

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

29 1994
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A) in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Trinity Methodist Episcopal Church
other names/site number Trinity United Methodist Church

2. Location

street & number 185 Boulevard N.E. not for publication
city or town Orangeburg vicinity _____
state South Carolina code SC county Orangeburg code 075
zip code 29115

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally.
(See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Mary W. Edmonds 7/26/94
Signature of certifying official Date

Mary W. Edmonds, Deputy SHPO, S.C. Department of Archives & History, Columbia, S.C.
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.
(See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. 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): _____

Edson H. Beall 8-26-94

Entered in the National Register
for Signature of Keeper Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

Number of Resources within Property

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u> </u>	buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

Orangeburg Multiple Resource Area

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: RELIGION

Sub: Religious Facility/Church

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: RELIGION

Sub: Religious Facility/Church

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)
Late 19th & 20th Century Revivals;
Late Gothic Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)
foundation Concrete
roof Asphalt
walls Brick
other _____

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or a grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

- Architecture
- Ethnic Heritage/Black
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Significant Dates

- 1928
- 1933
- 1944

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Period of Significance

1928-1944

Architect/Builder

Wilkins, William W.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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 # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: Trinity United Methodist Church, Orangeburg, S.C.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property Less than one acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	17	513320	3706040	3	_____	_____
2	_____	_____	_____	4	_____	_____

See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title J. Tracy Power & Andrew W. Chandler, NR Specialists, South Carolina SHPO,
with the assistance of Mrs. Barbara T. Townsend, Trinity United Methodist
Church

organization S.C. Department of Archives and History date 28 June 1994

street & number P.O. Box 11669 telephone (803) 734-8610

city or town Columbia state SC zip code 29211

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous
resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Trinity Methodist Episcopal Church

street & number 185 Boulevard, N.E. telephone (803) 534-7759

city or town Orangeburg state SC zip code 29115

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7

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MAR 29 1994

INTERAGENCY RESOURCES DIVISION
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Trinity Methodist Episcopal Church
name of property
Orangeburg County, South Carolina
County and State

Trinity Methodist Episcopal Church is located at 185 Boulevard, N.E., in Orangeburg, across U.S. Highway 601 & 21 from Claflin College and South Carolina State University. Constructed over a sixteen-year period from 1928 to 1944, the church is an excellent example of twentieth-century Gothic Revival church architecture.

This two-story brick sanctuary is cruciform in plan and set upon a raised basement with beveled cast stone water table. The entrance on the Boulevard facade is reached by a wide set of steps which rise in two flights to a splayed cast stone Tudor arched portal which contains a double-leaf plank door and stained glass pointed arch transom with the inscription "TRINITY METHODIST CHURCH." This entrance accesses a one-story flat roofed extension from the main block which contains the church's narthex and is finished on its exterior with a stone tablet with the inscription "TRINITY CHURCH" and cast stone capped wall buttresses. The church's main block rises two stories and features in its principal (east) elevation a large Tudor arched stained glass window with molded cast stone surround, wall buttresses, a centered three-part louvered vent, and parapet gable with cast stone coping. Its side (north and south) elevations consist of one-story flat-roofed wing extensions which flank the two-story nave. Fenestration on these elevations consists of either paired or three-part, flat arched stained glass windows with cast stone label hood molds and stops on the first as well as clerestory levels. Cast stone capped wall buttresses are located between windows on the one-story wing extensions while brick pilasters with no capitals accentuate the clerestory. Cast stone coping continues around the parapet of the entire building, the roof of which is clad in composition asphalt shingles. A copper-clad steeple topped with a Latin cross dominates the ridge of the roof where the nave and the transept wings intersect. A two-story over raised basement five-bay wide Sunday School building with similar architectural finishes extends from the north transept. The interior has a vaulted ceiling with exposed beams and a double-aisled nave flanked by wings accessed by a triple Gothic arched opening. Other notable interior features include the large pointed chancel arch and pointed arch stained-glass window within the chancel, original pews and other chancel furnishings.

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Trinity Methodist Episcopal Church
name of property
Orangeburg County, South Carolina
county and State

Trinity Methodist Episcopal Church is significant as an excellent example of twentieth-century Gothic Revival church architecture and for its association with Orangeburg's extensive and influential black community.

This building is the fourth separate sanctuary serving this congregation. The church was organized in January 1866, during Reconstruction, by Reverend T. Willard Lewis and Reverend Thomas Phillips, and became part of the Orangeburg Circuit of the South Carolina Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church. The first worship services were held in a school operated by the Freedmen's Bureau, and the first separate sanctuary was constructed in 1870 at the corner of Amelia Street and Pittman Alley, a few blocks away from the present sanctuary. A larger second sanctuary, a Romanesque Revival building, was constructed in 1891 and served the congregation until October 1926, when the trustees of Trinity Methodist Episcopal Church acquired the present property at the corner of North Boulevard and Amelia Street from the trustees of South Carolina State College (now South Carolina State University) in return for the church property at Amelia Street and Pittman Alley. The congregation worshipped in the chapel at Claflin College until a temporary frame sanctuary was constructed on the lot in 1927.

The present sanctuary was designed by William W. Wilkins (1881-1937), a professor of Manual Training and Industrial Education and teacher-trainer of Shopwork at South Carolina State from 1918 until his death in 1937. Wilkins, who was educated at Claflin College, South Carolina State, and the Carnegie Institute of Technology, never held an architect's license but designed buildings under the supervision of Miller F. Whittaker (1892-1949), who was one of the first black architects to practice in South Carolina, and was professor (and later dean) of the Mechanical Arts Department at South Carolina State from 1913 to 1932 and then third president of the college from 1932 until his death in 1949.

