

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:	Lee
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	FEB 27 1974

1. NAME

COMMON: Rembert Church

AND/OR HISTORIC: Rembert Methodist Church

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: 1.5 mi E - Woodrow
South Carolina Highway 37

CITY OR TOWN: Woodrow

STATE: South Carolina CODE: 045 COUNTY: Lee CODE: 061

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<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 type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
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: Rembert Church Cemetery Association, Inc.

STREET AND NUMBER: P. O. Box 213

CITY OR TOWN: Columbia STATE: South Carolina CODE: 045

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Lee County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER: Bishopville

CITY OR TOWN: Bishopville STATE: South Carolina CODE: 045

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Inventory of Historic Places in South Carolina

DATE OF SURVEY: 1973 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: South Carolina Department of Archives and History

STREET AND NUMBER: 1430 Senate Street

CITY OR TOWN: Columbia STATE: South Carolina CODE: 045

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:

COUNTY:

ENTRY NUMBER

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7. DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Rembert Community in what is now Lee County was one of the oldest Methodist areas in the state, with a Methodist Society meeting as early as 1785. James Rembert constructed a chapel ca. 1797 for area use, and in 1834 Caleb Rembert deeded eight acres to nine trustees for the use of the Methodist Church. An adjacent two-and-one-half acre area was given by John A. Coulough. In 1962 the Rembert Church Congregation relocated and the structure was closed except for special occasions. It is now maintained by the Rembert Church Cemetery Association.

EXTERIOR

The present meeting house was erected ca. 1835. This clapboard structure is rectangular with a gable roof; it sits on brick pillars. The double-doored entrance is simply paneled with a five-paned transom above. The windows are 20/20 with two smaller windows above the main ones on the front facade. There are two rear doors.

INTERIOR

The pews are original but the floor has been replaced and church school room partitions have been added in a portion of the structure. The walls and ceiling are of a narrow paneling.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian | 16th Century | 18th Century | 20th Century
 15th Century | 17th Century | 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" 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

One of the earliest Methodist congregations in South Carolina was located in the community around Rembert Church. In its early days it was frequently visited by Francis Asbury, the first Bishop of the Methodist Church in the United States. It was also important for the campmeetings that were held nearby. This kind of simple meeting house, once a typical South Carolina sight, is rapidly disappearing through decay, demolition, and the modernization of brick veneer.

ARCHITECTURE

Rembert Church is an example of what is commonly referred to as the meeting house style. Structurally a plain rectangular building with clapboard siding, such design affords only the essentials needed for worship. Interior furnishings were usually sparse with only hand-fashioned pews or benches and a simple pulpit and altar railing.

This once typical sight in South Carolina is rapidly disappearing through abandonment, destruction, and the modernization of brick veneer.

RELIGION/PHILOSOPHY

The Rembert Church congregation was one of the oldest Methodist societies in South Carolina. It was originally formed around Rembert Hall, about a mile from the present church. This imposing structure was the home of James Rembert, a well-to-do planter of French descent. Bishop Asbury stopped here on an early visit to South Carolina and continued to visit and preach at this location on many of some 40 visits that he subsequently made to the state in the mission of Methodist expansion. The area was included in the Santee Circuit which was organized in 1786 to provide for regular visits from an itinerant minister. Asbury notes in his journal in March of 1797 that he preached at the new Remberts Chapel which James Rembert erected in the community. The cemetery was established in 1800 and the present clapboard church was erected ca. 1835. Campmeetings were held in the Rembert community starting in 1802 and 1803. These early meetings were mentioned in the journal of William Capers, later a Methodist Bishop. Wagons and tents accommodated the worshipers who were awakened at daybreak and again at sunrise by the blowing of a horn. Very little cooking was done, everyone eating cold provisions.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Clark, Elmer T., Jr., Manning Potts, Jacob S. Payton, eds. The Journal and Letters of Francis Asbury in Three Volumes. Nashville: Abington Press.

Gregorie, Anne K., History of Sumter County. Sumter: Library Board of Sumter County, 1954.

Rudolph, L.C. Francis Asbury. Nashville: Abington Press, 1966.

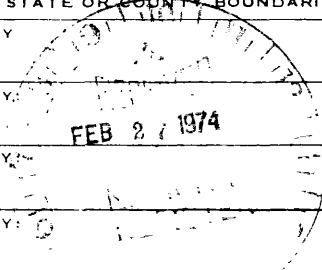
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	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	34° 05' 56"	80° 21' 13"		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	34° 05' 56"	80° 20' 56"				
SE	34° 05' 45"	80° 20' 56"				
SW	34° 05' 45"	80° 21' 13"				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **11 acres**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: **William H. Brabham**

ORGANIZATION: **South Carolina Department of Archives** DATE: **Jan. 14, 1974**

STREET AND NUMBER: **1430 Senate Street**

CITY OR TOWN: **Columbia** STATE: **South Carolina** CODE: **045**

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: Charles E. Lee
 Title: South Carolina Department of Archives and History
 Date: January 28, 1974

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

Al Workhouse
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 2/25/75

ATTEST:

Charles A. Starnes
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: 2-25-75

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Continuation Sheet)

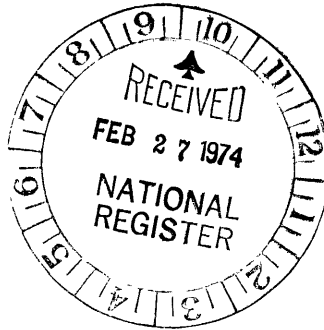
STATE South Carolina	
COUNTY Lee	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
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	FEB 25 1975

(Number all entries)

Rembert Church

8. Significance

Services were held at various times amidst an atmosphere of religious revivalism and emotionalism. More permanent tents or cabins were built later around the church, although no trace of them remains today.



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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE South Carolina	
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(Number all entries)

Rembert Church

8. Significance (continued)

Rembert Church continued the Methodist traditions which were established by Francis Asbury and aided by the Great Awakening in the early part of the 19th Century. The growth of Methodism brought about many enlarged as well as new congregations and, as a result, the necessary construction of new churches.

The Rembert Church building, constructed ca. 1835, served the rural Methodist congregation (with an 1850s enrollment of some 80 whites and 500 slaves) for over a century. It served as a religious and social center with its weekly services and annual camp meetings.

This structure remains as an example of the small church so important to nearly every aspect of life in the rural south during the development and growth of South Carolina.

RECEIVED

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