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

475

OMB No. 1024-0018

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APR 15 1994

INTERAGENCY RESOURCES DIVISION
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

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 Central High School

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 304 Church Street
city or town Central
state South Carolina code SC county Pickens

not for publication ___
vicinity ___
code 77 zip code 29630

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 ___ statewide ___ locally.
(___ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Mary Watson Edmonds 4/7/94
Signature of certifying official Date

Mary Watson Edmonds, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
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:

✓ 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] 5/20/94
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	
1	___	buildings
___	___	sites
___	___	structures
___	___	objects
1	___	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:
EDUCATION	school

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat:	Sub:
EDUCATION	library
SOCIAL	civic
GOVERNMENT	government office

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Classical Revival

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICK
roof METAL
walls BRICK
other WOOD

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
Education

Period of Significance
1908- ca. 1925

Significant Dates
1908
ca. 1925

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)
N/A

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Architect/Builder
SAYRE, Christopher Gadsden

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
___ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
___ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data
x State Historic Preservation Office
___ Other State agency
___ Federal agency
___ Local government
___ University
___ Other
Name of repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property .75 acre

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

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
1	17	336920	3843540	3			
2				4			

___ 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 Jayne Polk, Martin A. Davis, AIA /Tracey McGee/Tom Shaw
organization Clemson University/Central Planning & Development Office/SHPO date 3/4/94

street & number P.O. Box 248 telephone (803) 639-6966

city or town Central state SC zip code 29630

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 Town of Central

street & number 105 Werner Street telephone (803) 639-6381

city or town Central state SC zip code 29630

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).
Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Summary Description

The Central High School is located on three-fourths acre site at 304 Church Street in the Town of Central, Pickens County, South Carolina. The original portion of the building built in 1908 was a rectangular masonry block two stories in height designed in a classical revival motif with a monumental portico dominating the facade. An addition constructed of matching materials was added to the rear of the building ca. 1925. This addition increased the number of classrooms from six to ten. The entire building is brick and rests on a brick foundation. The roof is a complex hip form sheathed in standing seam metal and surmounted by a cupola with lunnete vents. The main facade faces east and measures approximately sixty-six feet; the original depth of the building was about sixty-nine feet. The addition meaures approximately one-hundred-and-eight feet by thirty-five feet.

Additional Descriptive Information

The facade of the school building faces east and presents a three-bay facade (A-B-A). Window fenestration is three single, double-hung, six-over-one, wood sash windows symmetrically spaced at the first and second story on the wings. The second story windows have transoms with multiple lights. Flanking wings bracket the monumental portico, which features four massive masonry columns with Scamozzi capitals supporting the entablature and pediment. The tympanum and frieze have been covered in synthetic siding.

The entry is recessed behind a brick arch and features double entry doors, sidelights and transom which match the window transoms. Small square decorative windows with mullions dividing the lights into triangles are placed over the central doorway.

The brick is laid in running bond with a recessed header row every fifth course, which gives the building a strong horizontal appearance contrasting with the decided vertical thrust of the portico. A wood cornice projects from the facade's surface beneath the parapet. The bond pattern and cornice wrap the north and south elevations of the original block. The 1920s addition repeats aspects of the decorative elements to reflect the earlier design. For example, the bond pattern and corbeling at the corners recall the original design, but use large expanses of flat surfaces to reduce expense and construction time. The later addition takes advantage of the sloping site to incorporate a full basement below the water table.

Six classrooms, an auditorium, basement, indoor restrooms, and stairwells were contained in the original section. A two-story addition (ca. 1925) was built at the rear of the main building adding four classrooms, two stairwells and a full basement. Two of the classrooms at the front of the 1908 portion of the building remain intact. Library space was created out of the two rear classrooms in 1969 by removing an interior wall. Wood infill was used in the windows to create shelf space.

Two community theaters were installed in 1977 which required altering the second floor classrooms to accommodate this use. Additional windows were also closed with wood infill.

