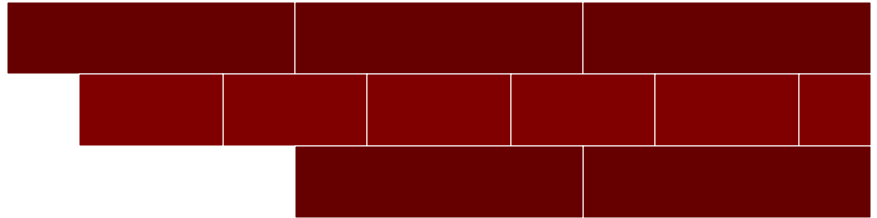




University of South Carolina Campus Wall Historic Structure Survey

**Elizabeth Oswald, Jennifer Betsworth,
JoAnn Zeise**

**University of South Carolina
Public History Program**




University of South Carolina Campus Wall Historic
Structure Survey
Columbia, South Carolina

Project undertaken through the
University of South Carolina Public History Program

Elizabeth Oswald
Jennifer Betsworth
JoAnn Zeise

Spring 2011


Abstract



This historic structure survey of the University of South Carolina's campus wall was undertaken by Jennifer Betsworth, Elizabeth Oswald, and JoAnn Zeise. The wall surrounds the horseshoe area of campus which was South Carolina College, the forerunner to the university. It was done in conjunction with a university graduate class project which researched slavery and South Carolina College. The purpose of the survey was to determine the historic integrity of the wall and its condition in order to make recommendations for future maintenance.

Information gathered for this historic structure survey consists of background research on the history of the wall including construction, alterations, and significant events. One hundred and eighty-six sections were surveyed for this structural survey report. The survey found that brick damage is a problem on nearly every section of wall. Portland cement, which is inappropriate for historic use, and poor repointing techniques also contribute to the destabilization of the wall. Plant life is a particular concern. Small plants growing in the corbelling, abundant vine growth, and tree roots growing into brick and mortar weakens the wall. Nails and other intrusions are also a problem, especially on Greene and Sumter Streets. Changes made to the wall to accommodate wires and water pipes are also adding to the destabilization of the wall. These changes structural damage to the historic wall and the resulting repairs are often inappropriate for a historic structure. The specific areas of concern in this report should be addressed in order to preserve, or rehabilitate where appropriate, this historically significant structure which deserves appropriate care.

Acknowledgments



This survey was completed during the 2011 spring semester at the University of South Carolina in Dr. Robert Weyeneth's Historic Site Interpretation graduate-level class. We would like to thank Dr. Weyeneth and the entire class for their suggestions and encouragement throughout this project. This survey was built upon the foundation of research about the wall compiled by University Archivist Elizabeth West and history major Hannah Oakley. Their thorough research on the wall allowed us to concentrate on the survey process and we valued their enthusiasm and support of this project. We would also like to acknowledge Erich Straghn, a undergraduate student in Dr. Weyeneth's fall 2010 senior seminar, for his research on the construction of the wall at South Carolina College.

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I. Introduction



This report is the result of a structural survey done by Elizabeth Oswald, Jennifer Betsworth, and JoAnn Zeise for HIST 789 Historic Site Interpretations for the Spring 2011 semester at the University of South Carolina. The wall is a brick structure surrounding the original campus, now referred to as the Horseshoe. The wall was originally built during an eighteen-month period from 1835-1836 making it the roughly the same age as or older than other buildings on the Horseshoe area of campus.

In January 2011, the team began research on the wall and historic brick making techniques. The team met several times to devise a methodology for the survey and a plan for assessment. From February 11, 2011 through April 14, 2011, the team met at least once a week to survey sections of the wall. One hundred and eighty-six sections of wall were surveyed and five hundred and seventy-one photos were taken of the sections. During this time, team members took turns entering the data into a spreadsheet. From April 15 to May 1 the team completed the assessment of the wall and finished the structure report. The survey found that the wall has many areas of immediate concern, such as plant growth and brick damage. These concerns should be addressed in order to properly care for this historic structure.

