

STATE: South Carolina	
COUNTY: Charleston	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

1. NAME

COMMON:
Robert William Roper House

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
9 East Battery

CITY OR TOWN:
Charleston

STATE: South Carolina CODE: 045 COUNTY: Charleston CODE: 019

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Richard Jenerette

STREET AND NUMBER:
9 East Battery

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

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
Charleston County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:
Courthouse Square

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

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Preliminary Survey of Historic Sites in South Carolina

DATE OF SURVEY: 1969 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
South Carolina Department of Archives and History

STREET AND NUMBER:
P. O. Box 11188

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:

COUNTY:

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The house is typical of its period in that it is built on a grandiose scale, but is more so than almost any other private dwelling in the city. The windows in front are triple sash, while others are double sash; each sash contains two panes.

The Roper house was the first to be constructed on the east Battery and its outsized colonnade was built not only to support the portico, but to be admired from across the harbor, since there was at that time nothing between it and the Ashley River. Although some consider the house brutal in size when viewed at close proximity, its monumental features fall into perspective when viewed from across the river (which was the point in mind when the house was constructed).

Although records have been destroyed, the detail of the house would point to E. B. White as its architect. White was a Charleston architect of the period who designed many buildings in the area, among them Market Hall.

The portico is giant-order Ionic pentastyle with balustrades between the columns; the flat roof, too, is balustraded and there are several wrought-iron balconies.

So solidly were the Flemish bond brickcourses laid that the house survived unscathed by the earthquake of 1886.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

3. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1838**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This house is of heroic proportions and was probably designed by Edward B. White. When the house was built, nothing stood between its monumental portico and the Ashley River. It is in many ways one of the most splendid houses of its period. (It was a general neighborhood boast that the only thing that stood between the Battery and the Canary Islands was Fort Sumter.)

The house is two stories over a basement, built of brick in Flemish bond, and has a flat, balustraded roof with an Ionic entablature. The portico is giant-order Ionic pentastyle above a ground-floor arcade of stuccoed brick. The five-columned portico is an unusual feature in Greek revival buildings in the state. Unlike most Charleston houses, the Roper house portico does not have a second-story tier to break the height of the columns. Another unusual feature in the house is that the roof of the house proper and that of the portico are incorporated into a single unit; this treatment was not generally found during this period in the state.

In the architectural survey of Charleston, a jury composed of Dr. William Murtagh, Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places, Professor Bernard Lemann, Tulane University School of Architecture, Mr. Carl Feiss and Mr. Russell Wright, consultants to the city, noted this structure as exceptional. This notation indicates that the building is of the highest architectural design quality, well-proportioned, and architecturally sophisticated. Windows, classical orders or other period designs, chimneys, verandahs, massing, materials, textures, refined detail, and craftsmanship are all elegant and innovative. The structure is to be preserved and protected in situ at all costs.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

McClure, Harlan, et al. South Carolina Architecture 1670-1970. Columbia: Tricentennial Commission, 1970.
 McKee, Henry J. (ed.). Historic American Building Survey -- South Carolina Catalog. Washington: H. A. B. S. Commission, 1972.
 Simons, Albert, and W.H.J. Thomas. An Architectural Guide to Charleston, South Carolina: 1700-1900 (unpublished manuscript). Charleston: Historic Charleston Foundation, 1972

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES								
CORNER	LATITUDE				LONGITUDE			LATITUDE			LONGITUDE		
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"	
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"	
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"	
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: _____

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Tray Stephenson & Bernard Kears (Historic Preservation Division)

ORGANIZATION: South Carolina Department of Archives and History DATE: April 20, 1973

STREET AND NUMBER: P. O. Box 11188 Capitol Station

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

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name Charles E. Lee
 Charles E. Lee

Title State Liaison Officer for Historic Preservation

Date Apr. 24, 1973

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST: _____

 Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

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