NPS Form 10-900
(Rev. 10-90)

OMB No. 1024-0018

493

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

RECEIVED
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NAT. REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name The William Enston Home

other names/site number

2. Location

street & number 900 King Street not for publication ___
city or town Charleston vicinity ___
state South Carolina code SC county Charleston code 019 zip code 29403

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ___ nationally X statewide ___ locally.
(___ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Mary W. Edmonds 3/19/96
Signature of certifying official Date

Mary W. Edmonds, Deputy SHPO, S.C. Department of Archives & History, Columbia, S.C.
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.
(___ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

X entered in the National Register
___ See continuation sheet.
___ determined eligible for the National Register
___ See continuation sheet.
___ determined not eligible for the National Register
___ removed from the National Register
___ other (explain): _____

Signature of Keeper Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

___ private
X public-local
___ public-State
___ public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

X building(s)
___ district
___ site
___ structure
___ object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
27	___	buildings
1	___	sites
2	___	structures
___	___	objects
30	___	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat:	Sub:
DOMESTIC	Institutional Housing
RELIGION	Religious Facility
DOMESTIC	Secondary Structure
HEALTH CARE	Clinic
INDUSTRY/PROCESSING	Water Works

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat:	Sub:
DOMESTIC	Institutional Housing
DOMESTIC	Secondary Structure

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Romanesque Revival
Queen Anne Revival
Bungalow

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation	Brick
roof	Metal; Asphalt
walls	Brick; Concrete
other	Sandstone; Bluestone; Belgian Block/Brick

Narrative Description
(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria
(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

X **A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
___ **B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
X **C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
___ **D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations
(Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

____ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
____ B removed from its original location.
____ C a birthplace or a grave.
____ D a cemetery.
____ E a reconstructed building, object,or structure.
____ F a commemorative property.
____ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions)
Architecture
Community Planning & Development
Health/Medicine
Social History
Landscape Architecture

Significant Dates
1884
1893
1927

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Period of Significance
1884-1933

Architect/Builder
Howe, W.B.W. (Buildings)
Hering, Rudolph (Sewage/Plumbing Systems Engineer

Narrative Statement of Significance
(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography
(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS)
___ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
___ previously listed in the National Register
___ previously determined eligible by the National Register
___ designated a National Historic Landmark
X recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # SC 686
___ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data
___ State Historic Preservation Office
___ Other State agency
___ Federal agency
___ Local government
___ University
X Other
Name of repository: South Carolina Historical Society, Charleston, S.C.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 12.1 acres

UTM References
(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
1	17	598470	3629730	3	17	598450	3629425
2	17	598230	3629620	4	17	598590	3629520

___ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description
(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification
(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Jonathan H. Poston/Director of Preservation

organization Historic Charleston Foundation date 1 May 1995

street & number 11 Fulton Street telephone (803) 724-8486

city or town Charleston state SC zip code 29401

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Don Cameron, Charleston Housing Authority

street & number 20 Franklin Street telephone (803) 720-3970

city or town Charleston state SC zip code 29401

The William Enston Home complex is located on the northern part of the peninsula of Charleston and is on the eastern side of King Street, bordered by Huger Street to the south and the South Carolina Railway tracks to the east. The William Enston Home, developed after the purchase of the site in 1882, consists of 27 buildings, 2 structures, and 12.1 landscaped acres.

The buildings include the 24 residential cottages (HABS Nos. SC-686-A and SC-686-B), 19 of which were completed between 1887 and 1889. These "cottages" are L-shaped, two-story brick buildings on brick basements with a covered one-story entrance at the inside corner of the L. The walls are stretcher-bond red brick with red mortar, 16'-18' thick in the basement (which is covered with cement mortar), with corbelled brick beltcourses circling the buildings, and decorative mousetooth and herringbone pattern brickwork providing textural variation on the west gable end of the front porch. Molded concrete lintels and arches with oversized keystones appear above most openings. The hipped roofs with cross gables and a tent-like peak at the center were originally covered in painted metal (probably tin) shingles, replaced after Hurricane Hugo in 1989 with composition shingles. The buildings feature three tall rectangular red brick chimneys with corbelled caps, double-hung sash 2/2 windows with concrete sills and lintels, and a semi-circular lunette with compound brick relieving arch on their front side beneath the gable end at attic level. These buildings were renovated slightly in 1927. That same year, five additional cottages were built with designs similar to the 1887-89 cottages with stretcher-bond red brick and white mortar. Two internal brick chimneys, without the corbelled caps of the earlier chimneys, punctuate the north and south centers of the roofs. The original buildings still contain the original stair balusters, moldings, and wainscoting, as well as fireplaces with dark-stained wood mantels and surrounds. The first cottages were described by the architect as double cottages divided by a central hall and arranged with a view of being occupied, if desired, by two families. After the 1927 renovations buildings were converted to make four separate apartments with the conversion of first floor living rooms into bedrooms, and of two of the upstairs bedrooms into kitchens. In each cottage a concrete-floored basement is divided by brick walls into three rooms and a hallway. The stairways in the 1887-89 cottages are of dark stained and varnished wood with heavy turned newels, dropped pendants, turned post-and-block lattice balusters, and carved ornamental brackets. The stairways of the 1927 cottages are, like other features of these cottages, simpler than those in the 1888-89 cottages. Flooring in the earlier cottages are of 3.5" to 4" wide pine boards, while the later houses have 2" wide pine boards. In all cottages, the walls are lathed and plastered. Both sets of cottages have wood mantels and surrounds and all cottages have unusual built-in storage cupboards with screen doors in the ground floor kitchens. These buildings are in fair condition overall with basic exterior maintenance and structural soundness. Some buildings are suffering from wood rot, some from termite damage, and there is some peeling paint as well as fallen

