Name Historic House of Peace Synagogue

Common Big Apple Club

Location 1318 Park Street

Classification Building

Owner Meyer Bluestein
Box 1053
Columbia, South Carolina 29202

Representation in Existing Surveys Inventory of Historic Places in South Carolina 1979 (update), South Carolina Department of Archives and History

Description: The structure located at 1318 Park Street, several blocks from Columbia's Main Street, is a two-story wooden edifice set upon a raised brick basement. Its gable roof is covered by tin, and its facades are covered by wood siding. Constructed between 1907 and 1910 as a Jewish Synagogue, the structure features a projecting central bay. The entrance, located in this bay and flanked by wooden pilasters and sidelights, is surmounted by a large arch. This arch is divided into four sections, the central two being 6/6 windows. On each side of the entrance are tall narrow windows with horseshoe arches. This entire central projection is capped by a pedimented gable.

The side facades also feature pedimented gables with a rondelle. Each side has five windows with horseshoe arches but several of these windows have been altered. A one-story cement block addition is attached to the rear of the structure. (continued on back)

Significance: The structure located at 1318 Park Street was constructed between 1907 and 1910 as a Jewish Synagogue. Its interior architecture, including a notable recessed dome and a balcony, reflect its original function. However, the structure gained its greatest notoriety when used in the 1930s as a black night club. During that time, students from the nearby University of South Carolina came to observe dancers at "The Big Apple Club". The dance, known as the Big Apple, became extremely popular and in 1937 a group of twenty-three from the Big Apple Club appeared in New York before touring the United States.

Since its use as a dance club, the structure has been used by a variety of commercial enterprises. It is now the home of Lynn's Heating and Air Conditioning.

Acreage .07 acre

Verbal Boundary Description TMS 19-06-23; extending 56' along Park Street with a side line of 53'

UTM Reference Point Columbia North 17/496520/3762200

Other Information

Description -- continued

The interior features a central recessed dome which culminates in a stained glass window. Located on the Park Street (front) side is a balcony which reflects the original use of the structure as a synagogue. Both features were also used by the night club that subsequently occupied the building. The balcony became a spectators' gallery; the dome, ornamented with neon lights in the shape of crescent moons and shooting stars, provided "atmosphere" for dancers.

Today, although the structure is in need of renovation, it appears to be structurally sound.