

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church  
other names/site number Old Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church

2. Location

street & number 369 Drayton Street not for publication   
city or town McClellanville vicinity \_\_\_\_\_  
state South Carolina code SC county Charleston code 019 zip code 29458

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. (  See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Mary W. Edmonds 5/7/04  
Signature of certifying official Date

Mary W. Edmonds, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, S.C. Dept. of Archives and History, Columbia, S.C.  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. (  See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

<input type="checkbox"/> entered in the National Register	_____	Signature of the Keeper	_____	Date of Action	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	_____				
<input type="checkbox"/> determined eligible for the National Register	_____				
<input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	_____				
<input type="checkbox"/> determined not eligible for the National Register	_____				
<input type="checkbox"/> removed from the National Register	_____				
<input type="checkbox"/> other (explain):	_____				

Bethel A.M.E. Church  
Name of Property

Charleston County, South Carolina  
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property  
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property  
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property  
(Do not include previously listed resources)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>		buildings
<u>1</u>		sites
		structures
		objects
<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Name of related multiple property listing  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)  
N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed  
in the National Register  
0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Category: RELIGION  
FUNERARY

Subcategory: Religious Facility  
Cemetery

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Category: WORK IN PROGRESS  
SOCIAL

Subcategory: Meeting Hall

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Late Victorian/Gothic

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick

walls Wood/Shingle

roof Metal

other \_\_\_\_\_

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Bethel A.M.E. Church  
Name of Property

Charleston County, South Carolina  
County and State

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations**

(Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- a owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- b removed from its original location.
- c a birthplace or a grave.
- d a cemetery.
- e a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- f a commemorative property.
- g less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Ethnic Heritage/Black  
Architecture  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

1872-1953  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

1872  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:  
S.C. Dept. of Archives & History

Bethel A.M.E. Church  
Name of Property

Charleston County, South Carolina  
County and State

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** Approximately 2.3 acres

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Zone Easting Northing	Zone Easting Northing
1 <u>17 644071 3662102</u>	3 <u>17 643983 3661963</u>
2 <u>17 644097 3662012</u>	4 <u>17 643948 3662035</u>

   See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Karen Nickless  
 organization \_\_\_\_\_ date 19 October 2003  
 street & number 134 Tranquil Lane telephone (843) 851-2845  
 city or town Ladson state SC zip code 29438

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets**

**Maps**

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

**Photographs**

Representative **black and white** photographs of the property.

**Additional items**

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

**Property Owner**

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Bethel A.M.E. Church  
 street & number 369 Drayton Street telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
 city or town McClellanville state SC zip code 29458

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.). **Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Section number   7  

Page   5  

Bethel A.M.E. Church

Name of Property

Charleston County, South Carolina

County and State

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Bethel African Methodist Episcopal (A.M.E.) Church, built ca. 1872, is located on the edge of the village of McClellanville. The church property lies partly within the town limits and partly outside the limits. The property is bounded by Dupre Road, Lincoln Street, Drayton Street, and an unnamed street that cuts from Dupre Road to Drayton Street in front of the church. The rectangular building, set upon low brick piers, is approximately 30 x 82 feet, with a pedimented gable-front roof that supports a square-based steeple.

The red V-crimp metal-clad steeple roof is steeply pitched, flared, and has narrow gabled Gothic dormers on each face. The church stands on brick piers and brick steps lead to the front entrance. The Gothic Revival style church is sided with cypress fishscale shingles with the exception of the front bays of both side elevations, which are covered with white asbestos shingles. Windows are four-over-two with a two-light transom. The transom and upper four-light sections are fixed; the lower two-light sash opens outward in an awning-like configuration. Some windows and all transoms retain the original colored panes; most of the windowpanes were replaced in 1989 after Hurricane Hugo. There are blind pointed Gothic arches with chevron wooden panels over each window. The building has a three-bay facade (southwest elevation) with two small Gothic windows flanking the central entrance, which consists of paired wooden three-panel doors under a blind Gothic arch with chevron wooden panel and V-shaped traceried overlay. There is similar Gothic detail in the pediment and steeple base directly over the front entrance. The eight-bay northwest elevation has a door near its east end, six large Gothic blind arch-headed windows and a smaller Gothic window near its front. The southeast elevation has a similar configuration, but the two rear bays have four-over-four, double-hung sash windows that retain the colored panes. The rear elevation features a large tripartite window with four-over-four, double-hung sash colored glass panes and a small Gothic window near the northeast corner of the building. The roof of the building is clad with red V-crimp tin sheeting.

