

United States Department of 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 an 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 Wade Hampton State Office Building
other names/site number

2. Location

street & number 1015 Sumter St
city or town Columbia
state South Carolina code SC county Richland code 079 not for publication vicinity zip code 29201

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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/Title Date

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 official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:
entered in the National Register.
determined eligible for the National Register.
determined not eligible for the National Register.
removed from the National Register.
other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

Wade Hampton State Office Building

Richland County
South Carolina

Name of Property

County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(check as many boxes as
as apply)

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

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

Private	<input type="checkbox"/>	building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
public-local	<input type="checkbox"/>	district	1	buildings
x public-State	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	structure		sites
public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/>	site		structures
		object		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**

Resources Associated with Segregation in Columbia, South Carolina 1880-1960

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Government: Government office

Government: Government office

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

Restrained Classical Revival

Foundation Granite

walls Limestone

roof Not visible

other

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 the 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.)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or 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.

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Politics / Government

Ethnic Heritage/ Black

Period of Significance

1938 - 1940

Significant Dates

1938 - 1940

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Lafaye, Lafaye and Fair

Hopkins & Baker

John C. Heslep Construction Company

9. Major Bibliographic References

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous Documentation on File (National Park Service):

- 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 and History, Columbia

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10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property less than one acre

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 17 497026 3762111
Zone Easting Northing

3 _____
Zone Easting Northing

2 _____
Zone Easting Northing

4 _____
Zone Easting Northing

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	Christopher T. Ziegler (with assistance from SHPO Staff, 7/06)	date	10/28/05
Organization	Public History Program	telephone	(803) 777- 6398
street & number	University of South Carolina	zip code	29208
city or town	Columbia	state	SC

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 SHPO or FPO.)

name/title	General Services Division, South Carolina Budget and Control Board	date	
organization		telephone	[803] 737-0010
street&number	1201 Main Street, Suite 420	zip code	29201
city or town	Columbia	state	SC

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 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 Projects, (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Description

The Wade Hampton State Office Building, built 1938-1940, is a large six-story, restrained Classical Revival state government office building in the South Carolina State House Complex in Columbia, at 1015 Sumter Street (formerly 1228 Senate Street). It was designed jointly by two South Carolina architectural firms: Lafaye, Lafaye and Fair of Columbia and Hopkins and Baker of Florence. Since its completion in 1940 it has seen continuous service as the home of numerous state agencies including but not limited to the South Carolina Department of Education and the Attorney General's Office. The building was constructed at the twilight of the New Deal era with funds from the Public Works Administration (PWA) and the South Carolina Sinking Fund Commission. The original footprint of the building has been unaltered since construction. Except for minor upgrades in HVAC and minor cosmetic changes for individual floors and offices, the interior remains virtually the same. Throughout the first thirty years of the building's existence Senate Street ran immediately in front of it, and separated it from the State House. In the 1970s, construction commenced to remove this street and create an interior pedestrian-friendly capitol complex. Directly in front of the building, in what was the center of Senate Street, now sits a large equestrian statue of Confederate general and Governor Wade Hampton, for whom the building was named. The statue, dedicated in 1906, was moved there from the east side of the State House, where it had stood for many years. Despite minor changes, the interior and exterior of the building retain almost all of their original integrity of design.

Exterior

The building reflects a U-shaped floor plan. The foundation and load-bearing structure is composed of large steel beams encased in concrete and secured in the ground in concrete footers. The base of the exterior of the building is comprised of cut granite. Above the granite foundation (basement level) is a beveled limestone water table with rusticated limestone first floor below a second water table. The crème colored limestone veneer of the first and upper floors, laid in alternating wide and narrow courses, fastens to the steel substructure with a layer of non load-bearing brick. Between the first and second floor is a projecting water table that denotes a change in styling from the rusticated limestone veneer of the first floor to the less ornamented upper floors. Sitting atop the central north façade is the sixth floor or attic story that extends onto the wings to the east and west by only two window bays. The roofs of the main block, wings and attic story are flat with an accompanying limestone cornice and parapet.

The façade faces north with perpendicular wings running from north to south on the east and west ends. The wings project slightly beyond the central block on the facade and five bays beyond the central block's rear wall. On the façade each projection features four Tuscan order pilasters. The facade's recessed central block is approximately 100 feet long, and features ten fluted pilasters without capitals. The entire length of the façade,

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including the projecting wings, extends a total of 203 feet. The façade includes the cornerstone at the northwest corner incised with "Erected 1939." Also on the façade is a wide entry terrace at the main entrance that consists of a granite base, cheek walls and steps and pink flagstone pavers laid in geometric patterns. Decorative iron and brass hand railings and large, five-foot tall bronze box lanterns with flared stone bases set upon either cheek wall, both executed in the restrained Classical Revival style, adorn the entry terrace and steps. The main entrance consists of three entry portals set within a simple limestone surround (frontispiece) that boasts a carved chevron-patterned limestone cap. Each entry portal features a surround of low-relief limestone engraving exhibiting Art Deco-inspired forms of an agricultural nature prevalent in South Carolina. Included are stylized images representing tobacco, cotton, corn and timber. Each doorway consists of outer cast bronze double-leaf doors with Art Deco-inspired surround, panel motifs and floral transom grilles, and a highly polished double-leaf brass and glass inner door with Art Deco-inspired floral transom grilles. Above the central doorway is the inscription "South Carolina State Office Building." On the west side of the central doorway is a cast bronze plaque that reads "The Wade Hampton State Office Building."

