

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 your property or is not 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: Oconee County Courthouse

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

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

N/A

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

## 2. Location

Street & number: 211 W. Main Street

City or town: Walhalla State: SC County: Oconee

Not For Publication: ☐ Vicinity: ☐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:

   A    B x C    D

Elizabeth M. Johnson

Elizabeth M. Johnson, Deputy State Historic

Preservation Officer:

8/23/2016

Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

Oconee County Courthouse  
Name of Property

Walhalla, S.C.  
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:)

*per Edison H. Beall*  
Signature of the Keeper

*10.11.16*  
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 ☐

Oconee County Courthouse  
Name of Property

Walhalla, S.C.  
County and State

Structure

☐

Object

☐

**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing

1

Noncontributing

0

buildings

sites

structures

objects

Total

1

0

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 1

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

GOVERNMENT/courthouse

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

VACANT/NOT IN USE

---

---

---

---

---

Oconee County Courthouse  
Name of Property

Walhalla, S.C.  
County and State

---

## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

MODERN MOVEMENT

---

---

---

---

---

---

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

Principal exterior materials of the property: cast concrete, limestone, soapstone, brick,  
granite, glass

### 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 Oconee County Courthouse building at 211 W. Main Street is located at the intersection of Main and S. Church Streets in downtown Walhalla, Oconee County, South Carolina. It is a roughly rectangular, two-story building with a basement, of predominantly cast concrete construction and trimmed primarily in yellow brick. The building represents a regional interpretation of various periods within the Modern architectural movement. The cast concrete construction and yellow brick trim in keeping with the Stripped Classicism often seen in the 1930s and 1940s. It is also adorned with heavy limestone, black soapstone panels, and decorative steel panels more characteristic of the 1950s and 1960s. This interesting combination of styles and features makes the building architecturally distinctive both among South Carolina county courthouses and within the portfolio of its architects, the firm Lyles, Bissett, Carlisle, and Wolff.

Oconee County Courthouse  
Name of Property

Walhalla, S.C.  
County and State

## Narrative Description

### Exterior

#### *North elevation*

The building's north elevation is its primary façade, and overlooks West Main Street (see photo 32). It contains seven bays in total. It is clad in yellow brick laid in common bond, with heavy limestone surrounds marking the cornice and dividing the five bays. The words "Oconee County Courthouse" are carved into the

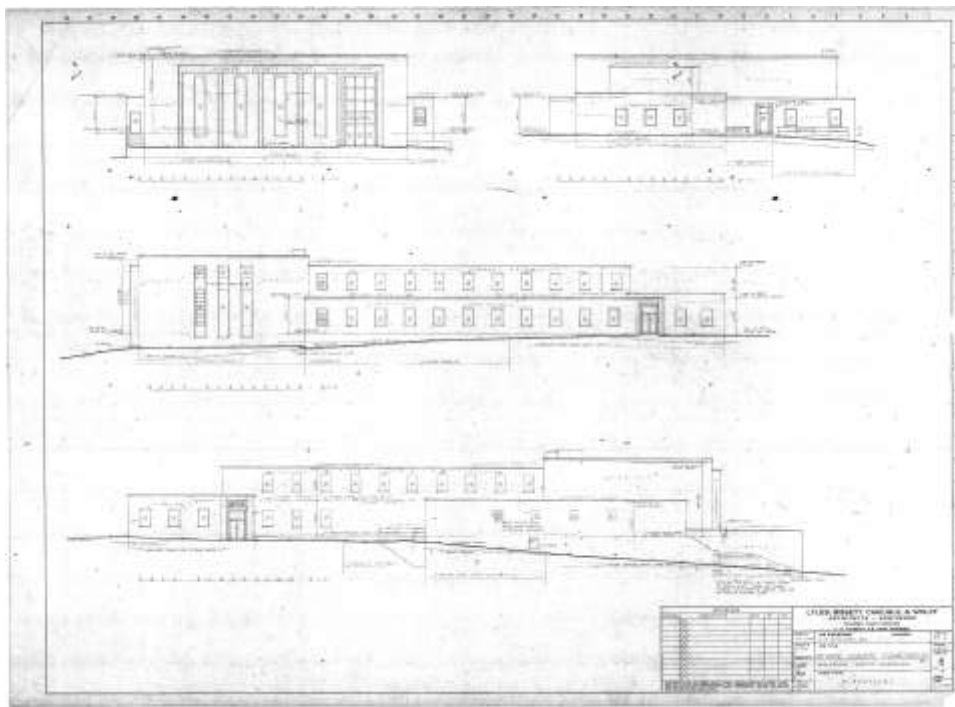


Figure 1: LBC&W's 1955 architectural drawings of Oconee County Courthouse elevations.

limestone cornice (see photo 29). The first bay (the easternmost bay) in this face of the building contains a solid aluminum fire door, with several concrete steps leading up to it. This door and the bay in which it is contained are not visible from the street, as vegetative growth obscures them. The building's main entry is in the sixth bay from the northeast corner; it is in the building's northwest corner (see photos 17, 32, 33, 34). Each of the four bays to its west contains long louvered glass windows that span the height of the building (see photos 30 & 31). Windows have aluminum sills and mullions. Mullions mark the edges of each window's twelve panes of single plate glass. Decorative black soapstone panels with aluminum panels above mark the bottom of each window in this face of the building. The seventh and final bay is recessed from the vertical plane; it stands along the building's west elevation. A recessed granite base is just visible beneath the limestone trim only on this elevation.

Three columns of long glass windows and doors compose the building's main entrance (see photo 17, 32, 33, 34). Doors are single hung, plate glass with aluminum casing. Decorative aluminum adorns the glass doors: thin lines form concentric rectangles with four-point stars at the center. Glass windows stretch from the doors' lintels to the limestone cornice high above. Decorative aluminum panels over black soapstone panels divide the large glass expanse into twelve sections. Design of the aluminum panels matches those in the windows in the four bays to the immediate west.

Oconee County Courthouse

Walhalla, S.C.

Name of Property

County and State

Elements of the long staircase from street level provides visual transition from the sidewalk to the building's face (see photo 17). Heavy concrete forms cheek walls on either side of the stairs; thin steel rails subdivide the stairs in the center.

### *West elevation*

The building's west elevation is more complex than the south elevation (see photo 3). The first floor contains seventeen bays in total. The second floor contains only thirteen bays. The whole west elevation is clad in yellow common bond brick, with a thin limestone cornice.

The northernmost three bays (at the building's northwest corner) contain windows similar to those in the north elevation. Division between the first and second levels is demarcated by the same decorative soapstone and aluminum panels that stand in the base of each window of the north elevation. The second level contains windows with three louvered panes atop a decorative panel. First floor windows are similar in layout, with nine louvered panes atop a decorative panel. This pattern repeats in all three bays. An aluminum awning marks an unassuming glass door in the first floor between the first and second bays (see photo 36). This entry to the building contains a single plate glass door with aluminum casing. Long vertical panes of single plate glass form a subtle surround.