The Central High School, located at 304 Church Street in Central, South Carolina, is comprised of a 1908 building and a ca. 1925 rear addition. It is a good example of a small town, educational building rendered in the Classic Revival style quite popular during that period. It is also the work of a prominent architect, Christopher Gadsden Sayre, who designed many school buildings in South and North Carolina. This school is also significant for its role in the educational development of Pickens County. An important landmark in Central, the school is located near the town's center and is one of the larger edifices in the community.

Additional Information

Like many other South Carolina counties, Pickens County did not have a public school program until the latter part of the nineteenth century. Although a Joint Stock Company was organized in 1886 to establish schools, no records document a schoolhouse being established until 1893. On 18 February of that same year, the Pickens County Board of Examiners met to consider petitions requesting that school districts be established in the county. The request was approved and the county partitioned into districts containing nine square miles. The Town of Central was in District 9.[1]

Central established a high school in 1893 that was the pride of the community. Students paid fees ranging from $1.00 to $2.25 per month, depending on the class in which they were enrolled. They were also charged $.25 per session to defray costs for heat and incidentals. This school served the town until the Pickens County Board of Education ordered an election, held on 7 October 1907, to determine if a State High School should be established in District 9. The proposal carried; Central became eligible for state funds and work on the present building began shortly afterwards.[2]

Pickens County was very much in line with what was happening in other parts of the state regarding school consolidation and construction. On 12 February 1901, the South Carolina Senate passed a child labor bill prohibiting the mill employment of children under twelve years old and encouraging their education. Although it did not become law until several years later, it no doubt heightened awareness of the need, especially in textile centers, for a compulsory school attendance law. Since the textile industry was the primary employer in the town of Central it was inevitable that new schools would soon follow. When the General Assembly passed the school Consolidation Act in 1905 the economic incentive local districts needed to embark on a building campaign came into being.[3]

This new law provided "that County Boards of Education, in giving aid, 'shall give preference to districts which have combined and consolidated two or more school buildings.'" In 1905, the State Superintendent of Education wrote in his annual report that consolidation was advantageous to school districts both in terms of better educational opportunities and in making more effective use of funds. The Consolidation

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[1] Mattie May Morgan Allen, Central Yesterday and Today (Taylors, SC: Faith Printing Co., 1973), pp. 56-59.

[2] Ibid.

[3] Journal of the Senate of the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina Being in Regular Session Commencing Tuesday, January 8, 1901 (Columbia, S.C.: The State Printing Company, 1901), pp. 398-400.

Act provided incentive for districts to reduce the number of small schools within the district by offering state funds to match local appropriations for building schools. There were certain conditions the funding came with, however. Pertinent to the design of schools, as noted in the report, was that "all new school buildings which secure aid should be built according to an improved architectural design." This proved to be an excellent opportunity for the professional design community as this provided incentive to employ professionally trained designers.[4]

The architect of the Central High School was Christopher Gadsden Sayre (1876- ca. 1935). Sayre was a native South Carolinian, born in Mt. Pleasant and educated at the South Carolina College, where in 1897 he took a degree in civil, electrical, and mechanical engineering. Sayre was a prominent designer of school buildings in North and South Carolina. To date, twenty schools in South Carolina and thirty-six in North Carolina have been identified as designed by Sayre or by the firm of Sayre & Baldwin, with which he was associated from 1908-1914. Sayre is also credited with designing at least seven schools in Georgia.[5]

The Central High School building was his sixth, and last, commission for a school before he became associated with James J. Baldwin in 1908. They opened their first office in Anderson, however, by 1914 their business had expanded sufficiently to open a second office in Raleigh, North Carolina. By 1915, Baldwin left the firm, and most of Sayre's work after 1918 was concentrated in North Carolina where he opened branch offices in Greensboro, Winston-Salem, and Asheville. In addition to schools, he also designed a number of county courthouses in the Carolinas, and Georgia. His more prominent courthouse designs include the Bleckley County Courthouse in Baldwin, Georgia (1913); the Moore County Courthouse in Carthedge, North Carolina (1922); and the Saluda County Courthouse in Saluda, South Carolina (1917).[6]

