

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received MAR 3 1982
date entered APR 1 1982

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Edisto Island Baptist Church

and/or common Edisto Baptist Church

2. Location

street & number Approximately 1.2 miles north of Edisto Island on east side
of S.C. Hwy. 174 at intersection with S.C. Secondary — not for publication
Road 768

city, town Edisto Island vicinity of ~~congressional district~~

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	N/A in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	N/A being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Congregation of the New First Baptist Church

street & number S.C. Hwy. 174

city, town Edisto Island vicinity of state South Carolina 29438

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Charleston County Register of Mesne Conveyance

street & number County Office Building, Meeting Street

city, town Charleston state South Carolina 29401

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Inventory of Historic Places
title in South Carolina

has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1981 federal state county local

depository for survey records South Carolina Department of Archives and History

city, town Columbia state South Carolina 29211

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 type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Edisto Island Baptist Church, located on rural Edisto Island in Charleston County, South Carolina, was constructed in 1818 through the efforts of one woman, Hephzibah Jenkins Townsend. The only Baptist Church serving the Island for a number of years, Edisto Island Baptist Church was enlarged after 1865. A portico was added ca. 1880, and rest rooms were added to the rear of the building in the early 1900s. The church retains its original tabby foundation and slave gallery.

Exterior: The original (1818) portion of Edisto Island Baptist Church was square in plan and supported by a tabby foundation. The two-story church was sheathed in beaded weatherboard and had a medium pitched gable roof whose ridge ran longitudinally, perpendicular to the facade. Pedimented gable ends graced the facade (southwest elevation) and the rear (northeast elevation). The original facade, which was removed and re-erected as the facade of the ca. 1865 addition, had three bays. Double door entrances with ten-light transoms flanked a central six-over-six double-hung sash window which had an eight-light transom and paneled shutters. In the second story of the facade were two eight-over-eight gallery windows. The side elevations (northwest and southeast) each had three bays; an entrance of two paneled doors with ten-light transom and shelf architrave surround was flanked by six-over-six double-hung sash windows with eight-light transoms and paneled shutters. The side elevations also had two eight-over-eight gallery windows. The rear (northeast) elevation had two smaller windows of unknown configuration. The 1818 church had a plain frieze and wall pilasters, portions of which are still visible.

Just after 1865, an addition was made to the front of the church which doubled its size. This addition was sheathed in plain weatherboard and supported by a brick pier foundation. Fenestration was similar to the original portion of the building with two windows on the first story and one gallery window on each of the side elevations. The facade from the 1818 building was dismantled and reconstructed as the facade of the new addition. Hence, the facade of the existing building has beaded weatherboard.

Around 1880 a two-story, pedimented portico was added to the facade. The portico has four plain, square, wooden posts and an arched, louvered vent in the pediment. A small, square belfry with rectangular, louvered openings on three sides and a tent roof of standing seam metal with a crowning finial rises above the portico. The gabled roof of the church is sheathed with standing seam metal as well.

A few alterations have been made in the twentieth century. In the first quarter of the century, two small, one-story, gable-roofed rest rooms sheathed in shiplap siding were added to the rear of the church. Each rest room has two six-over-six windows and a paneled door. In 1940 a tropical storm removed most of the shutters and destroyed much of the original window sash. The original six-over-six windows with transoms were replaced by larger six-over-six windows. A brick flue was added to the southeast elevation. The transom over the right entrance on the facade was replaced with a fanlight and plywood after 1940. The transom above the door on the northwest elevation also has been replaced. The wooden porch floor has been replaced by a concrete one with a cinder block foundation.

