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:
Beaufort

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
70.10.45.0040	10/53/70

S E E   I N S T R U C T I O N S

1. NAME

COMMON:

Sheldon Church Ruins

AND/OR HISTORIC:

Prince William's Parish Church

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

4.8 miles E of Pocotaligo on U.S. 21

CITY OR TOWN:

Gardens Corner *vicinity*

STATE	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
South Carolina	39	Beaufort	013

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
☐ District ☐ Building ☒ Site ☐ Structure ☐ Object	☐ Public ☒ Private ☐ Both	Public Acquisition: ☐ In Process ☐ Being Considered	☐ Occupied ☒ Unoccupied ☐ Preservation work in progress	Yes: ☐ Restricted ☒ Unrestricted ☐ No

PRESENT USE *(Check One or More as Appropriate)*

☐ Agricultural	☐ Government	☐ Park	☐ Transportation	☐ Comments
☐ Commercial	☐ Industrial	☐ Private Residence	☐ Other *(Specify)*	
☐ Educational	☐ Military	☒ Religious		
☐ Entertainment	☐ Museum	☐ Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:

St. Helena's Episcopal Church and Diocese of South Carolina

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:	CODE
Beaufort	South Carolina	39

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:

Clerk of Court and Auditor's Office

STREET AND NUMBER:

Beaufort County Court House, Bay Street

CITY OR TOWN:	STATE	CODE
Beaufort	South Carolina	39

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

South Carolina Survey of Historic Places (Preliminary)

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, Box 11,188 Capitol Station

CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:	CODE
Columbia	South Carolina	39

STATE:

COUNTY:

ENTRY NUMBER 70.10.45.0040 10/53/70

FOR NPS USE ONLY

DATE

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	☐ Excellent	☐ Good	☐ Fair	☐ Deteriorated	☒ Ruins	☐ Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	☒ Altered		☐ Unaltered		☐ Moved	☒ Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Even though the gable roof, pediment, windows and interior have long been devastated and wild vegetation surrounds the ruins and clings to parts of the walls, the classic simplicity of the Sheldon Church design still remains.

Surrounded by moss-draped live oaks, the original three-and-one-half-foot-thick colonnaded walls of Flemish Bond and the four all-header bond portico columns remain, attesting to the solid construction and master craftsmanship which enabled it to withstand two conflagrations and 223 years of existence.

Completed by 1753, Sheldon Church was built along a row of seven Tuscan columns (six engaged and one outstanding). On the north, five bays between the engaged columns were filled with a single tier of tall, round-headed windows; the other bay was left open for a portico. On the south, one bay held a doorway with a fan-shaped window above.

At the eastern end, above the altar, was a Palladian window, with a round-headed window to each side.

The western facade had an elegant portico, crowned by a triangular pediment with bulls-eye window and cornice with dentils. The large front doorway had a fanlight above and two round-headed windows, symetrically spaced, on either side.

Inside the front entrance was a large font supported by bronze lions-claws. The Bull family coat of arms was built into the wall near the pew of Governor William Bull. The grave of the first Lieutenant Governor William Bull, beneath the chancel, was re-marked with a memorial in 1956.

Marble sarcophagi in the churchyard bear the names of South Carolina leaders.

PERIOD *(Check One or More as Appropriate)*

- [ ] Pre-Columbian
- [ ] 15th Century
- [ ] 16th Century
- [ ] 17th Century
- [x] 18th Century
- [ ] 19th Century
- [ ] 20th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) *(If Applicable and Known)*   built 1745-1753

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE *(Check One or More as Appropriate)*

Aboriginal
- [ ] Prehistoric
- [ ] Historic
- [ ] Agriculture
- [x] Architecture
- [ ] Art
- [ ] Commerce
- [ ] Communications
- [ ] Conservation

- [ ] Education
- [ ] Engineering
- [ ] Industry
- [ ] Invention
- [ ] Landscape Architecture
- [ ] Literature
- [x] Military
- [ ] Music

- [x] Political
- [x] Religion/Philosophy
- [ ] Science
- [ ] Sculpture
- [x] Social/Humanitarian
- [ ] Theater
- [ ] Transportation

- [ ] Urban Planning
- [ ] Other *(Specify)*

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Sheldon Church (Prince William's Parish Church) is said to be the first conscious attempt in America to imitate a Greek temple.

The land was donated from the original holdings of the first landgrave, Edmund Bellinger, who was awarded the lands by a patent dated May 7, 1698, promulgated by the Lords Proprietors.
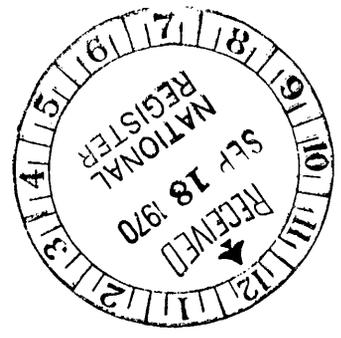
The name Sheldon Church was used in honor of the Bull family whose nearby Carolina plantation and ancestral home in Warwickshire, England, were both called Sheldon Hall.

A political and military center for the area during the Revolutionary War, the church served by concealing arms and ammunition in the Bull family vault and by providing a place for Continental troops to drill. Sheldon Church was burned by General Augustine Prevost's British troops in May, 1779.

Sherman's 15th Corps under General John Logan burned Sheldon Church on January 14, 1865 and it was never rebuilt.

In 1925, the Reverend R. M. Marshall inaugurated memorial services in the ruins of old Sheldon Church, held annually on the second Sunday after Easter.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Dalcho, Fredrick. <u>An Historical Account of the Protestant Episcopal Church in South Carolina</u>. Charleston: E. Thayer, 1820

Millar, John Fitzhugh. <u>The Architects of the American Colonies</u>. Barre, Mass.: Barre Publishers, 1968.

Todd, John R. and Hutson, <u>Francis M. Prince William's Parish and Plantations.</u>, Richmond, Virginia: Garrett and Massie, 1935.
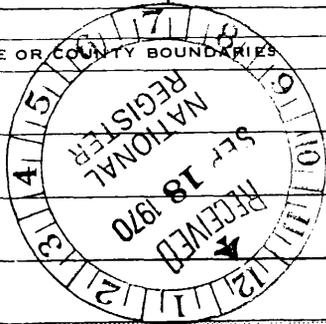
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY		OR	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	° ' "	° ' "		32° 37' 02.57"	80° 46' 31.22"
NE	° ' "	° ' "			
SE	° ' "	° ' "			
SW	° ' "	° ' "			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 4½ 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

RECEIVED SEP 18 1970 NATIONAL REGISTER

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:

Dollie McGrath, Historic Resources Coordinator I

ORGANIZATION

South Carolina Department of Archives and History

DATE August 5, 1970

STREET AND NUMBER:

1430 Senate Street, Box 11,188 Capitol Station

CITY OR TOWN: Columbia

STATE South Carolina

CODE 39

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

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 _[signature]_

Title Director, South Carolina Department Archives & History

Date August 29, 1970

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

[signature] Ernest Allen Connally

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

OCT 2 2 1970

Date _____

ATTEST:

[signature]

Keeper of The National Register

OCT 1 4 1970

Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS