NPS Form 10-900 (Rev. 10-90)

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.

. Name of Property	
istoric name <u>Ladson Presbyterian Church</u> ther names/site number	
2. Location	
street & number 1720 Sumter St. Sity or town Columbia State South Carolina code SC county Richland	not for publication_ vicinity_ code 079
zip code 29201	
3. State/Federal Agency Certification	
As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservamended, I hereby certify that this X nomination requesteligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties of Historic Places and meets the procedural arrequirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the procedural arrequirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the procedural arrequirements are forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the procedural arrequirements are formally arrequirements. I recommend considered significant nationally X statewide locally (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)	t for determination of roperties in the nd professional roperty X meets nd that this property be
State or Federal agency and bureau	
In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the N criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)	ational Register
Signature of commenting or other official	Date
State or Federal agency and bureau	

ation			
sheet.	San W-B	Date of	4.30-94
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7. Description	
Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)	Materials (Enter categories from instructions)
LATE VICTORIAN: Romanesque	foundation brick roof composition shingle
	walls brick
	wood
	other glass
Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current cond	dition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)
8. Statement of Significance	
Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the listing)	ia criteria qualifying the property for National Register
Contribution to the brown of th	d with events that have made a significant road patterns of our history. d with the lives of persons significant in our past. distinctive characteristics of a type period, tion or represents the work of a master, or ic values, or represents a significant and y whose components lack individual distinction. or is likely to yield information important.
Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)
B removed from its original control of the control	ave. ding, object,or structure.
years.	
Areas of Significance	Significant Dates
(Enter categories from instructions)	1896
ARCHITECTURE	<u>ca. 1940</u>
ETHNIC HERITAGE: black RELIGION	
RELIGION	Significant Person
	(Complete if Criterion B is marked above
	N/A
	Cultural Affiliation
Period of Significance	·
1896-1940	
	Architect/Builder
	Daniel G. Ziegler & Company
	Heidt, H.G.

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

9. Major Bibliographical References
Bibliography (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 X State Historic Preservation Office Other State agency Federal agency X Local government X University Other Name of repository: South Caroliniana Library
10. Geographical Data
Acreage of Property less than 1 acre UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)
Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing 1 17 496740 3762980 3
Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)
Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)
11. Form Prepared By
name/title Trina S. Rossman (with assistance from Andrew W. Chandler, SHPO, SCDAH)
organization Enterprise Computer Systems, Inc. date 27 October 1997
street & number 1101 Roper Mountain Rd., Apt. 238 telephone 864-234-7147
city or town Greenville state SC zip code 29615

Addit	ional I	Ocumentat:	ion

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.)	
nameTrustees of Ladson Presbyterian Church	
street & number 1720 Sumter St.	telephone_803-765-9192
city or town Columbia	state_SC _ zip code _29201

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.

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 1

Ladson Presbyterian Church name of property Richland County, SC county and State

Description

Summary

Ladson Presbyterian Church, located at 1720 Sumter Street in Columbia, is a one-storyover-raised-basement red brick building with a rectangular plan, featuring a gable-front roof and two brick entrance towers set on the diagonal. Designed and built in the Romanesque Revival style of the late nineteenth century, the church's walls and towers are of brick construction and are pierced only by round-arched doors and windows. The roof is clad with composition shingles. The church sits on the east side of Sumter Street in a commercial section of downtown Columbia. It is flanked by a four-story apartment building on the north and a fenced parking lot on the south. It faces a furniture store parking lot and bus station across the street. Set on a lot that measures 60 feet across and 144 feet deep, the church is still used as a place of religious worship by members of Ladson Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) The existing structure was built in 1896 after a fire destroyed the wooden structure used by the congregation in 1895. The brick structure remains intact but is in need of minor repairs. According to WPA records and testimonials from older church members, a renovation occurred prior to World War II which replaced the building's two wooden pyramidal-roofed steeples and belfry with the castellated towers that are present today. The last renovation occurred about 1970 when a new heating and air conditioning system was installed at the rear of the building. Other than this change, the church retains much of its historical integrity. 1

