

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

**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 Evans-Russell House  
other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

**2. Location**

street & number 716 Otis Boulevard N/A not for publication  
city or town Spartanburg N/A vicinity  
state South Carolina code SC county Spartanburg code 083 zip code 29302

**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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.)

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**

Signature of the Keeper \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Action \_\_\_\_\_

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): \_\_\_\_\_

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**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)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing	
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	1	1	buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<hr/>		sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	1		structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<hr/>		objects
		2	1	Total

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed  
in the National Register  
0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Category: DOMESTIC

Subcategory: single dwelling

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Category: DOMESTIC

Subcategory: single dwelling

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19<sup>TH</sup> AND 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY  
REVIVALS: Neo-Classical Revival

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE: Granite  
walls WOOD: Weatherboard  
roof ASPHALT  
other WOOD  
BRICK

**Narrative Description**

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

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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)

- 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.
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)

ARCHITECTURE
POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

Period of Significance

1901 - ca. 1955

Significant Dates

1901
ca. 1940
ca. 1955

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Evans, Governor John Gary
Russell, Governor Donald Stuart

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

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:

- X State Historic Preservation Office
Other State agency
Federal agency
Local government
University
Other
Name of repository:
S.C. Department of Archives & History, Columbia, S.C.

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**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** 1.5 acres

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Zone Easting Northing	Zone Easting Northing	Zone Easting Northing
1 17 416900 3867974	3 17 416916 3867850	5 17 416914 3867975
2 17 416993 3867901	4 17 416878 3867916	

\_\_\_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 David R. Arning, Principal  
 organization Palmetto Preservation Works, LLC date June 13, 2006  
 street & number 14 Manly Street telephone (864) 270-4406  
 city or town Greenville state SC zip code 29601

**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 Chip Hurst  
 street & number 380 South Pine Street telephone (864) 583-2011  
 city or town Spartanburg state SC zip code 29302

**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.

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### NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

The Evans-Russell House is a two-and-one-half story frame house situated on approximately one-and-one-half acres in the Converse Heights neighborhood near downtown Spartanburg, the seat of Spartanburg County, South Carolina. Located at 716 Otis Boulevard, the property includes two level lots along the northern side of a divided tree-lined street. The 6,000+ square foot house occupies the eastern lot; the other is vacant except for natural and garden landscape features. There are several mature trees on the property and abandoned planter beds throughout the empty lot. In addition, a small circular fishpond is featured at the end of the grassy bowling green. In the back yard is a small [approximately twenty-one feet by fourteen feet] screened "tea room" of decorative iron frame and asphalt-shingled hipped roof that was probably constructed ca. 1955. The lawn is grass-covered with a brick retaining wall at the sidewalk and an asphalt circular drive in front the house. The driveway extends along the eastern side of the house to a front-gabled carport, likely added ca. 1955.

The foundation is uncut granite. The exterior is covered with clapboard siding painted white. The house has a steeply pitched side gambrel roof, with a front gable projecting over the full-height front porch and entryway. The roofline is complex at the rear of the house, flat and side gabled in places. Windows along the first and second stories are six-over-six double hung sashes. The attic story features Palladian windows (six-over-one and eight-over-one sashes) underneath the gambrels and gabled dormers with eight-over-one arched windows. Three massive brick chimney shafts rise from the interior: one at the front of the house, one in the rear slope of the gambrel, and the other along the ridge. The exterior features a variety of classical ornamentation, including composite columns, classical balustrades, thick entablatures, and modillions and dentils along the cornice.

The main entryway features an oversized two-panel door that opens into the center hallway and a formal floor plan. Paneled double doors on either side of the foyer lead to an oversized library and a sitting room. The library features two fireplaces and wall-to-wall bookshelves, added ca. 1955. The dining room is immediately behind the living (sitting) room, accessible from both that space and the stair hall. The stairs rise in straight line from the back of the hall. In its current configuration, the rear addition is divided into several rooms and compartments described below. Upstairs the bedrooms are largely unchanged, except that some closet spaces have been converted to bathrooms. A small staircase leads from the second story hall to the attic. Part of the attic space is finished with plaster walls, moldings, bookshelves and a fireplace. The rest of the attic has exposed structural elements and houses existing mechanical equipment. The house features two-inch wide white oak floors on the first floor and heart pine on the second. Interior doors are solid wood with horizontal panels. Heavy moldings such as baseboards, chair rail, crown molding, wainscoting and fireplace mantels are also intact throughout the house.

The Evans-Russell House has likely undergone several renovations, including a major rear addition/alteration in 1955 (or shortly thereafter). The 1923 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, the earliest map showing the Evans-Russell House, indicates that the house originally included a porte-cochere on the eastern façade and a small rear projection. A T-shaped rear addition shown on the map was likely added between construction in 1901 and publication of the map in 1923. Inspection of exposed structural elements also indicates that the T-shaped addition was not original.

