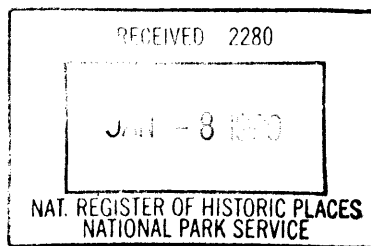


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service



99

### 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 South Carolina State Armory  
other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

#### 2. Location

street & number 1219 Assembly Street not for publication \_\_\_\_\_  
city or town Columbia vicinity \_\_\_\_\_  
state South Carolina code SC county Richland code 079 zip code 29202

#### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this \_\_\_ 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 X statewide \_\_\_ locally. ( \_\_\_ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Mary W. Edmonds 12/30/98  
Signature of certifying official Date

Mary W. Edmonds, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, S.C. Dept. of Archives and History, Columbia, S.C.  
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 of the Keeper

Date of Action

Edson H. Beall

2-5-99

South Carolina State Armory  
Name of Property

Richland County, South Carolina  
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property  
(Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property  
(Check only one box)

Number of Resources within Property  
(Do not include previously listed resources)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

| Contributing | Noncontributing |            |
|--------------|-----------------|------------|
| 1            | 0               | buildings  |
| _____        | _____           | sites      |
| _____        | _____           | structures |
| _____        | _____           | objects    |
| 1            | 0               | Total      |

Name of related multiple property listing  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Number of contributing resources previously listed  
in the National Register

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Category: DEFENSE

Subcategory: arms storage

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Category: VACANT

Subcategory: not in use

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Commercial Style

foundation  
walls  
  
roof  
other

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

concrete  
brick

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

South Carolina State Armory  
Name of Property

Richland County, South Carolina  
County and State

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 in 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)

MILITARY
ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1905

Significant Dates

1905

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Edwards, William Augustus
Walter, Frank C.

Narrative Statement of Significance

Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

(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:

- State Historic Preservation Office
Other State agency
Federal agency
Local government
x University
Other
Name of repository:
Thomas Cooper Library, U. of S.C.

South Carolina State Armory  
 Name of Property

Richland County, South Carolina  
 County and State

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** less than one acre

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

|                            |                       |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| Zone Easting Northing      | Zone Easting Northing |
| 1 <u>17 496680 3762090</u> | 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 Elizabeth J. Bailey (with revisions by SHPO staff, September 1998)  
 organization Historic Columbia Foundation date May 1995  
 street & number 1601 Richland Street telephone (803) 252-1770  
 city or town Columbia state SC zip code 29201

**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 Mr. Gus Bell  
 street & number Hussey Gay Bell & DeYoung, Inc., 2000 Park Street telephone (803) 799-0444  
 city or town Columbia state SC zip code 29201

**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.

**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 1

South Carolina State Armory  
Name of Property  
Richland County, South Carolina  
County and State

The South Carolina State Armory is a three-story brick commercial block style building located at 1219 Assembly Street in the downtown area of Columbia, South Carolina. Built in 1905, the building housed the National Guard until 1964. A local company later used the building as a storage warehouse, but the armory sits vacant in 1998. Plans are underway in 1998 to renovate the building for use as office space. As no significant additions or alterations have been added, the South Carolina State Armory still maintains its historic appearance and architectural integrity. Located one block from the State House Grounds, the armory is situated in Columbia's downtown area in an urban setting dominated by office buildings and parking lots. The Armory is bordered on two sides by small one-story brick buildings and to the rear by a parking lot.

The South Carolina State Armory is a rectangular brick commercial style building with three stories. The main façade, facing east on Assembly Street, is divided into three vertical bays. While the central bay consists of two windows and an entrance, the remaining bays are composed of three windows. The bays are delineated by slightly projecting brick buttresses. The façade is made of red brick in a seven-to-one American bond pattern variation which features on every eighth row alternating headers and stretchers. The windows on the first floor are slightly shorter than the upper windows.

The façade of the first floor contains the main entrance and two windows. A slightly projecting brick pavilion capped by stone blocks marks the entrance. Two concrete steps lead up to the double doors in the center of the pavilion. Above the double doors is a stone reading "1905," the year the Armory was constructed. Flanking the entrance pavilion are two wooden double windows. Each window has a twelve over twelve pane configuration and a stone sill. Metal bars have been placed over the first floor windows.

