

NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK NOMINATION

NPS Form 10-900

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form (Rev. 8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

POMPION HILL CHAPEL

Page 1

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

1. NAME OF PROPERTY

Historic Name: Pompion Hill Chapel

Other Name/Site Number:

2. LOCATION

Street & Number: 0.5 miles southwest of junction of State Routes 41 and 402

Not for publication: \_\_

City/Town:

Vicinity: \_\_

State: SC

County: Berkeley

Code: 015

Zip Code:

3. CLASSIFICATION

Ownership of Property

Private: X

Public-Local: \_\_

Public-State: \_\_

Public-Federal: \_\_

Category of Property

Building(s): X

District: \_\_

Site: \_\_

Structure: \_\_

Object: \_\_

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing

1

\_\_

\_\_

\_\_

1

Noncontributing

\_\_ buildings

\_\_ sites

\_\_ structures

\_\_ objects

\_\_ Total

Number of Contributing Resources Previously Listed in the National Register: \_\_

Name of Related Multiple Property Listing:

**POMPION HILL CHAPEL**

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

**4. STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this \_\_\_\_ nomination \_\_\_\_ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property \_\_\_\_ meets \_\_\_\_ does not meet the National Register Criteria.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Certifying Official

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal Agency and Bureau

In my opinion, the property \_\_\_\_ meets \_\_\_\_ does not meet the National Register criteria.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Commenting or Other Official

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal Agency and Bureau

**5. NATIONAL PARK SERVICE CERTIFICATION**

I hereby certify that this property is:

- \_\_\_\_ Entered in the National Register
- \_\_\_\_ Determined eligible for the National Register
- \_\_\_\_ Determined not eligible for the National Register
- \_\_\_\_ Removed from the National Register
- \_\_\_\_ Other (explain):

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Keeper

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Action

**POMPION HILL CHAPEL**

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

---

**6. FUNCTION OR USE**

Historic: Religion Sub: Religious Facility

Current: Religion Sub: Religious Facility

**7. DESCRIPTION**

Architectural Classification: COLONIAL: Georgian

Materials:

Foundation:

Walls: BRICK

Roof: STONE: Slate

Other:

**POMPION HILL CHAPEL**

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

**Page 4**

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

**Describe Present and Historic Physical Appearance.**

Pompion Hill Chapel is a one-story Georgian brick structure with jerkin-head roof and a rectangular plan. The church is 48 feet (or five bays) long and 35 feet (or three bays) wide. The brick walls are laid in Flemish bond and the roof is still covered with slate. The exterior of the church is compact and well ordered. Center doors are located in both (north and south) long sides. The windows have 12 over 12 light sash and exterior paneled shutters. Both doors and all windows have fanlights and are topped by round brick arches. The cornice is fully molded above a full frieze and architrave and a full cornice also forms the rake mold of the two gable ends. There is a small projecting rectangular chancel with a pediment roof and small round window in the pediment at the east end. The chancel has a large Palladian window, which is flanked on either side by an arched window located in the east nave wall. At the west end is a very simple projecting rectangular brick vestry room, which is also flanked on either side by an arched window in the west nave wall.

The interior is one of the most charming of all small 18<sup>th</sup> century country parish churches. The walls are plastered white, the coved ceiling rises to a flat panel, and the floor is of brick laid in a herringbone pattern; the floors of the cross aisles are laid in a square red tile, set diagonally. The apsidal chancel, located at the east end, is trimmed with Doric pilasters supporting a full entablature and is enclosed by a chancel rail of turned balusters. The Palladian window, set in a recessed arch, is trimmed with Doric colonnettes on mullions with full entablature above a frieze enriched with strap ornament. The west end is raised by a wooden floor one step above the brick pavement and the pulpit is located at this end. Constructed of red-cedar, the pulpit is modeled after that of St. Michael's Church (1752-61) in Charleston. The beautifully carved pulpit is enclosed by low paneling with reading desk and is reached by a short flight of stairs. Hexagonal in shape, with a wineglass stem, the pulpit has a sounding board which is supported by two Corinthian columns at the back and covered by an ogee roof surmounted by a dove. The bench pews have scrolled ends and are divided into four symmetrical groups by the cross aisles. Those at the west end are painted white to indicate where the masters sat and those at the east end are painted brown to indicate the seats of the slaves.

All interior woodwork and nearly all of the furnishings are original. The exterior of the chapel is also largely original and unaltered. The vestry room at the west end, however, was in very poor condition and it has recently been completely rebuilt, using the original brick. The chapel is in excellent condition and is only used for religious services on special occasions. The chapel is usually open to visitors during the period of the garden tours.

