

# DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	JAN 19 1976
DATE ENTERED	MAY 28 1976

## 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

Kirkland Church, Smyrna Baptist Church

AND/OR COMMON

*Wm* Smyrna Baptist Church

### 2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

*Smyrna, Allendale*  
South Carolina Highway 22

\_\_ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Allendale

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
# 1

STATE

South Carolina

CODE  
045

COUNTY  
Allendale

CODE  
005

### 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 (exterior)

YES: UNRESTRICTED

NO

#### PRESENT USE

AGRICULTURE

COMMERCIAL

EDUCATIONAL

ENTERTAINMENT

GOVERNMENT

INDUSTRIAL

MILITARY

MUSEUM

PARK

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

RELIGIOUS

SCIENTIFIC

TRANSPORTATION

OTHER: vacant

### 4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Trustees, Smyrna Baptist Church

STREET & NUMBER

Bluff Road

CITY, TOWN

Allendale

VICINITY OF

STATE

South Carolina

### 5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Barnwell County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Barnwell

STATE

South Carolina

### 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Inventory of Historic Places in South Carolina

DATE

1973

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

South Carolina Department of Archives and 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 \_\_\_\_\_

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Smyrna Baptist Church is an antebellum frame structure of meeting house design set upon a low brick foundation. The exact dates of construction are not known, but local tradition maintains that the present structure was erected in 1827, the year in which the church was organized.

Exterior: The front facade is characterized by a central Palladian window flanked by balancing nine-paneled entrance doors with transoms. The transoms over the doorways repeat the pattern of the sidelights in the Palladian window. Wooden steps lead up to the front doors.

Both side facades feature five 9/9 windows with louvered shutters, many of which are in need of repair. Eyebrow windows are located directly above each window.

The rear facade features a central door with transom and two flanking windows, identical to the side windows. The wooden steps to the rear door no longer remain.

Molding decorates the projecting eaves of the medium hipped roof. The original roof was covered by metal in the 1970s.

Interior: The interior of the church was originally one rectangular room with four wooden columns. Presently there is a partition which divides the sanctuary. This partition was added in the 1920s to provide educational rooms in the rear. Plans are now being made to restore the interior to its original appearance.

The original pine flooring as well as the board and batten walls and ceiling remain in good condition. The original pews and kerosene lamps have been preserved. The original wrought-iron locks are on the doors.

Surroundings: The church is located upon a seven acre lot. The cemetery surrounds the church on its left, right, and rear sides. Prominent early Allendale families are buried there.

# 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 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 checked="" 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

1827, 1836

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Smyrna Baptist Church was organized in the early 1800s and served the Allendale area throughout its history. The church exemplifies the meeting house design which gained prominence in the early 19th Century.

Although the congregation disbanded in 1958, interest in the church's history and future remains strong, and plans for restoration and special services are being made.

Architecture: Of the meeting house design, this otherwise simple structure is enhanced by several distinguishing features: central Palladian window, transoms, and eyebrow windows. There has also been very little change to the structure since its construction, the only alteration being the addition of a partition which divides the sanctuary. Plans are currently underway to remove the partition and restore the interior to its original appearance.

Religion: During the War Between the States the records of Smyrna Baptist Church were destroyed; hence, much of its earliest history has been lost. It is known, however, that Smyrna Baptist Church was organized in 1827 and was first called Kirkland Church. By 1829 Kirkland Church had become a member of the Savannah River Baptist Association; and the Association's Minutes of 1831 report the following:

Kirkland Church -- very favorable accounts from this church. A very interesting Camp Meeting was held in the neighborhood of it the last of October which was attended by eleven Baptist and one Methodist Preacher. At this meeting about twenty professed conversion, several of whom have since been added to the church. They have no regular preaching. The next meeting of the Association is to be held there.

The following year (1832) the meeting of the Association was held at Kirkland Church which had then grown to 160 members. By 1836 membership totalled 236 members, and at this time the name changed to Smyrna Baptist Church. In 1849 title to the site was conveyed by William Mixon to "Charles H. Colding and James Rhodes, deacons of Smyrna Church of the Baptist denomination their successors in office, their heirs and assigns, all that lot of land whereon the said church now stands...."<sup>2</sup> Smyrna Baptist Church served the Allendale area continuously until 1958.

(continued)

1. Savannah River Baptist Association Minutes (Furman University, Greenville, S.C.)

2. Barnwell County Deeds, Deed Book DD, p. 108. (S.C. Dept. of Archives and History)

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Brown, John. Churches of Christ. Louisville, Kentucky: John P. Morton Company, 1904.
- King, Joe M. A History of South Carolina Baptists. Columbia, S.C.: Board of South Carolina Baptist Convention, 1964.