The sanctuary has a raised chancel with two segmental arches of unequal dimensions supported by a square pillar. The tripartite window along the building's rear (east) wall is the focal point of the chancel's larger central arch. A small vesting room adjoins the chancel at the northeast corner of the building's interior and is accessed by a single-leaf door with simple surround. The walls and ceiling throughout are finished in beaded board. The façade was changed in 1962 by the addition of men's and women's restrooms on either side of a vestibule at the front of the building. The storm surge from Hurricane Hugo lifted the building from its brick piers and some windowpanes were lost. The church has been placed back on the original piers and the colored panes replaced by modern glass. In 1993 the roof was replaced. The interior is currently (fall-winter 2003) undergoing an extensive rehabilitation. The floor system has been removed and will be replaced with new flooring. The pews and other church furniture will not be replaced as the building is being renovated as a community center.

The church cemetery also contributes to the historic character of the property. Scattered graves dot the property. Tombstones date from the 1880s to the late twentieth century.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8

Page 6

Bethel A.M.E. Church

Name of Property

Charleston County, South Carolina

County and State

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The Bethel African Methodist Episcopal (A.M.E.) Church in McClellanville, in rural Charleston County, was built ca. 1872. It is significant under Criterion C as an example of late-nineteenth century vernacular church architecture and under criterion A as an illustration of the growth of the A.M.E. Church among freedmen in Reconstruction-era South Carolina.

The church is located in the village of McClellanville, a fishing village in St. James Santee Parish. Planters built summer homes on Jeremy Creek before the Civil War, but the area remained sparsely settled. During the Civil War Union troops named the area McClellanville and after the war a primarily white village grew along the creek. African Americans were a ten-to-one majority in the parish during the Reconstruction era, but lived, for the most part, in the rural areas around the village. Organized in 1867, the congregation built its first permanent building, Bethel A.M.E., in 1872. Bethel A.M.E. was the first African American Church in McClellanville.<sup>1</sup>

During the Civil War the Baltimore Conference of the A.M.E. Church sent three ministers to the Beaufort-Port Royal area to work with freedmen on the Union-occupied sea islands. After the war, Daniel Payne, a native Charlestonian, returned after thirty years' absence to reestablish the church's presence in the Carolina lowcountry. He installed Richard H. Cain as the pastor of the congregations in Charleston that became Emanuel A.M.E. and Morris Brown A.M.E.<sup>2</sup>

Richard Cain also founded churches in the outlying areas. As one A.M.E. publication states, "Many churches sprang into existence as if by some mystical power under his command." He is known to have founded churches in Summerville, Lincolnville, Marion, Sumter, and Georgetown. Bethel A.M.E. Church members believe Cain also founded their church, and this seems likely.<sup>3</sup>

In the outlying areas the need for church buildings for African American congregations was great. During the antebellum period, many blacks attended the already established white churches, such as the Episcopal, Methodist, Presbyterian, and Baptist churches. Even those who had constructed and worshipped in their own buildings rarely retained control after the Civil War, as the buildings were owned by white trustees. For the A.M.E. church the need for buildings was particularly acute. One A.M.E. missionary wrote from Georgia in 1867, "Our greatest want at present are houses of worship. Oh, that the Lord would send us help to fill that want."<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Walter Bonner, *Home in the Village: McClellanville in Old St. James Santee Parish* (Mt. Pleasant: Corinthian Books, 2002), 6-7, 15.

