

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED DEC 29 1976
DATE ENTERED JUL 26 1977

**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

St. Paul's Methodist Church

AND/OR COMMON

St. Paul's Methodist Church

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

200 yards northwest of intersection of S.C. Hwy. 9 and paved road
from S.C. Hwy. 9 and Harllee's Bridge

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Little Rock

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

#6

STATE

South Carolina

CODE

045

COUNTY

Dillon

CODE

033

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

___DISTRICT

___PUBLIC

___OCCUPIED

___AGRICULTURE

___MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

UNOCCUPIED

___COMMERCIAL

___PARK

___STRUCTURE

___BOTH

___WORK IN PROGRESS

___EDUCATIONAL

___PRIVATE RESIDENCE

___SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

___ENTERTAINMENT

___RELIGIOUS

___OBJECT

___IN PROCESS

YES: RESTRICTED (exterior)

___GOVERNMENT

___SCIENTIFIC

___BEING CONSIDERED

___YES: UNRESTRICTED

___INDUSTRIAL

___TRANSPORTATION

___NO

___MILITARY

___OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Trustees of St. Paul's Methodist Church

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Little Rock

VICINITY OF

STATE

South Carolina

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Marion County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Marion

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

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Exterior: St. Paul's Methodist Church, constructed ca. 1871, is an example of the transitional Italianate Victorian vernacular style that developed between the Greek Revival and Queen Anne periods. The church is situated on a low foundation and is constructed of heart pine weatherboarding. A bell tower with an overhanging steeple dominates the exterior of the church. The single entrance to the church projects from the lower section of the bell tower and is covered with a gabled roof. Supported by turned wooden columns and delicate wooden brackets, the porch roof is embellished with imbricated shingles in its gable.

The upper section of the tower is accentuated with pointed-arched louvered vents on each of its sides with an overhanging octagonal spire above. The tower projects from the center of the gable in unusual fashion and is flanked by 12/12/12 shuttered windows. Simple wooden pilasters further flank the windows and give the illusion of supporting the box cornice which extends around the building. Other delicate exterior ornamentation includes cyma recta cornice brackets, a weather vane finish on the spire, and lightning rods along the crest of the roof.

The sides of the church are divided into six equal bays with pilasters employed to divide each bay. A 12/12 shuttered window dominates each bay. The rear facade is dominated by a rectangular projecting apse with simple gabled roof.

Interior: The plan of St. Paul's is indicative of the rectangular meeting house with the exception of a square projecting narthex under the tower and a projecting chancel apse at the rear. A curved balustrade with turned balusters defines the altar in front of the projecting procenium. The choir area is further delineated on a platform to the right of the altar.

The interior woodwork is characterized by beaded paneling arranged in a herringbone pattern. The ceiling, also of beaded paneling, is coved on the sides.

Two aisles divide the pews into three sections. Each end of the heavy pine pews features a recessed panel and further illustrates the transitional period of the church.

A gallery extends across the front of the church under the narthex. Two-flight stairways in either corner of the front of the building provide access to the gallery. The railing around the gallery features simple rectangular balusters.

Surroundings: St. Paul's Methodist Church is located on a rural road near the town of Little Rock, approximately five miles from Dillon, South Carolina. Surrounding the church is the cemetery where many of the early church members are buried. The church and cemetery comprise approximately one acre of land.

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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

St. Paul's Methodist Church, constructed ca. 1871, is an example of the transitional Italianate Victorian vernacular style of architecture. The building stands, unaltered, near Little Rock, South Carolina (earlier known as Harlleesville, South Carolina). Both St. Paul's and its predecessor, Liberty Chapel, have been important in the religious life of this community, and the church remains today a local landmark in Dillon County.

Architecture: St. Paul's Methodist Church is an excellent example of the transitional Italianate Victorian vernacular style that developed between the Greek Revival and Queen Anne periods. Constructed ca. 1871, the building employs stylistic motifs indicative of several different styles. The basic structure is a classic meeting house form divided into bays through the use of slender pilasters. Tall, narrow windows of 12/12 sash further allude to the Victorian rather than Greek Revival proportions. A simple box cornice surrounds the building and is embellished with decorative cyma recta brackets.