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[4] "Thirty-Seventh Annual Report of the State Superintendent of Education of the State of South Carolina, 1905," in Reports and Resolutions of the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina Regular Session Commencing January 9, 1906, Vol. 1 (Columbia, S.C.: Gonzales and Bryan, State Printers), p. 274.

[5] John E. Wells and Robert E. Dalton, The South Carolina Architects, 1885-1935 A Biographical Dictionary, (Richmond, Virginia: New South Architectural Press, 1992), pp. 151-154.

[6] Ibid.

Bibliography

Allen, Mattie May Morgan. Cental Yesterday and Today. Taylors, South Carolina: Faith Printing Co., 1973.

Journal of the Senate of the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina Being in Regular Session Commencing Tuesday, January 8, 1901. Coumbia, South Carolina: The State Printing Company, 1901.

Reports and Resolutions of the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina Regular Session Commencing January 9, 1906. Vol. 1. Columbia, South Carolina: Gonzales and Bryan, State Printers, 1906.

Wells, John E. and Robert E. Dalton. The South Carolina Architects, 1885-1935: A Biographical Dictionary. Richmond, Virginia: New South Architectural Press, 1992.

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of this property is identified as the entirety of parcel 86 on Pickens County tax map E-18-9-4. The lot measures approximately 150' on the Church Street (east) boundary; 175' on its north boundary; 185' on the south boundary; and 150' on the west boundary.

Boundary Justification

The nominated property constitutes the entire lot presently associated with the building and is part of the original parcel upon which the building was situated.

