Form 10-300
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:
South Carolina

COUNTY:
Charleston

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER 2 7   DATE NOV 2 7 1972
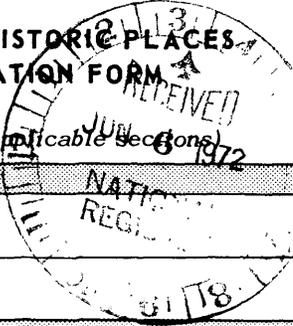
1. NAME

COMMON:

Christ Church (Episcopal)

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: 4.6 miles northeast of Mount Pleasant on US Hwy 17; on the right, across from junction with county road 97.

CITY OR TOWN:

Mount Pleasant vicinity

STATE	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
South Carolina	45	Charleston	019

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
☐ District ☒ Building ☐ Site ☐ Structure ☐ Object	☐ Public ☐ Private ☒ Both	Public Acquisition: ☐ In Process ☐ Being Considered	☒ Occupied ☐ Unoccupied ☐ Preservation work in progress	Yes: ☒ Restricted ☐ Unrestricted ☐ No

PRESENT USE *(Check One or More as Appropriate)*

☐ Agricultural	☐ Government	☐ Park	☐ Transportation	☐ Comments
☐ Commercial	☐ Industrial	☐ Private Residence	☐ Other *(Specify)*	
☐ Educational	☐ Military	☒ Religious		
☐ Entertainment	☐ Museum	☐ Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:

Congregation of Christ Episcopal Church

STREET AND NUMBER:

Highway 17

CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:	CODE
Mount Pleasant	South Carolina	45

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:

Register of the Mesne Conveyence

STREET AND NUMBER:

Charleston County Courthouse

CITY OR TOWN:	STATE	CODE
Charleston	South Carolina	45

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

South Carolina Preliminary Survey of Historic Places

DATE OF SURVEY: 1969	☐ Federal	☒ State	☐ County	☐ Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

South Carolina Department of Archives and History

STREET AND NUMBER:

1430 Senate St.   P. O. Box 11,188   Capitol Station   29211

CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:	CODE
Columbia	South Carolina	45

STATE:

COUNTY:

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

NOV 2 7 1972

CONDITION	*(Check One)*					
	[X] Excellent	[ ] Good	[ ] Fair	[ ] Deteriorated	[ ] Ruins	[ ] Unexposed
	(Check One)			*(Check One)*		
	[X] Altered		[ ] Unaltered	[ ] Moved		[X] Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL *(If known)* PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This rectangular brick structure was built in 1726 for Christ Church Parish, which was established in 1706. Originally, double entrances were placed in the north and south walls, each door being flanked by two windows to the west and one to the east. The east and west walls each contained three evenly spaced windows. Construction was a continuous process, and before the Revolutionary War several additions and alterations were made. The chancel was added to the east wall in 1732 and the two flanking windows closed. In 1741 the south entrance was bricked up, and a few years later ,the middle window of the west wall was converted to a door, which has served as the main entrance ever since. The church was burned by retreating British soldiers in 1782.

The solid brick walls survived the fire and restoration of the interior, roof, and woodwork was undertaken in 1787. It was then that the first cupola was added. The north door was retained in this reconstruction, however, and was not converted to a window until 1835 when a new cupola was erected, the exterior and interior walls rough-cast, and other interior renovations performed.

Towards the close of the Civil War a company of Union Cavalry used the church as a stable and the interior was wrecked. All that remained were four walls and a roof. Basic repairs, such as a new wooden floor, and new doors and windows which are still present, were completed in 1874. The double door is paneled and the windows sashed. At that time there were three windows in the south wall and four in the north. Over each window and the door were placed semi-circular recessed fanlights. Further improvements were made in the early 20th century. In 1915 the barrel vaulted ceiling was stripped of plaster and recovered with pine board and the beams which extend the width of the church were replaced. The stainedglass window in the chancel was obtained as a gift in 1917. A gift of $5,000 in 1924 coupled with federal reparations awarded in 1915 allowed many repairs: the roughcast done in 1835 was scraped away and replaced by a cement plaster; the interior walls were replastered; the church doors were shortened to open onto the raised wooden floor and the outside sandstone steps added; the hipped roof was covered with tin; the eaves were extended with boxing; and repairs and additions were made to the cupola.