II. Historic Context

The history of the wall at the University of South Carolina begins with the charter creating South Carolina College in 1801 when the state approved \$50,000 to build and equip the college.¹ Before the college opened, young men from South Carolina had to travel outside the state to receive a higher education.² South Carolina needed a college and the capital city, in the center of the state, provided an ideal location. Creation of the new college moved swiftly; the college was opened a mere thirty-seven months after the legislature approved its creation.³ The state was generous and appropriated almost a million dollars for the college in its first fifty years.⁴



Figure 1: South Carolina College, ca. 1820. South Caroliniana Library.

In 1808, only three years after South Carolina College opened, the board of trustees for the college investigated the cost of creating wall around campus. The students' ill-behaved nighttime escapades and habits of stealing local produce and livestock upset nearby business owners and residents. The trustees decided the best way to curb the errant young men would be to replace the wooden fence surrounding the campus with a sturdy brick wall. Yet the idea of a wall was not mentioned in the trustees' minutes again until 1835 when the committee on college repairs noted that the wooden fence around the campus gave the college an "air of dilapidation and decay." At that time construction on the wall was already under way.⁵ The college was

granted \$20,000 to rehabilitate the campus in 1834 which was used to renovate all the buildings, but there is no record of the total cost for creating the wall.⁶

The college hired a carpenter, Thomas H. Wade, and a bricklayer, Thomas R. Davis to construct the wall.⁷ The skilled slaves these men owned built the wall in just over a year, finishing in 1836. The wall was about six feet nine inches tall and thick enough to “ensure durability.”⁸ The wall surrounded the campus with a single opening on Sumer Street.⁹



Figure 2: Map of Columbia (1847) showing Brown's brickyard and the South Carolina College campus. Map created by Evan Kutzler, 2011.

The bricks for the wall came from a local brickyard in Columbia, owned by John G. Brown, and bricks shipped in from Charleston. Browns' brickyard was located on the Congaree River between Blossom and Green Streets. Brown's slave made the brick for the wall, but the


college did not order enough brick to complete construction. The trustees, upset with the rising price of Brown's brick as construction continued, ordered the remaining brick from an unidentified Charleston brickyard.¹⁰

During the Civil War the wall sustained considerable damage in many sections. In 1866 the bursar and marshal of the college noted the destruction of much of the wall's southern segments and large openings throughout the wall created for horses and wagons, possibly the result of the college's use as a hospital during the war.¹¹ In 1865 Emma LeConte, the daughter of Professor Joseph LeConte, recounted the wall's role in saving the college during the burning of Columbia in her diary. From her view inside Lieber College she saw the building that is now the South Caroliniana framed by fire as the buildings behind it burned. But, fortunately, the wall stopped the "great sea of flames." During the survey, the team encountered blackened sections of the wall on Pendleton and Sumter Streets. Perhaps these are remnants of the damage from the flames.¹²



Figure 3: South Carolina College, ca. 1850s. South Caroliniana Library.

Following the Civil War, the college altered the wall significantly. Sections were opened, closed, remade, and portions of the wall shorted and lowered as the campus grew and modernized. In 1883, the wall in front of campus was lowered and in 1909 openings in the wall allowed access to Bull Street.¹³ The 1884 Sanborn map for Columbia indicates



that the wall had two entrances on Greene Street, one entrance on Bull Street, behind what is now McKissick Museum, and an entrance on Pendleton Street. By 1883, the wall had two entrances for pedestrian paths in front of South Caroliniana and Lieber College and in 1899 the center entrance to the campus was closed. The wall was significantly shortened near Currell College on Bull Street 1923 and in 1925 construction of the War Memorial on Sumter and Pendleton Streets shortened the wall in front of that building. Construction continued and in 1940 much of the wall on Bull Street was destroyed to build McKissick Library. Four years later, two entrances were added at the front of campus to allow vehicles to drive the horseshoe and gates were added to those entrances in 1977.¹⁴


Through all these changes the wall remained an important landmark on the campus. During the early and mid-twentieth century it was a tradition to have pictures taken at the wall. Yearbooks are filled with images of students gathering and posing in front of the wall. When the college built Russell House for a student center in the late 1950s, the habit of posting signs on the wall on Greene Street began. Unfortunately, students and student organization indiscriminately put nails and hooks into the wall to hand signs and banners. Throughout the wall's history, from keeping antebellum students inside the campus and out of trouble to helping students celebrate their school spirit, the wall remains an integral part of the character and beauty of the campus.¹⁵

III. Survey Methodology

The team assembled to conduct this survey on the wall consisted of three Historic Preservation students: Elizabeth Oswald, Jennifer Betsworth, and JoAnn Zeise. Every Friday throughout the Spring 2011 semester, these team met with pencils, clipboards, survey sheets, and a camera to document each exterior section of the wall, which surrounds the historic horseshoe of the modern University of South Carolina campus.

