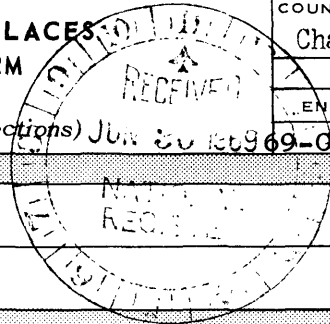


STATE: South Carolina	
COUNTY: Charleston	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
69-07-41-00027/29/69	

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)



**1. NAME**

COMMON: Fireproof Building

AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER: 100 Meeting St.

CITY OR TOWN: Charleston

STATE: South Carolina      CODE: 41      COUNTY: Charleston      CODE: 10

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes: Restricted <input type="checkbox"/>
Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/>	Private <input type="checkbox"/>	Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/>	Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Object <input type="checkbox"/>	Both <input type="checkbox"/>	Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/>	No: <input type="checkbox"/>
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/>	Government <input type="checkbox"/>	Park <input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Comments <input type="checkbox"/>
Commercial <input type="checkbox"/>	Industrial <input type="checkbox"/>	Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/>	Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/>
Educational <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Military <input type="checkbox"/>	Religious <input type="checkbox"/>	<u>Preservation of</u>
Entertainment <input type="checkbox"/>	Museum <input type="checkbox"/>	Scientific <input type="checkbox"/>	<u>Historical Material</u>

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNERS NAME: South Carolina Historical Society on long term lease from Charleston County

STREET AND NUMBER: 100 Meeting Street

CITY OR TOWN: Charleston      STATE: South Carolina      CODE: 41

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Office of Charleston County Manager

STREET AND NUMBER: The Center Annex, Marion Square

CITY OR TOWN: Charleston, S.C.      STATE: South Carolina      CODE: 41

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: .2 acre

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY: This Is Charleston      Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1960      Federal       State       County       Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Carolina Art Association      Department of the Interior,

STREET AND NUMBER: 135 Meeting St.      National Park Service, Washington, D.C.

CITY OR TOWN: Charleston, S.C. (Code) 41      STATE: District of Columbia      CODE: 09

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: SOUTH CAROLINA  
COUNTY: CHARLESTON  
ENTRY NUMBER: 69-07-41-00027/29/69  
DATE: JUN 30 1969

Colonials and Patriots, Frank B. Sarles, Jr. and Charles E. Shedd, vol. VI, National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings, National Park Service, Washington, 1964

7. DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Located in a small open area, designated Washington Square, near the intersection of Broad and Meeting Streets. Its nearest neighbors are St. Michael's Church, the United States Post Office, the County Court House, and the City Hall. Its architect, Robert Mills (1781-1855) said of it in 1826:

"It is designed in the simple Greek Doric style, without any ornament, except that afforded by the porticoes which face each front. These porticoes are composed of four massy columns, three and a half feet in diameter, raised on an arcade, the columns rise the whole height of the building (comprising two stories) surmounted by their entablature and crowned by a pediment, which extending entirely across the building, meet together in the middle; the remaining part of the building, on each side constitute wings to the center, falling below the apex of the pediment; the front of these offices is 66 feet; and the breadth 46 feet, besides the porticoes, which project about 12, and extend in front 33 feet each. They are communicated with from the street by a double flight of stone steps at both ends. The basement porticoes, cornice, etc. are of stone. The walls are of brick, stuccoed in imitation of the same.

"The rooms for offices are vaulted in brick, and the roof covered with copper so as to render the building secure from fire. As a further guard the sashes and frames are all of iron with the shutters.

"Each front presents two doors of entrance which lead into corridors communicating with the several offices. The number of distinct apartments in the several stories includes twenty-four, besides the staircase and the passages.

"The interior stair-steps are of stone, rising from the basement story to the third floor and lighted by a skylight."

The principal alterations are: the exterior staircases changed from curved to angled; the roof, which was stolen after the Civil War, has been replaced with tin; the pediments over the colonnades were changed after the earthquake; fireplaces have, for the greater part, been closed.

The present plans for renovation include climate control, improved lighting and plumbing, new and improved equipment for conservation of the collections, and repainting of the interior.

