

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED MAY 30 1975

DATE ENTERED NOV 12 1975

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC Converse College Historic District

AND/OR COMMON
Same**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER 580 East Main Street

CITY, TOWN Spartanburg

-- NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

VICINITY OF

#4

STATE South Carolina

CODE 045

COUNTY Spartanburg

CODE 083

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Board of Trustees

STREET & NUMBER
Converse CollegeCITY, TOWN
Spartanburg

VICINITY OF

STATE
South Carolina**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Spartanburg County CourthouseSTREET & NUMBER
Magnolia StreetCITY, TOWN
SpartanburgSTATE
South Carolina**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**TITLE
Inventory of Historic Places in South Carolina

DATE

1973

 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS South Carolina Department of Archives and HistoryCITY, TOWN
ColumbiaSTATE
South Carolina

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Converse College was chartered in 1889 and incorporated in 1896. During its first session it had only one building. In September 1891 an additional structure, a 4-story brick building, known as the Annex was completed. It was located near Main Building and connected to it by a covered passageway on the first, second, and third floors. In January 1892 the Main Building was destroyed by fire; however, the Annex was saved. The cornerstone of the present Main Building was laid April 21, 1892 on the site of the burned structure. The exterior of Main Building, renamed Wilson Hall in 1929 in honor of the first president of Converse, B. F. Wilson, is similar in design to that of the original Main Building. During Converse's formative years Main Building served as a center for the school's activities as well as providing dining facilities, faculty and student living quarters, classrooms, and administrative offices. The Annex, which served as classroom, dormitory, and dining area until the erection of Main Building, is today a dormitory. In 1941 it was named Pell Hall in honor of Converse President Robert P. Pell.

Over the years Converse's enrollment has increased, and the facilities of the school have expanded to meet the growing needs of the campus. Today Converse consists of some 27 structures and has an enrollment of approximately 750 students. The historic district is comprised of six buildings on the Converse front campus, the Towne House behind Pell Hall, and the alumni house (Cleveland House) located across the street from the college.

Historic Structures within the Converse College Historic District:

1. Annex (Pell Hall): 1891, 4 stories, brick, central tower; oldest structure within district; connected by 3-storied passageway to west wing of Wilson Hall.
2. Wilson Hall (Main Building): 1892, Richardsonian Romanesque, 3 stories with elevated basement, brick; central portico; east & west corner towers have hipped roofs & 2-storied bay windows; towers repeated on either side of central portico with eastern tower containing bell.
3. Twichell Auditorium: 1898-1899, 2 stories, brick; arches, designed by Charles Hook; auditorium enlarged in 1908; interior renovation in 1957; connected by one-story bridge to east wing of Wilson Hall.
4. Dexter Hall: 1899, 4 stories, brick, entrance porch; originally contained dormitory suites, gymnasium and later swimming pool and was originally connected to Wilson Hall by covered passageway. Renovated in 1960 and converted into dormitory.

(see continuation sheet)

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Gee, Mary Wilson. Yes Ma'am Miss Gee. Charlotte, N.C.: Heritage House, 1957.

Kibler, Lillian Adele. The History of Converse College. Spartanburg, S.C.:
Converse College, 1973.

(see continuation sheet)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY ca. 20 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	17	411,645,0	3,816,814,0,0	B	17	411,645,0	3,816,810,5,0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	17	411,605,0	3,816,810,5,0	D	17	411,605,0	3,816,814,0,0

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Mary Ann Eddy (Georgianna Graham--Appalachian Council of Governments)

ORGANIZATION

South Carolina Department of Archives and History

DATE

5/2/75

STREET & NUMBER

1430 Senate Street

TELEPHONE

(803) 758-5816

CITY OR TOWN

Columbia

STATE

South Carolina

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

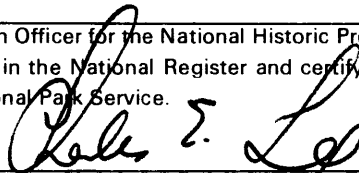
NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE



TITLE

Charles E. Lee
State Historic Preservation Officer

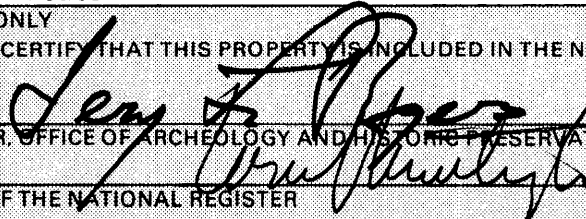
DATE

5/19/75

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Acting



DATE

11/12/75

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

NOV 7 1975

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE one

5. Carnegie (Library): 1905, 2 stories, brick, entrance porch with pediment, fluted columns with ionic capitals, central dome; today houses Development, Alumni Affairs, and Public Relations offices.
6. Judd Science Hall: 1915, Gothic influence; 2 story brick with central tower, window labels.
7. Towne House: 1898, 2 stories, brick, originally watercloset connected to Main Hall; presently used as day-student center.
8. Cleveland House: East Main Street; ca. 1905, 3 stories, frame, one-story porch; hip roof; converted into alumni house in 1974.

Also included within the district is Gwathmey Library. Opened in May, 1951, this 3 story contemporary brick structure is compatible with other buildings within the district and is not considered an intrusion.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE two

Landrum, Dr. J.B.O. History of Spartanburg County. Atlanta, Ga.: The Franklin Printing and Publishing Co., 1900.

Woody, Thomas. A History of Women's Education in the United States. Vol.II. New York: Octagon Books, Inc., 1969.

Converse College Alumni Bulletin, Fall, 1974.

Converse College Bulletin, 1974-1975.

Visitors Guide, Converse College.

Information received from Georgianna Graham, Historic Preservation Coordinator, Appalachian Council.

U.S. 585 and 176

St. John Street

East Main Street

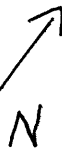
N. Fairview Avenue

PARKING

STUDENT PARKING

VISITOR PARKING

STAFF PARKING



CONVERSE COLLEGE HISTORIC DISTRICT

- 1. Pell Hall (Annex)
- 2. Wilson Hall
(Main Building)
- 3. Twichell Auditorium
- 4. Dexter Hall
- 5. Carnegie Library
- 6. Judd Science Hall
- 7. Towne House
- 8. Cleveland House
(Alumni House)
- 9. Gwathmey Library

