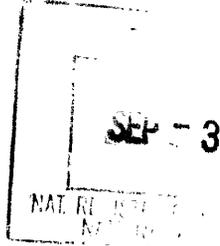


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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 Spann Methodist Church and Cemetery  
other names/site number Spann United Methodist Church

2. Location

street & number 150 Church Street not for publication   
city or town Ward vicinity \_\_\_\_\_  
state South Carolina code SC county Saluda code 081 zip code 29166

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.)

Mary W. Edmonds 8/29/03  
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:  
 entered in the National Register EB 10/18/03  
 See continuation sheet. Signature of the Keeper Date of Action  
 determined eligible for the National Register  
 See continuation sheet.  
 determined not eligible for the National Register  
 removed from the National Register  
 other (explain):

Spann Methodist Church and Cemetery  
Name of Property

Saluda County, South Carolina  
County and State

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)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Contributing	Noncontributing
1	
1	
2	

buildings  
sites  
structures  
objects  
Total

Name of related multiple property listing  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)  
N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed  
in the National Register  
0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Category: Religion  
Funerary

Subcategory: Religious Facility  
Cemetery

Current Functions  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Category: Religion  
Funerary

Subcategory: Religious Facility  
Cemetery

7. Description

Architectural Classification  
(Enter categories from instructions)  
Mid-19<sup>th</sup> Century/Late Victorian:  
Greek Revival

Materials  
(Enter categories from instructions)  
foundation Brick  
walls Weatherboard  
roof Metal  
other

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Spann Methodist Church and Cemetery  
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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.
x 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.)

- x 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)

Architecture
Art

Period of Significance

1873-1920

Significant Dates

1873

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

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:

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

Spann Methodist Church and Cemetery  
Name of Property

Saluda County, South Carolina  
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## 10. Geographical Data

**Acreage of Property** Approximately 3 acres

### UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing		
1	17	432766	3746367	3	17	432624	3746232
2	17	432764	3746227	4	17	432610	3746396

     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 Mary W. Edmonds and Andrew W. Chandler, with the assistance of Craig Morris and Owen Clark  
 organization S.C. Department of Archives and History date 9 July 2003  
 street & number 8301 Parklane Road telephone (803) 896-6168  
 city or town Columbia state SC zip code 29223

## 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 South Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church  
 street & number 4908 Colonial Drive telephone (803) 786-9486  
 city or town Columbia state SC zip code 29203

**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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Spann Methodist Church is located on State Highway 23 near the eastern entrance to the town of Ward in Saluda County. The two-bay wide by six-bay long temple-form frame building, constructed in 1873, features an engaged tetrastyle portico with a pedimented gable roof on the façade and an open bed pediment at the rear. Shaded by oak trees, the church is sited near the southwest corner of a three-acre lot. On the same property to the east and northeast of the church is a cemetery of roughly 400 graves including a variety of examples of late nineteenth and early twentieth century grave markers, fences, gates, and landscape features. The church property is bounded on the front (north) by the Southern Railroad right-of-way. The setting for the church property includes peach trees to the east; woodlands to the south; and a small pond, peach trees, and grape arbors to the west. Most of the buildings in the town of Ward are located on the other side of the railroad and to the west along Highway 23. The church and its pastoral setting are remarkably intact.

**Additional Information**

Spann Methodist Church is a frame building measuring approximately forty by sixty feet with weatherboard siding and base skirting board on a brick pier foundation. It is constructed of a milled heavy timber frame, finished entirely with sawn lumber, and fastened together with steel nails. The building's structural plates and center sill measure approximately six by ten inches, while the floor joists are approximately two-and-one-half by ten inches in dimension. Although the church has a traditional rectangular meeting house form, it has some architectural embellishments that distinguish it from other vernacular examples found in rural South Carolina.

The gable roof, which is covered in decorative pressed metal shingles, extends on the building's façade (north elevation) to form a full-width portico. At either end of the roof's ridgeline is a decorative stop or antefix. The horizontal cornice or shelf of the pediment retains its wood shingles, an indication of the original roofing material for the entire building. The portico is supported by four square tapered wooden pillars with recessed panels. Pilasters at the front corners of the building reflect the portico's pillars. Within the portico are two round-arched doors with six recessed and molded panels leading directly to the sanctuary. The floor and full-width steps of the portico are wooden. The pediment of the portico contains an unadorned raking cornice, weatherboard siding, and a lunette with louvers for ventilation.

Each of the side (east and west) elevations of the church has six nine-over-six light, double-hung sash windows. The upper six panes in each upper sash have been painted to reduce glare in the church. The shutters have been removed and are stored off site.

Pilasters at the rear corners of the church are identical to those on the front corners. The rear (south elevation) of the church has two windows in the same location as the doors on the front of the church.