The second story of the Assembly Street façade consists of three wooden double windows. The windows have a sixteen over sixteen pane configuration. All windows have stone sills. In the center bay of the façade, between the second and third floors, is a stone panel which reads "South Carolina State Armory." The third story façade closely resembles the second story. Three wooden double hung windows with sixteen over sixteen pane configuration and wooden sills make up the third story façade.

The remaining three facades of the South Carolina State Armory are of red brick in a running bond pattern. The north and south facades contain four vertical bays of three windows. The bays are separated by slightly projecting brick buttresses. All windows on both the north and south facades are double hung windows with stone sills. The first floor windows have a twelve over twelve pane configuration and are protected by metal bars. The second and third story windows have a sixteen over sixteen pane configuration. On the north façade, a fire escape leads from the right third story window to the ground.

The rear, or west, façade consists of three vertical bays of three windows separated by slightly projecting brick buttresses. All windows are wooden double hung windows with stone sills. The first floor windows have a twelve over twelve pane configuration and are protected by metal bars. The left first floor window was bricked-in in 1964, when the National Guard left this location. The second and third story windows have a sixteen over sixteen pane configuration.

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South Carolina State Armory  
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The building's flat roof is covered with tar and gravel. A metal rain gutter runs around the entire perimeter of the roof emptying into the gutters on the rear and front of the building.

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Section number 8 Page 3

South Carolina State Armory  
Name of Property  
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The South Carolina State Armory, built in 1905, is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for its significance in the development of the National Guard in South Carolina. The Armory is also eligible under Criterion C for its architecture, which is typical of the new style that arose with the federalization of the National Guard. Built in 1905 according to plans by a Columbia, South Carolina, architectural firm, Edwards & Walter, the Armory served as headquarters for the 118<sup>th</sup> Infantry and medical detachment. The building also housed the 263<sup>rd</sup> Coast Artillery.<sup>1</sup> The building was used from the time of its construction until 1964 when the South Carolina National Guard moved into a new building. The building is presently not in use but there are plans to renovate the building for office space.

Before the 1903 Dick Act, which marked the beginning of the National Guard of today, volunteers formed the bulk of National Guard membership.<sup>2</sup> The National Guard grew out of the militia system under the Militia Act of 1792. Under the act, service in the militia was mandatory requiring every able-bodied male to serve. The Militia's purpose was to provide a "ready reserve" of men to be used in the event of war or uprising.<sup>3</sup> This law and the ideas behind it remained satisfactory for nearly a century.

By the 1890s, the traditional militia system declined as the "militia" was mostly composed of volunteers. Around this time units began to replace "militia" in their titles with "National Guard."<sup>4</sup> Thus, the National Guard began to represent an organized volunteer group rather than a mandatory institution.

At the turn of the century the National Guard was characterized by more systematized control. States demanded their units meet specific requirements in regard to inspection, drilling, and training. Thus, the 1890s National Guard was more organized and established than the militia had ever been. Despite efforts to create better organizations, the quality of forces varied in each state and region. Not until 1903 would the federal government regularize National Guard units.<sup>5</sup>

President William McKinley initiated National Guard reform by appointing lawyer Elihu Root Secretary of War replacing Russell Alger.<sup>6</sup> Root was responsible for broad reforms in the War Department. Besides correcting organizational and administrative problems in the regular army, he established a system for educating army officers. Furthermore, he made vast reforms in National Guard standardization by modeling the Guard after the regular army.<sup>7</sup> By enforcing such standardization, Root hoped to create a federal organization in place of the existing state system. In 1903, Root's efforts led to the Dick Act being passed, finally replacing the outdated 1792 Militia Act.

<sup>1</sup> National Guard of U.S. Yearbook, State of South Carolina (Baton Rouge, LA: Army and Navy Publishing Company, 1938), 30.

<sup>2</sup> Elbridge Colby, The National Guard of the United States: A Half Century of Progress (New York: Military Affairs/Aerospace Historian Publishing, 1977), *Chapter I*, 1.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, *Chapter I*, 9.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*, *Chapter I*, 2.

