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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Allen Temple A.M.E. Church  
other names/site number Allen Temple African Methodist Episcopal Church

2. Location

street & number 109 Green Avenue [at its intersection with South Markley Street] not for publication  
city or town Greenville vicinity \_\_\_\_\_  
state South Carolina code SC county Greenville code 045 zip code 29601

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination    request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets    does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant    nationally    statewide X locally. (    See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official Elizabeth M. Johnson Date 2/25/2010

Elizabeth M. Johnson, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, S.C. Dept. of Archives and History, Columbia, S.C.  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property    meets    does not meet the National Register criteria. (    See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

State or Federal agency and bureau \_\_\_\_\_

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register  
   See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register  
   See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of the Keeper [Signature]

Date of Action 4/06/10

Allen Temple A.M.E. Church  
Name of Property

Greenville County, South Carolina  
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property  
(Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property  
(Check only one box)

Number of Resources within Property  
(Do not include previously listed resources)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
2		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
2	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)  
N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed  
in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Category: Religion

Subcategory: Religious Facility

Current Functions  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Category: Religion

Subcategory: Religious Facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification  
(Enter categories from instructions)  
Late Classical Revival

Materials  
(Enter categories from instructions)  
Foundation: Brick  
Walls: Brick  
Roof: Asphalt  
Other:

Narrative Description (See attachment)  
(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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**Continuation Sheet**

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Allen Temple A.M.E. Church  
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Exterior

Allen Temple A.M.E. Church, situated on a triangular parcel bounded by Green Avenue, South Markley, Vardry and Field [formerly Beattie] Streets, in the West End of Greenville, South Carolina, is a large gable-front, late Classical Revival brick building with twin towers of unequal height. Built in 1929-30 and laid in American bond, its design is attributed to Juan Benito Molina [ca. 1898-1940], a Cuban-born and -educated architect and the only black architect practicing in Greenville in the early twentieth century. The building contractor for its construction was F.A. Lawton, along with Bruce Bowens, brick mason, and L.L. Calhoun, plasterer. The church contains a steel frame, and at the time of its construction was considered one of the most substantial in Greenville. It retains a high level of exterior and interior integrity from its construction in 1929-30.

The building, basically rectangular in shape, is set upon a partially-subterranean brick basement foundation that features a soldier course water table. A rowlock brick course is located half way between the soldier-course water table and the facade's first floor windows and wraps the building at the window sill level along the church's side elevations. The church's two-story gable-front is dominated by projecting corner towers that flank a tripartite arched entry loggia. The central arch of the loggia is taller and wider than those flanking it. Facing north toward the apex of the triangular lot, the church's west tower is three stories in height and contains a large open arched belfry that once housed the church's bell, belt courses, cornices, corbels and pyramidal finials at each corner of its roof's parapet. A dedicatory cornerstone and commemorative plaque are located at the northwest corner of the west tower. The east tower, only two stories in height, has similar elaboration at its parapet. Set between the towers is a broad set of steps that accesses the triple-arched loggia. Three stained glass windows within the loggia correspond in size to each of the loggia's three arches. Other fenestration on the church's facade consists of two stained-glass windows with arched stained-glass transoms at the second level of the gable and a circular or rose window with stained glass at the center of the upper gable. The west tower contains two levels of stained-glass windows with arched stained-glass transoms in vertical alignment, while the east tower contains two levels of identical windows oriented left and right of center. At either end of and perpendicular to the loggia are the church's two front, double-leaf entrance doors, featuring arched stained-glass transoms.

The Green Avenue [west side] elevation is eight bays long [inclusive of the belfry tower], divided by brick pilasters. The first or tower bay features arched windows on the first and second level identical to those on the tower's front [north] elevation. The second, third, fifth and sixth bays along this elevation contain stained glass windows with arched stained glass transoms. The third bay features a large arched tripartite window with three arched sections, the middle of which is shorter and pictorial in character. Within the larger arch of this Renaissance Revival window and surmounting the middle section is a large circular stained glass window. The seventh bay contains a single-leaf paneled door entry with soldier course lintel, above which is a small single stained-glass window with arched stained-glass transom. The eighth and final bay, narrower than the others, features a narrower stained-glass window with arched stained-glass transom.

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The South Markley Street [east side] elevation is identical to the Green Avenue elevation, with the exception that the windows of the first [tower] bay features offset arched stained-glass windows identical to those on the lower tower's front [north] elevation, and the last two bays are obscured by the Dreher Educational Building wing.