Exterior

A short brick retaining wall that is accented with concrete capped pillars and four concrete steps separate the street from the churchyard. A concrete patio serves as the front churchyard. A state historical marker to the church, erected in 1938 by the Columbia Sesquicentennial Commission of 1936, stands in front of the southern tower of the church. The Sumter Street facade is dominated by a large round-arched, stained-glass paired window with sidelights and corresponding transom, and the canted towers. This central window, as well as the tower entrances and windows, features an archivolt or heavily molded hood. A

Richland County, South Carolina Geographical Ownership, 2 vols. (n.p.,n.d.), 1:540; David B. Calhoun, The Glory of the Lord Risen Upon It (Columbia, S.C.: R.L. Bryan Company, 1994), 90; The Daily Register (Columbia, S.C.), 1 November 1895, 8; George Smith, Clerk of Session, Ladson Presbyterian Church, interview by Trina Rossman, 5 February 1997, and by Andrew W. Chandler, S.C. Department of Archives and History, 28 October 1997; Willis Johnson Charles, elder, Ladson Presbyterian Church, interview by Trina Rossman, 16 October 1997, and telephone interview by Andrew W. Chandler, 22 October 1997; Minutes of the Session of Ladson Presbyterian Church, 1899-1932, Manuscript Division, South Caroliniana Library, University of South Carolina, Columbia, S.C.; Works Progress Administration Inventory of Church Archives, Richland County, 1939, Manuscripts Division, South Caroliniana Library, University of South Carolina, Columbia, S.C. Note: Building records for Richland County were not required before 1974; therefore, exact dates for the renovations are not available.

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 2

Ladson Presbyterian Church name of property Richland County, SC county and State

Description (continued)

double-leaf paneled central entrance within a segmental arched opening is located beneath this window and accesses the basement floor. All windows are of leaded stained glass, an original feature of the building, and carry stylized traceried motifs typical of the late Victorian period with combinations of pink, purple, yellow, and orange glass. They all rest upon brownstone sills. Above the central window is a corbel-edged parapet gable which in its present painted-white condition creates the visual effect of a crowstepped or corbiestepped gable. Within the tympanum is a triangular recessed panel bisected by a shallow brick buttress and intersected by a large semielliptical arched brick course.

Prominent exterior features of the building's facade (west elevation) are the two entrance towers. The towers are canted or set on the diagonal in relation to the front wall of the church. The south tower is both taller and broader in dimension than the more secondary north tower. Two sets of stairs provide entrance to the sanctuary through the towers. Located on the inner sides of the towers, these entrances feature double-leaf doors with gothic arch panels (an alteration) and round-arched, fixed stained-glass transoms. Thin pilaster buttresses reinforce the towers' corners and are also placed on either side of the facade's central window and between each window along the side elevations. Above each of the tower windows is a bull's eye stained glass window. Originally a part of the battered-wall portion of the towers which supported the wooden steeples, each of the towers' upper portions are divided by corbeled courses into two sections. Each elevation of these sections features a pair of decoratively patterned recessed brick panels within a segmental arched surround. Each panel contains either brick-patterned diamond or square vents. The towers are capped with brick battlements along their most visible three elevations.

According to an undated photo and a single WPA record, the church featured wooden pyramidal towers and a belfry at its construction. The brick towers were added ca. 1940. A short decorative metal fence was also in place, but was probably removed when Sumter Street was lowered and paved. The brick retaining wall now serves to separate the churchyard from the street.²

At the basement level of both the southern and northern elevations and under each of the sanctuary side windows are bricked-in window openings which feature jack arches. A simple wood cornice with exposed decorative rafter tails runs along each of these elevations. The east (rear) elevation contains a large central stained glass window which appears to be a paired window with round-arch transom because of the heavy nature of the mullion and lintel. A door and stair to the south of this window provided the sanctuary with ingress and egress.

