1. NAME

Common: Joseph Manigault House

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: 350 Meeting Street

CITY OR TOWN: Charleston

STATE: South Carolina

CODE: 045 COUNTY: Charleston

CODE: 019

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)

☐ District ☐ Building ☐ Site ☐ Structure ☐ Object

☐ 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 ☐ Park ☐ Transportation ☐ Comments

☐ Commercial ☐ Industrial ☐ Private Residence ☐ Other (Specify) ☐

☐ Educational ☐ Military ☐ Religious ☐ ☐

☐ Entertainment ☐ Museum ☐ Scientific ☐

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Charleston County Museum

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Charleston

STATE: South Carolina

CODE: 045

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

CODE: 045

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

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

DATE OF SURVEY: 1969 ☐ Federal ☐ State ☐ County ☐ Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

S. C. Department of Archives & History

STREET AND NUMBER:

P. O. Box 11188 Capitol Station

CITY OR TOWN: Columbia

STATE: South Carolina

CODE: 045
The house is patterned as a parallelogram, its right-angled severity broken effectively by a stairwell bow on the north wall, a bowed piazza to the west, and offset wide porches on the south where the formal garden affords a pleasant view toward the domed gate house.

The house is extremely well-constructed. The wooden columns of the portico are mounted on stone plinths to prevent rot and between the subflooring and the heart-pine flooring is a layer of lime to discourage insects. Behind each baseboard exists an additional layer of bricks to prevent the space from being used as a concourse for rodents. Heavy pine rafters support the slate roof.

The intricate ceiling over the front stairway was restored in 1930 by Mrs. Francis B. Crowningshield of Boston.

Adjoining the library is a small room in which musical instruments were kept. In the dining room is a door adjacent to the service stairs, leading down to a rear door at ground level and from there to the kitchen building; adjoining the master bedroom is a dressing room, at that time an innovation. The rooms are no longer the square boxes of earlier Charleston houses, but tend toward rectangles and, in the case of the hall, terminate in an apse enclosing the winding stairway. This apse, on the exterior, is expressed as a rounded tower.

The east end of the dining room terminates in a segmental concave curve giving free foot space for the butler in serving. This curvature is echoed at the west end of the building by a two-story piazza which is also segmental in design and which balances the composition without being rigidly symmetrical. These instances of enclosing space within arcs of a circle are taken directly from Robert Adam's Italian influenced designs.
One of the finest examples of the Adam style in America, the Joseph Manigault house reflects the architect's taste for the classic style. Particularly of note is the small and refined scale of the detail in mantels, door and window moldings, and cornices at wall and ceiling angles. Robert Adam was the first architect using this classic vocabulary to make a distinction between the scale of temples and the smaller scale appropriate to domestic architecture. Gabriel Manigault was aware of this distinction and exemplified it in this, his first neoclassic building.

The house was designed, as above mentioned, by Gabriel Manigault for his brother, Joseph, and built in 1790; the designer Manigault had studied in Geneva and London before the Revolution and had begun to form his ideas concerning architecture there. He came back to Charleston shortly before the war and designed several buildings in the city after the war.

Although Manigault designed only a few buildings in Charleston (five), the qualities of refinement, elegance, and varied spatial forms are so distinctive in the house that he contrived for his brother that his reputation will always rest secure. It is highly significant that in the city it was the first house to be planned de novo to suit the requirements of the owner instead of following the often repeated plans of either the single house or the double house then so popular. (Albert Simons, FAIA)

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 indicates that the building is of the highest architectural design quality, well-proportioned, and architecturally sophisticated. Windows, classical orders of 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.


10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES
DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY

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<th>CORNER</th>
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APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

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

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<thead>
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11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Tray Stephenson & Bernard Karse (Historic Preservation Division)

ORGANIZATION: South Carolina Department of Archives and History

DATE: April 19, 1973

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

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 for Historic Preservation

Date: Apr. 24, 1973

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 _______________