

Statewide Survey of Historic Properties

State Historic Preservation Office
South Carolina Department of Archives and History
8301 Parklane Road
Columbia, SC 29223-4905 (803) 896-6100

Site No. 1153.02 Status U Revisit
Quadrangle Name: Columbia North
Tax Map No. 05-0009-022-00-00

SURVEY FORM

Identification

Historic Name: Stone Retaining Wall and Brick Wall, Central Correctional Institution
Common Name:
Address/Location: 1515 Gist Street
City: Columbia Vicinity of County: Richland
Ownership: City Category: Structure Other:
Historical Use: Landscape stone retaining wall and brick prison wall
Current Use: Landscape
SHPO National Register Determination of Eligibility: Not Eligible

Property Description

Construction Date: c. 1875 Construction: Masonry Other:
Historic Core Shape: Exterior Walls:
Other: Foundation: Stone granite blocks
Commercial Form: Roof Shape:
Other: Roof Material:
Stories: Porch Shape:
Other: Porch Width:

Description/Significant Features:

Two sections of wall are extant. The first, a large granite block wall, bounds the western edge of the prison site and serves/served as a retaining wall to prevent erosion into the Columbia Canal. The second is an earthen berm about 4 feet high atop of which is a segment of a brick wall. The brick wall is approximately 15 feet in height and about 260 feet long. It is the last piece of wall remaining from the Central Correctional Institute. The barbed wire described in the original site card is no longer present. Currently there are metal posts running along the top of the wall holding ceramic conductors, most likely once used for electrifying the top of the wall to prevent the escape of prisoners.

Alterations (include date(s), if known):

The prison was demolished in 1999. Stone retaining wall and 260 ft section of brick prison wall were retained. Several large apartment buildings now stand on the prison site. A brick and steel ornamental fence now runs along the inside of the stone retaining wall overlooking the Columbia Canal.

Architect(s)/Builder(s):

Historical Information

Historical Information:

The stone retaining wall was constructed in the mid 19th century and the brick prison wall was constructed ca. 1867. The prison served as the South Carolina Penitentiary and Central Correctional Institution and was in operation until 1994. It was placed on the NRHP in 1996 but the entire site was demolished in 1999 except for this small extant portion of brick wall and stone retaining wall.

Source(s) of Information:

1995 Mary Edwards SC Penitentiary National Register of Historic Places Registration Form, US Department of the Interior

2009 Michael Trinkley, The Penitentiary Cemetery, Columbia, SC, Chicora Research Foundation, Inc.

Digital Photo ID(s)

File Name:	View:	Other:
01153001	Facing Southeast	
01153002	Facing Southeast	
01153003	Facing Northeast	
01153004	Facing Southwest	
01153005	Facing Southeast	
01153006	Facing Northwest	
01153007	Facing Southwest	
01153008	Facing Northeast	
01153009	Facing Southwest	

Program Management

Recorded by:
Tracy Martin

Organization:
SCDOT

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