

**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:  
Hibernian Society Hall

AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
105 Meeting Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
Charleston

STATE South Carolina	CODE 045	COUNTY: Charleston	CODE 019
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**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <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 type="checkbox"/> Comments <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>Meeting place for the Hibernian Society</u>

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
Hibernian Society

STREET AND NUMBER:  
105 Meeting Street

CITY OR TOWN: Charleston	STATE: South Carolina	CODE 045
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**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Charleston County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Courthouse Square

CITY OR TOWN: Charleston	STATE: South Carolina	CODE 045
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**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
Preliminary Survey of Historic Sites in South Carolina

DATE OF SURVEY: 1969     Federal     State     County     Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
S. C. Department of Archives & History

STREET AND NUMBER:  
P. O. Box 11188 Capitol Station

CITY OR TOWN: Charleston	STATE: South Carolina	CODE 045
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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Hibernian Society Hall is a two-story Greek revival structure of stuccoed brick painted white. The portico is hexastyle giant order Ionic with a Corinthian pediment (replaced the Ionic pediment which was damaged in the 1886 earthquake). The Ionic columns remain; the side walls are plastered. The entry is large and pedimented with engraved tablets above it and the portico pediment has a semicircular arched window. The portico is approached by full-width shallow steps, and a cast-and-wrought iron fence is standing in front.

The interior of the Hall possesses a large ballroom and a double stair, the flamboyance of which is not suggested by the building's staid exterior.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1839-1841**

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   | <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

The Hibernian Society Hall was designed by Thomas U. Walter of Philadelphia, who studied with Strickland. Both architects are represented in Charleston by only one structure each.

The building is two stories and stuccoed brick painted white. The portico is ~~Greek revival~~, hexastyle giant order Ionic with pediment. Originally the pediment, too, was Ionic, but was damaged during the earthquake of 1886 and replaced with a Corinthian pediment. The columns remain and the side walls are pilastered.

The planning of the Hibernian Society Hall dates from approximately 1835, when Walter sent plans in answer to an advertisement of the Hibernian Society, a social and charitable organization. His plans were preferred to those of other competitors.

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 1670-1979. Columbia: Tricentennial Commission, 1970.  
 McKee, Henry J. (ed.) Historic American Buildings Survey -- South Carolina Catalog. Washington: H. A. B. S. 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:

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 & Bernard Kearse (Historic Preservation Division)

ORGANIZATION: South Carolina Department of Archives and History      DATE: April 19, 1973

STREET AND NUMBER:  
 P.O. Box 11188 Capitol Station

CITY OR TOWN: Columbia      STATE: South Carolina      CODE: 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  State  Local

Name Charles E. Lee

Title State Liaison Officer for Historic Preservation

Date Apr. 24, 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 \_\_\_\_\_

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8. SIGNIFICANCE

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The Hon. Stephen A. Douglas was the pivot individual of the Charleston Convention. Every delegate was for or against him. Every parliamentary war was pro or con Douglas. Delegates and others who were proceeding to attend the Convention talked about Mr. Douglas. The questions in every car and at every station were: Would he be? could he be? should he be nominated? Could he get a majority of the Convention? Could he get two-thirds? Would the South support him if he should be nominated? Would the Administration acquiesce if he were nominated?<sup>1</sup>

Halstead went on to describe Douglas' headquarters:

Hibernian Hall--the Douglas headquarters is situated on the same street [as Institute Hall] a square and a half distant. The smaller rooms are furnished with long tables, plenty of chairs and writing materials, and a large supply of Sheahan's Life of Stephen A. Douglas. The second floor is one large hall, and is full of cots for the Northwestern delegations. There are several hundreds of them, with white spreads and pillows. They are arranged in rows and sections, numbered and marked for different States.<sup>2</sup>

From Hibernian Hall, delegates and spokesmen fanned out across the city, most to the Mills House, to sell their candidate. The Douglas people had arrived exuberant in their optimistic assessment of their candidate's chances. Gradually, however, the "fire-eating" secessionists, led by William Lowndes Yancey, eroded hopes of a compromise. Optimism faded to doubt and doubt to dejection. Halstead recounts the letdown:

Passing the [Hibernian] Hall this evening, I saw the Douglas delegation . . . from Illinois seated mournfully on the steps. Their native resolution seemed sickened o'er by the pale cast of thought, and to have lost the name of action. They were pensive and silent.<sup>3</sup>

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1. Murat Halstead, A History of the National Political Conventions of the Current Presidential Campaign (Columbus, Ohio, 1860), p. 1.

2. Ibid.

3. Ibid.

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8. SIGNIFICANCE

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With the failure to summon a 2/3rds majority for Douglas, or for any other, and a secessionist walkout led by Yancey, the convention disintegrated. It adjourned ultimately to Baltimore, with yet another faction withdrawing to Richmond. The divisiveness resulted in the fractionalizing of the Democratic Party; three factions and three candidates--Breckinridge, Bell, and Douglas. The split vote insured a plurality, but a victory nevertheless, for the Republican Party.

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