The two wings that create the east and west elevations each possess an exterior and interior elevation as a result of the building's "U" shape form. The interior elevations are those that face toward the inside of the courtyard framed by the "U". The exterior elevations face away from the building and measure approximately 116 feet long. These elevations contain eight fluted pilasters each, identical to those found on the central block facade. In the center of both wings' end elevations is a secondary entrance to the main level of the building, each treated similarly to the main entrance. Each wing also has nine bays of windows on the outside facing elevation for the five floors. The interior elevation of each wing features five bays of windows for the five floors. At the extreme south face of the two wings there are three bays of windows for the five floors. All windows on the building's main central block and wings are recessed between pilasters and are steel-framed units with double-leaf vertical casements at center, a horizontal, operable lower glass panel, and an equally-sized fixed upper transom. Spandrels within each vertical bay are unadorned grayish green stone panels. On the deeply recessed south elevation of the main block is the rear entrance within the three-bay wide stair and restroom tower. The length of the central block's wall on the south is fifty-eight and one half feet. It opens into a large parking lot for state employees and its stairs are covered by a large umbrella canopy. There are a total of eight bays of windows for the five above ground floors, as well as one bay of windows for the height of the stair tower.

Interior

The main floor lobby boasts dark brown marble walls and polished pink-toned travertine floors edged in dark brown marble. Stylized Art Deco-inspired bronze grilles cover and adorn ventilator registers and returns on the lobby's dark brown marble walls. Around the ceiling of the main lobby is a decorative plaster cornice, and on the ceiling are colorful and decorative Art Deco styled acoustical tiles. Hanging from the center of the ceiling is

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a large Art Deco styled chandelier of brass and milky opalescent glass. Directly beneath the light fixture is a large circular bronze seal set in the marble and travertine floor depicting the state of South Carolina with counties outlined and named and the State Office Building. Directly opposite the entrance, within a secondary corridor that runs perpendicular to the lobby, are the building's three elevators, each featuring double-leaf wood doors with the seal of the State of South Carolina and stylized floral borders and panels rendered in gold paint. To the right of the elevator lobby entrance and on the rear wall of the main lobby is a polished brass gravity fed mail collection bin along with its brass and glass feeder tube extending out of the ceiling. To the left of the elevator lobby entrance and on the main lobby's rear wall is the building's original bronze and glass office directory. To the left and right (east and west) of the main lobby are double-loaded corridors to the connecting wings, each featuring a high wainscot of brown marble veneer and wood doors with transom panels. On the west wall of the elevator lobby hangs a bronze plaque designed by Lafaye, Lafaye and Fair, naming the federal and state funding sources for the construction of the building, listing the members of the Sinking Fund Commission of South Carolina, and naming the building's architects (Lafaye, Lafaye and Fair and Hopkins and Baker) and contractors (John C. Heslep and Ernest M. Spong). In addition, on the east wall of the main lobby is a large bronze plaque placed there in 1940 by the General Assembly of South Carolina "In Appreciation of the Public Service of Honorable Marshall P. DeBruhl, Author of the Act Establishing the Insurance Sinking Fund." To the rear of the elevator lobby is the building's main stairwell featuring a simple steel and wood rail turned staircase.

In general, the basement and the first five floors possess the same layout. On these floors a double-loaded corridor extends from east to west connecting the wings. The various floors have differing office layout depending on the offices on that floor. The sixth floor alone is different in that it does not expand to the extreme northern façade or down the wings.

The architecture of the Wade Hampton State Office Building exhibits features that associate it directly with the multiple property submission, "Resources Associated with Segregation in Columbia, South Carolina 1880-1960," for two reasons. First, the men's and women's restrooms still in use on the basement level are surviving examples of partitioned spaces. According to the original 1938 architectural designs of the building, the two restrooms located nearest the elevator lobby were labeled as "Colored" restrooms. At the extreme southern end of the elevator lobby, on the west side, was the entrance to the "Colored Men's" restroom behind a staircase. Inside this restroom was also a janitor's closet. This restroom and janitor's closet is still in existence and used to this day though it is no longer designated "Colored." The women's restroom is to the north and is accessed from the central corridor. It too is still in use. This rare example of a surviving segregated space in a public government building is worthy of historical appreciation. Second, the structure itself housed the offices of the

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Attorney General and the South Carolina Department of Education throughout the latter years of segregation. In this capacity the building served as the seat of government for two state agencies that were responsible for enforcing segregationist policies throughout South Carolina.