<sup>5</sup> Jerry Cooper, The Militia and the National Guard in America Since Colonial Times: A Research Guide (Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 1993), 84-85.

<sup>6</sup> Cooper, 99.

<sup>7</sup> Colby, *Chapter II* 3.

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Section number 8 Page 4

South Carolina State Armory  
Name of Property  
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The Dick Act required states to undergo annual inspection by National Guard officers and required that Guard forces conform to Army training, armament, and organizational regulations. National Guard units were only eligible for federal aid if they met the above requirements.<sup>8</sup>

Although the federal government supported and appropriated funds to individual states for uniforms and equipment, funding was not provided for constructing armories. The responsibility of building armories fell solely to the states. Under the 1903 Dick Act the states were required to provide for storage and protection of federally issued equipment. In addition, units were to provide facilities for meeting and training both indoors and outdoors.<sup>9</sup>

In 1903, South Carolina owned only one armory. Constructed in the 1700s in Beaufort, this armory housed the Naval Militia and did not meet the requirements of the new act. Rented storage buildings provided protection of equipment in Columbia and throughout the state. In Columbia, the state capital, much of the issued equipment was damaged or unaccounted for because limited space caused improper storage and made property inventory almost impossible.<sup>10</sup>

In 1904, the Adjutant-General and the Military Advisor to the Governor requested that funds be appropriated for construction of a suitable armory in Columbia which would meet the new requirements of the 1903 Dick Act.<sup>11</sup> The state granted the request and appropriated \$7,750 for "the purchase of a [building] lot and the erection of the armory."<sup>12</sup> In April 1905, the State of South Carolina purchased a lot near the State House and hired the local architectural firm of Edwards & Walter to begin designing a new armory.<sup>13</sup>

The Edwards & Walter architectural firm formed in 1901. Edwards, a Darlington, South Carolina native, and Walter, who practiced extensively in South Carolina, are best known for their contributions to a statewide program of public school construction. In addition, Edwards was highly regarded in his work in South Carolina county courthouses.<sup>14</sup> Together, they designed the South Carolina State Armory in 1905 to embody the new spirit of the National Guard. Thus, the building is significant because it marked South Carolina's response to the 1903 Dick Act, which was a turning point in the federalization of the National Guard.

In designing the Armory, Edwards & Walter were on the cutting edge of armory design. From the 1870s to the 1890s, architects designed armories to resemble castellated medieval fortresses. An excellent example of this type of construction can be seen on the old arsenal in Beaufort and the old Citadel building in Charleston. Judged ideal for armory architecture, the castellated style conjured up times when the military ruled with an iron fist. The style fit the theme of showing a strong military presence as a symbol of power and authority. The castellated armory inspired awe and

<sup>8</sup> *Ibid.*, Chapter III, 3-4.

<sup>9</sup> Colby, Chapter III, 5-6.

<sup>10</sup> Annual Report for the Fiscal Year 1904, Adjutant Inspector-General of the State of South Carolina, 1904.

<sup>11</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>12</sup> Annual Report for the Fiscal Year 1905, Adjutant Inspector-General of the State of South Carolina, 1905.

<sup>13</sup> Records of the Military Department, Recordance of expenses 1904-1906, South Carolina Department of Archives and History, Columbia, SC.

<sup>14</sup> John E. Wells and Robert E. Dalton, The South Carolina Architects, 1885-1935: A Biographical Dictionary (Richmond VA: New South Architectural Press, 1992) 44-45, 193



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South Carolina State Armory  
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respect from the local people, and discouraged misbehavior and uprising.<sup>15</sup> The medieval design was also relatively easy to defend. The crenellated, thick walls and narrow windows provided excellent coverage against enemy bullets. As this period was prone to frequent labor disputes, the castellated style was well suited to the purpose of the armory.<sup>16</sup>

At the turn of the century support for the medieval type waned. One reason for the dissatisfaction with the style was the 1903 Dick Act that federalized the National Guard and gave the institution more authority. Officials and architects questioned the appropriateness of the old style to the new National Guard. One architect stated:

“...it is hard to understand why the architecture of a medieval castle should have been thought to be appropriate for a modern armory...it was, perhaps, more appropriate at the period when the chief distinction of the militia was the splendor of its uniforms...A modern armory should recall the military regularity of the army...and it should have the dignity which would seem constant with the army.”<sup>17</sup>

Contemporary society felt the armory was no longer a defensive fortress but instead an offensive organization competent to handle any situation with the support of the government and the masses.<sup>18</sup>

Architects and officials proclaimed that a new armory style be created. As the National Guard was seen as a friendly force, there to serve the public rather than restrict them, armories had to appear welcoming but at the same time convey a sense of authority. This dual philosophy and the requirements of the Dick Act provided a significant design challenge for architects and as a result, many different avenues were explored.

