NPS Form 10-900
(Rev. 8-86)

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OCT 5 1987

NATIONAL REGISTER

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name: St. Luke's Church

other names/site number: Bull Hill Church; St. Luke's Methodist Church

2. Location

Approximately 4 miles north of Pritchardville, SC

street & number: on S.C. Hwy. 170 ☐ not for publication

city, town: ☐ vicinity

state: South Carolina code: 045 county: Beaufort code: 013 zip code: 29910

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property: Contributing	Noncontributing	
[XX] private	[XX] building(s)	1	1	buildings
☐ public-local	☐ district			sites
☐ public-State	☐ site			structures
☐ public-Federal	☐ structure			objects
	☐ object	1	1	Total

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this [X] 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 [X] meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Christie Z. Fauer, DS10020 — 9/25/87

Signature of certifying official — Date

George L. Vogt, State Historic Preservation Officer, SC Dept. of Archives & History

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

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. ☐ See continuation sheet.

☐ determined eligible for the National Register. ☐ See continuation sheet.

☐ determined not eligible for the National Register.

☐ removed from the National Register.

☐ other, (explain:)

Amy Schlagel — 11/10/87

Signature of the Keeper — Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)	Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)
Religion	Religion

7. Description

Architectural Classification (enter categories from instructions)	Materials (enter categories from instructions)
Georgian	foundation Brick piers
other: Greek Revival	walls Weatherboard
	roof Composition Shingle
	other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

St. Luke's is a rural church, located on South Carolina Highway 170, approximately four miles north of Pritchardsville, South Carolina. The church was built in 1824. It sits back approximately 25 feet from the roadway. Behind and to each side of the church is a graveyard with over 400 above-ground tombstones. The tombstones date from the early nineteenth century. The graveyard is still in use. The rectangular church building is approximately 36 feet wide and 40 feet in length. The long axis of the single-story structure is oriented toward the east (actually slightly southeast). The church retains its integrity of form, materials, and setting.

Framing

The building rests on continuous, hand-hewn north and south sills, 9" by 9 3/4", raised on brick piers. There is no basement. The east and west sills are similar but have been partially replaced by new timbers. The floor joists are 10" X 10" at 2' 3" centers, spanning north to south and supported at midpoint by a continuous hand-hewn 10" X 10" bearer. The wall framing is not visible. The building is clad with painted weatherboard, 1 1/4" thick, with a 4 1/2" face showing. The roof rafters are 3 3/4" X 3" at variable centers (average 2' 6"), fixed to a continuous ridge board. The ceiling joists are 9 1/2" X 1".

Exterior Description

The church has a gable roof, covered with composition shingles. A four-stepped concrete platform extends across the main (east) facade of the building. The main facade features a box cornice with full return, echoed by a small gabled portico. The portico shelters double six-panel wood doors. The doors are set within a classically inspired surround consisting of fluted pilasters supporting a flat entablature enriched with triglyphs. The cornice soffit above each triglyph is decorated with mutules. The portico is suppported by two hexagonal timber columns and two pilasters. An additional entrance is to each side of the portico. Each entrance consists of a single six-panel door surmounted by a fanlight. The fanlight surround has a keystone. These doors were originally used as entrances to the gallery. The central double doors are the entrances to the sanctuary.

[X] See continuation sheet

8. Statement of Significance

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

☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally

Applicable National Register Criteria ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) ☒ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)	Period of Significance	Significant Dates
Architecture	1824 - 1875	1824

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Significant Person

Architect/Builder
Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

St. Luke's Church, constructed in 1824, is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under criterion C and exception A. The church is architecturally significant as a representation of the transition between the Georgian style, characteristic of earlier Episcopal churches in South Carolina, and the developing Greek Revival style. The result is a blending of both styles into a well proportioned, simple, rural house of worship. St. Luke's Church is one of the oldest surviving frame churches in South Carolina built for the Episcopal (Anglican) church. It is one of a small number of churches in South Carolina that have intact slave galleries.

