

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form**

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 Bamberg City Hall
other names/site number

2. Location

street & number 3069 Main Highway (U.S. Highway 301) not for publication
city or town Bamberg vicinity
state South Carolina code SC county Bamberg code 009 zip code 29003

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, 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:	Signature of the Keeper	Date of Action
<u> </u> entered in the National Register <u> </u> See continuation sheet.		
<u> </u> determined eligible for the National Register <u> </u> See continuation sheet.		
<u> </u> determined not eligible for the National Register		
<u> </u> removed from the National Register		
<u> </u> other (explain):		

Bamberg City Hall
Name of Property

Bamberg County, South Carolina
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u> </u>	buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	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: Government
Government
Government
Education
Commerce/Trade

Subcategory: City Hall
Police Department
Fire Department
Library
Specialty Store

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Category: Vacant

Subcategory: Not In Use

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Classical Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick
walls Brick

roof Asphalt
other Wood
Cast Stone

Narrative Description

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

Bamberg City Hill
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)

- 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.
- 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)

Politics and Government
Architecture

Period of Significance

1909 -1955

Significant Dates

1909

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Sayre & Baldwin

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:

- State Historic Preservation Office
 - Other State agency
 - Federal agency
 - Local government
 - University
 - Other
- Name of repository:
Historic Society of Bamberg County,
Bamberg, S.C.

Bamberg City Hall
Name of Property

Bamberg County, South Carolina
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property Less than one acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Zone Easting Northing	Zone Easting Northing
1 <u>17 496715 3683949</u>	3
2 <u> </u>	4

 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 J. Tracy Power, Historian, and Andrew W. Chandler, Architectural Historian, SHPO, with the assistance of Nancy Ray Foster, Historic Society of Bamberg County
 organization S.C. Department of Archives & History date 6 July 2005
 street & number 8301 Parklane Road telephone (803) 896-6175
 city or town Columbia state SC zip code 29223

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 The Historic Society of Bamberg County, Inc.
 street & number 11611 Heritage telephone (803) 245-1000
 city or town Bamberg state SC zip code 29003

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.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 5

Bamberg City Hall
Name of Property
Bamberg County, South Carolina
County and State

The Bamberg City Hall, located at 3069 Main Highway [US Highway 301, formerly Main Street, and before that Bamberg Street] in downtown Bamberg, South Carolina, is a three-story brick and cast stone commercial building with a Classical Revival façade. Begun in 1908 and completed in 1909 according to plans by the prominent Anderson, South Carolina, architectural firm of Sayre & Baldwin, the combined hardware store and city hall's façade is organized as a tall building with a base, shaft and capital. Its walls are laid in a variation of common or American bond, with every sixth course consisting of alternating stretchers and headers.

At street level the building features stout brick paneled corner piers/pilasters that have been painted white and a cast stone lintel with entablature and projecting box cornice. The box cornice provides a distinct horizontal separation between the first and upper levels of the building. Within the commercial storefront surround at street level is a stair entrance at left [north side] that features a doorway, lintel and fixed prismatic glass transom. Incised upon the storefront's lintel above this doorway is "City Hall." A square post or pier separates the doorway from the first floor storefront, which consists of a central, recessed entrance with sidelights and transom. To either side of this entrance are large plate glass display windows with high canted bulkheads below of modern {1950s} Florida stone. Above the storefront, in three separated fields corresponding to the segments of the storefront, are prismatic glass transoms identical to that over the street level stair entrance to the second floor.

The upper levels are four bays wide, feature a red face brick and are framed by quoined or rusticated brick corners. Window openings on the second and third levels of the façade feature cast stone sills and jack arches. Those on the second level contain decorative cast stone keystones and voussoirs, while the shorter windows on the third level only feature cast stone keystones. Sash appear to have been removed from both levels of window openings. Atop the upper levels of the façade is brick of an alternate type and color that indicates the original location of a cornice, most likely rendered in metal of some type and description. No photographs or drawings have been found to date that indicate the size, depth or design of the cornice. Above this area is a brick parapet with brick corbeled coping.

The building's south [side] and east [rear] elevations contain segmental arched window and door openings on the first level and segmental arched window openings on the second and third levels of unequal size on the south elevation and of equal size on the rear [east] elevation. All window openings on secondary elevations feature cast stone sills; however, all window sash appear to have been removed. The wall surface of the rear elevation has been stuccoed. An exterior chimney flue rises midway along the south wall. The north wall of the building has a common wall with the adjoining building and cannot be seen except for the extreme upper portion.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 6

Bamberg City Hall
Name of Property
Bamberg County, South Carolina
County and State

Within the building's first floor are heart pine wood interior finishes, including the original center row of columns. The first floor space is divided into four spaces. The second floor, accessed by a stairway on the north side of the building, is divided into five spaces that served as administrative offices for the City of Bamberg from 1909 until 1978. The building's third floor contains an open floor plan; it was used for sessions of the city court and various meetings, and also housed the town library.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 7

Bamberg City Hall
Name of Property
Bamberg County, South Carolina
County and State

Bamberg City Hall, built 1908-09, is significant both as an intact extant example of an early twentieth century governmental building designed by the firm of Sayre and Gadsden, and for its service as Bamberg City Hall from 1909 to 1978.