²Minutes of the Session of Ladson Presbyterian Church, 1899-1932, Manuscripts Division, South Caroliniana Library, University of South Carolina, Columbia, S.C.; Works Progress Administration Inventory of Church Archives, Richland County, 1939, Manuscripts Division, South Caroliniana Library, University of South Carolina, Columbia, S.C.

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 3

Ladson Presbyterian Church
name of property
Richland County, SC
county and State

Description (continued)

Shallow pilaster buttresses help to support this gable. One story shed-roofed and flat-roofed utilitarian additions are at the building's rear.

Interior

Within each of the tower vestibules is a landing and set of steps to the sanctuary level. A marble inlaid tablet containing the names of the building committee, architect and builder is located in the south tower vestibule. The interior of the sanctuary features hardwood floors and beaded board wainscotting. The plastered walls are painted a creamy white. The sanctuary features a double aisle configuration of historic oak pews. A semicircular raised pulpit at the east end of the sanctuary contains the original lectern and pulpit chairs. A small choir loft is located to the left of the pulpit. The ceiling features beaded board paneling arranged in alternating diagonals, wood purlins, and a decorative heavy timber truss system.

The basement features a fellowship hall, classrooms, kitchen, and pastoral study. The restrooms are also located in the basement. The basement was significantly renovated in the 1970s.

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 4

Ladson Presbyterian Church
name of property
Richland County, SC
county and State

Statement of Significance

Ladson Presbyterian Church is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places because it is historically significant under criterion A for Black: Ethnic Heritage and Religion and criterion C as an excellent example of Romanesque Revival architecture. Although the building is still owned and operated by a religious institution, it meets criteria consideration A because of its importance as a local center of black heritage and religion. The existing structure, built in 1896, remains closely associated with the entire history of the congregation that still calls the church home. ³

The origins of Ladson Presbyterian Church exemplify the trend of the mid-1800s for white Protestant churches to minister to blacks through the establishment of Sabbath Schools. Before the Civil War, it was illegal for blacks to congregate, even for religious purposes, without a white person present. Although it was illegal to teach blacks to read and write in the South, many received oral lessons about Bible stories and Christian doctrines under the supervision of a white minister and usually under the authority of a white church. The Presbyterian tradition always placed a premium on education, especially that of its clergy. Most Presbyterian ministers attended theological seminary and ministers wore academic robes while performing the service. The importance of education was thus passed on to its laity, including the blacks in the South. Ladson Presbyterian Church is an example of the strength of early black education in a community which was thought to be completely intolerant of organized black education.

The current church building also serves as an example of the positive community relations blacks and whites had at the turn of the century in Columbia. After the Civil War, when black churches disassociated themselves from the white churches, the congregations had a strong sense of independence and solidarity, yet maintained friendly relations with their white counterparts. Although it seems unusual to have such cooperation between the races, Ladson could not have rebuilt and survived without the help of white members of the community. Ladson became independent of First Presbyterian Church in 1874, but the split was cordial. Later, when Ladson needed help to rebuild in 1896, many white clergymen contributed money in a gesture of goodwill toward another Christian, albeit black, church.

The history of the congregation and the church begins in the early 1800s. In the 1820s and 1830s, the congregation of the First Presbyterian Church of Columbia, located on Marion

³Cyril M. Harris, ed., <u>Historic Architecture Sourcebook</u>, (New York: McGraw-Hill Book Co., 1977), p. 464.

⁴Lawrence N. Jones, "The Black Churches in Historical Perspective," <u>The Crisis</u> 89, no. 9 (November 1982): 7,8; Clare Richardson Arthur, "Nourishing Spritual Darkness, First Presbyterian Church, Columbia, South Carolina, 1794-1853." (M.A. thesis, University of South Carolina, 1983), 27-28.

