NPS Form 10-900
(Rev. 10-90)

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

RECEIVED 2280
JUN 10
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

815

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name American Telephone & Telegraph Company Building
other names/site number Southern Bell Telephone Company Building

2. Location

street & number 124 North Palmetto Avenue not for publication _____
city or town Denmark vicinity _____
state South Carolina code SC county Bamberg code 009 zip code 29042

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination __ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets __does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant __ nationally __statewide X locally. (_ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official Date
Mary W. Edmonds 5/26/99
Mary W. Edmonds, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, S.C. Dept. of Archives and History, Columbia, S.C.
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property __ meets __does not meet the National Register criteria. (__See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

✓ entered in the National Register
__See continuation sheet.
__determined eligible for the National Register
__See continuation sheet.
__ determined not eligible for the National Register
__ removed from the National Register

__ other (explain):

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action
Edson H. Beall 7-8-99

American Telephone & Telegraph Company Building
Name of Property

Bamberg County, South Carolina
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

X private
public-local
_ public-State
_ public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

X building(s)
_ district
_ site
_ structure
_ object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1		Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)
N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register
0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Category: INDUSTRY Subcategory: Communications Facility

Current Functions
(Enter caregories from instructions)

Category: COMMERCE/TRADE Subcategory: Specialty Store

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)
Georgian Revival

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)
foundation Brick
walls Brick; Stone
roof Asphalt
other

Narrative Description
(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

American Telephone & Telegraph Company Building
Name of Property

Bamberg County, South Carolina
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

X A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
__ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
X C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period,or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
__ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

__ a owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
__ b removed from its original location.
__ c a birthplace or a grave.
__ d a cemetery.
__ e a reconstructed building, object,or structure.
__ f a commemorative property.
__ g less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE
COMMUNICATIONS

Period of Significance

1922-1949

Significant Dates

1922

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Lacy, T.N.
Woodward, D.H.

Narrative Statement of Significance

Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

__ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
__ previously listed in the National Register
__ previously determined eligible by the National Register
__ designated a National Historic Landmark
__ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # ____
__ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # ____

Primary location of additional data:

X State Historic Preservation Office
__Other State agency
__ Federal agency
__ Local government
__ University
__ Other

Name of repository:
S.C. Department of Archives & History

American Telephone & Telegraph Company Building
Name of Property

Bamberg County, South Carolina
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one acre

UTM References
(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
1	17	486780	3687310	3	17		
2	17			4	17		

___See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)
Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Caroline E. Boyd, with the assistance of the South Carolina SHPO staff
organization _____ date 10 March 1999
street & number 263 N. Palmetto Avenue telephone (803) 793-4834
city or town Denmark state SC zip code 29042

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets
Maps
A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.
Photographs
Representative **black and white** photographs of the property.
Additional items
(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Caroline E. Boyd
street & number 263 N. Palmetto Avenue telephone (803) 793-4834
city or town Denmark state SC zip code 29042

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended(16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.). **Estimated Burden Statement**: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.0. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

The American Telephone & Telegraph Company Building, located at 124 North Palmetto Avenue [U.S. Highway 321], at its corner with Hammond Street, is a two-story Georgian Revival brick building set upon a high basement and featuring a beveled cast or limestone water table. Constructed under the supervision of T.N. Lacy, district plant superintendent , and D.H. Woodward, district plant engineer, both of Atlanta, the building's twelve-inch thick walls were completed in a finished brick laid in Flemish bond. The plan is an L-shape, with the focus of the five-bay wide facade the central entrance's classical limestone frontispiece, which now frames a double-leaf modern metal door with fixed semicircular transom set deeply within a keystoned arched portal. Mahogony wood doors with a fanlight transom filled this space originally. Accessed by a brick and concrete flaring grand stair with iron railings with turn-out easements, the frontispiece consists of flanking Ionic order engaged columns with enlongated capitals somewhat similar to those on the Erechtheion temple on the Acropolis, and a full entablature, and a segmental arched broken pediment with central cartouche displaying a bell in bas relief. Over the entry portal and incised into the entablature's frieze is "AMERICAN TELEPHONE & TELEGRAPH CO." Windows below the water table contain four-over-four light, double-hung sash, with two entrances along the rear elevation and one on the interior elevation of the rear ell. These entrances are accessed by stepped ramps behind pierced apron walls. Those on the main floor [piano nobile] of the facade (west), north and south elevations feature twelve-over-twelve light, double-hung sash set in blind arches with cast stone or limestone keys. A brick panel with jack arch equal in size to all other main floor windows is present on the interior wall of the rear ell. A window above the central rear entrance contains four-over-eight light, double-hung sash, while a twelve-over-twelve light window appears between the main and upper floor and lights the interior staircase. The third level fenestration, which corresponds to that on the main floor, consists of eight-over-twelve light, double-hung sash and jack arches with cast or limestone keys. The building's exterior is capped with a cast or limestone cornice which runs along the facade and extends along both side elevations then wraps only slightly onto the rear elevation. A wide cast or limestone stringcourse extends from the cornice to continue the effect along the rear (east) elevation, only interrupted by a chimney at the interior corner of the rear ell. A brick parapet surrounds the building at the roofline to obscure the roof configuration and any rooftop mechanical equipment. It is pierced by decorative grilles which correspond to the windows below on only the front and rear elevations. On the side elevations are recessed brick panels. A cast stone or limestone coping finishes the parapet and is interrupted only slightly on the rear by a small brick flue. Both the chimney and flue are undecorated except for a cast stone or limestone coping at the top. A metal fire escape is on the rear of the ell and accesses a doorway with transom on the third level, as well as the roof.