Historical Context

The Lords Proprietors, who were granted Carolina in 1663 by Charles II, planned for the Anglican church to be the established church in the province, but to give other forms of Protestantism full freedom. While the Anglican Church was not formally established by law until 1706, an Act of Assembly in 1698 forbade the public support of any other church.(1) When government support of the Anglican Church was withdrawn in 1778, it almost brought the denomination to financial ruin.(2) As migration to and settlement of the inland area progressed, the religious complexion of the colony was altered. The percentage of Baptists, Presbyterians and Lutherans grew while the percentage of Episcopalians decreased. While the growth of the Anglican church was not as fast as that of other denominations, the denomination remained influential within the state for its members were generally more affluent and better educated than the membership of other denominations.(3)

The southeast corner of South Carolina was designated Granville County in 1712. Eventually this county was subdivided into four parishes (Prince William's, St. Helena's, St. Luke's, and St. Peter's). The parishes served as political as well as religious divisions, being used as election districts. The formation of St. Luke's Parish out of a portion of St. Helena's Parish in 1767 was a reflection of the growing

☒ See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet

[X] See continuation sheet

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:

- [X] State historic preservation office
- [ ] Other State agency
- [ ] Federal agency
- [ ] Local government
- [ ] University
- [ ] Other

Specify repository: National Register Office, South Carolina Department of Archives and History

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 2.0 acres

UTM References

	Zone	Easting	Northing
A	17	504700	3570540
B			
C			
D			

[ ] See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property occupies parcel 7, Bluffton Sheet no. 29, Beaufort County, South Carolina Tax Map. The irregularly shaped parcel has a frontage of 446 feet on South Carolina Highway 170.

[ ] See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the entire two acre parcel that has historically been associated with the property.

[ ] See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Sherry Piland, Architectural Historian with the aid of Mary P. Powell & Colin Brooker

organization South Carolina Dept. of Archives & History date 22 July 1987

street & number 1430 Senate Street telephone (803) 734-8608

city or town Columbia state South Carolina zip code 29211

The north and south facades are identical. Each is pierced with four regularly spaced window openings. All are double-hung sash windows with twelve-over-twelve lights. Each window has wood shutters and is surmounted by a fanlight. The window closest to the main facade, on each side, is treated slightly differently. Each of these windows has a larger fanlight with a different pattern to the tracery. Also the upper sash is impinged on by the fanlight, so that only eight lights of the upper sash are clearly visible.

The rear (west) facade has two symetrically placed windows that are identical to the north and south facade windows (double-hung, twelve-over-twelve, with fanlights and shutters). The area where the vestry extension previously projected between these two windows has been filled in with clapboard. A four-panel door is adjacent to the window on the south side of this facade.

Interior Description

The chancel, at the west end of the rectangular sanctuary space, is elevated and set apart by a simple railing. The pulpit is further elevated within the chancel space. There are two doors on the west wall behind the pulpit. A wainscotted panel separates the doors. The door on the north is false and is not visible from the exterior. The door on the south is fixed, but is visible from the exterior and originally led to a vestry room. Both doors are four-panel and have a solid transom panel.

A cove ceiling extends the length of the sanctuary. The interior walls and ceiling are plastered. A wide tripartite baseboard extends along the north and south walls. The flooring is obscured by carpeting except within the pews, where the 12" floor boards are visible. The enclosed pews have doors providing access from the side aisles.

Two hexagonal timber columns support a gallery at the east end of the sanctuary. The gallery access is by two straight flights of enclosed stairs - one running north from the south entrance door; the other running south from the north entrance door. The stairs are slightly over two feet in width and the treads are 10 1/2" high. The top of the gallery wall is decorated with a frieze of reeded triglyphs. The seats within the gallery consist only of tiered planks. The gallery floor bisects the fanlight of the two windows on the north and south facades closest to the main facade. The gallery would traditionally have been occupied by slave members of the congregation.

