re-opened for occupancy in early 2014. All windows and doors were retained and repaired where possible. Any elements that had to be replaced were replaced in kind.

The mechanical systems for the building were a later addition (the building was originally heated with steam). The conduits are mounted to the exterior walls and run through window openings: typically the top sashes were partially opened to allow access, minimizing the loss of historical fabric. The low-sloped roof is surrounded by a parapet wall. The roof structure is coated with an applied silicone elastomeric coating that is dark grey and smooth. It is referred to as a GacoFlex system and was applied in late 2011 or early 2012.<sup>4</sup>

### **Interior:**

The interior of the building is U-shaped in plan. It is entered at the second level into a lobby which houses an L-shaped wooden stair case used to access all three levels. The lobby is a simple unadorned space, and appears to have been so historically. Upon entering the lobby there is a wall separating the lobby from the hall and the stairwell. This wall is pierced with two wide and tall arched openings to allow access to the stairwell and the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor corridors. The stair case has a round, wooden handrail with a wrought iron balustrade. The stairwell leads to and from corridors that allow direct access to the majority of all the interior rooms. The interior rooms are simple rectangles or squares in plan. There are no fireplaces or mantels, nor are there any elaborate decorative features. The majority of the interior doors match the exterior doors, with two panels below a rectangular single light glass pane. There are simple single-pane transoms above most interior doors. The trim around the doors and windows is typical of the period and is simple in detail and profile. Many rooms retain their original picture rail. The floors were concrete with red asbestos tile throughout, with the exception of the entry hall on the main floor. The flooring near the entry was squares of red terra cotta tiles. The original flooring throughout the building was in great disrepair in 2013. As part of the renovation, the entire floor system was coated with a grey-colored Xylene Epoxy coating, but the texture and pattern of the tile beneath remains readily apparent.

The top level was initially occupied by high level executives of the Standard Oil Company and department offices were located on the second floor. It is known that the ground floor was in use also, but in what manner the space was used or how it was occupied is unknown.<sup>5</sup> Presumably the ground floor housed more office space. When Standard Oil relocated their headquarters to Columbia in 1930, this building continued to serve as office space for managers (and related staff) of the various local departments within the Charleston Refinery.<sup>6</sup> The building was initially heated

---

<sup>4</sup> Per the building owner

<sup>5</sup> "Permanent Quarters for the Entire Office Personal [personnel]", *News and Courier* [Charleston], September 19, 1926. The original architectural drawings do not specify the use of any interior spaces.

<sup>6</sup> Charleston City Directories, 1930-1964.

Standard Oil Company Headquarters

Charleston, SC

Name of Property

County and State

**with steam and boasted "the most modern conveniences."**<sup>7</sup> With a few exceptions, the building is generally unaltered. These exceptions include the epoxy coating on the floors, the removal of one non-historic bathroom on the ground floor, and the extension of the hallway on the second floor to allow interior access to two offices. New HVAC and electrical lines were run throughout the interior in 2014. These lines were run without compromising the integrity of the original plaster or overall dimensions of the rooms. The interior rooms are currently used as office space and conference rooms for various businesses, providing continuity between the contemporary and historic use of the interior spaces.

## **Garage Building (building #2)**

### **Exterior:**

The garage building is located directly east of the Headquarters building. Prior to renovation, it was a single-story painted brick structure with an L-shaped plan. The ell opened to the north and east, and the north and east walls of the ell were pierced with large bay door openings. The doors themselves, which were presumably present originally, no longer exist. The other two elevations (south and west) are pierced with large rectangular window openings. The window frames and sash also were no longer extant at the time of renovation and now have non-operable, aluminum, single-light windows installed. The floor is concrete. There were two interior walls creating partitions for one interior room, which was likely an office for the mechanics.

The original architectural drawings, as well as historical maps, show the footprint of this building to be rectangular rather than L-shaped. When the footprint of the building was changed to the L-shape is unknown. As part of the renovation, the building footprint was returned to its original configuration and the ell filled in. The detail in the original brickwork is such that all the window and door openings appear to be set in a recessed panel in the wall, with bands of raised brick forming a rectangular shape around each opening. The two new walls are smooth masonry, rather than brick. The fenestration recalls the historical use as a garage with large aluminum storefront windows where there may have been garage bay entries. The detailing of the exterior masonry recalls the historical detailing seen in the brick without replicating it, with raised masonry horizontal and vertical bands above the windows. In front of the storefront window on the east elevation is a large trellis-like structure constructed of old railroad ties (a detail which recalls the industrial nature of the site originally). All these new details and elements allow the new construction to be easily differentiated from the original.

### **Interior:**

The interior of the building retains its open garage-like feel and appearance. As with the exterior, the details added on the interior during renovation continue to allow the new to easily be discerned from the old. The north-facing garage bay opening

---

<sup>7</sup> "Permanent Quarters for the Entire Office Personal [personnel]", *News and Courier* [Charleston], September 19, 1926.

Standard Oil Company Headquarters

Charleston, SC

Name of Property

County and State

was infilled with horizontal tongue and groove boards and large glass and steel doors. This treatment makes the original opening readily apparent. All other openings remain unchanged. Any newly constructed interior rooms such as offices, a kitchen, and bathrooms were constructed in such a way that they are reversible and do not negatively impact the historical integrity of the structure. As with the Headquarters building, the electrical, plumbing, and HVAC systems were installed without compromising the integrity of the original walls. The roof is flat with a parapet wall surrounding it.

The building appears on the original construction documents drawn in 1926 and is labeled as a garage. While never directly expressed, the building was most likely used to complete service and repair work on the fleet of vehicles used at the refinery.<sup>8</sup> Currently the building houses office space for a local non-profit group.

### **Laboratory and Asphalt Sales Building (building #3)**

#### **Exterior:**

The Laboratory and Asphalt Sales building is a small single-story painted brick building located to the east of the garage. Its primary elevation faces north. The roof on this building is also flat with a parapet wall around each side. The fenestration of the north and west walls is symmetrical. The north elevation is five bays wide with a central entrance. A small brick addition was constructed at a later date, obscuring this portion of that original elevation. The addition likely functioned as a vestibule and has a modern steel and glass double door as the main entry point for the building. Each of the other four bays contains two double-hung, true-divided-light, six-over-nine wood windows. The west elevation is similar in fenestration with only three bays and a single door in the middle bay. The brick detailing matches that of the garage. It creates a panelled effect around each set of windows, with horizontal and vertical bands of raised brick forming rectangles around the windows in groups of two. The east elevation is inaccessible, but there are no windows visible on that wall from inside. The rear (south) elevation continues with the same detailing in the brick. There are, however, only two full-sized six-over-nine wood windows in the center of this elevation. There is no evidence that there were others, but there is evidence of one door and one small awning window having been infilled at some point. Two other awning windows remain in place.

#### **Interior:**

The original interior configuration of the building was open in the front two-thirds with a masonry wall dividing the building lengthwise from east to west. The rear room was broken up into smaller rooms with thinner partition walls that may have been a later alteration. The only interior ornamentation or detail that remained was the remnants of glazed brick that formed the lower one-third of the walls of the

---

<sup>8</sup> A "car repair shop" is mentioned as part of the workings of the refinery in 1926. One can assume the need continued beyond that year as well.

Standard Oil Company Headquarters

Charleston, SC

Name of Property

County and State

largest interior space. The larger room was altered c. 1960 with a thin concrete block dividing wall. In addition, there is some detailing in the brickwork around the windows. The bricks were laid in a stretcher course all the way around the windows with a shallow arch above each window. As part of the recent renovation, the interior configuration was substantially retained. One non-historic thin partition wall was removed from the southeast corner of the building. The concrete floors were coated with the same grey-colored Xylene Epoxy coating used in the Headquarters building. Lastly, the bottom third of the interior walls in the main room were skim coated with cement because the glazed tile was beyond repair.

While this building does not appear on the original plans from 1926, details matching those of the other two buildings suggest that it was constructed fairly soon after, if not at the same time.<sup>9</sup> The window configuration also speaks to an early date of construction. Six-over-nine light sash windows were popular in Charleston in the late 20s and early 30s. An aerial photograph from 1934 shows the headquarters building and another ancillary building beside the garage, but the quality of the photo is such that it is impossible to determine any details of that building.<sup>10</sup> The City Directories assist in assigning this building a potential use. In **the 1930s, directories list the refinery, office, and "asphalt sales and lab" at this location.**<sup>11</sup> The open space of this building would lend well to a retail space for displaying and selling asphalt products and samples, and the laboratory may have occupied the rear rooms. The asphalt sales and lab were moved to another part of the site by 1938 and this building was then used for storage.<sup>12</sup> Currently the building is occupied by an interior design firm. It houses an office, a work area, and two areas for storage.

---

<sup>9</sup> Most of the Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps do not show the Standard Oil Company buildings and therefore do not assist in dating the ancillary structures. However, a third rectangular building is shown on a 1926 map entitled, "Landmarks of Charleston," by M.B. Wilson.

<sup>10</sup> "Up Air View of Standard Oil Refinery and Nearby Plants," *Charleston Evening Post*, April 27, 1934.

<sup>11</sup> Any time the lab and or asphalt sales office were mentioned in a news article or the city directories, they were mentioned together, so presumably were located in the same building.

<sup>12</sup> Charleston City Directories; A site plan (that resembles a *Sanborn Fire Insurance Map*) of the area from 1937 indicates that the lab was located at one of the buildings on Greenleaf Street. The site plan is on file with the City of Charleston's Preservation Division, 75 Calhoun Street.

