S.C. District #1 - Rep. Mendel Davis Theme 3. Development of the English Colonies 1700-1775

Form 10-300 (July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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	DATE
72.1.45.0001	1/5/72

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: Powder Magazine

AND/OR HISTORIC: Powder Magazine

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: 79 Cumberland Street

CITY OR TOWN: Charleston

STATE	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
South Carolina 29401	45	Charleston	019

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
☐ District ☒ Building ☐ Site ☐ Structure ☐ Object	☐ Public ☒ Private ☐ Both	Public Acquisition: ☐ In Process ☐ Being Considered	☒ Occupied ☐ Unoccupied ☐ Preservation work in progress	Yes: ☒ Restricted ☐ Unrestricted ☐ No

PRESENT USE *(Check One or More as Appropriate)*

☐ Agricultural ☐ Government ☐ Park ☐ Transportation ☐ Comments
☐ Commercial ☐ Industrial ☐ Private Residence ☐ Other *(Specify)*
☐ Educational ☐ Military ☐ Religious Also Society Headquarters
☐ Entertainment ☒ Museum ☐ Scientific

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: The National Society of The Colonial Dames of America in the State of South Carolina

STREET AND NUMBER: 79 Cumberland Street

CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:	CODE
Charleston	South Carolina 29401	45

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Charleston County Court House

STREET AND NUMBER: Broad Street

CITY OR TOWN:	STATE	CODE
Charleston	South Carolina 29401	45

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6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: This is Charleston: An Architectural Survey of a Unique American City

DATE OF SURVEY: 1944 ☐ Federal ☐ State ☐ County ☒ Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Historic Charleston Foundation

STREET AND NUMBER: 51 Meeting Street

CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:	CODE
Charleston	South Carolina 29401	45

STATE: COUNTY: FOR NPS USE ONLY ENTRY NUMBER 72.1.45.0001 DATE 1/5/72

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One) ☒ Excellent ☐ Good ☐ Fair ☐ Deteriorated ☐ Ruins ☐ Unexposed	
	(Check One) ☐ Altered ☒ Unaltered Relatively	(Check One) ☐ Moved ☒ Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL *(if known)* PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Low, square building of stuccoed brick has four-sided pyramidal roof intersected by two gables on each side. The red roof tile is original; Mediterranean type (source unknown), same as that used on some of Charleston's oldest buildings.

Walls are 32 inches thick and interior walls have original brick finish (the interior stucco added during an interim period has been removed). Of a medieval appearance, the one main room is approximately 27'X 27' (plus tiny kitchen and tiny office) and has a central column formed by the descending arches of the vaulted ceiling.

Three deeply-recessed casement-type windows were probably added in the course of years since it is believed the original powder magazine had no windows. On west side is a large window that originally was the powder magazine door, still intact with original hand-wrought outside iron grating, and three-foot bolt extending into the brick wall. The original heavy wooden inside door has been replaced by glass to show both the thickness of the wall and to display the handsome ironwork. The lock from the original wooden door is used on the present entrance door.

The present entrance features double outside doors added probably about 100 years ago. There is also an inner door with glass sidelights on either side.

Although nobody knows exactly, the original floor was probably either packed earth or brick, according to Charleston architect Samuel Lapham, who has made a study of powder magazines. The present floor covering is of tile brought from England, quite beautiful, in two shades -- dark red and beige -- and the same as that used in St. Michael's Episcopal Church (National Historic Landmark). Installed by The Colonial Dames in the early 1900s.

Maintained as Colonial Dames headquarters, the Powder Magazine has antique furnishings and exhibits that illustrate life of colonial Carolina. Included are pictures, jewel boxes, china and clothes -- one of the dresses on display belonged to Eliza Lucas Pinckney.

At each side of the front door is an 18th-century cannon bearing the seal of King George III. An iron picket fence encloses tiny garden and lawn.

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8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD *(Check One or More as Appropriate)*

- [ ] Pre-Columbian
- [ ] 15th Century
- [ ] 16th Century
- [ ] 17th Century
- [x] 18th Century
- [x] 19th Century
- [x] 20th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) *(If Applicable and Known)* 1703-1713

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE *(Check One or More as Appropriate)*

- Aboriginal
  - [ ] Prehistoric
  - [ ] Historic
- [ ] Agriculture
- [x] Architecture
- [ ] Art
- [ ] Commerce
- [ ] Communications
- [ ] Conservation
- [ ] Education
- [ ] Engineering
- [ ] Industry
- [ ] Invention
- [ ] Landscape Architecture
- [ ] Literature
- [x] Military
- [ ] Music
- [ ] Political
- [ ] Religion/Philosophy
- [ ] Science
- [ ] Sculpture
- [ ] Social/Humanitarian
- [ ] Theater
- [ ] Transportation
- [ ] Urban Planning
- [ ] Other *(Specify)*

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Oldest public building in Charleston, the Powder Magazine is architecturally unique, an excellent example of preservation and adaptive use.

Its construction was authorized in 1703 as part of fortifications which enclosed the town with a rectangular wall strengthened by four bastions. Since its completion in 1713, the tiny building has stood as a Charleston landmark, its location on Cumberland Street placing it within the Old and Historic Charleston district now listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Serving during the Colonial and the Revolutionary periods to store and safeguard the public powder supply, the Powder Magazine reflects the history of the provinces's struggle against the Indians, Spanish, French, pirates and British. Deactivated as a powder magazine during the last year of the American Revolution, the powder magazine in successive years has served various purposes, including use as the wine cellar of Gabriel Manigault, one of the wealthiest men in all the American colonies.

Since 1902, it has been headquarters for the National Society of The Colonial Dames of America in the State of South Carolina, which also maintains there a museum of colonial Caroliniana.

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9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

This Is Charleston: A Survey of the Architectural Heritage of a Unique American City. Carolina Art Association 1944

Wooten & Stoney, Charleston.
Houghton Mifflin Co. 1937

WPA, South Carolina: A Guide to the Palmetto State.
Oxford University Press. 1941

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY						OR	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	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	32°	46'	45"	79°	55'	50"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"						
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"						
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"						

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Less than one

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

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

ORGANIZATION: S.C. Department of Archives and History

DATE:

STREET AND NUMBER:
1430 Senate Street (P.O. Box 11,188, Capitol Station 29211)

CITY OR TOWN: Columbia

STATE: South Carolina

CODE: 45

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

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. Lee

Title: Director, S.C. Department of Archives and History

Date: June 14, 1971

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Ernest A. Connally
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: JAN 5 1972

ATTEST:

William Murtagh
Keeper of the National Register

Date: DEC 7 1971