On the building's interior can still be seen the central hall's staircase with iron balustrade and wooden railing, plaster walls and ceilings, and red tile and linoleum-covered concrete and wood flooring. Radiators are still present as well as boilers, but none of this equipment remains in use. Bathrooms feature white ceramic tile, marble stalls, porcelain lavatories and tubs. All telephone equipment,

including repeaters and mahogany switching boards, was removed from the building when it was vacated by Southern Bell Telephone Company in 1987.

The American Telephone & Telegraph Company Building, at 124 North Palmetto Avenue in Denmark, is significant not only as an excellent example of early twentieth-century corporate architecture in the Georgian Revival style, but also for the role the American Telephone & Telegraph Company played in the development of the telephone and communications industry in early twentieth-century lowcountry South Carolina.

Denmark's first telephone office, opened in 1898, was in a rear room on the second floor of the Guess Building, at the corner of Palmetto Avenue and 8th Street. The American Telephone & Telegraph Company, constructing America's first long-distance network, built two long distance lines that year—a north-south line between Lynchburg, Virginia, and Savannah, Georgia, and an east-west line between Charleston, South Carolina, and Montgomery, Alabama. When these lines crossed in the vicinity, Denmark became the most convenient place for a station. Switching stations were built whenever two long-distance telephone lines crossed, while repeater stations were necessary to amplify signals at periodic intervals, as signals weakened after traveling long distances along copper wires and cables. A new central office, occupying part of the second floor of a commercial building at the corner of Palmetto Avenue and 7th Street, was opened in 1903; telephone operations soon expanded and eventually occupied the entire building.[1]

This building, begun in December 1921 and completed in April 1923, was constructed at a cost of some $300,000, and was described by American Telephone & Telegraph Company division plant engineer D.H. Woodward of Atlanta after it opened in June 1923: "That portion designed to house the equipment is of fireproof construction, while the remaining portion is of very substantial construction. The exterior is composed of Georgia brick laid in Flemish bond and presents a most pleasing appearance. The finished structure is modern and complete in every way and one of which Division 3, as well as the entire population of Denmark, is very proud."[2] The editors of the Bamberg Herald called the new building "the most modern telephone plant in the south . . . [and] the last word in modern equipment" at the time. J.C. Beall, plant superintendent with headquarters in Charlotte, N.C., gave the editors and reporters of the Herald an extensive tour of the building. "We find it quite impossible to transcribe on paper the marvelous and wonderful mechanism that is employed to handle a long distance telephone call or telegram," the Herald reported, explaining that the Denmark plant was the switching station for messages from the north and west continuing on to points further south.[3]

---

[1] D.H. Woodward, "Our House-Warming at Denmark, S.C.: Visiting Townspeople, Says D.H. Woodward, Division Plant Engineer, Atlanta, Are as Proud of Our New Building as We Are," Long Lines [Monthly Newsletter of the American Telephone & Telegraph Company], 3:7 (July 1923), 8-10, 34, in AT&T Archives, Warren, N.J.; Sheldon Hochheiser, Corporate Historian and Manager, AT&T Archives, [hochheiser@att.com], "RE: National Register Designation for the AT&T Building in Denmark, S.C.," private e-mail message to J. Tracy Power, Staff Historian, South Carolina State Historic Preservation Office, S.C. Department of Archives and History, [POWER@scdah.state.sc.us], 26 February 1999.
[2] Woodward, "Our House-Warming at Denmark, S.C.," 10.
[3] "Magnificent Telephone Plant Opened at Denmark Sunday," Bamberg Herald (Bamberg, S.C.), 14 June 1923.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

INTERVIEWS

T.M. Aiello, Bell South Company, Atlanta, Georgia, Telephone interview by Caroline E. Boyd, 1991.

Charlie Jacocks, former employee, A T & T Company, Denmark, S.C., Telephone interview by Caroline E. Boyd, 18 September 1991.

L.C. Kissoms, former employee, A T & T Company, Denmark, S.C., Telephone interview by Caroline E. Boyd, 30 August 1991.