Standard Oil Company Headquarters  
Name of Property

Charleston, SC  
County and State

## 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.)

- A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

### Criteria Considerations

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

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location
- C. A birthplace or grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

Standard Oil Company Headquarters  
Name of Property

Charleston, SC  
County and State

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Industry  
Architecture  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

1926-1964  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

1926  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

Engineering Dept., Standard Oil Company of New Jersey  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



Standard Oil Company Headquarters  
Name of Property

Charleston, SC  
County and State

**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Standard Oil Company Headquarters building and its associated ancillary buildings are significant at the local level under Criteria A and C. The buildings are associated with two areas of significance: industry and architecture. The Standard Oil Company Headquarters building housed the office personnel of the Standard Oil Company of New Jersey that oversaw the day-to-day operations of the Charleston Refinery. The refinery was important to local industrial development.<sup>13</sup> The refinery produced gasoline, kerosene, asphalt, and other petroleum products. Many of these products were directly associated with the development of infrastructure within South Carolina, and especially within the Charleston peninsula. When these buildings were constructed in 1926, the Charleston Refinery was touted to have **"inspire[d] [confidence] in others contemplating the establishment of industry here"** and over the next 30 years industrial growth on the neck exploded. Additionally, the architectural character and details of the Headquarters building, rather than being drawn from a standard industrial design template, recall the Charleston single house through the addition of the multi-level piazzas. The piazzas make the design of the building unique when compared with other Standard Oil Company Headquarters buildings throughout the country.

---

**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

**Industry:**

The Standard Oil Company Headquarters building was initially constructed to house the higher level executives and their associated staff to run the operations of the company throughout the state of South Carolina. In 1930, the South Carolina headquarters relocated to Columbia to be more centrally located.<sup>14</sup> After that time, the building housed the office personnel of Standard Oil that oversaw the day-to-day operations of the Charleston Refinery.<sup>15</sup> **The refinery was touted to be "one of the most important in the country" in various newspaper accounts in 1926 when**

---

<sup>13</sup> "Permanent Quarters for the Entire Office Personal [personnel]", *News and Courier* [Charleston], September 19, 1926.

<sup>14</sup> Younts, p. 15.

<sup>15</sup> Charleston City Directories, 1930-1964.

Standard Oil Company Headquarters

Charleston, SC

Name of Property

County and State

the headquarters building was under construction.<sup>16</sup> In addition to the refinery, the site also housed bulk storage facilities and eventually an oil packing plant in 1954.<sup>17</sup>

Products that were developed and/or distributed through this site included gasoline, heating oil, kerosene, asphalt, and other petroleum products.<sup>18</sup> The bulk of asphalt used in South Carolina and adjoining states was manufactured on this site until at least 1933.<sup>19</sup> In addition, many contemporary accounts refer to constant updating of the equipment in the Charleston Refinery and that the production and sales of petroleum products increased significantly from year to year, suggesting how dynamic the operation was at that time.<sup>20</sup> In 1926, when the decision was made by Standard Oil to build their headquarters in Charleston, the facility was described as **"...the most important industrial acquisition Charleston has known in many years."** In that same report, city officials cited the refinery as an important asset for inspiring other companies to establish industrial plants in the area.<sup>21</sup> Indeed, the prediction of city officials appears to have come true because over the next thirty years the upper peninsula of Charleston, as well as adjacent areas in North Charleston, became heavily industrialized.

Studying different maps of the of the upper peninsula, the neck, and North Charleston, the progression of industry in the area after the arrival of the Standard Oil Company headquarters becomes evident. A 1915 map indicates that this area was primarily occupied by truck farms, with fertilizer plants on the banks of the rivers.<sup>22</sup> Standard Oil and Texas Oil companies each had a small presence on the peninsula, but much further south—located just north of Mt. Pleasant Street. By 1926, M.B. **Wilson's map, entitled "Landmarks of Charleston,"** indicated that, while Standard Oil had grown considerably, no other significant industrial development had occurred beyond what was already there in 1915. Just a few years after Standard Oil constructed their headquarters building on this site, however, A. H.

---

<sup>16</sup> "Permanent Quarters for the Entire Office Personal [personnel]," *News and Courier* [Charleston], September 19, 1926. "Will Call for Bids Shortly," *Charleston (SC) Evening Post*, August 24, 1926.

<sup>17</sup> "Premier Oil Port of the Southeast," *Charleston (SC) Evening Post*, April 29, 1926. "Esso in South Carolina," unpublished pamphlet, 1950. On file at the South Carolina History Room of the Charleston County Public Library. Vertical files. "Esso Opens Oil Packing Plant Here," *News and Courier* [Charleston], 1954. On file at the Charleston County Public Library, South Carolina History Room, Vertical Files.

<sup>18</sup> "Esso in South Carolina," unpublished pamphlet, 1950. On file at the Charleston County Public Library, South Carolina History Room, Vertical Files.

"Permanent Quarters for the Entire Office Personal [personnel]," *News and Courier* [Charleston], September 19, 1926.

<sup>19</sup> "Asphalt Plant May be Built," *Charleston (SC) Evening Post*, April 3, 1933, p. 11. At this point another unnamed company was considering building a plant in the area, which may have been Gulf Oil Company. Gulf Oil had a presence in the area as early as 1944, as seen on the *Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps* of 1944.

<sup>20</sup> "Will Call for Bids Shortly," *Charleston (SC) Evening Post*, August 24, 1926. "Permanent Quarters for the Entire Office Personal [personnel]," *News and Courier* [Charleston], September 19, 1926.

<sup>21</sup> "The Standard's Home," *Charleston (SC) Evening Post*, August 27, 1926.

<sup>22</sup> *Map of the City of Charleston, S.C. and Vicinity: Industrial and Commercial Sites*, By McCrady Brothers and Cheves, Inc., 1915. On file at the South Carolina History Room, Charleston County Public Library.

Standard Oil Company Headquarters

Charleston, SC

Name of Property

County and State

Fisher Company—manufactures of sashes, doors, blinds, and mouldings—as well as another unnamed millwork company, moved into the upper peninsula, just south of the Charleston Refinery.<sup>23</sup> By 1944, *Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps* indicate that more railroad tracks had been constructed throughout the upper peninsula, and the truck farms had all but disappeared. Companies such as Gulf Oil Corporation, Riverside Iron Works, the Bent Boone Coal Company, Shipyard River Terminal Company, and the Kopper's Wood Preserving Company had all moved into the area along with the fertilizer companies that continued to maintain a presence there. The 1951 and 1955 *Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps* show further development and expansion of existing industries, with the addition of such companies as McCarthy and Sons Marble Works, Pittsburg Metallurgical Company, Inc., North State Lumber Company, and Southeastern Steele Company. Standard Oil also expanded its existing industry with the addition of an oil packing plant on their complex. In 1954, Lt. Gov. Ernest Hollings spoke at the opening of the oil packaging plant and touted **Esso Standard Oil as being a good citizen of South Carolina. Further, he stated, "the opening of this plant...hails an entire new industrial era into which we are entering."**<sup>24</sup>

The growing reliance on gasoline powered transportation, along with the growth of transportation networks, necessitated the expansion of Standard Oil and its building of new offices in South Carolina, first in Charleston, then, soon after, in Columbia.<sup>25</sup> The headquarters, garage, and laboratory buildings are associated with the production of gasoline and oils used for automobiles, ships, and other vehicles used to transport passengers and goods. By 1926 Standard Oil had either completed or begun construction of service stations throughout Charleston, and the company **reported that they were "turning out more gasoline and oil than ever before...with increases annually."**<sup>26</sup> Standard Oil Company was situated at the intersection of these manifold and interrelated developments: they both fueled, and were fueled by, the rapid expansion of gasoline powered transportation.

The oil refinery also produced asphalt used for paving streets throughout South Carolina and surrounding states. In 1926, newspaper accounts described the rise in the **refinery's** production levels. By that time, asphalt sales were 60% greater than in 1924 (at 100,000 tons of sheet asphalt and 10,000,000 gallons of liquid asphalt) and ten times greater than 1921.<sup>27</sup> By 1933, another asphalt company was making plans to build in Charleston, further adding to the industrial nature of this area. **At that time, "the bulk of asphalt used in South Carolina...has been manufactured at the local plant of the Standard Oil refinery."**<sup>28</sup> A report written in

<sup>23</sup> *Sanborn Fire Insurance Map*, 1929. On file at the Charleston County Public Library.

<sup>24</sup> **Esso Opens Oil Packing Plant Here,"** *News and Courier* [Charleston], 1954. On file at the Charleston County Public Library, South Carolina History Room, Vertical Files.

<sup>25</sup> Younts, p. 15.

<sup>26</sup> An advertisement in the 1927 Charleston City Directory listed 5 service stations run by Standard Oil on the peninsula alone. **"Will Call for Bids Shortly,"** *Charleston (SC) Evening Post*, August 24, 1926.

<sup>27</sup> **"Standard Oil Asphalt Sales Show Big Gains Since 1924,"** *News and Courier* [Charleston], November 6, 1926.

<sup>28</sup> **"Asphalt Plant May be built,"** *Charleston (SC) Evening Post*, April 3, 1933.

Standard Oil Company Headquarters

Charleston, SC

Name of Property

County and State

1949 stated that asphalt produced by Esso Standard Oil in South Carolina was used to pave 1,500 miles of roads annually in the southeast.<sup>29</sup>

The construction of the Standard Oil facilities was born out of a need to meet the requirements of an industrial age. These requirements also served as a catalyst, spurring the continued growth of the very industries and transportation networks that had initially driven the construction the Standard Oil Headquarters in Charleston.

## **Architecture**

Although the construction of the buildings was done with contemporary materials, the architectural character and details of the Standard Oil Headquarters Building recall the Charleston single house through the addition of the multi-level piazzas and the inclusion of a raised basement. These details make the design of the building unique when compared with other Standard Oil Company Headquarters buildings within the state of South Carolina. The engineers who designed this building **almost certainly considered its location and took cues from Charleston's** existing architecture when developing its design.