Summary of Alterations

One source indicates that St. Luke's was "materially altered" in 1848.(1) What this alteration consisted of is unknown. Since that time, the major changes to the building have consisted of the removal of the vestry and alterations to the portico. A photograph taken near the turn-of-the-century shows clearly the changes that have taken place to the portico. The church retains, however, its basic form and detailing and the interior is essentially intact. Alterations to the building have consisted of the following:

1) The vestry was demolished; date unknown.

2) Some of the exterior weatherboard has been replaced. This is especially visible where new boards were inserted across the former vestry extension; date unknown.

3) Portions of the original east and west sills have been replaced with new timbers; date unknown.

4) The easternmost windows on both the north and south facades may be replacements since they are unlike the other windows on these facades. Since the window openings are the same dimensions as the other windows, it seems likely that these are replacement windows, modified to fit the existing openings. There is the possibility, however, that these windows are original. They are present in the historic photograph.

5) The chancel rail position was reportedly changed from a U-shape to the present configuration; date unknown.(2)

6) Two of the sconce lamps are original; the remainder are duplicates of the original.(3)

7) Comparison with the historic photograph shows that originally the portico had a wood floor and steps and the flanking entrance doors were approached by their own set of wood steps. These have been replaced by the full length concrete porch. The historic photograph and visual evidence show that the portico was previously supported by four columns. Although it is difficult to discern, it appears that the columns shown in the photograph are not identical to the present columns; portico alterations date before 1954 and possibly as early as 1936.(4)

Condition/Status

The building is in good repair. It is still in use as a Methodist Church and has a congregation interested in its maintenance.

Outbuildings

A noncontributing one-story, concrete block Sunday School building, c. 1960, is to the rear and northwest of the church.

FOOTNOTES

1. Albert Sidney Thomas, An Historical Account of the Protestant Episcopal Church in South Carolina (Columbia: R.L. Bryan Co., 1957), p. 193.

2. Interview with Mary P. Powell, Pritchardville, South Carolina, 12 June 1987.

3. Ibid.

4. Ibid; Grace Fox Perry, "Church near Pritchardville, Erected in 1786, Still Stands," Charleston News and Courier, 14 March 1954.

prosperity of the area.(4) By 1819 St. Luke's Parish had 838 white inhabitants.(5) Two years later Granville County became Beaufort County. Later the counties of Jasper and Hampton were carved out of Beaufort County.(6)

Beaufort County became an important location for the production of rice, indigo, and sea-island cotton. The town of Beaufort became one of the most wealthy, aristocratic, and cultivated in the country. The city boasted an exceptional library society with an impressive collection of books and excellent schools. It became the social hub for the surrounding wealthy planters, who also built homes there.(7)

The original church for St. Luke's Parish was built in 1786 on land donated by John Bull and "A respectible congregation was soon collected."(8) This church was located just one-half mile from the present church. In 1819 the church was without a clergyman, but by 1821 Samuel Sitgreaves was serving as St. Luke's parish minister. Letters written by Sitgreaves between 1821-22 describe the physical characteristics of the parish and the wealth and prominence of his parishioners: "The Parish is. . .large enough to form a Diocese in itself being 50 miles long by 15 broad . . . .Thirty years ago the appearance of this country was widely different from what it is now. The whole face of this land is covered with wood except the plantations, which are like islands in a sea of forest. But they were little Paradises. In the centre rose magnificent mansions surrounded by every improvement and ornament which art and taste could suggest. Its polished inhabitants, enjoying every elegance and luxury, and living in the utmost style and splendor, resided here in health and safety." Sitgreaves also described illnesses generated by clearing the forests and exposing the marshy soil to the sun. This "pestilence" compelled the plantation families to abandon their estates except for a few weeks in the winter. By February 1822 Sitgreaves noted that St. Luke's parish was suffering a decrease in population "with many of the principal inhabitants preparing to leave it." Sitgreaves counted among his parishioners Mr. William Heyward and General Charles C. Pinckney (one of the signers of the U.S. Constitution). During his tenure the parish contained the parish church, a chapel of ease, and part of a church built in connection with the Baptists. In January 1821 Sitgreaves was attempting to persuade his parish to erect another church. By the following April he reported that the old parish church was to be replaced by "an elegant Grecian model."(9)

