

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

DEC 29 1976

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

AUG 16 1977

**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

Ebenezer Academy

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

2132 Ebenezer Road

— NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Rock Hill

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

#5

— VICINITY OF

STATE

South Carolina

CODE
045COUNTY
YorkCODE
091**3 CLASSIFICATION**(used for meetings once or
twice a year)**CATEGORY** DISTRICT BUILDING(S) STRUCTURE SITE OBJECT**OWNERSHIP** PUBLIC PRIVATE BOTH**PUBLIC ACQUISITION** IN PROCESS BEING CONSIDERED**STATUS** OCCUPIED UNOCCUPIED WORK IN PROGRESS**ACCESSIBLE** YES: RESTRICTED (exterior) YES: UNRESTRICTED NO**PRESENT USE** AGRICULTURE COMMERCIAL EDUCATIONAL ENTERTAINMENT GOVERNMENT INDUSTRIAL MILITARY MUSEUM PARK PRIVATE RESIDENCE RELIGIOUS SCIENTIFIC TRANSPORTATION OTHER:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Ebenezer Presbyterian Church

STREET & NUMBER

2132 Ebenezer Road

CITY, TOWN

Rock Hill

— VICINITY OF

STATE

South Carolina 29730

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

York County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Congress Street

CITY, TOWN

York

STATE

South Carolina

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Inventory of Historic Places in South Carolina

DATE

1973

 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

South Carolina Department of Archives and History

CITY, TOWN

Columbia

STATE

South Carolina

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Ebenezer Academy is a brick rectangular structure of simple design which measures sixty by forty feet. The bricks are laid in common bond pattern on a coursed fieldstone foundation varying from one to two feet in height. The roof is gabled with boxed cornices. At each end of the building are two interior chimneys, one on each slope. Entrances on both of the longer sides of the building have double doors with transoms and fieldstone lintels. There are eighteen windows, all of which are 12/12 with plain facings. The four windows in each of the gable ends are surmounted by brick voussoirs.

The interior is composed of three rooms: one large classroom and two smaller rooms. There are four fireplaces, the two in the large room being built entirely of brick.

In the late 1960s Ebenezer Academy, which had fallen into disrepair, was renovated.

Surroundings: Ebenezer Academy is located on the grounds of Ebenezer Presbyterian Church. Approximately six yards away lies the Ebenezer Cemetery, bordering the school on two sides. Here are buried many of the school's former instructors, students, and trustees.

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 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 type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Located on the grounds of Ebenezer Presbyterian Church (founded 1785), Ebenezer Academy is the oldest known school building standing in York County, South Carolina. Part of a trend which established academies throughout the South, Ebenezer's history has been traced to the early 19th Century. Called by one historian "an institution of English origin adapted to the needs of the Southern frontier...",¹ the early academy offered young men college preparatory classes with an emphasis on the classics. The Presbyterians were particularly active in establishing academies, and Ebenezer was one of their schools. It offered college preparatory courses in the classics and sciences and later enlarged its curriculum to include history, English grammar, geography and mathematics. Although the present structure was not built until 1860 (to replace the earlier structure which had burned), Ebenezer represents a type of institution which flourished in the South during the first half of the 19th Century and which declined at the end of that century with the growth of public education.

It is not known exactly when Ebenezer Academy was founded, although an 1888 account traced its beginning back to 1819 and said it may have been in existence even earlier. In 1823 an advertisement for the school claimed: "A healthy and beautiful seite [sic]--Board good and very convenient--Scientific apparatus--An academical Library of 170 volumes: --all are invitations to Ebenezer."² In 1824 the South Carolina Legislature vested \$10,000 worth of escheated property in York District to the trustees of the academy.

The school apparently grew steadily, and in 1848 its incorporation was renewed by the South Carolina legislature. In 1859 the Yorkville Enquirer reported that the academy had burned and that classes would be held in

(continued)

1. Francis Butler Simkins, A History of the South (third edition, New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1963), p. 171.

2. "Ebenezer Academy," The Pioneer and Yorkville Advertiser, Vol. I, October 11, 1823.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Bailey, John Crooks. History of Ebenezer Presbyterian Church. n.p., n.d.

Brown, David Douglas. City Without Cobwebs. Columbia: University of South Carolina Press, 1953.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one
 UTM REFERENCES

Latitude: 34° 58' 01"

Longitude: 81° 03' 06"

A	_____	_____	_____
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	_____	_____	_____

B	_____	_____	_____
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
D	_____	_____	_____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

(Debbie Steverson, Catawba Planning Council)

Kappy McNulty, Historic Preservation Division

ORGANIZATION

South Carolina Department of Archives and History

DATE

August 23, 1976

STREET & NUMBER

P. O. Box 11,669 Capitol Station

TELEPHONE

(803) 758-5816

CITY OR TOWN

Columbia

STATE

South Carolina

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Charles E. Lee

TITLE

Charles E. Lee
 State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

12-6-76

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION ATTEST: <i>Charles E. Lee</i> KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER	DATE: <i>8/16/76</i> KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER DATE: <i>8-11-77</i>
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CONTINUATION SHEET

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the church. An 1860 advertisement in the same paper notified the public that the school had been rebuilt: "It is a large and commodious brick building, with three apartments, well ventilated, and is furnished with every convenience necessary...."³

According to one account, a primary school was held in Ebenezer during the War Between the States. After the war, the academy apparently continued to provide college preparatory courses for young men. Ca. 1875 the academy became co-educational.

Distinguished alumni of Ebenezer included Andrew B. Moore, a judge and Governor of Alabama; George Washington Williams (1808-1868) a prominent lawyer, State Senator and member of the South Carolina House of Representatives; Archibald Ingram Barron (1807-1887) a medical doctor and signer of the Ordinance of Secession; and Thomas Jefferson Withers (1804-1865) a judge and member of the Secession Convention.

When Rock Hill public schools were established ca. 1888, the academy was leased to York County for an elementary school, a use which continued until 1950 when it was deeded back to the church. In the late 1960s the academy was renovated.

3. "Ebenezer Academy," Yorkville Enquirer, December 20, 1860, p. 4, col. 2.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

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"Fire at Ebenezer." Yorkville Enquirer, August 4, 1859, p. 2, col. 1.

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School Journal, Vol. II, No. 7, (November 1919), 199-203.

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A. S. Johnston, 1839.

May, John Amasa, and Faunt, Joan Reynolds. South Carolina Secedes.
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The Statutes at Large of South Carolina, Vol. XI. Columbia: Republican
Printing Company, 1873.

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