

Form 10-300  
 (July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
 NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
 INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: South Carolina	
COUNTY: Beaufort	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
MAY 29 1975	

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
 Church of the Cross

AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
 Calhoun Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
 Bluffton

STATE: South Carolina CODE: 045 COUNTY: Beaufort CODE: 013

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
 Episcopal Diocese of South Carolina

STREET AND NUMBER:  
 138 Wentworth Street

CITY OR TOWN: Charleston STATE: South Carolina CODE: 045

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
 Beaufort County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:  
 Bay Street

CITY OR TOWN: Beaufort STATE: South Carolina CODE: 045

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
 Inventory of Historic Places in South Carolina

DATE OF SURVEY: 1973  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
 S.C. Department of Archives & History

STREET AND NUMBER:  
 1430 Senate Street

CITY OR TOWN: Columbia STATE: South Carolina CODE: 045

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:  
 COUNTY:  
 ENTRY NUMBER: MAY 29 1975  
 DATE

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<del>(interior)</del>	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

EXTERIOR

Completed in 1857, this carpenter's gothic style church of unfinished cypress resting on brick foundations was designed by Edward Brickell White. A prominent architect of 19th Century Charleston, White (1806-1882) also designed Market Hall, the Huguenot Church (NHL), the steeple of St. Philip's (NHL), all in Charleston, and Trinity Church in Columbia.

The cruciform-shaped Church of the Cross, advertised in the CHARLESTON COURIER of July 1, 1854 "to be of wood with brick foundations, and not to exceed the estimated cost of five thousand dollars" was never completed according to White's plan which included towers and a vestibule. The steep cross gable roof, originally of cypress shingles, was replaced in 1946 by an asbestos roof.

Front (east) facade has central pointed-arch doorway flanked by two shuttered lancet windows. Above the doorway is a tripartite lancet window with smaller trefoil-shaped windows on either side. The lancet-arch motif appears on bays of north and south facades also. Additional entrances are located on transept ends. North end of transept has gabled protrusion and open belltower. Apse is located on west of church.

Church of the Cross escaped destruction in the War Between the States. The bell, taken from the church during the war, was returned in 1898. Exterior alterations occurred in 1892 when the church was reroofed and the chancel remodeled. Eight years later, following storm damage, the building was repaired and a narthex was built into the east for convenience of heating.

INTERIOR

Exposed beams of hard yellow pine support the roof. Carved wooden balustrades of galleries repeat the pointed arch motif of the bays. Pews are the early box type.

Interior alterations were made in 1946 when the narthex was enlarged and the space under the old slave galleries was converted to church school rooms. The old rose-colored window panes were duplicated and interior walls replastered in the original shade of pale pink.

SURROUNDINGS

Located on a bluff overlooking the May River, the Church of the Cross is surrounded by live oak and palmetto trees. In 1960 a parish house which is included in the area nominated was built in a style compatible with the church, using cruciform plan, pointed arch windows and doors, and weathered cypress siding.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                       |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century            | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century  | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century |                                       |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1857

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |   |  |  |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input type="checkbox"/> Political           | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science             | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture           | _____                                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater             | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation      | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            |   |  |  |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

ARCHITECTURE

The architect of the Church of the Cross, Edward Brickell White, was a prolific engineer and architect of the mid-19th Century whose designs include a National Historic Landmark, the Huguenot Church in Charleston. Proficient in a wide range of styles -- classic, renaissance, and gothic revival -- White designed churches, schools, office buildings, and commercial structures in South Carolina.

The Church of the Cross, completed in 1857, is one of his Gothic revival designs, but differs from the stuccoed, more formal churches of Charleston and Columbia. The carpenter's gothic style with board and batten exterior and interior open timbered roof is in keeping with the church's scenic, rural setting. The architect's choice of material, unfinished cypress, and his use of proportion and design, confirm his sensitivity to the character of the small church.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Andrews, Wayne, ARCHITECTURE IN AMERICA: A PHOTOGRAPHIC HISTORY FROM THE COLONIAL PERIOD TO THE PRESENT, New York: Atheneum Publishers, 1960, p.68.  
 CHARLESTON DAILY COURIER, July 1, 1854.  
 CHURCH OF THE CROSS, unpublished brochure, nd.  
 Julien, Carl and Martin, Chlotilde R. SEA ISLANDS TO SAND HILLS, Columbia, S.C.: USC Press, 1954, p.111.  
 McKee, Harley J. (ed.) HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY, SOUTH CAROLINA CATALOGUE. Washington:HABS Commission, 1972.  
 Ravenel, Beatrice St. Julien, ARCHITECTS OF CHARLESTON, Charleston:Carolina Art Association, 1964. "Edward Brickell White" p.183-202.

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	° ' "	° ' "		32	13	53
NE	° ' "	° ' "		80	51	51
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: approximately 1.3 acres

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
 Nenie Dixon H.E. McCracken

ORGANIZATION: Historic Preservation Division (S.C. Archives) DATE: Oct. 31, 1974

STREET AND NUMBER: 1430 Senate Street Capitol Station P.O. Box 11669

CITY OR TOWN: Columbia STATE: South Carolina CODE: 045

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION** **NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name Charles E. Lee  
 Charles E. Lee

Title State Historic Preservation Officer

Date February 27, 1975

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

W. A. McCracken  
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 5/29/75

ATTEST:

Mark Atkinson  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date 5.27.75

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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

*(Continuation Sheet)*

STATE	
South Carolina	
COUNTY	
Beaufort	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	MAY 22 1975

*(Number all entries)*

Church of the Cross

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES (continued)

Thomas, Albert Sidney, THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN SOUTH CAROLINA,  
Columbia, S.C.: The R.L. Bryan Company, 1957. p. 192-197.