Sitgreaves, who expressed considerable concern over the unhealthy climate of his parish, left and by December 1821 was replaced by Rev. Peter Van Pelt. The new St. Luke's Church, probably the one

encouraged by Sitgreaves, was built in 1824 during Van Pelt's tenure. The old building was described as in a state of ruin (although services were still being held there in 1833, it eventually burned).(10)

The land for the new church was donated by John Guerard, land that had been part of the Bull Barony (Bull Hill Plantation) and that was later owned by the Verdier family.(11) It was probably built by craftsmen from local plantations.

The parish continued to grow until the Civil War. The Church of the Holy Trinity at Grahamville was built and consecrated in 1830. In 1857 The Church of the Cross was built in Bluffton, although services had been held in that town as early as 1839. The Church of the Cross had a seating capacity of 500-600 persons. After its consecration, services were discontinued at St. Luke's. None were reported after 1856, and the church was sold to the Methodists in 1875.(12)

Architectural Context

The architecture of St. Luke's Church is so plain that it is difficult to categorize. It pays homage to earlier Anglican churches in its simplified Georgian elements (the fanlight windows) and its simple Greek Revival portico indicates that its builders were familiar with new architectural currents. It embodies a transition between these two styles, in an interpretation appropriate to its rural setting. From the letter written by Rev. Sitgreaves in 1821 while the church was being planned, it is clear that a Greek Revival design was intended.

Several eighteenth century Anglican churches survive in South Carolina, primarily in an area surrounding Charleston and extending north to Georgetown. The oldest extant Anglican church in South Carolina is St. James, Goose Creek (1719). Dating from the early nineteenth century, St. Luke's is the oldest surviving rural Episcopal church in Beaufort County. Undoubtedly, the builders of St. Luke's were familiar with Anglican churches in both Beaufort (the principal town in Beaufort County) and Charleston (the principal city of Colonial South Carolina). St. Helena's Church in Beaufort was built c. 1724 and substantially enlarged in 1817 and again in 1842. This church would probably have been quite familiar to the builders of St. Luke's. Although much more elegant and high style than St. Luke's, the precedent of fanlight windows is seen there. The building of St. Michael's Church in Charleston in the late 1750s reportedly was a great influence on the building of small country churches, such as St. Luke's.(13) Although greatly simplified, the round-arched windows

with tracery, the cove ceiling, and the entrance portico are all elements from St. Michael's that are seen in St. Luke's Church.

South Carolina has a number of buildings that are excellent examples of the full expression of the Greek Revival style, although the style was accepted slowly in the state. part of this slow acceptance has been attributed to the conservatism of the plantation owners which made them averse to changes in taste.(14) Even in Charleston, Greek Revival buildings were not common until the 1840s. Hibernian Hall in Charleston, built in 1839, has been called the "first academically correct Greek Revival building in South Carolina."(15) That the builders of St. Luke's were planning a "Grecian" church as early as 1821 indicates that a knowledge of the Greek Revival style had reached this remote part of the state at an early date. One can only speculate that this was by means of pattern books, which were responsible for the widespread popularity of the style.

FOOTNOTES

1. D. D. Wallace, South Carolina: A Short History (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1951), pp. 58-59 and 74; Thomas, Historical Account of the Protestant Episcopal Church, pp. 3-4 and 8.

2. Wallace, South Carolina, p. 105.

3. Lewis P. Jones, "South Carolina," in Religion in the Southern States: A Historical Study, ed. Samuel S. Hill (Macon: Mercer University Press, 1983), pp. 266 and 271.

