

238-242 King Street (Commercial building)
Charleston
Charleston County
South Carolina

HABS NO.SC-586

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Southeast Region
Department of the Interior
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

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STATE South Carolina	COUNTY Charleston	TOWN OR VICINITY Charleston
HABITIC NAME OF STRUCTURE (INCLUDE SOURCE FOR NAME) 238-242 KING STREET (Commercial building)		HABS NO. SC-586
SECONDARY OR COMMON NAMES OF STRUCTURE Hotel Calhoun - 1888-1900, Waverly House 1870, (J.C. Penney's- 1954) Washington Light Infantry (W.L.I.) 1906-Present 2nd, 3rd and 4th floors		
COMPLETE ADDRESS (DESCRIBE LOCATION FOR RURAL SITES) 238, 240, 242 King Street		
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE SOURCE) After Fire of 1938	ARCHITECT(S) (INCLUDE SOURCE) Not Available	
SIGNIFICANCE (ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL, INCLUDE ORIGINAL USE OF STRUCTURE) Present appearance is result of 1954 alternation (by Simons & Lapham Architects, Chas. S.C.) 3 buildings were designed to look as one building. All decorative tin window hoods and cornice were removed, facade stuccoed, ground floor drastically altered with addition of glass and aluminum recessed storefront.		
STYLE (IF APPROPRIATE) Greek Revival		
MATERIAL OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE STRUCTURAL SYSTEMS) Load Bearing brick walls, wood floor and roof joists Stucco over brick facade carried on 4 piers and end walls		
SHAPE AND DIMENSIONS OF STRUCTURE, (SKETCHED FLOOR PLANS ON SEPARATE PAGES ARE ACCEPTABLE) 238 King: 26'-6" x 60', 4 floors, 11' x 26'-6" two-story addition in rear. 240 King: 22'-0" x 117", 4 floors. 242 King: 25'-0" x 117", 4 floors, 49' x 54' 3 story gymnasium to rear (added 1930), two-story laundry building at rear connected by one story corridor.		
EXTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE The importance of the 3 buildings, as combined into one, is not so much the inherent characteristic of the architecture but in the importance of the massing of the structure as part of King Street and its location at the bend in King, making it visually prominent.		
INTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE (DESCRIBE FLOOR PLANS, IF NOT SKETCHED) Two original hotel parlors on the 2nd floor were combined to form an imposing main hall 45' x 58' with a 21' ceiling. 3 fireplaces in this room, one in marble, simply carved, the other two matching cast iron, fitted with coal grates and incorporating glass panels, decorated with reverse painting of floral designs.		
MAJOR ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS WITH DATES 1930 saw a 3 story gymnasium added to the east elevation. 1954 saw a major rehabilitation, all exterior facade ornament was removed. Three buildings were stuccoed to appear as one structure. 1st floor on King Street was remodeled using glass, aluminum and tile. Interior was stripped of all architectural elements and modernized into J.C. Penney's.		
PRESENT CONDITION AND USE The W.L.I. continue to use the 2nd and 3rd floors, the 4th being used for storage. The first floor and mezzanine leased by private club		
OTHER INFORMATION AS APPROPRIATE Documentation for this structure was prepared by the Office of Downtown Revitalization, City of Charleston in compliance with Executive Order 11593 and a Memorandum of Agreement with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, HUD, EDA, and Holywell Corporation (Developers)		
SOURCES OF INFORMATION (INCLUDE LISTING ON NATIONAL REGISTER, STATE REGISTERS, ETC.) Buildings are contained in the Old & Historic District, both a local zoning district and a historic District on the National Register, entered in 1975		
COMPILER, AFFILIATION William D. Evans, AIA	Design & Technical Specialist Office of Downtown Revitalization City of Charleston, S.C.	DATE June 28, 1981