

Form 10-300  
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: South Carolina	
COUNTY: Greenville	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:  
Greenville City Hall

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
United States Court House and Post Office

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Northwest corner of Main and Broad Streets

CITY OR TOWN:  
Greenville 29601

STATE South Carolina	CODE 29602	COUNTY Greenville	CODE 045
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3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	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 checked="" 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 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:  
City of Greenville, S.C.

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Main Street at Broad Street

CITY OR TOWN: Greenville, S.C. 29601	STATE: South Carolina 29602	CODE: 45
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5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Greenville County Court House

STREET AND NUMBER:  
North Street at Church Street

CITY OR TOWN: Greenville 29602	STATE: South Carolina 29602	CODE: 45
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6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
S.C. Survey of Historic Places (Preliminary)

DATE OF SURVEY: 1969  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
S.C. Department of Archives and History

STREET AND NUMBER:  
1430 Senate Street

CITY OR TOWN: Columbia 29211	STATE: South Carolina	CODE: 45
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:  
COUNTY:  
ENTRY NUMBER  
DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

## DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)

Excellent     Good     Fair     Deteriorated     Ruins     Unexposed

(Check One)     Altered     Unaltered (addition not removed)     Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Court House and Post Office on Main Street in Greenville was built in 1889, designed by architect James H. Windrim. There are 31 sheets of original drawings for this building dated 1889 and signed by Mr. Windrim as "Supervisory Architect of the Treasury Department."

In the same repository are 22 sheets of original drawings for the extension on the north side of the building, dated 1907-1909. These are signed by James Knox Taylor, who was the Treasury's supervisory architect at the time. There were minor subsequent additions or alterations to the structure in 1923, 1924, 1927, 1929, 1931.

(The above information is from S. Dillon Ripley, secretary, Smithsonian Institution, in a letter dated Oct. 17, 1969, to Henry Bacon McKoy, 308 McIver St., Greenville.)

The original 1889 Court House and Post Office with additions was acquired through purchase by the City of Greenville in 1938 and has served since as Greenville City Hall. It is now threatened with destruction as space needed for parking for new City Hall to be constructed adjacent to the present one.

It has been described as "a gem of Romanesque-Revival architecture with its castellated towers, rare, pre-cast terra cotta insets, and one-quarter-inch brickwork joints."

Its exterior is very much like the Arts and Industries Building of the Smithsonian Institution in Washington. (Pictures of the Smithsonian Institution red-brick towered building have been confused and mistaken for each other. Encouraging to Greenville preservationists is the fact that the U.S. gov't is preserving this particular piece of Romanesque-Revival architecture even though the adjoining building will be of white limestone ~~is~~ in the newer tradition of Washington architecture. Greenville faces a similar situation since the new Greenville City Hall adjacent to the present one will be a contemporary design.)

There are fine interior features that are rare, such as the pink marble floors and other marblework of the foyer; flawless interior woodwork of panelling, stair rails and balustrades of fine hardwood with a good patina. The staircase is impressive -- half-turns with landings all way to the tower. Tasteless additions of heating ducts, pipes, wires, room partitions have been added (particularly in the former huge mail room). Although these are unsightly, they are not detrimental and have done no obvious damage to the woodwork, columns and basic structure. Red tiled roof. Brick has been painted dark red.

Resident architect for the construction of the Court House and Post Office was James R. Lawrence who came to Greenville from Port Huron, Mich., to do the work. He is locally recognized as architect of the building. Mr. Lawrence was a student of H.H. Richardson Revival-Romanesque style which the Greenville building exemplifies. He remained in Greenville with his family. His grandson, James R. Lawrence, practices architecture in Greenville today.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                       |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century            | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century  | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century |                                       |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1889

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |   |  |  |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input type="checkbox"/> Political           | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science             | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture           | _____  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater             | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation      | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            |   |  |  |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Greenville City Hall has traditionally been considered one of the best pieces of period architecture in the region.

"As an example of Richardson Romanesque, it documents one of the major periods in the history of American architecture," according to Prof. Harold N. Coolidge, Jr., alumni professor of architectural history, Clemson University. Dr. Coolidge also made the following evaluation:

" Greenville is most fortunate in possessing such a handsome representative of this style as City Hall. It would make an ideal building -- from the standpoint of site, associations and monumentality -- for many of the city's cultural and commemorative functions. It will take money to adapt and rehabilitate to such an end...but no amount of money can buy new history or new background interrelationships with Greenville's traditions and memory.

"Most of the other Southern examples of this period have been obliterated. They were rare to begin with; Richardson's period of greatest influence came when the South had very little money to spare for good architecture. Then our sectional bias for what is mistakenly called 'Colonial' has -- until recently -- made post-bellum architecture a blind spot for the majority of conservationists.

"I cannot commend you strong enough in speaking out for the preservation and adaptive utilization of City Hall... 'A people ignorant of their history are condemned to repeat the mistakes of their ancestors', and architecture is material history. That (City Hall) is no longer functional for its original purpose has been recognized, but neither were many of the older buildings in Washington, D.C., which have not, however, been demolished but continue in active and profitable use (the old Post Office building, for ex.) while continuing to document the cultural history of our Nation.

"In recent years, Greenville has lost some of the most significant elements in its material history. Already a serious gap exists, in visual experience for its citizens, of the period 1870-1920. The City Hall is a distinguished vernacular example from this period. I hope it can be preserved."

Russell Keune, National Trust for Historic Preservation, described Greenville City Hall as a "gutsy" building on his February 1971 field trip to South Carolina, and considered it a good possibility for adaptive use as, especially, a plush office building.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

GREENVILLE QUADRANGLE  
SOUTH CAROLINA  
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

GREENVILLE  
1:62,500

BREYARD N C 44 MI  
RENFREW 8.3 MI  
HENDERSONVILLE N C 39 MI  
TRAVELERS REST 6.8 MI  
SW 1/4 GREENVILLE 15' QUADRANGLE  
1:580,000 FEET

62° 50' 00"      25'      82° 22' 30"      34° 52' 30"



TAYLORS 5.4 MI  
SPARTANBURG 28 MI

680 000  
FEET

MAULOU 6.1 MI  
LAURENS 34 MI