

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED JUL 10 1979
DATE ENTERED AUG 16 1979

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC Mount Pisgah African Methodist Episcopal Church

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER Corner of Hackett Avenue and James Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN Greenwood

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT #3

STATE South Carolina CODE 045

COUNTY Greenwood CODE 047

3 CLASSIFICATION

| CATEGORY | OWNERSHIP | STATUS | PRESENT USE |
|---|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT | <input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED | <input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE | <input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED | <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM |
| <input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> BOTH | <input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SITE | PUBLIC ACQUISITION | ACCESSIBLE | <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL |
| <input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT | <input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED | <input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED | <input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED | <input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> NO | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY |
| | | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> PARK |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER |

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Mount Pisgah African Methodist Episcopal Church

STREET & NUMBER Hackett Avenue

CITY, TOWN Greenwood

STATE South Carolina

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Greenwood County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER Monument Street

CITY, TOWN Greenwood

STATE South Carolina

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Inventory of Historic Places in South Carolina

DATE 1979

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS South Carolina Department of Archives and History

CITY, TOWN Columbia STATE South Carolina

7 DESCRIPTION

| CONDITION | | CHECK ONE | CHECK ONE |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT | <input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED | <input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> GOOD | <input type="checkbox"/> RUINS | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED | <input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR | <input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED | | |

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Mount Pisgah A.M.E. Church, located within the city limits of Greenwood, South Carolina, was built in 1908 and is believed to have been designed and constructed by members of the congregation. An eclectic structure, the church is exemplary of the vernacular ecclesiastical architecture of the earlier 1880s and 1890s and features Gothic detail.

EXTERIOR: A modified T with projecting chancel, the brick church is set on an enclosed basement. Brickwork is stretcher bond. The structure features a steep cross gabled roof with corbeled and concrete-capped stepped gable ends. The stepped gables at the corners of each projecting gable end wall are heavily corbeled and are flanked by concrete-capped Gothic buttresses. A modern composition roof has replaced the original roof. 1/1 Gothic center pointed stained glass windows with simple bar tracery and corbeled brick hoods are featured on all facades; the windows are original art glass.

The front facade is characterized by a central projecting gable end wall flanked by an open square porch to the left and by a square tower to the right. Windows in the middle section are arranged in three bays on the gable end wall and in two bays on each side-facing elevation. A large Gothic center pointed window dominates the central bay of the front facade. The square open porch at left is one story and features paired Gothic center pointed doorway openings with corbeled brick hoods on both the front-facing and side-facing elevations. The porch has been altered by the enclosure of the right portion with brick walls to create a bathroom. The square tower at right consists of enclosed first and attic stories below and of an open belfry above. Located at the corners of the tower are monumental engaged pilasters with brick corbeling; a brick string course with dentil detail separates the upper and lower portions of the tower. On both the front-facing and side-facing elevations, the lower section of the tower features: a doorway with Gothic center pointed transom with simple bar tracery; a concrete-capped buttress; and an oculus. On all four sides, the open belfry consists of Gothic center pointed openings with corbeled brick hoods, crowned by pointed gables which also have corbeled brick hoods. A steep, tent roofed spire which was removed sometime after 1950, was originally located above the open belfry. The central projecting gable end wall of each side facade is divided into three bays and each rear-facing elevation contains a single bay. A large Gothic center pointed window fills the middle bay of each side facade. The rear facade consists of a projecting gable end wall, arranged in one bay, with a single bay on each side-facing elevation.

The church is distinguished by several elements reflective of the vernacular ecclesiastical architecture of the last two decades of the nineteenth century. These include the asymmetrical massing of the porch and tower and the complex massing within the tower itself; and the steep, multi-gabled roof. Gothic detail is evidenced by the 1/1 center pointed windows, the corbeled brick hoods and by the buttresses.

INTERIOR: Basically symmetrical in plan, the church is exemplary of the auditorium form which was derived during the 1880s and 1890s to meet the needs of American Protestant worship. This auditorium seating effect is heightened by the sloping of the floor downward and to the center, towards the chancel. The church is comprised of wide, short nave and transept and projecting chancel; the chancel features a raised,

8 SIGNIFICANCE

| PERIOD | AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW | | | |
|---|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING | <input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGION |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499 | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION | <input type="checkbox"/> LAW | <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599 | <input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS | <input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE | <input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY | <input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799 | <input type="checkbox"/> ART | <input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING | <input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC | <input type="checkbox"/> THEATER |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE | <input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY | <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900- | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY | <input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) Black history |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION | | |

SPECIFIC DATES

1908

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Mount Pisgah A.M.E. Church, located in Greenwood, South Carolina, is a late interpretation of the vernacular ecclesiastical architecture of the last two decades of the nineteenth century. The structure also features Gothic detail. Exemplary of the widespread growth of independent black churches which occurred in the South both during and after Reconstruction, Mount Pisgah A.M.E. Church has been an important influence on the religious and educational life of the black community of Greenwood.