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 5

Ladson Presbyterian Church
name of property
Richland County, SC
county and State

Statement of Significance (continued)

Street, acquired a site on Sumter Street and built a two-story lecture room to be used by both the white and black members of the church. Whites met in the top floor and blacks, both slave and free, met on the lower floor. In 1838, First Presbyterian organized their black members into a separate but affiliated congregation at the site and those members began meeting there for worship and instruction. The congregation is the oldest black congregation in Columbia and the fifth oldest religious congregation in the city. The black members met sporadically under the leadership of several different white pastors and theology students during the 1840s. A white minister, George Whitfield Ladson, was appointed in 1860 to catechize and minister to the blacks and was popular with both races of the Presbyterian congregation. Reverend Ladson served the congregation until his death in 1864.

When General William T. Sherman's army marched through the city of Columbia a year later in 1865, the Presbyterian Sunday School Room, as the site was also known, was reduced to ashes and rubble. Members of First Presbyterian Church sold almost 5,000 bricks for \$65.00 from the lecture room ruins in order to supplement their 1866 budget. In 1868, First Presbyterian was able to build Ladson Memorial Chapel for its black members. They chose the Sumter Street site, next to where the lecture room had been. The chapel was completed in 1869 on the same site as that of the current building. A white pastor, under the authority of First Presbyterian, continued to minister to the black members.

In 1874, during Reconstruction, Ladson Presbyterian's members requested that they be allowed to sever their ties with First Presbyterian, which was affiliated with the Southern Presbyterian denomination. Ladson members chose to affiliate with the Northern Presbyterian denomination. The shift to the northern denomination was typical of newly independent black Presbyterians in the South. The request was granted by First Presbyterian and Ladson set on a independent course of worship and denominational affiliation. In 1876, the first black minister of Ladson Presbyterian was hired, Reverend Mack G. Johnson, D.D. He was a former South Carolina slave, freed after the war, and educated at Howard University. He settled in Columbia and served Ladson until his death in 1921. During his tenure, the northern denomination became known as the Presbyterian Church, United States of America.

⁵"Ladson Church here to begin marking 132nd anniversary," <u>The State</u> (Columbia, S.C.), 29 November 1970, 16-A; Calhoun, <u>The Glory of the Lord Risen Upon It</u>, pp. 90, 111; John Hammond Moore, <u>Columbia and Richland County</u> (Columbia, S.C.: University of South Carolina Press, 1993), 134; Lawrence N. Jones, "The Black Churches," 6; George Howe, <u>History of the Presbyterian Church in South Carolina</u> (Columbia, S.C: W.J. Duffie, 1883), pp. 500-501.

⁶Calhoun, <u>The Glory of the Lord Risen Upon It</u>, pp. 115, 117, 125, and 128; Judy Doudoukjian, <u>A Vision of a City Known for God</u> (Columbia, S.C.: First Presbyterian Church, 1995), p. 21.

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 6

Ladson Presbyterian Church
name of property
Richland County, SC
county and State

Statement of Significance (continued)

Ladson is the oldest Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) congregation in Columbia. It continues to follow the governance of the denomination to this day.

On 20 May 1895, the lot and church were deeded to the trustees of Ladson by the Corporation of the First Presbyterian Church. The official transaction was an exchange of a quitclaim for the sum of one dollar. Although Ladson had been independent from First Presbyterian for over twenty years, the land was still legally owned by the parent church. It appears, that the non-transfer of land in 1874 was probably an oversight, as it seems that FirstPresbyterian never used their legal authority to keep the black congregation out of their church. The deed was recorded on 31 July 1896.