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The simple, one-room interior has pine floors and flushboard planking on the walls. The ceiling is board and batten. From each entrance there are two aisles leading to the altar and choir area. The pews, arranged in three banks, are said to be original. The back and seat of each pew is formed from a single heart pine board, while ends are chamfered and feature a scrolled cap or armrest. Pews within each outer bank of pews are attached to the side walls of the church. The raised altar, featuring an altar rail with turned balusters, is located between the two windows along the rear wall (south elevation) of the church. The pulpit, chairs, and sofa behind the pulpit date from the late nineteenth century. Pews for the choir run parallel to the sides of the church and face the altar. The underside of a small marble-topped table in front of the altar is labeled, "Gov. Moses to Clinton Ward 1873."<sup>1</sup> A repair in the ceiling in front of the altar reveals the location of the flue for a pot-bellied stove that once provided heat for the building. The church is lighted by six electric lights with white globes suspended by chains from the ceiling and heated with gas space heaters. There is no plumbing or air conditioning.

The historic cemetery to the east and northeast of the church has been used by the Spann congregation since the 1840s. The oldest marked grave is that of William Carson, who died in 1842. There are no grave markers remaining in what appears to be one of the oldest sections of the cemetery, which is surrounded by granite obelisks about three feet in height. Near this is an approximately ten by ten foot enclosure made of large blocks of granite. The enclosure is approximately three feet in height. After the founding of Ward in the 1860s, the cemetery also served as the town cemetery. Most of the marble and granite historic grave markers date from the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Many feature motifs and forms popular in the period including weeping willow trees, draped urns, obelisks, lambs, and tree stumps. There are also a number of cast-iron Confederate crosses, markers displaying the traditional Masonic square and compasses emblem, and a Woodmen of the World monument.

The most distinctive markers are those associated with the Ward family. A cast-iron fence with an arched gate marks the entrance to the Ward-Satcher section of the graveyard. The grave of Clinton Ward (1828-1905) is marked by an approximately 7 ft. 4 in. monument. The full-length figure of Ward is marble on a granite base.<sup>2</sup> The marker for Martha Lott Ward (1828-1906), wife of Clinton Ward, is made of granite and is approximately seven feet in height. It includes a polished sphere on top of a stepped base. The grave of Clinton Ward's only child, Josephine Vaas Ward (1851-1857) is marked with a marble statue of a female child. Between the entrance to the Ward-Satcher gate and the driveway to the church is a cast-iron statue of a deer set upon three granite blocks, one of which is incised with the date 1857, and surmounting a small mound created of large broken rocks and planted with cacti.

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<sup>1</sup> Franklin J. Moses Jr. was elected governor of South Carolina in 1872 and served from 1873 to 1875.

<sup>2</sup> Anne Eidson Dukes of Johnston remembers her father, Victor Roland Eidson (1893-1906) describing a childhood trip to Augusta with Clinton Ward to visit a sculptor, who made a plaster cast of Ward's face. According to tradition, the sculptor was named Kohlrus, but this has not been documented.

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A cast-iron fence runs along the front of the church property and along a section of the west side of the property. Vegetation in the cemetery includes several cedar trees and a magnolia tree. A marble sculpture of a dog beside a tree trunk is located outside the cemetery near the railroad. The inscription reads: MARTHA AND/CLINTON WARD/Good Will Friendship/and Love/To every body/every Living Creature/God Bless All/1901.<sup>3</sup>

Although the cemetery has continued in use to the present, its character from the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries predominates. The modern grave markers are generally smaller and simpler than the historic markers and do not detract from the overall historic character of the property.

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<sup>3</sup> The grave markers for Clinton and Martha Ward and the deer and the dog sculptures are included in the Smithsonian American Art Museum's Inventory of American Sculpture, which is available on the internet. According to tradition, the dog sculpture was purchased by Clinton Ward for a child who wanted a marker for herself.

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Spann Methodist Church, constructed in 1873, is a prominent landmark in the small town of Ward in Saluda County. Shaded by oak trees, the simple meeting house sits back from the main road (State Highway 23) through the town. The large lot includes a cemetery to the east and northeast of the church. Spann Methodist Church is architecturally significant as a remarkably intact example of a vernacular meeting house that illustrates provincial faithfulness to the Greek Revival while alluding to the Romanesque Revival. The cemetery includes a significant collection of funerary art from the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Spann Methodist Church and its cemetery are also important for their association with the early development of the town of Ward and its founder, Clinton Ward.