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The house was reoriented on the existing lot ca. 1940, but the short move did not compromise the historic location, setting, or association for which the property is significant.

Alterations in the latter part of the 1950s removed the porte-cochere and significantly enlarged and reconfigured the rear addition to include on the first floor a new pantry, kitchen, laundry room, breakfast room, living (screened) porch, powder room, and two bedrooms and two bathrooms.

The 1923 Sanborn map shows a separate servants' building and automobile garage behind the main house. Updates to the map through February 1950 show only the servants' quarters. That building was removed at an undetermined date.

Also during the ca. 1955 renovation, in the main portion of the house the staircase was reconfigured to rise directly from the rear of the central hallway rather than at a ninety-degree angle from the original front hall/parlor. An interior wall separating the hall/parlor and dining room was removed to create an oversized library. The dining room was relocated opposite the center hallway. A side entry into the library was enclosed at this time, and two windows in that room were converted into French doors. On the second floor, a bedroom at the rear of the house was enlarged and a dressing room and bathroom were added. Bookcases from the original dining room were relocated to the master bedroom. Brick entrance steps were installed around the perimeter of the front porch and a second story porch enclosure was removed. A terrace was added to the west side of the house in the area where the porte-cochere had been. The terrace and gardens were redesigned again in 1971. Air conditioning and electrical improvements were also made during the 1950s, which resulted in the hallway ceiling being lowered to house new ductwork. The alterations were designed by Lockwood Greene Engineers, Inc., of Spartanburg, between 1953-1955, and presumably executed soon thereafter.

The house has been altered over the years to accommodate modern tastes and amenities, yet most of the changes have affected secondary spaces at the rear and have not compromised the historic integrity of the main, high-styled portion of the house. The most prominent architectural features that make the house distinctive -- the grand two-tiered entry porch and exterior classical ornamentation -- all remain perfectly intact. In its current condition, the Evans-Russell House reflects not only the historic design of its original owner, but also a century of continuous use and evolution as a single-family residence. The original design, materials, workmanship and feeling are all retained in the present configuration.

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### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Evans-Russell House, built ca. 1901, is significant as an exceptional example of Neo-Classical Revival residential architecture and for its close association with Governor John Gary Evans (1863-1942), for whom the house was built. The house is also noteworthy as the residence of Governor Donald S. Russell (1906-1998) from 1947 through the end of the period of significance and until his death in 1998.

The Evans-Russell House is one of the oldest houses in Converse Heights, predating the formal development of the neighborhood. The Evanses moved to Spartanburg in 1899 and acquired twelve acres along Connecticut Avenue. The Evans-Russell House was built for Evans at a cost of \$9,900.<sup>1</sup> The first section of Converse Heights was subdivided by the Spartanburg Realty Company and auctioned off between 1906 and 1908 and included much of the land surrounding the Evans property.<sup>2</sup>

The Evans-Russell House is an intact example of the full-height entry porch subtype of early Neo-Classical Revival architecture. The house is distinguished by its classical ornamentation, most notably the two-story portico largely of the Corinthian order, with its denticulated and modillioned cornice, pulvinated frieze, classical balustrade, and pedimented gable. Other Neo-Classical Revival details include extensive dentil work and modillions, wide cornices and decorative trim, and classically-framed double-hung sash windows. The structure is unique in that it features a large, side gambrel roof more typical of Dutch Colonial Revival style houses of the 1920s and 1930s. The Evans-Russell House is further noteworthy because it reflects the transition from Victorian to classically-inspired architecture in Spartanburg during the early twentieth century.

John Gary Evans was born in Cokesbury, Abbeville County, on October 15, 1863, the son of General Nathaniel George Evans, a distinguished graduate of the United States Military Academy at West Point and a general in the Confederate army. Evans attended Cokesbury Conference School, a prestigious preparatory school for South Carolina College, and Union College in Schenectady, New York, where he was elected president of his class. In 1882, following the death of his beloved uncle and guardian, General Martin Witherspoon Gary, Evans left to study law under another uncle, Major William T. Gary of Augusta, Georgia.<sup>3</sup> He was admitted to the South Carolina Bar in 1886 and subsequently opened a successful private practice in Aiken. In December 1897, Evans married Emily Mansfield Plume of Waterbury, Connecticut. Mrs. Evans was a leading figure in the women's movement of South Carolina. She served as president of the Spartanburg Equal Suffrage Club (the first in the state), vice president of the State League for Equal Suffrage, and vice chairman of the State Democratic Executive Committee (the first woman to hold the position).<sup>4</sup>

In 1888, Evans was elected to the South Carolina House of Representatives, where he developed an interest in educational matters. Despite being the youngest member of the house, Evans was a recognized

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<sup>1</sup> Philip N. Racine, *Seeing Spartanburg: A History of Images* (Saline, Mich.: McNaughton & Gunn, 1999).