Before the deed could be recorded, a tragic fire destroyed Ladson Memorial Chapel on 31 October 1895. Authorities blamed the incident on a vagrant that they assumed had been staying overnight in the church. Reverend Johnson and the members of the church went to work immediately soliciting funds from the community to rebuild the structure as it stands today. The cornerstone was laid on 5 May 1896 by the Colored Odd Fellows. Reverend Johnson spoke at the ceremony, along with Samuel M. Smith of First Presbyterian, several other white clergymen from Columbia churches, and a speaker from Johnson C. Smith University in Charlotte, North Carolina.

After the current building was dedicated in 1899, the church continued to be an important institution for the black community in urban Columbia. Many of the trustees were landowners or professionals that operated businesses in Columbia. Reverend Johnson and the Session maintained their roles as moral leaders for the black community, officially censuring those members who had been spotted engaging in immoral conduct. The church provided civic leadership as well and hosted at least one N.A.A.C.P. meeting in 1928. When many blacks lived and worked in Columbia, especially before desegregation, Ladson was a thriving church. Since, however, the rise of the suburbs has lured both blacks and whites away from downtown, Ladson suffered the same decline in activity as many of the black-owned

⁷Calhoun, <u>The Glory of the Lord Risen Upon It</u>, p. 128; Willis Johnson Charles and Ethel Johnson Berry, granddaughters of Reverend M.G. Johnson, D.D., interviews by Trina Rossman, 5 February 1997; <u>150 Years of Spiritual Nurturing and Service: To God Be The Glory</u>, Book Division, University of South Carolina, Columbia, S.C., 3.

⁸Deed Book Z, p. 396, Register of Mesne Conveyance, Richland County Courthouse, Columbia, S.C. ⁹The Daily Register (Columbia, S.C.), 1 November 1895, 8; and 6 May 1896, 4.

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 7

Ladson Presbyterian Church
name of property
Richland County, SC
county and State

Statement of Significance (continued)

businesses in the area. Today, a small congregation still holds services there and traces its founding back to the 1838 congregation. 10

Ladson Presbyterian Church is also significant for criterion C. It was rebuilt in 1896 in the Romanesque Revival style. Many public and commercial buildings were designed in this style in the last half of the nineteenth century. The style had been made popular by nationally renowned architect Henry Hobson Richardson. Romanesque Revival's hallmark was the round arch. Other typical features included tripartite entrances, canted towers, and brick or rough stone construction. Most plans for a Romanesque Revival building were clear and simple. Its low horizontal lines and rough textured exterior made the building seem to have a sense of purpose, commitment, and stability. 11

Ladson Presbyterian Church embodies many typical characteristics of Romanesque Revival architecture. Two of the most striking features of the building are its uneven canted towers which serve as entrances to the sanctuary. Round arches are found over every stained glass window, front entrance door, and even in the gable. The two sanctuary entrances flank the center basement floor entrance to employ the tripartite characteristic.

The church chose Daniel G. Zeigler and Company, Architects of Columbia as the designer for their new sanctuary; however, creditable sources - both primary and secondary - have in the past attributed the design to the prominent Columbia firm of Niernsee & Lamotte. In fact, the Manufacturers' Record, a well-known weekly industrial and business newsjournal covering southern states, reported on May 25, 1894, that the Ladson Presbyterian congregation was contemplating construction of a new \$8,000 sanctuary, with Niernsee & Lamotte producing the design. This was some seventeen months before fire destroyed the old chapel. The journal further reported of the same plans in its issue of March 22, 1895, just seven months before the fire; however, by the time of the fire on Halloween 1895, or soon thereafter, the church had changed architects. No explanation of this change has been found in any records of the church. H.G. Heidt, a local contractor, was the builder. Both

¹⁰The Columbia City Directory, 1895 (Columbia, S.C.: C.M. Douglas, 1895), 84, 111-112, 135, 140, 145, and 149; Minutes of the Session of Ladson Presbyterian Church, 1899-1932, Manuscript Division, South Caroliniana Library, University of South Carolina, Columbia, S.C., n.p.

