District #6 - Representative Edward L. Young

Theme 8 - The Contemplative Society

DATA SHEET

Form 10-300 (July 1969)

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:	
Dillon	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	JAN 17 1975

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: Catfish Creek Baptist Church

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: 5 miles northwest of Latta at intersection of county roads 17-63 and 17-41.

CITY OR TOWN: Latta

STATE	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
South Carolina	045	Dillon	033

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
☐ District ☒ Building ☐ Site ☐ Structure ☐ Object	☐ Public ☒ Private ☐ Both	Public Acquisition: ☐ In Process ☐ Being Considered	☒ Occupied ☐ Unoccupied ☐ Preservation work in progress	Yes: ☒ Restricted ☐ Unrestricted ☐ No

PRESENT USE *(Check One or More as Appropriate)*

☐ Agricultural	☐ Government	☐ Park	☐ Transportation	☐ Comments
☐ Commercial	☐ Industrial	☐ Private Residence	☐ Other *(Specify)*	
☐ Educational	☐ Military	☒ Religious		
☐ Entertainment	☐ Museum	☐ Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Catfish Creek Baptist Church

STREET AND NUMBER: 5 miles northwest of Latta at intersection of county roads 17-63 and 17-41

CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:	CODE
Latta	South Carolina	045

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Dillon County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

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

STATE: COUNTY: ENTRY NUMBER DATE FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	[X] Excellent	[ ] Good	[ ] Fair	[ ] Deteriorated	[ ] Ruins	[ ] Unexposed
	(Check One)		(Check One)			
	[X] Altered	[ ] Unaltered	[ ] Moved	[X] Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL *(if known)* PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

In 1802 the reorganized Catfish Creek Baptist congregation built a crude, log church on this site which was replaced, within a decade, by a clapboard building constructed of cypress. In 1849, the cypress church became too small and a larger structure was built which was in use until completion of the present sanctuary in 1883.

The present 1883 structure, constructed of pine, is 60 feet long and 40 feet wide. The facade consists of a centrally placed, stilted arch entrance with two, four-panel sliding doors which become recessed into the wall when opened. The four wooden steps which led to the entrance have been replaced by brick steps which extend the width of the building. The four original pilasters, located on either side of the entrance and at the corners of the facade, remain intact. Large rectangular, twenty-four pane windows occupy bays on either side of the main entrance. Originally all windows had six-panel louver shutters which have been removed in recent years.

Side walls have twenty-four pane, rectangular windows identical to those of the facade.

The present brick steps and brick portico with pediment and four supporting columns were added in 1970. The only other major addition is the educational building (constructed in 1948) which adjoins the sanctuary but is not visible from the front view.

The interior of the sanctuary remains largely unchanged and furnishings are original. Pews of side aisles are unusual in that they are attached to the wainscoting. Convex walls on either side of altar provide space for baptismal dressing rooms. Large doors in the floor beneath the pulpit provide access to baptistry pool.

JAN 7 1975

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD *(Check One or More as Appropriate)*

- [ ] Pre-Columbian
- [ ] 15th Century
- [ ] 16th Century
- [ ] 17th Century
- [ ] 18th Century
- [X] 19th Century
- [ ] 20th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) *(If Applicable and Known)* 1883 (organized 1752)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE *(Check One or More as Appropriate)*

Aboriginal
- [ ] Prehistoric
- [ ] Historic

- [ ] Agriculture
- [X] Architecture
- [ ] Art
- [ ] Commerce
- [ ] Communications
- [ ] Conservation
- [ ] Education
- [ ] Engineering
- [ ] Industry
- [ ] Invention
- [ ] Landscape Architecture
- [ ] Literature
- [ ] Military
- [ ] Music
- [ ] Political
- [X] Religion/Philosophy
- [ ] Science
- [ ] Sculpture
- [ ] Social/Humanitarian
- [ ] Theater
- [ ] Transportation
- [ ] Urban Planning
- [ ] Other *(Specify)* _____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Catfish Creek Baptist Church typifies the significant Baptist tradition in the South Carolina Pee Dee region established by the Welsh Baptists who migrated from Pennsylvania (now part of Delaware) in 1735. The Pee Dee, second oldest center of Baptist influence for South Carolina, was settled by Welsh settlers who took advantage of Crown policy of land grants to encourage colonization in areas uninhabited by English speaking people.