All windows feature cast stone sills, wood frames, leaded stained glass [both geometrical and pictorial], keystones and impost blocks. Other architectural features along the upper facade and other elevations include a bordered soldier course band around the entire building, square cast-stone panel insets on each pilaster that align with the bordered soldier course, a rowlock brick band at the height of the pilaster capitals

The Dreher Educational Building was added to the southeast corner of the church's sanctuary in 1949. Two stories in height with a flat roof and parapet, this brick-veneered addition transitions from the main building on the South Markley Street elevation with an entry pavilion featuring a stained-glass window with arched stained-glass transom similar to those on the main building, and an arched portal with double-leaf paneled door and arched stained-glass transom. Windows in the addition are typically steel casement type. A square brick chimney stack that serviced a boiler-type heating system rises high above this historic addition. Lewis J. (Dutch) Walker, well-known Greenville architect and designer of the Greenville Memorial Auditorium [1958, demolished 1997] along with his partner, Joseph G. Cunningham, served as the addition's architect. Wilfred Walker was the chairman of the building committee. Other persons involved were Bruce Bowens, Ed Dirton, Johnny Bates, and Isaac Jones.

Interior

The principal entries into the sanctuary are through paired six-panel doors from vestibules located on the first level in either of the building's towers. The sanctuary is located on the main floor and is rectangular in shape, with the plaster walls being divided into two sections with baseboard and chair rail defining the base, paneled Doric order pilasters and moulded arched window surrounds punctuating the larger portion of the room's wall surfaces, and a cornice delineating and corresponding to the pilasters' capitals. Windows surrounding the room were given in honor or in memory of particular individuals, families or organizations. The large arched Palladian window between the entrance doors from the towers' vestibules [rear of the sanctuary] depicts Christ's ascension, while that at the center of the west wall portrays Christ knocking at the door, and the one on the east wall represents Christ's calling the children unto him. Above the room's cornice is a coved and moulded plaster ceiling. From the center of a circular moulded plaster ceiling medallion hangs a large original chandelier. Four smaller chandeliers of the same vintage hang from the ceiling at the room's corners. An additional one hangs over the altar. Sconces adorn each pilaster except those at the corners. The walls at the corners of the sanctuary nearest the altar and pulpit are canted and punctuated with single-leaf, six-panel doors and large rectangular moulded plaster panels. The sanctuary's carpet-covered wooden floor slants toward the altar rail with three ranks of curved wooden pews with cushioned seats. On each pew along the two aisles are dedicatory plaques.



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The aisles turn as they approach the raised and bowed, balustraded altar rail, behind which is the communion table. The pulpit with central lectern and clerical chairs, as well as the choir loft and organ/piano enclosure, are within a recessed chancel framed by a moulded segmental proscenium arch. Three schoolhouse type light fixtures are suspended from the chancel's ceiling. Flanked by pilasters with wall sconces, a large central rectangular stained-glass window with full-height Latin cross overlay dominates the rear wall of the chancel. At the chancel's left [east] corner is a double-leaf door to the exterior that is surmounted by a smaller, rectangular-shaped stained-glass window.

In the Educational Building addition are ten classrooms, three bathrooms, a kitchen, two meeting rooms, and a basement. The sanctuary itself features a partial basement.

Surroundings

To the rear of the church and facing Green Avenue is a brick-veneered Craftsman bungalow residence that was built ca. 1920 as a frame one-and-one-half story building, but was sheathed in brick between 1929 and 1949, within the property's period of significance.<sup>1</sup> It was long used as the church parsonage, and contributes to the significance of the Allen Temple A.M.E. Church for the period of significance 1929-1949. The house features a full-width, engaged front porch with full-height brick pier supports and a brick balustrade, as well as a large gable-front dormer with knee braces, exposed rafter tails, asbestos shingle siding and a horizontal triple window. Knee braces are still evident at gable ends. One brick chimney pierces the front roof slope, while two rise from the rear roof slopes, on either side of the rear gabled ell. The house is now being used as a soup kitchen for the homeless on Saturdays.

Allen Temple A.M.E. Church is located in the West End area of Greenville, with Fluor Field, home of the local minor league baseball team known as the Greenville Drive, located just across the street. The city of Greenville is developing the entire area. The Allen Temple Community Development Center, built in 2002, is located on the side opposite of the baseball stadium. The original church bell was removed from the belfry tower and placed in September 1983 in a special brick encasement located on the front lawn at the peak [north end] of the triangle area.

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<sup>1</sup> Sanborn Fire Insurance Company Map, Greenville, S.C., 1920.