By 1950 Standard Oil Company divided the state of South Carolina into four **districts, with each having a "district office."** The locations of the offices were Charleston, Columbia, Greenville, and Spartanburg.<sup>30</sup> In an attempt to compare the architectural details of these four buildings, only the Columbia building could be found. However, the study of other buildings designed by Standard Oil provides more evidence that 1600 Meeting Street was a unique design. Studying various images of Standard Oil service stations throughout the country, it appears that the designs do reflect the general architecture of the area, but not their specific surroundings. For instance, a typical 1930s service station on the east coast generally was a rectangular building with a hip roof sheathed in terra cotta tiles or a metal roof. The roof extended over the gas pumps in front and was supported by massive square columns.<sup>31</sup> In the 1950s they became more linear in design incorporating more modern materials and details.<sup>32</sup> In the western United States, a typical 1930s station incorporated more Art Deco design elements.<sup>33</sup> A study of the various Standard Oil service stations built throughout the country noted that the designs did vary regionally, but that within a given region stations tended to maintain consistent design elements.<sup>34</sup>

---

<sup>29</sup> "Esso in South Carolina," unpublished pamphlet, 1950. On file at the Charleston County Public Library, South Carolina History Room, Vertical Files.

<sup>30</sup> "Esso in South Carolina," unpublished pamphlet, 1950. On file at the Charleston County Public Library, South Carolina History Room, Vertical Files.

<sup>31</sup> Henderson and Benjamin, pp. 19, 50, 54, 116.

<sup>32</sup> Henderson and Benjamin, pp. 24, 25, 104.

<sup>33</sup> Henderson and Benjamin, p. 69.

<sup>34</sup> Henderson and Benjamin

Standard Oil Company Headquarters

Charleston, SC

Name of Property

County and State

Examination of the few documented large office buildings designed by Standard Oil during the twentieth century seems to reveal a similar pattern; the overall design of the building had more to do with contemporary architectural style than with the existing architecture of a given local. The Standard Oil building in Sioux City, Iowa, built in 1936, for example, is a massive, two-story masonry structure with large metal-framed windows and some Art Deco details. Similarly, a Standard Oil office building constructed in Charlotte, North Carolina in 1910 is a massive two-story masonry structure with large metal-framed windows.<sup>35</sup> The only striking difference between the two is the addition of the Art Deco details in Sioux City. The details on the Charlotte building are similar to those found on the ancillary buildings in Charleston: they are flat-roofed structures with a symmetrical fenestration with each bay of the building punctuated by raised bands of horizontal and vertical brick. In addition, the window lintels are a contrasting color (and differing material) from the darker brick exterior. Neither of these buildings speaks to any local architectural details or styles and either of them could have just as easily been built in any other city in the United States. In contrast, the Headquarters building in Charleston is unique in that it was designed specifically to reflect the historic architecture of the city in which it was located.

Comparison with the Standard Oil headquarters building in Columbia, South Carolina places the unique quality of the architectural design for the Charleston headquarters into further relief. In 1930, just three years after the Standard Oil constructed the headquarters building in Charleston, the company decided to transfer their headquarters to the state capital in Columbia. Even though it was constructed only three years after the Charleston complex, the design of the Columbia headquarters building is vastly different from the one described in the present nomination. The headquarters building in Columbia speaks more to the popular architectural style of the day than to its surroundings. It is two stories in height and rectangular in footprint. The front elevation is symmetrical and five bays **wide. It was constructed of concrete with "a variegated brick exterior and granite trimming."**<sup>36</sup> There are no piazzas associated with this building, nor is it on a raised basement, two defining characteristics of architecture that are commonly associated with buildings in Charleston.

One possible reason for the unique design in Charleston may be related to the early development of interest groups concerned with historic preservation in that city. By 1920 influential city residents including Susan Pringle Frost, Nell Pringle, and Alston Deas had founded the Society for the Preservation of Old Dwellings (now the Preservation Society of Charleston) and the group acted as watchdogs to protect what they perceived as the charm and character of the historic city. As early as 1925, city officials began investigating the possibility of enacting a zoning ordinance due to the continued loss of historic fabric from the city. This loss came in the form of demolition of dilapidated buildings, and iron work and interior wood work being

---

<sup>35</sup> <http://www.siteselection.com/theEnergyReport/2013/mar/thompson-electric.cfm>  
<http://www.cmhpf.org/S&Rs%20Alphabetical%20Order/Surveys&rsouthernspindle&flyer.htm>

<sup>36</sup> Younts, p. 15.

Standard Oil Company Headquarters

Charleston, SC

Name of Property

County and State

scavenged and purchased by collectors and museums, and incompatible development. In 1920 the Joseph Manigault House was slated for demolition to make way for a Ford Dealership at the corner of Meeting Street and Ashmead Place. The effort to save the Manigault House is what spurred the creation of the Society for the Preservation of Old Dwellings. They were able to purchase the building, but could not come up with enough money to maintain the house or pay the mortgage. Esso Standard Oil stepped in and purchased the garden and historic gate house, **built a service station on site and converted the gate house into a "comfort station."** In 1937 Standard Oil deeded the garden and gate house to the Charleston Museum, who had acquired the Manigault House, and demolished the filling station they had built on the property.<sup>37</sup> This service station had been the second station constructed on the peninsula, but was the first of many that were eventually built in what is now the Charleston Old and Historic District. By 1929, Standard Oil was operating seven service stations on the peninsula, with three located south of Calhoun Street.<sup>38</sup> In the fall of 1929, Mayor Thomas Porcher Stoney resolved to create a zoning ordinance after learning that Standard Oil had plans to erect another service station in the **"very heart of old Charleston."**<sup>39</sup> **The City's zoning ordinance included a 150-acre historic district, the country's first, by 1931.**<sup>40</sup>

Although the push for a zoning ordinance did not begin until 1929, Standard Oil had **already run against the opposition of the city's budding historic preservation** movement by the time their engineers began to design the new headquarters building in 1926 and they well understood the potential public outcry that could ensue when their goals for expansion proved incompatible with the desires of **Charleston's leading** citizens. With all of this in mind, it is possible to conclude that Standard Oil was likely more careful with the design of their new headquarters building in order to avoid undue discord within the Charleston community. This political environment also offers a possible explanation for why the Charleston headquarters, unlike other buildings designed by Standard Oil, included elements that were sympathetic to the surrounding architecture of the historic city.

---

**Developmental history/additional historic context information (if appropriate)**

The Standard Oil Company had operated in the upper peninsula of Charleston in some capacity since 1907.<sup>41</sup> Although company literature and early maps indicate that the Standard Oil Company had been operating in the upper peninsula much earlier, they did not start purchasing property in the neck until 1919 when they

---

<sup>37</sup> Eastman, pp., 140-143; Robert Weyeneth, *Historic Preservation for a Living City: Historic Charleston Foundation, 1947-1997* (Columbia: University of South Carolina Press, 2000), 1-7.

<sup>38</sup> Charleston City Directory, 1929.

<sup>39</sup> Bland, p. 85. Although this was in 1929, it is reasonable this was not the **first time Standard Oil's** goals were not compatible with those of the citizens of Charleston.

<sup>40</sup> Bland, p. 86.

<sup>41</sup> **"Esso in South Carolina,"** unpublished pamphlet, 1950. On file at the Charleston County Public Library, South Carolina History Room, Vertical Files. McCrady Plat 2833.

Standard Oil Company Headquarters

Charleston, SC

Name of Property

County and State

purchased at least seven privately-held small parcels.<sup>42</sup> Prior to purchasing in the neck, they were leasing parcels on the north side of Mt. Pleasant Street.<sup>43</sup>

The actual refinery was constructed in 1919-1920 and began production on Christmas day in 1920. By 1925 it had doubled in size.<sup>44</sup> The Standard Oil Company Headquarters building and the garage were commissioned in 1926 and put into service in June of 1927.<sup>45</sup> The buildings were designed by the engineering department of Standard Oil Company of New Jersey, and constructed by Charleston Engineering and Contracting Company at a cost of \$75,000.<sup>46</sup> Although the Lab and Asphalt Sales building was not on the original plans, historical documents as well as the design details show that it was built around the same time.<sup>47</sup> Prior to construction of the headquarters building, office personnel for the refinery were scattered in offices throughout the city—**mainly at the People's Building on Broad Street** and in temporary wooden buildings at the refinery.<sup>48</sup> The property that the buildings sit on was a portion of land purchased by Standard Oil Company of New Jersey in 1925. At that time they were expanding their holdings in Charleston and purchased 41.6 acres from the Charleston Country Club that was adjacent to land the company already held.<sup>49</sup>

In the late-19<sup>th</sup> and early-20<sup>th</sup> century, before the area was heavily industrialized, the upper peninsula of Charleston was occupied mostly by small truck farms and phosphate plants. The property that Standard Oil purchased from the Charleston Country Club was historically known as Belvidere Farm. Prior to being called **"Belvidere" this was the site of the "Governor's House" which was the official** residence of English governors of the province during the Proprietary Era.<sup>50</sup> Toward the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century the property was owned by Colonel Thomas Shubrick. The old residence burned and the Shubricks constructed an Adam style mansion around 1800. In his *Plantations of the Carolina Low Country*, Samuel G. Stoney referred to Belvidere as a cross between a plantation and a suburban farm, of which there were several in the Charleston neck at that time.<sup>51</sup> The Charleston Country

---

<sup>42</sup> Charleston County Deed Books; "Esso in South Carolina," unpublished pamphlet, 1950. *Industrial and Commercial Charleston* (map), 1915.

<sup>43</sup> Charleston County RMC, *Direct Index*.

<sup>44</sup> "Premier Oil Port of the Southeast," *Charleston* (SC) *Evening Post*, April 29, 1926.