Dominant features of the structure are the bell tower and steeple. Other Victorian decorations on the faces of the tower include pointed-arch louvers, gabled dormers, and imbricated shingles. The interior of the church is significant because of its original pews, altar rail and furniture, coved ceiling, and narrow beaded paneling arranged in herringbone pattern.

Religion: The history of St. Paul's Methodist Church is directly linked with that of Liberty Chapel. Early records have been lost; however, local tradition indicates that Liberty Chapel's history dates from the late 18th or early 19th Centuries. There is strong local tradition that Francis Asbury, who traveled in the Pee Dee area in 1807, was influential in the growth of Methodism in the community of Harlleesville (later known as Little Rock) and in the development of Liberty Chapel.

By 1814, a church known as Liberty Chapel had definitely been established, for in that year Philip Bethea, in his will, ordered the sale of his estate and "...one equal share with the above named persons to be appropriated to the repairs of Liberty Chapel and the Graveyard...."¹ Several years later, in 1823, Liberty Chapel received as a gift

¹ Marion County Wills, vol. 1, pp. 92-93.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Asbury, Francis. The Journal of Reverend Francis Asbury, 3 vols. New York: N. Bangs and T. Mason, 1821.

Marion County, South Carolina. Deed Book. vol. II.

Marion County, South Carolina. Plat Book. vol. B. (continued)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1 acre

UTM REFERENCES

A | 17 | 646740 | 3816040 |
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B | | | | | | | | | |
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C | | | | | | | | | |
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

D | | | | | | | | | |
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

(John C. Henagan, Dillon County Historical Society)

NAME / TITLE

Kathy Hendrix - intern (Staff - Historic Preservation Division)

ORGANIZATION

S. C. Department of Archives and History

DATE

October 6, 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

Charles E. Lee

TITLE Charles E. Lee, State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE 12-6-76

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION
 ATTEST: *Charles E. Lee*

DATE 7/26/77
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER
 DATE 6-20-77

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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the land where the present St. Paul's Church now stands. Thomas Harllee, Sr., in July 1823, donated one acre of land to the Trustees of the Methodist Society at Liberty Chapel for the purpose of constructing a meeting house. In 1820, Harllee had received a grant from the state of South Carolina for 998 acres of land which included the acreage he later donated to Liberty Chapel. Filed in the Marion County Plat Book is a plat for this grant. From the deed description of the donated land, the site of Liberty Chapel can be located. The present day St. Paul's Church is located in this same area.

Records show that Liberty Chapel made contributions to the Quarterly Conference of the Methodist Church in 1830, 1840, and 1845. In 1844, Thomas Harllee, Jr., donated "...to the trustees of the School at Liberty Chapel,...a right to the Schoolhouse including a half acre of land...."²

Records of the congregation have been lost, and no known description exists of Liberty Chapel. According to a speech entitled Methodism on the Pee Dee by Reverend R. E. Stackhouse, the present church structure of St. Paul's was erected in 1871. Reverend Stackhouse also states that the congregation in 1871 changed its name from Liberty Chapel to St. Paul's. Records of the South Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church list individual congregations of the Little Rock Circuit for the first time in 1878. From this time until its deactivation in 1949, St. Paul's continued to participate in the South Carolina Conference of the Methodist Church as a member of the Little Rock Circuit of the Marion District.

²Marion County Deeds, Book II, p. 405.

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Mills, Robert. Mills' Atlas. 1938 edition.

Spartanburg, South Carolina. Historical Society, South Carolina Conference; Methodist Church Archives, Wofford College, "Quarterly Conference Record: Pee Dee Circuit, 1830-1846."

Harllee, William Curry. Kinfolks. 3 vols. New Orleans, Louisiana: Searcy and Pfaff Ltd., 1934.

Hucks, Herbert, Jr., Curator, Historical Society of the South Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church. Information compiled concerning districts and charges of the Methodist Church in the Pee Dee (1786-1960). October 27, 1972.

Stackhouse, R. E., Reverend. Methodism in the Pee Dee. (An address delivered in Darlington, South Carolina on December 13, 1904, before the Historical Society of the South Carolina Conference, Methodist Episcopal Church South. A copy is deposited in the Methodist Church Archives, Wofford College, Spartanburg, South Carolina).

Henagan, John C., General. Chairman, Dillon County Historic Preservation Commission. Information submitted by General Henagan.