<sup>2</sup> *Spartanburg Daily Journal* (Spartanburg, S.C.), May 15, July 15, September 20, 1906, and November 10, 1907; *The Spartanburg Journal* (Spartanburg, S.C.), March 23, 1908.

<sup>3</sup> J.C. Garlington, *Men of the Time: A Biographical Encyclopedia of Contemporaneous South Carolina Leaders* (Spartanburg, S.C.: Garlington Publishing Company, 1902).

<sup>4</sup> Helen Milliken, *Behind the Scenes: Sketches of Selected South Carolina First Ladies* (Spartanburg, S.C.: Heritage Information Fund Press, 2001).

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leader and was largely successful in advancing his political agenda, which included the controversial repeal of an important civil rights law.<sup>5</sup> Evans was re-elected to the house in 1890 and elected to the South Carolina Senate in 1892. In 1894 he resigned and was elected governor on the Democratic ticket. Evans was not an especially beloved governor, in part due the economic depression of 1893 and the state's limited funding for public services.<sup>6</sup> Rather, Evans is best remembered for presiding over the South Carolina Constitutional Convention of 1895, which resulted in the prohibition of interracial marriages, the legalization of school segregation and the disenfranchisement of many black voters. The new constitution also limited the governor's term to a period of two years and a total of two terms.<sup>7</sup> On a more progressive front, Evans was largely responsible for establishing co-education at South Carolina College (now the University of South Carolina).<sup>8</sup>

After his term ended in 1897 Evans was nominated to the U.S. Senate, but not elected.<sup>9</sup> He remained active in public service as Major and Inspection General in the First Division, Seventh Army Corps during the Spanish-American War.<sup>10</sup> After the war, he transferred to the staff of Major General William Ludlow in Havana, Cuba, where he assisted in organizing a civil government. Evans relocated to Spartanburg around the turn of the twentieth century. He later served as chairman of the State Democratic Executive Committee 1912-1916; as delegate to the Democratic National Convention in 1896, 1900, 1912 and 1916; and as National Democratic executive committee member from 1918-1930. He served again in the South Carolina House of Representatives 1922-1924, representing Spartanburg. Following his distinguished political career, Governor Evans was a very successful businessman and civic leader. He was a director of the Bank of Aiken, director of the Bank of Commerce of Spartanburg, and trustee of the South Carolina College. Evans was a Mason, and a member of the South Carolina Historical Society, the Knights of Pythias, the South Carolina Bar Association, and the Episcopal Church.<sup>11</sup>

Governor and Mrs. Evans lived in the Evans-Russell House from its construction in 1901 until their deaths in 1942. Around 1940, the Evans moved the house in order to subdivide their acreage for the further development of Converse Heights. It was their desire to liquidate their assets such that their grandchildren—all of whom lived outside the United States—could more easily inherit equal interests in their estate. Governor Evans died June 26, 1942, in Spartanburg and is buried in Willowbook Cemetery in Edgefield.<sup>12</sup>

<sup>5</sup> *Cyclopedia of Eminent and Representative Men of the Carolinas of the Nineteenth Century*, Volume 1 (Madison, Wisc.: Brant & Fuller, 1892).

<sup>6</sup> William R. Bradford, *Twenty-One Governors of South Carolina, Tillman to Byrnes, Including Both. A Related Tragedy, and Other Matters*. (Fort Mill, S.C.: n.p., 1954?)

<sup>7</sup> *The Encyclopedia of South Carolina*, Second Edition, Volume I (St. Clair Shores, Mich.: Somerset Publishers, 2000).

<sup>8</sup> Bradford.

<sup>9</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>10</sup> *The Encyclopedia of South Carolina*, Second Edition, Volume I.

<sup>11</sup> N. Louise Bailey, et al, *Biographical Directory of the South Carolina Senate 1776-1985*, Volume I (Columbia: University of South Carolina Press, 1986), pp. 485-86.

<sup>12</sup> *Ibid.*

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The Evans-Russell House was sold to Jennings L. Thompson (1896-1952) in April 1942 for \$16,500.00. Thompson was a prominent attorney and judge at the Spartanburg County Court who also served a term as mayor of Spartanburg. He sold the property to Donald and Virginia Russell in November 1947.<sup>13</sup>

Donald Stuart Russell was born on February 22, 1906, in Lafayette Springs, Mississippi. He studied at the University of South Carolina, where he earned an undergraduate degree in 1925 and a law degree in 1928. He was admitted to the bar the year of his graduation and practiced in Union before moving to Ann Arbor in 1929 to study at the University of Michigan.<sup>14</sup> Russell married Virginia Fair Utsey, of St. George, South Carolina, on June 15, 1929. They moved to Spartanburg in 1930, where Russell practiced law with the firms of Nicholls, Wyche and Byrnes; Nicholls, Wyche and Russell; and Nicholls and Russell.<sup>15</sup>

