

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	OCT 22 1975
DATE ENTERED	NOV 3 1975

**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

John's Island Presbyterian Church

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER On north side of County Highway 20, half a mile west of intersection of Highway 20 and Highway 633, 10 miles west of Charleston

CITY, TOWN

Charleston vic

VICINITY OF

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

1

STATE

South Carolina

CODE

045

COUNTY

Charleston

CODE

019

3 CLASSIFICATION

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

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

The Presbyterian Church of John's Island and Wadmalaw Island

STREET & NUMBER

Route 1, Box 446

CITY, TOWN

John's Island

VICINITY OF

STATE

South Carolina

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Register of Mesne Conveyance

STREET & NUMBER

2 Courthouse Square

CITY, TOWN

Charleston

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		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The date of the present church building is under dispute. According to local tradition it was built in 1719 and remodeled in 1792. However, Chancery Court proceedings of 1840 and 1842 refer to pulling down an old church and rebuilding a new one in 1822. A church school addition was built across the rear of church in 1935.

EXTERIOR

The front facade of this T-shaped clapboard structure consists of two front entryways with three-paneled double doors. Centered between the doors is an arched window with panel shutters. The spoked arch of the window is repeated in the fanlights of the doors. The second story features three evenly-spaced 8/8 light windows. Centered in a boxed gable end is a semi-elliptical wooden fan.

The north and south elevations, which are identical, consist of a side door with fanlight, flanked by two arched windows on the east and four windows on the west, all with panel shutters. The second story features eight 8/8 light windows, without shutters. A 1935 education wing is attached to the rear, with paired and single 6/6 light windows.

Church has beaded siding. The steeply-pitched roof has been covered with asbestos shingles.

INTERIOR

Balcony, supported by seven slender Roman doric columns, extends across rear and sides of church. Narrow stairs leading to balcony are located on either side of the front doors. Boxed pews are divided by two aisles. West wall has two arched, shuttered windows flanked by doors leading to rear (1935) addition. Above doors are two 8/8 light windows.

Ceiling ornament, a molded plaster sunflower, six feet in diameter, was destroyed in Charleston earthquake of 1886. Original ceiling has been replaced by tongue-and-groove boards.

SURROUNDINGS

Set back from the highway, the church is surrounded by an open grassy area, part of which is the cemetery. Bordering this area on the south side is a brick manse built in 1952. On the north is a cinder block building (constructed in 1954) used as an educational building. Cemetery, manse, and educational building are included in the nomination.

Behind the church is a belt of trees, intended to serve as protection from the Stono River in case of hurricane.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES ca. 1719, 1792, 1822

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Originally called John's Island and Wadmalaw Church, the name was shortened to John's Island Presbyterian Church in 1925. Although church records were destroyed by fire in 1855, Court of Appeals proceedings of 1842 state that the church was willed an estate in 1735 and "had been in existence a considerable time before that bequest..."¹ Although local tradition dates the existence of the church from 1719, according to testimony given in the 1842 trial, "About the year 1822, it was found necessary to rebuild the church and for this purpose a subscription was raised, to the amount of \$3645."² Church property listed in the final court decision (May, 1846) was \$12,000 in bonds, \$2000 in stocks, one plantation with twenty Negroes, a summer and winter parsonage, two summer churches, one at Legareville and one at Rockville, and one winter Church in the Middle of John's Island.

ARCHITECTURE

The frame meeting-house church was one of the most prevalent styles of early church architecture in South Carolina. Containing refinements such as fanlights, arched windows, and interior balcony paneling, John's Island Presbyterian Church gives evidence of the builder's attention to details and the wealth and prominence of its members, South Carolina lowcountry planters.

EDUCATION

Moses Waddel, Presbyterian minister and prominent leader in education in South Carolina during the 19th Century, preached at John's Island Church as supply minister in 1793 and in 1796. In 1804, Waddel founded a male academy at Willington in present McCormick County. Eminent South Carolinians who studied under Waddel at Willington included John C. Calhoun, Hugh Swinton Legare, George McDuffie, and James L. Pettigru.

POLITICAL

An 1838 schism within the congregation of John's Island Presbyterian Church reflected the national disputes over slavery in antebellum years. In protest against an anti-slavery stand taken by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church meeting in Philadelphia in 1838, members of John's Island declared their independence from the Presbyterian Church in the United States and the Charleston Presbytery. Not all members

¹On The Court of Appeals, In Chancery, Charleston, July, 1842. Hugh Wilson, and others vs. Thomas Legare and other, p. 1.

²Ibid

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Davidson, Chalmers Gaston. The Last Foray: South Carolina Planters of 1860, A Sociological Study, Columbia: University of South Carolina Press, 1971.
- Hills, Isabel L. An Historical Sketch of John's Island Presbyterian Church, John's Island, S.C., 1710-1960.
- Hollis, Daniel W. and Carl Julien. Look to the Rock: One Hundred Antebellum Presbyterian Churches in the South. Richmond, Va: John Knox Press, 1961.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 6 acres

UTM REFERENCES

060 120

A	1, 7	5 8, 6 0, 4, 0	3, 6 1, 6 7, 4, 0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Nonie Dixon Elias B. Bull

ORGANIZATION

South Carolina Department of Archives and History

DATE

May 2, 1975

STREET & NUMBER

1430 Senate Street

TELEPHONE

803/758-5816

CITY OR TOWN

Columbia

STATE

South Carolina

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE Charles E. Lee
State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE 5/8/75

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Acting

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE 11/2/75

ATTEST

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 10-31-75

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE one

supported this stand, however, and several sued the majority for possession of the property, claiming that affiliation with the national church was essential and that donations of property had been to the Presbytery and not directly to the local church. After a period of eight years, the Court of Appeals rescinded the church's withdrawal from the Presbytery.

SOCIAL-HUMANITARIAN

Members of John's Island Presbyterian Church included wealthy, prominent planters of the South Carolina lowcountry. Dr. Daniel Jenkins Townsend (1811-1885) a graduate of Yale and the South Carolina Medical College, served as Justice of the Quorum and Commissioner of Free Schools.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE two

- Howe, George. History of the Presbyterian Church in South Carolina. Volume I. Columbia: Duffie & Chapman, 1870. Volume II, 1883.
- In Chancery, Charleston District, May, 1840, The Presbyterian Church of John's Island and Wadmalaw et al. ads. Hugh Wilson, et al.
- In the Court of Appeals, In Chancery, Charleston, July 1842. Hugh Wilson, and others vs. Thomas Legare and others.
- Legerton, Clifford L. Historic Churches of Charleston, South Carolina. Charleston, S.C.: Legerton and Co., 1966.
- Malone, Dumas (editor) Dictionary of American Biography, New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, Volume 19, 1936.
- Wallace, David Duncan, South Carolina: A Short History 1520-1948, Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1951. p. 458-459.
- Who Was Who in America, Historical Volume 1607-1896, Chicago: Marquis Who's Who, 1967.