Beyond the third bay, the building's east elevation breaks the vertical plane established by the northernmost three bays: the second level is stepped back, while the first level is stepped forward, revealing a corner and vertical edge of the building. From this edge of the building, the next 10 bays of the first and second levels are nearly identical: each contains a simple louvered window of four horizontal glass panels. First level windows have limestone sills and surrounds, whereas the second level windows have tilted brick sills. Both the first and second levels contain a limestone cornice. The eleventh bay of the second level is stepped back even further, and contains an unadorned metal window that matches the others in the west elevation. The eleventh bay of the first level contains another window identical to those in the first ten bays. The twelfth bay contains an entry to the building's southwest corner (see photo 21). Like the other west elevation entrance to the north, this entry contains a single hung, plate glass door with aluminum sills and glass surround. It also has decorative aluminum elements in a transom above and, like the main entry in the north elevation, heavy limestone surround.

The vertical plane of the west elevation is again broken by the thirteenth and fourteenth bays, revealing another corner and edge of the building just beyond the entry. The thirteenth and fourteenth bays are stepped back between the edge of the first level and the edge of the second level. These two bays contain louvered windows identical to those in the first eleven bays.

### *South elevation*

The south elevation contains three bays, each containing windows identical to those in the first level of the west elevation (see photo 19). The cornice of the second level is visible from the sidewalk.

Oconee County Courthouse  
Name of Property

Walhalla, S.C.  
County and State

### *East elevation*

The building's east elevation presents a varied and complex face. As on the west elevation, the first four bays (from the far southeast corner) are stepped forward from the vertical plane of the next ten bays. The first four bays contain three windows identical to those in the south and west elevations (see photo 20). The fourth bay contains another entry: heavy limestone entablature and surround mark the edges of the double glass doors with aluminum casing and aluminum paneling (see photos 27 & 28). A transom similar to that in the southwest entryway (on the building's west elevation) adorns the top of the double glass doors. Decorative aluminum paneling on the doors matches that of the building's main entry in the north elevation.

The next ten bays are contained variably in the building's first and second levels (see photo 42). Beyond the edge and corner of the southeast entry (just described above), the first level contains three bays with windows identical to those in the second level of the west elevation. Windows in the second level match and align vertically in these three bays. But the second level contains an additional seven bays with identical windows beyond the third bay of the first level.

Beyond the second level's sixth bay, the first level of the building is stepped forward once again (see photo 42). The south elevation of this single-story segment of the building includes three bays. A simple single door entry with limestone surround pierces the first bay. Louvered windows identical to those in the building's north elevation pierce the final two bays. A low metal railing beneath these two windows marks windows in the basement level below. A cement staircase provides access to the basement in the corner where this segment of the building meets the rest of the building in the second level's sixth bay (see photo 41).

This protruding segment of the building contains the next four bays, each containing a single window of single plate glass, aluminum casing, and brick sills. The east elevation of this segment is otherwise unornamented (see photo 38).

The building's far northeast corner is stepped back from the segment of the building to its immediate southeast, returning the east elevation to its original vertical plane (see photo #). This area of the east elevation maintains an unbroken vertical plane and contains no apertures.

### Interior

Main entry to the building is via the three glass doors in the northwest corner of the building along the north elevation. This entry leads into a lobby area and a set of interior terrazzo stairs leading south to an additional lobby space (see photo 14). All main corridors throughout the building have terrazzo floors and marble wainscoting.

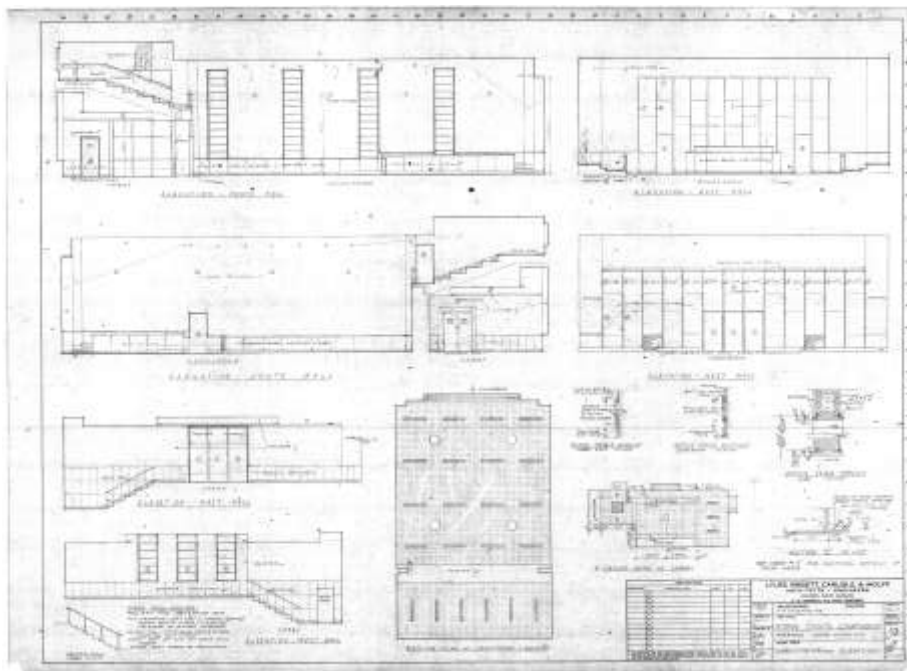
Open space at the top of these stairs serves as a lobby to the courtroom (see photo 4). The dropped ceiling in this area is badly damaged in places (see photo 9). Marble wainscoting wraps around all walls in this lobby area. Walnut triple doors, all hung on the same side, to the east provide entry to the courtroom (see photos 8 & 11).

Oconee County Courthouse

Name of Property

Walhalla, S.C.

County and State



**Figure 2: LBC&W's 1955 architectural drawings for the Oconee County Courthouse lobby and courtroom.**

The courtroom is a square space. Walls are painted white and green with walnut and walnut veneer fittings. The judge bench, the wall behind it, audience benches, and the low wall separating courtroom proceedings from audience area are walnut (see photo 7). The drop ceiling includes recessed lighting. Decorative wall sconces provide additional lighting on either side of the judge's bench (see photo 2).

Long staircases to the east and south of the courtroom lobby provide access to the building's second level (see photos 10, 15, 16). The stairs are carved terrazzo, railings are aluminum, and marble wainscoting adorns the outside wall.

Beyond the courtroom, the interior of the first, second, and basement levels contain smaller rooms once used as offices. Corridors to these rooms are carpeted and have walnut veneer wainscoting (see photos 15 & 16). Water damage in these areas of the building has produced extensive damage to the walls, floors, and ceilings.



