

**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 70-8-41-0026	DATE 8/25

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
Blake Tenements

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
Same

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
2 and 4 Courthouse Square

CITY OR TOWN:  
Charleston

STATE South Carolina	CODE 41	COUNTY: Charleston	CODE 10
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**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <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 type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input checked="" 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) _____ _____

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
Charleston County

STREET AND NUMBER:  
The Center

CITY OR TOWN: Charleston	STATE: South Carolina	CODE 41
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**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Register of Mesne Conveyance

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Charleston County Courthouse

CITY OR TOWN: Charleston	STATE: South Carolina	CODE 41
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**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
This is Charleston

DATE OF SURVEY: 1940-1941  
 Federal     State     County     Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
Gibbes Art Gallery

STREET AND NUMBER:  
135 Meeting Street

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

STATE: S. CAR.  
COUNTY: CHARLESTON  
ENTRY NUMBER: 70-8-41-0026  
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**7. DESCRIPTION**

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input checked="" 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

**Present Condition:**

The interior needs considerable renovation in order to allow it to be used as an additional Charleston County Office Building, without altering the original design of the rooms or the interiors.

The following description was written by Mr. Albert Simons, FAIA, for his forthcoming Charleston Guide Book in preparation for the Charleston Convention of the Society of Architectural Historians:

"The word "tenement" today has a rather pejorative connotation which did not exist in the 18th century. In the language of today it could best be described as a duplex dwelling. The building covers the entire width of the lot with a barrel vaulted passage at ground level extending down the center of the building from the street to the yard at the rear. This passage, neither wide nor high enough for the passage of a horse drawn vehicle, was intended for pedestrians only.

At Blake's Tenements there are, on both sides of the passage, service entrances to the basements of each dwelling as well as windows for ventilation. The two south rooms in the basement probably served as kitchens; each has a large open fireplace. The south windows of both kitchens which show on the inside were walled up when the person ascending from the street to the floor above was constructed. This double exterior stairway must have been built before the Revolution because the treads and the platforms are paved with an English stone known as "nautiloid." Also the character of the iron railing with the ornamental scroll work in the center would not be very much later than the house.

On the south front of the building, the brickwork is laid in Flemish bond; the sides and rear are laid in English bond. On the east side the brickwork is less perfect because of the former presence of an earlier brick building two stories and a garret high which precluded the neat pointing of the brick.

Because of the obstruction of this older building, there are fewer windows on the lower stories of the east dwelling than on the west side of the west dwelling. The west dwelling must have been considered more desirable, and received a somewhat more elegant interior finish.

On the exterior, the window frames are set flush with the face of the brick work and are spanned by segmental relieving arches of row lock bricks with the spandrels between the frame and arch chocked with a stretcher in the middle and bats on the ends.

Originally the window sash in the basement consisted of six lights over six lights; on the first and second floors nine lights over nine lights; and on the third floor six lights over six lights, with wide strong muntins. But even such sturdy glazing bars could not withstand the wind pressures of the periodic tropical storms. All sash on the east and south sides have been replaced by sash with more slender muntins and on the first and second floors with six over six panes of glass,

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1760-1772

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agriculture  | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture           | _____  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input checked="" 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

Architecturally and esthetically valuable to the city are Daniel Blake's Tenements dating from 1760-1772. One of the few examples in Charleston of English bond brickwork, this early double house has spacious dimensions and is distinguished for the beautifully executed woodwork in principal rooms and for its notable wrought iron steps and porch railings.

Located on historic Court House Square, the building helps complete the character of the entire area, and it takes on added significance as the western boundary of a proposed courthouse park.

Enclosed as supplementary information are a neighborhood site plan, elevations for the gates and fences and a landscape plan for the park.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Stoney, Samuel Gaillard, (ed.), This is Charleston: A Survey of the Architectural Heritage of a Unique American City. Charleston, 1944.

McKee, Harley J., (ed.), Historic American Buildings Survey: Records of Buildings in Charleston and the South Carolina Low Country. Philadelphia, 1965.

Deas, Alston, The Early Ironwork of Charleston. Columbia, 1941.

