
6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)Religion: religious structure

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)Religion: religious structure

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Romanesque Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)foundation Brickwalls Brick

roof Asphaltother Stone

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

Mount Prospect Baptist Church, built in 1915, is a rectangular building with gable roof and a two-story square tower at the right of the facade. Each of the tower's facades features tall multi-light paired windows surmounted by louvered vents in arched openings. The tower is surmounted by stepped parapets with corner piers, giving a battlement effect. The first level of the tower has windows with two-over-two lights and arched single-light transoms. The facade has an entry porch with large arches, topped by rounded-arch window divided into three sections by vertical brick mullions. There is a round, louvered attic vent in the gable end. The side elevations each have six large rounded-arch windows with colored glass above grouped one-over-one light basement level windows. Each bay is separated by brick wall buttresses with concrete caps. The church has a small one-story section to the rear with a hip roof. The interior of the sanctuary has exposed beams and metal ceiling with coffered design. Alterations include a stone bulkhead and glass within the front arches, stone at the end of the front porch, and double glass doors. There is a metal ramp at the front steps for handicapped access.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Period of Significance

Significant Dates

Ethnic Heritage: Black

1915-1935

1915

Architecture

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

Mount Prospect Baptist Church has significance for its role in the development of the ethnic heritage of the city's black community and for its status as a largely intact example of church architecture.

Black Baptists began meeting as a group in homes in Rock Hill in 1883.¹ The members of the first group had been members of Baptist churches in Rock Hill and other locations before the Civil War, and desired their own church. The congregation grew and was organized in 1885, when the first building was constructed. It was originally known as First Baptist Church, Colored.² The first pastor, Rev. T. S. Gilmore, served the church from 1885 to 1935. The first church was destroyed by fire and a new building was constructed in 1900. This building was also destroyed by fire in 1914, and the present brick sanctuary was completed in 1915.³ The church, under the leadership of Rev. Gilmore, became a leading institution in the black community.

Mount Prospect Baptist Church has had a significant impact on the development of the ethnic heritage of Rock Hill's black community.⁴ On October 12, 1891, a school was opened in the church building. Led by Rev. M. P. Hall and supported by the Sunday School Convention of the black Baptist churches in Chester and York Counties, it began with eleven students. By 1908, Friendship School had received a state charter.⁵ Nine acres on Allen Street behind the church were acquired, and school buildings were built by 1910. Friendship School was important to the black community, as it provided an education for black children long before public schools were opened for blacks in 1921.⁶ Friendship was gradually transformed into a junior college in the 1940s.⁷ It was an important institution in the black community until it was closed in the 1980s.

Mount Prospect also has significance because of its architecture. Designed with elements of the Romanesque Revival style, it provides an example of an early-twentieth century church structure which has architectural distinction and is relatively intact.

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

See full list of bibliographical references in the Multiple Property submission, Historic Properties of Rock Hill. The following references pertain to this individual nomination:

Herald (Rock Hill, S. C.), 3 May 1952; 19 August 1964; 3 March 1990.

Killian, Dorothy. Rock Hill, S. C. Interview, 12 June 1990.

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 # _____

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository:

S. C. Department of Archives and History, Columbia, S.C.

10. Geographical Data

Acres of property less than 1 acre

UTM References

A 17 496760 3865000
 Zone Easting Northing

C

B
 Zone Easting Northing

D

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Parcel 598-13-07-031 as described in the York County tax records, and represented on the accompanying planimetric map #65 for Rock Hill, S. C., and drawn at a scale of 1" = 200'.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the entire lot that has been historically associated with the property.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Paul M. Gettys
 organization Paul M. Gettys Associates date 28 September 1990
 street & number 4180 Cureton Ferry Road telephone (803) 329-3567
 city or town Catawba state S. C. zip code 29704

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 2

FOOTNOTES

¹Herald (Rock Hill, S. C.), 3 March 1990.

²Plaque on facade of Mount Prospect Church.

³Herald (Rock Hill, S. C.), 3 March 1990.

⁴Herald (Rock Hill, S. C.), 3 May 1952.

⁵Herald (Rock Hill, S. C.), 19 August 1964.

⁶Herald (Rock Hill, S. C.), 3 May 1952.

⁷Herald (Rock Hill, S. C.), 19 August 1964.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

PHOTOGRAPHS

Section number _____ Page 1

Name of Property: Mount Prospect Baptist Church
Historic Properties of Rock Hill
multiple property submission

Location of Property: York County, South Carolina

Photographer: Paul M. Gettys

Location of negatives: Paul M. Gettys Associates, 4180 Cureton
Ferry Road, Catawba, S.C. 29704

Date: September 1990

Photograph # 1: Facade and left elevation, SW

Photograph # 2: Facade and right elevation, W