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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 of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

### 1. Name of Property

historic name Hermon Presbyterian Church  
other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

### 2. Location

street & number 446 Dave Lyle Boulevard  not for publication  
city, town Rock Hill  vicinity  
state South Carolina code SC county York code 091 zip code 29730

### 3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	_____	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	_____	_____ structures
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____	_____ objects
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: Historic Properties of Rock Hill  
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

### 4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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.  See continuation sheet.  
Mary W. Edmonds 4/21/92  
Signature of certifying official Date  
Mary W. Edmonds, Deputy SHPO, S. C. Department of Archives & History  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official Date  
\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

### 5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:  
 entered in the National Register.  
 See continuation sheet.  
 determined eligible for the National Register.  See continuation sheet.  
 determined not eligible for the National Register.  
 removed from the National Register.  
 other, (explain:)  
  
\_\_\_\_\_ 6/10/92  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

Entered in the  
National Register

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**6. Function or Use**

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Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Religion: religious structure

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Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Religion: religious structure

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**7. Description**

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Architectural Classification  
(enter categories from instructions)Late Gothic Revival

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Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brickwalls Brick

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roof Asphaltother Stone: granite

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**Describe present and historic physical appearance.**

Hermon Presbyterian Church is a Late Gothic Revival church building located at 446 Dave Lyle Boulevard in Rock Hill. The facade is dominated by a three-story bell tower at the right corner. The main entrance is at the first floor of the tower and has an arched transom window of stained glass with the name of the church. There is a corbelled brick arch with keystone above the transom, and quoining beside the door. The tower contains a quatrefoil window within a corbelled surround. The third level of the tower has a pointed-arch opening with keystone, corbelled hood, and granite sill. The tower is topped by a castellated parapet, and has corner buttresses which rise to the base of the third level. There is a secondary entrance at the left (south) of the facade. It is contained within a portico with wood columns, a bracketed cornice, flared roof, decorative wood designs, and an arched door. The central gable is topped by a gothic cross. Within the center of the facade is a large window with a corbelled-arch surround with keystone and quoins. The window has four rectangular subdivisions of 24-light fixed windows over three-light awning windows. Above is an arched stained glass window with tracery and the wording "Busy Bee Society." The north and south elevations have stained glass windows with pointed arches and corbelled surrounds. Several stained glass window sections have been replaced with clear glass. The roof design is a front to rear gable with low parapets at the ends with tile coping. There is a manse belonging to the church immediately to the north of the sanctuary which is not a contributing resource.

The interior features a rounded-arch ceiling with exposed beams and a central chandelier. There is a beaded wainscoting beneath a chair rail. The pulpit area is a raised platform in front of a large opening with pointed arch and slender columns at the corners. the rear wall has arched doors at either side with transoms and stained glass.

Alterations to the exterior include replacement of windows, a small one-story extension to the north of the tower containing rest rooms, and metal awning and modern door at the entrance.

## 8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally  statewide  locally

Applicable National Register Criteria  A  B  C  D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)  A  B  C  D  E  F  G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Period of Significance

Significant Dates

1897-1940

1897

Architecture

1903

Ethnic Heritage: Black

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

Hermon Presbyterian Church has significance for several reasons. It is an excellent example of a small Late Gothic Revival church building, with sophisticated architectural details. It provides evidence of the presence of an important black church in the community over a long period. It is one of the oldest and best established organizations in Rock Hill related to the black community, and thus provides evidence of the importance of the black heritage to the city.

Hermon Presbyterian Church began with a group of 41 members in 1869.<sup>1</sup> Most of them were blacks who had been members of Presbyterian congregations prior to the Civil War and wished to have a church organization of their own. It had mission status under the northern Presbyterian denomination for a number of years before becoming fully organized in 1912.<sup>2</sup> The first minister was Rev. J. A. Rainey. The group first met in a small frame building on Elm Avenue (later Trade Street and now Dave Lyle Boulevard). By the 1890s, the church had grown sufficiently to begin the process of building a permanent church building. Land was purchased from the Russell Estate in 1895.<sup>3</sup> The church's pastor, Rev. C. M. Young, was the successful bidder.<sup>4</sup> The architect is not known. Groundbreaking services were held May 14, 1897, but the building was not completed until 1903.<sup>5</sup> The church was built largely through the work of its own membership, which included five bricklayers and seven carpenters.<sup>6</sup> Because the work depended on volunteer labor and an ongoing fundraising effort, construction continued for several years.<sup>7</sup> Members who led in the work included carpenter George A. Watts and bricklayer Howard Agurs.<sup>8</sup>