By January of 1738 a Baptist church (at first called Pee Dee but later renamed Welsh Neck) had been constituted, reaffirming the religious traditions established as the Welsh were leaving Wales in 1701.

Numerous churches grew out of the Welsh Neck Church with the oldest branch being Catfish Church. Located near the mouth of Catfish Creek, this church remained a branch of Welsh Neck until its separate constitution in 1752. By 1789, however, the original Catfish Church had become extinct.

In 1802 another congregation, taking the name Catfish, was formed farther upstream from the earlier location. This group was a direct outgrowth of the religious movement that was sweeping the country and South Carolina during the period and is important as an example of how the Great Awakening brought tremendous growth for Baptists in the state, an 80% increase from 1801 to 1803.

Catfish Church initially met in a log structure, the first of four houses of worship on this site.

Since its inception, Catfish Creek Baptist Church has played a significant role in area settlement and religious development. Although it is the oldest church congregation in Dillon County, it has never gained a large membership because numerous letters of dismissal were granted to those who wanted to organize other congregations.

The first church formed in this manner was Antioch Baptist in 1829. Catfish Creek also served as the mother church for Sardis and Little Bluff in the 1870s, Olive Branch in 1886, and Latta Church in 1891.

Catfish Creek Baptist Church has also had eleven members to become ordained ministers and one to serve as a missionary.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Allen, W.C. History of the Pee Dee Baptist Association. Pee Dee Baptist Association, 1924.

Allen, Clarence B. A History of Catfish Creek Baptist Church. Dillon, S. C.: Dillon Herald Publishing Co., 1971.

Meriwether, Robert L. The Expansion of South Carolina 1729-1765. Kingsport, Tennessee: Southern Publishers, Inc., 1940.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY						OR	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	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	34 °	21 '	47 "	79 °	29 '	42 "
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"						
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"						
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"						

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 5 acres

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

JAN 1975

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Staff - Historic Preservation Division

ORGANIZATION: South Carolina Department of Archives and History

DATE: 10/29/74

STREET AND NUMBER: 1430 Senate Street, P. O. Box 11,669, Capitol Station

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

Title: State Historic Preservation Officer

Resubmitted

Date: Nov. 26, 1974

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 1/17/75

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date: 1.15.75

Form 10-300a
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
South Carolina	
COUNTY	
Dillon	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
JAN 17 1975	

(Number all entries)

Significance - Continuation Sheet A

Architectural Significance: Catfish Creek Baptist Church is similar to many simple meeting house style churches in South Carolina except for a few added embellishments which give it a greater degree of sophistication. Architectural detail includes the arched, four-panel doorway which recedes into the wall when opened, the four ornamental pilasters on the facade, and the triple hung sash windows (originally shuttered). Unusual interior architectural features are convex walls and trap doors under pulpit which open to reveal baptismal pool.

JAN 7 1975

Form 10-300a
(July 1969)

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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
South Carolina	
COUNTY	
Dillon	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
JAN 1 7 1975	

