

United States Customs House  
East Bay and Market Streets  
Charleston, Charleston County  
South Carolina

HABS No. SC-39

HABS  
SC  
10-CHAR,  
92-

PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORIC AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA  
District of South Carolina

Historic American Buildings Survey

Prepared by Washington Office  
for District of South Carolina

ADDENDUM  
HABS

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S.C.  
10-CHAR.  
92-

UNITED STATES CUSTOMS HOUSE  
East Bay and Market Streets  
Charleston, Charleston County, South Carolina

Owner: United States Government

Date of erection: Mid-nineteenth century

Present condition: Good

Description:

Stone; temple form with six-column Corinthian porticos. The side elevations are treated with ranges of engaged Corinthian columns. The building stands on a high rusticated basement with flights of stairs at either end. There are two tiers of elaborately framed windows below the main entablature and a balustrade on the roof.

Additional data:

Work on the building began prior to the Civil War. During the bombardment of Charleston the building was struck by several shells and sustained considerable injury. While the war was in progress the quarry at Hastings, New York, from which the marble was secured, had been abandoned and filled up, and, for the completion of the building, marble of a very similar character was secured from quarries at Tuckahoe, New Jersey. In the summer of 1879 the structure was completed and occupied. In 1887 some repairs were made on the east and west porticos, and to exterior walls injured by the earthquake of August 31, 1886.

A stone wharf, lying directly east of the building, was used by all Government vessels coming into the port of Charleston.

Reference: Government Printing Office, A History of Public Buildings under the Control of the Treasury Department, p. 533

*Thomas T. Waterman*

11/1/40

Addendum to  
U. S. Customs House  
200 E. Bay Street  
Charleston  
Charleston County  
South Carolina

HABS No. SC-39

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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D.C. 20240

ARCHITECTURAL DATA FORM

STATE South Carolina	COUNTY Charleston	TOWN OR VICINITY Charleston
HISTORIC NAME OF STRUCTURE (INCLUDE SOURCE FOR NAME) U.S. Customs House		HABS NO. SC-39
SECONDARY OR COMMON NAMES OF STRUCTURE		
COMPLETE ADDRESS (DESCRIBE LOCATION FOR RURAL SITES) 200 East Bay Street		
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE SOURCE) 1853-1879	ARCHITECT(S) (INCLUDE SOURCE) Ammi B. Young	
SIGNIFICANCE (ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL, INCLUDE ORIGINAL USE OF STRUCTURE)		
STYLE (IF APPROPRIATE)		
MATERIAL OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE STRUCTURAL SYSTEMS) Stone (marble)		
SHAPE AND DIMENSIONS OF STRUCTURE (SKETCHED FLOOR PLANS ON SEPARATE PAGES ARE ACCEPTABLE) Two stories; temple form		
EXTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE Hip roof; two tall Roman Corinthian porticoes, pediments, balustrade on roof; elaborately framed windows		
INTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE (DESCRIBE FLOOR PLANS, IF NOT SKETCHED)		
MAJOR ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS WITH DATES 1887 -- Repairs made on east and west porticoes and exterior walls following Aug. 31, 1886 earthquake damage. 1967 -- restoration		
PRESENT CONDITION AND USE		
OTHER INFORMATION AS APPROPRIATE Edward Brickell White, a mid-19th century Charleston architect, was the superintending architect. He also designed Market Hall at 188 Meeting Street in 1841.		
SOURCES OF INFORMATION (INCLUDING LISTING ON NATIONAL REGISTER, STATE REGISTERS, ETC.) <u>Architects of Charleston</u> , Beatrice St. Julien Ravenel, Charleston, South Carolina: Carolina Art Association, 1945, pp. 235-236.		
COMPILER, AFFILIATION Melissa McDonald HABS Historian	DATE 7-7-83	