

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: Greenville	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	MAR 23 1972

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
McBee Methodist Church

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
McBee Chapel

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Main Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
Conestee

STATE South Carolina	CODE 29636	COUNTY: Greenville	CODE 045
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**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____ _____
		<input type="checkbox"/> Comments	_____

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
United Methodist Church Trustees

STREET AND NUMBER:  
1430 Lady Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
Columbia

STATE:  
South Carolina

CODE:  
29201      45

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:  
Greenville County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:  
305 East North Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
Greenville

STATE:  
South Carolina

CODE:  
29600      45

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
South Carolina Survey of Historic Places (Preliminary)

DATE OF SURVEY: 1969       Federal     State     County     Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
South Carolina Department Archives and History

STREET AND NUMBER:  
1430 Senate Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
Columbia

STATE:  
South Carolina

CODE:  
29211      45

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Eight sided brick structure with pyramidal asphalt shingled roof of soft green topped by white octagonal louvered cupola; molded brick cornice; whitewash around base sets off random brick exterior.

Brickwork broken by six windows with two sash: the small stained glass panes surrounding larger panes of clear glass added at later date. Balcony--formerly used by slaves prior to Confederate War--later removed and its door converted to another window.

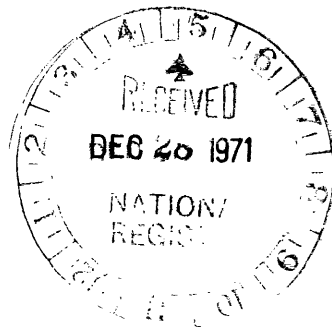
Flat brick arch crowns windows and white four panel double front door (top panel glass); original wooden pegs that bind casings still visible; seating capacity: 150.

Church situated on slight knoll with few shade trees on front and sides.

Interior has soft cream and buff shades, brightened by beige carpeting with colorful stripe; a bell rope extends down into center of structure; bell rung each Sunday.

Semi-circular altar rail, altar table, pulpit, and pulpit furnishings painted soft buff; gas heaters provide heat in winter.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**3. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			_____

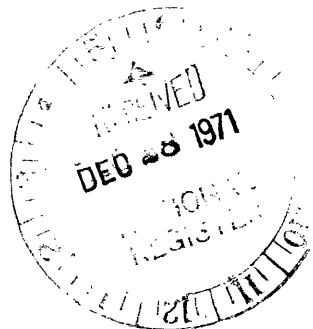
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Architecturally unique, McBee Methodist Church was designed by John Adams, a local wheelwright who felt that more seating space could be secured by an octagonal arrangement.

The little structure is a fine example of octagonal architecture in vogue in the United States from the 1840s-1860s, its prime advantage being that it encloses one-fifth more floor area than a square with the same total length of the wall. In addition, octagonal design offered a new aesthetic dimension to American architecture at this time.

Because the funds for the little church, still in use, were provided by Vardry McBee, born in Lincolnton, North Carolina and called "The Father of Greenville," the church was named for him. For more than half a century, McBee played a leading and generous role in developing Greenville industrially and commercially, donating lands and funds for the first churches and schools in the Greenville area.

Throughout its 130 year existence, the church has served as a meeting place for many organizations and civic discussions. Local tradition holds that this church was a rallying point for induction into the army during the Confederate War.



**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Green, Samuel. Greenville Circuit, S.C. Conference, M.E. Churches.

Marsh, Kenneth Frederick, and Marsh, Blanche. The New South: Greenville, South Carolina. Columbia: The R.L. Bryan Company, 1965

Neuffer, Claude Henry, ed. Names in South Carolina. Columbia: The State Printing Company, 1967

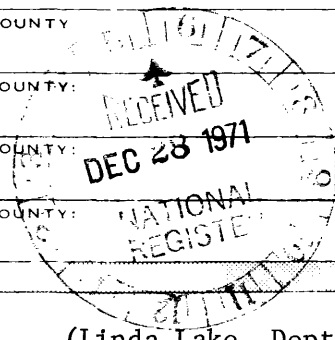
**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			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
NW	° ' "	° ' "	34	46	01
NE	° ' "	° ' "	82	21	10
SE	° ' "	° ' "			
SW	° ' "	° ' "			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1 acre

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE: Thomas M. Weidner, Jr. President (Linda Lake, Dept. Archives & His)

ORGANIZATION: Conestee Historical Society DATE: 5/71

STREET AND NUMBER: Box 92

CITY OR TOWN: Conestee 29636 STATE: South Carolina CODE: 45

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

**NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

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 Robert E. Lopez

Title Director, South Carolina Department Archives and History

Date December 16, 1971

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

Ernest A. Connolly  
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST: William Ventres  
Keeper of The National Register

Date MAR 9 1972

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*(Continuation Sheet)*

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(Number all entries) 9. Bibliography

Whiffen, Marcus. American Architecture Since 1780. Cambridge: The M.I.T. Press, 1969.

WPA. South Carolina: A Guide to the Palmetto State. New York: Oxford University Press, 1941.