The present town of Bamberg dates from before the Civil War, when the South Carolina Canal and Railroad Company (later absorbed into the Southern Railway) ran its tracks through the southwestern portion of the state. First called Simmons's Turnout, then Lowery's Turnout, as a terminus on the railroad, it was incorporated and renamed Bamberg in 1852, named in honor of Maj. William Seaborn Bamberg (1820-1858), a planter and merchant who had moved to the area and proposed its incorporation. The population of the town in 1860 was about 250, and the center of the town in the antebellum period was where Main Street crossed the railroad tracks. Ten years later Francis Marion Bamberg (1838-1905)—William Seaborn Bamberg's younger brother—T.J. Counts, and H.J. Brabham were, according to one local historian, "attempting to found a real town."¹ By 1890 the population had grown to more than 1,800, after the town and surrounding area had enjoyed significant growth in the 1870s and 1880s. When Bamberg County was organized in 1897 with Bamberg as the new county seat, there was some sentiment to naming the town after the writer William Gilmore Simms, whose plantation "Woodlands" had been in Barnwell County but would now be in the new county. The county was named Bamberg instead, not for William Seaborn Bamberg, but for Francis Marion Bamberg, who had served as an officer in the Confederate horse artillery during the Civil War and had been appointed a general on the staff of Governor Wade Hampton in the 1870s.²

This building is the second separate city hall built in Bamberg; the first, a brick building, was built ca. 1880 and replaced by this building. It was designed by the Anderson, S.C., firm of Sayre and Baldwin, a partnership of Christopher Gadsden Sayre (1876-ca. 1935) and James J. Baldwin (1888-1955), active in Anderson from 1908 to 1914. Sayre, and later Sayre and Baldwin, were best known during this period for their designs of South Carolina schools, such as schools in St. George, Dorchester County (1907-08); North, Orangeburg County (1907-08); Woodruff, in Spartanburg County (1908); Holly Hill, in Orangeburg County (1908); Central, in Pickens County (1908); and Shandon, in Columbia (1909). Construction on the Bamberg City Hall, estimated in the *Manufacturer's Record* of 22 October 1908 to cost \$10,000, began in 1908 and was completed in 1909.³

¹ D. Graham Copeland, "Many Years After: A Bit of History and Some Recollections of Bamberg – With Appendix of Data Concerning a Few Bamberg County Families and Their Connections" (Unpublished typescript, 1940, South Caroliniana Library, University of South Carolina, Columbia, S.C.), pp. 77-78, 139.

² Copeland, 166, and *passim*.

³ John E. Wells and Robert E. Dalton, *The South Carolina Architects, 1885-1935: A Biographical Dictionary* (Richmond, Va.: New South Architectural Press, 1992), pp. 5-6, 151-53.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 8

Bamberg City Hall
Name of Property
Bamberg County, South Carolina
County and State

This building also housed the Bamberg City Library (in 1945 absorbed into the new Bamberg County Library) on its third floor from 1924 to 1945.⁴

⁴ South Carolina State Library, " 'So Good and Necessary a Work': The Public Library in South Carolina, 1698-1980" (Columbia: South Carolina State Library, 1981).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 9

Bamberg City Hall
Name of Property
Bamberg County, South Carolina
County and State

REFERENCES

- Copeland, D. Graham. "Many Years After: A Bit of Some History and Some Recollections of Bamberg – With Appendix of Data Concerning a Few Bamberg County Families and Their Connections. Unpublished typescript, South Caroliniana Library, University of South Carolina, Columbia, S.C.
- South Carolina State Library. "‘So Good and Necessary a Work’: The Public Library in South Carolina, 1698-1980." Columbia: South Carolina State Library, 1981.
- Wells, John E., and Robert E. Dalton. *The South Carolina Architects, 1885-1935: A Biographical Dictionary*. Richmond, Va.: New South Architectural Press, 1992.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 10

Bamberg City Hall
Name of Property
Bamberg County, South Carolina
County and State

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the nominated property is shown as the black line marked "Bamberg City Hall" on the accompanying Bamberg County Tax Map # 087-02, Parcel 3, Lot 5, drawn at a scale of 1" = 100'.
Boundary Justification

The nominated property is restricted to the historic building and the city lot on which it is located.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number Photographs Page 11

Bamberg City Hall
Name of Property
Bamberg County, South Carolina
County and State

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

Name of Property:	Bamberg City Hall
Location of Property:	3069 Main Highway (U.S. Highway 301) Bamberg Bamberg County, South Carolina
Name of Photographer:	Nancy R. Foster
Date of Photographs:	25 April 2005
Location of Original Negatives:	S.C. Department of Archives and History, Columbia, S.C.

1. Façade
2. Façade, right oblique
3. Façade, right oblique, detail
4. Façade, first floor, detail
5. Façade, second floor windows, detail
6. Rear elevation
7. Side door
8. Façade, pilaster
9. Side door
10. "City Hall" on façade