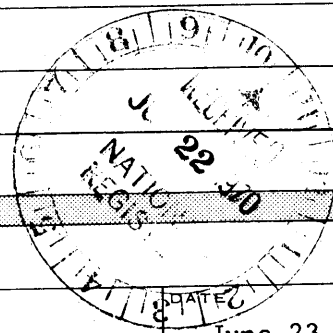
**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

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
NW	° ' "	° ' "		32°	46'	37"
NE	° ' "	° ' "		79°	55'	54"
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1/8

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
Mrs. James W. Fant, Historic Resources Division

ORGANIZATION:  
S. C. Dept. of Archives and History

DATE: June 23, 1970

STREET AND NUMBER:  
PO Box 11,188 Capitol Station 29211 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. Department of Archives and History

Date June 25, 1970

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

Ernest Allen Connally  
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

**AUG 25 1970**

Date \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_

William J. Huntly  
Keeper of The National Register

Date **JUL 20 1970**

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
South Carolina	
COUNTY	
Charleston	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
70-8-11-0026	8/25

(Number all entries)

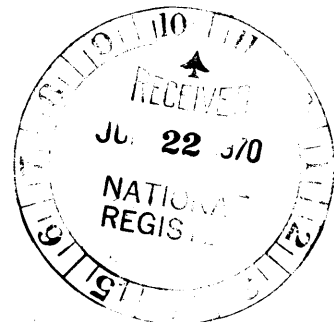
Blake Tenements  
7. Description

departing from the uniform size of panes still surviving on the west and north sides of the building.

The floor plans of the two dwellings mirror each other and repeat on all three floors, consisting of a large south room, then a stair hall the full width of the building and then a north room not quite as deep as the front room. The framed kitchenettes at the corners of the north side are later accretions and will be removed. In the northwest room on the first floor a partition has been added parallel to the east wall giving a passage to the rear entrance from the west stair hall. The proper mouldings have been replaced on the room side of the partition so that the room has not been disfigured. The south rooms in both dwellings and on the first and second floors have wood wainscots with moulded chair rails and walls above paneled. These panels are not the customary beveled kind but have flat fields within the stiles and rails with a small double bead mould replacing the inner edges of the bevel. Above the paneling is a full wood cornice. The south rooms on the second floor are the drawing room and are given greater elaboration of detail; the mantel piece in the east side is enriched by brackets with hand carved foliation. In the west drawing room the original mantel piece has been succeeded by a large and ornate replacement in the Adam style popular early in the 19th-century in Charleston. In the reception room, the replacement is smaller and less florid but in the same character.

Throughout this building, the original flooring of wide random width boards has remained in place. Most of the "iron mongery" of H and L hinges and box locks are still on the doors and the building has suffered comparatively few changes over the years."

The building is empty at present, subject to renovation as part of proposed Court House Park. If money cannot be obtained for the proposed and necessary renovation, the Tenements will probably have to be demolished.



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(Continuation Sheet)

