

PH 0505366

7. America at Work

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED SEP 29 1977

DATE ENTERED

JAN 31 1978

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORMSEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

☒ HISTORIC

Governor Thomas Bennett House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

69 Barre Street

☐ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Charleston

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

1

STATE

South Carolina

CODE

045

COUNTY

Charleston

CODE

019

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☐ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☐ COMMERCIAL☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☐ MUSEUM☐ PARK☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Medical Society of South Carolina; Roper Hospital

STREET & NUMBER

316 Calhoun Street

CITY, TOWN

Charleston

STATE

South Carolina

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Register of Mesne Conveyance

STREET & NUMBER

2 Courthouse Square

CITY, TOWN

Charleston

STATE

South Carolina

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Inventory of Historic Places in South Carolina

DATE

1973 (update)

☐ FEDERAL ☒ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

South Carolina Department of Archives and History

CITY, TOWN

Columbia

STATE

South Carolina

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Built ca. 1825, the Governor Thomas Bennett House is a two and one-half story clap-board structure set upon a stucco-over-brick English basement. In typical Charleston fashion, a one-story piazza supported by an arcaded basement extends down the front facade (south). In the center on the main level is an elaborate entrance which features engaged columns, sidelights, and an elliptical fanlight with heavily carved moldings. Above the entrance (on the second story) is a tripartite window with sidelights and entablature which is flanked by two 9/9 windows on either side. A semicircular fanlight is located in the pediment in the attic level with a dormer window on either side.

On the street facade (which faces Barre Street) is a fanlighted entrance which opens onto the piazza. This entrance is flanked by two engaged columns which support an entablature with dentil cornice and modillion brackets. Above this portal and capping the end of the porch roof is a paneled parapet in typical Charleston fashion. The end wall (facing Barre Street) is defined by four 9/9 windows on the two primary floors, four 6/6 windows on the basement level, and a Palladian window in the gable.

The west facade reveals 20th Century additions: part of the piazza has been enclosed and extended, and the northernmost end has had a two-story wing added to it.

The notable feature of the back facade (north) is the central Palladian window (which is located at the landing of the interior stairway). Below this window is a simple exterior door. Windows on the main two floors are 9/9, and some retain their original paneled shutters. The boxed cornice features a dentil cornice with modillion brackets which are repeated along the entablature of the piazza. The gable roof is pierced by two interior chimneys.

Interior: Both principal levels of the structure feature the typical floor plan of four rooms divided by a central hall. This plan has been enlarged, however, by an addition to the west end and a partial enclosure of the piazza. The basement level of the structure is now used as an apartment, laundry room, and storage area.

On the first floor the wide central hall is broken by an arch which has had a fanlighted doorway added to match the front entrance beyond. At the rear of the hall is an elliptical staircase which extends to the second floor with no visible means of support. A wide arch in the upstairs hall also delineates the entrance to the staircase. The interior details are exceptionally notable and include paneled wainscoting with gougework chair-rails, plaster cornices and ceiling medallions, and door and window entablatures. Marble mantels of the Empire Period appear in the major rooms on the first floor.

Surroundings: Included within the nominated acreage is the old servants quarters. This is a 19th Century structure which is now vacant. The interior is in poor condition, the exterior fair.

The Bennett House is owned by Roper Hospital and is used as a residence by the hospital
(continued)

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)		
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION				

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Located in Charleston, South Carolina, the Governor Thomas Bennett House is an outstanding example of Federal style architecture. It features exceptional design, proportions, and details of the period. It is also significant historically, having been the home of Thomas Bennett (1781-1865), Governor of South Carolina 1820-1822.

Architecture: Probably built ca. 1825, this structure is of exceptional architectural design and is included in the Historic American Buildings Survey of Charleston. The inventory of "Historic Architecture of the Peninsular City, Charleston, South Carolina" gives it the highest rating--Group 1: "Buildings of the highest architectural design quality. ... To be preserved and protected in situ at all costs." Notable features include the elliptical stair which extends, with no visible means of support, to the second floor (the only equivalent stair in Charleston is in the Nathaniel Russell House).

Commerce/Industry: Thomas Bennett was a partner with his father (Thomas Bennett, Sr.) in the lumber and rice mill industries and continued his involvement in milling after his father's death in 1814. Bennett, Jr. also served as Director of the Planters and Mechanics Bank of South Carolina in 1810 and was Director and later President of the Bank of State.

Politics: Bennett was involved in political affairs as early as 1804-06 when he first served in the South Carolina House of Representatives. He was again a member of that legislative body between 1808-1810 and 1812-18, and served as its speaker between 1814-18. Between 1819-20 he served in the South Carolina Senate, resigning upon his election as governor (1820-22). He again served in the South Carolina Senate between 1837-1840.

1. Carl Feiss, Russell Wright, Robert N. Anderson, Jr., inventory consultants, "Historic Architecture of the Peninsular City, Charleston, S.C." (A Summary Report on the 1972-73 Historic Architecture Inventory), n.p.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Chamberlain, Samuel and Narcisca. Southern Interiors. New York: Hastings House, 1956, p. 138.

Eisterhold, "Charleston: Lumber and Trade in a declining Southern Port." S. C. Historical Magazine, Vol. 74. Ed. Joseph I. Waring. Charleston: S.C. Historical Society, 1973, p. 66. (Continued)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY ca. one acre

UTM REFERENCES

A 17 598580 3627360
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The Governor Thomas Bennett House is bounded on the north by Calhoun Street, on the east by Barre Street, on the west by Halsey Boulevard and on the south by a private residence owned by Mrs. C. S. Smyth.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Kappy McNulty--Historic Preservation Division (Mrs. Edward R. Ball, Charleston Village Association)

ORGANIZATION

DATE

S.C. Department of Archives & History

July 29, 1977

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

1430 Senate Street

(803) 758-5816

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Columbia

South Carolina

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL ✓

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE

Charles E. Lee

DATE

State Historic Preservation Officer

9/8/77

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

REGISTERED ON THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST

DATE

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

7

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administrator. The lawn at the rear of the structure (not included within the nominated acreage) is to be converted into a parking lot.

The structure is located in the area of the Charleston medical complex.

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"Family Records of Governor Thomas Bennett, Jr." S. C. Historical and Genealogical Magazine, Vol. 51. Ed. Anne King Gregorie. Charleston. S.C. Historical Society, 1952, pp. 51-54.

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Huger Smith, Alice R. and D. E. The Dwelling Houses of Charleston. 1917; rpt. New York: Diadem Books, n. d.), pp. 321-322, 325-329.

Lander, Ernest M., Jr. "Ante-Bellum Milling in S.C." S.C. Historical and Genealogical Magazine, Vol. 52. Ed. Anne King Gregorie. Charleston: S.C. Historical Society, 1951, p. 130.

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Reynolds, Emily B., and Joan Reynolds Faunt. Biographical Directory of the Senate of the State of S.C. Columbia: S.C. Archives Department, 1964, p. 179-180.

The Directory and Stranger's Guide for the City of Charleston; Also a Directory for Charleston Neck, 1822 [preface pages missing in the copy available], p. 25.

Goldsmith, Morris, comp. Directory and Stranger's Guide for the City of Charleston and Its Vicinity. Charleston: Office of the Irishman, 1831, p. 158.

Charleston Directory, 1835-36. [preface pages missing in the copy available], p. 92.

South Carolina Department of Archives and History. Census of 1830, Charleston District, Charleston Neck, [p. 141].