

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: South Carolina	
COUNTY: Calhoun	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	MAY 29 1975

1. NAME

COMMON:
Calhoun County Library

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Railroad Avenue

CITY OR TOWN:
St. Matthews

STATE: South Carolina CODE: 045 COUNTY: Calhoun CODE: 017

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" 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"/> Other (Specify) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____ Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
County of Calhoun

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: St. Matthews STATE: South Carolina CODE: 045

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Calhoun County Court House

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: St. Matthews STATE: South Carolina CODE: 045

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Inventory of Historic Places in South Carolina

DATE OF SURVEY: 1973 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
South Carolina Department of Archives and History

STREET AND NUMBER:
1430 Senate Street P.O. Box 11,669 Capitol Station

CITY OR TOWN: Columbia STATE: South Carolina CODE: 045

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:

COUNTY:

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

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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

EXTERIOR

This one-story, medium-gabled white clapboard structure (ca.1877) was originally built as a residence and has been adapted for use as a library. Placed on a low brick foundation, the T-shaped design retains its original architectural integrity. The front facade features a three-bay, square-columned entrance porch. Extending from the left and right wings, two smaller porches of similar design enhance the symmetry of the front elevation. The porches and house have been roofed with asbestos shingles.

In the center of the front facade a four-panel double-door with sidelights and fanlight is balanced by two 6/6 lights. A small fanlight is centered in the entry porch pediment. In the center of each side porch wall is a single door containing 6-pane window.

The forward portion of the right elevation features an outside end chimney, with 6/6 lights in the low gabled rear section. A fireproof vault (ca. 1949) has been attached to the rear of this side.

An L-shaped porch with unadorned square columns extends across the left elevation, a portion of which has been enclosed to meet additional space requirements of the library.

INTERIOR

The interior rooms retain their original proportions, however, assorted cosmetic alterations have been made in adapting the structure to contemporary use as a town library. Most prominent in the main reading room is the double-door entry whose sidelights and fanlight fill the area with natural light.

SURROUNDINGS

The structure sits on a spacious lot near the center of St. Matthews in the original residential district. It overlooks the rail line that was basic to the town's agricultural economy in its formative years.

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 checked="" 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) **ca. 1877**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input checked="" 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 Architecture | <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

As one of St. Matthews' oldest buildings, the Calhoun County Library is significant for its pleasing architectural proportions and its creative use as a public library and museum.

Constructed ca. 1877, the building remained in residential use until 1949. Since then the structure has been used as the county library and historic museum. It is an excellent example of the adaptive use of a residential structure in an increasingly commercial district. The exterior elevations retain the dignity of the structure's classic revival style. The symmetry of the square-columned porches, the entry-way pediment with fanlight and the central double-doors with fanlight and sidelights combine in achieving this classic motif.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