The African Methodist Episcopal Church was founded in Philadelphia in 1786 as an outgrowth of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Although originally centered in the North, the A.M.E. Church was active in South Carolina until 1822, when social pressures connected with the issue of separate black churches caused it to withdraw from the South. In 1863, the A.M.E. Church was re-established in South Carolina, and following the Civil War, its membership increased rapidly as blacks began to form independent denominational organizations and congregations. By the end of the Reconstruction Period, the A.M.E. Church had become the second largest black religious denomination in South Carolina; by 1890, the state had an African Methodist Episcopal membership larger than that of any other state.

Representative of this growth, the congregation of Mount Pisgah A.M.E. Church was organized during the first decade of the twentieth century. Mount Pisgah was an offshoot of Weston Chapel A.M.E. Church, the mother church of the Greenwood District. Dissenting members of the Weston Chapel congregation sought to establish a new church to be situated in a more centralized location in Greenwood, and they applied to the Annual Conference to be given status as a separate membership. Permission was received, and the membership of the new congregation grew rapidly. By 1908 the land for the church had been purchased, and Mount Pisgah A.M.E. Church was subsequently designed and constructed by members of the congregation. Due to its central location and large size, the church has continued to be used for meetings and community activities.

Promoting the education of blacks has been an ongoing concern of Mount Pisgah A.M.E. Church. According to church tradition, the congregation has been instrumental in providing annual financial assistance to Allen University. (Located in Columbia, South Carolina, Allen University (National Register; 1975) is named for Richard Allen, founder of the A.M.E. Church, and was established by the South Carolina A.M.E. Church in 1881.) Individual church members have also received assistance from the church in order to attend Allen University and other institutions.

ARCHITECTURE: Mount Pisgah A.M.E. Church is an eclectic example of the vernacular ecclesiastical architecture of the earlier 1880s and 1890s. Erected in 1908 by members of the congregation, the church also features Gothic detail. Architectural features of note include the steep, cross gabled roof with stepped end gables; the asymmetrical massing of the porch and tower; the 1/1 Gothic center pointed stained glass windows; the auditorium plan; and, the flat coved ceilings of the interior. The church, which presently serves a

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stepped semi-circular platform which extends forward into the crossing. The small, square room created by the interior of the tower serves as a vestibule and provides access to both the nave and transept. An additional small, square room is located to the left of the chancel and serves as a vestry for the choir.

The interior retains the original wood flooring, baseboards, vertical tongue and groove wainscoting and chair rail, with plaster walls above. Narrow beaded boards are featured both on the flat coved ceiling of the nave and on the flat coved ceiling of the crossing and transept, where they are arranged in a diagonal pattern. The flat ceiling of the chancel features narrow beaded boards and a deep boxed cornice with heavy dentil detail. Two monumental fluted Corinthian columns separate the nave from the crossing; two asymmetrical arches, supported by a panelled wood pilaster, frame the chancel. Flanking the chancel to the left is a semi-circular arch recessed into the plaster wall. The original pulpit, altar and the balustrade, with turned balusters and newel posts, remain. Also notable are the early lighting fixtures. The curving pews date to the 1880s and are not original to the church.

SURROUNDINGS: Mount Pisgah A.M.E. Church is located in a quiet residential setting. Situated on a corner lot, the church is flanked by streets to the front and right. Private residences flank the church to the left and rear. No other structures are located on the site.

FHR-8-300A
(11/78)

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congregation of 60, has been in continuous use since its construction and has been conscientiously maintained. In addition, Mount Pisgah A.M.E. Church is an architectural reminder of the African Methodist Episcopal Church and its importance to the black community in Greenwood.

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- Ashmore, Nancy Vance. "The Development of the African Methodist Episcopal Church in South Carolina, 1865-1965." M.A. thesis, University of South Carolina, 1969.
- Perrin, Amanda MacDaniel. "History of Mount Pisgah A.M.E. Church." Souvenir Program Forty-First Anniversary Mount Pisgah A.M.E. Church, 1908-1950, 8-14 May 1950.
- Records of Mesne Conveyance, Deed Book 24, p. 73. Greenwood County Clerk of Court, Greenwood County, S.C.
- Taylor, Alrutheus Ambush. The Negro in South Carolina During the Reconstruction. New York: Russell & Russell, 1969, pp. 113-115.
- Tindall, George Brown. South Carolina Negroes: 1877-1900. Columbia, S.C.: University of South Carolina Press, 1952, pp. 186-187, 190-191, 202.
- Williamson, Joel. The Negro in South Carolina During Reconstruction, 1861-1877. Chapel Hill, N.C.: University of North Carolina Press, 1965, pp. 180-181, 188-191.
- Woodson, Carter G. The Negro in Our History. Washington, D.C.: The Associated Publishers, 1927, pp. 148-149.