Oconee County Courthouse  
Name of Property

Walhalla, S.C.  
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

Oconee County Courthouse  
Name of Property

Walhalla, S.C.  
County and State

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

ARCHITECTURE

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Period of Significance**

1956

---

---

**Significant Dates**

1956

---

---

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

---

---

---

**Cultural Affiliation**

---

---

---

**Architect/Builder**

LYLES, BISSETT, CARLISLE & WOLFF

---

---

Oconee County Courthouse  
Name of Property

Walhalla, S.C.  
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 Oconee County Courthouse at 211 W. Main Street in Walhalla, Oconee County, South Carolina is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places at the local level of significance under Criterion C for Architecture. Constructed in 1956, the Oconee County Courthouse is an interesting and eclectic mix of periods within the Modern movement: steel enamel paneling, heavy limestone cornices and sills, and large glass paneling add characteristically midcentury ornament to a body otherwise reminiscent of the Stripped Classicism that is typically seen in buildings built several decades earlier. This mixing of styles makes the Oconee County Courthouse stand out among South Carolina's civic structures and within the portfolio of its designers, the regionally significant architectural firm Lyles, Bissett, Carlisle & Wolff. The building's architecture embodies Oconee County's desire to invoke the permanence and authority associated with Stripped Classicism, while simultaneously suggesting the promise and modernity of the county's postwar economic prosperity. In complementing the older, more traditional Stripped Classicism with modern details, Oconee County communicated its dual desires to establish a civic architecture with the gravitas of established style while also adapting to the heady period in its economic growth. Though it defies easy categorization, the architecture of the Oconee County Courthouse reflects contemporary local attitudes in Oconee County at mid-century.<sup>1</sup>

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

Design of Oconee's 1956 courthouse was intended primarily to address a perennial overcrowding issue, but it also brought the county's civic architecture more in line with contemporary trends at the national and state level. Like many areas throughout the United States, Oconee County experienced a wave of economic prosperity in the years following World War II and, like so many of these areas, population growth in Oconee County necessitated the construction of new civic structures. Results of a June 1954 countywide referendum documented widespread support for construction of a new courthouse to ease overcrowding in the existing 1869 building. The Courthouse Building Committee affirmed that, "a new courthouse would probably be the most important building of a county-wide nature constructed in a number of

---

<sup>1</sup> Emerson, Eric and Johnson, Elizabeth M., "Why Are We Looking at That? Mid-Century and Modern Architecture in South Carolina" (South Carolina State Historic Preservation Office), accessed February 20, 2016, [shpo.sc.gov/research/Documents/WhyThat.pdf](http://shpo.sc.gov/research/Documents/WhyThat.pdf); Colquhoun, Alan, *Modern Architecture*, Oxford History of Art (Oxford University Press, 2002); McClure, Harlan and Hodges, Vernon, *South Carolina Architecture 1670 - 1970* (South Carolina Tricentennial Commission, 1970); Lyles, Bissett, Carlisle, & Wolff, *Specification Books for Lyles, Bissett, Carlisle & Wolff*, n.d.

Oconee County Courthouse

Walhalla, S.C.

Name of Property

County and State

years.”<sup>2</sup> (See continuation sheets for additional detail about Oconee County and Walhalla, South Carolina).

The design submitted by architectural firm Lyles, Bissett, Carlisle & Wolff, who were beginning to building a significant regional portfolio, especially in the area of civic architecture, was selected for construction of the new courthouse. LBC&W’s design was a decided departure from the county’s 1869 courthouse, which was still standing on Walhalla’s historic public square in 1954. This earlier courthouse was a two-story brick building with public offices on either side of a central passage. It was designed with the dimensions and character of the existing Pickens County Courthouse in mind (see Figure 1). Though the earlier Oconee County courthouse was demolished to make way for the construction of the 1956 courthouse, its association with the Pickens County courthouse suggests the original Oconee County courthouse was also a Colonial Revival style structure with symmetrical windows on either side of a central porch. Like the Pickens County Courthouse of 1868, the 1869 Oconee County courthouse likely contained five bays in its primary façade, with evenly spaced sash windows and heavy lintels. It likely contained a central two-story porch with entry through wide double doors with glass surrounds. Brick columns likely supported a restrained cornice and entablature over the porch and long central staircase. This earlier courthouse likely had a side gable roof. Thus Oconee’s 1869 courthouse would have been quite visually distinctive from LBC&W’s design for the 1956 courthouse.<sup>3</sup>

By contrast, the new courthouse eschewed the symmetry and monumentality of the late 19<sup>th</sup> century and instead incorporated hallmark elements of the 20<sup>th</sup> century’s Modern movement. The building’s relative colorlessness and carved entablature recalls the Stripped Classical style of the 1930s and 1940s. But LB&W’s design also included plans for elements more common of midcentury architecture: exposed concrete structural frame with uniform appearance on all faces of the building; smooth machine finish, light buff color, select grade limestone for window surrounds on all faces of the building; brick trim on the secondary faces of the building; large expanses of glass windows spanning the building’s height; black soapstone panels to accentuate those windows; and decorative steel enamel grilles. Interior features included an asymmetrical floor plan, marble wainscoting, and walnut paneling in the courtroom. LBC&W described its design as, “both a courthouse and an up-to-date office building – with an emphasis on economy and housing the county’s working needs so that functions of a modern and progressive community can be carried on efficiently.”<sup>4</sup> The new courthouse was designed to embody both the authority of a traditional courthouse and the efficiency of a modern office building. LBC&W’s vision updated the traditional weight of the courthouse building with the midcentury

<sup>2</sup> “Voters Render OK for Court House,” *Keowee Courier*, June 9, 1954; “Architects Selected for New Court House,” *Keowee Courier*, September 22, 1954.

<sup>3</sup> “Architects Selected for New Court House”; “Committee on Court House Is Selected,” *Keowee Courier*, July 7, 1954; “Division of Pickens,” *Keowee Courier*, February 8, 1868; “Proceedings of Public Meeting Held in Walhalla on the 18th Inst.,” *Keowee Courier*, February 28, 1868.

<sup>4</sup> “Courthouse Project Is Now Halfway,” *Keowee Courier*, March 14, 1956.

Oconee County Courthouse

Walhalla, S.C.

Name of Property

County and State

elements that communicated the Modern movement's admiration for the machine and the midcentury ethos of progressive community.<sup>5</sup>

Oconee's new courthouse differed not only from the county's own 1869 building, but also from its peers in other counties throughout South Carolina. Several of these are already listed in the National Register of Historic Places, and all but the Spartanburg County Courthouse predate Oconee's 1956 courthouse. Other listed South Carolina county courthouses are thus representative of very different styles. Constructed in 1878, Hampton County's historic courthouse (see Figure 2) is Victorian Italianate: its distinctive architectural features include its construction in common bond brick, and its hip roof with four triangular pediments. Rounded second level windows also make it visually distinctive. Allendale County (c. 1922; see Figure 3) and Calhoun County (c. 1913), Dillon County (1911), Jasper County (1915), Lancaster County (1828), and Lee County (1908) were constructed in the Classical Revival style characterized by massive columns, front facing pediments, symmetrical and formal window arrangements, and pilasters or sidelights on either side of the front door. Collection County (1820; see Figure 4)) and Laurens County (1838) courthouses are Greek Revival buildings containing that style's hallmark stone-like stucco, columns, curved stairways, heavy porticos, and massive entablatures. Greenville County (1911; see Figure 5) and Sumter County (1907) both have Beaux Arts-style courthouses, identifiable by their sculptural decoration, slightly overscaled details, deep cornices, low-pitched roofs, and raised first stories. By contrast, Lexington County's 1939 Federal Revival style courthouse (see Figure 6) is characterized by its plain surfaces, monumental central pavilion, and isolated details.<sup>6</sup>

Spartanburg County's 1956 courthouse (see Figure 7) is perhaps Oconee County Courthouse's only peer: deemed the "first major contemporary court facility in the State," the Spartanburg County Courthouse also includes many architectural elements characteristic of midcentury Modernism in civic buildings. But whereas the Oconee County Courthouse is a mélange of two identifiable periods in the Modern movement, the Spartanburg courthouse is more readily aligned with the International style. Common characteristics of the International style include rectilinear forms, light and taut plane surfaces, little to no ornamentation or decoration, open interior spaces, and a sort of weightless visual quality produced by cantilever construction. The Spartanburg County Courthouse's external light brick, punctuated by spandrel panels of white marble with aluminum sash and mullions, lack of ornamentation, and use of glass and steel make it an archetype of the International style.<sup>7</sup>

<sup>5</sup> Whiffen, Marcus, *American Architecture Since 1780: A Guide to the Styles* (Cambridge, Massachusetts: MIT Press, 1993); Robinson, Judith H. and Foell, Stephanie, *Growth, Efficiency, and Modernism: GSA Buildings of the 1950s, 60s, and 70s* (Washington, DC: U.S. General Services Administration, Office of the Chief Architect, Center for Historic Buildings, 2003); Lois Craig, *The Federal Presence: Architecture, Politics, and Symbols in the United States Government Building* (Cambridge, Massachusetts: MIT Press, 1978).

