

PH0690597

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED MAY 16 1977  
DATE ENTERED DEC 13 1977

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM



SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC  
Biggin Church Ruins  
AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER S.C. Highway 402 about 3/4 miles south of its intersection with U.S. Highway 17-A (approximately two miles northeast of Moncks Corner)  
CITY, TOWN Moncks Corner VICINITY OF # 1  
STATE South Carolina CODE 045 COUNTY Berkeley CODE 015

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: cemetery
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Vestry, St. John's Parish, Berkeley: % Roy E. Daniell, Sr. Warden  
STREET & NUMBER 113 Broad Street  
CITY, TOWN Charleston VICINITY OF South Carolina

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.  
STREET & NUMBER  
CITY, TOWN STATE

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Inventory of Historic Places in South Carolina  
DATE 1973 (update)  FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL  
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS South Carolina Department of Archives and History  
CITY, TOWN Columbia STATE South Carolina

## 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The original Biggin Church was probably completed ca. 1711. The structure burned ca. 1755, and another church was built soon thereafter. This church was damaged by fire by British troops during the American Revolution but was repaired. The structure was burned again in the late 1800s. For years the ruins served as a local brickyard for the area. This practice has ceased since the graveyard is again being used.

The church was a small brick structure, measuring approximately 30' x 60'. The brickwork was executed in English bond, although repair work was apparently executed in miscellaneous bonding.

At the present time only portions of two walls remain. One wall was the end of the building and featured one window on each side of a door. The other wall was apparently the main entrance facade. One large portal with a Gibbs surround is flanked by two windows on the left. (Two windows were also located to the right.) All the windows are arched and feature radiating brick voussoirs.

Quoins are located at the corner of the structure, and a water table was executed with rounded bricks.

Surroundings: The church is located amidst an early graveyard. This cemetery is again being used.

## 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Biggin Church Ruins are the remains of the parish church of St. John's Parish, Berkeley. The church was established by an act of the South Carolina Commons House of Assembly in 1706 which divided the colony into ten parishes. Despite calamities throughout its history, Biggin Church was used through the mid-19th Century. The surrounding cemetery is still being used.

In 1712 the Honorable John Colleton gave three acres for the site of the parish church; however, according to Frederick Dalcho's Historical Account of the Protestant Episcopal Church in South Carolina (1820), Biggin Church was completed in 1711, just five years after the parish of St. John's Berkeley was created. In 1756, a petition was presented to the Commons House of Assembly requesting that a new church be built to replace the church that had lately burned. This request was approved.

During the American Revolution, ammunitions were stored in the church by British troops who, upon leaving, set the church on fire. According to Dalcho, the church was repaired shortly thereafter.

During the War Between the States, the church was again damaged. According to a report made in 1868,

Previous to the war no Parish in the Diocese was better prepared to take care of its clergyman. It owned a rice plantation which rented for twelve hundred, sometimes for fifteen hundred dollars per annum, and about ten thousand dollars in stocks. It owned a winter parsonage and a summer residence for its ministers, in a healthy position. But almost all this has gone, Biggin Church was much injured and its walls defaced; all the pews, the desk and chancel rails were torn down and burnt. The congregation is not revived, except by a monthly service.<sup>1</sup>

The church was again burned in the late 1800s. It has not been rebuilt since that time. Although only portions of two walls remain, there is evidence that originally Biggin Church was designed with a degree of sophistication. Notable architectural details which remain include a Gibbs surround at the main portal, quoins at the corner, radiating voussoirs over the windows, and a rounded water table--all executed in brick.

<sup>1</sup>Albert Sidney Thomas, A Historical Account of the Protestant Episcopal Church in South Carolina (Columbia: R. L. Bryan, 1957), p. 77.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Cooper, Thomas, ed. The Statutes at Large of South Carolina, Vol. II. Columbia: A. S. Johnston, 1837.

Dalcho, Frederick. A Historical Account of the Protestant Episcopal Church in South Carolina. Charleston: E. Thayer, 1820.

(continued)

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 4.6 acres

Longitude: 79° 58' 01"

UTM REFERENCES

Latitude: 33° 12' 45"

A	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

B	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
D	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Bordering east on S.C. Highway 402; south on an unnumbered dirt road; northwest on county highway 342

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE  
Kappy McNulty

Elias Bull, Regional Preservation Planner,  
Berkeley-Charleston-Dorchester Council of Government

ORGANIZATION  
South Carolina Department of Archives and History

DATE  
March 9, 1977

STREET & NUMBER  
1430 Senate Street

TELEPHONE  
803-758-5816

CITY OR TOWN  
Columbia

STATE  
South Carolina

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

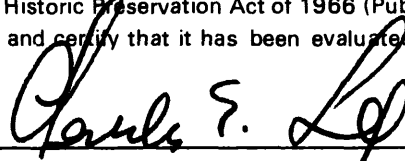
NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE



TITLE Charles E. Lee  
State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE 4/14/77

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
ATTEST: 

DATE 12/13/77  
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE ONE

Irving, John B. A Day on Cooper River. Ed. Louisa Cheves Stoney. 1932; rpt.  
Columbia: R. L. Bryan, 1969.

McCrary, Edward. The History of South Carolina in the Revolution 1780-1783.  
New York: The MacMillan Company, 1902.

Smith, Henry A. M. "Inscriptions of the Monuments in the Church-Yard of the  
Parish Church of St. John's Berkeley." South Carolina Historical and  
Genealogical Magazine, Vol. XI. Ed. Mabel Louise Webber. Charleston:  
Walker, Evans and Cogswell, 1910.

Thomas, Albert Sidney. A Historical Account of the Protestant Episcopal Church  
in South Carolina. Columbia: R. L. Bryan, 1957.

South Carolina Department of Archives and History. Charleston County Deeds.  
B-3, pp. 611-622.

South Carolina Department of Archives and History. Journal of the Commons House  
of Assembly from November 20, 1755 to July 6, 1756.