

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: South Carolina	
COUNTY: Berkeley	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
APR 26 1972	

## 1. NAME

COMMON:

Strawberry Chapel and Site of Town of Childsbury

AND/OR HISTORIC:

## 2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: *SE of Moncks Corner* on County Road 44, 6.8 miles south of junction  
"T" of the Cooper River: 44 and S.C. 402

CITY OR TOWN:

Moncks Corner *vic.*

STATE

South Carolina

CODE

29461

45

COUNTY:

Berkeley

CODE

015

## 3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

(Check One)

- ☐ District ☒ Building  
☒ Site ☐ Structure  
☐ Object

OWNERSHIP

- ☐ Public  
☒ Private  
☐ Both

Public Acquisition:

- ☐ In Process  
☒ Being Considered

STATUS

- ☒ Occupied  
☐ Unoccupied  
☐ Preservation work  
in progress

ACCESSIBLE  
TO THE PUBLIC

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:

Grover E. and Martha F. Sullivan

STREET AND NUMBER:

Route #3

CITY OR TOWN:

Moncks Corner

STATE:

South Carolina

CODE

45

## 5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:

Register of Mesne Conveyance

STREET AND NUMBER:

Main Street

CITY OR TOWN:

Moncks Corner

STATE

South Carolina

CODE

29461

45

## 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

CITY OR TOWN:

Columbia

STATE:

South Carolina

CODE

45

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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## 7. DESCRIPTION

(Check One)

CONDITION

☐ Excellent    ☐ Good    ☐ Fair    ☐ Deteriorated    ☐ Ruins    ☒ Unexposed

(Check One)

(Check One)

☒ Altered    ☒ Unaltered

☐ Moved    ☒ Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Englishman James Child, a victim of tyranny of British nobility, came to Carolina to attempt to recover his fortune. In 1698 he was granted a tract of land of 1200 acres on a bluff overlooking the "T" of the Cooper River where the eastern and western branches meet.

This bluff, called "Strawberry" since early eighteenth century, provided the only practicable ferry site within a reasonable distance. James Child started a ferry here and in 1707 laid out a town appropriately called Childsbury. Property was designated for a college, a free school, a house for the schoolmaster, a place of worship (which was to become Strawberry Chapel), and a market square. To the inhabitants of Childsbury, Child gave 600 acres to farm and pasture. He also gave them the 100-acre hill by the river to build upon as a citadel to protect the town in times of war.

Due mainly to the rise of the new and growing plantations, Childsbury began a rapid decline and the town site eventually became part of a plantation.

Situated among live oaks and pines, Strawberry Chapel, Childsbury's Episcopal place of worship, is a small building designed with intriguing simplicity. This one-story rectangular brick structure has an unadorned hipped gable roof. A double three-paneled door of the facade, surmounted by flush fanlight is symmetrically situated between two shuttered windows of the same three-panel design.

Each gable end has a pair of windows identical to facade windows. Centered between these windows, but on a higher plane, is a decorative rosette window.

A small anteroom extending from the rear wall served as dressing quarters for the minister.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



## 3. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- ☐ Pre-Columbian      ☐ 16th Century      ☒ 18th Century      ☐ 20th Century  
☐ 15th Century      ☐ 17th Century      ☐ 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1707 (town) 1725 (chapel)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |   |  |  |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political                 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering          | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi-  | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry             | losophy  | _____  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agriculture  | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention            | <input type="checkbox"/> Science                   | _____  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape            | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture                 | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture         | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human-             | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature           | itarian  | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military  | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater                   | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____  |

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Childsbury, one of the early towns to be laid out in South Carolina (1707), is significant as an important archeological site.

As a market town for Charleston merchants and an important ferry site, Childsbury became an active commercial center and a vital link in the transportation network of the low country. It was also the site of one of the earliest free schools outside of the city of Charleston.

Militarily, Childsbury was important as the gathering place for the local militia, which met there once a month for drill and instruction. For the entertainment of a rural population cut off from the activities of Charleston city life, a race track operated from the late 1700s until 1825. Being inhabitants of a region dependent upon and dedicated to farming, the people of the Strawberry area were very much interested in the affairs of agriculture. Thus, the Strawberry Agricultural Society had its meeting house there as late as mid-nineteenth century.

Strawberry Chapel, the only visible remain of the town of Childsbury, architecturally displays the simple, yet dignified and impressive life-style of the people it served. It is an excellent example of a Chapel of Ease. These chapels were built to serve the people for whom the regular parish church was inaccessible. By an Act of Assembly in 1723, the people of Childsbury in the extensive parish of St. John's Berkeley, were authorized to build a chapel in the lower section of the parish, as Biggin Church, the official parish church, was too distant to serve them.

However, Strawberry Chapel became rather unique as a Chapel of Ease in that it is operated as a full parish church. Usually these chapels were denied some of the privileges of a parish church, which included certain duties as keeping vital statistics, holding elections, and carrying out certain political duties of the parish. By 1825 Old Biggin Church had declined to the point where Strawberry Chapel had actually replaced it as the parish church.

# 9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Dalcho, Frederick, M. D. An Historical Account of the Protestant Episcopal Church in South Carolina. Charleston: E. Thayer, 1820.

Irving, Hohn B., M. D. A Day on Cooper River. Columbia: The R. L. Bryan Company, 1969.

