

PH 0505340

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED SEP 29 1977
DATE ENTERED JAN 20 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
John Wesley Methodist Episcopal Church

AND/OR COMMON
John Wesley United Methodist Church

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
101 East Court Street

CITY, TOWN
Greenville

__NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
#4

STATE
South Carolina

__ VICINITY OF
CODE
045

COUNTY
Greenville

CODE
045

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
			<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
John Wesley United Methodist Church

STREET & NUMBER
101 East Court Street

CITY, TOWN
Greenville

__ VICINITY OF

STATE
South Carolina

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Greenville County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER
East North Street

CITY, TOWN
Greenville

STATE
South Carolina

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
Inventory of Historic Places in South Carolina

DATE
1973 (update) __FEDERAL STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS
South Carolina Department of Archives and History

CITY, TOWN
Columbia

STATE
South Carolina

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

EXTERIOR: Built between 1899 and 1903, the church is a two-story structure of brick laid in standard bond, a vernacular version of the Gothic style of church architecture. The building is basically cruciform in shape, with four large gable ends, the northeast corner being filled with a two-story extension under a smaller gable (the gable facing east), and the northwest corner being filled with a four-story square tower. The tower has a high pyramidal roof, punctuated by a small gable on each side and a pyramidal pinnacle at each corner. The tower has on the fourth level large pointed arch (lancet) openings on three sides, the east side opening being louvered, and the north and west side openings having wooden screens, louvered at the bottom and boarded at the top with applied wooden ornaments. The tower has small lancet windows on the second and third levels. The building has paired, square-headed, double-hung windows with one-light sashes on the basement level and pointed arch windows, double hung, with stained glass, on the upper levels; the larger stained glass windows have Gothic tracery. Pointed arch windows have brick voussoirs and drip courses of molded brick. The roofline is trimmed with a plain fascia supported by exposed rafter ends. The front or north facade consists of a wide central portion under a broad gable, flanked by the northeast corner extension and the northwest corner tower. The front facade has the main entrance located in the tower, at the top of a high, wide flight of concrete steps. The wide, square-headed doorway is set in a large pointed arch opening, the upper part of the opening filled with board and batten siding. The entrance is shaded by a modern metal awning.

Another square-headed doorway (shaded by a metal hood of concave slope, sawtooth trim and two curving brackets) on the left side of the facade leads to the basement. In the center of the broad gable is a broad pointed arch window with Gothic tracery; below on the main level are five lancet windows and on the basement level, three paired windows. The west facade consists of a wide central portion under a broad gable, flanked on the left by the tower and on the right by one of the rear additions. The central portion is dominated by a tall pointed-arch window with stained glass and Gothic tracery, flanked by smaller lancet windows. The rear or south facade has an identical Gothic window as the west facade, around which are the two additions made in 1945 (one is the pastor's office, the other is a choir room). The east facade consists of a gable end identical to the west gable, flanked on the left by one of the rear additions and on the right by the northeast extension. The extension has the upper section of a pointed arch window with tracery in the gable.

INTERIOR: The sanctuary is located on the first or main floor and is in the shape of a Greek cross, with the altar and pipe organ located at the rear and a balcony located over the front entrance. The floor is of wood. Walls are plaster, above a wainscot of plain vertical boards with a narrow chairrail. The ceiling which follows the pitch of the gables is faced with narrow wooden boards and trimmed with a plain wooden cornice. A light fixture hangs from a carved medallion in the center of the ceiling. Seats are wooden folding chairs. All furnishings, except for the organ added in 1929, are original. On the basement level are meeting rooms, a kitchen and a boiler room.

SURROUNDINGS: The church is situated on the southeast corner of Court and Falls Streets

(continued)

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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) Black History
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

1899-1903

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

After the War Between the States ended in 1865, the Methodist Episcopal Church sent preachers and teachers to work among freedmen in the South. At a meeting in Charleston, it was decided to establish a congregation in Greenville, and in 1866 John Wesley's congregation was organized by the Rev. J. R. Rosemond under the name of Silver Hill Methodist Episcopal Church. Initially, the congregation met in a building owned by a white congregation, but after voting to affiliate with the Methodist Episcopal Church, North, rather than the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, the congregation acquired a log building on Ann Street. That structure, now demolished, was called Hopkins Turnout. Alexander McBee, son of one of Greenville's founders, subsequently donated a lot at Choice and Cleveland Streets, where a structure was built and occupied by the congregation until 1900. The foundations of the present structure, at East Court and Falls Streets, were laid in 1899 and the sanctuary was dedicated in 1903, as John Wesley Methodist Episcopal Church. It is the congregation's third building.

RELIGION & BLACK HISTORY: The Rev. James R. Rosemond, organizer of the congregation had been a "slave preacher" before the War Between the States. After the war he organized several black churches in Greenville, Anderson and Pickens Counties. John Wesley is one of the earliest churches organized by him and one of the earliest separate black congregations in the state.

ARCHITECTURE: The church is a good example of vernacular interpretation of the Gothic Revival style of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The style is characterized by irregular massing; reduction in decorative detail as compared with earlier Victorian Gothic examples; regular fenestration with emphasis on pointed arch windows, with tracery; pinnacles and other decorative motifs on accent points (such as the tower); gables and steeply sloping roofs; large major interior space with emphasized height; beaded ceilings and wainscoting; wooden floors; and stained glass ornamentation. The church is essentially as it was when constructed.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Crittenden, S.S. The Greenville Century Book. Greenville: Press of the Greenville News, 1903, p. 61.

Ebaugh, Laura Smith. Bridging the Gap. Greenville: Greater Greenville Chamber of Commerce, 1966, p. 43.

(continued)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,7	37,2	1,2,0	3,8	5,6	8,6,0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING				
C				D						

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The property measures 79' by 79' and is bounded on the west by Falls Street, on the north by East Court Street, and on the south and east by lot # 59-6-1 which is owned by the James F. Burgess Trust.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

(Mr. C. B. Gibson, Trustee, John Wesley United Methodist Church)

Robert P. Stockton Georgianna Graham, Appalachian Council of Governments

ORGANIZATION

DATE

South Carolina Department of Archives and History August 15, 1977

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

P. O. Box 11,669 Capitol Station (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

Charles E. Lee

TITLE Charles E. Lee
State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE 9/8/77

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE 1-20-78

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST: *Charles E. Lee*
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 1-16-78

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE one

in downtown Greenville. The immediate area has deteriorated significantly over the past forty to fifty years, and contains parking lots and a few mill buildings.

There is a great deal of community interest in the preservation of John Wesley United Methodist Church. The congregation has received a \$25,000 Community Development grant from the City of Greenville, and architectural plans are being drawn for restoration of the building.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE two

"The Centennial Celebration of John Wesley Methodist Church." Greenville: John Wesley Church, 1968.

Tolbert, James A. Life and Times of Rev. James R. Rosemond. Greenville: Shannon and Company, 1902.

Greenville News, December 15, 1946 [clipping in South Carolina Room, Greenville County Library, Greenville, S.C.].

Interview with Rev. B. F. Witherspoon's three daughters by Georgianna Graham, Preservation Planner, Appalachian Council of Governments, Greenville, February 1977.