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**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations**

(Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- a owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- b removed from its original location.
- c a birthplace or a grave.
- d a cemetery.
- e a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- f a commemorative property.
- g less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

**Period of Significance:** 1929 -1949

**Significant Dates:** 1929-30

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

**Cultural Affiliation** N/A

**Architect/Builder** Molina, Juan Benito

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
  - Other State agency
  - Federal agency
  - Local government
  - University
  - Other
- Name of repository:  
Greenville Cultural Exchange Center,  
Greenville, S.C.

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**Summary Paragraph**

Allen Temple A.M.E. [African Methodist Episcopal] Church, built in 1929-30, is significant as the first A.M.E. church in Greenville, the county seat of Greenville County, South Carolina. Organized during Reconstruction as a mission church, it was formally organized as a separate congregation in 1881. It is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C, in the Area of Significance of Architecture, as an excellent example of early twentieth century Classical Revival ecclesiastical design by Juan Benito Molina [ca. 1898-1940], a Cuban-born and -educated architect, the only black architect practicing in Greenville at the time.

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

Allen Temple A.M.E. Church was one of several churches established in what is commonly referred to as the "West End" neighborhood of Greenville in the last two decades of the nineteenth century and the first decade of the twentieth century. Four other prominent churches in this section of Greenville served white congregations rather than African-American ones: Pendleton Street Baptist Church, established in 1890 as West End Baptist Church, built its brick Classical Revival church in 1913; St. Paul's Methodist Church, established in 1891, built its Classical Revival brick church on Pendleton Street in 1913; St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, established as a mission about 1900, built its Gothic Revival brick church on Green Avenue in 1904-05; and Second Presbyterian Church, established in 1892, built its Gothic Revival brick church on Rhett Street in 1909-11. Allen Temple A.M.E. Church was the sole African-American church of this period in the West End, building its present sanctuary in 1929, just before the Great Depression.

The only African-American church in Greenville individually listed in the National Register before the nomination of Allen Temple A.M.E. Church is John Wesley Methodist Episcopal Church, organized in 1866 as Silver Hill Methodist Church and affiliated with the Methodist Episcopal Church rather than the Methodist Episcopal Church, South. It built its Gothic Revival brick church at East Court and Fall Streets in Greenville 1899-1903. The church was listed in the National Register of Historic Places on January 20, 1978. A second African-American church in Greenville is a contributing resource in a historic district. Mattoon Presbyterian Church, organized in 1878, built its brick church on Hampton Avenue in Greenville in 1887. It is a contributing resource in the Hampton-Pinckney Historic District, listed in the National Register of Historic Places on December 12, 1977.

**Architecture**

Allen Temple A.M.E. Church is a later, more sophisticated, and more fully-realized design than either Mattoon Presbyterian Church or John Wesley Methodist Episcopal Church, the other African-American churches in Greenville listed in the National Register. It is not only the finest example of Classical Revival ecclesiastical design of any African-American church in Greenville but among the most significant of them in the entire state.



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Two particularly notable African-American churches built about the same time and of the same or similar quality are the Williams Chapel A.M.E. Church (built 1919-1925) in Orangeburg, designed by black architect and South Carolina State College professor Miller F. Whittaker and individually listed in the National Register on September 20, 1985; and Trinity Methodist Episcopal Church (built 1928-1944), also in Orangeburg, designed by South Carolina State College professor of manual training and industrial education William K. Wilkins, and individually listed in the National Register on August 26, 1994.

Allen Temple A.M.E. Church is also fully the equal of many high-style architect-designed churches—whether their congregations were black or white—of the first half of the twentieth century in South Carolina.

**Additional Information**

The first attempt to establish an African Methodist Episcopal congregation in Greenville occurred in 1871, when Rev. William Beckett led a mission congregation that met in a former Methodist church, on the corner of Coffee and Church Streets. After whites raised objections to a black church meeting there, asking for the deed and the return of payments already made, the newly-formed mission church languished. In 1875, Rev. R.W. Sinclair attempted to organize another A.M.E. mission church, this time renting first a blacksmith's shop and then a building near the Southern Railway Depot. This mission church boasted thirteen members, and by 1880 was meeting at the corner of West Washington Street and Echols Street, in the same two-story building where Washington Street (later Mattoon) Presbyterian Church, led by Rev. B.R. McDowell, held its worship services. The A.M.E. mission, led by Rev. James T. Baker, purchased the building from the Presbyterians in 1880, and renamed itself—now a full-fledged congregation—Allen Chapel A.M.E. Church.