The survey sheets compiled by this team consisted of several categories, which the team felt were important in documenting the present structural integrity of the wall. The categories that comprised the survey sheet included:

1. Measuring the height and length of each wall segment
2. Examining each wall segment to determine whether the section consisted of mostly of handmade or machine-made bricks, or consisted of a combination of these two types of bricks
3. Examining each wall segment to determine the bonding pattern
4. Examining the mortar in each section of the wall
5. Recording any notable features and/or architectural features, such as corbelling, of each wall segment
6. Noting any modern alterations that may have been made to each wall segment
7. Examining the present condition of the wall by noting the following features of each wall segment:
 - Presence of plant life
 - Missing or damaged bricks
 - Presence of screws or nails
 - Presence of Portland cement
 - Any other notable features such as the presence of vandalism or damage to bricks



As two team members completed the survey by filling in the information outlined above for each wall segment, the other team member would take pictures of each wall segment that was examined on the survey day. These pictures included a general photo of each segment of the wall and detail shots of any significant feature, alteration, or damage that the team felt was necessary to document. After compiling all of this hand-written and photographic evidence for each exterior section of the wall, the team then transferred this information into electronic databases.

This process allowed the team to see first-hand what issues plague the wall today and subsequently led the team to recommend specific actions in order to preserve this historic structure. This pioneering work represents the first structural assessment survey conducted on the wall, and subsequently provides valuable documentation about the wall and its condition as of Spring 2011. Hopefully, future surveys will be conducted in order to document the wall, its change overtime, and any new issues that may impact the wall in the future.

IV. Results and Recommendations



The exterior of the historic campus wall was surveyed by section. Each was recorded, photographed, and are described in the spreadsheet located in the appendix. Three architectural types were identified during this survey.