<sup>6</sup> See individual listings in the National Register of Historic Places online.

<sup>7</sup> McClure, Harlan and Hodges, Vernon, *South Carolina Architecture 1670 - 1970*, 106; "International Style," *Encyclopedia Britannica*, 2005; Panayotis Tournikiotis, *The Historiography of Modern Architecture* (Cambridge, Massachusetts: MIT Press, 1999).

Oconee County Courthouse

Walhalla, S.C.

Name of Property

County and State

While the 1956 Oconee County Courthouse also includes an asymmetrical façade, interior detailing, and tempered ornamentation aligned with the midcentury modern design ethos of the 1950s and 1960s, its incorporation of elements more reminiscent of Stripped Classicism set it apart from Spartanburg's building. In some ways it aligns with landmark buildings of the 1920s and 1930s Stripped Classicism: its colonnade-esque façade, monumentality, engraved cornice, detailing around the east entry, and use of traditional materials recall the Folger Shakespeare Library in Washington, D.C. One contemporary commentator described the 1956 Oconee County Courthouse as a "little Pentagon" because of the imposing nature of its size, passageways, and offices from both the interior and exterior.<sup>8</sup> Other elements of the Oconee County Courthouse make this comparison with the 1943 Pentagon building particularly apt: both buildings make use of terrazzo floors and marble wainscoting.

The Oconee County Courthouse is architecturally distinctive even within LBC&W's portfolio. Renowned for their designs in the Midcentury Modern style, LBC&W's design for the 1956 Oconee County Courthouse differs substantially from other buildings that the firm designed in the same period, including the 1949 Cornell Arms apartment building (see Figure 8) and the 1959 Thomas Cooper Library at the University of South Carolina (see Figure 9), both in Columbia. The Modernist Cornell Arms apartment building is a cruciform high-rise tower with horizontal corner windows more in keeping with the Moderne style than is the Oconee County Courthouse. Its great height enabled LBC&W to address one of the Modern movement's social concerns: housing large numbers of people efficiently to reduce congestion within cities. The University of South Carolina's 1959 Thomas Cooper Library featured large expanses of glass its façade, with light, unornamented columns supporting a thin, flat roof above.<sup>9</sup> Though both designed by LBC&W in the same period as the Oconee County Courthouse, neither of these buildings is visually similar to it.

Instead, the 1956 Oconee County Courthouse stands out as an unusual example of LBC&W's clever application of eclectic architectural elements in a way that simultaneously looked both backward and forward in time. The result is a distinctive example of midcentury architecture in within the context of government buildings in the South Carolina upstate. The Oconee County Courthouse is an important visual representation of Oconee County's midcentury economic and political growth, and its evolving relationship to the outside world.

---

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

#### *Design and construction history*

The courthouse building at 211 W. Main Street in Walhalla is not Oconee County's original courthouse, though it does occupy the same plot. Oconee County's first courthouse was constructed in 1869, shortly after South Carolina established the county. Walhalla has been the

---

<sup>8</sup> "Courthouse Comes to Life As Officials Finally Move," *Keowee Courier*, November 14, 1956.

<sup>9</sup> Janie Campbell et al., "Lyles, Bissett, Carlisle, and Wolff: A Case Study for Researching and Preserving Mid-Century Modern Architecture" (University of South Carolina, April 2015); "Lyles, Bissett, Carlisle, and Wolff: Building Modern Columbia" (Columbia, SC: University of South Carolina, 2015).

Oconee County Courthouse

Walhalla, S.C.

Name of Property

County and State

county seat since the time of the county's formation. Oconee County's founding residents first considered construction of public buildings in the vicinity of Walhalla in February of 1868. Citizens in the area raised between \$1,200 and \$1,500 via subscription for the construction of local public buildings.<sup>10</sup> By May of the same year Oconee County Commissioners had selected Walhalla's Public Square as the site for the new public buildings, with construction to be funded by Walhalla's citizens' private subscription.<sup>11</sup> Plans to add a courthouse to the local landscape initially called for the removal of the existing Pickens Courthouse to the new site in Walhalla. This plan was eventually abandoned in favor of building an entirely new edifice.<sup>12</sup>

County commissioners announced a call for contractors' proposals in September 1868, and described the design of the future building in May of 1869. The *Keowee Courier* announced that the new courthouse building would be two stories high with dimensions similar to the existing Pickens Courthouse. The floor plan would also be similar to that of the existing courthouse: a passage would run lengthwise in the lower story with three public offices opening on one side and four opening on the other. That announcement also included a description of the new jailhouse, to be construction of wood. Both buildings were to be complete by March 1, 1870. The courtroom was to be temporarily made ready for the November term of the Oconee County court. Mr. Reid and Mr. Wilson were announced as the contractors hired for construction of the two buildings, for a grand sum of \$8,000. Reid and Wilson had previously completed the Pickens public buildings.<sup>13</sup>

Contractors broke ground for the new courthouse and jail in Walhalla's public square by August 13, 1869. The *Keowee Courier* reported that lumber had already arrived on site for construction of the jail, and 150,000 molded bricks had arrived for construction of the courthouse. The latter was intended to be a two-story masonry building measuring sixty by forty feet.<sup>14</sup> Oconee County circuit court sessions were held in Walhalla as early as November 1868.<sup>15</sup> Court sessions were held in rooms of Walhalla's local college building until completion of the new courthouse building.<sup>16</sup>

By 1901 county commissioners were accepting contractors' bids to remodel Walhalla's 1869 courthouse and jail. Queen & Garrison won the contract for brick and woodwork for a total of \$2,725.00, while C.H. Mayhew won the contract for cement work at \$1,775.00.<sup>17</sup> The 1869 courthouse's size long posed a problem for courthouse users: it was not large enough to meet the demands of its tenants and visitors. Remodeling hoped to provide additional space for large gatherings.<sup>18</sup>

<sup>10</sup> "Proceedings of Public Meeting Held in Walhalla on the 18th Inst.," *Keowee Courier*, February 28, 1868.

<sup>11</sup> "Oconee Court House," *Keowee Courier*, May 29, 1868.

<sup>12</sup> "Public Buildings," *Keowee Courier*, May 21, 1869.

<sup>13</sup> "To Contractors," *Keowee Courier*, September 11, 1868.

<sup>14</sup> "Public Buildings" August 13, 1869.