During the pastorate of Rev. J.F. Jackson, the church sold its property at West Washington Street and Echols Street, and bought its present lot in the triangle formed by Green Avenue and Markley and Vardry Streets. Under Jackson's successor, Rev. E.H. Croix, a new frame building was erected and the church was renamed Allen Temple A.M.E. Church.

In 1927 the South Carolina Annual Conference of the African Methodist Episcopal Church assigned Rev. Augustus C. Sumpter (1885-1975) to Allen Temple A.M.E. Church. During Rev. Sumpter's pastorate the present church was built with the aid of \$2000.00 from the Church Extension of the denomination as well as donations from many members and friends of the congregation—some of whom mortgaged their homes to contribute to the building fund. The church was designed by Juan Benito Molina (ca. 1898-1940), a native of Cuba and graduate of the University of Havana who designed several buildings, including residences and churches, in North and South Carolina.<sup>2</sup> Rev. Sumpter laid the first brick, and the cornerstone was laid November 3, 1929. When completed in 1930, the new church was dedicated by Bishop John E. Hurst.

<sup>2</sup> Other than oral history interviews, all that is currently known about Juan Benito Molina was published in obituaries of him appearing in the *Chicago Defender* (National Edition) and *Pittsburgh Courier* after his suicide in 1940.



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In 1947, the Annual Conference assigned Rev. Franklin D. Dreher to Allen Temple A.M.E. Church. A group of members of the Board of Trustees approached Rev. Dreher on the subject of erecting a Sunday School building. The new Sunday School Building (later called the Dreher Education Building) also housed nursery-kindergarten students. Allen Temple A.M.E. Church was the first black church in Greenville to offer a nursery-kindergarten program.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> Ruth Ann Butler, Executive Director, Greenville Cultural Exchange Center, interviews with Allen Temple A.M.E. Church members Algie Bates, William Harpe, and Wilfred Walker, June 2007, Greenville, S.C.; Greenville County Deeds, Greenville County Register of Mesne Conveyance, Greenville, S.C.; history of the church at "Allen Temple A.M.E. Church and Community Development Family Life Center," [www.allentempleamechurch.org](http://www.allentempleamechurch.org), accessed 21 March 2008; Archie Vernon Huff, Jr., *Greenville: The History of the City and County in the South Carolina Piedmont* (Columbia: University of South Carolina Press, 1998), pp. 173-74; Judith G. Bainbridge, *Greenville's West End* (Greenville: The Westend Association, 1993); *Greenville, South Carolina City Directory*, 1933; Death Certificate of J.A. Molina, 28 April 1940, Greenville County Death Certificates, South Carolina Bureau of Vital Statistics; "Prominent S.C. Couple Die In Dual Slaying," *Chicago Defender* (National Edition, Chicago, Ill.), 11 May 1940; "Architect Kills Teacher And Self In Lovers' Quarrel," *Pittsburgh Courier* (Pittsburgh, Pa.), 11 May 1940.

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Select Bibliographical References

Greenville County Register of Mesne Conveyance, Greenville, S.C.

Greenville County Deeds

South Carolina Room, Greenville County Library, Greenville, S.C.

Articles on Allen Temple A.M.E. Church in the *Greenville News* (Greenville, S.C.)

February 10, 1990

August 29, 1990

September 13, 1990

Oral History Interviews, conducted by Ruth Ann Butler, Director, Greenville Cultural Exchange Center, with members of Allen Temple A.M.E. Church, Greenville, S.C., June 2007:

Algie Bates

William Harpe

Wilfred Walker

“Allen Temple A.M.E. Church and Community Development Family Life Center,” at [www.allentempleamechurch.org](http://www.allentempleamechurch.org), accessed 21 March 2008.

“Prominent S.C. Couple Die in Dual Slaying.” *Chicago Defender* (National Edition, Chicago, Ill.), 11 May 1940.

Huff, Archie Vernon, Jr. *Greenville: The History of the City and County in the South Carolina Piedmont*. Columbia: University of South Carolina Press, 1998.

Allen Temple A.M.E. Church  
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**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** Less than one acre

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Zone Easting	Northing	Zone Easting	Northing
1	<u>17 371155</u>		<u>3856169</u>

See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.) **(See deeds)**

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Ruth Ann Butler [with assistance from SHPO staff]  
 organization Greenville Cultural Exchange Center date 18 June 2008  
 street & number 700 Arlington Avenue telephone (864) 232-9162  
 city or town Greenville state S.C. zip code 29601

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets**

**Maps**

- A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

**Photographs**

Representative **black and white** photographs of the property.

