

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: <b>South Carolina</b>
COUNTY: <b>Charleston</b>
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
**Governor John Rutledge House**

AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**116 Broad Street**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Charleston**

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:

STATE: **South Carolina** CODE: COUNTY: **Charleston** CODE:

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure 	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both 	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress 	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>Lawyers offices</u>

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
**Mr. Robert B. Wallace**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**116 Broad Street**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Charleston 29401**

STATE:  
**South Carolina**

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
**Register of Mesne Conveyance**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Charleston County Courthouse**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Charleston**

STATE:  
**South Carolina**

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
**Historic American Buildings Survey (1 photo)**

DATE OF SURVEY: **1940**  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
**Library of Congress, Division of Prints and Photographs**

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Washington**

STATE:  
**D.C.**

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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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The John Rutledge House is a large three-story over-elevated basement brick house with a slate-covered roof, a pair of large brick chimneys set in either side wall, and an elaborate two-story cast and wrought-iron porch on the front elevation. The first two stories were built by Rutledge in 1763 and the third floor was added by Thomas M. Gadsden in 1853. The house is about 60 feet wide and 44 feet deep. The corners of the house are marked by quoins and the windows are topped by triangular pediments on the first floor, broken pediments on the second, and segmentally arched-hood moulding on the third.

A center hall, containing the stairs near the rear, extends through the house and divides the four first floor rooms into pairs. The two front rooms are each 24 by 18 feet in size and the rear pair 20 by 18 feet. The second floor has a short center hall at the rear, which is flanked by two bedrooms, and the entire front half of the house is occupied by two large rooms, once a drawing room and library, that could be thrown together to form a large ballroom. The parquet flooring of the first and second stories is original. The marble mantels on the eight fireplaces on these two floors probably date from the mid-19th century. Partition walls have been inserted and false ceilings installed to adapt the house for use as law offices but no important structural changes have been made to the building.

The third floor contains four chambers.

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**SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian |  16th Century |  18th Century |  20th Century  
 15th Century |  17th Century |  19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1763-1800**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

John Rutledge, a Signer of the Constitution and wartime Governor of South Carolina, 1779-82, lived at 116 Broad Street from 1763 to 1800. Rutledge was one of the foremost lawyers in South Carolina. He opposed the Stamp Act and in the Stamp Act Congress of 1765 he was chairman of the committee which wrote the memorial and petition to the House of Lords. He was a member of the First and Second Continental Congresses and helped write the South Carolina constitution of 1776. Rutledge served as Governor of South Carolina from 1779 until January 29, 1782.

In 1784 he began his judicial career with election to the chancery court of the State and from 1784-1790 also sat in the State House of Representatives. He was elected to the Federal Convention of 1787 and became chairman of the committee of detail. He fought for wealth as part of the basis of representation, for assumption of the State debts, against restrictions on the slave trade, and for the election of the President by Congress, and of Congress by the State legislatures. He signed the completed Constitution and supported its ratification in South Carolina. In 1789 Washington appointed Rutledge senior Associate Justice of the U. S. Supreme Court and he held this office until February 1791, when he resigned to become Chief Justice of South Carolina. Rutledge died in Charleston on July 23, 1800, and was buried in St. Michael's Churchyard.

The John Rutledge House is a large three-story over-elevated basement brick house with a slate-covered roof, a pair of large brick chimneys set in either side wall, and an elaborate two-story cast- and wrought-iron porch on the front. Partition walls have been inserted and false ceilings installed to adapt the house for use as law offices but no important structural changes have been made to the building. The house is not open to visitors.

History

John Rutledge was born either in Charleston or nearby Christ Church parish, South Carolina, in September 1739. He studied law at the Middle Temple, London, was admitted to the English bar in February 1760, and then returned to Charleston for an immediately successful and brilliant career as one of the foremost lawyers in South Carolina. He was elected to the legislature in 1761 and served in that body until 1775. As a young lawyer he zealously opposed the Stamp Act and in the Stamp Act Congress of 1765 he was chairman

(continued)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Dictionary of American Biography, Vol. XVI, 258-260.  
 South Carolina, A Guide to the Palmetto State (American Guide Series) (New York, 1946), 206.  
 Richard Barry, Mr. Rutledge of South Carolina (New York, 1942), 73-75.  
 Allan Nevins, The American States During and After the Revolution, 1775-1789 (New York, 1927), 110, 127, 134, 137, 173-74, 370-71, 373-77, 389-393, 405, 407, 451, 575.

