

**United States Department of the 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 any 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 A.P. Williams Funeral Home
other names/site number

2. Location

street & number 1808 Washington Street not for publication
city or town Columbia vicinity
state South Carolina code SC county Richland code 079 zip code 29201

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this 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 meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official Date

Mary W. Edmonds, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, S.C. Dept. of Archives and History, Columbia, S.C.
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 or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is: Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

- entered in the National Register
 See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the
 National Register
 See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the
 National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain):

A.P. Williams Funeral Home
Name of Property

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5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

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

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing	
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	_____	_____	sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____	_____	structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	_____	_____	objects
		<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	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 0

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

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Category: Domestic
Funerary

Subcategory: Single Dwelling
Mortuary

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Category: Funerary

Subcategory: Mortuary

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Late 19th and Early 20th Century
Revivals walls

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick
Wood/Weatherboard

roof Asphalt
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 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.)

- a owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- b removed from its original location.
- c a birthplace or a 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.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Social History
Ethnic Heritage: Black

Period of Significance

1936-1955

Significant Dates

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Williams, Archie Preston, II

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- 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:

- State Historic Preservation Office
 - Other State agency
 - Federal agency
 - Local government
 - University
 - Other
- Name of repository:
S.C. Dept. of Archives and History,
Columbia, S.C.

A.P. Williams Funeral Home
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10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Zone Easting Northing	Zone Easting Northing
1 <u>17 497690 3762706</u>	3
2 <u> </u>	4

 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 Lauren Ham
 organization Public History Program date February 1, 2005
 street & number University of South Carolina telephone (803) 777-6398
 city or town Columbia state SC zip code 29208

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 the SHPO or FPO.)

name Mr. Archie Preston Williams III
 street & number 3000 St. Louis Court telephone (803) 254-7876
 city or town Columbia state SC zip code 29204

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 the 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 Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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A.P. Williams Funeral Home
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The A.P. Williams Funeral Home is a two-story frame building, built as a residence between 1893 and 1911. It features a hipped roof with lower cross gables and has a columned porch running across the east half of the facade. It faces Washington Street and is set behind a small flat lawn and cultivated bushes on a downward sloping lot. The funeral home is bordered by other businesses. Like the funeral home, the businesses that are located down the street to the east at the corner of Washington Street and Gregg Street are located in buildings that were formerly residences. Trees border the south side of the funeral home lot. A two-car garage, which does not contribute to the historic character of the property, is located on the south side of the lot. The property has not been changed significantly since its last portion of major construction between 1936 and 1944.¹ As part of those alterations, the present westernmost and southernmost rooms of the building were added. In addition, metal awnings were added to the exterior of the building to cover the entrances. The brick piers that comprised the building's foundation were also likely filled in during these alterations, part of the conversion of the building from an residence to a combination funeral home and residence.

The building's setting has also changed little.² During the segregation era, this neighborhood was comprised of both businesses and residences, a character it retains today.³ The A.P. Williams Funeral Home was opened for business in 1936 and was last significantly renovated in 1944. It retains the same feeling and association today as it did then.

The house, covered in weatherboard, sits on a brick foundation, originally a brick pier foundation, later infilled to create a brick wall foundation. A small portion of the foundation is visible on the facade near the porch. Four classical columns, two on each side of the door, support the front porch. Between the columns, straight wood posts support the porch railing. A pilaster is located to either side of the front door. The front door itself is a glass-over-panel door. A small glass window is located above the front door. There is also a two-over-two window that looks out on the east side of the front porch. Storm windows matching the original wooden windows in size and shape have been added over the original windows. A green and white striped metal awning connects to the front of the porch and extends over the sidewalk from the front porch to Washington Street. Another metal awning extends from the first awning to the eastern edge of the lot.

There are three two-over-two windows to the west of the porch on the first floor of the facade. The lower hipped roof extends over the porch and front of the first floor. There are five two-over-two windows on the second floor facade. Two of the windows are on the east side of the front, above the porch, one is on the side of the eastern-most cross gable, and the last two are on the side of the western-most cross gable.

¹ City of Columbia Register of Deeds, 1808 Washington Street, 1911, 1944, Deed Books AY, Page 116, and FT, Page 126, Richland County Register of Mesne Conveyance, Richland County Judicial Center, Columbia, S.C.

² Sanborn Fire Insurance Company, Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, Columbia, S.C., 1956, 53G.

³ *Hill's Columbia (Richland County, S.C.) City Directory, 1956* (Richmond, Va.: Hill Directory Co., 1956), p. 834.

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The hipped roof features a cross gable, with the facade gable decorated with green wooden shingles and an arched decorative window. The top of a brick chimney is visible above the facade gable.

On the east elevation, there are four two-over-two windows on the first floor and four two-over-two windows on the second floor. Two of the second floor windows have window air conditioning units in them. The hipped roof extends over the east elevation.