<sup>2</sup> William E. Montgomery, *Under Their Own Vine and Fig Tree: The African-American Church in the South, 1865-1900* (Baton Rouge and London: Louisiana State University Press, 1993), 61, 66-7; Bernard E. Powers, *Black Charlestonians: A Social History, 1822-1885* (Fayetteville: University of Arkansas Press, 1994), 206.

<sup>3</sup> Seventh Episcopal Diocese of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, *African Methodism in South Carolina: A Bicentennial Focus* (Tappan, N.Y.: Custombook, Inc., 1987), 34; Karen Nickless, Interview with Janie Riggs, McClellanville, S.C., 8 May 2003.

<sup>4</sup> Daniel W. Stowell, *Rebuilding Zion: The Religious Reconstruction of the South, 1863-1877* (New York and Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1998), 91.

**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Section number   8   Page   7  

Bethel A.M.E. Church

Name of Property

Charleston County, South Carolina

County and State

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In McClellanville that want was filled in 1872 with the construction of Bethel A.M.E. The builder has been identified variously as John Drayton (a founding member of the church), Paul Drayton (known to have been a carpenter on a nearby church), Samuel Drayton (a carpenter and former slave) and Julius Brown (a carpenter, barber, and homebuilder). Most members of the congregation of Bethel A.M.E. believe the builder to have been Samuel Drayton, although one former member, Esther Martineaux, believes her grandfather, Julius Brown, built Bethel.<sup>5</sup>

In McClellanville the need for church buildings extended to white congregations as well, since the town was not established as a permanent place of residence until after the Civil War. Two white churches built in the same time period, the Episcopal St. James Santee Chapel of Ease (1890) and the New Wappetaw Presbyterian Church (1875) show similarities to Bethel A.M.E. St. James has similar ornamentation—fishscale shingles and Gothic windows. New Wappetaw Presbyterian Church has a similar steeple, which contains a vestibule and a portico that has not been enclosed. Its front façade is similar to Bethel A.M.E.'s before the addition of restrooms in 1962. Architectural historians have speculated that St. James Episcopal and Bethel A.M.E. shared a builder, and it is likely that many of the same workman worked on all three churches. A.H. Lucas designed St. James, while Samuel Drayton executed Lucas's designs with the assistance of Moses Stewart, Charlie Williamson, James Bennet and Julius Brown.<sup>6</sup>

Bethel A.M.E. has stood the test of time, but it has been tested. In 1916 a storm rendered the building unusable and the congregation worked on Saturdays and worshiped on Sundays "under the old oak tree at the rear of the church" until repairs were completed. A plaque in the sanctuary documents a 1944 "renovation." Until 1962 the church had two outhouses in the back near a large oak tree. In 1962 the building's portico was enclosed for bathrooms.<sup>7</sup>

By the mid-1960s the congregation began discussion of building a new church and this culminated with the construction of Bethel A.M.E., after which the historic structure came to be known as Old Bethel A.M.E. The congregation held their last service at Bethel in the early morning of September 17, 1979. The congregation sang, "We Are Climbing Jacob's Ladder" as they walked from the church.<sup>8</sup>

The church sustained damage from Hurricane Hugo on September 21, 1989. The exterior has since been repaired but current (winter 2003-04) interior work includes replacing floors and paneling damaged by the storm. Plans call for the building to become a community center.

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<sup>5</sup> Arlie Porter, "Townsppeople join to help restore Church," *The Post and Courier* (Charleston, S.C.), 21 March 1993, 1-B.

<sup>6</sup> Porter, "Townsppeople"; Bennett Baxley, ed., *St. James-Santee Parish Historical Sketches* (McClellanville: St. James-Santee Parish Historical Society, 2000), 26-27.

<sup>7</sup> Interview with Janie Riggs.

<sup>8</sup> Interview with Janie Riggs.

