Form No. 10-300a
(Rev. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY
NOMINATION FORM

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Name Historic Palmetto Building

Common

Location 1400 Main Street

Classification Building

Owner Home Federal Savings & Loan Company
1500 Hampton Street
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Representation in Existing Surveys

Description

Fifteen stories high, the Palmetto Building has a facade of limestone and glazed terra cotta on a structural steel frame. The building which is U-shaped in plan has decorative facades on the south and west only; the north and east sides are faced in brick. A basement vault,projecting under the Main and Washington Street facades, is used for storage.

First floor has three bays on Main and eight bays on Washington Street. Two entrances, the middle and left bays of the Main Street facade, are ornamented with foliated pilasters and entablatures. Washington Street facade features a one-story wing on the right with stone parapet and a stone arch which encloses a copper door and windows. Five bays on Washington Street and three on Main Street feature highly decorated Tudor arches with

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Significance

Constructed from 1912 to 1913 for the Palmetto National Bank, the Palmetto Building has an imposing facade of limestone and terra cotta, with an ornate copper cornice. The tallest building in Columbia when constructed, the building rises 215 feet. An excellent example of an early 20th Century skyscraper sheathed in Gothic Revival detail, the Palmetto Building is probably unique in its uses of a palmetto tree motif in Gothic detailing.

Acreage .13 acre

Verbal Boundary Description The boundary of the Palmetto Building nomination is shown as the red line on the accompanying tax map of Richland County entitled "No. 19" and drawn at an approximate scale of 100 feet to the inch. The nominated property includes all significant buildings and structures.

UTM Reference Point 17/496785/3762400

Other Information

OCT 28 1980

Description continued:

points terminating in palmetto trees which fill spandrels between second floor windows. Flanking two of the entrances are original light fixtures in medieval mode.

Third through thirteenth floors have six bays on Main Street, twelve on Washington Street facade. Main Street facade is divided into three pairs of 1/1 light windows. Except for a repeating pendant motif under windows, the glazed terra cotta is unornamented from third through twelfth floors.

The rectangular windows of the thirteenth and fourteenth floors have copper surrounds and spandrels and are set in terra cotta Tudor arches similar to those at base. The bays are flanked by piers composed of foliage and three colonettes.

An ornate overhanging copper cornice and a stone parapet top the building.

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