

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

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

1. NAME

COMMON:
South Carolina State Hospital Mills Building

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
2100 Bull Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Columbia

STATE South Carolina	CODE 045	COUNTY: Richland	CODE 079
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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 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	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 type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Comments <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) South Carolina State Mental Hospital

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
State of South Carolina

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Columbia

STATE:
South Carolina

CODE:
045

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
South Carolina Department of Archives and History

South Carolina Statutes at Large No. 2269, Vol. VI, p. 168

STREET AND NUMBER:
1430 Senate Street, Box 11, 188, Capital Station

CITY OR TOWN:
Columbia

STATE:
South Carolina

CODE:
045

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
South Carolina Survey of Historic Places (Preliminary)

DATE OF SURVEY: 1969 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
South Carolina Department of Archives and History

STREET AND NUMBER:
1430 Senate Street, Box 11, 188, Capital Station

CITY OR TOWN:
Columbia

STATE:
South Carolina

CODE:
045

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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COUNTY:

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7. DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Designed by Robert Mills, this building is the original hospital structure of the South Carolina State Hospital for the mentally ill. An act of the South Carolina General Assembly established and authorized its construction on December 21, 1821 and the cornerstone was laid, with Masonic ceremonies, on July 22, 1822; the building was completed December 18, 1827. Constructed of brick and stone, it is fire resistant.

Although patients have not occupied the Mills building since 1937, it has been in continuous use as a residence for nurses, as classrooms and library, as a center for inservice training, and as the hospital archives. The first addition to the building was made in 1838 and a second wing was added in 1842. Although major renovations were made in 1939 and in 1962, these interior alterations have not affected the building's architectural integrity.

The original building consisted of a central section with one angular wing to the east side and one to the west. Mills described the structure as combining "elegancy with permanency, economy and security from fire -- the facade represents a center and two wings with a cupola for ventilating the upper stories. The entrance of the center building is under a grand portico of six massive Greek Doric columns [unfluted], four feet in diameter, elevated on an open arcade and rising the entire height of the wing buildings (four stories); the whole surmounted with a pediment... ." Characteristically Millsian are the curving granite steps at the front entrance, where cast iron is used for porch and step railings. From the rear (south) of the hospital, the wings create a concave curve. In the center of the rear of the main structure, a half-round turret (stair tower) extends from ground to roof. On the face of the turret is a wide rectangular white stone plaque on which is engraved the word ASYLUM. What is today the roof was once a roof garden extending over the entire structure. This is believed to have been the first such garden in the United States.

There are three basic window treatments in the building. Windows in the ground floor, the second floor, and the third floor are double-sash with stone lintels. The first-floor windows are also double-sash, but are larger and surmounted with semicircular paneled arches. In the stairwell tower on the rear facade are two oculi.

The original interior was arranged so that all patients' rooms faced south and the sun, opening onto a corridor running along the north side of the entire building. Spacious central corridors all contain wide curving stairs, whereas steep and narrow circular stairs lead to the cupola and to the roof. Between the central structure and the adjoining wings, narrow and self-supporting granite stairs lead from the ground to the fourth floor. These unique stairs have cast-iron railings and wind about a large cast-iron shaft. Opening from the second-floor main hall are two large parlors with the vaulted ceilings typical of Mills.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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)

1822-1827

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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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

A notable institutional design by native South Carolina architect Robert Mills, the South Carolina State Hospital Mills Building is considered to be an example of Mills at his best, distinctive in its boldness of conception, its inventive quality, its simplicity and power -- a structure of national importance in the architectural development of America. It is also the oldest structure in the United States continuously used as a mental hospital.

There is recorded proof that the original building, consisting of the center section and an angular wing on the east and one on the west, and completed in 1827, was designed by Mills. The first addition to the building was completed in 1838, and a second wing was added in 1842. In 1848, a request was made for two more wings, but whether these were constructed immediately is not definitely shown by the records. The additions appear to have been made in four stages, and the architect for each is not clearly identified. There is evidence that Philadelphia architect Samuel Sloan, who was doing work at the hospital in 1882-1883, did work on the Mills building. Mills was born in Charleston in 1781 and died in Washington, D. C., in 1855. Sloan was born in Philadelphia in 1815 and died in Raleigh in 1884. During their combined lifespan of 143 years, these two men made major contributions to the architectural heritage of America. The fact that the talents of both men are preserved here in one building seems to be unique. Mills was the great exponent of the classic tradition, particularly the Greek revival, while Sloan ranged the field from the Gothic revival of the Masonic Temple in Philadelphia, the Italian Renaissance formality of the Joseph Harrison House in Philadelphia, to the Moorish villa "Longwood," in Natchez. Sloan exhibited his talents in the State Hospital Mills Building in such a way that the structure appears to be the work of one man.