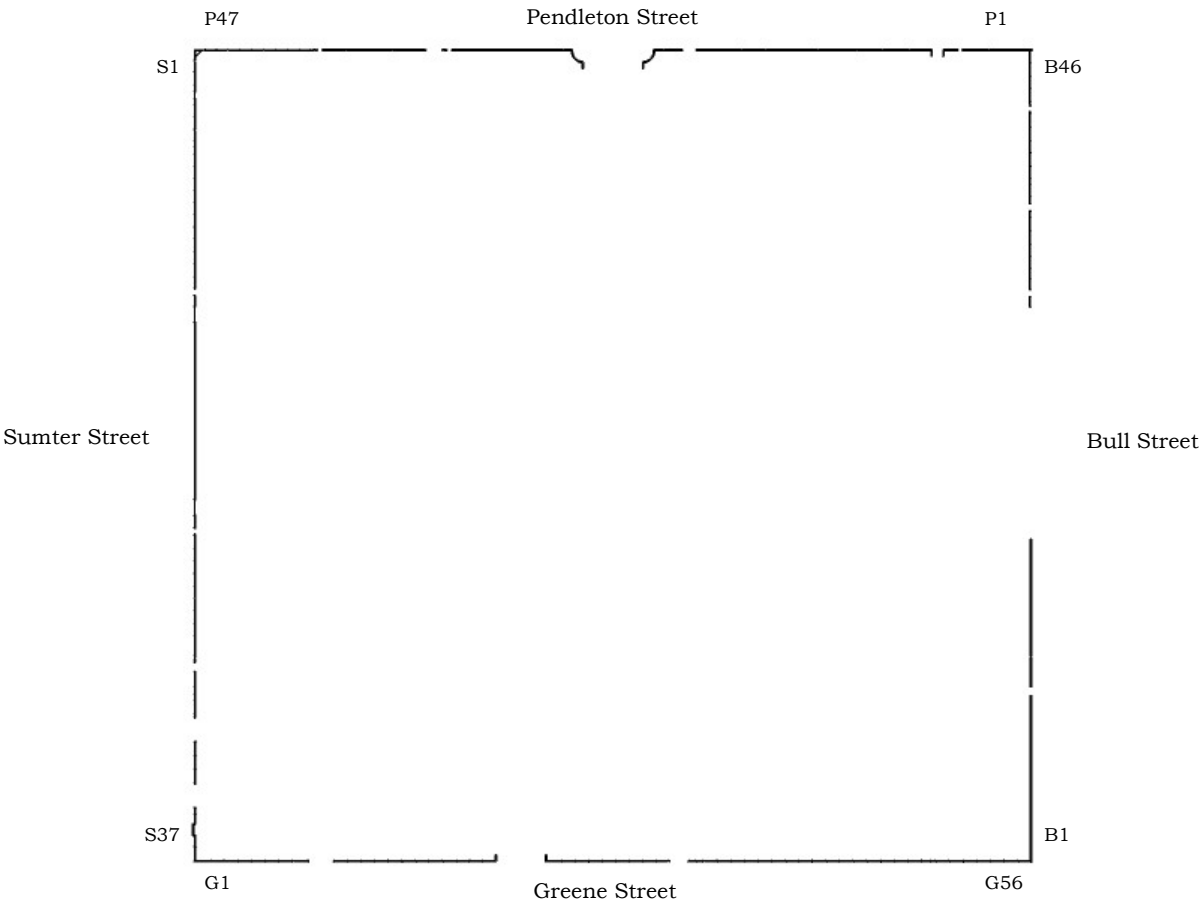


Figure 4: Full extent of the campus wall.

Architectural Description

Siting

Due to its large scale, the immediate environment on the exterior side of the wall varies somewhat based on different areas on campus. On the west side of Greene Street, there is a small dirt buffer between the wall and the concrete walkway. From the Greene Street gates through the end of the Greene Street wall segment, a brick walkway was built up to the edge of the wall. On the south side of Bull Street, a short brick planter made of modern bricks exists immediately in front of the wall. Plants also line the north side of Bull Street, but have no formal planter. A small dirt buffer exists between the wall and concrete walkway on Pendleton and Sumter streets.



Figure 5: PO44, full.

Architectural Types

Over time, changes to the wall have resulted in three easily distinguishable architectural types. These three types are the Original Design, Shortened, and Shortened with Fencing. Each of these types represents different phases of architectural change, and were identified during the course of this survey.

The majority of the wall retains its **Original Design**. This portion of the wall ranges between 6 feet 4 inches and 8 feet in height and maintains a consistent depth of about 1 foot six inches. It is composed of medium to deep red sand-molded handmade bricks laid in 1:3 bond. Repointing has likely obscured much of the original mortar. The oldest, most common type visible was gray or tan with white inclusions. In some areas, parts of the original foundation of the wall are still visible. This base is about three inches wider than the wall and was laid in a row of headers over several rows of common bond. The height of this foundation may have varied based on topography. The top of the wall features three-stepped brick corbelling. Sections of the wall are distinguished by pillars that jut out 2 inches from the wall on both sides. These are typically flush with the height of the wall, but pillars at some entrances are denoted with several additional inches of corbelling. All of Greene Street, the southeast section of Bull Street, the east section of Pendleton Street, and the southwest section of Sumter Street fit within this type.

GO47, located at the corner of Greene and Bull streets, is a notable example of this type. The section is 15 feet 8 inches long, and, as it is located at a slant in the sidewalk, its height ranges from 7 feet 4 inches to 8 feet two inches. The corner is denoted by a 9 feet 11 inches tall pillar that is 2 feet 2.5 inches square. This section is composed of handmade brick laid in 1:3 bond. The slope in the sidewalk uncovers several inches of the original foundation of the wall.



Figure 6: GO47, full.

Shortened sections of the wall range between 2 feet 10 inches and 4 feet nine inches and retain a depth of 1 foot 6 inches. These sections are constructed of weathered, dark red and brown handmade brick laid in 1:3 bond. Many of these sections were almost completely repointed with modern mortars, likely to stabilize them at the time they were shortened. Square pillars separate each section, and the top of the wall is usually corbelled. This type is located along the majority of Bull Street, and it is likely that these sections of wall were shortened when McKissick Museum was built in the late 1930s.

BO15, located on the southeast end of Bull Street, is representative of this type. This section is 13 feet 8 inches long and is 3 feet 5 inches high, and is composed of dark red and brown handmade brick laid in 1:3 bond. Although the bonding pattern is consistent with the historic wall, the difference in brick makes it likely that most of this section was rebuilt from historic brick salvaged from another structure.



