

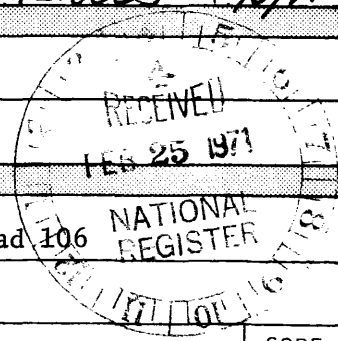
Form 10-300
(July 1969)

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: Fairfield	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 71.5.45.0033	DATE 5/6/71



1. NAME

COMMON:
Saint Stephen's Episcopal Church
AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Ridgeway vicinity about 1 mile northeast on County Road 106
CITY OR TOWN:
Ridgeway vic.
STATE: South Carolina CODE: 29130 COUNTY: Fairfield CODE: 45

039

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 	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered 	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Saint Stephen's Episcopal Church
STREET AND NUMBER:
CITY OR TOWN:
Ridgeway
STATE:
South Carolina
CODE:
45

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Fairfield County Court House
STREET AND NUMBER:
Congress Street
CITY OR TOWN:
Winnsboro
STATE:
South Carolina
CODE:
45

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
South Carolina Preliminary Survey of Historic Places
DATE OF SURVEY: 1969 Federal State County Local
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
South Carolina Department of Archives and History
STREET AND NUMBER:
1430 Senate Street, P. O. Box 11,188 Capitol Station 29211
CITY OR TOWN:
Columbia
STATE:
South Carolina
CODE:
45

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:

COUNTY:

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

71.5.45.0033 5/6/71

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	slightly					
	<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

Gothic Revival design. Steep gable flared roof, rose window in gable. Front entrance on west end with double doors. Steep gabled pavilion with double doors on south side. Exterior originally of pine, painted maroon. Around 1920, church was brick veneered. Wing, containing the parish house and church school, was added in 1940s.

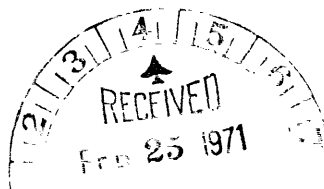
Nave is smaller variation of Christ Episcopal Church, Greenville. The pine interior is given a finish, which is rare, described as a "lost art." It was stained or painted in a natural brown (pine-like) and while the paint or varnish was still wet, rubbed vertically with heavy burlap bagging, giving the wood a "natural finish" of wood grain appearance. It has not been duplicated in recent years. All pews, walls, ceiling, groins, etc. have same finish.

Windows were originally clear glass, papered with a stained-glass-like paper. In 1949 stained glass windows designed and made by the Payne Studios of Paterson, N. J. were installed. Above and on each side of the altar are window memorials to the three founders. In the high apex west end is a rose window, especially beautiful in the late afternoon sunlight. All windows are memorials to former members. Walls contain numerous memorial plaques and tablets, some white marble, some bronze. Noteworthy is the white marble tablet listing the large number of parishioners who served in the Confederate Army and Navy. Additional scrolls honor veterans of subsequent wars.

Sanctuary furnishings are mahogany. Altar is surmounted by a handsome dark mahogany cross. The bishop's chair and the rector's chair are heavy mahogany with a fine patina. The credence shelf and the pulpit-lectern were made by the Rt. Reverend Sidney Thomas, direct descendant of a church founder and Episcopal Bishop for the Diocese of South Carolina 1928-1944.

Church has been in continuous use. Grounds include a well-kept cemetery with tombstones bearing names of builders and early families. Handsome wrought-iron fence and gateway encloses churchyard.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



4. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1854**

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

Oldest church in Ridgeway, and the oldest public building in the area, St. Stephen's is a gem of modified Gothic architecture.

One of few Gothic designs in Fairfield County. Pointed arches in doorways, ceilings, and windows give the vertical feeling of pure Gothic. Entire nave, groin-vaulted gives the impression of height.

Like Christopher Wren's English churches, these American Gothic churches were designed for worshipping and preaching. There are no columns to obstruct the view; the chancel and sanctuary are raised slightly above the central nave where the congregation sits, sings, and kneels.

All interior wood is original heart of pine, cut on plantation of Palmer family. Foundation and chimney brick were baked on Thomas family plantation. Land for church and burying ground was given by a third founding family, the Davises.

Saint Stephen's Episcopal Church reflects the migration of Low Country planters to Up Country South Carolina and the subsequent building of the first Up Country Episcopal churches, most of which attracted various denominations, especially Presbyterians and Huguenots, who had no churches of their own.

Established September 25, 1839, as a Chapel-of-Ease to St. John's Parish, Fairfield. Administered as part of St. John's until 1889. Rector from 1865 to 1868 was the Reverend William Porcher Dubose, who later became Dean of the Theological School at University of the South, Sewanee, Tennessee.

Present building was consecrated August 4, 1854, by Bishop Thomas F. Davis. The Reverend John Dewitt McCollough, designer of numerous S. C. Episcopal churches was architect for and later rector of St. Stephen's.

Church still serves small, active congregation.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Bolick, Julian Stevenson. A Fairfield Sketchbook. Clinton, South Carolina: Jacob's Brothers, 1963.
 McMaster, Fitz Hugh. History of Fairfield County. Columbia, South Carolina: The State Commercial Printing Company, 1946.
 Reynolds, Emily Bellinger and Faunt, Joan Reynolds. Biographical Directory of the Senate of the State of South Carolina 1776-1964. Columbia, South Carolina: South Carolina Archives Department, 1964.
 Thomas, Albert Sidney, A Historical Account of the Protestant Episcopal Church in South Carolina. Columbia, S.C.: The R.L. Bryan Company, 1957.

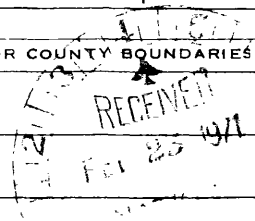
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	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 ° 18 ' 42 "	80 ° 57 ' 22 "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 9½ acres

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Ben F. Hornsby, Historic Resources Coordinator I

ORGANIZATION: South Carolina Department of Archives and History DATE: January 8, 1971

STREET AND NUMBER:
1430 Senate Street P. O. Box 11,188 Capitol Station 29211

CITY OR TOWN: Columbia STATE: South Carolina CODE: 45

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 Paul E. Lopez

Title Director, South Carolina Department Archives and History

Date February 14, 1971

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

Francis A. Casper
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

MAY 6 1971

Date _____

ATTEST:

William J. Mastaglio
 Keeper of The National Register

APR 19 1971

Date _____