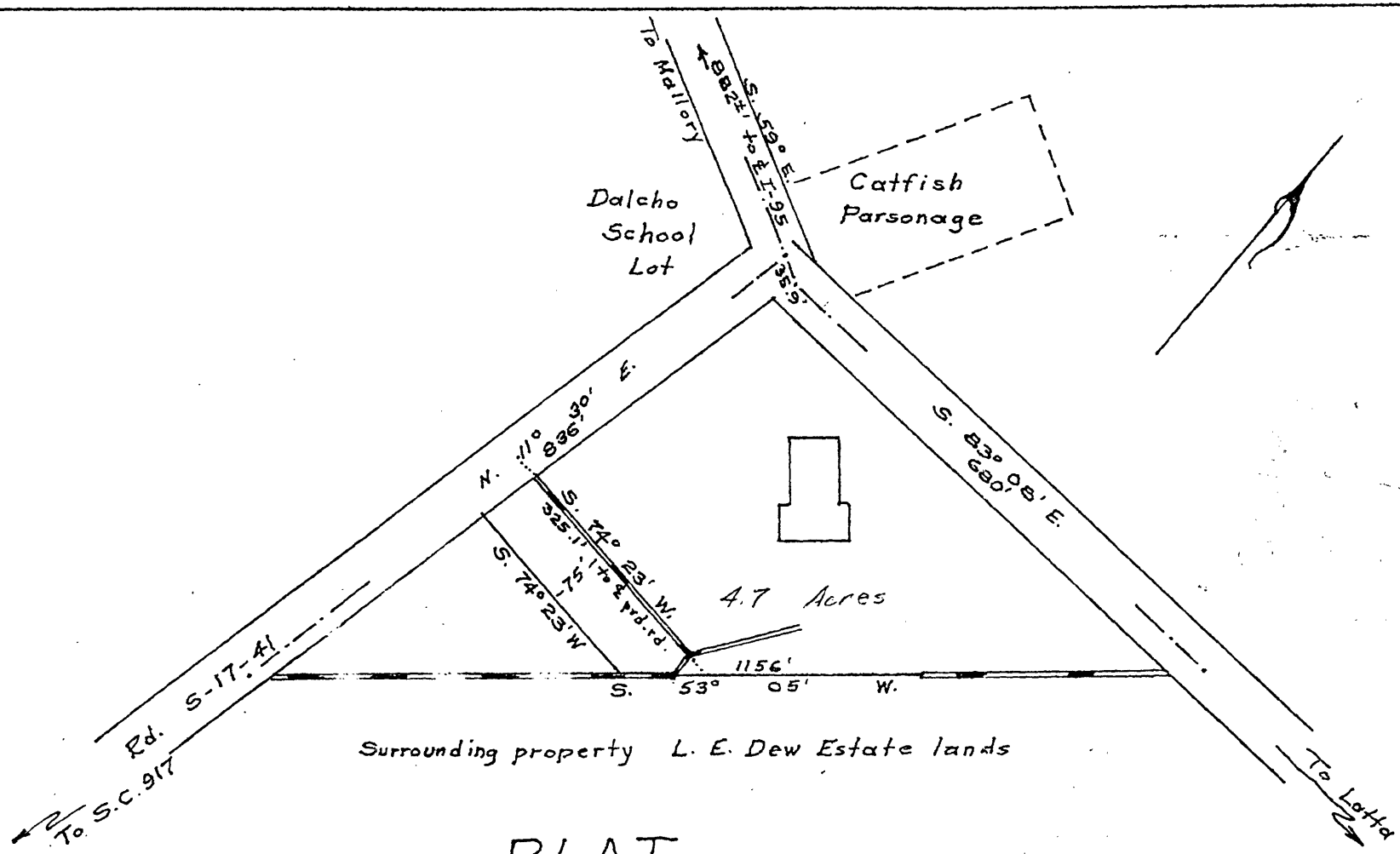
(Number all entries)

Major Bibliographical References - Continuation Sheet B

Minutes of Catfish Creek Baptist Church - 1802 to present, Microfilm in Furman University Library, Greenville, and records of church clerk.

Townsend, Leah . South Carolina Baptists 1670-1805. Florence, S. C. Florence Printing Co., 1935.

JAN 7 1975



Surrounding property L. E. Dew Estate lands

PLAT

of

Catfish Baptist Church

Dalcho Community, Dillon County, S. C.

Coordinates of church
79° 29' 42" W.
34° 21' 47" N.

Scale 1" = 200'

14 March 1972

C. O. Epps, Surveyor