<sup>45</sup> "New Building Being Used," *Charleston* (SC) *Evening Post*, June 4, 1927, p 2A. Original architectural drawings are dated August 4, 1926. On file with Flyway, LLC

478 King St. Suite A, Charleston, SC 29403.

<sup>46</sup> "New Building Being Used," *Charleston* (SC) *Evening Post*, June 4, 1927, p 2A.

<sup>47</sup> A photograph from Clemson University Libraries, Special Collections (Mss 273: Box 2, Folder 5) shows this building before it was painted. The bricks are the same dark color as the Headquarters building and both the garage and this building have similar fenestration details; In addition, the M.B. Wilson map, *Landmarks of Charleston, 1926* shows the footprints of all three buildings.

<sup>48</sup> Charleston City Directories.

<sup>49</sup> Charleston County Deed Book U32, p. 547.

<sup>50</sup> Stoney, p. 74.

<sup>51</sup> *Ibid.*



Standard Oil Company Headquarters

Charleston, SC

Name of Property

County and State

Club purchased the property in 1907 after leasing it for five years.<sup>52</sup> They created a golf course on the land and maintained the mansion as their club house until they sold the property to the Standard Oil Company of New Jersey in 1925. By 1938, the year Stoney published, *Plantations of the Carolina Low Country*, the plantation house had already been "destroyed."<sup>53</sup>

With the addition of the Belvidere acreage, the company owned a total of 187 acres that housed the Charleston Refinery and all of its associated structures. Some of the associated structures found within this tract were an oil packing plant, a testing laboratory, a store, a garage/auto repair shop, an infirmary, and houses, to name a few. A small portion of these buildings remain as well.

Situated on what is now Greenleaf Street (formerly Standard Avenue), northeast of, and across a set of railroad tracks from, the Standard Oil Company Headquarters Building are four extant single-story brick buildings which are also associated with the Standard Oil complex. These four buildings appear on the 1926 map by M.B. Wilson and on a "site plan" reportedly dated to 1937.<sup>54</sup> Their design details suggest that they were built in the late-1920s. The site plan labels them as a carpenter shop, a storehouse and pipe shop, a welding and machine shop, and "No 2 stores." No other information can be found regarding the date of construction or the function of these buildings beyond that single snap shot.<sup>55</sup> These buildings were not included in this nomination because they do not appear to have the same level of integrity as does either the Headquarters Building or the other associated buildings discussed in this.<sup>56</sup> More importantly, the Headquarters Building, garage and laboratory were the face of the Charleston Refinery. This was the entrance to the complex—there was even a guard house across the street (Refinery Avenue) from the Headquarters building. These are the buildings that are most commonly associated with this entire complex and are the best resources at the refinery site that convey the history and significance of Standard Oil in Charleston.

The Standard Oil Company had a large presence and showed great community spirit in Charleston. They purposefully hired local contractors for their new

---

<sup>52</sup> Charleston County Deed Book D25, p.42

<sup>53</sup> Stoney, p.74.

<sup>54</sup> Greenleaf Street is one block east of, and runs parallel to, Meeting Street. A copy of the 1937 plat is on file with the City of Charleston's Preservation Division at 75 Calhoun Street. This site plan resembles a Sanborn Fire Insurance Company Map.

<sup>55</sup> The Charleston City Directories do not list Greenleaf Street until 1942 and they do not specify these particular buildings until 1950. They continue to be associated with Standard Oil of New Jersey, Esso, Humble Oil, or Exxon through 1992.

<sup>56</sup> The four buildings on Greenleaf Street were not owned by the same owners as the Headquarters building and ancillary structures, and were not accessible during the research and writing of this nomination, thus making a thorough assessment for architectural integrity difficult. The Headquarters building and ancillary structures are separated from these four buildings by a high chain link fence and a set of railroad tracks.

Standard Oil Company Headquarters

Charleston, SC

Name of Property

County and State

construction projects.<sup>57</sup> They created a baseball league within their own company and advertised the game schedule in the local paper. The baseball league was called the **"Strawberry League" and consisted of four teams from within the Charleston Refinery—the teams were "office," "mechanical," "lab and store," and "crackers."** The 1927 article made it clear that the Strawberry League already had a long history in Charleston.<sup>58</sup> Each year the refinery decorated a large Christmas tree and hosted a large Christmas party for its employees and their children. An account in the newspaper in 1926 describes the event in great detail. Eight-hundred people, including 525 children, attended the tree lighting at the refinery. The tree was lit with 300 lights and a company band played music. After the music was over, Santa came for a visit and handed out presents to all the children. The same article advertised that the tree would be lit every evening until the day after Christmas—presumably for the enjoyment of the local citizens.<sup>59</sup> The company contributed to community spirit and development in small and large ways. They provided educational scholarships, participated in community affairs, and were often written up as being **"a good citizen in South Carolina."**<sup>60</sup>

In addition to their community building activities, the Standard Oil contributed greatly to the economy locally and statewide, which fueled much growth throughout the state. While it is not possible to know the exact amount of revenue the company created in South Carolina, a few snap shots can be found in newspaper accounts that give an indication of their economic contribution. The refinery employed 600 people with a payroll of one million dollars at the time of construction of the headquarters building. They were touted as being the largest tax payer in Charleston County by 1934.<sup>61</sup> Annual state taxes paid in 1954 were \$500,000 and fuel tax collected that year was \$10,500,000.<sup>62</sup>

The company also contributed to local and statewide planning and community development through the asphalt, oil, and gasoline generated by the Charleston refinery (and with the asphalt being sold on site). A great deal of these products **went into the development of infrastructure as the state's population grew and became more industrialized.**<sup>63</sup> As previously stated, **"the bulk of asphalt used in South Carolina...has been manufactured at the local plant of the Standard Oil refinery."**<sup>64</sup>

---

<sup>57</sup> "The Standard's Home," *Charleston* (SC) *Evening Post*, August 27, 1926. "Contract for New Office Building," *The Charleston Evening Post*, November 9, 1926.

<sup>58</sup> "Strawberry League," *Charleston* (SC) *Evening Post*, September 23, 1927.

<sup>59</sup> "800 at Standard Oil's Tree," [Charleston] *News and Courier*, December 24, 1926.

<sup>60</sup> "Esso Opens Packing Plant Here," *News and Courier* [Charleston], 1954. On file at the Charleston County Public Library, South Carolina History Room, Vertical Files.

"Timely Facts are Presented," *Charleston* (SC) *Evening Post*, June 18, 1924.

<sup>61</sup> "Big Tax Check Standard Oil," *Charleston* (SC) *Evening Post*, December 27, 1934.

<sup>62</sup> "Esso Opens Oil Packing Plant Here." *News and Courier* [Charleston], 1954. On file at the Charleston County Public Library, South Carolina History Room, Vertical Files.

<sup>63</sup> *ibid.*

<sup>64</sup> "Asphalt Plant May be built," *Charleston* (SC) *Evening Post*, April 3, 1933.

Standard Oil Company Headquarters  
Name of Property

Charleston, SC  
County and State

In 1968 and 1969, Standard Oil, which changed names several times throughout the 20<sup>th</sup> century—from S.O. to Esso Oil to Esso Standard Oil to Humble Oil—divided and sold the 41.6 acres to Harold L. Mims and L. H. McClain.<sup>65</sup> After this sale the property changed hands one more time, and has housed various unrelated companies through 2003. Since that time the buildings have remained vacant.<sup>66</sup>

---

<sup>65</sup> Charleston County Deed Book T90, p. 395.

<sup>66</sup> Charleston County Deed Book F97, p. 156. Charleston City Directories.

Standard Oil Company Headquarters  
Name of Property

Charleston, SC  
County and State

---

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

### **Bibliography** (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

1600 Meeting Street/1500 Greenleaf Street vertical file, Preservation Division, City of Charleston, 75 Calhoun Street, Charleston, SC.

Bland, Sidney, *Preserving Charleston's Past, Shaping Its Future: The Life and Times of Susan Pringle Frost*, University of South Carolina Press: Columbia, 1999.

"Block Plan of Office Building: Charleston Refinery." Architectural Drawings by Standard Oil Company, General Engineering Department, August 10, 1926. On file with Flyway, LLC, 478 King St. Suite A, Charleston, SC 29403.

Charleston City Directories. Various Publishers, 1908-2013. On file at the Charleston County Public Library, South Carolina History Room.

Charleston County Deed Books. On file with the Charleston County RMC Office.

*Charleston (SC) Evening Post*, (1924-1955).

Eastman, Margaret Middleton Rivers and Edward Fitzsimons Good, *Hidden History of Old Charleston*, History Press: Charleston, 2010.

"Esso in South Carolina," unpublished pamphlet, 1950. On file at the Charleston County Public Library, South Carolina History Room, Vertical Files.

Henderson, Wayne and Scott Benjamin, *Standard Oil: The First 125 Years*, Motorbooks International: Osceola, WI, 1996.

*Industrial and Commercial Charleston. A Great Harbor. Thirty six miles of available water front property, eight miles improved. Showing land developments, various industries, transportation facilities, docks and water front developments, U.S. Navy Yard and great coal exporting terminals, now under construction.* 1915. Map, on file at the Charleston County Public Library, South Carolina History Room.

McCrary Plats. On file with the Charleston County RMC Office.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, 1929, 1944, 1955. On file at the Charleston County Public Library, South Carolina History Room.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, 1954. On file at the Preservation Division, City of Charleston, 75 Calhoun Street, Charleston, SC.

Standard Oil Company Headquarters  
Name of Property

Charleston, SC  
County and State

Standard Oil (New Jersey), "Know Your Own State: South Carolina," Pamphlet on file at the South Carolina State Library, Columbia, SC.