¹¹Herbert Gottfried and Jan Jennings, <u>American Vernacular Design</u>, 1870-1940 (Ames, Iowa: Iowa State University Press, 1988), p. 246; Wayne Craven, <u>American Art: History and Culture</u> (Madison, Wisconsin: Brown and Benchmark, 1994), pp. 300-301.

¹² Manufacturers' Record, 25 May 1894, p. 285, and 22 March 1895, p. 123; John E. Wells and Robert E. Dalton, <u>The South Carolina Architects</u>, 1885-1935: A Biographical Dictionary, (Richmond, Va.: New South Architectural Press, 1992), p. 132.

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 8

Ladson Presbyterian Church name of property Richland County, SC county and State

Statement of Significance (continued)

Heidt and Zeigler's firm are listed on a memorial marble tablet in the front entrance to the church today. Zeigler was a prominent architect, contractor, and manufacturer in Columbia at the turn of the twentieth century. He was known especially as the inventor of a type of concrete block casting machinery and operated manufactures of cast concrete block in various locations throughout South Carolina, and the southeastern and eastern United States. He moved across the Southeast, designing mostly commercial buildings in small towns in Georgia, South Carolina, and Florida. 13

Ladson Presbyterian Church has a long history as a place of religious and civic leadership and stability for the black Presbyterians of Columbia. The 159-year-old congregation has a rich history which fits with the broad themes of religious education of blacks in the South. The church building remains a symbol of that history. Not only is the church and congregation historically significant, its architecture remains today as an excellent example of Romanesque Revival design that was popular for non-residential buildings in the late 1800s. For these reasons, Ladson Presbyterian Church is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

¹³ Memorial plaque located inside southeast vestibule, Ladson Presbyterian Church; Wells and Dalton, The South Carolina Architects, 1885-1935, pp. 221-223.

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 9 Page 9

Ladson Presbyterian Church
name of property
Richland County, SC
county and State

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United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 9 Page 10

Ladson Presbyterian Church name of property Richland County, SC county and State

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OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 9 Page 11

Ladson Presbyterian Church name of property Richland County, SC county and State

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United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 10, 11

Page 12

Ladson Presbyterian Church name of property Richland County, SC county and State

Verbal Boundary Description

Lot indicated by Richland County Tax Map # 09015-08-17

Verbal Boundary Justification

The nominated property includes the church and lot indicated by Richland County Tax Map # 09015-08-17 only.

Additional Documentation

Appendix

- A. Sanborn Map Company. Columbia, Richland County, South Carolina, 1919.
- B. Tax Map 09015. Columbia, Richland County, S.C. 1996.
- C. United States Geological Survey. Columbia North, S.C. 1990.
- D. Undated Photograph of Western Facade. Minutes of the Session of Ladson Presbyterian Church, 1899-1932. Columbia, S.C. South Caroliniana Library, Manuscripts Division.
- E. Undated Photograph of Western Facade. Columbia, S.C. Private Files of Ladson Presbyterian Church, (U.S.A.)
- F. The following information is the same for photographs 1-8.

Name of Property: Ladson Presbyterian Church

Location: 1720 Sumter Street

Columbia, South Carolina

County: Richland

Name of Photographer: Trina S. Rossman, Greenville, S.C.

Location of Original Negatives: Trina S. Rossman, Greenville, S.C.

Date of Photographs: 31 March 1997

G. The following information is the same for slides 1-20.

Name of Property: Ladson Presbyterian Church

Location: 1720 Sumter Street

Columbia, South Carolina

County: Richland

Name of Photographer: Trina S. Rossman, Greenville, S.C.

Location of Original Negatives: South Carolina Department of Archives &

History, Columbia, S.C.

Date of Photographs: 23 February 1997



Appendix D. Undated photograph of western facade. Minutes of the Session of Ladson Presbyterian Church, 1899-1932. Columbia, S.C. South Caroliniana Library, Manuscripts Division.