The setting of the building has changed some throughout its sixty-five years of service. The streets that used to pass on the north and west sides of the building have been removed and are now part of the State House complex pedestrian mall. To the building's west and facing Sumter Street is the historic John C. Calhoun State Office Building, constructed in 1925-1926 according to plans by local architect Harold Tatum, formerly of the prominent Philadelphia architectural firm of Day and Klauder, and in consultation with Milton B. Medary of the well-known Philadelphia firm of Zantzinger, Borie and Medary. South and west of the Wade Hampton building, newer state office buildings have been constructed in more recent years that effectively frame in the southern side of the State House complex. Despite these landscape alterations, the Wade Hampton building itself has experienced very little alterations. There have been no exterior alterations and the changes on the interior are limited to minor cosmetic alterations in a few of the specific offices and corridors. The overall integrity of the building is excellent.

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Statement of Significance

The Wade Hampton State Office Building, completed in 1940 in Columbia, South Carolina, is historically significant and eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under two of the criteria. The building is eligible under Criterion A within the multiple property submission “Resources Associated with Segregation in Columbia, South Carolina, 1880-1960.” As the seat of government for numerous agencies since 1940, it has been viewed as a symbol of the state's policy of racial segregation. In addition to the policy aspect of segregation that the building represents, it also has a tangible connection to segregation. The Wade Hampton State Office Building was originally designed with segregated spaces for African American patrons conducting business there. These spaces were restrooms located on the basement level and were labeled on the original 1938 blueprints as “Colored” restrooms.¹ It is also being nominated under Criterion C for its architectural significance and remarkable physical integrity. Generally unchanged since its completion in 1940, the building is an exquisite example of late depression era restrained classicism, the preferred style and appearance of government buildings at the federal, state and local levels at that time. The building also has the distinction of being designed by the prominent Columbia architectural firm of Lafaye, Lafaye and Fair, in association with Hopkins and Baker of Florence, South Carolina. The restrained classicism of the building, in accompaniment with Art Deco inspired details, reflects the moderated taste in architectural design prevalent during the Great Depression of the 1930s. The Wade Hampton State Office Building is the most unaltered building in the South Carolina State House Complex; all others have undergone significant renovations in recent decades. Though other state office buildings maintain their historic footprints and exterior appearances, the Wade Hampton State Office Building has had virtually no exterior changes and very little if any interior alterations.

Historic Context

In the midst of the Great Depression of the 1930s many federal agencies were created under President Franklin D. Roosevelt’s New Deal program to combat rampant unemployment and inflation. One of the key components for national economic recovery was a large-scale construction program for various structures, including public buildings. The infusion of federal money into the economy for the creation of public works boosted the economy and provided paying jobs for many of America’s unemployed. One of the programs created for this purpose was the Federal Emergency Administration of Public Works, known popularly by the initials PWA, which funded large public works projects throughout the nation. In October 1938, the State of South Carolina

¹ Lafaye, Lafaye and Fair, 1938 Architectural Drawings of State Office Building, Papers of Lafaye and Lafaye, Architects, Columbia, South Carolina, South Caroliniana Library, University of South Carolina, Columbia, South Carolina; and author’s personal collection.

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received a grant from this agency to begin construction of a new state office building in the capital city of Columbia. The building that was eventually constructed was the result of a collaborative funding program between the PWA and the South Carolina Sinking Fund Commission.

The building was designed jointly by the architectural firms of Lafaye, Lafaye and Fair of Columbia, and Hopkins and Baker of Florence. Of the two firms, Lafaye, Lafaye and Fair was the more prestigious. Brothers George Eugene Lafaye and Robert Stoddard Lafaye created the architectural firm of Lafaye and Lafaye in 1919. The name Lafaye had been associated with architecture in Columbia since 1900 when the elder brother George was brought to Columbia as chief draftsman and designer for W.B. Smith Whaley and Company, notable in South Carolina and the southeast for textile mill design and engineering. When W.B. Smith Whaley and Company closed its offices in 1903, Lafaye and fellow Whaley associate Gadsden E. Shand began a practice as Shand and Lafaye, Architects and Engineers. By 1912 Lafaye was practicing alone. With the collaboration of talents with his brother in 1919, the firm of Lafaye and Lafaye would become one of the preeminent architectural firm in the state.² By the 1930s the firm had a number of associates, but as with most architectural practices the economic crisis of that decade curtailed most projects outside governmental and other publicly funded commissions. The firm's name changed in 1937 to Lafaye, Lafaye and Fair, with the addition of new partners George E. Lafaye, Jr., the founder's son and 1935 graduate of the Clemson College School of Architecture, and Herndon M. Fair, Columbia native, 1931 Tulane University graduate, draftsman with the New Orleans firm of Weis, Dreyfous and Seiferth from 1930 to 1933, and draftsman with Lafaye and Lafaye from 1933 to 1937.