Figure 7: BO15, full.

The **Shortened with Fencing** type is made up of a short section of brick wall that has had a wrought iron fence added to the top. These sections range between 5 feet 8 inches and 14 feet 5 inches and have a depth of 1 foot. They were built from dark red and brown handmade brick which were usually laid in three rows of common bond with a single row of headers on top. Rather than being remnants of original portions of wall, these areas were entirely rebuilt with Portland cement. Sections are divided by short pillars that are flush with the height of the wall. This type is located on the corner of Pendleton and Sumter streets and the central portion of Sumter Street, and is associated with the construction of the World War I Memorial during the early twentieth century.

The entire section labeled as SO2 exemplifies this type. Where the wall fits this type, it was recorded as one large segment. Distances between the remnants of pillars within the sections were noted. The brick wall is 1 foot 6 inches high, and is 4 foot 2 inches high including the wrought iron fence. It is composed of dark red brick and is laid in a pattern so the row of headers is consistent with the base of more intact portions of the wall. Based on the placement of pillars, bonding pattern, and brick color, this section may be largely built from the original base of the wall.



Figure 8: SO2, detail.

Condition Assessment

During the survey, the specific condition of each section of the wall was recorded and particularly problematic areas were photographed. The severity of some condition problems are tied to location, but similar issues can be found in nearly every section of the wall's exterior. These concerns have been organized into five categories: Brick Damage, Mortar, Plant Life, Nails/Intrusions and Structural Instability.

Brick Damage is a problem in nearly every section of the wall. Underfired "salmon" bricks in the wall face are exposed to moisture, and have been slowly melting away. Due to spalling from absorbed moisture, some bricks are missing their faces entirely. This leaves those bricks vulnerable to further deterioration. At most entrances, there is clear evidence of vehicle damage on corners of the wall. Bricks in the lowest row of corbelling tend to be chipped, and sometimes broken in half. Perhaps most distressingly, there are a number of bricks that are missing from the wall. This is most notable where bricks have come loose in the corbelling, but there are also cases where bricks are missing from the center of the wall. Anecdotal evidence suggests that bricks from the wall are popular souvenirs for University of South Carolina students.



Figure 9: BO3, detail.

Concerns about **mortar** can be split into three specific concerns. These include the need for repointing, improper repointing in modern cements, and careless repointing. Whether by choosing to do nothing or doing work without thought for the impact on historic materials, the result of further deterioration of the wall is the same.



Figure 10: BO2, detail.

Large parts of the wall have been repointed in modern cements. Many modern cements are inappropriate for use in historic masonry structures because they are harder and stronger than the bricks themselves. The bricks often expand and contract based on weather conditions, but modern cements do not. This causes damage to the bricks, and further destabilizes the wall.

In some areas of the wall, there is dire need for repointing. Over time, older mortars have weathered to the point that they barely exist—or in some cases are simply no longer there. These sections of the wall leave bricks open to weathering, damage, and theft.



Figure 11: SO36, detail.



Figure 12: BO13, detail.

Careless repointing was noted as a consistent problem during the survey. Repointing, particularly in areas of the wall that are not easily accessible, can be a difficult task. Poor repointing is not simply an aesthetic concern, but also a practical one. Globbs of mortar can serve as shelves or pools that attract more water to the wall and contribute to brick damage over time.



Figure 13: GO16, detail.

The overabundance of **plant life** is of particular concern. This ranges from small plants and trees growing from the corbelling to large scale growth of vines, such as can be found around Preston College. Although the latter can be aesthetically appealing, the roots from the plants grow into the bricks and mortar and make a significant contribution to the destabilization of the wall.



Figure 14: GO21, full.

Nails and other intrusions have been nailed into the wall, particularly on Sumter and Greene streets. There are also a number of holes in the mortar where nails have since been removed. The majority of the nails found during the course of the survey seemed quite old—we enjoyed discovering that former students used bottle caps as washers. The modern bolts placed in the wall seem to have helped solve the problem of student organizations slowly destroying the wall with each new posted sign. However, enough recent nails were found to cause concern.



Figure 15: GO33, detail.



Figure 16: GO31, full.