**POMPION HILL CHAPEL**

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

**Page 5**

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

**8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

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

Nationally: X Statewide:    Locally:   

Applicable National

Register Criteria:           A    B    C X D   

Criteria Considerations

(Exceptions):           A X B    C    D    E    F    G   

NHL Criteria:               4

NHL Exceptions:           1

NHL Theme(s):           III. Expressing Cultural Values  
                                  5. architecture, landscape architecture, and urban design

Areas of Significance:    Architecture

Period(s) of Significance: 1763-65

Significant Dates:

Significant Person(s):    N/A

Cultural Affiliation:      N/A

Architect/Builder:       Zachariah Villepontour (attributed)  
                                  William Axson (master mason)Historic Contexts:        XVI. Architecture  
                                  B. Georgian

**POMPION HILL CHAPEL**

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

**Page 6**

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

**State Significance of Property, and Justify Criteria, Criteria Considerations, and Areas and Periods of Significance Noted Above.**

Pompion Hill Chapel, erected in 1763-65, is a miniature Georgian masterpiece, original and unaltered. The chapel, built on a typical rectangular plan, is probably the finest and best preserved of South Carolina's numerous small, eighteenth-century, country parish, brick churches. The quality of its design and workmanship are superb and the fabric, including the interior woodwork, is original.

The first Anglican church outside of Charleston was built in 1703 on Pompion Hill. In 1706 the Church of England became the established church in South Carolina and nine parishes were laid off, of which St. Thomas' Parish, containing the 1703 wooden church, was one. By 1762 the 30 foot-square cypress church was in ruinous condition and it was decided to replace it with a brick church. Construction on the existing church began in 1763 and was completed in 1765. The cost was 570 pounds, of which 200 pounds was provided by the province. The brick, and probably the design for the new church, were provided by Zachariah Villepoutour, a noted brick maker with kilns at his Paranassus Plantation on the Black River. The master mason was William Axson; the initials of both of these men are carved into the walls of the chapel.

**POMPION HILL CHAPEL**

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

**Page 7**

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Dorsey, Stephen P. Early English Churches in America, 1607-1807, (New York, 1952), pp. 21, 22, 92, 106-109, 193.

National Park Service. Historic American Buildings Survey, (Washington, DC, 1939, 1940), 8 photos, 1 data sheet.

Morrison, Hugh. Early American Architecture, (New York, 1952), pp. 410-411.

Ravenel, Beatrice St. Julien. Architects of Charleston, (Charleston, 1945), p. 26.

Rines, Edward F. Old Historic Churches of America, (New York, 1936), pp. 228-230.

Rose, Harold W. The Colonial Houses of Worship in America, (New York, 1963), pp. 2, 21, 422, 426, 428, 430, 436.

South Carolina, A Guide to the Palmetto State, (New York, 1940), p. 302.

Stoney, Samuel G. Plantations of the Carolina Low Country, (Charleston, 1938), pp. 67-68.

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:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State Agency
- Federal Agency
- Local Government
- University
- Other (Specify Repository):

**POMPION HILL CHAPEL**

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

**Page 8**

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

Acreage of Property: approx. 78.05 acres

UTM References:                   **Zone    Easting    Northing**

## Verbal Boundary Description:

Roughly in the shape of a rectangle including the Pompion Hill Chapel structure, starting at the south corner on the west edge of State Route 511 at latitude 33°04'48" N. – longitude 79°50'14" W., proceeding to the northwest about 3200 feet to the west corner on the east bank of the East Branch of the Cooper River at lat. 33°05'07" N. – long. 79°50'30" W., then following the east bank of the river to the northeast to the north corner at lat. 33°05'12" N. – long. 79°50'20" W., then continuing to the southeast about 3400 feet to the east corner on the west edge of State Route 511 at lat. 33°04'53" N. – long. 79°50'04" W., then returning southwest along the west edge of State Route 511 about 1000 feet to the beginning, the south corner.

Precise boundaries, as described above, are recorded in red on a copy of U.S. Geological Survey Map: Hugar Quadrangle, South Carolina – Berkeley County 7.5 minute Series (Topographic), 1950, on file in the National Historic Landmarks files in the Washington, DC office of the National Park Service.

## Boundary Justification:

The boundary includes the chapel building that has historically been known as Pompion Hill Chapel and that maintains integrity.



**POMPION HILL CHAPEL**

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

---

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

Name/Title:

Address:

Telephone:

Date: Original documentation – January 2, 1970

Edited (original documentation placed on current NHL form) by:

Patty Henry  
National Park Service  
National Historic Landmarks Survey  
NRHE (2280)  
1849 C St., N.W.  
Washington, DC 20240

Date: April 6, 2005

Telephone: (202) 354-2216

DESIGNATED A NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK  
April 15, 1970