**Additional items**

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

**Property Owner**

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Allen Temple AME Church  
 street & number 109 Green Avenue telephone (864) 233-7394  
 city or town Greenville state S.C. zip code 29601

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.). **Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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**Verbal Boundary Description**

The boundary of the nominated property is illustrated as the parcel at the intersections of Green Avenue, Markley Street, and Vardry Street, Greenville County Tax Parcel # 00730000500100, marked by a heavy black line as "Allen Temple A.M.E. Church."

**Boundary Justification**

The nominated property includes the historic church and historic residence associated with the church, and the city lot on which they are located.



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The following information is the same for each of the photographs:

Name of Property: Allen Temple A.M.E. Church  
Location of Property: 109 Green Avenue  
Greenville, S.C. 29601

Name of Photographer: Andrew W. Chandler, South Carolina SHPO  
Date of Photographs: 27 March 2008  
Location of Original

Digital Images: S.C. Department of Archives and History, Columbia, S.C.

1. Facade and Right Elevation
2. Facade and Left Elevation
3. Facade Detail
4. Entrance Detail
5. Entrance Steps and Arches
6. Rear (Entrance) Stained Glass Window
7. West Tower (Bell Tower) Detail
8. Left Elevation, Showing 1949 Educational Building Addition
9. View of Rear (Entrance) Elevation from Pulpit
10. Stained Glass Memorial Window
11. Rear (Entrance) Elevation Stained Glass Windows
12. Rear Stained Glass Window Depicting Jesus' Ascension
13. West Wall Stained Glass Window Depicting Jesus Knocking
14. East Wall Stained Glass Window Depicting Jesus and Children
15. West Wall of Sanctuary
16. View of Pulpit from Rear of Sanctuary
17. View of Pulpit and Choir Loft, Detail
18. Altar Rail, Pulpit, and Choir Loft, Detail
19. Detail of Pulpit Proscenium Arch
20. Original Large Chandelier
21. Original Small Chandelier
22. Original Wall Sconces
23. Historic Parsonage
24. Left Elevation of Church, Showing Relationship to Historic Parsonage







Recommendation: SLR Return Action: SLR Return None

Documentation Issues-Discussion Sheet

State Name: SC County Name \_\_\_\_\_ Resource Name Aller Temple AME  
church

Reference No. 748 Multiple Name \_\_\_\_\_

Solution:

Return of info. needs

PB  
Problem: <sup>app</sup> Section 8 does not adequately justify criteria C or area of significance in architecture. Other AME churches or Classical Revival churches are not used for comparison. Other works by Molina are not described.  
- Not on archival quality paper - is acid free. *[initials]*

Resolution:

SLR: Yes No

Database Change:

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Allen Temple A.M.E. Church

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: SOUTH CAROLINA, Greenville

DATE RECEIVED: 6/18/08      DATE OF PENDING LIST: 7/08/08  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 7/23/08      DATE OF 45TH DAY: 8/01/08  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 08000748

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N  
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N  
REQUEST: Y SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: Y NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT     RETURN     REJECT    7/31/2008 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

*See return sheet.*

RECOM./CRITERIA Return - Patrick Andrus -  
REVIEWER Lisa DeLine      DISCIPLINE Historian  
TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_      DATE 7/31/2008

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.





# United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
1849 C Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20240

## United States Department of the Interior National Park Service National Register of Historic Places

### Comments Evaluation/Return Sheet

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**Property Name:** Allen Temple A.M.E. Church  
**Property Location:** Greenville, Greenville County, SC  
**Reference Number:** 08000748  
**Date of Return:** August 18, 2008

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**Reason for Return:** The Allen Temple A.M.E. Church nomination is being returned for technical corrections and additional information needs regarding the Period of Significance (POS), Statement of Significance (SOS), and Photo Quality. The following must be addressed for this nomination to be considered acceptable:

**Section 8.** The Period of Significance is listed as 1929 – 1949. However, in Section 7, page 7, it indicates the Craftsman bungalow parsonage was built by 1920. Please clarify whether the POS includes the significance of this building after it was purchased for use by the church or change the beginning period of significance to 1920 for the construction date of this bungalow.

On page 8, the first paragraph indicates the church is eligible for listing under Criterion C as “an excellent example of early twentieth century Classical Revival ecclesiastical design...” Please provide additional information on how this fits within context of other churches designed and constructed within the city at this time. How does this church fit within the context of other Greenville African-American churches built at this time?

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## Photographs

The digital photographs are done in an incorrect pixel range and produce a poor quality image. The minimum range is 1600 x 1200 pixels at 300 ppi or larger. Refer to the current photo policy on the NPS web site for more information: <http://www.nps.gov/history/nr/policyexpansion.htm>.