The building is an excellent example of a small church in the Late Gothic Revival style. The chandelier, of brass, was an original fixture in First Presbyterian Church (1895), and was donated to Hermon in 1914 when First church installed electric lights. The building represents a high degree of sophistication in design and execution, considering the small size of the congregation, the lack of available funding, and the extent of volunteer labor. The editor of the Herald declared the church "The handsomest structure in town, excepting the First Presbyterian Church."<sup>10</sup>

See continuation sheet

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

See full list of bibliographical references in the Multiple Property submission, Historic Properties of Rock Hill. The following references pertain to this individual nomination:

"Hermon Presbyterian Church, 1869-1974." Rock Hill, S.C.: Published by the church, 1974.  
Herald (Rock Hill, S. C.), 19 May, 1897; 11 July 1903; 21 June 1986; 3 March 1990; 19 May 1897; 25 March 1891.  
Toatley, Mrs. Juanita. Rock Hill, S.C. Interview, 20 June 1990.

**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 # \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

**Specify repository:**

S. C. Department of Archives and History, Columbia, S.C.

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreeage of property less than 1 acre

**UTM References**

A 17 496890 3864340  
 Zone Easting Northing

C \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Zone Easting Northing

B \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Zone Easting Northing

D \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Zone Easting Northing

See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

Parcel 598-24-01-007 as shown in the York County tax records, and represented on the accompanying planimetric map #75 for Rock Hill, S. C., drawn at a scale of 1" = 200'.

See continuation sheet

**Boundary Justification**

The boundary includes the entire city lot which has historically been associated with the property.

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Paul M. Gettys

organization Paul M. Gettys Associates date 28 September 1990

street & number 4180 Cureton Ferry Road telephone (803) 329-3567

city or town Catawba state S. C. zip code 29704

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The church played an important role in the education of black children. Prior to 1921, there was no public school for blacks.<sup>11</sup> As early as 1876, there were mission schools in Rock Hill for black children operated by northern denominations.<sup>12</sup> Rev. A. J. Rainey, Hermon's pastor, was operating a school at the church in 1886, and perhaps earlier.<sup>13</sup> It is uncertain how long this school existed or what age levels were included. Hermon played an important role in the development of educational opportunities in the years prior to public support for education for blacks. The church has also played an important role in the development and preservation of the ethnic heritage of blacks in Rock Hill. Leaders in education, politics, and the civil rights movement have come from Hermon and have influenced the progress made by the city's black citizens. As an example, when Rev. J. S. White, a white civic leader and minister at First Presbyterian Church, died in 1891, representatives of several groups presented tributes to his service to the community. Chosen to represent the entire black population of the city were the elders of Hermon Presbyterian Church.<sup>14</sup>

## FOOTNOTES

<sup>1</sup>"Hermon Presbyterian Church, 1869-1974." (Rock Hill, S.C.: By the church, 1974), p. 2.

<sup>2</sup>Herald (Rock Hill, S.C.), 3 May 1952.

<sup>3</sup>Ibid.

<sup>4</sup>"Hermon Presbyterian Church, 1869-1974," p. 2.

<sup>5</sup>Ibid.

<sup>6</sup>Herald (Rock Hill, S. C.), 19 May 1897.

<sup>7</sup>Herald (Rock Hill, S. C.), 11 July 1903.

<sup>8</sup>Herald (Rock Hill, S. C.), 21 June 1986.

<sup>9</sup>Herald (Rock Hill, S. C.), 3 March 1990.

<sup>10</sup>Herald (Rock Hill, S. C.), 19 May 1897.

<sup>11</sup>Douglas Summers Brown, A City Without Cobwebs. (Columbia, S. C.: University of South Carolina Press, 1953), p. 212.

<sup>12</sup>R. W. McGirt, "Negroes and Their Contributions," Rock Hill Historical Research Committees, Paper #21, 1952, Nan Carson Weller Room, York County Library, Rock Hill, S. C.

<sup>13</sup>Herald (Rock Hill, S. C.), 25 March 1891.

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Continuation Sheet

PHOTOGRAPHS

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Name of Property:

Hermon Presbyterian Church  
Historic Properties of Rock Hill  
multiple property submission

Location of Property:

York County, South Carolina

Photographer:

Paul M. Gettys

Location of negatives:

Paul M. Gettys Associates, 4180 Cureton  
Ferry Road, Catawba, S.C. 29704

Date:

September, 1990

Photograph # 1: Facade (NW)

Photograph # 2: Facade (NW)

Photograph # 3: Facade and right elevation (W)