4. Philip Clarke, Anglicanism in South Carolina, 1660-1976 (Easley, S.C.: Southern Historical Press, c. 1976), p. 35.

5. Frederick Dalcho, An Historical Account of the Protestant Episcopal Church in South Carolina (Charleston: E. Thayer, 1820), pp. 387-388; Historic Resources of the Low Country (Yemassee, S.C.: Lowcountry Council of Governments, 1979), p. 24.

6. Wallace, South Carolina,p. 228.

7. Gilbert Voight, "The 'Periclean' Age of Beaufort," South Carolina Historical Magazine 58(October 1957): 218-223.

8. Dalcho, Protestant Episcopal Church, p. 388.

9. P.J. Staudenraus, ed., "Letters from South Carolina 1821-22," South Carolina Historical Magazine 58 (October 1957): 209-214.

10. Thomas, Protestant Episcopal Church, p. 194.

11. Ibid. p. 194.

12. Ibid, p. 194.

13. Stephen P. Dorsey, Early English Churches in America 1607-1807 (New York: Oxford Press, 1952), p. 91.

14. Talbot Hamlin, Greek Revival Architecture in America (New York: Dover Publications, Inc., 1944), p. 192.

15. Mills Lane, Architecture of the Old South, South Carolina (Savannah: Beehive Press, 1984), p. 186. 1. St. Luke's Church

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

Wallace, D.D. South Carolina: A Short History. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1951.

1. St. Luke's Church
   Beaufort County, S.C.
   Photographer: Sherry Piland
   April 1987
   South Carolina Department of Archives and History
   Main (east facade) on left; north facade on right. View looking to the southwest.

2. St. Luke's Church
   Beaufort County, S.C.
   Photographer: Sherry Piland
   April 1987
   South Carolina Department of Archives and History
   West facade on left; south facade on right. View looking to the northeast.

3. St. Luke's Church
   Beaufort County, S.C.
   Photographer: Sherry Piland
   April 1987
   South Carolina Department of Archives and History
   South facade on left; east facade on right. View looking to the northwest.

4. St. Luke's Church
   Beaufort County, S.C.
   Photographer: Sherry Piland
   April 1987
   South Carolina Department of Archives and History
   West facade. View looking to the southeast.

5. St. Luke's Church
   Beaufort County, S.C.
   Photographer: Sherry Piland
   April 1987
   South Carolina Department of Archives and History
   Main (east) facade. View looking to the west.

6. Historic photo, c. 1900-1916
   Photograph provided by Mrs. Mary P. Powell, Beaufort, S.C.

7. St. Luke's Church
Beaufort County, S.C.
Photographer: Sherry Piland
April 1987
South Carolina Department of Archives and History
Detail of interior, gallery columns. View looking northwest.

8. St. Luke's Church
Beaufort County, S.C.
Photographer: Sherry Piland
April 1987
South Carolina Department of Archives and History
Detail of interior, chancel area. View looking northwest.

9. St. Luke's Church
Beaufort County, S.C.
Photographer: Sherry Piland
April 1987
South Carolina Department of Archives and History
Detail of interior, gallery. View looking east.

10. St. Luke's Church
Beaufort County, S.C.
Photographer: Sherry Piland
April 1987
South Carolina Department of Archives and History
Detail of interior, west wall. View looking southwest.

11. St. Luke's Church
Beaufort County, S.C.
Photographer: Sherry Piland
April 1987
South Carolina Department of Archives and History
Detail of interior, north wall. View looking northwest.

12. St. Luke's Church
Beaufort County, S.C.
Photographer: Sherry Piland
April 1987
South Carolina Department of Archives and History
Detail of interior. View looking northwest.

13. St. Luke's Church
Beaufort County, S.C.
Photographer: Sherry Piland
April 1987
South Carolina Department of Archives and History
Detail of interior, gallery. View looking southwest.

14. St. Luke's Church
Beaufort County, S.C.
Photographer: Sherry Piland
April 1987
South Carolina Department of Archives and History
Detail of entrance door.