Stoney, Samuel Gaillard. *Plantations of the South Carolina Low Country*, The Carolina Art Association: Charleston, SC, 1938.

*News and Courier* (Charleston), (1911-1955).

Various photographs 1919-1970, Mss 273, Standard Oil Company South Carolina Division, Special Collections, Clemson University Libraries, Clemson, SC.

Weyeneth, Robert. *Historic Preservation for a Living City: Historic Charleston Foundation, 1947-1997*, Columbia: University of South Carolina Press, 2000.

Wilson, M.B. *Landmarks of Charleston, 1926*. On file in the South Carolina History Room of the Charleston County Library, 75 Calhoun Street, Charleston, SC.

Younts, C. R, Assistant Branch Manager. "South Carolina Branch Welcomes Public to New Headquarters at Columbia." *Salesmotor* (December 1930). On file with South Carolina Department of Archives and History.

---

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: Flyway, LLC, Charleston, SC

**Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):** \_\_\_\_\_

Standard Oil Company Headquarters  
Name of Property

Charleston, SC  
County and State

---

### 10. Geographical Data

**Acreeage of Property** 2.42 acres

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

#### Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: \_\_\_\_\_

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- |                        |                       |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Latitude: 32.821645 | Longitude: -79.951169 |
| 2. Latitude:           | Longitude:            |
| 3. Latitude:           | Longitude:            |
| 4. Latitude:           | Longitude:            |

**Or**

#### UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or  NAD 1983

- |          |           |           |
|----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1. Zone: | Easting:  | Northing: |
| 2. Zone: | Easting:  | Northing: |
| 3. Zone: | Easting:  | Northing: |
| 4. Zone: | Easting : | Northing: |

Standard Oil Company Headquarters  
Name of Property

Charleston, SC  
County and State

**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The boundary for the Standard Oil Headquarters building is delineated as the heavy black line marked on the accompanying Charleston County tax map.

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

These boundaries were chosen because they include the Standard Oil Company Headquarters Building and its extant associated ancillary buildings that were built in conjunction with it. These are the buildings that are most commonly associated with this entire complex and are the best resources at the refinery site that convey the history and significance of Standard Oil in Charleston.

---

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title: Lissa D. Felzer, Historic Preservation Consultant  
organization: Felzer Consulting, Inc.  
street & number: 830 Promenade Walk  
city or town: Fort Mill state: SC zip code: 29708  
e-mail lissa@felzer.com  
telephone: 843-343-5501

name/title: Christina Rae Butler, Preservation Consultant  
organization: Butler Preservation, LLC  
street & number: 50 Reid St.  
city or town: Charleston state: SC zip code: 29403  
e-mail c.rae.butler@gmail.com  
telephone: 843-469-9623  
date: 1 August 2014



Standard Oil Company Headquarters  
Name of Property

Charleston, SC  
County and State

---

### **Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

### **Photographs**

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

**Name of Property:**        **Standard Oil Company Headquarters**

**City or Vicinity:**    **Charleston**

**County:**                **Charleston**                **State: South Carolina**

**Photographer:**        **Austin Hipp**

**Date Photographed:**    **September 18, 2014**

- 1 of 42 –North elevation and west oblique, facing SE
- 2 of 42–West elevation and oblique rear, facing NE
- 3 of 42–East elevation and oblique rear, facing NW
- 4 of 42–North elevation, facing S
- 5 of 42–East elevation of main building and east elevation of garage, facing W
- 6 of 42–North Elevation staircase, facing S
- 7 of 42–Staircase on east elevation, facing N
- 8 of 42–Third floor, west piazza, facing S
- 9 of 42–West elevation, facing N
- 10 of 42–Main entrance north elevation
- 11 of 42–Piazza cornice and roof detail

Standard Oil Company Headquarters

Charleston, SC

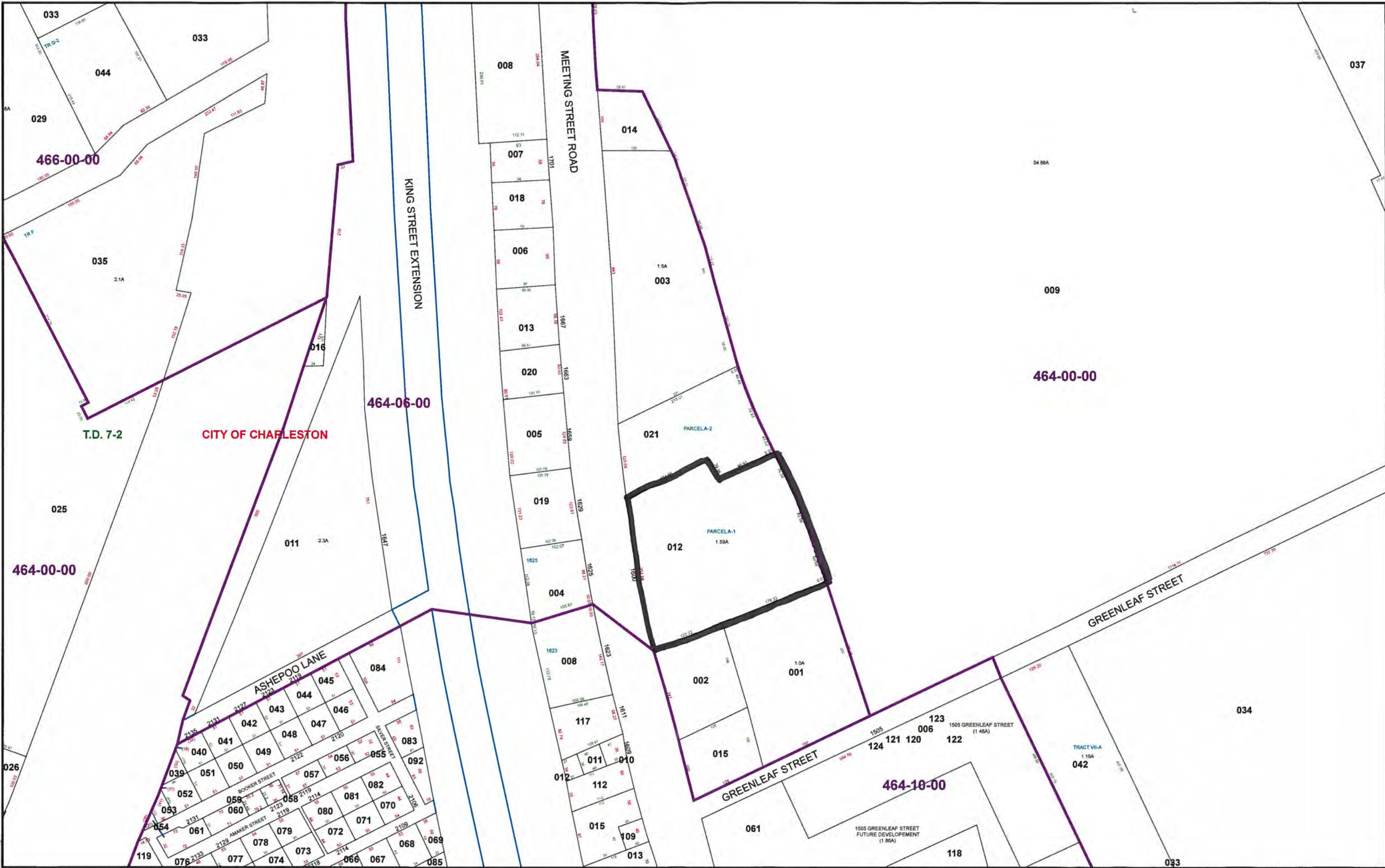
Name of Property

County and State

- 12 of 42–Piazza roof detail
- 13 of 42–East elevation detail, facing S
- 14 of 42–Detail of integrated piazza gutter system
- 15 of 42–Front piazza, ground level, facing E
- 16 of 42–West piazza, ground level, facing S
- 17 of 42–Green roof of garage building, facing E
- 18 of 42–Green roof of garage building, facing E
- 19 of 42–Green roof of garage building, facing E
- 20 of 42–Partial south and oblique west elevations of garage building, facing NE
- 21 of 42–West and north elevations of garage building, facing SE
- 22 of 42–North and oblique east elevations of garage building, facing SW
- 23 of 42–South and east elevations of garage building, facing NW
- 24 of 42–South and east elevations of laboratory and sales building, facing NW
- 25 of 42–North and east elevations of laboratory and sales building, facing SW
- 26 of 42–Partial north elevation of laboratory and sales building, facing SE
- 27 of 42–Room 306 with interior door and transom detail, facing SW
- 28 of 42–Room 309, facing NW
- 29 of 42–Interior stairway with exposed terra cotta tile
- 30 of 42–Exposed terra cotta tile next to grey-colored Xylene Epoxy coating
- 31 of 42–Detail of Xylene Epoxy coating covering original terra cotta tile floor
- 32 of 42–Bannister detail of main interior stairway
- 33 of 42–Interior detail of main entrance and lobby
- 34 of 42–Main lobby, facing S
- 35 of 42–Interior ceiling and beam detail
- 36 of 42–Interior door and transom
- 37 of 42–Room 109, facing NW
- 38 of 42–Room 12, garage building, facing SE
- 39 of 42–Room 6, laboratory and sales building, facing NE
- 40 of 42–Original blueprints of west elevation
- 41 of 42–Detail and signature of west elevation blueprints
- 42 of 42–South Elevation, facing N