Several large state commissions demonstrate the firm's competency in design and construction. The firm completed eighty-one projects between 1919 and 1939. Examples of the skill and versatility of the firm include the Neo-classical styled National Loan and Exchange Bank Annex in Columbia (1925), the Georgian Revival Township Auditorium in Columbia (1929-1930), the Art Deco styled Community Center Building in Hartsville, South Carolina (1935), and the McLeod Infirmary in Florence, South Carolina (1935), in association with Frank V. Hopkins of Florence. In addition to these, state projects such as the South Carolina State Hospital for the Insane expansion program and the construction of the Wade Hampton State Office Building demonstrate the confidence of the state in the capabilities of the firm.⁴

² Wells, John E. and Robert E. Dalton, *The South Carolina Architects, 1885-1935: A Bibliographical Dictionary*, Richmond: New South Architectural Press, 1992. p 94-98.

³ *Ibid.*

⁴ *Ibid.*

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The Sinking Fund Commission, a part of what became the State Budget and Control Board, was the agency responsible for the construction and maintenance of, as well as insuring state buildings. The Commission originally proposed a new state office building. On March 8, 1938, a special committee was formed from the Sinking Fund Commission to evaluate the construction and cost of the new building. Governor Olin D. Johnston, Comptroller General Archibald James Beattie, and State Treasurer Eustace P. Miller were appointed to the committee.⁵ One of the first major goals of the committee was to acquire legislative consent to pursue the process. On May 7, 1938, the South Carolina state legislature passed a bill granting authority to the Sinking Fund Commission to begin plans for the construction of a new state office building.⁶ By May 20, 1938, the special committee recommended to the Sinking Fund Commission that a plot of land to house the building be purchased and all other progress made toward construction so long as Federal subsidies for construction were received. The Commission also resolved to place notices in the *Columbia Record* and the *Columbia State* asking interested parties to place bids for the selling of land in the area.

On May 25, 1938, fifteen different site proposals were considered by the Sinking Fund Commission, but all were found to be too costly. Those parties that were still interested in providing land for the site of the new building were instructed to return with amended prices. By June 8, 1938, the list of potential sites decreased to two. The two sites were the 1200 and 1100 blocks of Senate Street. On July 2, Secretary of the Sinking Fund Commission F.C. Robinson was instructed to make an application for Federal grants and loans to assist in the cost of the construction of the new building. The Commission agreed that the new location should be on Senate Street between either Sumter and Main or Main and Assembly streets. The price for the portion of land in the 1200 block was negotiated down to \$154,850 and was approved by the Sinking Fund Commission on September 23, 1938.⁷

While the negotiations for land and funding were progressing, the Commission also began to select architects for the new building. A preliminary meeting occurred on October 13, 1938, between the Sinking Fund Commission and a number of interested architects. The Commission presented guidelines that the building was not to cost in excess of \$750,000 or provide less than 55,000 square feet of interior space.⁸ A following meeting was set for eight days later where those parties still interested were to submit designs and drawings.

⁵ South Carolina, Budget and Control Board, Sinking Fund Commission. "Minutes of the Sinking Fund Commission," 8 March 1938, p. 172, Sinking Fund Commission Papers, 1926-1940, South Carolina Department of Archives and History, Columbia, S.C. (hereafter cited as Sinking Fund Commission Papers.)

⁶ An Act to Amend an Act Entitled "An Act to Make Appropriations to Meet the Ordinary Expenses of the State Government for the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 1937, to Provide a Tax Sufficient to Defray the Same, Etc.," in *Acts and Joint Resolutions of the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina*, 1938, Volume 40, Section 2, p. 2030.

⁷ "Minutes of the Sinking Fund Commission," 23 September 1938, p. 172, Sinking Fund Commission Papers.

⁸ *Ibid.*, 13 October 1938, p. 183, Sinking Fund Commission Papers.

