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SOUTH CAROLINA INVENTORY FORM FOR HISTORIC DISTRICTS AND
INDIVIDUAL PROPERTIES IN A MULTIPLE PROPERTY SUBMISSION

NAME OF MULTIPLE PROPERTY SUBMISSION: City of Orangeburg Multiple
Resource Area

PREFERRED NAME OF PROPERTY: Mt. Pisgah Baptist Church

HISTORIC NAME OF PROPERTY: Same

COMMON NAME OF PROPERTY: Same

LOCATION: 310 Green (Corner of Green and Henley Streets)

CLASSIFICATION: Building

OWNER: c/o The Rev. F.G.S. Everett
Mount Pisgah Baptist Church
310 Green Street
Orangeburg, SC

DESCRIPTION

The Mt. Pisgah Baptist Church, constructed in 1903, is a one-story, brick church with a square plan, a pyramidal roof, and a prominent tower on the south corner. The southeast and southwest elevations each feature a cross-gabled section with corbeled brick coping and pilasters which extend to form pyramidal caps. Each of these elevations features a complex, tripartite stained glass window with rectangular transoms set beneath three semicircular transoms and three round windows, all of which are arranged under a round-arch surround of brick headers. There is a circular stained glass window in the gable end. A two-story, brick tower sits at the angle of the Henley Street and Green Street elevations. The front of the tower has a double-door entrance with rectangular and semicircular transom with header round-arched surround. The side elevations of the tower have single one-over-one windows; the second story has a double round-arched window on the front and single windows on the side. The tower originally had a frame spire, but this was removed prior to 1969. The Green Street (southwest) elevation has a double-door entrance flanked by two single one-over-one, double-hung, stained glass windows set beneath a triple arched surround of brick headers. There is a double-door entrance pavilion set at the angle of the southwest and northwest elevations. There is a modern shelter over the main entrance and

a one-story, modern brick educational building on the rear elevation.

The church has a square sanctuary. The towers at the south and west corners provide entrances. Recesses at the southeast and northwest elevations feature large stained-glass windows. The southwest elevation has a single entrance flanked by two small windows. An elliptical proscenium arch with a paneled reveal defines the chancel at the northeast side of the sanctuary. The wooden floor slopes down to the chancel. The walls are plastered, with beaded-board wainscoting. The hipped ceiling is of beaded board, with wooden ribs at the groins joining at the center.

SIGNIFICANCE

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: Architecture
Black History

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: L (for office use only)

SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANCE

Mt. Pisgah Baptist Church is architecturally significant as a turn-of-the-century church building whose brick construction and sophisticated design are especially noteworthy as evidence of the dedication of its congregation during a period when few blacks made more than a basic living. The pyramid with cross-gable design of the church, as well as its fenestration detail and very intact interior features make Mt. Pisgah Baptist Church an important example of religious architecture in Orangeburg from the turn of the century. In addition, Mt. Pisgah is historically significant for its association with Nelson C. Nix (see Treadwell Street Historic District, #26), who served as pastor of the church for over forty years during the early twentieth century and was a very influential member of the black community through his position as dean of the mathematics department at South Carolina State College. Mt. Pisgah was constructed in 1903 by A.W. Thorne, a black builder. Tradition indicates that this is the second building for the Mt. Pisgah congregation, which is said to have been formed around the mid-nineteenth century.(1)

ACREAGE: Approximately .73 acres

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: The boundary for the Mt. Pisgah Baptist Church nomination is shown as the bold black line on the accompanying map entitled, "Mt. Pisgah Baptist Church." The map was copied from Orangeburg County Tax Map #22 and is drawn at a scale of 200 feet to the inch. The nominated property includes only the historic building with its modern addition, and its immediate setting.

QUAD NAME: Orangeburg South

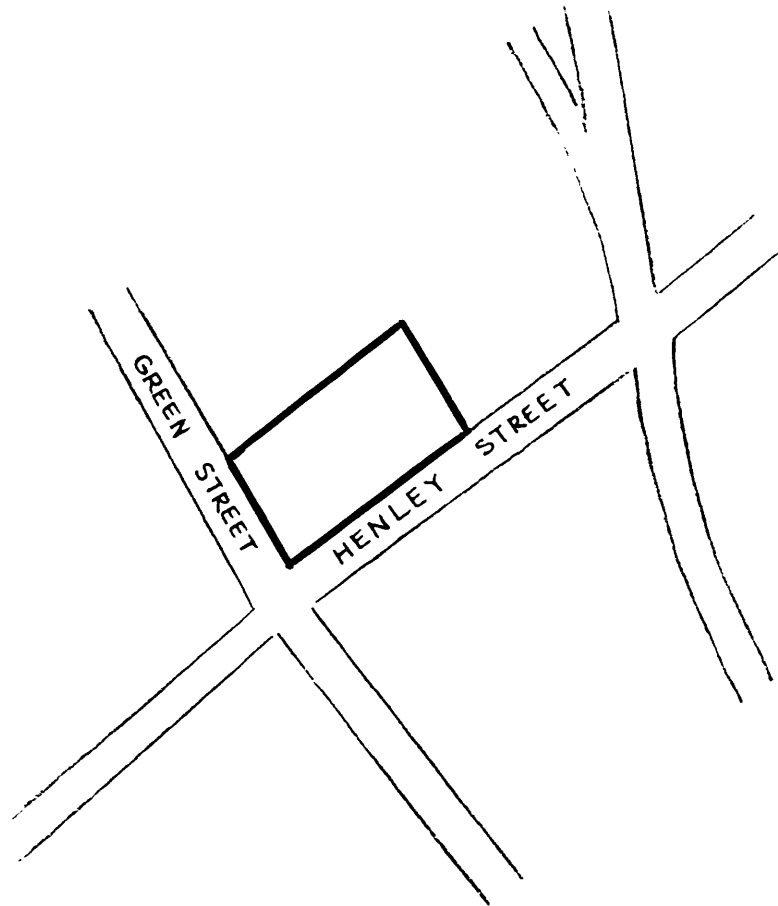
QUAD SCALE: 1:24000

UTM REFERENCE POINT: 17/512510/3705740

OTHER INFORMATION:

FOOTNOTES

(1) Annie C.A. Williams, "A Church History and Challenge for Mount Pisgah Baptist Church," 1984 Directory of Mount Pisgah Baptist Church, (Orangeburg, SC: n.p.: 1978), p.7; Works Progress Administration, "Survey of State and Local Records: 1936," South Carolina Historical Records Survey, Church Records From Orangeburg County; A.B. Caldwell, ed., History of the American Negro: South Carolina Edition (Atlanta: A.B. Caldwell Publishing Co., 1919), pp. 186-187.



MT. PISGAH BAPTIST CHURCH

SCALE 1" = 200'