plaster in certain buildings. With the damage of Hurricane Hugo to the buildings and landscape, the roofs of all the cottages were resheathed to prevent further water damage. Some maintenance was deferred in the transfer of the William Enston Home from the William Enston Home Trust to the Charleston Housing Authority.

Memorial Hall, in the center of the site, was planned as early as 1882 as a memorial to Home founder William Enston. Constructed of red brick with concrete trim and stained glass windows, Memorial Hall was completed by 1889 and built to resemble an English parish church in the Romanesque Revival style. The building features a tall, thin, peaked-roof bell tower and is in fairly good condition.

Memorial Hall was described as a "suitable place when so desired, for religious services, lectures, and as daily reading room and library." This building is built of common bond red brick with red mortar, ornamented by rows of beltcoursing and a band of pressed concrete floral ornament near the west end gabled peak, which is itself surmounted by a Celtic cross finial. The peaked roof is framed in a "medieval" manner with exposed, carved wooden hammer beams, collars, braces, pendants, and rafters, and while the roof of the main building is covered with composition shingles, the tower is covered with original painted metal shingles. Four slate steps with rounded ends lead up to a porch beneath a keyhole-shaped concrete arch. On the center of the porch's east wall is appended a granite pedestal and an 1888 bronze bust of William Enston by Edward V. Valentine (the bust was originally on the east wall of the second floor).

The chapel's interior has had several alterations including the rewalling of the ground floor of the main room in sheetrock. The second floor chapel housed a workshop and storage area in recent years.

In 1987, two stained-glass windows were stolen from the north and south sides of the building. The bell tower was damaged by Hurricane Hugo in September 1989 and has also had extensive problems with pigeons, rotting woodwork, and crumbling metalwork.

The Dawson Infirmary, built in 1933, is a one-and-one-half story building with Craftsman/Bungalow influences. It is constructed of red brick with white mortar, with a corbelled brick beltcourse at the floor level. The west end front has a brick entry porch while an enclosed sun porch ornaments the building's southern end and a brick pavilion on the east side gives access to the basement stairs and kitchen. The original floor plan of this building has been altered along with most other interior features after Hurricane Hugo. Its floors are carpeted and walls are now sheetrocked.

The Engine House was constructed in 1888 and is a simple rectangular mass with hipped roof and a thin line of beltcoursing constructed of red brick.

The building has two exterior doorways and a lunette-type window set beneath a round concrete arch on the building's south side. The rectangular pyramid roof is capped by a hipped lantern and covered with painted sheet metal. The structure originally housed the boiler and now has only electrical machinery of indeterminate function on the interior, which is divided into three rooms. The Engine House is in generally poor condition with doors and window glass missing.

The Water Tower is a red brick structure built in 1889 according to a model sewage and plumbing system developed by engineer Rudolph Hering of Philadelphia. This two-story tower, with a circular first story and octagonal second story, features a projecting pedimented portico on its south elevation with the inscription "William Enston Home" in raised letters with a sunburst motif. The interior is a dirt-floored open space with a wrought-iron ladder leading to a wrought-iron water tank above. The Water Tower is in poor condition. During the late 1980s the original conical roof was entirely removed; the building has since been open and is infested with pigeons.

The Entrance Gate, built in 1893 by local master builder Robert McArrel, is constructed of uncoursed granite rubble masonry in the Richardsonian Romanesque style. The central arched gate is flanked by two one-story octangonal towers. The original 1895 wrought-iron gates, featuring a curvilinear wheel pattern, are still in place.

The above information is taken from HABS information sheets compiled by Keith Eggener, HABS No. SC-686-A through SC-686-F.

The William Enston Home, a complex constructed between the initial acquisition of the property in 1882 and 1933, is significant as an early example of benevolent and philanthropic efforts to provide housing for the elderly. Funded by an 1859 bequest from William Enston, an Englishman who immigrated to Charleston in the early nineteenth century, the home was intended to house the aged and infirm in a manner similar to the home in Enston's native Canterbury. As such, the William Enston Home may be one of the oldest such complexes in the South. The home was established on the north end of the Charleston peninsula on the former Storen farm, in an area which the City of Charleston hoped to redevelop as a model suburb. The initial portions of the Enstom Home complex were built between 1884 and 1888, with additional buildings and structures built in 1893, 1927, and 1933. With its neat rows of detached double cottages set amid spacious landscaped grounds, the Home provides an unusual and well-preserved example of nineteenth-century picturesque suburban-planning concepts adapted to a charitable and institutional function. In architectural terms, the William Enston Home complex is also significant on the local level as a preeminent example of the Romanesque Revival style, a style rare in Charleston, a cityscape dominated by its antebellum past.