**Additional Information**

The original site of Spann Methodist Church was several miles from its current location. According to local tradition the church began in the plantation home of John Spann Jr. Bishop Francis Asbury's journal reveals that he stopped at "Spann's" on December 1, 1807, in route from Augusta to Columbia. He stayed several days because bad weather and "indisposition" delayed his departure. He preached there on Sunday, December 5, before leaving for Columbia. Bishop Asbury stopped at Spann's again on Tuesday, November 9, 1811.<sup>1</sup> An 1817 map of Edgefield District shows "Mrs. M. Spann," the widow of John Spann Jr., living roughly two miles west of Ridge Spring.<sup>2</sup>

Secondary sources indicate that a church building was constructed at another location in the early nineteenth century.<sup>3</sup> Writing in 1935, Rev. J.M. Steadman concludes, based on quarterly conference records, that the second home of the Spann congregation was more than a mile north of the highway running through Ward on the Grice Place, then owned by Dr. F.G. Asbill. Spann is said to have been one of the churches on the Bush River Circuit in 1817 and on the Saluda Circuit at least by 1830. In 1839 there were complaints that some members wanted to convert Spann's meeting house into an academy as well as a church. The quarterly conference passed a resolution to restrict the uses of churches on the circuit to religious purposes only.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> The Journal of Rev. Francis Asbury, Bishop of the Methodist Episcopal Church from August 7, 1771, to December 7, 1815, 3 vols. (New York: N. Bangs and T. Mason, 1821), 3:237.

<sup>2</sup> Robert Mills, Atlas of the State of South Carolina, 1825, facsimile ed. (Columbia, S.C.: Lucy Hampton Bostick and Fant H. Thornley, 1938); Frances Terry Ingmire, ed., Edgefield County, South Carolina: Old Wills, 1785-1818, 2 vols. (Ingmire Publications, 1982), 2:101.

<sup>3</sup> Saluda County Tricentennial Commission, Saluda County: In Scene and Story (Columbia, S.C.: R.L. Bryan Company, 1970), pp. 30-32; "Spann Methodist Church, Ward, South Carolina," Daughters of the American Revolution Magazine, February 1958.

<sup>4</sup> Rev. J.M. Steadman, "A History of Spann's Church," Southern Christian Advocate, 11 July 1935, pp. 3-5; Albert Deems Betts, History of South Carolina Methodism (Columbia, S.C.: South Carolina Methodist Advocate Press, 1952), p. 242.

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By 1846, the Spann meeting house had been moved to the property on which the current church building is located. The new location was on the road from Columbia to Augusta, about four miles west of Ridge Spring. The moved building is said to have been situated between the highway and the present building. The first quarterly conference for 1846 of the Edgefield Circuit passed a resolution to appoint a committee "to sell the lot of land which was formerly occupied by Spann's church, but which is now vacant in consequence of the removal of said church to its present location."<sup>5</sup> Around this time a cemetery was established next to the church.

In the late 1860s, the Charlotte, Columbia, and Augusta Railroad reached the area and a depot was constructed on what had been Clinton Ward's farm. The railroad ran along the front (north side) of the Spann Church property. Ward (1828-1905) was a member of Spann Church and a large property owner in the area. In 1850, he had married Martha Lott, and they lived on the Columbia to Augusta Road to the west of Spann Church. Ward had served as a captain in the local militia before the Civil War and became involved in state politics after the War, serving as a trial justice under Governor Robert K. Scott (1868-1872) and in the South Carolina General Assembly from 1880-1883.

The settlement that grew up to the west of Spann Church was first called Ward's Depot and later Clintonward and Wards. Clinton Ward served as postmaster for many years.<sup>6</sup> As the town developed, the Spann Church cemetery became the town burial ground.

With the development of the settlement along the railroad, the Spann congregation constructed a new church. In 1873 Spann Methodist Church dedicated the current building. An inscription in the pulpit Bible reads: "To Captain Clinton Ward for Spann's New M.E. Church built and dedicated in 1873 near Ward's Depot in Ward's Town Ship, Edgefield Co., S.C."

A plat made of the town of "Wards" in 1880 shows about a dozen lots fronting on the Charlotte, Columbia, and Augusta Railroad. The Edgefield Advertiser of 8 February 1883 includes the notice of a new business, T.S. Wright and Son, dealers in groceries, hardware, and dry goods, who also purchased cotton and other country produce. The newspaper also noted that a model carp pond was being built behind Spann Methodist Church.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> Steadman, p. 4.

<sup>6</sup> Owen Clark, "Published Tributes to Clinton Ward," Quill, May/June 2000, pp. 46-47; Bela Herlong and Gloria Caldwell, eds., Breaking New Ground: A Pictorial History of Saluda County (Saluda, S.C.: Saluda County Centennial Commission, 1995), pp. 64-66; Record of Appointment of Postmasters, 1832-September 30, 1971 (Washington: National Archives Microfilm Publications, 1973); Walter B. Edgar, ed. Biographical Directory of the South Carolina House of Representatives, Vol. 1: Session Lists, 1692-1973 (Columbia, S.C.: University of South Carolina Press, 1974), pp. 433-34 and 437-38.