Mills studied under James Hoban, Thomas Jefferson and Benjamin Henry Latrobe. He was an assistant to Latrobe during the construction of the National Capitol, but is most famous as architect for the Washington Monument. This was designed while he was federal architect, a tenure which he held under seven presidents. The work of Mills is scattered throughout South Carolina and in such varied places as Philadelphia, Baltimore, Washington, Richmond, Augusta, Mobile, and New Orleans. His architecture is characterized by his capable and unerring, but sometimes unorthodox, treatment of classic motifs. His use of the high basement and porticos, supported by arcades, his great interest in fire-resistant construction, and his frequent use of round-headed single windows and of flat-headed triple windows is exemplified in this building. He often tempered the severity of his design with curving steps, as is done in the State Hospital building. It is also

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Marsh, Blanche. Robert Mills -- Architect in South Carolina. Columbia: R. L. Bryan Company, 1970.
 Petty, Walter F. The Architecture and the Architects of the Mills Building, South Carolina State Hospital (unpublished paper). Columbia, 1961.
 WPA. South Carolina, A Guide to the Palmetto State. New York: Oxford University Press, 1941.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE			LATITUDE		LONGITUDE
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 4 acres

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Tray Stephenson & Bernard Kears (Historic Preservation Division)

ORGANIZATION: South Carolina Department of Archives and History DATE: May 2, 1973

STREET AND NUMBER:
P. O. Box 11188 Capitol Station

CITY OR TOWN: Columbia STATE: South Carolina CODE: 045

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 E. Lee
 Title: State Liaison Officer for Historic Preservation

Date: May 2, 1973

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

 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: _____

ATTEST:

 Keeper of The National Register

Date: _____

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8. Significance [South Carolina State Hospital Mills Building]

typical of his design that this and other of his buildings look their best in brilliant sunlight, each slight raised surface or detail thrown in high relief. South Carolina's State Hospital building was among the first authorized, and the third completed, mental hospitals in American built with public funds. The original appropriation for building and grounds was \$30,000 -- "to be erected of brick and stone, covered with slate or tile." The cornerstone laid in 1822 is no longer in evidence, and the assumption is that it was covered by the wing and additions. As finished and furnished, the building was reported "imposing in external, very spacious and proof against fire -- it is large enough to accommodate 120 patients and the total cost approaches \$100,000." At the time of construction, Mills was State Architect, 1820-1827. Mills' ingenuity and humanitarianism are shown in more than one feature of the design. In Architects of Charleston, Beatrice Ravenel quotes the Charleston Courier of February 21, 1824: "Not the smallest appearance of a prison is manifest in the building. Security is agreeably under appearances familiar to the eye in every private house. The iron bars take the similitude of sashes; the hinges and locks of the doors are all secret; so that every temptation is put out of the way to make an escape... ."

Social/Humanitarian:

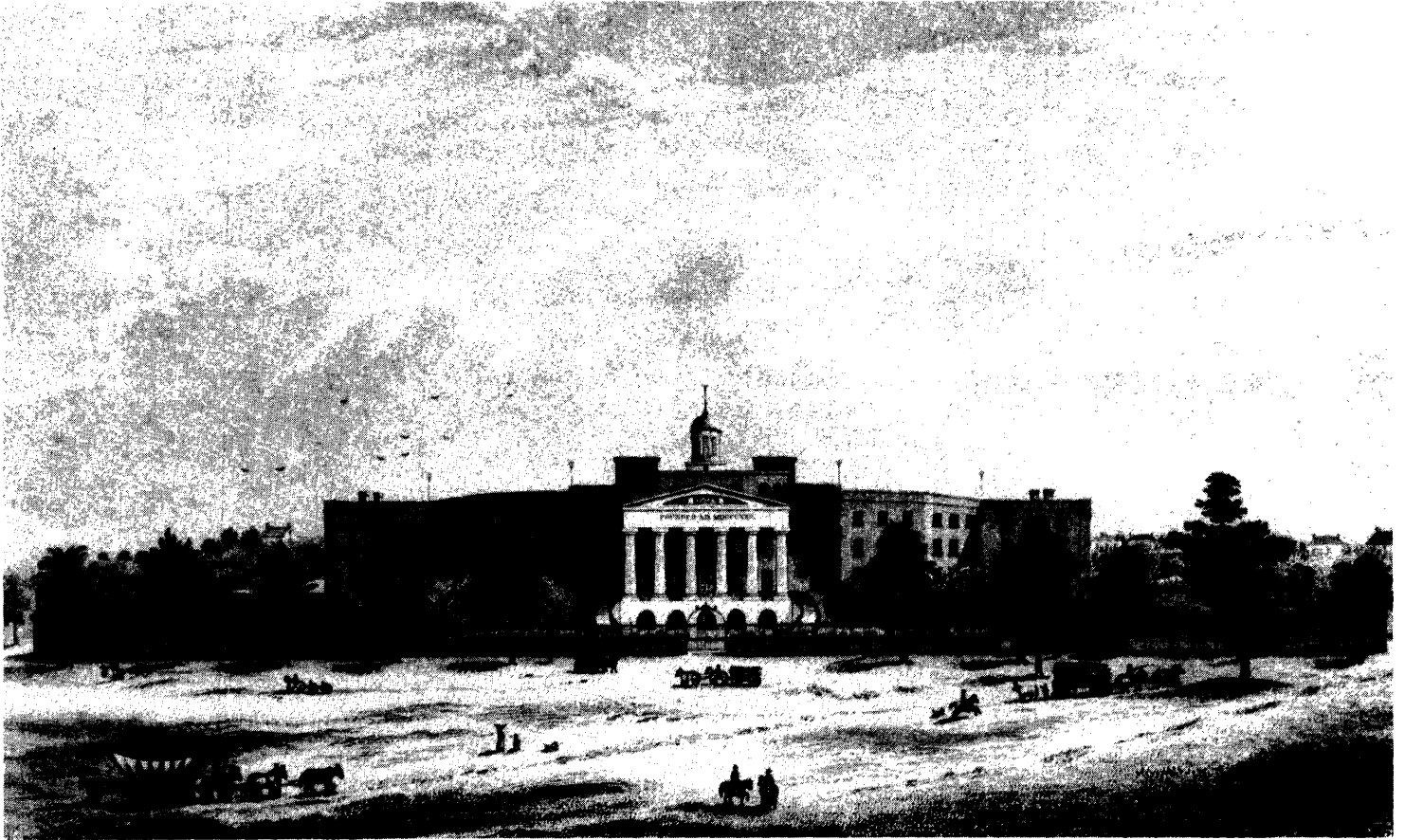
In the early nineteenth century, the concept of care for the mentally ill was far from humane. Many believed that the only solution was to "put away" these people in institutions similar to prisons. Robert Mills did not share this belief, and his State Hospital design reflects reforms that were far ahead of his day; i.e., the rooms were planned with a southern exposure to provide patients with fresh air and sunlight, and the avoidance of a prison appearance by hiding hinges and locks. The fireproofing of buildings was also a practice quite uncommon for the early nineteenth century and one in which Mills was a leader.

In 1852 and 1859, Dorothea Dix, national leader in improving conditions for the mentally ill, visited the South Carolina State Hospital, meeting with officials there to discuss innovative methods of care and treatment.

Science:

Dr. J. W. Babcock first recognized and treated pellagra while serving as superintendent of the State Hospital (1891-1914). As one of the pioneers in the United States in the study and treatment of this disease, Dr. Babcock helped translate and abridge a study on pellagra which was published in the United States in 1910.

In 1931, the United States Public Health Service established at the State Hospital a Division of Field Investigation of Malaria. This was the national center for dissemination of curative material in malarial therapy for paresis.



THE MILLS BUILDING
SOUTH CAROLINA STATE HOSPITAL
COLUMBIA, S. C.
COMPLETED DECEMBER 18, 1827

This is copied from the original engraving made approximately between 1850 and 1855. Drawn by E. Dovilliers and engraved by A. W. Graham at J. M. Butler's establishment - Philadelphia. Courtesy of Walter F. Petty - Lafaye, Fair, Lafaye & Associates - Columbia, S. C. August 1962