Julien, Carl, and Milling, Chapman J. Beneath So Kind a Sky. Columbia: University of South Carolina Press, 1947.

# 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	33 ° 05 ' 57 "	79 ° 56 ' 05 "		0 ' ' "	0 ' ' "	
NE	33 ° 05 ' 46 "	79 ° 55 ' 43 "				
SE	33 ° 05 ' 20 "	79 ° 56 ' 02 "				
SW	33 ° 05 ' 31 "	79 ° 56 ' 24 "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 157.2

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:  
Elias B. Bull, Historical Researcher (Linda Lake, Dept. Archives & His.)

ORGANIZATION  
Berkeley-Charleston Regional Planning Commission

DATE  
12/28/70

STREET AND NUMBER:  
2 Court House Square

CITY OR TOWN:  
Charleston

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 S. Long

Title Director, South Carolina  
Department Archives and History

Date 12/16/71

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

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

Date 4/26/72

ATTEST: William H. Huntley  
Keeper of The National Register

Date APR 26 1972

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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(Number all entries)

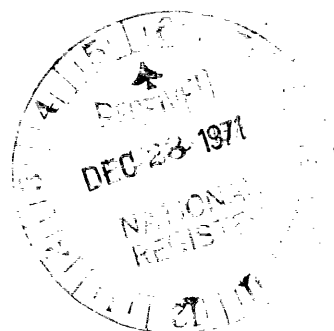
8. Significance

STRAWBERRY CHAPEL AND SITE OF TOWN OF CHILDSBURY

Still used for religious purposes, Strawberry Chapel now has periodic services -- about four a year -- and is open only during these services. At present, it draws its congregation from Charleston, some sixty miles away, instead of from the nearby plantations, which are mostly farms or hunting clubs now.

The church is in a natural environmental setting and is currently safe from any environmental intrusions. The public road even ends at Childsbury; there is no present river crossing.

Evidence that Childsbury was a good example of early urban planning can be derived from the supplementary map enclosed which shows the town's detailed and systematic plan as laid out in 1707.



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(Number all entries) 9. Bibliography

Smith, Henry Augustus Middleton. Some Forgotten Towns of South Carolina.  
The South Carolina Historical and Genealogical Magazine, edited by  
Mabel Louise Webber, vol. 14. Charleston: Walker, Evans & Cogswell  
Co., 1913.

Stoney, Samuel Gaillard. Plantations of the Carolina Low Country.  
Charleston: Carolina Art Association, 1964.

Thomas, Albert Sidney. The Episcopal Church in South Carolina. Columbia:  
The R. L. Bryan Company, 1957.

Wallace, David Duncan. The History of South Carolina. New York: The  
American Historical Society, Inc., 1934.

Rose, Harold Wickliffe. The Colonial Houses of Worship in America. New York:  
Hastings House, 1963.

Smith, Henry A.M. "Childsbury." The South Carolina Historical and  
Genealogical Magazine XV: 107-112.





The explanation written on this margin of the old map is undecipherable. This was done on the back as follows:

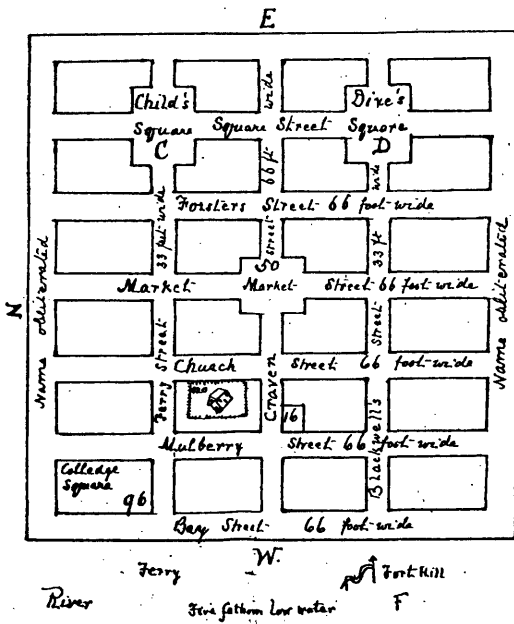
"A Plan of Childsbury Towne upon the Northern Branch of Cooper River in the County of Berkeley with the Partition & Lots as more laid out in the year of our Lord 1707 by Mr. James Child (then and undecipherable) for ever. Witness my own hand James Child"

The names of none of the streets appear on the map. according to later maps the Francis de Jax the station line runs Bay Street and then follows in order, Mulberry Street Church Street, Market Street, Foresters Street and Square Street all 66 feet wide. The street leading from the ferry was Ferry Street 33 feet wide. The next street was Cavenham Street 66 feet wide and the next Blackwell's Street 33 feet wide. According to the plan's map lot 96 was for the college, 16 for the school and 50 the Market place, and the spot marked F is styled Port Hill. The College F is not on the old map.

Copied from the old Map by Henry A. M. Smith

This map reduced one third of original size

Scale not decipherable on map, but apparently 4 chains = 264 feet p. inch for the Town. The 100 acres and 600 acres lots are apparently not drawn



Map of Childsbury being a copy taken from copy made by Mr. A. S. Rose from an old map the possessor in 1893. Elias Ball Esq.

N.B. The copy map does not appear to be drawn to any scale.

This map reduced one third of original size