<sup>7</sup> Herlong and Caldwell, p. 65.

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In 1883 Clinton Ward conveyed the three acres containing the building known as "Spanns Church" to the Trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church South and all their successors. At that time the trustees of the church were A.M. Mitchell, James H. Lagrone, James G. Mobley, Samuel L. Ready, Clinton Ward, James A. Satcher, and W.J. Ready.<sup>8</sup>

The town of Ward reached the peak of its business activity and population between ca. 1900 and ca. 1930. The population, which numbered 234 in 1920, had declined to 110 by 2000. The congregation of Spann Methodist Church has reflected this decline. By 1970 there were only about thirty-four members on the roll; today the church has six members.<sup>9</sup> In spite of its small numbers, the congregation has carefully maintained the church and cemetery.

### **Architecture**

Spann Methodist Church is an essentially untouched example of a late nineteenth century rural church. Although built in the postbellum period, after the height of the popularity of the Greek Revival style, the church reveals a provincial loyalty to that style in the temple form plan with engaged portico. The round-arched windows and doors and the semicircular vent or louvered lunette in the pediment, both allusions to the Romanesque Revival movement of the late nineteenth century, soften the austere lines of the building and distinguish it from other vernacular meeting houses in rural South Carolina.

### **Art**

The Spann Cemetery includes a significant collection of funerary art that reveals much about the values of the people buried there and those who mourned them. Many of the grave markers, dating from the late nineteenth century through the early years of the twentieth century, reflect the Victorian sentimentality and preoccupation with the rites of death. They include popular motifs and forms such as weeping willows, lambs, tree stumps, obelisks, and a draped urn. Other grave markers are simpler in design and more typical of the early twentieth century.

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<sup>8</sup> *Edgefield Conveyance Book 7, 1883-1884* (Columbia, S.C.: South Carolina Department of Archives and History Microfilm Publications, 1975), pp. 420-21.

<sup>9</sup> Saluda County Tricentennial Commission, pp. 18-19 and 30-32; U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, *Thirteenth Census of the United States, 1910: Population*, 3:647; *Fifteenth Census of the United States, 1930: Population*, p. 994; and *Seventeenth Census of the United States, 1950: Population*, 1: 40-13.

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Monuments were also used by families to display their status in the community. The gated Ward-Satcher section of the cemetery with the marble statue of Clinton Ward, founder of the town, is an excellent example of the importance attached to cemeteries as indicators of wealth and status in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Substantial monuments, including large marble and granite shafts on stepped bases, were also erected in the graveyard by other area families.

Masonic symbols on several graves and a Woodmen of the World monument reveal information about the importance of these organizations in the area in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The cemetery also contains a number of cast-iron crosses placed on the graves of Confederate veterans by the United Daughters of the Confederacy in the first decades of the twentieth century, emphasizing the continuing significance of the memory of the Civil War.

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1930: Population, vol. 3.

U.S. Department of Commerce. Bureau of the Census. Seventeenth Census of the United States,  
1950: Population, vol. 1.

U.S. Department of Commerce. Bureau of the Census. Thirteenth Census of the United States,  
1910: Population, vol. 3

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**Verbal Boundary Description**

The boundary of the nominated property is shown as the black line marked "Spann Methodist Church" on Block 2, Parcel 19, Saluda County Tax Map 107, drawn at a scale of 1" = 400'.

**Boundary Justification**

The nominated property includes the historic church and cemetery and their historic setting.

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Spann Methodist Church and Cemetery  
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The following information is the same for each of the photographs:

Name of Property: Spann Methodist Church and Cemetery  
Location of Property: Church Street, Ward, Saluda County

Name of Photographer: Andrew W. Chandler, South Carolina SHPO  
Date of Photographs: 26 June 2003  
Location of Original Negatives: South Carolina Department of Archives and History, Columbia, S.C.

1. Facade (north elevation)
2. North and east elevations
3. North end west elevations
4. West and rear (south) elevations)
5. Paneled pillars and pilaster
6. Window detail
7. Interior view looking south toward altar
8. Interior view, showing altar
9. Interior view, showing one of two entrance doors
10. Interior view, showing pew detail
11. Church, view from the northeast showing granite enclosure in cemetery
12. Granite obelisk in early section of section
13. Monuments to Clinton Ward, Martha Lott Ward, and Josephine Vaas Ward
14. Monument to Josephine Vaas Ward
15. View of church and cemetery, showing Satcher monument
16. Late 19<sup>th</sup>-century monuments associated with the Watson family
17. View of church and cemetery, showing deer statue and gate to Ward-Satcher plot
18. Deer statue just outside cemetery gate
19. Marble sculpture of a dog just outside cemetery gate
20. View of church, cemetery, and setting