Interior: The interior of the church is oriented to the northeast. There is a raised platform for the pulpit. Originally an expensive mahogany pulpit stood on this platform; this was taken down to be used in the sanctuary of a new church building. The two windows behind the pulpit on the northeast wall have pilaster surrounds with shelf architraves and

Continued

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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) black history
	<input type="checkbox"/> invention			

Specific dates 1818, ca. 1865, ca. 1880 **Builder/Architect** unknown

Statement of Significance (In one paragraph)

Edisto Island Baptist Church is located at the intersection of South Carolina Highway 174 and South Carolina Secondary Road 768 on Edisto Island in the southwestern tip of Charleston County, South Carolina. Historically significant because it was built in 1818¹ through the efforts of one woman, Hephzibah Jenkins Townsend,² Edisto Island Baptist Church is also significant in the area of architecture because the 1818 core with its tabby foundation and slave gallery is still intact. In addition, Edisto Island Baptist Church is significant in black history because it has operated continuously as a black church since the trustees turned the church over to the faithful black members just after the Civil War.³

Additional Information: Having converted to the Baptist persuasion in 1807,⁴ Hephzibah Jenkins Townsend became active in her religion and in 1811 founded one of the first missionary societies in the South.⁵ One of her major concerns was that there was no Baptist church on Edisto Island. While her husband, Daniel Townsend, supported her religious activities, he did not agree with her determination to divide their estate equally among their children rather than following the usual practice of primogeniture. She moved to a house on a parcel of land near the Public Landing on Edisto Island looking out on Frampton's Inlet.⁶ While there she built tabby ovens where her ex-slave, Bella, cooked pastries and cookies, which were sold in Charleston to raise money to build a Baptist church on Edisto Island.⁷ In January of 1818 construction was begun on the church. By May the church had been completed and the dedication sermon was delivered by Richard Furman of the Charleston Baptist Church.⁸ Edisto Island Baptist Church operated as a branch of the Charleston Baptist Church until 1829 when it became an independent congregation with its own minister.⁹

Architecture: The original portion of the church, built in 1818, is supported by a tabby foundation. The use of tabby is rare in South Carolina and Edisto Island Baptist Church is architecturally significant since its tabby foundation is in such good condition. Also significant is the recessed-panel slave gallery which lines both sides of the nave of the church.

Black History: Edisto Island Baptist Church is significant in the area of black history. Since there was no Baptist church on the island when this one was constructed, the blacks had to attend the churches of their masters. After 1865 when most of the white members of the church had dispersed because of Federal occupation on the island, the trustees of the church turned it over to the black members of the congregation who had remained faithful. Edisto Island Baptist Church has operated as a black church continuously since that time.

Justification for Eligibility: Properties owned by religious institutions or used for religious purposes are not generally considered to be eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places; however, Edisto Island Baptist Church is historically significant as a church founded by a woman in 1818 and as an integral part of black history on Edisto Island. Also, the church has significance in the area of architecture due to its construction techniques and craftsmanship.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet

10. Geographical Data

UTM NOT VERIFIED
ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

Acreage of nominated property 1 acre

Quadrangle name Edisto Island

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

1	7	5	6	7	1	7	5	3	6	0	3	9	4	0
Zone			Easting					Northing						

B

Zone			Easting					Northing						

C

Zone			Easting					Northing						

D

Zone			Easting					Northing						

E

Zone			Easting					Northing						

F

Zone			Easting					Northing						

G

Zone			Easting					Northing						

H

Zone			Easting					Northing						

Verbal boundary description and justification The boundary of the Edisto Island Baptist Church nomination is shown as the red line on the accompanying Charleston County Tax Map Number 70-0-0, which is drawn at a scale of 400 feet to the inch. The nominated property includes the historic church and cemetery.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Martha Walker Fullington, Architectural Historian