**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.460 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.



033

033

044

029

466-00-00

035

2.1A

016

464-06-00

CITY OF CHARLESTON

T.D. 7-2

025

464-00-00

011

2.3A

ASHEPO LANE

084

026

119

076

077

074

073

066

067

085

008

007

018

006

013

020

005

019

004

008

117

012

015

109

013

MEETING STREET ROAD

014

1.5A

003

021

PARCELA-2

012

1.59A

002

1.0A

001

015

GREENLEAF STREET

464-10-00

124

121

120

123

006

1505 GREENLEAF STREET (1.46A)

122

1505 GREENLEAF STREET (1.16A)

1505 GREENLEAF STREET FUTURE DEVELOPMENT (1.86A)

118

54 88A

009

464-00-00

GREENLEAF STREET

034

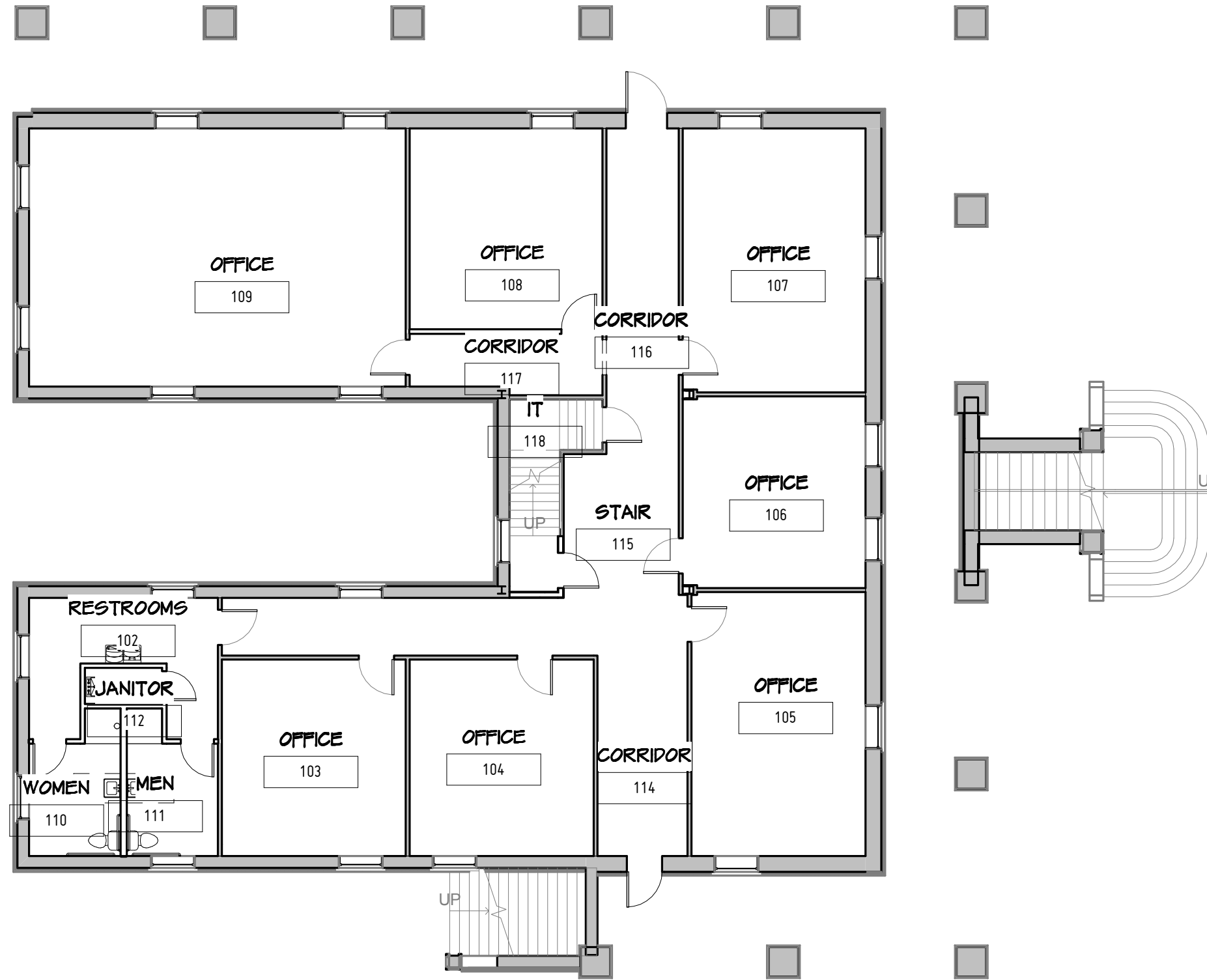
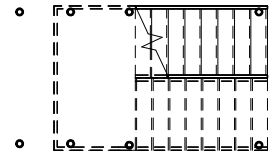
TRACT VII-A

1.16A

042

033

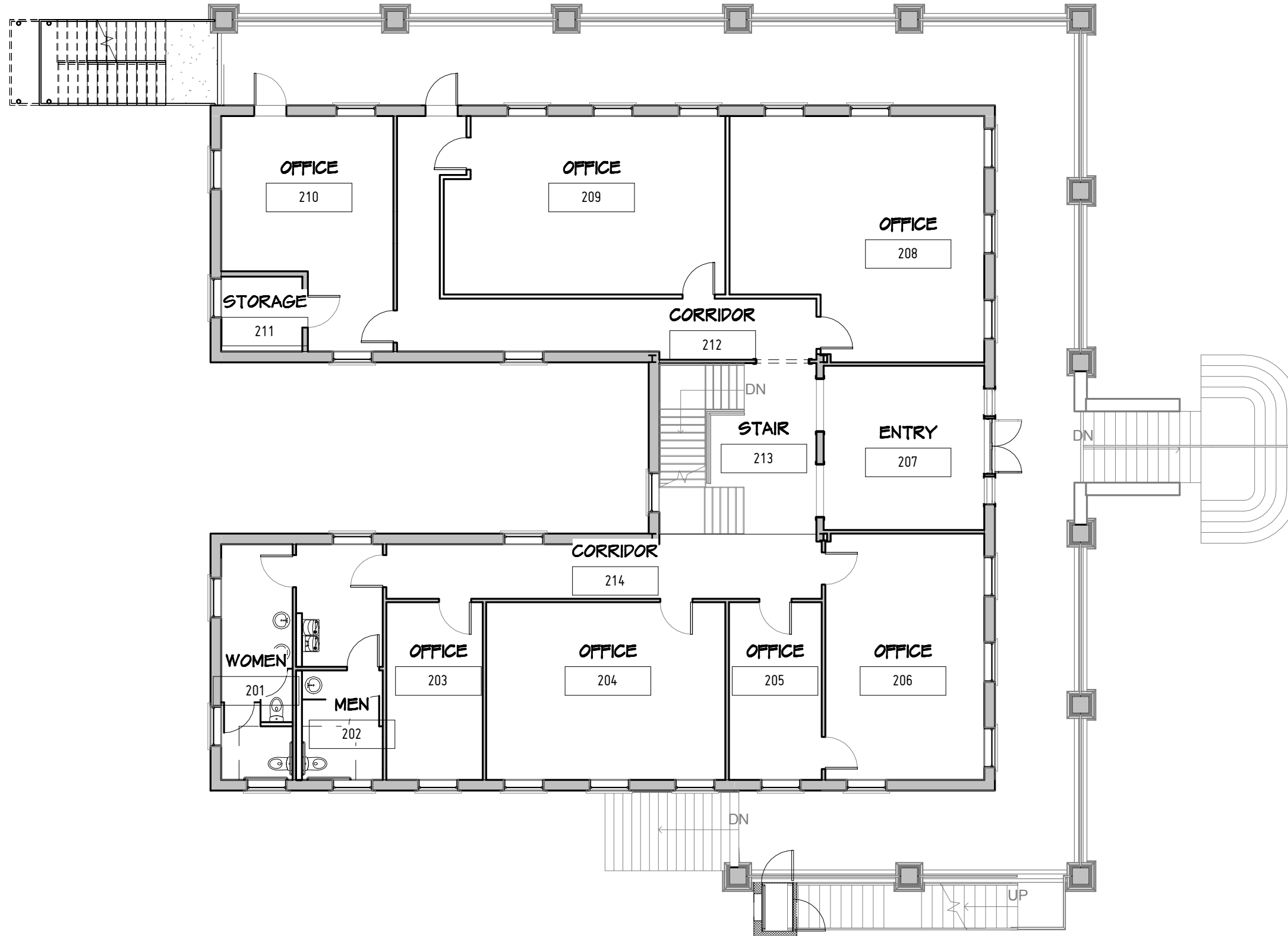
037



## First Floor Plan - Photo Locations

3/32" = 1'-0"

