

(NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS)

Form 70-300 (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:	Richland	
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER	70-7-41-02217	DATE
		7/16/72

1. NAME

COMMON: Ainsley Hall House

AND/OR HISTORIC: Robert Mills Historic House and Park

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: 1616 Blanding St., bounded on south by Taylor St., east by Henderson St., west by Pickens St.

CITY OR TOWN: Columbia

STATE: South Carolina CODE: 41 COUNTY: Richland CODE: 40

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	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 type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Richland County Historic Preservation Commission

STREET AND NUMBER: 1616 Blanding Street

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

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Richland County Clerk of Court

STREET AND NUMBER: Richland County Court House

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

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: South Carolina Survey of Historic Places

DATE OF SURVEY: September, 1969 Federal State County Local

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

STREET AND NUMBER: 1430 Senate Street

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

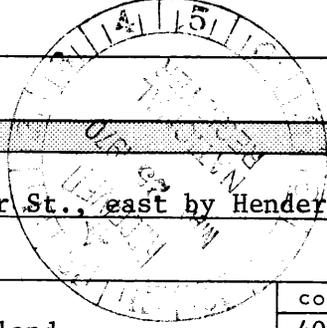
STATE:

COUNTY:

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY



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 slightly	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Classical brick mansion, two-storied on an elevated basement, designed by Robert Mills for English-born Ainsley Hall, who became a wealthy merchant in Columbia. Built 1823 in center of entire city block of four acres.

Main entrance faces north, directly across from Hampton-Preston House, the mansion Hall had built first but sold immediately afterward to Wade Hampton. The front facade has an Ionic-temple portico with four massive columns rising from a raised brick arcade. Rear, or garden, entrance has seven-bay arched porch (the south colonnade). Center bay of the colonnade is slightly wider than the other bays and emphasizes the unusual entryway -- a concave, niched recess separating a pair of doors, a concave and ribbed arch-head creating a partial dome effect over the recess.

The windows are typical of Mills. The two principal front ones are set in recessed brick arches and have pilaster trim. In the rear are 3-part Venetian windows on both floors.

Each floor has four large rooms. Two matching drawing rooms and an entrance hall have curved ends and reflect the Mills genius for creating spaciousness in a small area. The entrance hall is a rectangle, about twice as long as broad, and terminates in a semicircular wall with a central apsidal niche, & 4 doors. Doors flanking the niche open east and west into double parlors; the parlors open onto the garden porch. To make the two doorways symmetrical, the right hand door is false; the left-hand door leads to the stair hall. Departing from prevailing custom, the stairway does not dominate the hall but is concealed from view. This aided in climate control -- a factor which interested Mills and caused the north-south placement of the house.

The house was saved from the bulldozers when the Historic Columbia Foundation raised funds to purchase the property. The classical residence has been meticulously restored as an elegant mansion house. Direction was provided by the S.C. Chapter, American Institute of Architects. Albert Simons, FAIA, Charleston was the restoration architect.

Three outbuildings (two flankers and a carriage house) have been re-constructed. Furnishings and decor are in the American Empire or Regency period. The collection includes fine English, French and early American pieces.

The park-garden represents gardening of the 1820s. A brick wall with ornamental iron fencing and gates has been completed around the entire block.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



5. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input checked="" 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) 1823

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____
<input checked="" 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 checked="" 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 Robert Mills House and Park preserves architecture which is of national importance because of the period it represents, the quality and type of its design, the excellence of its restoration, and the fame of its architect.

It is of particular state and local importance as a focal point and stimulus to the preservation and development of historically-zoned areas in South Carolina's capital, especially since so few of the city's significant old residences remain.

The house is a primary delineation of Columbia's material-visual history, with distinctive characteristics of design. It is of a type becoming increasingly rare within the city and state, and is also in danger of becoming scarce nationally.

Its designer, Robert Mills (1781-1855), was a native South Carolina architect and engineer who studied under Hoban and Latrobe and became the first American-trained Federal architect, serving under 7 Presidents. He was the designer of the Washington Monument and was responsible, in great measure, for the national capital's early trend toward the classical style in its public buildings. In South Carolina, as elsewhere, Mills designs included churches, monuments, bridges, government buildings, and houses. Of the few Mills residences remaining in the United States, the Ainsley Hall House is considered one of the superior examples.