Although many architects and officials held these beliefs, construction of crenellated armories continued into the 1920s. Armories in the modern style were relatively few. South Carolina's armory, built in 1905, was one of the first armories to break away from the crenellated model and provided a new solution which embodied the new spirit and attitudes of the National Guard.

<sup>15</sup> Robert M. Fogelson, America's Armories: Architecture, Society, and Public Order (Cambridge, England: Harvard UP, 1989), 154.

<sup>16</sup> Cooper, 86.

<sup>17</sup> Fogelson, America's Armories, 188.

<sup>18</sup> Ibid 207

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**Continuation Sheet**

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South Carolina State Armory  
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**Continuation Sheet**

Section number 10 Page 7

South Carolina State Armory  
Name of Property  
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**Verbal Boundary Description**

The South Carolina State Armory is bounded on the north by an alley, on the east by Assembly Street, and on the south and west by Barnett Tire and Battery Company.

**Verbal Boundary Justification**

This is the original tract of land bought by the state for the armory in 1905.

**United States Department of the Interior**  
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**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Section number Photographs Page 8 South Carolina State Armory  
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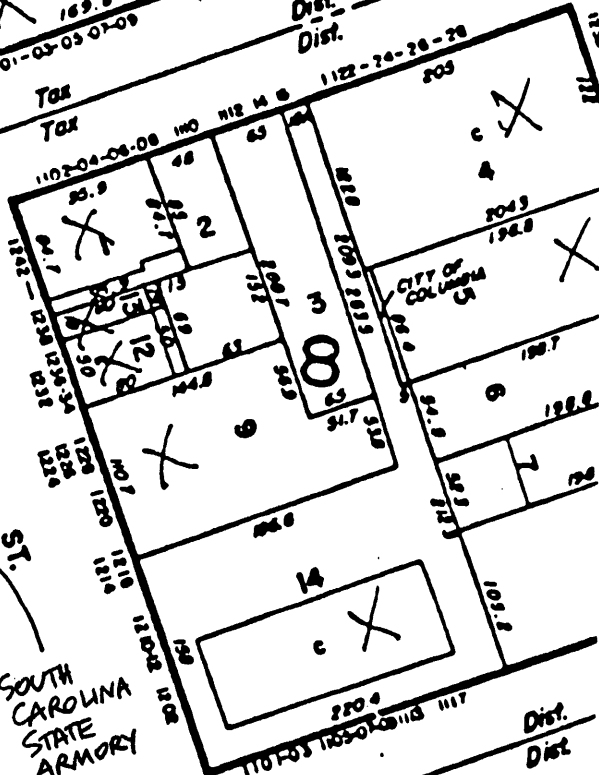
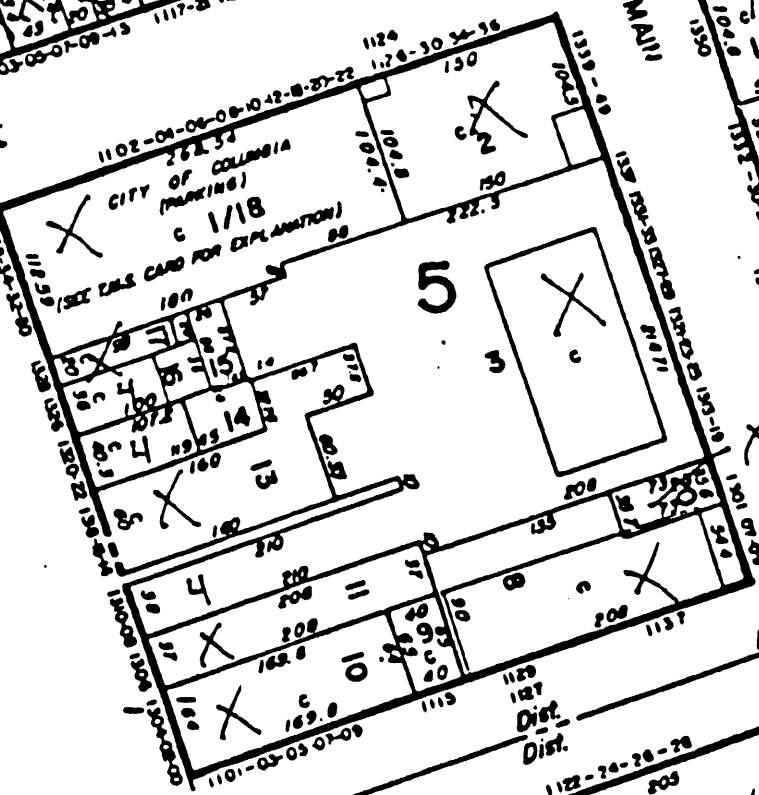
