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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. Helena Parish Chapel of Ease Ruins; St. Helena Island Parish Church Ruins  
other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

2. Location

street & number SC Sec Rd 45, near its junction w/SC Sec Rd 37  not for publication  
city, town St. Helena Island  vicinity  
state South Carolina code 045 county Beaufort code 013 zip code 29920

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>2</u>	_____ buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> site	_____	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____	_____ structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>2</u>	_____ objects
			<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:  
Historic Resources of St. Helena Island, c1740-c1935  
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  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.  See continuation sheet.  
Mary W. Edmonds 8/11/88  
Signature of certifying official Date  
for 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:) \_\_\_\_\_

John J. Knoed 10/6/88  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

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**6. Function or Use**

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Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Religion/Chapel of Ease/Church

Funerary/Cemetery

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Vacant/Not in use

Funerary/Cemetery

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**7. Description**

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Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Colonial

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Tabby

walls Tabby

roof

other

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Describe present and historic physical appearance.

This ruin conforms to the general description of the property type "Structures Associated with Religious Life", subtype "Chapels of Ease," and "Tabby Construction." Much of its historic fabric, including the church walls and much of its plaster, remains.

## 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)

Religion  
Architecture  
Funerary/Gravestone Art

Period of Significance

c. 1740-1886

Significant Dates

c. 1740

1812

1886

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.

This ruin is significant as a relatively intact example of mid-eighteenth century tabby construction and for its association with the St. Helena Parish, both as a secondary and primary place of worship for inhabitants of the parish. It was built c. 1740 as a chapel of ease, to serve planters in St. Helena Parish who lived at great distances from the parish church in Beaufort and could not regularly attend services there. By 1812 the population of St. Helena Island had increased to the extent that the chapel of ease was designated a parish church. A chapel of ease for the new St. Helena Island Parish Church was established at the planters' summer village at St. Helenaville. The parish church on the island was virtually abandoned when the planters evacuated St. Helena in the fall of 1861. During the Federal occupation of St. Helena, however, the church was used frequently by several of the Northerners who had come to the island to help educate and train the freedmen. Since the whites held meetings and social gatherings here and the freedmen attended Brick Church, near the center of the island, the freedmen referred to this church during the Civil War as "White Church." It was also used as a sanctuary by Methodist freedmen as early as 1868, but was burned by a forest fire in February 1886 and was never repaired. (1) A small cemetery adjacent to the church ruin contributes to the historic character of the property.

Although the St. Helena Parish Chapel of Ease/St. Helena Parish Church ruin is a religious property, it is eligible for the National Register under Criteria Consideration A on the basis of its architecture and its historical significance under the themes of Social History and Religion. The cemetery is eligible for the National Register under Criteria Consideration D on the basis of its exceptional gravestone art.

See continuation sheet

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

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 # \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository:

SC Dept. of Archives & History  
Columbia, SC

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of property 1.8 acres

UTM References

A 17 539820 3581920  
 Zone Easting Northing

C         

B           
 Zone Easting Northing

D         

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the nomination is shown as the black line on the accompanying Beaufort County Tax Map, St. Helena Sheet # 23, Parcel 96, drawn at a scale of 1" = 400'.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The nominated property includes the chapel of ease/parish church ruins, the cemetery, and their immediate setting.

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title J. Tracy Power, NR Historian/Sherry Piland, NR Architectural Historian  
 organization SC Department of Archives & History date 15 February 1988  
 street & number 1430 Senate St., PO Box 11669 telephone (803) 734-8608  
 city or town Columbia state SC zip code 29211

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 1

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NOTES

(1) Albert Sidney Thomas, A Historical Account of the Protestant Episcopal Church in South Carolina 1820-1957 Being a Continuation of Dalcho's Account 1670-1820 (Columbia: R.L. Bryan Company, 1957), pp. 181-83; Edith M. Dabbs, Sea Island Diary: A History of St. Helena Island (Spartanburg: The Reprint Company, Publishers, 1983), pp. 67-70, 155-56, 188.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

PHOTOGRAPHS

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page 1

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The following information is the same for each of the photographs:

Name of property: St. Helena Parish Chapel of Ease Ruins  
(Historic Resources of St. Helena Island, c.  
1740-c. 1935 multiple property listing)

Location of property: Beaufort County, South Carolina

Photographer: South Carolina Department of Archives and History  
Staff

Location of negative: South Carolina Department of Archives and  
History

Additional information for each photograph follows:

1. St. Helena Parish Chapel of Ease Ruins  
April 1987  
Oblique, view looking west.