UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON:

The Circular Congregational Church and Parish House

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

150 Meeting Street

CITY OR TOWN:

Charleston

STATE	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
South Carolina	045	Charleston	019

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
☐ District ☒ Building ☐ Site ☐ Structure ☐ Object	☐ Public ☒ Private ☐ Both Public Acquisition: ☐ In Process ☐ Being Considered	☒ Occupied ☐ Unoccupied ☐ Preservation work in progress	Yes: ☐ Restricted ☒ Unrestricted ☐ No

PRESENT USE *(Check One or More as Appropriate)*

☐ Agricultural	☐ Government	☐ Park	☐ Transportation	☐ Comments
☐ Commercial	☐ Industrial	☐ Private Residence	☐ Other *(Specify)*	
☐ Educational	☐ Military	☒ Religious		
☐ Entertainment	☐ Museum	☐ Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:

The Circular Congregational Church and Parish House

STREET AND NUMBER:

150 Meeting Street

CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:	CODE
Charleston	South Carolina	019

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:

Charleston County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

Courthouse Square

CITY OR TOWN:	STATE	CODE
Charleston	South Carolina	045

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

Preliminary Survey of Historic Sites in South Carolina

DATE OF SURVEY:	☐ Federal ☒ State ☐ County ☐ Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

South Carolina Department of Archives and History

STREET AND NUMBER:

P. O. Box 11188 Capital Station

CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:	CODE
Columbia	South Carolina	045

STATE:

COUNTY:

ENTRY NUMBER

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CONDITION	*(Check One)*					
	☒ Excellent	☐ Good	☐ Fair	☐ Deteriorated	☐ Ruins	☐ Unexposed

	(Check One)		*(Check One)*	
	☐ Altered	☒ Unaltered	☐ Moved	☒ Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL *(If known)* PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Built circa 1892 in the Richardsonian Romanesque style, the Circular Congregational Church is not truly circular as its name implies, but a more complex form like a clover leaf or a "club" in a deck of cards. This form has four parts, three of which are semi-circular and the fourth rectangular. At the center is an open work design in the ceiling which is topped by a tower or a lantern above the roof covered in wood shingles. This clover leaf form contains the high, main auditorium. The rectangular "stem" is divided horizontally into two stories. The lower part is a rectangular meeting room and the upper part is a balcony overlooking the auditorium. The balcony is reached by a winding stair in an octagonal tower which is expressed on the exterior of the building. The rectangular part of the building is six-bayed; the windows on the first floor are straight-topped while the other windows above are arched. These arches are supported by colonettes. This is the third church to be built upon these grounds.

The Parish House, located on the church grounds, was built by Robert Mills along with the first church situated on the grounds. The construction of these structures was completed ca. 1806. The Parish House is of Greek Temple form with one high story over a lower open arcade. Tetrastyle Tuscan columns support the Doric style entablature and pediment. Twin stairs approach the building frontally and make a quarter-turn as they appro   the landing. Wrought-iron railing is notable.

Statesman John C. Calhoun is buried in the church cemetery. (?)

St Philip's Episcopal Church, Charleston.

PERIOD *(Check One or More as Appropriate)*

- ☐ Pre-Columbian
- ☐ 15th Century
- ☐ 16th Century
- ☐ 17th Century
- ☐ 18th Century
- ☒ 19th Century
- ☐ 20th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) *(If Applicable and Known)* Circa 1892.

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE *(Check One or More as Appropriate)*

Aboriginal
- ☐ Prehistoric
- ☐ Historic
- ☐ Agriculture
- ☒ Architecture
- ☐ Art
- ☐ Commerce
- ☐ Communications
- ☐ Conservation

- ☐ Education
- ☐ Engineering
- ☐ Industry
- ☐ Invention
- ☐ Landscape Architecture
- ☐ Literature
- ☐ Military
- ☐ Music

- ☐ Political
- ☐ Religion/Philosophy
- ☐ Science
- ☐ Sculpture
- ☐ Social/Humanitarian
- ☐ Theater
- ☐ Transportation

- ☐ Urban Planning
- ☐ Other (Specify)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Circular Congregational Church is significant in that it is one of the few examples in Charleston of that adaptation of Romanesque made popular by Henry Hobson Richardson. With the congregation's traditional ties with New England it is not suprising that the new church (being the third one built on the site) presents a family resemblance to Trinity Church, Boston. The plan of the church is quite interesting being not circular, but a more complex form like a clover leaf or a "club" in a deck of cards. The word "circular" in the name of the church comes from an earlier building on the site by Robert Mills.

The Parish House (ca. 1806) was designed by Robert Mills and is a good example of his ability to create a Greek Revival Temple of small proportions without affecting its stately appearence. Church services were held in the Parish House during the interim between the building of the first and second church.

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

McClure, Harlan, et al. South Carolina Architecture 1670-1970. Columbia: Tricentennial Commission, 1970.

McKee, Henry J. (ed.). Historic American Building Survey -- South Carolina Catalog. Washington: Historic American Building Survey Commission, 1972.

Simons, Albert, and W. H. J. Thomas. An Architectural Guide to Charleston, South Carolina: 1700-1900 (unpublished manuscript). Charleston: Historic Charleston Foundation, 1972.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

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

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **3/4 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

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:

Tray Stephenson and Bernard Kearse (Historic Preservation Division)

ORGANIZATION

South Carolina Department of Archives and History

DATE

April 26, 1973

STREET AND NUMBER:

1430 Senate Street

CITY OR TOWN:	STATE	CODE
Columbia	South Carolina	045

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

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

National [X]   State [ ]   Local [ ]

Name _Charles E. Lee_

Title _State Liaison Officer_
Department of Archives and History

Date _April 30, 1973_

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

_____
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST:

_____
Keeper of The National Register

Date _____