Please call me at 202-354-2239, or e-mail at <lisa\_deline@nps.gov> if you have any questions.

Lisa Deline, Historian  
National Register of Historic Places  
August 18, 2008

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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

### National Register of Historic Places Registration Form



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer to complete all items.

#### 1. Name of Property

historic name Allen Temple A.M.E. Church  
other names/site number Allen Temple African Methodist Episcopal Church

#### 2. Location

street & number 109 Green Avenue [at its intersection with South Markley Street] not for publication  
city or town Greenville vicinity \_\_\_\_\_  
state South Carolina code SC county Greenville code 045 zip code 29601

#### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. (  See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official Rodger E. Shoup Date June 19, 2008  
Rodger E. Shoup, State Historic Preservation Officer, S.C. Dept. of Archives and History, Columbia, S.C.  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. (  See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau \_\_\_\_\_

#### 4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

<input type="checkbox"/> entered in the National Register <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	Signature of the Keeper	Date of Action
<input type="checkbox"/> determined eligible for the National Register <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.		
<input type="checkbox"/> determined not eligible for the National Register		
<input type="checkbox"/> removed from the National Register		
<input type="checkbox"/> other (explain):		

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: RESUBMISSION

PROPERTY NAME: Allen Temple A.M.E. Church

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: SOUTH CAROLINA, Greenville

DATE RECEIVED: 3/05/10      DATE OF PENDING LIST:      4/19/10  
DATE OF 16TH DAY:      DATE OF 45TH DAY:  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 08000748

DETAILED EVALUATION:

   ACCEPT       RETURN       REJECT    \_\_\_\_\_ DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

*A.M.E. Church designed by  
Juan Benito Molina.*

RECOM./CRITERIA   C  

REVIEWER   Usideline  

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_

DISCIPLINE   Historic  

DATE   4/22/10  

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N





1. Allen Temple A.M.E. Church  
109 Green Avenue, Greenville  
Greenville County, South Carolina

Façade and Right Elevation



2. Allen Temple A.M.E. Church  
109 Green Avenue, Greenville  
Greenville County, South Carolina

Façade and Left Elevation



3. Allen Temple A.M.E. Church  
109 Green Avenue, Greenville  
Greenville County, South Carolina

Façade Detail



4.

Allen Temple A.M.E. Church  
109 Green Avenue, Greenville  
Greenville County, South Carolina

Entrance Detail



5. Allen Temple A.M.E. Church  
109 Green Avenue, Greenville  
Greenville County, South Carolina

Entrance Steps and Arches





6.

Allen Temple A.M.E. Church  
109 Green Avenue, Greenville  
Greenville County, South Carolina

Rear (Entrance) Stained Glass Window



7.

Allen Temple A.M.E. Church  
109 Green Avenue, Greenville  
Greenville County, South Carolina

West Tower (Bell Tower) Detail



8. Allen Temple A.M.E. Church  
109 Green Avenue, Greenville  
Greenville County, South Carolina

Left Elevation, Showing 1949 Educational Building Addition



9. Allen Temple A.M.E. Church  
109 Green Avenue, Greenville  
Greenville County, South Carolina

View of Rear (Entrance) Elevation from Pulpit



10.

Allen Temple A.M.E. Church  
109 Green Avenue, Greenville  
Greenville County, South Carolina

Stained Glass Memorial Window





11. Allen Temple A.M.E. Church  
109 Green Avenue, Greenville  
Greenville County, South Carolina

Rear (Entrance) Elevation Stained Glass Windows



12.

Allen Temple A.M.E. Church  
109 Green Avenue, Greenville  
Greenville County, South Carolina

Rear Stained Glass Window Depicting Jesus' Ascension



13.

Allen Temple A.M.E. Church  
109 Green Avenue, Greenville  
Greenville County, South Carolina

West Wall Stained Glass Window Depicting Jesus Knocking



14.

Allen Temple A.M.E. Church  
109 Green Avenue, Greenville  
Greenville County, South Carolina

East Wall Stained Glass Window Depicting Jesus and Children



15. Allen Temple A.M.E. Church  
109 Green Avenue, Greenville  
Greenville County, South Carolina

West Wall of Sanctuary





16. Allen Temple A.M.E. Church  
109 Green Avenue, Greenville  
Greenville County, South Carolina

View of Pulpit from Rear of Sanctuary



17. Allen Temple A.M.E. Church  
109 Green Avenue, Greenville  
Greenville County, South Carolina

View of Pulpit and Choir Loft, Detail



18. Allen Temple A.M.E. Church  
109 Green Avenue, Greenville  
Greenville County, South Carolina

Altar Rail, Pulpit, and Choir Loft, Detail



19.