Structural instability has been caused by a number of other problems as well. When the two emergency phone kiosks were built along Greene Street, they were bolted through the bottom of the wall. The structural damage that this has caused is evident, and it appeared that sections of the wall had to be rebuilt as a result.




Figure 17: GO1, detail.



A tree growing near the wall in the garden of the South Caroliniana library has caused noticeable bowing in the exterior of the wall. In a few cases, sections of the wall were found where the top half is set back from the base by a half inch or more with no clear reason. These particular issues will need to be addressed in the near future.

Figure 18: SO9, detail.


V. Recommendations



The list of recommendations compiled by this survey team ranges widely from specific structural concerns to a campus awareness campaign that makes this structure more visible to students. The team feels that each of the following recommendations are integral to preserving and protecting this historic structure.


The most important suggestion that this team can recommend is that a survey similar to this one, be conducted on the interior portions of the wall. Due to semester time restraints and the fact that a comprehensive survey such as this one is very time and labor intensive, the team that performed this initial survey was unable to survey the interior of the wall. However, while surveying the exterior of the wall the team did venture to the other side of the wall at times to check its condition. Some of the results were quite shocking, such as a gaping hole that was found on the interior portion of a wall segment on Pendleton Street. Such structural damage threatens the wall's very existence. Although this survey represents the team's best efforts to survey the wall, there remains important work to be done regarding the documentation of the wall's interior.

Another important issue regarding the wall lies in the structure's invisible status on campus. Despite the fact that they pass by it every day, a large portion of team, teachers, and faculty are unaware of the wall's existence, and when asked about it they often do not recall the structure at all. Over the years, the wall has devolved from one of the central points on campus, where team would historically congregate and have their pictures taken, to the invisible structure it is today. Team, faculty, teachers, and visitors are unaware of the important history of the wall that saved Carolina, which was outlined earlier in this report. The team who conducted this survey of the wall subsequently recommend that efforts be made to make the entire Carolina community more aware of the wall and its history.



The following recommendations are essential for developing a wall awareness campaign for the University of South Carolina:


1. Update the National Register nomination for the Horseshoe.
Despite its historical significance, the wall was not included on the original nomination for the historic horseshoe. Including the wall in this document will allow for greater acknowledgement and education about the wall's existence and history.
2. Address the issue of hanging banners and signs on the wall.
Although most students are unaware of the wall's existence, the Greene Street façade of the wall is used extensively as a hanging place for banners and signs that student and other school groups use to advertise various events. Unfortunately, this modern use has severely damaged the wall, as nails, screws, and other materials have been driven into the historic handmade bricks that comprise the wall. This use exponentially degrades the structural integrity of the wall. The best recommendation would be to ban team and other groups from using the wall in this manner; however, if that were not suitable, this survey team recommends that the hanging of banners be limited to only using existing screws, nails, and hooks that already have been inserted into the wall. At the very least, this team recommends that no new holes be driven into the wall.
3. Educate new and existing students on the history of the wall.
It is the belief of the team who conducted this survey that if people were more educated about the history of the wall, the Carolina community would have a vested interest in protecting this structure that once protected the school from destruction. This education could take the form of producing a pamphlet about the wall and pointing out the wall to visitors while they are on tours of the campus. These methods would lead to greater awareness and education about the wall within the Carolina community, and reduce abuse to the wall, such as vandalism.



While all of the aforementioned recommendations are very important in insuring the wall's future, the most pertinent recommendation the team can make regarding the wall is that the structural issues found in this report be addressed as soon as possible. For instance, plant life growing on the wall, though it often looks nice, will become harmful to the wall over time. The surveyors noted that the ivy growing on the wall was so strong that it was hard to pry off by hand. Overtime, the ivy will consume the wall and perhaps lead to irreparable damage. Also of major concern is the issue of missing or damaged bricks. Missing bricks need to be replaced so that the wall can maintain its structural integrity. Damaged bricks should be repaired if possible and replaced if they are deemed beyond repair. The wall needs these bricks to support itself, and while it is sad to lose any historic brick, it is more important to save the wall as a whole. Additionally, significant attention should be paid to the mortar and repointing methods that are used on the wall. Mortar is missing or very old and weak in several places throughout the wall. This is an issue because it degrades the structural integrity of the wall, as the wall needs mortar to support itself, and leads to the loosening and damage of historic bricks, as well. These portions of the wall should be tastefully repointed with a substance other than Portland cement, which is harmful to historic brick overtime. As the team conducted this survey, one major issue that they noticed was the manner in which the wall had been repaired overtime. Historically, the modern repointing of the historic wall has been sloppy and left mortar covering historic brick. Portions of the wall need to be repointed, but this should be done in a manner that is precise, clean, and uniform throughout the wall.