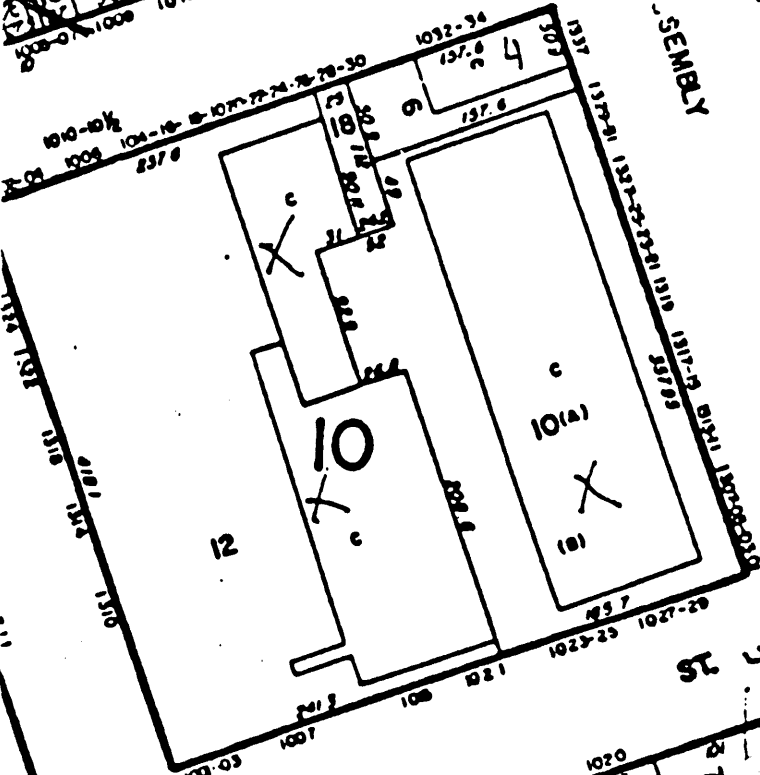
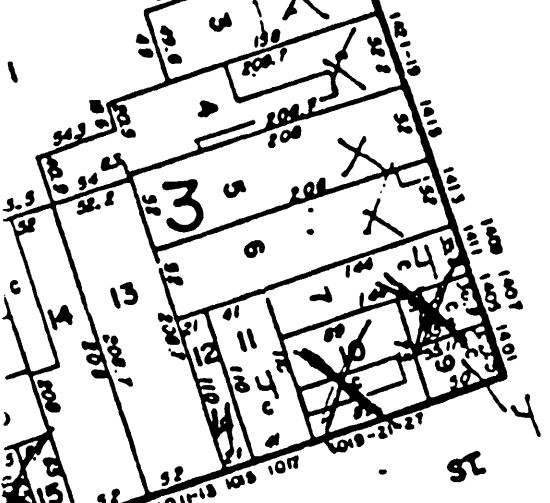
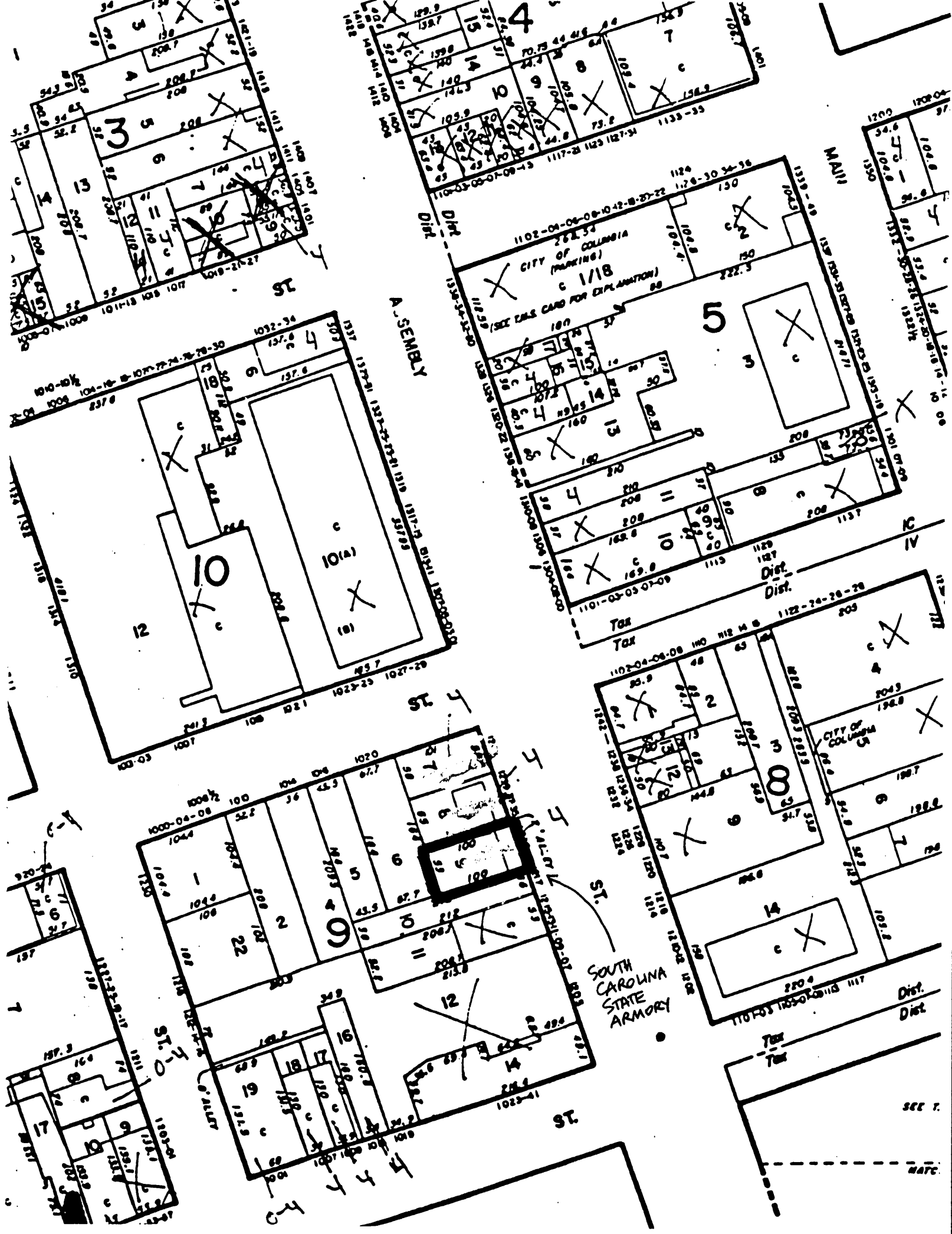
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The following information is the same for each of the photographs:

Name of Property: South Carolina State Armory  
Location of Property: 1219 Assembly Street, Columbia, SC

Name of Photographer: Elizabeth J. Bailey  
Date of Photographs: March 1995  
Location of Original Negatives: South Carolina State Historic Preservation Office

1. Eastern view of the Assembly Street facade
2. Eastern view of the entrance portico on the Assembly Street facade
3. Detail of the stone marking block on the Assembly Street facade
4. Eastern view of the south facade
5. Western view of the rear facade



SOUTH CAROLINA STATE ARMORY

SEE 1.

NOTE.