In 1961 the wings were added on each side of the chancel as a sacristy and a rector's office. The eastern-most window in the south wall was converted to an interior door, retaining the fanlights. The corresponding window in the north wall was retained but was closed off by the presence of the northern wing.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS
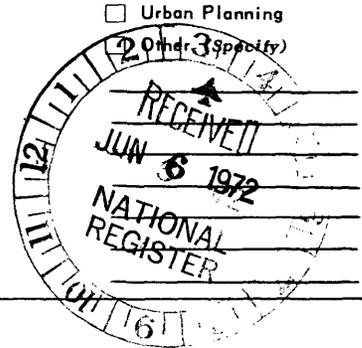
PERIOD *(Check One or More as Appropriate)*

- [ ] Pre-Columbian |
- [ ] 15th Century
- [ ] 16th Century
- [ ] 17th Century
- [X] 18th Century
- [X] 19th Century
- [X] 20th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) *(If Applicable and Known)*　　　1726-1961

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE *(Check One or More as Appropriate)*

Aboriginal
- [ ] Prehistoric
- [ ] Historic
- [ ] Agriculture
- [X] Architecture
- [ ] Art
- [ ] Commerce
- [ ] Communications
- [ ] Conservation

- [ ] Education
- [ ] Engineering
- [ ] Industry
- [ ] Invention
- [ ] Landscape Architecture
- [ ] Literature
- [ ] Military
- [ ] Music

- [X] Political
- [X] Religion/Philosophy
- [ ] Science
- [ ] Sculpture
- [ ] Social/Humanitarian
- [ ] Theater
- [ ] Transportation

- [ ] Urban Planning
- [ ] Other *(Specify)*

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Political and Religious Significance:

In colonial South Carolina, the Anglican Church's importance was more than religious. Interwoven into the development of South Carolina, the church was also important politically and socially.

The Church Act of 1706 was one of the most significant laws in South Carolina legislative history. That act designated the Church of England as the Established Church of South Carolina and also allowed dissenters to become eligible for all political offices. The crucial non-ecclesiastical aspect of the Church Act was more important politically, however, for it provided for the creation of ten parishes and churches which were in reality units of government.

Christ Church was one of the ten original parishes established in 1706, and as such served as the center for administration of local government. Proclamations and public notices were read in the church and government advertisements were placed on the church door. Vital statistics such as births, baptisms, marriages, deaths, and burials were entered upon the official church registers. The parish church also served as an election precinct for coastal and Low Country representation in the colonial and state legislatures until 1865. Local policy and administration of parish funds, comprised of donations and property assessment taxes, were conducted by the parish Vestry and Wardens, who were elected officials compelled by law to meet four times a year.

Among distinguished parish and Vestry members of Christ Church were Charles Pinckney, state governor, U. S. Senator, and U. S. Minister to Spain; and Thomas Lynch, Jr. and Edward Rutledge, signers of The Declaration of Independence.

Architecturally, Christ Church is representative of the continuous ingenuity displayed by a rural community in keeping its religious center operative. The original early colonial architecture has been adapted several times as the result of numerous events in the church's long history which have necessitated reconstruction and improvement, but essentially its colonial architectural integrity has been maintained.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Gregorie, Anne, King, *Christ Church, 1706-1959*. Charleston: The Dalcho Historical Society, 1961.

Lilly, E. G., and C. L. Legerton. *Historic Churches of South Carolina*. Charleston: Legerton and Company, 1966.

Stoney, Samuel G. *Plantations of the Carolina Low Country*. Charleston: Carolina Art Association, 1964.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY						O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES					
CORNER	LATITUDE			LONGITUDE				LATITUDE			LONGITUDE		
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"							
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"		32	50	38.3	79	48	50.3
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"							
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"							

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: five acres

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:

Wright Caughman   Historic Preservation Assistant

ORGANIZATION: South Carolina Department of Archives and History   DATE: March 24, 1972

STREET AND NUMBER: 1430 Senate St.   P. O. Box 11,188   Capitol Station   29211

CITY OR TOWN: Columbia   STATE: South Carolina   CODE: 45

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National ☑   State ☐   Local ☒

Name *(signature)*

Title Director, S.C. Department of Archives and History

Date *May 24, 1972*

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

(signature) Robert M. Utley

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 11/27/72

ATTEST:

(signature)

Keeper of The National Register

Date 11-20-72

SEE INSTRUCTIONS