

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

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

1. NAME

COMMON: The Exchange and Provost

AND/OR HISTORIC: The Exchange

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: East Bay Street, at the eastern foot of Broad Street

CITY OR TOWN: Charleston

STATE: South Carolina CODE: COUNTY: Charleston CODE:

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	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	Public Acquisition: <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
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Pork <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Comments <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) Meeting Place for DAR.

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Rebecca Motte Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution in
and of the State of South Carolina. (Mrs. Whitemarsh B. Seabrook).

STREET AND NUMBER: Route 2, Box 303, Johns Island, South Carolina 29455

CITY OR TOWN: Charleston STATE: South Carolina CODE:

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 CODE:

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

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

DATE OF SURVEY: 1938 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. CODE:

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" 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 Exchange, built 1767-71, is a large two-story over elevated-basement brick structure of Georgian design. It has a hipped roof and three-bay wide projecting and pedimented central pavilions on the east and west elevations. The main architectural facade is the East Bay Street elevation. Here the central pavilion is flanked on either side by a two-story high Palladian window. The first floor of the pavilion contains three arched doorways and above, in the second story, are three tall rectangular windows. First floor openings on the other three elevations are arched and second story windows are rectangular. The windows are of London crown glass, decorations of Portland stone, and the roof of Welsh Carnarvon slate. The building is 92 feet from north to south and 65½ feet from east to west.

The Exchange has undergone many changes over the years. About 1805 land reclamation filled in the harbor to the east of the structure and the original waterfront setting was gone. At some uncertain date the original cupola disappeared and a substitute took its place in 1835; this was removed after being damaged in the 1886 earthquake.

Also probably lost during the earthquake was the roof parapet with large Portland stone urns, leaving the hipped roof appearing out of proportion. The west elevation lacks balance because of missing pilasters that may have come off when two flanking stair towers were removed. The projecting towers occupied the space through which East Bay Street now runs and it is certain that these stair towers were gone by 1827.

The basement, originally used as a customhouse has been restored and is exhibited as the 1780-82 British Provost Dungeon of the War for Independence. The 18th century interior plan of the upper two floors has been extensively altered and it now dates from around 1818 when the building was adapted for use as a post office. On the first floor the center hall, which once extended all the way through the building, is now occupied on the west by a broad staircase. Behind this, on the east, a partition has been inserted to create a service or kitchen area. Two very large rooms, each running the full width of the building, occupy the north and south sides of the central hall. They are used as DAR meeting rooms.

The second floor Great Room, where the ball for George Washington was held in 1791 and where the government council met, is gone. It occupied a part of the building that was cut away to create space for the 19th century stairwell and landing. Existing 2nd floor rooms are arranged in a single tier that extends around the north, east, and south sides of the building and all rooms open on an inner balcony that also runs along the west wall. A number of these office rooms retain door frames and other particulars that date from the 19th century.

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SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1772-1783

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/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 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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Built in 1767-1771 the considerably altered Exchange and Provost building served during the last quarter of the 18th century as a customhouse, public market, public meeting place, military prison and barracks. Confiscated tea was stored here in 1774, and the Provincial Congress of South Carolina met here in the same year. From 1780 to 1782, during the War for Independence, the British used the Exchange as a barracks and military prison. President George Washington was welcomed on the steps of this building when he visited Charleston on his southern tour of 1791 and later a grand ball was given in his honor in the Exchange. The structure was badly damaged by Union artillery fire during the Civil War and again by the great earthquake of 1886. Repaired after each occasion the Exchange was used for Federal office purposes until 1913 when an act of Congress deeded the building to the Daughters of the American Revolution in and of the State of South Carolina to be preserved by them as a historical monument.

The Provost in the basement is open to visitors as a museum, the main floor rooms serve as a D.A.R. meeting place, and the office rooms on the second floor are vacant.

History

On December 3, 1773, a protest meeting was held in the Great Hall of this building against the tea tax and 257 chests of tea was stored and forcibly detained here in 1774. At a meeting held in the Exchange on July 6, 1774, a number of resolutions were adopted respecting the oppressive acts of the British Parliament. Deputies of the Colony of South Carolina were appointed to attend the First Continental Congress scheduled to meet at Philadelphia on September 1, 1774. This meeting also resolved to appoint 99 men as a general committee to correspond with similar committees of the other colonies.

After the British capture of Charleston, May 12, 1780, Royal troops were quartered in the Exchange. They failed to discover some 10,000 pounds of powder hidden by General William Moultrie in a secret room located in the northeast corner of the basement. The central part of the basement, however, became a military prison. Known as the

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

William Way, The Old Exchange and Custom House, Charleston, S. C.
 (Charleston, Revised 1970).
South Carolina, A Guide to the Pametto State (American Guide Series)
 (New York, 1946), 196-197.
 Frank B. Sarles, Jr. and Charles E. Shedd, Colonials and Patriots
 (Washington, D.C., 1964), 225-226.

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			LATITUDE		LONGITUDE
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	0	'	"	0	'	"
NE	0	'	"	32	46	31
SE	0	'	"	79	55	38
SW	0	'	"			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1/10 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: 1/9/73

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

CITY OR TOWN: Washington

STATE: D.C.

CODE:

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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 _____

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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The Exchange

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8. Significance

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Provost, the British held many American Patriots here from August 1780 to 1782.

In 1788, when the South Carolina State House in Charleston was destroyed by fire, the legislature met in the Exchange. In 1790 the building was also the setting of the meeting to ratify the new State Constitution. In May 1791, when President George Washington visited Charleston on his southern tour, he was officially greeted on the steps and later a grand ball was given in his honor in the Exchange. About 1805 land reclamation to the east destroyed forever the original waterfront setting of the building.

In 1818 the City of Charleston sold the Exchange to the Federal Government for \$60,000. The building was used through most of the 19th century as a customhouse and post office. The structure was badly damaged by Union artillery fire during the Civil War and again by the great earthquake of 1886. Repaired after each occasion, the Exchange was used for Federal office purposes until 1913 when an act of Congress deeded the building to the Daughters of the American Revolution in and of the State of South Carolina to be preserved by them as a historical monument. Although the D.A.R. has held the deed to the Exchange since 1917, the second floor rooms have been used from 1917 until 1970 as offices for various Federal Agencies. The Provost in the basement is open to visitors as a museum, the main floor rooms serve as a D.A.R. meeting place, and the office rooms on the second floor are vacant.

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9. Bibliographical References: (1) The Exchange and Provost

Albert Simons and W.H. Johnson Thomas, "An Architectural Guide to Charleston, South Carolina, 1700-1900" (Mimeographed, Historic Charleston Foundation, n.d.).

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