It is the sincere hope of the survey team that these recommendations will be taken seriously. All of these issues are important in many ways to insuring the survival of the wall. This wall is ensconced in history and has withstood the tests of time. It once saved the South Carolina College campus from the fire that consumed Columbia after the Civil War. Who knows how history may have played out had the wall never been built. The modern University of South Carolina owes its existence to this wall. It is time for the Carolina community to save the wall that once saved the school from destruction.

VI. Summary and Conclusions



Jennifer Betsworth, Elizabeth Oswald, and JoAnn Zeise conducted an architectural survey in Spring 2011 of the University of South Carolina historic campus wall. The structure is bounded by Pendleton Street on the north, Sumter Street on the east, Greene Street on the south, and the former Bull Street on the west. The survey was conducted to catalog the changes that have occurred over time and determine the current condition of the wall.

Survey resulted in the documentation of three distinct types of wall, each representing distinct changes over the past 175 years. A number of condition problems were discovered and noted by section, and suggestions were made to help fix specific concerns and maintain the wall in the future. The campus wall is historically significant and merits as much care as has been devoted to the historic buildings on campus.


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Appendix



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- Oakley, Hannah. “Timeline for the Brick Wall,” housed at the South Caroliniana Library in the possession of the University Archivist.

Wall Plan Drawings



The plans of the wall that follow were created in Sketchup from measurements taken during the course of the survey. The first shows the overall shape and extent of the campus wall. Each plan that follows is of the wall segments on each of the four streets. These are labeled to provide more specific information regarding the numbering of sections.

To find a section that is not specifically noted on these drawings, it will be easiest to find the closest labeled segment and count in the relevant direction. More detailed plans can be obtained by directly contacting the survey team.

Survey Form



After scouring the internet for another survey of a historic wall, the survey team came up empty-handed. As a result, it was necessary to create a survey form to begin work. Architectural categories for this form were based upon the South Carolina State Historic Preservation Office's guidelines for architectural surveys. Condition assessment categories were based on research about the maintenance and preservation of historic brick.

Historic Wall Survey Form

Date _____ Photo # _____ Surveyor Initials _____

Wall segment height _____

Wall segment length (to next pillar) _____

Bricks: Handmade / Machine-made / Combination

Bonding pattern(s) _____

Mortar _____

Notable features _____

Architectural features (i.e. corbelling)

Alterations

Condition (locate by brickcourse, count from the bottom)

Plant life:

Missing/Damaged bricks:


Screws/Nails:

Portland cement:

Other (i.e. damage from vehicles, vandalism, etc.):

Available historical information/images:

Wall Survey



The Excel spreadsheet that follows, as well as the Access spreadsheet labeled “Historic Wall Survey Spreadsheet” on the accompanying CD, contains all data gathered during the fieldwork of the survey and used to create the survey report. Data was entered for lengths and heights and other measurements, bonding patterns, mortar type, and type of brick (handmade, machine-made, or a combination) were also recorded. Architectural features, for example if corbelling was present, and notable features for any significant changes such as shortened sections of wall or any other feature of the wall not original to the structure are recorded on the spreadsheet. Alterations, missing and/or damaged bricks, plant life, the presence of screw or nails in the wall, and the presence of Portland cement are also recorded on the spreadsheet for each section. Information for other miscellaneous data is available on the spreadsheet. The date the information was recorded and the initials of the different surveyors are also recorded on the spreadsheet.

Picture numbers are recorded in the last columns of the Excel spreadsheet. Numbers correspond to the individually number photos included on the CD included with this report. The numbers of the photographs reflect the survey trip and the order in which they were taken. For example, Wall Survey 5 (45) was the forty-fifth picture taken on the fifth survey trip. But as some picture were retaken or taken on a different date than the data was gathered, survey numbers do not reflect the same day as the survey number and were only for internal identification.