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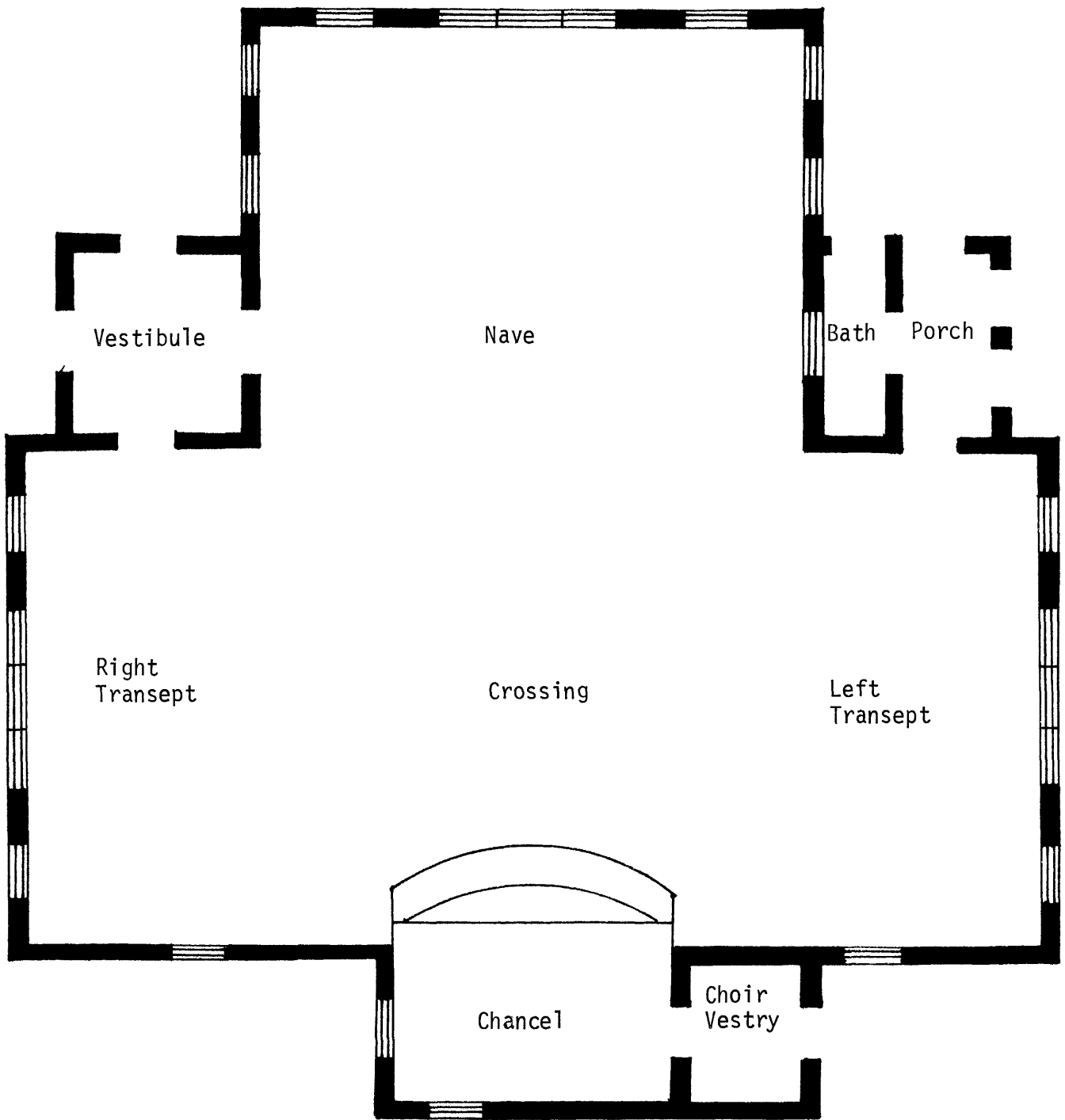
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of way of James Street for approximately 100 feet until reaching the SE boundary of the right of way of Hackett Street, the point of origin.



Mount Pisgah African Methodist Episcopal Church,
Greenwood County, S.C.

Floor Plan

not to scale

JUL 10 1979

REGIONAL
REGISTER

