

Rep. Thomas Gettys

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

STATE:	South Carolina
COUNTY:	Lancaster
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
718.45.0060	8/19/71

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(NATIONAL HISTORIC  
LANDMARKS)

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
Lancaster County Jail

AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
208 West Gay Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
Lancaster

STATE: South Carolina      CODE: 29720      COUNTY: Lancaster      CODE: 057

**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"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	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"/> 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>County jail</u>

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
Lancaster County

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:  
Lancaster

STATE: South Carolina      CODE: 45

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.  
Lancaster County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:  
104 North Main Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
Lancaster

STATE: South Carolina      CODE: 45

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
South Carolina Survey of Historic Places (Preliminary)

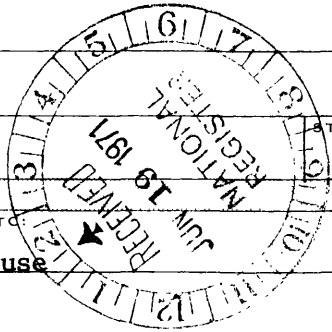
DATE OF SURVEY: 1969       Federal       State       County       Local

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

STREET AND NUMBER:  
1430 Senate Street, Box 11,188 Capitol Station

CITY OR TOWN:  
Columbia

STATE: South Carolina      CODE: 45



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Palladian style stuccoed building of three stories with stone quoins and string courses. Other features include a gable roof, iron grates, first floor windows and doors within recessed arches, and gable parapets with coping and raised center section. A semielliptical gable recessment contains date of construction.

Interior - brick vaulted ceiling. Downstairs hall runs length of the building and separates the jailer's quarters from prison rooms for debtors. Doors to these rooms are made of double layers of heavy plank. The hinges are about three feet in length.

The upstairs, which is entered through a heavy door at the stair landing and another at the top of the staircase, is used for prisoners. This floor has barred cages in the center, permitting free circulation of air.

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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) **1823**

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 checked="" 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

The Lancaster County Jail, relatively unaltered, is a significant example of Robert Mills architecture and reflects his innovative ideas on the proper construction of penal institutions.

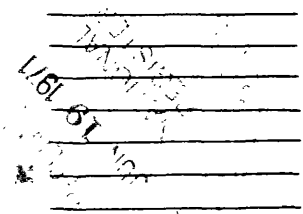
Although Mills never signed his buildings and often failed to sign his plans, the following characteristics and facts all substantiate the 1823 Lancaster County Jail to be of his design;

1. Mills advocated free circulation of air in jail construction. This was achieved in Lancaster Jail through the placing of barred cages for prisoners in the middle of a room.
2. Absence of a dungeon reflects another Mills innovation in penal reform.
3. Mills advocated that the carekeepers' apartment be placed to overlook the most important parts of the building. The apartment of Lancaster County Jail is on the first floor.
4. Classifying of prisoners according to the crime was a Mills recommendation for jail reform. In the Lancaster Jail, prison rooms for debtors were on the first floor; other cells were on the second floor.
5. Interior brick vaults, a Mills characteristic.
6. Mills was a member of the Board of Public Works for the State of South Carolina from 1820-1830. He was referred to in public documents of that period as "State Engineer and Architect" although he signed official papers exactly as other members of the Board "Acting Commissioner."
7. Charles C. Wilson in his bulletin, Robert Mills Architect, states the public buildings in South Carolina erected from 1820-1830 were, doubtless, all designed by Mills.
8. In the Courier (Charleston) February 28, 1822, an advertisement signed Robert Mills, Acting Commissioner, Board of Public Works, invites proposals for the erection of court houses at Kingstree, Newberry, Yorkville and Greenville, and jails at Union, Spartanburg, Lancaster and Yorkville.

The Lancaster County Jail remains much as originally planned and exhibits handhewn stone work. W. W. Alsobrook was the contractor.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

\* Architect



**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Floyd, Viola C. Lancaster County South Carolina Tours. 1956.  
 Malone, Dumas, Editor. "Robert Mills" from Dictionary of American Bibliography, Vol. 13. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1934.  
 Manuscript in South Carolina Archives, Columbia. Public Improvements: Buildings, 1800-1830, Lancaster District, Estimate for Jail. No date.  
 Marsh, Blanche. Robert Mills Architect in South Carolina. Columbia, South Carolina: R. L. Bryan and Company, 1970.

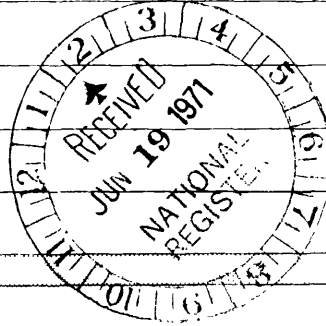
**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

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	° ' "	° ' "		34 ° 43 ' 09.13"	80 ° 46 ' 18.95 "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:  $\frac{1}{4}$  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



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
 Norman McCorkle, Historic Resources Assistant

ORGANIZATION: South Carolina Department Archives and History

DATE: August 29, 1970

STREET AND NUMBER:  
 1430 Senate Street, Box 11, 188 Capitol Station

CITY OR TOWN: Columbia

STATE: South Carolina

CODE: 45

**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 S. Lef

Title Director, South Carolina Department Archives and History

Date August 29, 1970

**NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

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

Ernest A. Connelly  
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

**AUG 19 1971**

Date \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:  
William J. Mumford  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date \_\_\_\_\_

ed  
 6/14/71

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE South Carolina	
COUNTY Lancaster	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 718450060	DATE 8/19/71

(Number all entries) 9. continued

Wilson, Charles C. Robert Mills Architect. Columbia, South Carolina:  
University Press, 1919.

WPA. South Carolina, A Guide to the Palmetto State. New York: Oxford  
University Press, 1941.