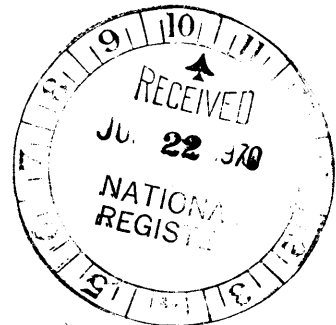
STATE South Carolina	
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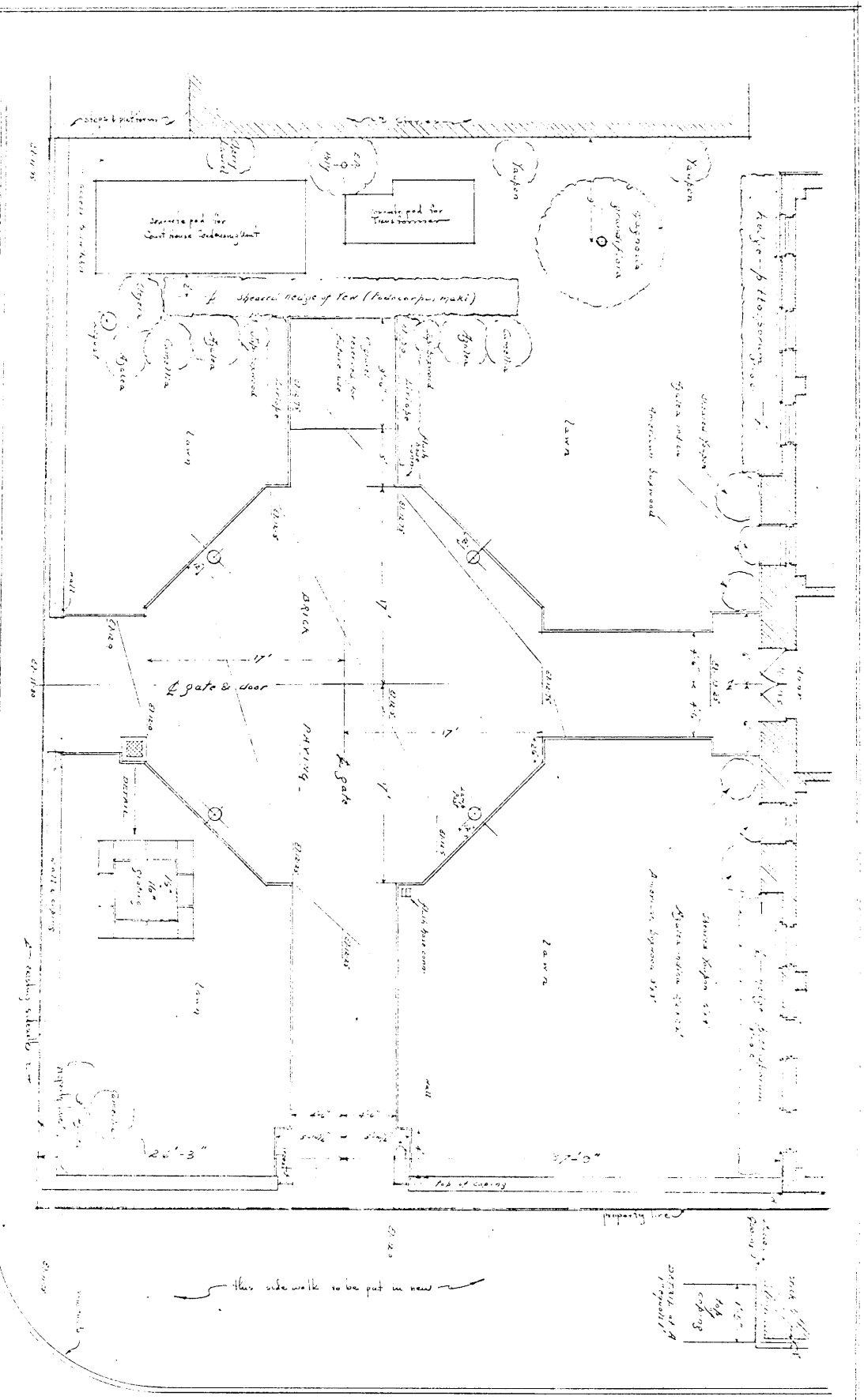
(Number all entries)

Blake Tenements

9. Major Bibliographical References

Whitaker, Charles Harris, (ed.), The Octagonal Library of Early American Architecture: Charleston, South Carolina. vol. 1, A. I. A.

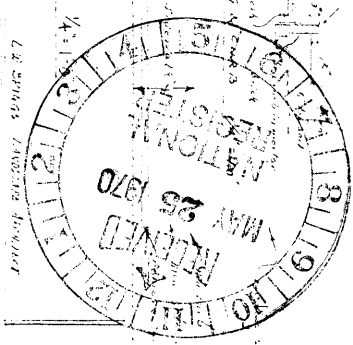




Notes  
 from 1870 to 1880  
 the house was built by James  
 ... ..

brick paving  
 below paving  
 with 4x8 in. boards  
 ... ..

DETAIL: OPEN PORCH  
 ... ..