Allen Temple A.M.E. Church  
109 Green Avenue, Greenville  
Greenville County, South Carolina

Detail of Pulpit Proscenium Arch

Detail of Pulpit Proscenium Arch



20.

Allen Temple A.M.E. Church  
109 Green Avenue, Greenville  
Greenville County, South Carolina

Original Large Chandelier





21.

Allen Temple A.M.E. Church  
109 Green Avenue, Greenville  
Greenville County, South Carolina

Original Small Chandelier



22.

Allen Temple A.M.E. Church  
109 Green Avenue, Greenville  
Greenville County, South Carolina

Original Wall Sconces



23. Allen Temple A.M.E. Church  
109 Green Avenue, Greenville  
Greenville County, South Carolina

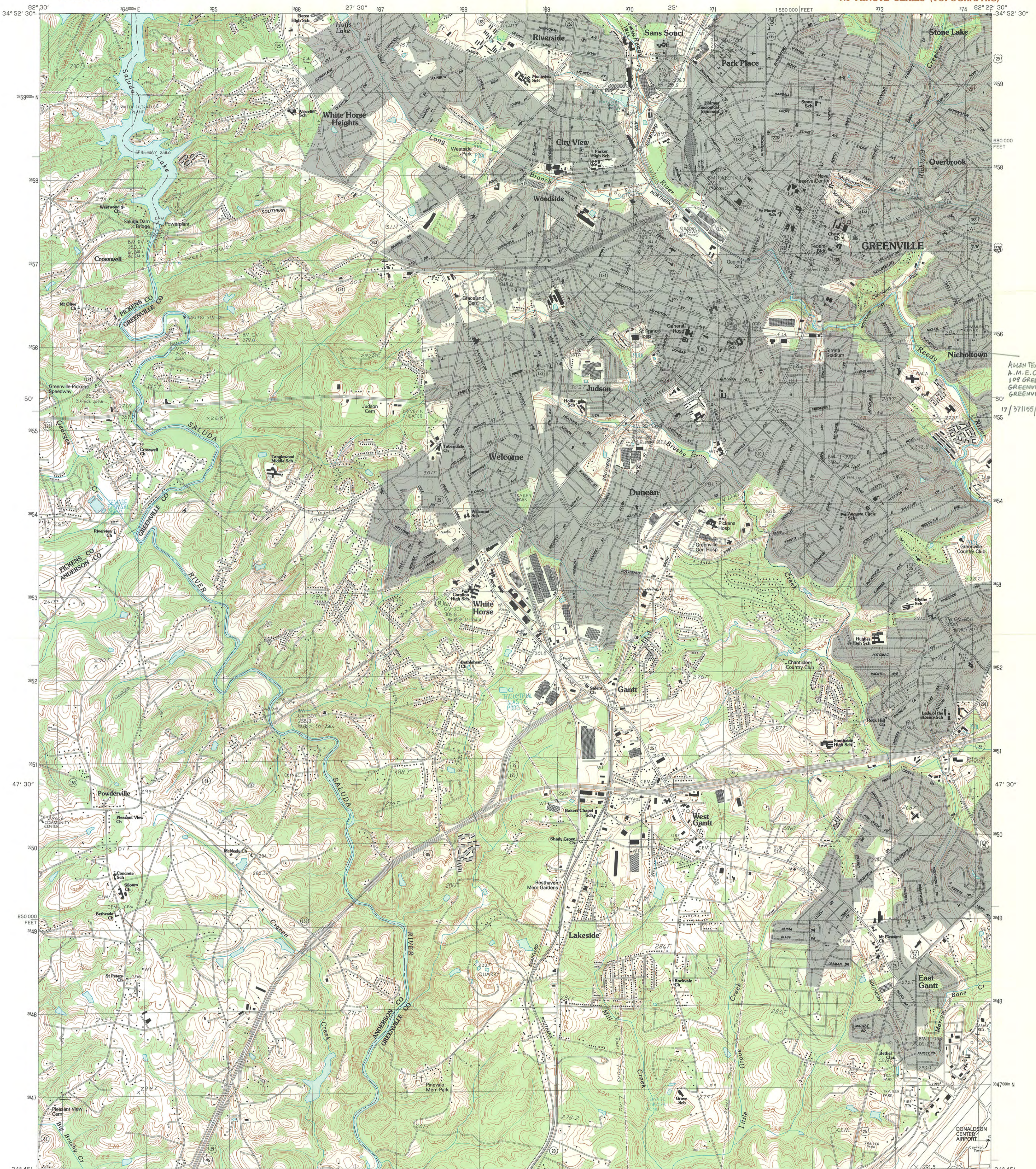
Historic Parsonage



24. Allen Temple A.M.E. Church  
109 Green Avenue, Greenville  
Greenville County, South Carolina

Left Elevation of Church, Showing Relationship to Historic Parsonage





ALLEN TEMPLE  
A.M.E. CHURCH  
102 GREEN AVE,  
GREENVILLE  
GREENVILLE Co., S.C.  
17/371155/3856169

PRODUCED BY THE UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY CONTROL BY USGS, NOS/NOAA, AND SOUTH CAROLINA GEOLOGICAL SURVEY COMPILED FROM AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHS TAKEN 1976 FIELD CHECKED 1977. MAP EDITED 1983 PROJECTION LAMBERT CONFORMAL CONIC GRID: 1000-METER UNIVERSAL TRANSVERSE MERCATOR . . . ZONE 17 10,000-FOOT STATE GRID TICKS . . . SOUTH CAROLINA, NORTH ZONE UTM GRID DECLINATION . . . 0949' WEST 1983 MAGNETIC NORTH DECLINATION . . . 3'30" WEST VERTICAL DATUM . . . NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929 HORIZONTAL DATUM . . . 1927 NORTH AMERICAN DATUM To place on the predicted North American Datum of 1983, move the projection lines as shown by dashed corner ticks (10 meters south and 14 meters west)

There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of any Federal and State Reservations shown on this map  
Gray tint indicates area in which selected buildings are shown

**PROVISIONAL MAP**  
Produced from original manuscript drawings. Information shown as of date of field check



CONTOUR INTERVAL 3 METERS  
CONTROL ELEVATIONS SHOWN TO THE NEAREST 0.1 METER  
OTHER ELEVATIONS SHOWN TO THE NEAREST METER  
To convert meters to feet multiply by 3.2808  
To convert feet to meters multiply by .3048

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092

1	2	3	1	Dacusville
2	3	4	2	Paris Mountain
3	4	5	3	Taylor
4	5	6	4	Easton
