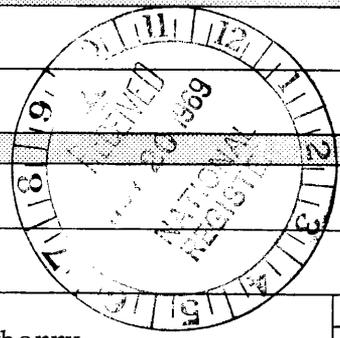


**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: South Carolina	
COUNTY: Newberry	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 69-1241-0012	DATE 12/3/69



**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
Newberry Opera House

AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Corner Boyce and Nance Streets

CITY OR TOWN:  
Newberry

STATE: South Carolina      CODE: 41      COUNTY: Newberry      CODE: 36

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> Comments	

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
City of Newberry

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Corner of Boyce and Nance Streets

CITY OR TOWN: Newberry      STATE: South Carolina      CODE: 41

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Clerk of Courts, Newberry County Court House

STREET AND NUMBER:  
1226 College Street

CITY OR TOWN: Newberry      STATE: South Carolina      CODE: 41

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
None

DATE OF SURVEY:       Federal     State     County     Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:      STATE:      CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:

COUNTY:

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(outside)	(inside) (Check One)	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated			
	(slightly) (Check One)		(Check One)	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered <input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Opera House building is Gothic in design, with a tall steeple and a wide gable on the front side. The parcade is sloping; the balcony wide and also sloping.

After examining the building for the Newberry County Historical Society, Dr. Harold N. Cooleage, alumni professor of architecture at Clemson University, thinks that the community building was, "in all likelihood, 'designed' out of a pattern book, and shows the influence of the Philadelphia architect, Frank Furness." "This is unusual," says Dr. Cooleage, "as Furness was popular during later years of the reconstruction when little monumental architecture was undertaken in the South." The entrance, shape and construction of window openings, and the rich, heavy, brick ornamentation is very reminiscent of his style.

"The original arrangement of interior spaces and the accumulation of such a wide range of municipal functions under one roof is not surprising (examples of this tendency can be found from 1840-1900); what is surprising is the fine condition of the building and the degree to which its original form and functions have been preserved. The condition of the "Opera House" proper is most unusual; I know of only one or two (and those had to be heavily restored) which can compare with it."

Located on Newberry's central square, the old building was the hub of cultural and civic activities for many years. Its bricks were handmade in Newberry.

✓ Restoration is scheduled to begin immediately under auspices of the Newberry County Historical Society. The project has strong local support.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian |  16th Century |  18th Century |  20th Century  
 15th Century |  17th Century |  19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **Built 1881; Dedicated 1882**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

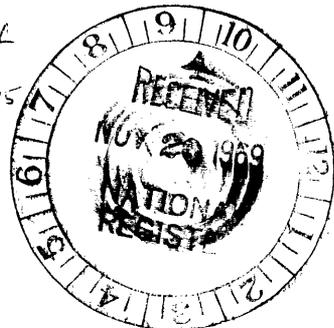
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Located on a lot where John Leavell, among others, operated a tavern in the town's earlier years, the Newberry Opera House became a popular cultural center from the time of its dedication in 1882. The lot was purchased from Mr. Leavell in 1871.

Here were presented the stage dramas, operas and operettas, minstrel shows, musical comedies and similar attractions which toured the country in this era and are remembered as major features of the town's cultural and social life. Prior to the erection of the Opera House, the local Thespian Club had presented shows (1876-81) in second-story rooms of a building nearby. With the advent of movies, and the building of larger auditoriums in the city, the Newberry Opera House was used exclusively as a movie theater. The building currently houses city government, the development board and the local Civil Defense group.

According to Dr. Coolegge, the building "is a very good example of eclectic design from the last quarter of the 19th century...I consider Newberry most fortunate to possess such a building in such a location. Proper conservation and restoration would give the city a facility of great value and usefulness, while preserving a significant example of Newberry's material history."

*Gottfräid L. Normann, architect  
under restoration per call 6/11/75*



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

O'Neill, John Belton and Chapman, John A., The Annals of Newberry In Two Parts. (Newberry: Aull & Houseal, 1892), pp. 774-6

Summer, George Leland (Sr.), Newberry County South Carolina Historical and Genealogical. (Newberry: The Author, 1950), pp. 64

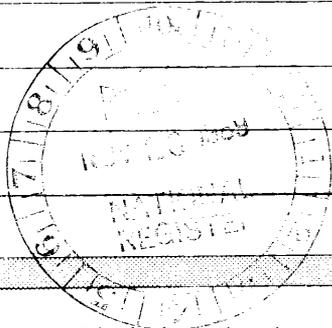
**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	° ' "	° ' "		°	'	"
NE	° ' "	° ' "		34	16	36
SE	° ' "	° ' "		81	37	22
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 79/100's of an acre

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE: Mrs. James W. Fant, Historic Resources Division Assistant

ORGANIZATION: South Carolina Department of Archives & History DATE: 11/8/69

STREET AND NUMBER: 1430 Senate Street P.O. Box 11188

CITY OR TOWN: Columbia STATE: South Carolina CODE: 41

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION**      **NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

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 S. Leg  
 Title: Director, S.C. Dept. of Archives & History  
State Liaison Officer

Date: Nov 12, 1969

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Ernest Allen Council  
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: DEC 3 1969

ATTEST:

William Schmitz  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: NOV 26 1969

SEE INSTRUCTIONS