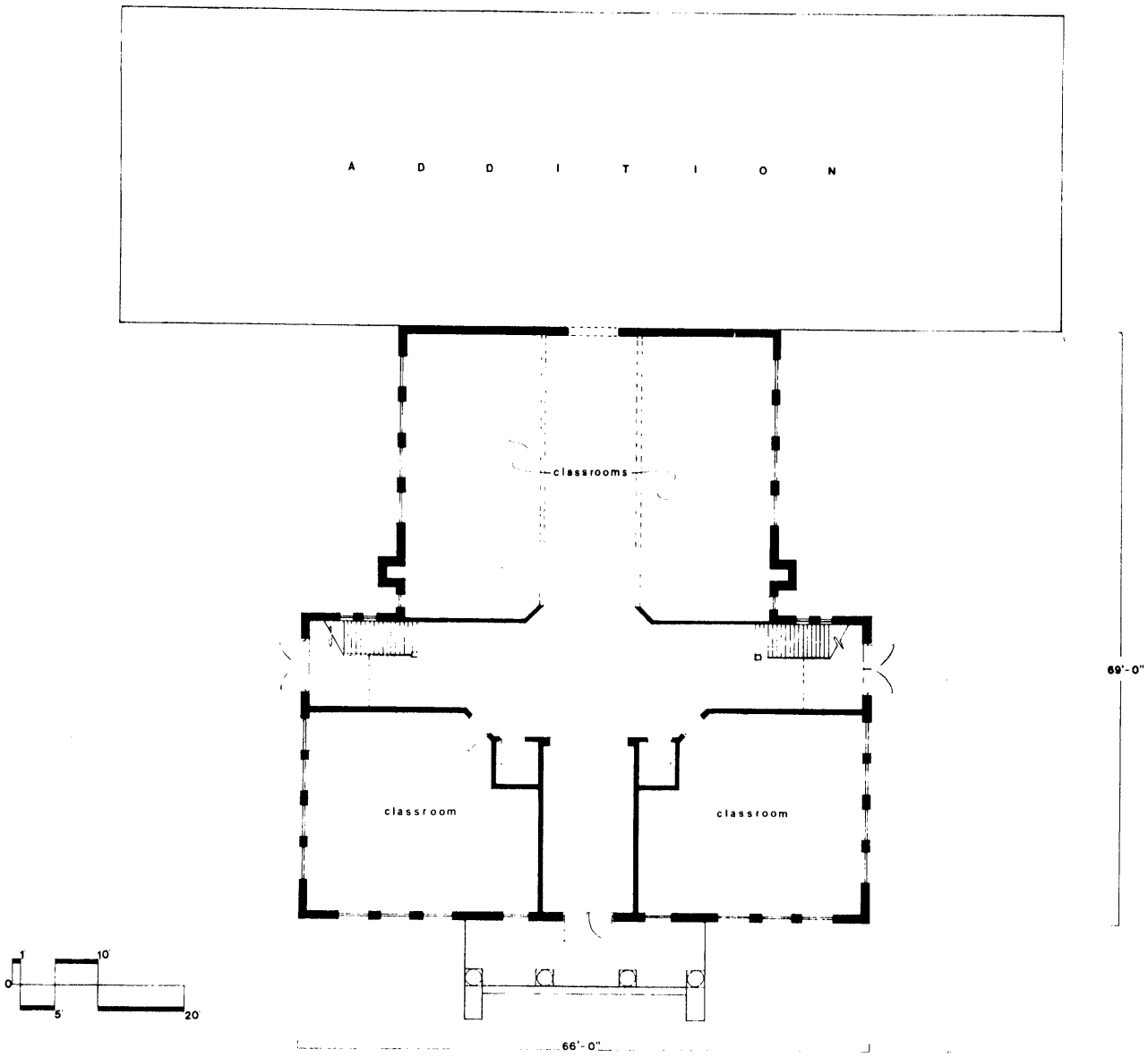
Photograph Log

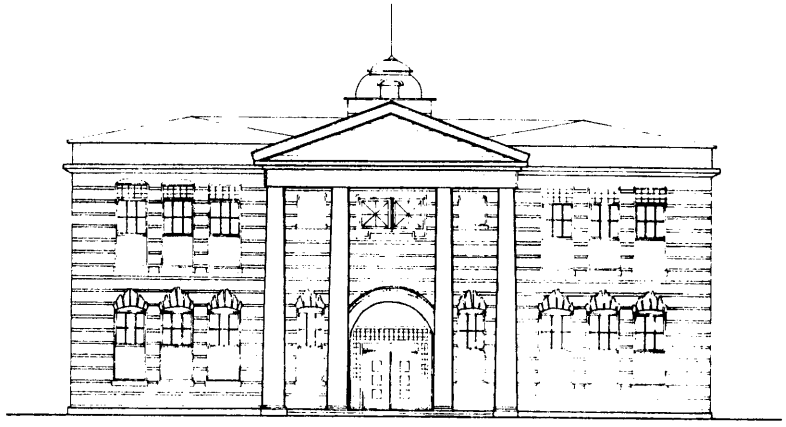
The information is the same for each photograph.

Name of property: Central High School
Location of property: Pickens County, South Carolina
Photo taken by: Tracy McGee
Date taken: Summer 1993
Location of negatives: South Carolina Department of Archives and History, Columbia, S.C.

Photograph number and view

1. Facade, east elevation
2. Oblique south and east elevations
3. Portico detail, east elevation





O L D C E N T R A L H I G H S C H O O L

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: 94000475 Date Listed: 5/20/94

Central High School	Pickens	SC
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.

Signature of the Keeper	5/20/94 Date of Action

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Amended Items in Nomination:

Section No. 3

This nomnination is amended to indicate that the property should be considered significant at the Local level.

This information was confirmed by telephone with J. Tracy Power of the South Carolina SHPO (5/13/94).

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