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The October 21st meeting saw the elimination of all proposing architects except three. Lafaye, Lafaye and Fair and James B. Urquhart of Columbia, South Carolina, and Hopkins and Baker of Florence, South Carolina, were the three most seriously considered for the project. After deliberation, the Commission members could not reach a consensus on which architect to select. The ultimate solution was unique. After a rather brief period of indecision a rather sudden and unusual motion was made by Comptroller General Archibald James Beattie to disregard the James B. Urquhart petition and to accept Lafaye, Lafaye and Fair and Hopkins and Baker as joint architects on the project. According to a December 12th letter from H.T. Cole, Regional Director of the Federal Emergency Administration of Public Works, there had been reports made to his office that:

in the selection of the Architect for the State Office Building and the University [of South Carolina's] Men's Dormitory [Preston College], that a member of the Supreme Court was very active in the lobbying of the selection of these architects, and that the firm selected was a firm of which a son of the Supreme Court Justice is a member.⁹

On December 29, 1938, Governor Johnston replied to the regional director that he agreed that this action was inappropriate but there was no course of action the state could take in response.¹⁰ Research indicates the gentlemen were referring to South Carolina Supreme Court Justice David Baker. His son, William W. Baker, was a partner in the firm of Hopkins and Baker, the co-architect selected for the project. No other documentation regarding this issue has been discovered, but given the fact that Hopkins and Baker was selected to serve as joint architect with Lafaye, Lafaye and Fair, it would appear as though their concerns were correct. This entire situation was awkward. First it was unusual to have two architectural firms selected to share equally a project of this nature. Secondly, throughout the extensive collection of minutes of the Sinking Fund Commission related to this topic, Hopkins and Baker are rarely mentioned by name. Conversely, Lafaye, Lafaye and Fair are mentioned in almost every meeting. It would appear that Lafaye, Lafaye and Fair were the principal architects on the project, if for no other reason than their office location in Columbia. Regardless, it still seems odd that Hopkins and Baker's involvement was so rarely reflected in committee minutes.

⁹ Federal Emergency Administration of Public Works Regional Director H.T. Cole to Governor Olin Johnston, 12 December 1938, Governor Olin D. Johnston Papers, Federal Government Correspondence 1935-39 (Works Progress Administration 1938-39), South Carolina Department of Archives and History, Columbia, S.C. (hereafter cited as Olin D. Johnston Papers).

¹⁰ Governor Olin Johnston to Captain J. L. Irby, Assistant Regional Director Federal Administration of Public Works, 29 December 1938, Olin D. Johnston Papers.

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The same day as the meeting at which the architects were selected, the Commission received notification that a grant of \$436,909 was allocated to the state by the Works Projects Administration for the construction of the new state office building. The Docket assigned to the construction project was #1278.¹² The Commission agreed unanimously to accept the grant and immediately contacted the regional WPA office in Atlanta to announce acceptance of the funds.

Once the preliminary money had been secured, events began to accelerate. On October 25, 1938, the combined architectural team of Lafaye, Lafaye and Fair and Hopkins and Baker returned to the Commission with a design for a six story U-shaped building and an altered conceptual design of the same building without the flanking wings and with only five stories. The six-story design carried an estimated cost of \$800,000. This estimate exceeded the design limit of \$750,000 but the Commission chose to accept it given the amount of funds to be received from the WPA. The design selected called for the building to have a granite base and a limestone veneer.

Demolition of existing structures along Senate Street began and a contract was awarded to C. T. Langley on December 6th for this task. The process was further executed with the selection of the Hardaway Construction Company for excavation for the new building. Just a little over a month later, on January 18, 1939, the John C. Heslep Construction Company was chosen by Lafaye, Lafaye and Fair to construct the new building for an estimated cost of \$582,889. The plumbing and piping for heating and exhaust of the building was contracted to W.B. Guimarin for \$69,933. Bryant Electric was chosen for the electrical wiring of the building for a cost of \$52,869.¹³

The January 25, 1939, Commission report reflected great strides made toward the construction of the new building. It was reported to the Commission by Lafaye, Lafaye and Fair that the demolition of structures at the proposed building site had been completed by C.T. Langley and Hardaway Construction had completed the necessary excavations for the foundation and basement level of the new building. The Perry-Mann Electric Company was chosen to install the required air conditioning and ventilation system.¹⁴

¹¹ "Minutes of the Sinking Fund Commission," 21 October 1938, p. 184, Sinking Fund Commission Papers.

¹² "Minutes of the Sinking Fund Commission," 21 October 1938, p. 184, Sinking Fund Commission Papers.

¹³ "Minutes of the Sinking Fund Commission," 18 January 1939, p. 194, Sinking Fund Commission Papers.

¹⁴ "Minutes of the Sinking Fund Commission," 25 January 1939, p. 196, Sinking Fund Commission Papers.

¹⁵ "Minutes of the Sinking Fund Commission," 8 February 1939, p. 198-199, Sinking Fund Commission Papers.