<sup>15</sup> "Circuit Courts," *Keowee Courier*, August 28, 1868.

<sup>16</sup> *Keowee Courier*, March 5, 1869, 18.

<sup>17</sup> *Keowee Courier*, August 1901.

<sup>18</sup> "The Kicker Column," *Keowee Courier*, March 13, 1901.

Oconee County Courthouse

Name of Property

Walhalla, S.C.

County and State

Even after remodeling of the original 1869 courthouse, space continued to pose an issue for Oconee County's citizens. Oconee county voters demonstrated their support for construction of a new courthouse building via referendum in June 1954.<sup>19</sup> A building committee of local citizens was appointed in July of the same year. Senator J. Pat Miley charged the committee with study of needs and requirements for the new building.<sup>20</sup> Lyles, Bissett, Carlisle, & Wolff (hereafter LBC&W) of Columbia, one of South Carolina's preeminent architectural firms of the mid-twentieth century, won the bid for the courthouse contract in September of 1954. In its announcement in the local newspaper, the Courthouse Building Committee noted that, "a new courthouse would probably be the most important building of a county-wide nature constructed in a number of years[.]"<sup>21</sup>

One wing of the new courthouse building was to be constructed between the existing (1869) courthouse and the north edge of the plot abutting Main Street. This would provide office space for county employees working out of the old courthouse until the rest of the new courthouse was completed.<sup>22</sup>

Plans for the building's design were announced in the *Keowee Courier* of February 1955, along with a drawing by LBC&W. The building was to contain two floors, clad in limestone and brick, and to be fully air-conditioned. The first floor would contain offices for the county's treasurer, auditor, tax collector, judge of probate, clerk of court, comptroller, commissioners, sheriff, service officer, probation officer, judge's chamber, two jury rooms, lawyer's conference room, solicitor's office, and a prisoner holding room. The second floor was designed to include the South Carolina sales tax office, registration board, magistrate, conference room, grand jury room, and courtroom. The courtroom was to seat 500 people and maximize acoustics.<sup>23</sup>

LBC&W published specifications for the new Oconee County Courthouse building in Walhalla in June 1955. Along with their drawings (see Figures 1 - 5), these specifications determined that all concrete structural frame should be left exposed, and that Portland Cement ATSM Specification C-150, Type I or Type III should be used. It was important to the firm that only one brand of cement be employed: in keeping with the tenets of Midcentury Modern then in vogue, the building's exterior should present a uniform appearance on all faces. LBC&W allotted \$75,000 for face brick, which the firm was to personally select for quality. The firm also specified the use of smooth machine finish, light buff color, select grade limestone sourced from the Indiana Limestone Institute in Bedford Indiana; Gray-White No. 6 granite as produced by the Davison Granite Company, Inc. in Lithonia, Georgia; and Alberene Black Serpentine soapstone from the Aberline Stone Corporation, New York. Windows were to be heavy-intermediate projected steel windows as manufactured by the Truscon Steel Division, Republic Steel Corporation. Doors, sills, sashes, and grilles were to be made of extruded aluminum bars.<sup>24</sup>

<sup>19</sup> "Voters Render OK for Court House," *Keowee Courier*, June 9, 1954.

<sup>20</sup> "Committee on Court House Is Selected," *Keowee Courier*, July 7, 1954.

<sup>21</sup> "Architects Selected for New Court House," *Keowee Courier*, September 22, 1954.

<sup>22</sup> Ibid.

<sup>23</sup> "Plans Are Announced for New Courthouse," *Keowee Courier*, February 23, 1955.

<sup>24</sup> Lyles, Bissett, Carlisle, & Wolff, *Specification Books for Lyles, Bissett, Carlisle & Wolff*.



Oconee County Courthouse

Walhalla, S.C.

Name of Property

County and State

LBC&W described its design as, “both a courthouse and an up-to-date office building – with an emphasis on economy and housing the county’s working needs so that functions of a modern and progressive community can be carried on efficiently.”<sup>25</sup>

Gilbert Construction Company of Augusta, Georgia won the bid for construction of the new courthouse, setting its price at \$403,000. Announcements of Gilbert’s win in July 1955 included prediction that the new building would be completed on or before July 1956. Of note in Gilbert’s bid was its substitution of marble where LBC&W’s plans called for plaster – Gilbert explained that marble would afford the walls greater protection and would ease cleaning and maintenance for years to come.<sup>26</sup>

Orders for the courthouse’s furniture went to several suppliers throughout the state, totaling \$17,082.40. J.G. Brightwell of Greenville supplied \$10,990.84 worth of new furnishings; R.L. Bryan of Columbia supplied \$3,731.74 worth; Harper Brothers of Greenville \$662.29; Oconee Office Supply \$1,342.16; and Columbia Office Supply \$355.37.<sup>27</sup> Wall lighting cost the county \$2,300.<sup>28</sup> The heavy aluminum double doors at the building’s main entry proved to be the biggest challenge to the building’s completion: trouble with production at the home factory and transportation to the building site delayed the doors’ installation until several months after county officials had already begun operating out of the building.<sup>29</sup>

Touring the nearly completed building in September 1956, one local commentator likened the new courthouse building to a “little Pentagon”: its size, passageways, and offices were imposing from both the interior and exterior. The walnut-paneled courtroom was easily identifiable as the building’s showpiece, its pew-like benches communicating the solemnity and sanctity of the space.<sup>30</sup> Workmen were installing exterior doors and situating furniture as late as November 1956.<sup>31</sup>

By 1999, local officials deemed the Oconee County Courthouse building “overcrowded, badly in need of repair, and inaccessible for the handicapped.” Those observations echoed findings of a then eight-year-old, \$35,000 study of the courthouse and surrounding buildings.<sup>32</sup> Oconee employed architectural FJClark of Anderson to conduct an updated study in 1999. The firm produced a plan to renovate and update the existing courthouse and its surrounding property, a project that would require damage to the building’s exterior, plumbing, heating, air conditioning, and electrical systems. Of particular concern at that time were the building’s seven entrances, which made controlling access exceedingly difficult.<sup>33</sup> Assembly space continued to vex county

<sup>25</sup> “Courthouse Project Is Now Halfway,” *Keowee Courier*, March 14, 1956.

<sup>26</sup> “Gilbert Gets Courthouse Building Bid,” *Keowee Courier*, July 20, 1955.

<sup>27</sup> “Commissioners Order \$17,000 Worth Courthouse Equipment,” *Keowee Courier*, March 1956.

<sup>28</sup> “Court May Be Held In New Building Come Nov.,” *Keowee Courier*, September 26, 1956.

<sup>29</sup> “New Courthouse To Open to Public View Sunday,” *Keowee Courier*, October 31, 1956.

<sup>30</sup> “Court May Be Held In New Building Come Nov.”

<sup>31</sup> “Courthouse Comes to Life As Officials Finally Move,” *Keowee Courier*, November 14, 1956.

<sup>32</sup> Gabrels, Laura, “Oconee County to Study Courthouse Needs,” *Anderson Independent-Mail*, April 8, 1999.

<sup>33</sup> Williams, David, “Update Heard on Courthouse Plans,” *Anderson Independent-Mail*, August 18, 1999.

Oconee County Courthouse

Walhalla, S.C.