Historically, the house takes on significance as a center of Presbyterianism during many years of occupancy by Columbia Theological Seminary. Woodrow Wilson's father taught here (the Woodrow Wilson boyhood home is one block away). A noted professor was Dr. James Woodrow, who was deeply involved in the evolution controversy of the 1880s and later became president of the University of South Carolina. Such noted Presbyterian names as Dr. George Howe, the historian; Dr. B.M. Palmer, Dr. J.H. Thornwell, Dr. J.L. Girardeau, Dr. Joseph R. Wilson, are listed on the faculty. Further educational and religious associations stem from the Columbia Bible College occupancy from the late 1920s to 1962. Winthrop, the South Carolina College for Women, was founded here in 1886.

Since Mr. Ainsley Hall died before the house was completed and it was never occupied or completely finished as a residence, it is more closely associated with the architect than the builder. In completing the residence as exactly and as elegantly as Robert Mills originally envisioned it, the Historic Columbia Foundation is making it his monument.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

George Howe, History of the Presbyterian Church in South Carolina (prepared by order of the Synod of South Carolina). Columbia, S.C., Duffie & Chapman, 1870. Volume II was edited and published after the author's death.
 William B. Robinson, Columbia Theological Seminary and The Southern Presbyterian Church, 1831-1931. 1931.
 Louis C. LeMotte, Colored Light. 1937.
 H.M.P. Gallagher, Robert Mills: Architect of the Washington Monument.
 Beatrice St. Julien Ravenel, Architects of Charleston. Charleston, S.C., Carolina Art Association (printed Columbia, S.C. R.L. Bryan Co.) 1945, 1964.

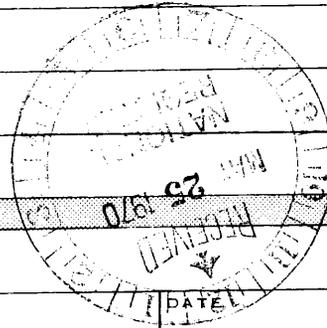
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

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							
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds			
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	34 °	00'	33 ^{3/4} "	81 °	1'	45"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"						
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"						
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"						

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 4

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
 ORGANIZATION: S.C. Department of Archives and History
 STREET AND NUMBER: P.O. Box 11,188, Capitol Station 29211, 1430 Senate Street
 CITY OR TOWN: Columbia STATE: South Carolina CODE: 41
 DATE: May 16, 1970

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. Lopez

Title Director, S.C. Department of Archives and History

Date 5/19/70

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

Ernest Allen Connally
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

JUL 16 1970

Date _____

ATTEST:

William J. Murtagh
 Keeper of The National Register

Date JUN 23 1970

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

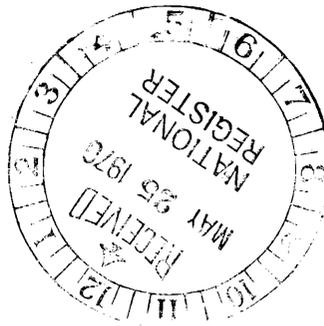
(Continuation Sheet)

STATE South Carolina	
COUNTY Richland	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
70-7-41-0017	7/16/70

(Number all entries)

6. Representation in Existing Surveys (Ainsley Hall House)

City of Columbia, Historical and Cultural Buildings and Sites List
by Dr. Harold N. Cooleage, Jr., Alumni Professor of Art and
Architectural History, Clemson University; May 11, 1966,
revised January 3, 1967.



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
South Carolina	
COUNTY	
Richland	
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ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
70-7-41 0017	7/16/70

(Number all entries)

AINSLEY HALL HOUSE

9. Major Bibliographical References

George Howe, Memorial Volume Semi-Centennial of the Theological Seminary at Columbia, S.C., 1831-1881. 1884.

S.C. Department of Archives & History, Court Records, Ainsley Hall will.

South Caroliniana Library, University of South Carolina, Richland County Court Records (1823-1830)

South Carolina Historical Society, Charleston, S.C. Original letters from Ainsley Hall to Langdon Cheves, 1818-1823.

Presbyterian Memorial Library, Montreat, N.C. Presbyterian Theological Seminary Minutes; Minutes of the annual session meetings of the Presbyterian Synod of Georgia and South Carolina; Treasurer reports. (1828-1860).

Winthrop College, Rock Hill, S.C. Records and letters on reconstruction of carriage house. C. 1936.

Library of Congress, Washington, D.C. Original Robert Mills letters.

Maryland Historical Society, Baltimore, Md. Robert Mills original drawings and correspondence.

U.S. Department of Interior. 1937 HABS, measured drawings and photos.

