

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

1. NAME

COMMON:

College of Charleston Complex: Main Building, Library, and Gate Lodge

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

Glebe George, St. Philip, and Green Streets

CITY OR TOWN:

Charleston

STATE

South Carolina

CODE

COUNTY:

Charleston

CODE

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 type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" 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
			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"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:

Dr. Theodore S. Stern, President The College of Charleston

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

Charleston 29401

STATE:

South Carolina

CODE

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:

County Records Building

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

Charleston

STATE

South Carolina

CODE

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

Historic American Building Survey (1 photo)

DATE OF SURVEY:

1940

☒ Federal

☐ State

☐ County

☐ Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

Division of Prints and Photographs, Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

Washington

STATE:

D. C.

CODE

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)

☐ Excellent ☐ Good ☒ Fair ☐ Deteriorated ☐ Ruins ☐ Unexposed

(Check One)

☒ Altered ☐ Unaltered

(Check One)

☐ Moved ☒ Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The central core of Main College Building, as designed by William Strickland and built in 1828-29, was simple rectangular, two-story-over-elevated-basement brick structure, with a pedimented three-bay-wide projecting central pavilion on the south (main) facade and gable ends on the east and west sides. In 1850 Edward B. White added large two-story brick and stucco wings to the east and west sides and the present grandiose colossal portico, with six giant Roman Ionic pillars and arcaded basement, to the center of the main facade. White thereby changed Strickland's simple and utilitarian design to the existing more elaborate Roman Revival mode. The 1852 wings were badly damaged in the earthquake of 1886 and were rebuilt, but the degree of deviation from the 1852 plans is not known. In 1930 the west wing was extended to reach College Street.

The Gate Lodge, designed by White and built in 1852, is a rectangular two-story brick and stucco structure in the Roman Revival style. Three-bays wide, the center first story is occupied by a wide and high round-arch doorway which is flanked by two lower and narrower round-arch doors. Four giant pillars of the Tuscan order rise to support the pediment that extends across the entire street facade of the structure.

The College Library, designed by George E. Walker and built in 1854-56, is a rectangular two-story brick and stucco structure over half basement in the mid-19th century Classical Revival style, with Italianate details, corner quoins, and round-headed windows. Inside, a central reading room rises two stories in height and is surrounded by a gallery, under which the bookshelves are arranged in alcoves that lead to the windows. Doorways under the gallery are arched. The building remains much as it was built, except that the half basement has been deepened to serve as an additional floor.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Pre-Columbian☐ 16th Century☐ 18th Century☐ 20th Century☐ 15th Century☐ 17th Century☒ 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

1827-56

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Aboriginal☐ Education☐ Political☐ Urban Planning☐ Prehistoric☐ Engineering☐ Religion/Phi-☐ Other (Specify)☐ Historic☐ Industry

losophy

☐ Agriculture☐ Invention☐ Science☒ Architecture☐ Landscape☐ Sculpture☐ Art

Architecture

☐ Social/Human-☐ Commerce☐ Literature

itarian

☐ Communications☐ Military☐ Theater☐ Conservation☐ Music☐ Transportation

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The small campus of the College of Charleston contains three structures, - the Main Building, the Library, and Gate Lodge, situated in an attractive setting of evergreen oaks, that achieve a certain degree of unity by means of the prevailing Pompeian red coloring of their stuccoed walls. The Main Building, a large Roman Revival edifice erected in two stages between 1827 and 1852, with later rebuildings and additions, is an organic growth structure. The core of the building, now largely hidden from view by later additions, was by architect William Strickland, and the existing and dominating design is by Edward Brickell White. The Gate Lodge, also designed by White and built in 1852, is an example of a Roman Revival brick building. The Library, constructed in 1854-56 and designed by George Edward Walker, is a two-story brick structure in the mid-19th Century Classical Revival style, with Italianate details. The Gate Lodge and Library are little-altered.

History

The endowment fund for the College of Charleston was founded in 1770; on March 19, 1785 the college was chartered by the General Assembly of South Carolina and the first classes met later in the same year. In 1837 the College became a municipal institution; in 1918 it became coeducational, and on April 28, 1949, through an act of the General Assembly, the original charter of 1785 was in effect restored and the College of Charleston returned to its original private status.

History of the Buildings

The College of Charleston occupied its present campus in 1790 and from 1790 to 1829 the institution's classroom building was a former barracks that had been built during the Revolutionary War. In 1827 the architect William Strickland of Philadelphia prepared plans for the College's first new building, a rectangular two-story brick structure that now forms the center section of edifice known as the Main Building. Construction on this new structure began on January 12, 1828 and was virtually completed by March, 1829. Cost of construction was about \$21,000. In 1840 the brick walls of the Main Building received a coating of roughcast or Roman cement,

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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			
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds		
NW	32°	47	02	79°	56	17	"	
NE	32°	47	03	79°	56	15	"	
SE	32°	47	00	79°	56	12	"	
SW	32°	46	59	79°	56	15	"	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

4

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

FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:

Staff, National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings

ORGANIZATION

National Park Service

DATE

August 1971

STREET AND NUMBER:

801 19th Street, N.W.

CITY OR TOWN:

Washington

STATE

D.C.

CODE

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 _____

Title _____

Date _____

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

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

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8. Significance

Continued

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thus establishing a precedent that was followed in all later construction. Just when the Pompeian red coloring was first applied to the coating is not known.

In 1850-52 the Main Building was greatly enlarged and its originally simple exterior completely remodeled in the Roman Revival style by the architect Edward Brickell White of Charleston. The large wings and existing giant central portico were added by White. The cost of these additions amounted to more than \$30,000. The 1852 wings were severely damaged by the earthquake of 1886. These were rebuilt but the degree of deviation from the originals is not known. The east wing was restored according to a design prepared by E. R. Rutledge, as modified by Dr. Gabriel E. Manigault. In 1930, the west wing was extended to College Street by Simons and Lapham.

In 1852 White designed the two-story brick and stucco Gate Lodge in the Roman Revival Style and also the existing wrought-iron fence that enclosed the campus. The iron work was executed by Werner.

Plans for the Library Building, a two-story brick and stucco structure in the mid-19th century Classical Revival Style, with Italianate details, were prepared by George Edward Walker of Charleston in 1854. The contract was given to William F. Patterson in January, 1855 and the building was in use in July, 1856.

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College of Charleston (Continuation Sheet)

(Number all entries)

9. Bibliographical References:

Samuel G. Stoney, This Is Charleston (Charleston, S. C., 1964), 53.

South Carolina, A Guide to the Palmetto State (American Guide Series)
New York, 1946), 207.

J. H. Easterby, A History of the College of Charleston (Charleston, 1935).