

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: Laurens	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	NOV 15 1973

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
Duncan's Creek Presbyterian Church

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
Old Rock Church

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER: Five miles NE from Clinton, S.C., in Jack's Township  
(4 miles NE from Clinton on S.C. Hwy. 72, 1 mile N on County road #34)

CITY OR TOWN:  
Clinton

STATE: South Carolina 29325      CODE: 045      COUNTY: Laurens      CODE: 059

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<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
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) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____

SEP 18 1973

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
Duncan's Creek Presbyterian Church Congregation

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Route 3 c/o Clerk of Session

CITY OR TOWN:  
Clinton

STATE: South Carolina      CODE: 045

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Laurens County Courthouse (Clerk of Court's Office)

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:  
Laurens

STATE: South Carolina      CODE: 045

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
Upper Savannah Historical Program

DATE OF SURVEY: 1972       Federal     State     Regional     Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
South Carolina Department of Archives and History

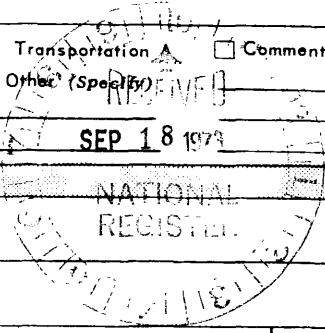
STREET AND NUMBER:  
1430 Senate Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
Columbia,

STATE: South Carolina      CODE: 045

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:  
COUNTY:  
ENTRY NUMBER:  
DATE:  
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OCT 1973

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Exterior: Rectangular in plan, Duncan's Creek Presbyterian church was built in 1842 of coursed cut stone irregular in length and width. All four sides are symmetrical. The gable end is the main entrance facade and is centered with double doors flanked by two narrow windows at a slightly higher level. Just under the gable is a shorter and wider window with an arch of radiating voussoirs.

Eaves project over the sides of the building which feature both central recessed doorways and two windows on each side. Stone lintels and slipsills frame the nine-over-nine windows. A brick chimney is centered on the sloop of the medium gable roof.

Interior: The interior is basically the same as it was in the 1840s with its rows of straight backed oak pews, bare wood floors, and hanging kerosene lamp. A raised platform at the head of the congregation elevates the simple wooden pulpit adorned with two fluted pilasters. It was carved by the Rev. Zelotes Holmes when he served the church in 1853.

One of the few changes made in the church was the removal of the original rear slave gallery in the first third of the twentieth century.

Surroundings: The church is situated on a wooded site and is flanked by a cemetery containing carved stone markers of both Revolutionary and Confederate soldiers.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                       |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input checked="" 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) - organized 1764, 1842

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Duncan's Creek Presbyterian Church, the oldest in Laurens County, is one of the earliest examples of rural church architecture in the upper part of South Carolina. Its unadorned simplicity and solid stone construction are characteristic of buildings erected by early Scotch-Irish settlers in the Southeastern United States.

Architecture: A simple rectangular building constructed of irregular stones, the Duncan's Creek Presbyterian Church stands as a reminder of mid 19th Century rustic church architecture. Its simplicity, uncomplicated symmetry, and fine stone masonry are features which make it a valuable record of up-country rural architecture.

Religion: As early as 1752 a settlement arose around the junction of Duncan's Creek and the Enoree River. John Duncan, a Scotch-Irish pioneer from Pennsylvania was one of the earliest settlers in this historic area. About twelve years later the Duncan's Creek Presbyterian Church was organized by Joseph Adair, Thomas Erving, William Hanna, and Andrew McCrory and his brothers. Shortly thereafter a primitive log church was built. The present church, a larger and more lasting structure of stone, was built more than seventy years later, ca. 1842.

Many churches in Laurens county are "daughters" of this old church as members of its congregation left to establish new churches in neighboring areas. Dr. William P. Jacobs, founder of Thornwell Orphanage and Presbyterian College, was the minister of Duncan's Creek for a number of years.

Sixteen men from the congregation who served in the Revolutionary War are buried in the cemetery. A memorial plaque was dedicated to them in 1928 by the Musgrove's Mill and Henry Laurens Chapters, DAR. Carved headstones also mark the grave sites of numerous church members who fought in the Confederate War.

The earliest marked grave is that of Susannah Long, 1776.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

OCT 21 1973

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES** S

Hanmet, Ben Hay. "Duncan's Creek Church", The State Magazine, August 17, 1952.  
 Howe, George. History of the Presbyterian Church in South Carolina (2 Vols.).  
 Columbia, South Carolina: W. J. Duffie, 1883. Vol. 1, pp. 229, 335, 426,  
 525, 526, 617. Vol. 2, 123-7, 281, 372, 375, 534, 709.  
 Jones, F. D. and Mills, W. H. History of the Presbyterian Church Since 1850  
 Columbia, South Carolina: R. L. Bryan and Co., 1926. pp. 998-1000.  
 Sellers, Hazel Crowson. Old South Carolina Churches. Columbia, South Carolina:  
 Crowson Printing Co., 1941. Plate 58.

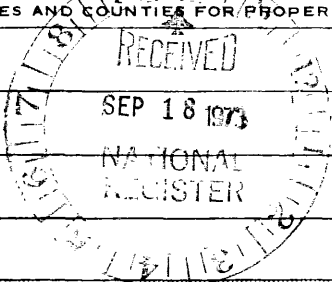
**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

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	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		34° 31' 18"	81° 48' 29"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **3-3/4 acres (1839 Deed Book N, p. 247)**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE: **Betty Myers**

ORGANIZATION: **South Carolina Department of Archives & History**      DATE: **August 15, 1973**

STREET AND NUMBER: **1430 Senate Street**

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

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

<p>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:</p> <p>National <input type="checkbox"/>    State <input type="checkbox"/>    Local <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Name: <u>Charles E. Lee</u>                  Charles E. Lee</p> <p>Title: <u>Director, S. C. Department of Archives and History</u></p> <p>Date: <u>Sept 5, 1973</u></p>	<p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p><u>Ernest A. Connolly</u>  <del>Chief, Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation</del>                  Associate Director, Professional Services</p> <p>Date: <u>NOV 15 1973</u></p> <p>ATTEST:</p> <p><u>Charles E. Lee</u>                  Keeper of The National Register</p> <p>Date: <u>11-9-73</u></p>
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