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As the John C. Heslep Construction Company began construction, numerous smaller issues were addressed by the Commission and architects. On February 8th, Robert S. Lafaye presented a proposal for the cornerstone of the building and the bronze plaque for the lobby naming those responsible for the building's financing, design, and construction. The cornerstone was approved by the Commission at that meeting but the plaque was tabled for later consideration. The approved cornerstone was laid at the northwest corner of the building and is inscribed "Erected 1939." Monthly payments to the various companies working on the building also began. During any given month the Heslep Construction Company alone received a payment of between \$13,621 to \$44,764.¹⁶

As construction continued more finite details were addressed. One of the agencies slated for placement in the new building was the State Department of Agriculture. Much of the sixth floor was designed for laboratories and experimentation stations for this department. In March 1939, Lafaye, Lafaye and Fair began working directly with representatives from this agency to secure the appropriate equipment for the labs. The same process was followed for specialized equipment needed by the State Board of Health offices that were also being planned within the building. By May of the same year Otis Elevator had been selected as the manufacturer for the three elevators to service the building. One would be a high-speed freight model while the other two were to be for regular passengers.¹⁷

Throughout this process, the cost of the building began to exceed the original estimate. On June 13, 1939, the WPA increased its allocation to the project from \$436,909 to \$453,784.¹⁸ This increase of Federal funds was readily accepted by the Sinking Fund Commission and progress continued toward completion of the new building.

As the structure of the building came closer to completion, work began on installing the various infrastructure and lab equipment on the interior. On October 10th, Seastrunk Electric Company was awarded the contract for the installation of light fixtures throughout the building for \$7,253. Many of these light fixtures are still in service to this day. The chandelier hanging in the main first floor lobby is one of these original pieces installed in 1939.

As October and November progressed and work continued on the building, it became more and more apparent to the architects Lafaye, Lafaye and Fair that the estimated completion date of February 18, 1940, would not be

¹⁶ "Minutes of the Sinking Fund Commission," 8 February 1939, pp. 198-199, Sinking Fund Commission Papers.

¹⁷ "Minutes of the Sinking Fund Commission," 23 May 1939, p. 206, Sinking Fund Commission Papers.

¹⁸ "Minutes of the Sinking Fund Commission," 13 June 1939, p. 207, Sinking Fund Commission Papers.

¹⁹ "Minutes of the Sinking Fund Commission," 13 December 1939, p. 217, Sinking Fund Commission Papers.

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met. On December 13, 1939, the architects met with the Commission and requested an extension for completion until April 1, 1940. The Commission agreed upon the extension and also revisited the previously tabled issue of the bronze plaque for the main elevator lobby. After a brief period of discussion the plaque's design was approved. Visitors today may see this plaque in its original location on the west wall of the main floor elevator lobby.²⁰

The extension agreed to in December 1939 was revisited by Lafaye, Lafaye and Fair in February of 1940. On February 14th, Valentine's Day, they returned to the Commission and requested another extension to May 15, 1940. This time the Commission was not quite so understanding. After deliberating the issue they decided that they would grant an extension but only to May 1, 1940. The Commission made it clear that there would be no more extensions granted. This was reinforced by the decision to direct the Secretary of the Sinking Fund Commission, F.C. Robinson, to begin planning for a May 15, 1940, dedication ceremony.²¹

Lafaye, Lafaye and Fair maintained their timetable and proceeded with great haste toward completion. On April 9, 1940, the Commission officially set the dedication ceremony for the new building on May 14, 1940, at 11:00 a.m. State and national flags for the new office building were ordered and all other preparations proceeded. By June 11, 1940, the last payment on the construction process of the building had been paid and the Sinking Fund Commission was all but finished with the construction process. The first reference to the new building as the Wade Hampton State Office Building occurred in the May 7, 1940, Commission meeting notes. It is likely that the Commission decided upon this name.²²

At 11:00 a.m. on the morning of May 14, 1940, the dedication of the Wade Hampton State Office Building took place with much fanfare. Many of the new tenants of the building had begun moving into their new home earlier in the month. The first list of tenants included the State Department of Education, State Department of Agriculture, Adjutant General, Attorney General, Department of Labor, State Auditor, Board of Bank Control, State Board of Health, the Committee on Literacy, the State Department of Public Welfare, the Sinking Fund Commission, and the Council for National Defense. The keynote speaker for the event was Ross A. Gridley, the Washington Engineering Supervisor of the Public Works Administration.²³ With a price tag of over a million dollars, the new glistening building represented a new hope for the state and the nation in dark times. It symbolized the strength of American drive in the face of the adversity of the Great Depression.

²⁰ "Minutes of the Sinking Fund Commission," 13 December 1939, p. 217, Sinking Fund Commission Papers.

²¹ "Minutes of the Sinking Fund Commission," 14 February 1940, p. 220, Sinking Fund Commission Papers.

²² "Minutes of the Sinking Fund Commission," 9 April 1940 & 7 May 1940, pp. 223, 227, Sinking Fund Commission Papers.

²³ "Dedication of State Office Building," *The State* (Columbia, S.C.), 14 May 1940.