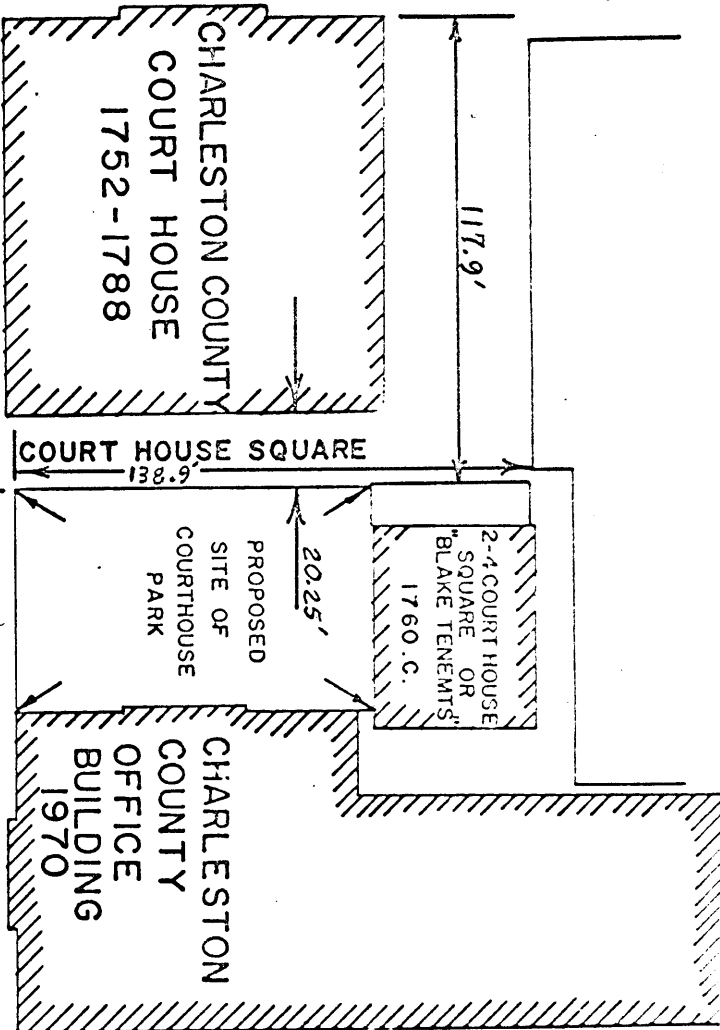
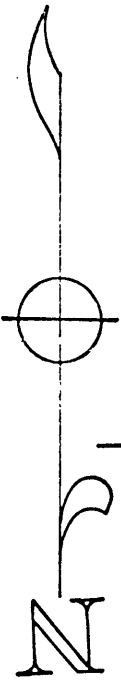
PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL ARCHITECTURAL ARCHIVE  
 ... ..

FRANK EARL  
 GEORGE EARL  
 ARCHITECTS & ENGINEERS  
 ... ..

CONSTRUCTION OF THIS HOUSE  
 ... ..

UNITED STATES  
POST OFFICE  
1896 C.

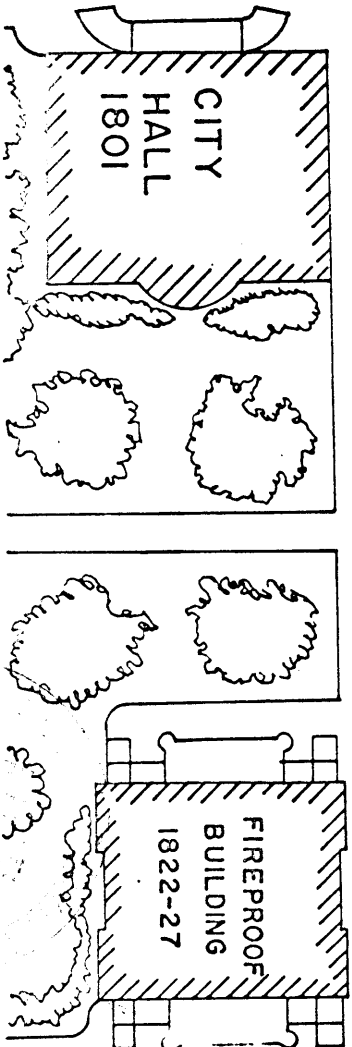
BROAD STREET



HIBERNIAN  
SOCIETY  
1840

MEETING STREET

ST. MICHAELS  
CHURCH  
1751 - 1761



CHALMERS ST.

NEIGHBORHOOD SITE PLAN  
NOT TO SCALE

