

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED MAY 16 1977

DATE ENTERED FEB 14 1978

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC Taveau Church

AND/OR COMMON Tavou Church

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER On eastern side of road approximately one mile north of the crossing of County Highway 44 by Seaboard Coastline Railroad Tracks

CITY, TOWN Cordesville VICINITY OF # 1

STATE South Carolina CODE 045 COUNTY Berkeley CODE 015

3 CLASSIFICATION

| CATEGORY | OWNERSHIP | STATUS | PRESENT USE |
|---|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT | <input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC | <input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED | <input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK |
| <input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> BOTH | <input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS | <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SITE | PUBLIC ACQUISITION | ACCESSIBLE | <input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS |
| <input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT | <input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED (exterior) | <input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED | <input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> NO | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: vacant |

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Cordesville United Methodist Church

STREET & NUMBER c/o Rev. James Washington
Rt. 3, Box 334-E

CITY, TOWN Charleston Heights VICINITY OF South Carolina

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Berkeley County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER Main Street

CITY, TOWN Moncks Corner STATE South Carolina

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Inventory of Historic Places in South Carolina

DATE 1973 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS South Carolina Department of Archives and History

CITY, TOWN Columbia STATE South Carolina

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Taveau Church is a small, early 19th Century clapboard structure, located in rural Berkeley County. It is constructed on a low brick pier foundation and has a medium gable roof with boxed cornice.

The front facade is located on the gable side of the roof and features a small pedimented portico supported by four slender wooden Doric columns. The foundations and steps of the portico are brick, although the area between the foundations has been filled in with concrete blocks. The entrance is composed of double doors with a 12-light double row transom. Each of the two doors has six panels. A window is located on each side of the portico.

Both side facades feature a central double-door entrance flanked by two windows on each side. These entrances also feature a 12-light double row transom.

All windows are 16/16 with paneled shutters.

Additions to the structure include an exterior chimney to the right side, a cupola near the front facade, and a metal roof.

Interior: The furnishings of the interior (including pews and altar) appear to be original. The walls have been altered, however, being narrow tongue and groove siding (probably added during the late 19th or early 20th Century). The chancel area has also been altered, the two sides having been partitioned off into two rooms. The entrance end of the interior features a small gallery of three bays with sophisticated detailing including dentil molding.

Surroundings: Included within the nominated acreage is a cemetery.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

| PERIOD | AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW | | | |
|---|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING | <input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGION |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499 | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION | <input type="checkbox"/> LAW | <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599 | <input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS | <input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE | <input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY | <input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799 | <input type="checkbox"/> ART | <input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING | <input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC | <input type="checkbox"/> THEATER |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE | <input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY | <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1900- | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY | <input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION | | |

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Taveau Church is an unusual example of early 19th Century church architecture. Located in rural Berkeley County, it exhibits an air of sophistication seldom seen in rural church architecture.

Little is known about the early history of Taveau Church. In 1932 Louisa Cheves Stoney made the following note in her edited version of A Day on Cooper River by John B. Irving:

Dr. Irving tells us that Clermont [a plantation on the Cooper River at the time of Irving's writing (ca. 1840)] was at that time the home of Augustus Taveau. His mother, Martha Caroline Swinton [Taveau], had married first John Ball, Sr. She belonged to Edisto Island and was a strong Presbyterian; here, in the midst of Episcopalians, she built a church on Clermont to make sure that the gospel might be preached in the country. Known as Taveau Church, it is now used by negroes.¹

The church was used by a black congregation until the 1970s.

Architecture: Taveau Church features several notable architectural details. These include the 12-light double row transoms over the three entrances, the 16/16 windows with paneled shutters, and the Doric portico. The proportions of the structure are basically Federal, as evidenced by the pediment of medium pitch and the slender Doric columns. Equally significant is the plan of the building with entrances on three sides and chancel at the rear. The exterior is basically unaltered.

¹ Louisa Cheves Stoney, ed., A Day on Cooper River, John B. Irving (1932; rpt. Columbia: R.L. Bryan, 1969), p. 33.