Name of Property

County and State

officials, who asserted that the present lack of space required family court to occasionally meet in the building's hallways.<sup>34</sup> Other county commentators noted that the present building's current courtroom was "a good courtroom," and perhaps a viable solution for the space issue was to build a separate building with additional office space. Still others asserted the need to make the courthouse bathrooms compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act.<sup>35</sup>

Smaller renovations provided a stop-gap measure until a larger courthouse could be constructed or until full-scale, building-wide renovations could be undertaken. In early 2000, the County undertook a \$48,700 renovation of the building's basement to make the former tax offices suitable for Probate Judge Sandra Orr's offices. That figure included \$20,000 for removal of asbestos.<sup>36</sup>

Further plans to renovate the 1956 county courthouse were abandoned with the 2003 completion of an entirely new courthouse on the adjacent plot to the immediate west. By 2006 the building was entirely vacant: tenant county departments gradually moved to other office spaces in the new neighboring building and elsewhere downtown. South Carolina Department of Social Services was the last to move. County officials revisited the idea of renovating the old courthouse building in 2010. At that time engineering firm DH Griffin Companies found the building to be "structurally sound" save for a leaky roof.<sup>37</sup> Contemporary supporters of the building's preservation pointed to the intact interior mahogany and thick basement walls as evidence of the building's permanence and worth.<sup>38</sup>

#### Oconee County and the city of Walhalla, South Carolina

Cherokee tribes ceded the land in the area of present-day Oconee County to the U.S. federal government via treaties of 1777 and 1816. German settlers from Charleston founded the town of Walhalla in 1850. Oconee County was formed in 1868, from the existing Pickens District in the northwest corner of South Carolina.<sup>39</sup>

Agriculture continued to dominate Oconee's local economy in the Reconstruction era: the county was a major producer of corn, cotton, tobacco, and apples. Expansion of the railroad throughout the state spawned additional small towns, including Seneca and Westminster in Oconee County (founded 1874 and 1875, respectively). Increased connectivity with the rest of the state encouraged the growth of Oconee's textile industry. Thousands of Oconee residents were employed in the county's numerous textile mills throughout the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

<sup>34</sup> Williams, David, "Council: Courthouse Proposals Too Pricey," *Anderson Independent-Mail*, October 20, 1999.

<sup>35</sup> Williams, David, "Plans for Oconee Courthouse Hit Turbulence," *Anderson Independent-Mail*, March 31, 2000.

<sup>36</sup> Williams, David, "Renovation of Courthouse Is Back on Track," *Anderson Independent-Mail*, April 13, 2000.

<sup>37</sup> Chandler, Ray, "Oconee Officials Looking at Fate of Old Courthouse, Old Social Services Building," *Anderson Independent-Mail*, August 17, 2010.

<sup>38</sup> Galgarza, Carlos, "Civic Leader Wants Oconee to Save Old Courthouse - Powell Suggests Front Portion Be Converted into Senior Center," *The Journal*, July 31, 2010.

<sup>39</sup> *Keowee Courier*, January 24, 1868; "Division of Pickens," *Keowee Courier*, February 8, 1868.

Oconee County Courthouse

Name of Property

Walhalla, S.C.

County and State

Construction of modern highways throughout the southeast again transformed Oconee County via connectivity to other, larger cities. Interstate 85 provided faster access to Atlanta and Charlotte from Oconee County. The Hartwell Dam and Lake project of 1962 inspired a new interest in Oconee as a recreational destination. Duke Power's construction of the Oconee Nuclear Station in 1972 created additional jobs and recreational opportunities on Jocassee and Keowee lakes.<sup>40</sup>

---

<sup>40</sup>"History of Oconee County," *Oconee County South Carolina*, n.d., <http://www.oconeesc.com/About.aspx>.

Oconee County Courthouse  
Name of Property

Walhalla, S.C.  
County and State

*Lyles, Bissett, Carlisle, & Wolff Architectural Firm*

Architectural firm Lyles, Bissett, Carlisle, & Wolff (hereafter LBC&W) of Columbia gained regional renown for its building designs throughout the state of South Carolina, most notably for its midcentury modern designs. Four Clemson graduates composed the firm: Bill Lyles managed administration and legal services; T.J. Bissett handled production and engineering; Bill Carlisle provided on-site supervision; and Louis Wolff oversaw design. Together the four heads of LBC&W provided total design solutions for the firm's clients. The firm designed buildings for many purposes, including education, worship, office spaces, and government administration. But it specialized in designing government, university, and commercial buildings in an interpretation of midcentury modernism fit for the corporate world. Among the firm's most notable designs are the Cornell Arms apartment building in Columbia (1949), Thomas Cooper Library at the University of South Carolina (1959, in collaboration with Edward Durrell Stone), the Louis M. Wolff House in Columbia (1960-62), Clemson University Library in Clemson (1966), the United States Post Office Building in Columbia (1968), the South Carolina State Capitol Complex in Columbia (1969), the Banker's Trust Tower in Columbia (1974), Elmwood Cemetery Chapel in Columbia (1961), and the Carolina Coliseum (1968-69).<sup>41</sup>

---

<sup>41</sup> Janie Campbell et al., "Lyles, Bissett, Carlisle, and Wolff: A Case Study for Researching and Preserving Mid-Century Modern Architecture" (University of South Carolina, April 2015); Lynn A. Gordon, "LBC&W: From the Attic to the High-Rise and Beyond," *Sandlapper: The Magazine of South Carolina*, July 1974.

Oconee County Courthouse  
Name of Property

Walhalla, S.C.  
County and State

---

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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

### Books

Colquhoun, Alan. *Modern Architecture*. Oxford History of Art. New York: Oxford University Press, 2002.

Lois Craig. *The Federal Presence: Architecture, Politics, and Symbols in the United States Government Building*. Cambridge, Massachusetts: MIT Press, 1978.

Lyles, Bissett, Carlisle, & Wolff. *Specification Books for Lyles, Bissett, Carlisle & Wolff*, 1955.

McClure, Harlan, and Hodges, Vernon. *South Carolina Architecture 1670 - 1970*. South Carolina Tricentennial Commission, 1970.

Panayotis Tournikiotis. *The Historiography of Modern Architecture*. Cambridge, Massachusetts: MIT Press, 1999.

Robinson, Judith H., and Foell, Stephanie. *Growth, Efficiency, and Modernism: GSA Buildings of the 1950s, 60s, and 70s*. Washington, DC: U.S. General Services Administration, Office of the Chief Architect, Center for Historic Buildings, 2003.

Whiffen, Marcus. *American Architecture Since 1780: A Guide to the Styles*. Cambridge, Massachusetts: MIT Press, 1993.

### Newspaper articles

"Architects Selected for New Court House." *Keowee Courier*. September 22, 1954.

"Committee on Court House Is Selected." *Keowee Courier*. July 7, 1954.

"Courthouse Comes to Life As Officials Finally Move." *Keowee Courier*. November 14, 1956.

"Courthouse Project Is Now Halfway." *Keowee Courier*. March 14, 1956.

"Division of Pickens." *Keowee Courier*. February 8, 1868.

"Proceedings of Public Meeting Held in Walhalla on the 18th Inst." *Keowee Courier*. February 28, 1868.

"Voters Render OK for Court House." *Keowee Courier*. June 9, 1954.