**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Section number   9   Page   8  

Bethel A.M.E. Church  
Name of Property  
Charleston County, South Carolina  
County and State

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**BIBLIOGRAPHY**

- Baxley, Bennett, ed. *St. James-Santee Parish Historical Sketches*. McClellanville: St. James-Santee Parish Historical Society, 2000.
- Bonner, Walter. *Home in the Village: McClellanville in Old St. James Santee Parish*. Mt. Pleasant: Corinthian Books, 2002.
- Montgomery, William E. *Under Their Own Vine and Fig Tree: The African-American Church in the South, 1865-1900*. Baton Rouge and London: Louisiana State University Press, 1993.
- Nickless, Karen. Interview with Janie Riggs, McClellanville, S.C., 8 May 2003.
- Seventh Episcopal Diocese of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. *African Methodism in South Carolina: A Bicentennial Focus*. Tappan, N.Y.: Custombook, Inc., 1987.
- Stowell, Daniel W. *Rebuilding Zion: The Religious Reconstruction of the South, 1863-1877*. New York and Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1998.
- Porter, Arlie. "Townpeople join to help restore church." *The Post and Courier* (Charleston, S.C.), 21 March 1993.



**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Section number 10 Page 9

Bethel A.M.E. Church  
Name of Property  
Charleston County, South Carolina  
County and State

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**Verbal Boundary Description**

The property is bounded by Dupre Road, Lincoln Street, Drayton Street, and an unnamed street that cuts from Dupre to Drayton in the front of the church, as shown on the accompanying Charleston County Plat, recorded on 31 July 1996 in Plat Book DA, page 889, Charleston County Register of Mesne Conveyance, Charleston, South Carolina.

**Verbal Property Justification**

The nominated property includes the historic sanctuary and cemetery and is the entire parcel historically identified with Bethel A.M.E. Church.

**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Section number Photographs Page 10

Bethel A.M.E. Church  
Name of Property  
Charleston County, South Carolina  
County and State

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The following information is the same for each of the photographs:

Name of Property: Bethel A.M.E. Church  
Location of Property: 369 Drayton Street, McClellanville  
Name of Photographer: Karen Nickless  
Date of Photographs: August 2003  
Location of Original  
Negatives: S.C. Department of Archives and History, Columbia, S.C.

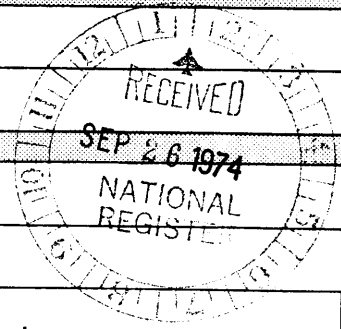
1. Principal (southwest) facade
2. Northwest elevation
3. Rear (southwest) elevation
4. Southeast elevation
5. Front entrance detail
6. Window detail
7. Interior

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<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
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) <input type="checkbox"/> Comments

**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:
ENTRY NUMBER
DATE
FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

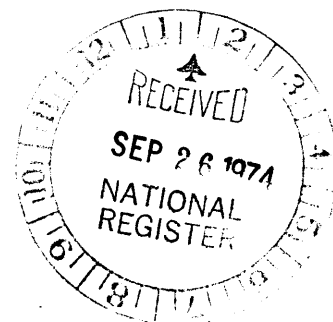
Bethel Methodist Church, built 1853-1854, is an example of Greek Doric temple architecture used in antebellum churches. Of stuccoed brick painted white, the building has a massive hexastyle Doric portico with a simple Doric pediment and entablature. Designed by a Mr. Curtis, Bethel Church has pilastered 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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**3. 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.



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)

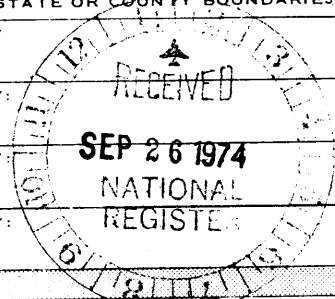
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

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	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1.5 acres

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



UTM  
17/599140  
3627620  
CD

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Nonie 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

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  
 Charles E. Lee

Title State Historic Preservation Officer

Date September 5, 1974

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

AK Workless  
 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.