Building 1  
1600 Meeting Street



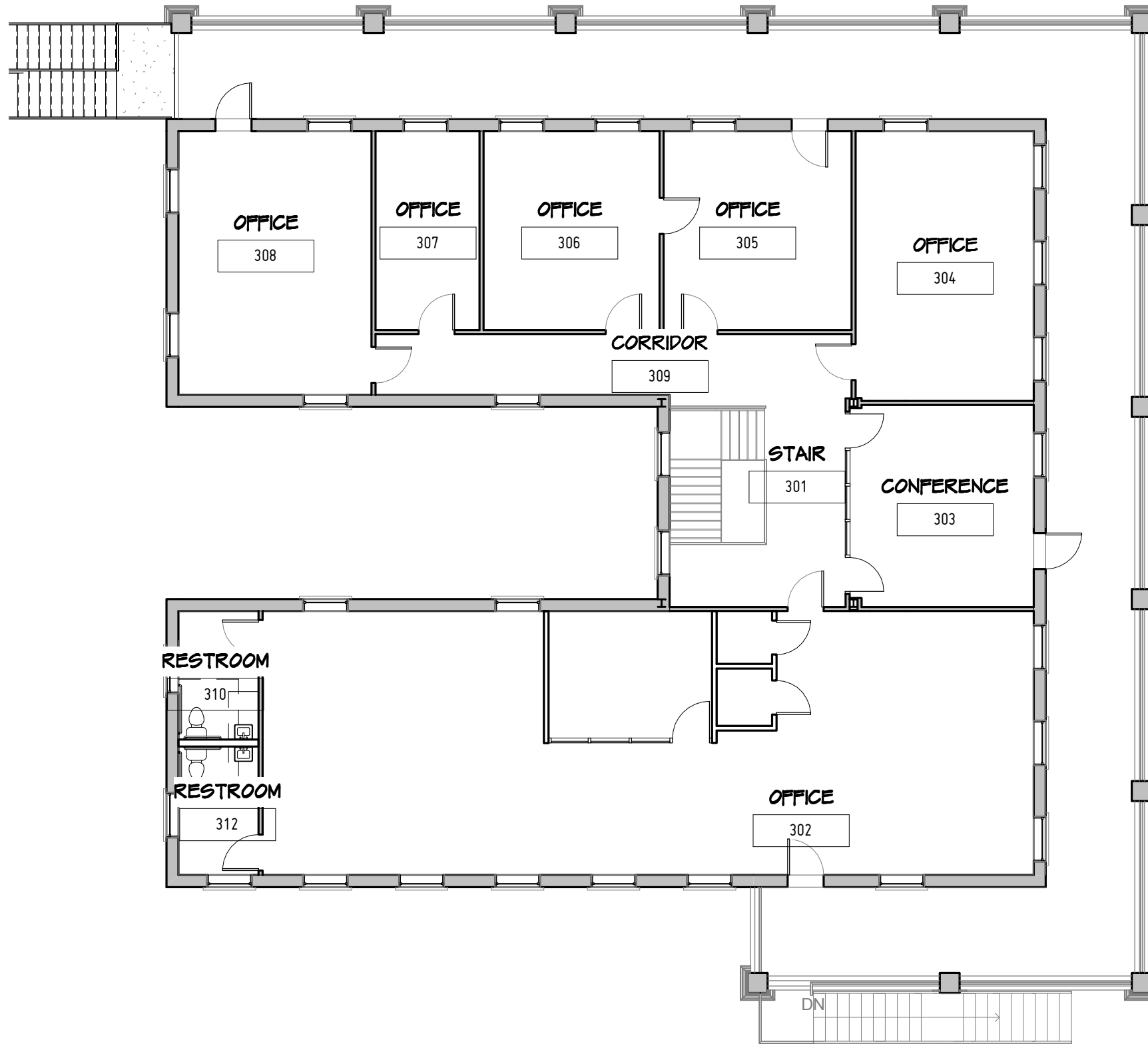
## Second Floor Plan - Photo Locations

3/32" = 1'-0"

Building 1  
1600 Meeting Street

A2

6.13.2013



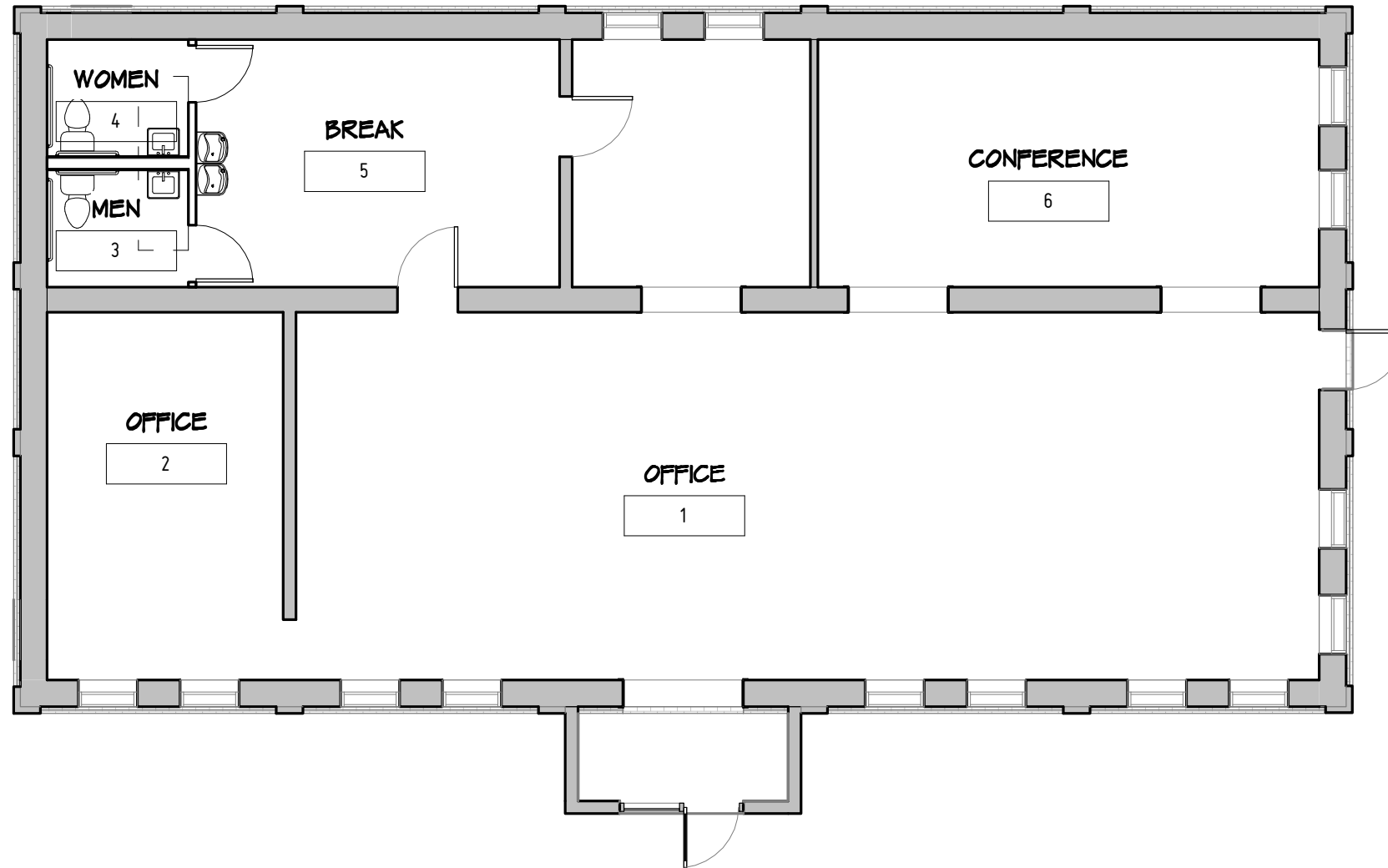
## Third Floor Plan - Photo Locations

3/32" = 1'-0"

Building 1  
1600 Meeting Street

A3

6.13.2013

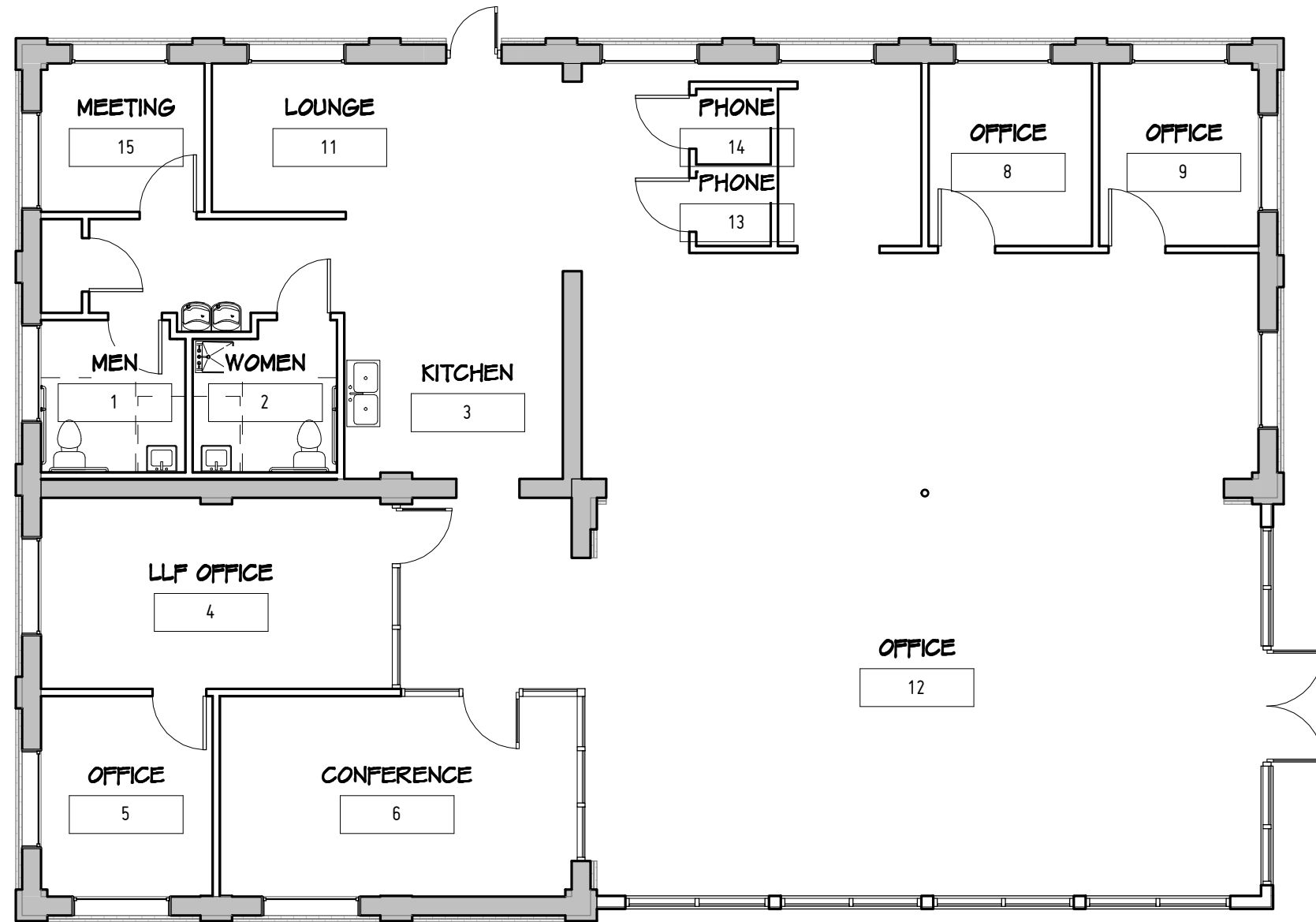


## Photo Locations

1/8" = 1'-0"

