

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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JUN 5 1978

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DATE ENTERED

NOV 14 1978

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

Christ Episcopal Church, Mars Bluff

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

S.C. Highway 327

CITY, TOWN

Florence

__NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

6

STATE

South Carolina

CODE

045

 VICINITY OF

COUNTY

Florence

CODE

041

3 CLASSIFICATION**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
 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

Diocese of South Carolina

STREET & NUMBER

Drawer 2127

CITY, TOWN

Charleston

__ VICINITY OF

STATE

South Carolina 29403

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Darlington County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Darlington

STATE

South Carolina

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Inventory of Historic Places in South Carolina

DATE

1973 (update)

__FEDERAL STATE __COUNTY __LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

South Carolina Department of Archives & History

CITY, TOWN

Columbia

STATE

South Carolina

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Christ Episcopal Church was constructed in 1859 and is an excellent vernacular example of the "Carpenter Gothic" style of architecture.

Cruciform in plan, the church is of board and batten construction and rests upon low brick piers. The roof is steeply pitched with simple wooden brackets supporting the eaves. Windows and doors are pointed-arched, in the Gothic Revival style, and feature simple wooden tracery.

Entrances are located on both sides of the structure, in the projecting transepts. An entrance is also located at the northern end of the structure (at the rear of the church). Attached to this facade is a small wing which serves both as a vestry room and a cover for the door.

Ca. 1945 the wooden shingled roof was replaced by composition shingles. The original windows were replaced by the existing transparent glass ca. 1955.

INTERIOR: The interior of the church is simple and virtually unaltered. The walls are plaster, and floors are heart pine. The steeply pitched wooden ceiling is supported by exposed cross bracing. The original pine pews, altar rail, and other church furniture have been preserved.

SURROUNDINGS: The church is located in a formerly rural area which is now beginning to show signs of development. Adjacent to the church and included within the nominated acreage is the cemetery which contains the graves of many of the original parishioners and their descendants.

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 checked="" 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 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

1859

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Located in rural Florence County, South Carolina, Christ Episcopal Church is an excellent example of a vernacular interpretation of the Gothic Revival style of architecture (also known as "Carpenter Gothic"). The church is also exemplary of the small and frequently isolated churches in South Carolina which have played an important part in the religious and social life of their surrounding communities.

The history of Christ Church began ca. 1843 when Dr. Edward Porcher, formerly of the lower part of the state, was successful in arranging for Episcopal services to be held in the Mars Bluff community. In 1859 Dr. Porcher gave two acres of land on which the present church was erected. On June 5, 1859, Rev. Thomas Frederick Davis consecrated Christ Church. Families associated with the church included Greggs, Bacots, Ashbys, Harllees, Rogers, McCalls and others.

For the next fifty years Christ Church maintained an active, although small, congregation. With the organization and growth of St. John's Episcopal Church in the nearby town of Florence, membership at Christ Church declined. Ca. 1918 the church was closed, although interest in it has remained strong since that time. In the 1930's Bible classes were held in the church, and in the 1940's services were occasionally held. In 1950 Christ Church was reorganized as a mission and continues to be so today. With this reorganization, much effort has been made to keep the church in good repair. Services are now held regularly.

ARCHITECTURE: Christ Church is an excellent vernacular example of the "Carpenter Gothic" style of architecture. Erected in 1859, the church is of board and batten construction and features pointed arched windows and doors, as well as exposed roof bracing. Also typical of the style are the wooden brackets, the steeply pitched roof, and the simple wooden tracery.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

"Christ Episcopal Church, Centennial Service." 31 May, 1959.

"Constance Gregg Gets Harllee Cup." Florence Morning News, 8 March 1978, p. 7-A.

Florence, South Carolina. Registry of Christ Episcopal Church.

(continued)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY ca. 2

QUADRANGLE NAME Florence East

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:62,500

UTM REFERENCES

A 17 16166400 37190300
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The property is bounded in the east by South Carolina Highway 327 and on the north, south and west by the property of Eb. Willis.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Mrs. Agnes Willcox
 Florence City-County Historical Commission

Kappy McNulty

ORGANIZATION

South Carolina Department of Archives & History

DATE

March 26, 1978

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:

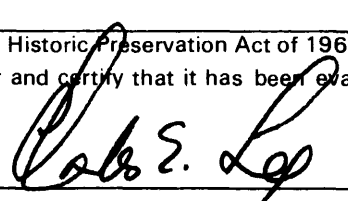
NATIONAL

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



TITLE Charles E. Lee
 State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE May 28, 1978

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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



DATE 11.14.78

ATTEST: Marcella Sheffy

DATE 11-9-78

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

9 PAGE one

Gregg, Constance. A History of Christ Church, Mars Bluff. Florence,
South Carolina: Fry's Mimeograph Shop, 1956.

South Carolina Department of Archives and History. Darlington County
Deeds, Book T, pp. 25-27.

Thomas, Albert Sidney. A Historical Account of the Protestant Episcopal
Church in South Carolina. Columbia, S.C.: R. L. Bryan, 1957, p. 46.