Inez Brickle McCall, former employee A T & T Company, Denmark, S.C., Interview by Jim Stoller and Caroline E. Boyd, 1991.

Werber Pitts, former employee A T & T Company, Denmark, S.C., Interview by Carole Barker and Caroline E. Boyd, 12 March 1996.

Marsha Purday, A T & T Company, Columbia, S.C., Telephone Interview by Caroline E. Boyd, 1991.

PUBLISHED MATERIALS

"Magnificent Telephone Plant Opened at Denmark Sunday," The Bamberg Herald, (Bamberg, S.C.), 14 June 1923.

Edisto Public Service Company, Opportunities in the Edisto-Savannah Territory. Denmark, S.C.: Edisto Public Service Company, 1930.

Woodward, D.H. "Our House-Warming at Denmark, S.C.: Visiting Townspeople, Says D.H. Woodward, Division Plant Engineer, Atlanta, Are as Proud of Our New Building as We Are." Long Lines [Monthly Newsletter of the American Telephone & Telegraph Company], 3:7 (July 1923), 8-10, 34, in AT&T Archives, Warren, N.J.

E-MAIL MESSAGES

Hochheiser, Sheldon, Corporate Historian and Manager, AT&T Archives [hochheiser@att.com]. "RE: National Register Designation for the AT&T Building in Denmark, S.C." Private e-mail message to J. Tracy Power, Staff Historian, South Carolina State Historic Preservation Office, S.C. Department of Archives and History, [POWER@scdah.state.sc.us}, 26 February 1999.

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the nominated property is shown on the accompanying Bamberg County, S.C., plat for the Town of Denmark, drawn at a scale of 1" = 20'.

Verbal Boundary Justification

The nominated property is restricted to the historic building and its immediate setting.

The following information is the same for each of the photographs:

Name of Property: American Telephone & Telegraph Company Building
Location of Property: 263 N. Palmetto Avenue, Denmark, Bamberg County, S.C.

1. Facade (West elevation)
Name of Photographer: Carole Barker
Date of Photograph: 1995
Location of Original Negatives: Carole Barker, Times and Democrat, Orangeburg, S.C.

2. North and Rear (East) elevations
Name of Photographer: Carole Barker
Date of Photograph: 1995
Location of Original Negatives: Carole Barker, Times and Democrat, Orangeburg, S.C.

3. South Elevation
Name of Photographer: Carole Barker
Date of Photograph: 1995
Location of Original Negatives: Carole Barker, Times and Democrat, Orangeburg, S.C.

4. Historic Photograph, Photo # 40352,
"Denmark S.C. Repeater Office – Line of 2 wire floor type repeaters"
Name of Photographer: Unknown
Date of Photograph: ca. 1930
Location of Original Negatives: AT&T Archives, Warren, N.J.

5. Facade Entrance
Name of Photographer: J. Tracy Power, S.C. State Historic Preservation Office
Date of Photograph: 2 March 1999
Location of Original Negatives: S.C. Department of Archives and History, Columbia, S.C.

6. Facade Entrance Detail, Broken Pediment and Entablature
Name of Photographer: J. Tracy Power, S.C. State Historic Preservation Office
Date of Photograph: 2 March 1999
Location of Original Negatives: S.C. Department of Archives and History, Columbia, S.C.

7. Facade Entrance Detail, Cartouche with Bas-Relief Bell
Name of Photographer: J. Tracy Power, S.C. State Historic Preservation Office
Date of Photograph: 2 March 1999
Location of Original Negatives: S.C. Department of Archives and History, Columbia, S.C.

8. Facade Entrance Detail, Double-Leaf Metal Door, ca. 1941
Name of Photographer: J. Tracy Power, S.C. State Historic Preservation Office
Date of Photograph: 2 March 1999
Location of Original Negatives: S.C. Department of Archives and History, Columbia, S.C.

9. Interior, Central Hall, View Toward Entrance
Name of Photographer: J. Tracy Power, S.C. State Historic Preservation Office
Date of Photograph: 2 March 1999
Location of Original Negatives: S.C. Department of Archives and History, Columbia, S.C.

10. Interior, Central Stair
Name of Photographer: J. Tracy Power, S.C. State Historic Preservation Office
Date of Photograph: 2 March 1999
Location of Original Negatives: S.C. Department of Archives and History, Columbia, S.C.

11. Interior, First Floor
Name of Photographer: J. Tracy Power, S.C. State Historic Preservation Office
Date of Photograph: 2 March 1999
Location of Original Negatives: S.C. Department of Archives and History, Columbia, S.C.

12. Interior, First Floor
Name of Photographer: J. Tracy Power, S.C. State Historic Preservation Office
Date of Photograph: 2 March 1999
Location of Original Negatives: S.C. Department of Archives and History, Columbia, S.C.