On the south elevation, the panels in the middle of the second floor are larger than the other panels. There is a single panel door and a two panel screened door with wooden vertical crossbars on the bottom panel of the screened door. The screened door is covered by a green and white striped metal awning that matches the awning covering the walkway on the front of the house. Two small two-over-two windows are on the first floor of the south elevation. A black metal staircase descends from the second floor and crosses the first floor. There is one door on the second floor with six evenly-sized panels on it; the top three panels are glass and the bottom three panels are wood. An awning extends from the door over the metal staircase from the second floor to the ground. There are two two-over-two windows and one small one-panel window. The small window is on the easterly side of the south elevation.

A historic but noncontributing garage, built of cinder blocks with a metal roof, is on the south side of the lot. It does not contribute to the significance of the property as associated with a black-owned and exclusively black-patronized business during the segregation era.

The west elevation includes steps leading up to a breezeway about halfway between the front and the back of the house. The entrance contains a breezeway that leads to a five-panel door on the north side of the breezeway, a six-panel door on the east side of the breezeway leading into the house, and a five-panel door on the south side of the breezeway leading into the house. There are five two-over-two windows on the first floor of the west elevation. A window unit protrudes from the window closest to the rear of the house.

The edge of the lower hipped roof extends over the first floor on the west side. The edge of the westernmost cross gable roof extends over the second floor windows.

On the first floor interior there are three rooms on the eastern side, a long hall divided by a door with a staircase in the second portion of the hall, and a large meeting room on the western side. The three eastern rooms are a sitting room, an office, and a casket viewing room. The entrance hall or first portion of the hall serves as a greeting area and the meeting room serves as a chapel. The door at the rear of the meeting room opens onto the breezeway on the western elevation of the building's exterior. With these improvements and alterations the building measures 3,925 square feet.

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The interior windows are the original wood frame windows and the fireplaces in the sitting room and office on the eastern side are original with green tile and metal framing. The doors are also original wooden six-panel doors. The function of the interior rooms has changed little since the funeral home opened in 1936. When the family ceased to use some of the upstairs space as a residence, the rooms were converted into more space for the business.⁴

The A.P. Williams Funeral Home has been changed little since 1936. Storm windows that do not change the overall appearance of the funeral home have been added and basic maintenance has been done. The funeral home retains the same feeling now as it would have had during segregation.

⁴ A.P. Williams III, A.P. Williams Funeral Home, Columbia, S.C., Interview with Lauren Ham, 22 October 2004.

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The A.P. Williams Funeral Home is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for its association with the system of segregation in Columbia, South Carolina, from 1936 to 1955, representing the creation of an alternative space by a black entrepreneur in order to serve the city's black community. Originally a residence when built shortly after the turn of the twentieth century, it was converted to a funeral home in 1936.

Built between August 1893 and March 1911 as a single family residence, the house was owned by Bessie Williams Pinckney when her son Archie Preston Williams II converted it to a funeral home with a residence on the second floor, where Williams and his mother lived.

When A.P. Williams Funeral Home opened in 1936, the white-owned funeral homes in Columbia served white customers only, and the black community needed its own funeral homes. In 1936, there were four funeral homes in Columbia that served white customers and six funeral homes in Columbia that served black customers.⁵ This building was also the residence of Archie Preston Williams II, a leader in the city's black community who ran for election to both Columbia City Council and the South Carolina House of Representatives in the 1950s.⁶

A.P. Williams was also a member and officer in the Columbia Chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) for twenty-two years.⁷ Williams worked for representation of blacks in the city police force, was instrumental in Columbia hiring its first two black police officers, and worked to secure equal pay for black city employees as well. As a result of Williams's work, the funeral home is also associated with a leading member of the local black community during the segregation era from the 1930s to the 1960s.

⁵ A.P. Williams III Interview; *Hill's Columbia City Directory, 1937*.

⁶ A.P. Williams III Interview; Pat Berman, "Burying the Dead, Helping the Living," *The State* (Columbia, S.C.), 13 July 2003.

⁷ Berman, "Burying the Dead, Helping the Living."

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SOURCES

Berman, Pat. "Burying the Dead, Helping The Living." *The State* (Columbia, S.C.), 13 July 2003.

Hill's Columbia (Richland County, S.C.) City Directory. (Richmond, Va.)

Richland County Register of Mesne Conveyance, Richland County Judicial Center, Columbia, S.C.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Company, Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, Columbia, S.C.

A.P. Williams III. A.P. Williams Funeral Home, Columbia, S.C., Interview with Lauren Ham,
22 October 2004.

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Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the nominated property is shown as the black line marked "A.P. Williams Funeral Home" on the accompanying Richland County Tax Map, #11406, Parcel 16, Lot 4, drawn at a scale of 1" = 100'.

Boundary Justification

The nominated property is restricted to the historic residence/funeral home and the city lot on which it is located.

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Section number Photographs Page 11 A.P. Williams Funeral Home
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The following information is the same for each of the photographs:

Name of Property:	A.P. Williams Funeral Home
Location of Property:	1808 Washington Street, Columbia Richland County, South Carolina
Name of Photographer:	Beth Wiedower
Date of Photographs:	19-20 November 2004
Location of Original Negatives:	S.C. Department of Archives & History, Columbia, S.C.

1. Facade
2. West Elevation
3. South/Rear Elevation
4. East Elevation