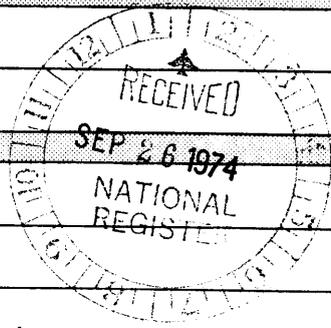


Theme #8 The Contemplative Society
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:
South Carolina
COUNTY:
Charleston
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY NUMBER: _____ DATE: _____
NOV 20 1974



1. NAME
COMMON:
Bethel Methodist Church
AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION
STREET AND NUMBER:
57 Pitt Street
CITY OR TOWN:
Charleston
STATE: South Carolina CODE: 045 COUNTY: Charleston CODE: 019

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure 	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both 	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress 	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment 	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum 	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific 	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY
OWNER'S NAME:
Bethel Methodist Church
STREET AND NUMBER:
57 Pitt Street
CITY OR TOWN:
Charleston
STATE:
South Carolina
CODE:
045

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Charleston County Courthouse
STREET AND NUMBER:
Courthouse Square
CITY OR TOWN:
Charleston
STATE:
South Carolina
CODE:
045

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS
TITLE OF SURVEY:
Inventory of Historic Places in South Carolina
DATE OF SURVEY: 1973
 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:
045

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:
COUNTY:
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY NUMBER:
DATE:
NOV 20 1974

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> (interior)	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

EXTERIOR

Bethel Methodist Church, built 1853-1854, is an example of Greek Doric temple architecture used in antebellum churches. Of stuccoed brick painted white, the building has a massive hexastyle Doric portico with a simple Doric pediment and entablature. Designed by a Mr. Curtis, Bethel Church has pilastered walls, and there is one tier of large windows on each side of the structure; the building has a gabled roof and a main entrance which is pedimented with consoles. The roof is more steeply-pitched than is usual in a Doric temple to allow rainwater to drain more quickly, thus helping to eliminate the possibility of leaks.

INTERIOR

The auditorium-plan interior has a cove ceiling. There have been interior alterations.

SURROUNDINGS

Bethel Church is located on Pitt and Calhoun streets in Charleston and is bordered on the south by the Charleston Historic District. Fronting on Pitt Street, the church has a cemetery with crape myrtles on the north (Calhoun Street) side.

Originally purchased in 1795, the church property was located in the extreme northwest part of the corporate limits of the city of Charleston. A prior Bethel Methodist Church, erected on this site in 1797, is the oldest Methodist church building in Charleston. Attended by both black and white members until the early 1840s when the two groups split, the original church building was later moved down the street to its present site at 222 Calhoun Street where it currently is used by a black congregation.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1853-1854**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

ARCHITECTURE

Bethel Methodist Church, located on the site of Charleston's first Methodist church building, is an exceptional example of antebellum Greek revival ecclesiastical architecture. Except for a rather steeply-pitched roof, the church is one of the better examples of Greek Doric temple architecture in the state. The massive, giant-order hexastyle portico withstood the 1886 earthquake intact and stands today unaltered. The Methodist Advocate in 1852 records the laying of the cornerstone and states that the "Church will be 61 X 88 feet, with portico, to cost \$18,000. Mr. Curtis, architect, and Rebb & Busby, contractors." Ravenel's Architects of Charleston lists several architects named Curtis who worked in antebellum Charleston and on nearby Edisto Island.

In the architectural survey of Charleston, a jury composed of Dr. William Murtagh, Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places, Professor Bernard Lemann, Tulane School of Architecture, Mr. Carl Feiss and Mr. Russell Wright, consultants to the city, noted this structure as exceptional. This notation indicates that the building is of the highest architectural design quality, well-proportioned, and architecturally sophisticated. Windows, classical orders or other period designs, chimneys, verandahs, massing, materials, textures, refined detail, and craftsmanship are all elegant and innovative.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Betts, Albert Deems. HISTORY OF SOUTH CAROLINA METHODISM, Columbia, S.C.: The Advocate Press, 1952. p. 265 & 266.
 Chreitzberg, A.M. EARLY METHODISM IN THE CAROLINAS, Nashville: Publishing House of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, 1897. p. 160.
 McKee, Harley J. (compiler) HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY: RECORDS OF BUILDINGS IN CHARLESTON AND THE SOUTH CAROLINA LOW COUNTRY, p. 2.
 NEWS AND COURIER (Charleston, S.C.) "Refurbishing to Begin on Old Bethel Church" August 12, 1974.
 (see continuation sheet)

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

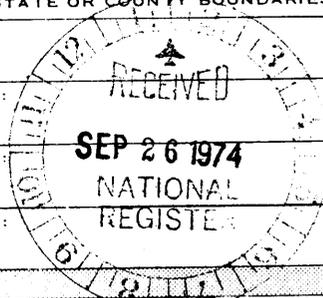
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	° ' "	° ' "		32	47	02
NE	° ' "	° ' "		79	56	29
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

UTM
17/599140
3627620
CD

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1.5 acres

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Nenie Dixon, Tray Stephenson, Bernard Kearse Historic Preservation Division

ORGANIZATION: South Carolina Department of Archives & History DATE: 8/30/74

STREET AND NUMBER: 1430 Senate Street Box 11669 Capitol Station 29211

CITY OR TOWN: Columbia STATE: South Carolina CODE: 045

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 E. Lee

Title State Historic Preservation Officer

Date September 5, 1974

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

A.R. Workman
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 11/20/74

ATTEST: [Signature]
Keeper of The National Register

Date 11-20-74

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
South Carolina	
COUNTY	
Charleston	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	NOV 20 1974

(Number all entries)

Bethel Methodist Church

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Ravenel, Beatrice St. Julien, THE ARCHITECTS OF CHARLESTON, Charleston: Carolina Art Association, 1964. p. 166 & 170.

Simons, Albert and W.H.J. Thomas. AN ARCHITECTURAL GUIDE TO CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 1700-1900 (unpublished manuscript) Charleston: Historic Charleston Foundation, 1972.

Watson, E.O. BUILDERS, SKETCHES, METHODIST PREACHERS IN SOUTH CAROLINA WITH HISTORICAL DATA. Columbia, S.C.: Southern Christian Advocate, 1932.p. 265.