organization S.C. Department of Archives & History

date January 5, 1981

street & number 1430 Senate Street
Post Office Box 11,669

telephone (803) 758-5816

city or town Columbia

state South Carolina 29211

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

Charles E. Lee

2/8/82

title Charles E. Lee

State Historic Preservation Officer

date

For NPS use only

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

William A. Brauman

date

4/1/82

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

W. J. Dubois

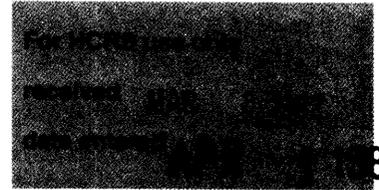
date

7/7/82

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



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Continuation sheet 1

Item number 7

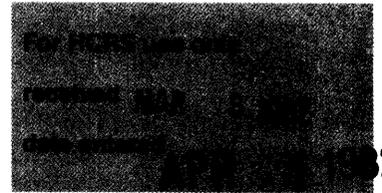
Page 1

dentil molding. A gallery extends the full length of the interior on both sides of the nave. The gallery is faced with recessed panels and is supported by wooden Tuscan columns. The floor is made of wooden planks approximately four inches wide with twelve-inch baseboards. The walls are plaster over lathing and the ceiling is sheathed in four-inch-wide boards. Over the pulpit area was added a decorative pyramidal vaulted ceiling sheathed in narrow beaded boards and surrounded by a border of diagonal beaded boards.

The church is now used for storage and the ca. 1865 portion has been partitioned off for use as a ceramic shop. Paneled doors with transoms, which had once been entrances, now lead to the rest rooms.

Surroundings: Edisto Island Baptist Church is located on the very flat, rural Edisto Island at the intersection of South Carolina Highway 174, which has been a major artery of the island since its settlement, and South Carolina Secondary Road 768, which was once the heavily traveled Steamboat Landing Road. The cemetery, where founder Hephzibah Jenkins Townsend is buried, lies within the nominated property to the rear of the church. A new cinder block building, into which the congregation moved in the 1960s, stands to the north of the church outside the nominated acreage. The church property is encircled by a chain link fence.

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service
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Continuation sheet 2

Item number 9

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Charleston Baptist Association. Minutes, 1829.

Columbia, S.C. S.C. Department of Archives and History. Charleston County Will Books I and J, 1839-1845.

Daise, Tony L. New First Baptist Church, Edisto Island, South Carolina. Telephone Interview, 14 December 1981.

Greenville, S.C. Furman University. S.C. Baptist Historical Collection. Hephzibah J. Townsend Papers.

Heck, Fannie Exile Scudder. In Royal Service. Richmond: Education Department, Foreign Mission Board, Southern Baptist Convention, 1913.

Manly, Basil. "Mercy and Judgment. A Discourse Containing Some Fragments of the History of the Baptist Church in Charleston, S.C. by Basil Manly, Pastor, 1837."

Mills, Robert. Atlas of the State of South Carolina. New facsimile edition of the original published in 1825. Columbia, S.C.: Lucy Hampton Bostick and Fant H. Thornley, 1938.

"Obituary." The Charleston Mercury, 12 March 1847.

Owens, Mrs. Ollin J. "Hephzibah Jenkins Townsend Marker Inscription," 1979. (Historic Marker Files, S.C. Department of Archives and History)

Puckette, Clara Childs, and Mackenzie, Clara Childs. Edisto/A Sea Island Principality. Cleveland: Seaforth Publications, 1978.

Edisto Island Baptist Church
Footnotes

¹Charleston Baptist Association, "Minutes of the 79th Anniversary Held at Darlington Court House October 31 - November 4, 1829," p. 28; "Map of Colleton District by Samuel A. Ruddock, 1820" in Robert Mills, Atlas of the State of South Carolina (Columbia, S.C.: Lucy Hampton Bostick and Fant H. Thornley, 1938; new facsimile edition of the original published in 1825).

²"Obituary," The Charleston Mercury, 12 March 1847, p. 2; Basil Manly, "Mercy and Judgment: A Discourse Containing Some Fragments of the History of the Baptist Church in Charleston, S.C. by Basil Manly, Pastor, 1837;" Local tradition recorded by Mrs. Bonnie Bet Smith Adams, great-granddaughter of Hephzibah Jenkins Townsend. History was told by Hephzibah to her daughter, Susan Martha Townsend; by Susan to her niece, Elizabeth Frampton Smith; and by Elizabeth to her niece, Bonnie Bet Smith Adams. Letters of Bonnie Bet Smith Adams are located in the Hephzibah J. Townsend Papers, S.C. Baptist Historical Collection, Furman University, Greenville, S.C.