The exterior was waterproofed by the County in 1961, and the roof recently completely renewed.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

copper

**8. 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) **1822-1826**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Aboriginal <input type="checkbox"/>	Education <input type="checkbox"/>	Political <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Urban Planning <input type="checkbox"/>
Prehistoric <input type="checkbox"/>	Engineering <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Religion/Philosophy <input type="checkbox"/>	Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/>
Historic <input type="checkbox"/>	Industry <input type="checkbox"/>	Science <input type="checkbox"/>	<u>Experimental</u>
Agriculture <input type="checkbox"/>	Invention <input type="checkbox"/>	Sculpture <input type="checkbox"/>	<u>Architecture</u>
Art <input type="checkbox"/>	Landscape <input type="checkbox"/>	Social/Humanitarian <input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Commerce <input type="checkbox"/>	Architecture <input type="checkbox"/>	Theater <input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Communications <input type="checkbox"/>	Literature <input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation <input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Conservation <input type="checkbox"/>	Military <input type="checkbox"/>		_____
	Music <input type="checkbox"/>		_____

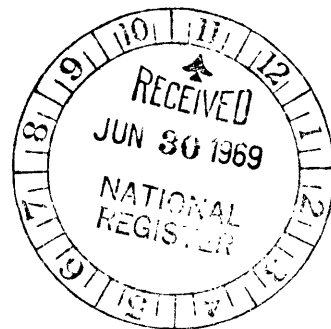
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Include Personages, Dates, Events, Etc.)

Designed by Robert Mills in 1822 and built for the purpose of housing **state** records safely. It is believed to be the first building of fireproof construction in the United States. It is presently the home of the South Carolina Historical Society.

After 1865 the building was used for County Offices, when State records were concentrated in Columbia. In 1943, the County vacated the second and third floors which were then leased to the South Carolina Historical Society; the County reserved the use of the first (basement) floor until 1969.

William H. Pierson, Jr., Williams College, reports that Robert Mills incorporated some of the plans he had used in designing the Fireproof Building when he designed the new U. S. Treasury Building.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Writers' Program of the W.P.A., South Carolina: A Guide to the Palmetto State. (New York: Oxford University Press, 1941), p. 201  
 Stoney, Samuel Gaillard, This Is Charleston. (Charleston: The Carolina Art Association, 1960), p. 75  
 Gallagher, H. M. Pierce, Robert Mills, 1781-1855 (New York, Columbia University Press, 1935) pp 51,52,160,161  
 Simons, Albert, AIA and Lapham, Samuel Jr., Charleston, South Carolina, vol I, The Octagon Library (New York, American Institute of Architects, 1927)  
 Ravenel, Beatrice St. Julien, Architects of Charleston, (Charleston, Carolina Art Association, 1945) p. 108,124-126

**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 ONE ACRE		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	° ' "	° ' "		N 32 46 36	W 79 55 55	
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
 Mrs. Toney J. Lister, Historic Resources Assistant

ORGANIZATION: South Carolina Department of Archives and History  
 DATE: 6/16/69

STREET AND NUMBER:  
 Box 11188, Capitol Station 1430 Senate Street

CITY OR TOWN: Columbia  
 STATE: South Carolina  
 CODE: 41

**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: Charles E. Lep  
 Title: Director, S.C. Dept. of Archives & History  
 Date: June 22, 1969

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

Conrad Allen Connally  
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: JUL 29 1969

ATTEST:  
William J. Stewart  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: JUL 29 1969

Form Assistance: Mrs. Granville Prior, Executive Secretary, South Carolina Historical Society  
 SEE INSTRUCTIONS  
 602 1110 / 2428

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

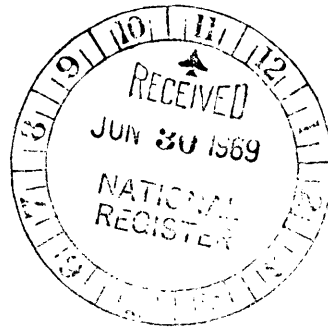
STATE	South Carolina	
COUNTY	Charleston	
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE	
69-07-41-0002	7/29/69	69