(continued)

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 7 acres Latitude: 32° 56' 12"  
 Longitude: 81° 21' 08"

UTM REFERENCES

A	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	B	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	D	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

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

(Huron A. Gray)  
(Debora L. Gwinn)

Katharine N. McNulty

ORGANIZATION

DATE

South Carolina Department of Archives and History

September 29, 1975

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

P. O. Box 11,669 Capitol Station, 1430 Senate Street

803-758-5816

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Columbia

South Carolina

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

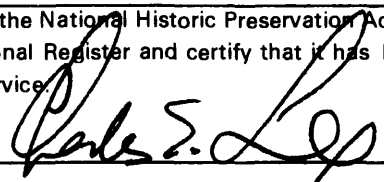
NATIONAL

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 12-29-75

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE 1/28/76

DATE 5-25-76

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
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Associated with the early history of the church is the heresy trial on charges of heterodoxy against Dr. W. R. Erwin, his wife Julia Robert, and her sister-in-law Rachael Robert. The trial was held when the parties asked for an official ruling on their views about communion. In July 1833 the three were excommunicated from Kirkland Church (later named Smyrna Baptist Church). In 1835 they founded Antioch Christian Church, the second Christian Church in South Carolina.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE two

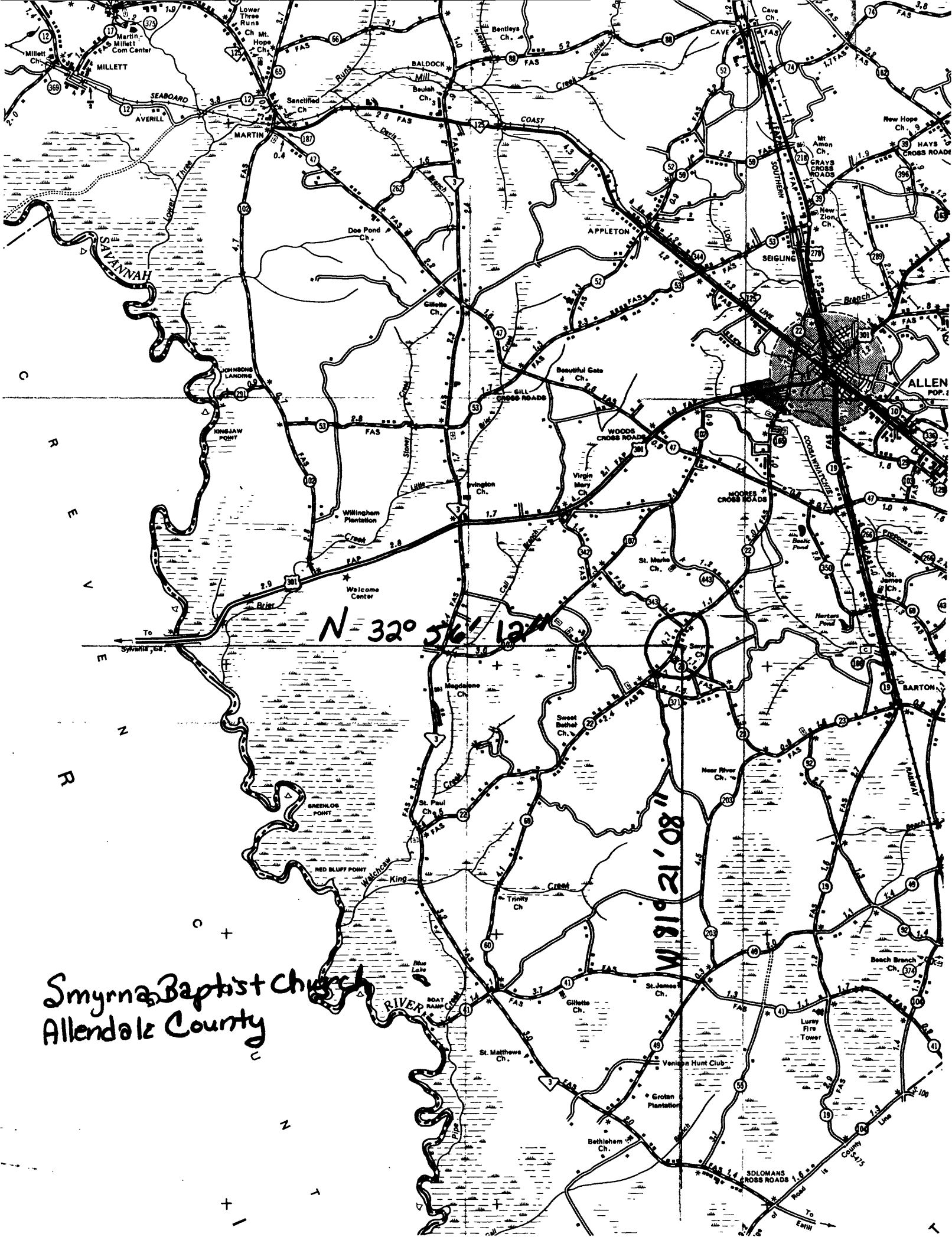
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Lawton, Alexania Easterling, and Wilson, Minnie Reeves. Allendale on the Savannah.  
Bamberg, South Carolina: Bamberg Herald Printers, 1970.

Thomas, W.J. "Sketch of Smyrna Baptist Church." Savannah River Baptist Association,  
One Hundredth and Thirty-sixth Annual Session, Hardeeville, South Carolina.  
Roanoke, Virginia: Economy Printing Company, 1936.

Barnwell County Deeds, Deed Book DD, p. 108. (South Carolina Department of  
Archives and History).

Minutes of the Savannah River Baptist Association, 1829, 1831, 1832, 1836.  
(Baptist Historical Collection, Furman University, Greenville, South Carolina).



Smyrna Baptist Church  
Allendale County

N 32° 56' 12"

W 91° 21' 08"

SAVANNAH RIVER

ALLEN POP.

SDLOWANS CROSS ROADS 1.6