5	6	7	5	Mauldin
6	7	8	6	Piercetown
7	8	9	7	Pelzer
8	9		8	Simpsonville

ADJOINING 7.5' QUADRANGLE NAMES

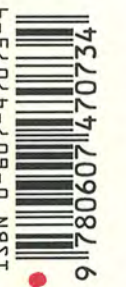
CONTOURS AND ELEVATIONS IN METERS  
ROAD LEGEND

Improved Road  
Unimproved Road  
Trail

Interstate Route U.S. Route State Route

GREENVILLE, S. C.  
PROVISIONAL EDITION 1983

34082-G4-TM-024







Thursday, 19 June 2008

Dr. Janet Matthews  
Keeper, National Register of Historic Places  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  
1201 Eye (I) Street, NW, 8th Floor  
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Dr. Matthews:

Enclosed is the National Register nomination for the Allen Temple A.M.E. Church, in Greenville County, and the Laurelwood Cemetery, in York County, South Carolina, recently approved by the South Carolina State Board of Review.

We are now submitting these nominations for formal listing in the Register.

If I may be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me at the address below, call me at (803) 896-6182, fax me at (803) 896-6167, or e-mail me at [power@scdah.state.sc.us](mailto:power@scdah.state.sc.us). I hope to hear from you soon.

Sincerely,

J. Tracy Power  
Historian and National Register Co-Coordinator  
State Historic Preservation Office



Thursday, 25 February 2010

Ms. Carol Shull  
Interim Keeper, National Register of Historic Places  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  
1201 Eye (I) Street, NW, 8th Floor  
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Ms. Shull:

Here is the National Register nomination for the Allen Temple A.M.E. Church in Richland County, South Carolina, approved by the South Carolina State Board of Review in April 2008, submitted to the National Park Service for listing in the Register in June 2008, and returned to us for revisions and clarifications in August 2008.

We have made the revisions requested by our reviewer and are now resubmitting this nomination for formal listing in the Register.

If I may be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me at the address below, call me at (803) 896-6182, fax me at (803) 896-6167, or e-mail me at [power@scdah.state.sc.us](mailto:power@scdah.state.sc.us). I hope to hear from you soon.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Tracy Power".

J. Tracy Power  
Historian and National Register Co-Coordinator  
State Historic Preservation Office