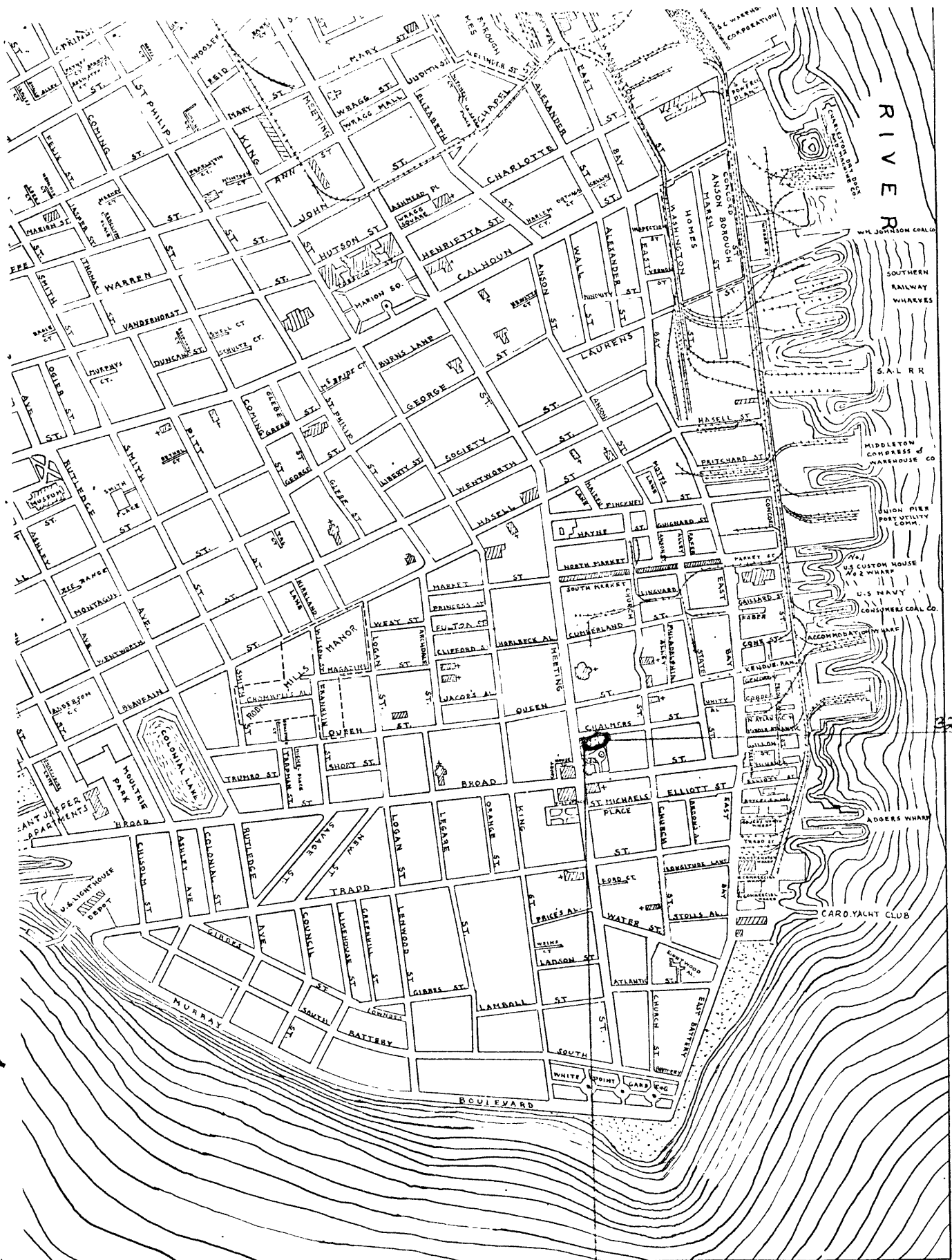
(Number all entries)

Representation in Existing Surveys

FIREPROOF BUILDING

- South Carolina: A Guide to the Palmetto State  
1941  
State Survey  
South Carolina Department of Archives and History (partial)  
Box 11188, Capitol Station 1430 Senate Street  
Columbia, South Carolina Code: 41





RIVER



26°  
32'46"

79°55'55"