

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: Barnwell	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	APR 13 1972

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
Old Presbyterian Church, Barnwell

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
First Presbyterian Church

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
1905 Academy Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
Barnwell

STATE: South Carolina      CODE: 29812      COUNTY: Barnwell      CODE: 011

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
Barnwell County Historic Preservation Commission

STREET AND NUMBER:  
2001 Hagood Avenue (located in Barnwell County Library)

CITY OR TOWN: Barnwell      STATE: South Carolina      CODE: 29812      45

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Barnwell County Court House

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Main Street

CITY OR TOWN: Barnwell      STATE: South Carolina      CODE: 29812      45

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
South Carolina Preliminary Survey of Historic Places

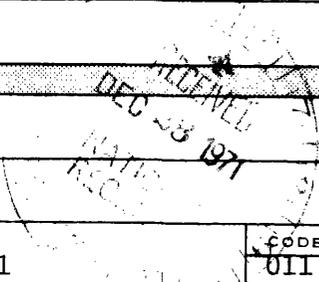
DATE OF SURVEY: 1969       Federal     State     County     Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
South Carolina Department of Archives and History

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

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



STATE: COUNTY: ENTRY NUMBER: DATE: FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Rectangular clapboard structure of Greek Revival design with Gothic details. Gabled roof supported by four large square columns which rest on brick piers. Two engaged columns at end under portico. Double front Christian doors surmounted by a lancet arch with tracery of wood and glass. In center of pediment is a rectangular design with pedimented architrave. Three windows (six over six) with clear glass panes on each side of building. Each window is crowned by a lancet arch with tracery of wood and glass that is similar to the one over front entrance. A door has been added in the left wall of structure.

Interior woodwork is all hand carved and the slave gallery is in its original form. When the building was acquired by the Barnwell County Historic Preservation Commission, it was moved from its original location to an adjoining lot. Originally, the four columns stood on a brick front porch which was not replaced when the building was moved.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



**SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

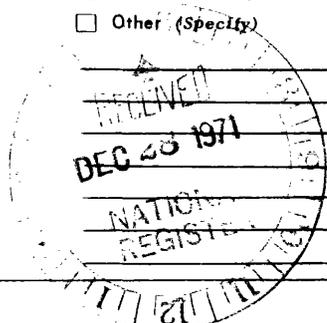
- |  |                                       |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century            | <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)

Circa 1848

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |   |   |  |
|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input checked="" 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

Significant for its architecture and as town of Barnwell's first Presbyterian Church which was used as the Barnwell County Court House during the Reconstruction era of South Carolina history. One of few remaining antebellum structures in town which was almost entirely destroyed by Sherman.

Organization of church was effected in June, 1832, by the Reverend Dr. James Henley Thornwell, noted Presbyterian clergyman and later President of South Carolina College.

Present church built Circa 1848. Remaining essentially unaltered and designed with classic simplicity, the church was apparently constructed by a local craftsman and has hand carved interior woodwork and slave gallery. The classic design of simple lines combines with the lancet Gothic arches over the front entrance and the side windows for a successful blending of styles.

After the Confederate War, the membership of the church had declined to so few that the Presbyterians rented the church to Barnwell County, and it was used as the court house for about twenty years until the present court house was built in the 1880s.

In this building in 1867, when South Carolina was undergoing Reconstruction, a period of military rule and supremacy, Circuit Judge A. P. Aldrich adjourned the court rather than obey the order of General Canby of the Second Military District. He said: "Gentlemen of the juries, for the present farewell; but if God spares my life, I will yet preside in this court, a South Carolina judge whose ermine is unstained. Mr. Sheriff, let the court stand adjourned while the voice of justice is stifled."

Among outstanding South Carolinians associated with the church were: Dr. B. M. Palmer and Dr. J. L. Girdeau, theologians; William Hay Townsend, S.C. Circuit Judge; Johnson Hagood, Brigadier General (C.S.A.) and governor of South Carolina.

The Barnwell County Historic Preservation Commission plans to use the building as a museum.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Howe, George. History of the Presbyterian Church in S.C. Columbia, South Carolina: W. J. Duffie, 1883.  
 Johnson, Allen (ed.) Dictionary of American Biography. New York, New York: Charles Scribneir Sons, 1928.  
 Jones, F. D. and Mills, W. H. History of the Presbyterian Church in South Carolina Since 1850. Columbia, South Carolina: The R. L. Bryan Company, 1926.  
 Snowden, Yates (ed.). History of South Carolina. New York, New York: The Lewis Publishing Company, 1920.

**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	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Less than 1 acre

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
Ben F. Hornsby, Historic Resources Assistant

ORGANIZATION: S.C. Department of Archives and History      DATE: 7/7/71

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 Charles E. Lee  
 Title Director, South Carolina Department of Archives and History  
 Date December 16, 1971

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

Robert M. Utley  
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 4/13/72

ATTEST:  
[Signature]  
 Keeper of The National Register  
 Date April 13, 1972

SEE INSTRUCTIONS