### Reports and articles

Emerson, Eric, and Johnson, Elizabeth M. "Why Are We Looking at That? Mid-Century and Modern Architecture in South Carolina." South Carolina State Historic Preservation Office. Accessed February 20, 2016. [shpo.sc.gov/research/Documents/WhyThat.pdf](http://shpo.sc.gov/research/Documents/WhyThat.pdf).

"International Style." *Encyclopedia Britannica*, 2005.

Janie Campbell, Stephanie Gray, Kayla Halberg, and Robert Olguin. "Lyles, Bissett, Carlisle, and Wolff: A Case Study for Researching and Preserving Mid-Century Modern Architecture." University of South Carolina, April 2015.

"Lyles, Bissett, Carlisle, and Wolff: Building Modern Columbia." Columbia, SC: University of South Carolina, 2015.

Oconee County Courthouse

Name of Property

Walhalla, S.C.

County and State

**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: Oconee County offices

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

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** 0.8 acres

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

**Latitude/Longitude Coordinates (decimal degrees)**

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

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude: 34.765112	Longitude: -83.068598
2. Latitude:	Longitude:
3. Latitude:	Longitude:
4. Latitude:	Longitude:

Oconee County Courthouse

Name of Property

Walhalla, S.C.

County and State

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: |

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

The property is bounded to the south by W. Main Street, to the east by S. Church Street, and to the north by Short Street. A surface parking lot and driveway to the adjacent building (the new Oconee County Circuit Court building) serve as the property's west boundary. The boundary encompasses only the Oconee County Courthouse and excludes the other building on the modern parcel.

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

These boundaries were selected because they encompass the entire historic Oconee County Courthouse building while excluding other buildings on the modern parcel.

---

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title: Meg Southern  
organization: Historic Columbia  
street & number: 1601 Richland Street  
city or town: Columbia state: SC zip code: 29201  
e-mail megsouthern@gmail.com  
telephone: 301-788-7197  
date: July 6, 2016

Oconee County Courthouse  
Name of Property

Walhalla, S.C.  
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.

### Photo Log

Name of Property: Oconee County Courthouse

City or Vicinity: Walhalla

County: Oconee

State: SC

Photographer: Meg Southern

Date Photographed: January 17, 2016

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

- 1 of 44: Interior detail, ceiling of courthouse lobby.
- 2 of 44: Interior detail, courtroom wall sconce.
- 3 of 44: West elevation, camera facing east.
- 4 of 44: Interior detail, entrance to courthouse lobby, camera facing north.
- 5 of 44: Interior detail, Blumcraft rails.



Oconee County Courthouse

Name of Property

Walhalla, S.C.

County and State

- 6 of 44: Interior detail, courtroom, camera facing balcony.
- 7 of 44: Interior detail, courtroom, camera facing judge's bench.
- 8 of 44: Interior detail, courtroom door hardware.
- 9 of 44: Interior detail, lobby ceiling.
- 10 of 44: Interior detail, stairs to upper floor.
- 11 of 44: Interior detail, entry to courtroom.
- 12 of 44: Interior detail, interior hallway, camera facing north.
- 13 of 44: Interior detail, courtroom jury chairs.
- 14 of 44: Interior detail, stairway from main entry, camera facing south.
- 15 of 44: Interior detail, interior stairwell.
- 16 of 44: Interior detail, interior stairwell.
- 17 of 44: Exterior detail, stairway to main entry on north elevation.
- 18 of 44: Exterior detail, window in south elevation.
- 19 of 44: South elevation, camera facing north.
- 20 of 44: Southwest aspect.
- 21 of 44: Exterior detail, southwest corner entryway, camera facing east.
- 22 of 44: Exterior detail, cornice in southwest elevation.
- 23 of 44: Exterior detail, window in southwest elevation.
- 24 of 44: Interior hallway, camera facing east.
- 25 of 44: Southeast aspect, camera facing northwest.
- 26 of 44: Southeast aspect, camera facing northwest.
- 27 of 44: Exterior detail, entry in southeast elevation.
- 28 of 44: Exterior detail, cornice in north elevation.
- 29 of 44: Exterior detail, window in north elevation.
- 30 of 44: Exterior detail, window in north elevation.
- 31 of 44: North elevation.
- 32 of 44: Exterior detail, soapstone and aluminum paneling over main entry in north elevation.
- 33 of 44: Exterior detail, soapstone and aluminum paneling over main entry in north elevation.
- 34 of 44: Northwest elevation.
- 35 of 44: Exterior detail, northwest entry awning.
- 36 of 44: Exterior detail, window panel in northwest elevation.
- 37 of 44: Northeast aspect, camera facing west.
- 38 of 44: Exterior detail, entry in northeast elevation.
- 39 of 44: Northeast elevation, camera facing northwest.
- 40 of 44: Subterranean stairs along northeast elevation.
- 41 of 44: East aspect, camera facing northwest.
- 42 of 44: Exterior detail, window in east elevation.
- 43 of 44: Exterior detail, window in east elevation.
- 44 of 44: East elevation, camera facing west.

Oconee County Courthouse  
Name of Property

Walhalla, S.C.  
County and State

**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.450 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.



## Conee County, South Carolina

Conee County, South Carolina



# Oconee County Courthouse

N Church St

N-Tugaloo St.