²⁴ Robert R. Weyeneth, "The Architecture of Racial Segregation: The Challenges of Preserving the Problematical Past," *The Public Historian*, 27:4 (Fall 2005), 7-8.

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After the celebration of the new building had ended, it began its function as a seat of government for several state agencies. Several of the political entities housed within the Wade Hampton State Office Building were responsible for enforcing the practice of segregation.

The Wade Hampton State Office Building incorporated segregated restroom facilities that survive to this day. This was an example of partitioning as a means of separating whites and blacks. By creating fixed partitions, such as separate restrooms, a clear boundary was established separating the races.²⁵ It also housed two state agencies that directly implemented and enforced the laws of segregation in South Carolina. The first of these was the Attorney General of the state. The purpose of the Attorney General is to serve as interpreter of constitutional issues for the state. This purpose served as a legal figurehead for the interpretation and enforcement of all state laws as prescribed by the state constitution. This included the de jure segregation enforced throughout the state.

Secondly, the Wade Hampton State Office Building was the seat of power for the State Department for Education from 1940 through the height of the segregation/desegregation era of the 1940s and 1950s. The purpose of the State Department of Education was to implement and enforce laws concerning the realm of public education in South Carolina. This included the enforcement of Article 11, Section 8 of the South Carolina Constitution that outlawed the racial intermixing of public schools.²⁶ As the office location for this state agency, the Wade Hampton State Office Building was the tangible governmental representation of this law and its implications.

This building, a focal point of state segregation authority, was also at the center of the drive toward desegregation. Beyond the obvious participation of enforcing desegregation policies following *Brown vs. Board of Education* [1954], the building also saw some of the formative efforts on the part of South Carolinians to combat the institution of segregation. One of the most significant battles waged in South Carolina for desegregation manifested itself largely because of the way the State Department of Education dealt with issues concerning inadequate facilities in Clarendon County, South Carolina. In 1947, the Reverend Joseph A. DeLaine, a Clarendon County teacher, petitioned the county school superintendent to provide for busing of

²⁵ *Ibid.*

²⁶ The law read: "Separate schools shall be provided for children of the white and colored races, and no child of either race shall be permitted to attend a school for children of the other race." Pauli Murray, *States' Laws on Race and Color* (Athens: University of Georgia Press, 1997), p. 406.

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students to the Scotts Branch High School where he taught. After being denied by the county school board, DeLaine appealed to the State Board of Education, located in the Wade Hampton State Office Building in Columbia. DeLaine received no response from the state office, which spurred him to consider more drastic action.²⁸

DeLaine decided to attack the issue again with a somewhat different approach. In his second attempt DeLaine tried to use the court system to his benefit. He recruited Levi Pearson, whose three children attended Scotts Branch High School. With Pearson as plaintiff, he hired a sympathetic lawyer to draft a two-page petition arguing the payment of bus transportation services for the Pearson children should come out of public funds. Once again this maneuver was ignored by the Department of Education. The resulting court case over this issue was dismissed from court on the grounds that the Pearson property was not in the same district as the Scotts Branch High School. With this fact, the court ruled that it would be inappropriate for Pearson to argue for the public payment of his children's busing if his taxes did not support the school district in which they attended class.²⁹

These battles affected DeLaine and convinced him of the need to stop at nothing to combat the segregated policies of the state. His experiences with the Department of Education, and their lack of acknowledgement of his concerns, spurred DeLaine into becoming active in the NAACP. As a result of his community action, DeLaine was elected president of the newly formed NAACP chapter in Clarendon County. His leadership and vision culminated in the collaborative effort that led to the Clarendon County NAACP court case of *Briggs vs. Elliott*. On May 17, 1950, the case began in Federal Court in Charleston, South Carolina. The case represented a drastic change in the posture of the NAACP and asked for the abolition of segregation altogether.³⁰ The first hearing of the case was a loss for the NAACP, but the court conceded that the separate educational institutions in Clarendon County were not equivalent. In response to this court opinion the Clarendon County school board began a massive construction program to update black schools in the county. It was hoped that by making concessions and upgrading the woefully inadequate black schools, the underlying argument leading to desegregation would be undermined.

²⁷ Benjamin F. Hornsby, *Stepping Stone to the Supreme Court: Clarendon County*, Topics in African American History 1 (Columbia: South Carolina Department of Archives and History, 1992), p. 2.

²⁸ *Ibid.*

²⁹ *Ibid.*, p. 4.

³⁰ *Ibid.*, p. 7.