Courtney Bishop Design  
1600 Meeting Street, Building 3







Standard Oil Company Headquarters  
Latitude: 32.821645° Longitude: -79.951169°



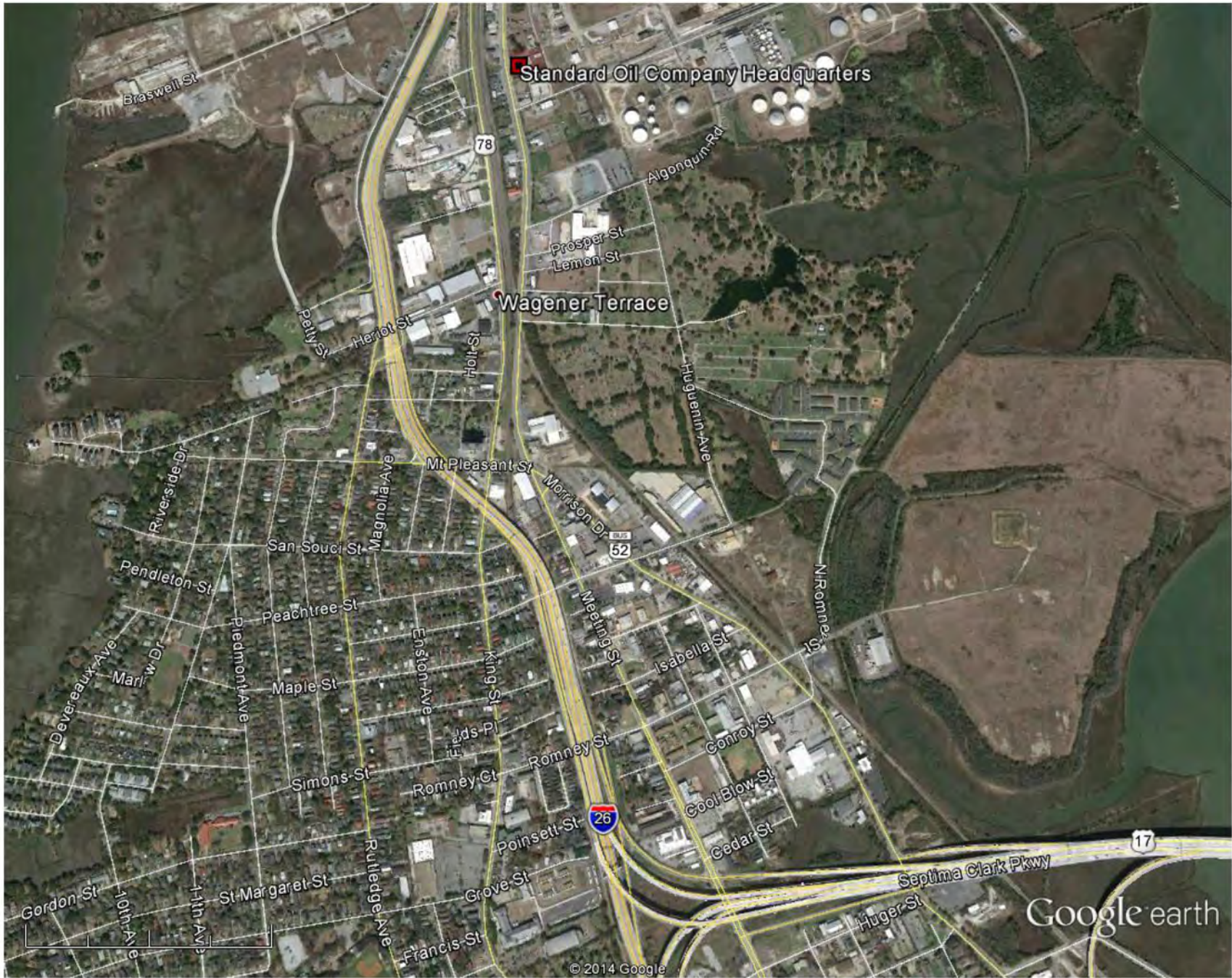


Google earth

feet  
meters







Google earth







Google earth

feet  
meters



























1630 - 1

















1630 - 1

















































1630-2

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS:  
PERIN WOODWORKING - JAMES  
LABARGE PRODUCE - FISH & POLYMER  
COMMUNITY LOAN FUND  
BULLCOTTON WOODWORKING - ARTIST  
MARTIN'S - JEWELRY - JEWELRY  
SC DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
CITY OF CHARLESTON - JEWELRY  
DAVID THOMPSON ARCHITECT  
LUXURY SUPPLIED - JEWELRY  
OFFICE SUPPLIES BY JEWELRY















A single-story white brick building with a flat roof and decorative cornice. The facade features several windows: two small square windows on the left, a central dark doorway, and two larger multi-paned windows. To the right, there is a large white garage door. A black lamppost is positioned near the corner of the building.

A black SUV is parked on an asphalt surface in front of the building. To its left, the rear portion of a silver pickup truck is visible. To the right, the front portion of a silver sedan is partially seen.

The foreground consists of a gravel area with several clumps of tall, thin grasses. A black lamppost stands on the right side of the gravel area. In the background, there are more plants, a red building, and utility poles under a clear blue sky.









EXIT











308 309

204

205

203













EXIT







1600  
ARTS & CRAFTS  
meeting

- FIRST FLOOR
- 102 LOLA AND BESS ANTIQUES
  - OPEN DOOR STUDIO
  - 103 THE ARTH STUDIO
  - 104 SILL'S STUDIO - FAITH EVANS-SILLS
  - 105 CHARLESTON MOVIES
  - 106 ELIZABETH CARLTON POTTERY
  - 108 JULIA EYHNS PHOTOGRAPHY
  - KATE THORNTON PHOTOGRAPHY
  - 109 THE ART MAG
- SECOND FLOOR
- 203 TICUBADOUS
  - 204 TICUBADOUS
  - 205 CHARLESTON WATERKEEPER
  - 206
  - 209 SOLFING CHARLESTON
  - 210 THE MIDDLETON GROUP
  - 212 ANOIE HRANOVSKY DESIGN
- THIRD FLOOR
- 302 PLVVAY
  - KATE NEVIN
  - 304 ENOUGH BE
  - 307 CONFERENCE ROOM
  - 308 NOVEL
  - 309 LEAPFEGG PR
  - BYHOUSE PR















204

205

205





non-committal  
flexibility  
freedom  
start up  
Search  
Create  
Shape  
tech  
meeting  
network  
collaboration  
opportunities  
freedom

freedom  
Spot  
office  
work  
opportunity  
vulnerability  
Sphere  
Share  
SFEER

workspace  
that works  
workspot  
workspace  
workspace  
workspace  
workspace  
workspace  
workspace













NEW OFFICE BUILDING  
 CHARLESTON, S. C. ARCHITECT  
 WEST END ARCHITECTS  
 STANDARD OIL CO.  
 GENERAL ENGINEERING DEPT.  
 CLEVELAND, O.

NO.	DATE	REVISIONS
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		
7		
8		
9		
10		
11		
12		
13		
14		
15		
16		
17		
18		
19		
20		



NEW OFFICE BUILDING

CHARLESTON S. C. REFINERY

WEST ELEVATION

STANDARD OIL CO.

(INCORPORATED IN NEW JERSEY)

GENERAL ENGINEERING DEPT.

ELIZABETH, N. J.

500-500 (S-11829)

SCALE  $\frac{3}{8}$ " = 1 FT

DATE AUG 4 - 1926

DESIGNED

DRAWING No. 16 L

DRAWN

*WENZ*

SHEET 3 OF 4

TRACED

CHECKED

DRAWER No. 186







UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Standard Oil Company Headquarters  
NAME:

MULTIPLE  
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: SOUTH CAROLINA, Charleston

DATE RECEIVED: 12/19/14 DATE OF PENDING LIST:  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: DATE OF 45TH DAY: 2/03/15  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 14001243

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N  
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N  
REQUEST: Y SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT  RETURN  REJECT 2/3/15 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

*Local level - Commerce & Architecture  
and Context development.  
1926-1964*

RECOM./CRITERIA AOC

REVIEWER [Signature]

DISCIPLINE [Signature]

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_

DATE 2/3/15

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



December 16, 2014

Ms. Carol Shull  
Interim Keeper, National Register of Historic Places  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  
1201 Eye (I) Street, NW, 8th Floor  
Washington, DC 20005



Dear Ms. Shull:

Here is the National Register nomination for the Standard Oil Company Headquarters, in Charleston County recently approved by the South Carolina State Board of Review.

We are now submitting this nomination for formal listing in the Register. The enclosed disc contains the true and correct copy of the nomination for the Standard Oil Company Headquarters to the National Register of Historic Places.

If I may be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me at the address below, call me at (803) 896-6182, fax me at (803) 896-6167, or e-mail me at [efoley@scdah.state.sc.us](mailto:efoley@scdah.state.sc.us). I hope to hear from you soon.

Sincerely,



Ehren Foley, Ph.D.  
Historian and National Register Co-Coordinator  
State Historic Preservation Office