Groundbreaking ceremonies were held for the present sanctuary in the spring of 1928, but construction proceeded slowly as the church found itself in the midst of the Depression. The congregation hired no contractor to build its church, but relied instead on the carpenters, masons, craftsmen, and other church members for the actual construction. In September 1933, after over five years' work, only the foundation, basement, exterior walls, and roof were completed; the congregation began holding worship services in the basement at this time. Little further construction was undertaken until 1939, when the floor and ceiling were installed and the walls were plastered in the sanctuary and the front steps were built. Interior finish work continued over the next five years, and the first services were held in the completed Trinity Methodist Episcopal Church in August 1944. The

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Trinity Methodist Episcopal Church
name of property
Orangeburg County, South Carolina
county and State

completion of this sanctuary during a sixteen-year period of extreme economic hardship helps illustrate the importance of this church and its congregation to the city of Orangeburg. The central role played by Trinity Methodist during the Civil Rights Movement of the 1950s and 1960s as the site of numerous organizational and strategic meetings, and its members as some of the most prominent and influential leaders of South Carolina's black community, is further confirmation of the continuing significance of this church not only to Orangeburg but to the state as well.¹

¹Barbara T. Townsend, Interview with Dudley M. Zimmerman, Board of Trustees, Trinity United Methodist Church, Orangeburg, S.C., 14 March 1994; South Carolina State Agricultural and Mechanical College, Forty-First Annual Report for Period September 1936 to September 1937 (Orangeburg: South Carolina State Agricultural and Mechanical College, 1937), pp. 7-8; The Wilkinsonian, 1925 Yearbook of South Carolina State Agricultural and Mechanical College (Orangeburg: South Carolina State Agricultural and Mechanical College, 1925), p. 22; T.K. Bythewood, "Celebrating the 127th Anniversary of Trinity United Methodist Church, Orangeburg, South Carolina, 1866-1993" (Orangeburg: Trinity United Methodist Church, 1993); Beulah Q. Caldwell and Daisy E. Pearson, "Entering the Sanctuary," 20-25 August 1944 (n.p.: n.p., 1944); Church Records, Trinity United Methodist Church, Orangeburg, S.C.; Orangeburg County Deeds, Orangeburg County Courthouse, Orangeburg, S.C.; Minutes of the South Carolina Annual Conference, Methodist Episcopal Church, South, 1866-1944; John E. Wells and Robert E. Dalton, The South Carolina Architects, 1885-1935: A Biographical Directory (Richmond: New South Architectural Press, 1992), p. 204.

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Trinity Methodist Episcopal Church
name of property
Orangeburg County, South Carolina
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BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Bythewood, T.K. "Celebrating the 127th Anniversary of Trinity United Methodist Church, Orangeburg, South Carolina, 1866-1993." Orangeburg: Trinity United Methodist Church, 1993.
- Caldwell, Beulah Q. and Daisy E. Pearson. "Entering the Sanctuary," 20-25 August 1944. n.p.: n.p., 1944.
- Orangeburg County Deeds, Orangeburg County Courthouse, Orangeburg, S.C.
- South Carolina Conference, Methodist Episcopal Church, South. Minutes, 1866-1944.
- South Carolina State Agricultural and Mechanical College, Forty-First Annual Report for Period September 1936 to September 1937. Orangeburg: South Carolina State Agricultural and Mechanical College, 1937.
- Townsend, Barbara T. Interview with Dudley M. Zimmerman, Board of Trustees, Trinity United Methodist Church, Orangeburg, S.C., 14 March 1994.
- Trinity United Methodist Church Records, Trinity United Methodist Church, Orangeburg, S.C.
- Wells, John E., and Robert E. Dalton. The South Carolina Architects, 1885-1935: A Biographical Dictionary. Richmond: New South Architectural Press, 1992.
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Trinity Methodist Episcopal Church
name of property
Orangeburg County, South Carolina
county and State

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the nominated property is shown as the heavy black line labeled "Trinity United Methodist Church" on the accompanying Orangeburg County Tax Map 0171-15, Parcel 13-2, drawn at a scale of 1" = 100.'

Verbal Boundary Justification

The nominated property is restricted to the historic church and its immediate setting.

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The following information is the same for each of the photographs:

Name of property: Trinity Methodist Episcopal Church
Location of property: 185 Boulevard, N.E., Orangeburg
Orangeburg County, South Carolina

1. Principal (east) facade
J. Tracy Power, S.C. Department of Archives & History
S.C. Department of Archives & History, Columbia, S.C.
7 July 1994
2. Principal (east) facade
Barbara T. Townsend
Trinity United Methodist Church, Orangeburg, S.C.
March 1994
3. Right (northeast) elevation
J. Tracy Power, S.C. Department of Archives & History
S.C. Department of Archives & History, Columbia, S.C.
7 July 1994
4. Facade, entrance detail
J. Tracy Power, S.C. Department of Archives & History
S.C. Department of Archives & History, Columbia, S.C.
7 July 1994
5. Altar and choir loft
Barbara T. Townsend
Trinity United Methodist Church, Orangeburg, S.C.
March 1994
6. Window in clerestory
Barbara T. Townsend
Trinity United Methodist Church, Orangeburg, S.C.
March 1994
7. Basement
Barbara T. Townsend
Trinity United Methodist Church, Orangeburg, S.C.
March 1994