5-1149200-20

Short-St

W South Broad St

S. Church-St.

Google earth

Digitized by Google

183

S College St

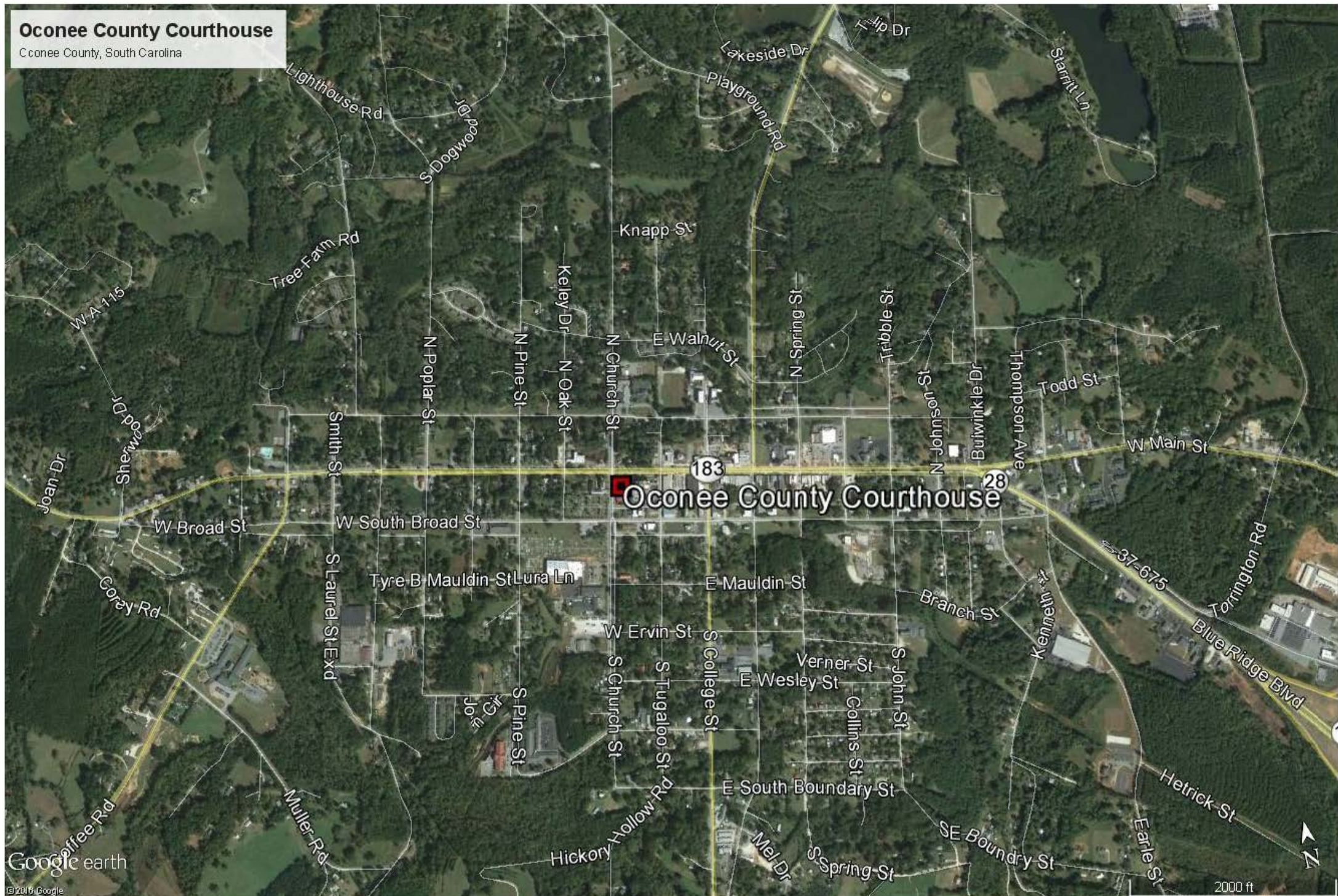
▲

200 ft



# Oconee County Courthouse

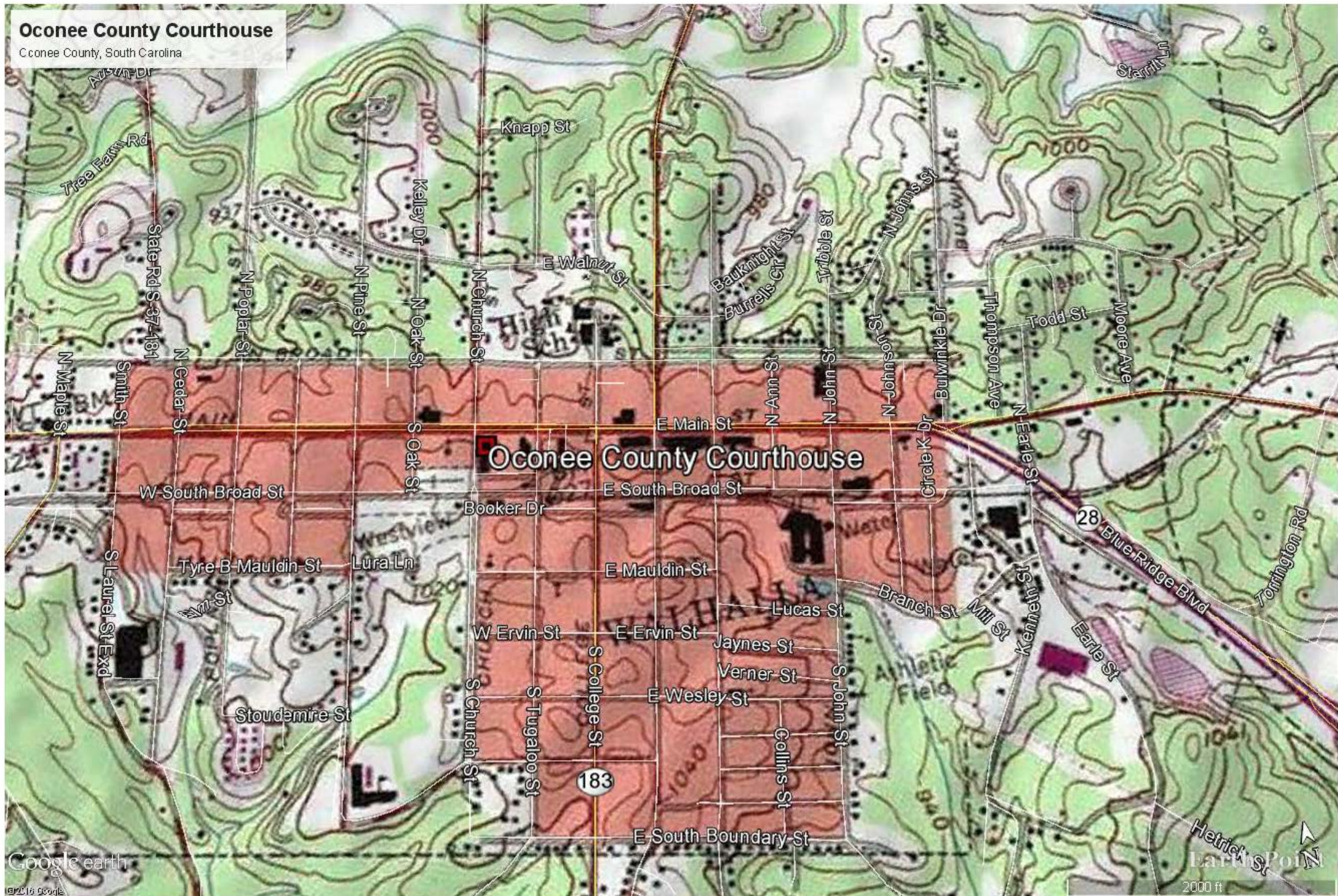
Oconee County, South Carolina





# Oconee County Courthouse

Oconee County, South Carolina



Google earth

©2016 Google

2000 ft





































































































COURT  
OFFICIALS  
ONLY



**ALARM DOOR**  
DO NOT BLOCK, OPEN

















UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Oconee County Courthouse  
NAME:

MULTIPLE  
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: SOUTH CAROLINA, Oconee

DATE RECEIVED: 8/26/16 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 9/23/16  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 10/11/16 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 10/11/16  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 16000715

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: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

☒ ACCEPT ☐ RETURN ☐ REJECT 10.11.16 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in  
The National Register  
of  
Historic Places

RECOM./CRITERIA \_\_\_\_\_

REVIEWER \_\_\_\_\_ DISCIPLINE \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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.



August 23, 2016


Paul Loether  
National Register Chief  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  
1201 Eye (I) Street, NW (2280)  
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Mr. Loether:

Enclosed is the National Register nomination for the Oconee County Courthouse in Walhalla, Oconee County, South Carolina. The nomination was approved by the South Carolina State Board of Review as eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C at the local level of significance. We are now submitting this nomination for formal review by the National Register staff. The enclosed disk contains the true and correct copy of the nomination for the Oconee County Courthouse 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.sc.gov](mailto:efoley@scdah.sc.gov).

Sincerely,



Ehren Foley, Ph.D.  
Historian and National Register Coordinator  
State Historic Preservation Office  
8301 Parklane Rd.  
Columbia, S.C. 29223