³Local tradition; Telephone interview with Reverend Tony L. Daise, pastor, New First Baptist Church, Edisto Island, S.C., 14 December 1981.

⁴Mrs. Ollin J. Owens, "Hephzibah Jenkins Townsend Marker Inscription," 1979, Historic Marker Files, South Carolina Department of Archives and History, Columbia, S.C.

⁵Fannie Exile Scudder Heck, In Royal Service (Richmond: Education Department, Foreign Mission Board, Southern Baptist Convention, 1913), Appendix D, p. 372.

⁶Clara Childs Puckette and Clara Childs Mackenzie, Edisto/A Sea Island Principality (Cleveland: Seaforth Publications, 1978), pp. 8, xii (map); Charleston County Will Book I and J, 1839-1845, p. 209, S.C. Department of Archives and History, Columbia, S.C.

⁷Local tradition; Bonnie Bet Smith Adams to Dr. J. Glenwood Clayton of Furman University, 29 July 1979, Hephzibah J. Townsend Papers. Tabby oven ruins are still visible at property on site of Old Public Landing.

⁸Charleston Baptist Association, Minutes, p. 28.

⁹Charleston Baptist Association, Minutes.



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received

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date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

Page

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

Name Edisto Island Baptist Church
State Charleston, SC

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

Additional Information
Approval

Substantive Review

Keeper

[Signature] 10/28/80

Attest

Keeper

Attest

(N/A) NOT FOR PUBLICATION

SOUTH CAROLINA INVENTORY FORM FOR HISTORIC DISTRICTS AND
INDIVIDUAL PROPERTIES IN A MULTIPLE PROPERTY SUBMISSION

NAME OF MULTIPLE PROPERTY SUBMISSION: Edisto Island Multiple Resource Area

PREFERRED NAME OF PROPERTY: Addition to the Edisto Island Baptist Church
Nomination: Baptismal Pool

COMMON NAME OF PROPERTY: Same

LOCATION: Approximately 1.2 miles north of the former Edisto Island Post Office (Bailey's Store) on the eastside of South Carolina Highway 174 at intersection with South Carolina Secondary Road 768 (Oak Island Road), adjacent to Edisto Island Baptist Church.

CLASSIFICATION: Site

OWNER: Trustees of First Baptist Church of Edisto Island
c/o Rev. T. L. Daise
Route 1, Box 11
Edisto Island, S. C. 29438

DESCRIPTION

The Baptismal Pool at the Edisto Island Baptist Church is of tabby construction, surfaced with stucco on the interior and has a brick coping above grade. It is sunk into the ground approximately two-and-one-half feet and is approximately seven feet in width and ten feet in length. In places the stucco has fallen away and the tabby is exposed. Two parallel ghost marks that run the entire length of the bottom and vertically up both ends show where concrete block dividers at one time created three compartments inside the pool. A galvanized pipe about eighteen inches in length, which provided water to fill the pool, protrudes from the center of the east wall. The sides of the pool are parallel while each end is rounded.

10/14/86

SIGNIFICANCE

AREA OF SIGNIFICANCE: Religion

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: S (FOR OFFICE USE ONLY)

SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Baptismal Pool on the property of the Edisto Island Baptist Church contributes to the significance of the church as a site/structure closely associated with the doctrinal teachings and practices of the Baptist faith. It is also important as an example of tabby construction. The pool might date as early as the church (1818), although its date of construction has not been documented.

ACREAGE: 1.0 acre

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: The nominated property is shown as the black line on the accompanying Charleston County Tax Map #70-0-0, Parcel 5, the same being the boundary for the Edisto Island Baptist Church, with an approximate scale of 1 inch equalling 400 feet. It includes the historic site (baptismal pool), an addition to the church nomination.

QUAD NAME: Edisto Island, S. C.

QUAD SCALE: 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCE POINT: 17/567240/3603880

OTHER INFORMATION:

10/14/86