**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	° ' "	° ' "		32° 46' 34"	79° 56' 01"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **1/10th acre**

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:  
**Charles W. Snell, Survey Historian**

ORGANIZATION **Division of History, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation, National Park Service** DATE **1/16/73**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**1100 L Street, N.W.**

CITY OR TOWN: **Washington** STATE **D.C.** CODE

**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 \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date **4/25** \_\_\_\_\_

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John Rutledge House (Continuation Sheet)

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8. Significance (Continued) page 3

and Washington for a third army and he encouraged South Carolina militia officers, such as Andrew Pickens, Francis Marion, and Thomas Sumter, to wage detached and intermittent warfare in occupied South Carolina in order to wear down the British and to bring the discouraged Patriots back into the field.

Aided by the success of General Nathanael Greene and his Continental Army, Rutledge was able to return to South Carolina in August 1781. Rutledge now set about a skillful restoration of civil government, working to a large extent through the militia officers. He also issued an offer of pardon to those who had joined the British, on condition that they appear in 30 days for six months' militia service. Finally, on November 20, he issued a call for an election of members for a new legislature to meet in January.

As the new Assembly met, Rutledge, on January 29, 1782, laid down his office of Governor (the State Constitution forbade him to succeed himself), and a few days later took his seat as a member of the House. He had already been elected to the Continental Congress, however, and attended from May 1782 to September 1783. In 1784 he began his judicial career with his election to the chancery court of the state, and from 1784 to 1790 also sat in the State House of Representatives.

He was elected to the Federal Convention of 1787 and became chairman of the committee of detail. He fought for wealth as part of the basis of representation, for assumption of the state debts, against restrictions on the slave trade, and for the election of the President by Congress, and of Congress by the state legislatures. He signed the completed Constitution and supported its ratification in South Carolina. In 1789 Washington appointed Rutledge senior Associate Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court and he held this office until February 1791, when he resigned to become Chief Justice of South Carolina. He resigned this latter office in 1795 when he was nominated to be Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court and he presided at the August term. On December 15, 1795, however, the U.S. Senate refused to confirm him because of political reasons.

Rutledge died in Charleston on July 23, 1800, and was buried in St. Michael's Churchyard.

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8. Significance                      History                      (Continued)                      page 2

of the committee which wrote the memorial and petition to the House of Lords. From 1774 to 1776 he was a delegate to the First and Second Continental Congresses.

He was elected to the South Carolina Committee of Safety and by January 1776 Rutledge was second in influence only to president Henry Laurens. Rutledge was one of the large committee which wrote the South Carolina constitution of 1776, and when the Provincial Congress, by its adoption of that instrument, became the General Assembly, he was elected President. The new government passed through its first tests with success. The British attack upon Charleston was repulsed in June and the Cherokee were subdued in July 1776; for more than two years the State suffered no invasion. Rutledge was reelected President in December 1776 for a regular term of two years.

Meanwhile a liberal movement in the State gained momentum, and found expression in March 1778 in a revision of the 1776 constitution which substituted a senate elected by the people for the legislative council, the creature of the House, and disestablished the Anglican Church. Profoundly distrusting democracy, Rutledge vetoed the new constitution and resigned. The new constitution was then re-enacted. When South Carolina was faced with invasion, however, in January 1779, Rutledge was elected Governor and took to the field in a desperate effort to supply Generals Benjamin Lincoln and William Moultrie. In May 1779 the British commander slipped by Lincoln in a dash to take Charleston. Governor Rutledge proposed a parley, and after a conference with the Privy Council, made an offer of neutrality. Rutledge's purposes in the affair are obscure and immediate danger of surrender passed when Lincoln came up with the Continental Army and the British retreated.

In March 1780, however, Charleston was besieged by land and sea in overwhelming force. The Assembly adjourned to meet no more for two years, after hastily granting the Governor and "Such of his council as he could conveniently consult, a power to do everything necessary for the public good, except the taking away the life of a citizen without a legal trial." In April Rutledge slipped out of the besieged city and strove to gather militia for its relief, but on May 12 Charleston surrendered. Taken prisoner were the Continental Army under Lincoln and virtually all of the military and civil leaders of South Carolina, in all 5,466 Patriots.

The destruction of a second Continental Army under the command of General Horatio Gates at Camden, South Carolina, August 16, 1780, appeared to end the War for Independence in South Carolina and Georgia. Governor Rutledge, however, refused to give up the fight and retreated to border towns in North Carolina. From here he called upon the Continental Congress

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