NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

1. NAME

COMMON:
The Huguenot Church

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
136 Church Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Charleston

STATE:
South Carolina

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)

☐ District ☑ Building
☐ Site ☐ Structure
☐ Object

OWNERSHIP

☐ Public ☑ Private
☐ Both

PUBLIC ACQUISITION:

☐ In Process ☑ Being Considered

STATUS

☐ Occupied ☑ Unoccupied
☐ Preservation work in progress

ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC

☐ Yes:
☐ Restricted ☑ Unrestricted
☐ No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Agricultural ☐ Government
☐ Commercial ☐ Industrial
☐ Educational ☑ Military
☐ Entertainment ☐ Museum
☐ Scientific

☐ Park

☐ Transportation

☐ Comments

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
The Huguenot Church of Charleston

STREET AND NUMBER:
136 Church Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Charleston

STATE:
South Carolina

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
Charleston County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:
Courthouse Square

CITY OR TOWN:
Charleston

STATE:
South Carolina

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Preliminary Survey of Historic Sites in South Carolina

DATE OF SURVEY:
☐ Federal ☑ State ☐ County ☐ Local

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

STREET AND NUMBER:
P.O. Box 11188 Capital Station

CITY OR TOWN:
Columbia

STATE:
South Carolina

CODE:
045

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE
Built in 1844-45, this stucco on brick structure has a single tier of Gothic windows and is three by six bays in proportion. It shows a quantity of pinnacle-topped buttresses, a battlemented parapet, and dripstones. Cast-iron crockets are located on the pinnacles over the front windows and front gable. The interior of this structure has a plaster vaulted ceiling.

This is the third edifice on this site. The first structure was built in 1687. This church survived until 1796, when it was blown up to prevent the spread of a raging fire that swept the neighborhood.

A second Huguenot Church was built on the same site in 1800, but closed in 1823. The second church was torn down in 1844, and by May of 1845, the present edifice designed by Edward Brickell White (1806-1882) was completed.
Completed in 1845, the Huguenot Church was the first Gothic Revival building built in Charleston. In is an excellent example of E. B. White's versatility for he had recently completed both Greek Doric and Roman Doric buildings within the city. The use of pinnacled buttresses on the front elevation as well as the flanks might lead one to expect an interior with nave and aisles; however, the interior is a single cell with plaster ribbed grained vaulting. Its width in relation to its height gives it an unexpected sense of spaciousness for a building of its size.

Though White was probably at his best in the design of buildings in the classic manner, the Huguenot Church appears to have been his first essay in Gothic. When we consider that Pugin was a contemporary of White, it is interesting to note how soon this expression of romantic eclecticism appeared in Charleston. No doubt Pugin would have been unhappy that the vaulted ceiling was simulated in lath and plaster and that the flamboyant cretings of the buttresses, the gable end and the windows of the westfront were of cast iron and not of carved stone. However, such fidelity to precedent was impossible at that time and in this place. The proportions and the composition are well studied. The windows of clear glass have never been replaced and the interior presents an atmosphere of austere grace not inappropriate to the French Protestant spirit. (Albert Simons, FATA).

In the architectural survey of Charleston, a jury composed of Dr. William Murtagh, Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places, Professor Bernard Lemann, Tulane University School of Architecture, Mr. Carl Feiss and Mr. Russell Wright, consultants to the city, noted this structure as exceptional. This notation indicated that the building is of the highest architectural design quality, well-proportioned, and architecturally sophisticated. Windows, classical orders or other period designs, chimneys, verandahs, massing, materials, textures, refined detail, and craftsmanship are all elegant and innovative. The structure is to be preserved and protected in situ at all costs.
9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY

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LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES

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APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 3 1/4 acre

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

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11. FORM PREPARED BY
NAME AND TITLE: Tray Stephenson and Bernard Karse (Historic Preservation Division)
ORGANIZATION: South Carolina Department of Archives and History
DATE: April 20, 1973
STREET AND NUMBER: 1430 Senate Street
CITY OR TOWN: Columbia
STATE: South Carolina
CODE: 045

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: State Liaison Officer, Department of Archives & History
Date: May 1, 1973

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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: ______________________________