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The case was brought back before the court again in March 1951 and was defeated with the argument that the black school currently under construction would create equalization with the white schools of the county. The defense of segregation by updating the black facilities was given some merit based upon this victory. The NAACP appealed this ruling to the United States Supreme Court. This case joined four others from various locales on a Supreme Court Docket in 1953. All five of these cases were assaulting segregation legislation. After several months of case maneuvering and court hearings, the Supreme Court made their watershed ruling on May 17, 1954, striking down the long held *Plessy vs. Ferguson*, and the separate but equal doctrine.³²

The role of the South Carolina NAACP effort in combating segregation cannot be forgotten. Many factors contributed to the eventual success. The actions of the State Department of Education and its silence on controversial issues contributed to the motivation of desegregation leaders and their eventual success. The bureaucratic entities created by the state government and housed in the Wade Hampton State Office Building represented the foe of progress and the enemy of reform. In the end, the same bureaucratic machine used to suppress freedom was the same used to implement the new program of equality established after the end of segregation.

The extant basement level bathrooms that were originally labeled as “Colored” restrooms are one of the building's most obvious vestiges of the segregation era. More abstract, yet equally important, the building served as the hub of the bureaucratic mechanism that discharged the implementation of segregationist laws over the state's population.

Of parallel importance to the segregationist issues surrounding the building is its design by the prominent Columbia, South Carolina, architectural firm Lafaye, Lafaye and Fair, and what it represents in terms of public architecture of the time. The restrained classicism and use of Art Deco-inspired details in Lafaye, Lafaye and Fair's design reflects the architectural philosophies that influenced government building construction during the 1930s. The Wade Hampton State Office Building is perhaps the state's best and most intact example of stripped or restrained classicism executed in a government building. Nationally, it became a form and a style synonymous with the Great Depression. It was a form and a style employed by a great many of the nation's leading architects of the time, most notably Paul Philippe Cret (1876-1945) of Philadelphia. A native of France and a graduate of both the Ecole des Beaux Arts in Lyons and Paris, Cret came to the United States in 1903 to teach architectural design at the University of Pennsylvania. With the exception of his military service during World War I, he taught architectural design at the University of Pennsylvania until 1937, and helped to lead the architectural program there to become the best in the nation. In his capacity there, he taught countless young

³¹ *Ibid.*, p. 18.

³² *Ibid.*, p. 18.

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architects who would go on to distinguish themselves in all parts of the United States and around the world the principals of Beaux Arts design with Beaux Arts methods. In addition to his role as a teacher, he was also a practicing architect himself and influenced many architects with his designs. Among his most well-known and influential designs were the Pan American Union Building in Washington, DC [1907], the Public Library in Indianapolis, Indiana [1915], the Detroit Institute of Fine Arts [1922], the Rodin Museum in Philadelphia [1928], the Folger Shakespeare Library in Washington, DC [1929], and the Federal Reserve Building in Washington, DC [1935].³³ There seems little doubt that Lafaye, Lafaye and Fair were influenced by the designs of Cret and others practicing on the national scene in the same genre. The firm's 1935 design for the World War

Memorial Building in Columbia [listed in the National Register on May 26, 1995] is a smaller-scaled but excellent representation of the restrained Classical Revival form and style, as is their 1935-1938 design for the Charles E. Simons, Jr., Federal Court House in Aiken [listed in the National Register on December 10, 2003].

³³ Robert T. Packard, AIA, and Balthazar Korab, *Encyclopedia of American Architecture*, Second Edition (New York: McGraw-Hill, Inc., 1995), pp. 152-153.

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Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the nominated property is shown as the black line marked "Wade Hampton State Office Building" on the accompanying Richland County Tax Map # 11304, Parcel 1, Lot 1, drawn at a scale of 1"=100'.

Boundary Justification

The nominated property is restricted to the building itself.

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The following information is the same for each of the photographs:

Name of Property: Wade Hampton State Office Building
Location: 1015 Sumter St
Columbia, SC 29201
Name of Photographer: Andrew W. Chandler
Date of Photographs: July 2006
Location of Original Digital: South Carolina Department of Archives and History, Columbia, S.C.
Photographs:

1. Façade (Northwest elevation)
2. Facade oblique view, with John C. Calhoun State Office Building at left
3. Left rear oblique view of east wing
4. Rear (Southeast) elevation of central block and east wing
5. Rear (Southeast) elevation of central block and east wing
6. Cornerstone
7. Main entrance
8. Detail of granite base corner at rear of east wing
9. Detail of upper wall and cornice on rear of east wing
10. Detail of box lantern and ironwork at main entrance
11. Detail of decorative carved entrance and building name, main entrance
12. Bronze name plate and carved entrance relief
13. Detail of cast bronze main entrance door
14. Interior view of brass entrance door and transom ornament
15. Entrance and elevator lobby
16. Mail collection box and chute
17. Original lobby light fixture
18. Bronze seal in lobby floor
19. Elevator doors and marble walls
20. Men's restroom in basement (originally labeled "Colored")
21. Interior of men's restroom in basement (originally labeled "Colored")
22. Women's restroom in basement (originally labeled "Colored")