During World War II, Russell worked in Washington, D.C., for the most part in accompaniment with his mentor and law partner, James F. Byrnes, and served in the following capacities: assistant to the Director of Economic Stabilization, War Department (1942-1943); major in the U.S. Army, Supreme Headquarters of the Allied Forces in Europe (1944); Deputy Director, Office of War Mobilization and Reconversion (1945); and Assistant Secretary of State for Administration (1945-1947).<sup>16</sup>

After the war, Russell returned to Spartanburg to practice law. He served as the president of the University of South Carolina from 1952-1957. In 1963, Russell was sworn in as the eighty-third governor of South Carolina. Desegregation was the hallmark of his term, as the first black students enrolled at the University of South Carolina and Clemson College (now Clemson University) during his tenure.<sup>17</sup> Russell served until the death of Senator Olin D. Johnston in April 1965, whereupon Russell resigned the governorship and was appointed by his successor, Robert E. McNair, as a Democrat to the U.S. Senate. Russell served the remainder of Johnston's unexpired term, but was not nominated for re-election in 1966. Governor Russell subsequently sat on the bench as a U.S. district court judge for South Carolina and, in 1971, as U.S. circuit court judge for the Fourth Judicial Circuit.<sup>18</sup>

Governor and Mrs. Russell resided at the house in Spartanburg until the governor's death on February 22, 1998. The present owner acquired the property in July 2004.<sup>19</sup>

The Evans-Russell House is historically significant as the home of two prominent South Carolina governors. In particular, the house is important for its direct association with Governor John Gary Evans, for whom the house was constructed in 1901. It is also architecturally significant as an exceptional example of the Neo-

<sup>13</sup> Spartanburg County Deed Book 10H, Page 483, and Deed Book 14L, Page 476, Spartanburg County Register of Mesne Conveyance, Spartanburg County Courthouse, Spartanburg, S.C.

<sup>14</sup> *The Encyclopedia of South Carolina*, Second Edition, Volume I.

<sup>15</sup> Louise Jones DuBose, *South Carolina Lives: The Palmetto Who's Who. A Reference Edition Recording the Biographies of Contemporary Leaders in South Carolina, With Special Emphasis on their Achievements in Making it One of America's Greatest States* (Hopkinsville, Ky.: Historical Record Association, 1963).

<sup>16</sup> *The Encyclopedia of South Carolina*, Second Edition, Volume II (St. Clair Shores, Mich.: Somerset Publishers, 2000).

<sup>17</sup> *South Carolina Biographical Dictionary*, Second Edition, Volume II (St. Clair Shores, Mich.: Somerset Publishers, 2000).

<sup>18</sup> *The Encyclopedia of South Carolina*, Second Edition, Volume II.

<sup>19</sup> *Ibid.*

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Classical Revival style popular at the turn of the twentieth century and found in early suburban neighborhoods of South Carolina. The Evans-Russell House is especially significant as one of the oldest residences in Converse Heights. The grand scale and quality craftsmanship convey an image of affluence and prominence befitting its original owner.

The Evans-Russell House is significant at the state level for its association with two South Carolina governors and as a fine and unusual example of Neo-Classical Revival residential architecture in the upcountry. It is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria B and C and Criteria Consideration B.

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### Verbal Boundary Description:

The nominated property, the Evans-Russell House, is shown as an L-shaped lot on the accompanying Spartanburg County Tax Map # 7-12-12-333-4056, drawn at a scale of 1" = 60', the lot measuring 1.5 acres.

### Boundary Justification:

The boundary of the nominated property includes the historic house, outbuildings and structures, and the surrounding landscape on the above referenced parcel.

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### PHOTOGRAPHS

The following information applies to photographs 1-15:

Name of Property: Evans-Russell House  
Location of Property: 716 Otis Boulevard, Spartanburg, SC 29302

Name of Photographer: David R. Arning  
Date of Photographs: January 24, 2006  
Location of Digital Images: South Carolina Department of Archives and History

1. Facade (south elevation), facing N
2. Contextual view of Otis Boulevard, including Evans-Russell House, facing NE
3. View of gardens/empty lot, facing SW
4. Oblique view of façade, facing N
5. Oblique view, facing NE
6. View of left (west) elevation, facing E
7. Oblique view of rear (north) elevation, facing SE
8. Oblique view of façade, facing NW
9. Detail view of front porch portico, facing N
10. Detail view of front entrance, facing N
11. Interior view of stairway hall, facing N
12. Interior view of stairway hall, facing S
13. Interior view of library, facing S
14. Interior view of second floor hall, facing N
15. Interior view of second floor bedroom, facing N