When William Enston left the bulk of his large estate to the City of Charleston in his 1859 will, he intended to help establish a benevolent home for the city's aged and infirm residents, and "to make old age comfortable." His wishes were for a home made up of neat and convenient two-story brick cottages on at least eight acres. In nineteenth-century America, most of the poor were dependent on city or county almshouses of varying qualities or treated as social deviants and outcasts and placed in workhouses or asylums. In England, older almshouses of a more benevolent sort were common and British social activists began to invest in low-income housing projects in the 1830s and 1840s. Enston's concept was to build a home in Charleston modelled on long-standing British institutions and influenced by current British social reform.

Enston's estate was not settled until well after his death, and problems associated with the reduction of its value as a result of the Civil War and with negotiations with Enston's widow Hannah hampered the city's ability to honor Enston's bequest until about 1880. Mayor William A. Courtenay, corresponding with the mayor of Enston's native Canterbury, developed the concept of a "model village" for the William Enston Home which would reflect plans for modern suburban villages. The home complex, with twelve acres of shaded and stone-paved roadways and its Romanesque architecture, is reminscent of picturesque late-nineteenth century suburbs such as Riverside, Illinois. The overall design was by prominent Charleston architect W.B.W. Howe, with construction supervised by prominent Charleston contractor Colin P. Grant and prominent mason and contractor Robert McArrel, and a model sewage and plumbing system by prominent Philadelphia engineer Rudolph Hering. The site was originally intended to contain 40

cottages along streets paved in Belgian block and bearing names relating to relating to Enston's native country such as Queen Bertha's Court and Colsterworth Avenue.

The William Enston Home property is significant on several levels, most notably as an example of a nineteenth-century model approach to the treatment of the elderly and as an excellent example of the Romanesque Revival style, a type of public building rare in Charleston and indeed in the Southeast.

The above information is taken from HABS information sheets compiled by Keith Eggener, HABS No. SC-686.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

The following sources are taken from HABS information sheets compiled by Keith Eggener, HABS No. SC-686, and are the basis for this nomination.

Maps and Early Views

All items listed in this section, except plat maps and post cards, are available at the Charleston County Library, Main Branch.

Bird's Eye View of the City of Charleston, South Carolina, 1872. Drawn and published by C. Drie.

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James Howe, July 2, 1993 (telephone interview), Charleston.

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Papers Relating to Certain Charitable Foundations at Canterbury England. The Originals Loaned by Alderman G.R. Frend, Mayor of Canterbury, for the Use of the Trustees of the William Enston Home. Charleston: Walker, Evans, and Cogswell, 1882.

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Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the nominated property is shown as the pencil line labeled "William Enston Home" on the accompanying Charleston County Tax Map, c463-16-1, Parcel 1, drawn at a scale of 1" = 50'.

Verbal Boundary Justification

The nominated property includes the historic boundary of the William Enston Home.

The following information is the same for each of the photographs:

Name of Property:	William Enston Home
Location of Property:	900 King Street, Charleston Charleston County, South Carolina
Name of Photographer:	D. Ames
Date of Photographs:	1993
Location of Original Negatives:	Historic American Buildings Survey (SC-686) Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

1. Memorial Hall Cornerstone and Cottages on Colsterworth Ave.
   Looking North

2. Cottages on N.W. end of St. Martin's Ct.
   Looking N.W.

3. Cottages on N.E. end of St. Martin's Ct.
   Looking West

4. Cottages on N.W. end of St. Martin's Ct.
   Looking S.E.

5. Cottages on N.W. end of St. Martin's Ct.
   Looking S.E., Closer

6. Cottage No. 3, S.W. Front

7. Cottage No. 3, S.W. Front, Detail of Window and Entrance

8. Cottage No. 14, S.E. Front

9. Cottage No. 2, S.W. Front

10. Cottage No. 6, N.W. Side and S.W. Front

11. Memorial Hall, S.W. Front

12. Memorial Hall, S.W. Front

13. Memorial Hall, S.W. Front and S.E. Side

14. Memorial Hall, S.E. and N.E. Sides

15. Water Tower, S. Side

16. Engine House, S.W. Side and S.E. Front

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 96000493 **Date Listed:** 4/25/96

Enston, William, Home	Charleston	SOUTH CAROLINA
Property Name	**County**	**State**

N/A
Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

for **Signature of the Keeper** **Date of Action** 4/25/96

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Amended Items in Nomination:

Section No. 2: This nomination is amended to reclassfy the resource from buildings to district, since it is essentially a planned community.

Section No. 8: Health/medicine and landscape architecture are removed as areas of significance. The property is significant in the areas of architecture, social history, and community planning and development.

The author confirms that the 1993 HABS photographs still reflect the appearance of the property.

These changes have been confirmed by the South Carolina SHPO.

DISTRIBUTION:
National Register property file
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)