

(N/A) NOT FOR PUBLICATION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: Fairfield County Multiple
Resource Area (Supplement I)

PREFERRED NAME OF PROPERTY: Mount Olivet Presbyterian Church

COMMON NAME OF PROPERTY: Same

LOCATION: Approximately one-half mile east of the intersection of
S.C. Highway 200 and S.C. Secondary Highway 20, some 7
miles northeast of Winnsboro, S.C.

CLASSIFICATION: Building

OWNER: Mt. Olivet Presbyterian Church
c/o Mr. Willard Bairfoot
Route 2, Box 110-D
Winnsboro, S.C. 29180

DESCRIPTION

Mount Olivet Presbyterian Church is a one-story, rectangular, front-gabled building. The church is of masonry construction with brick bearing walls which are four bricks thick. The brickwork is covered with stucco, which has been scored to resemble cut stone. The foundation is granite. The facade (south elevation) is divided into three bays; the central bay contains the main double-door entrance, which features a molded pediment. The entrance is flanked by windows with eight-over-eight vertical sash. An arched double lancet window with lozenge is located above the entrance. The side elevations are divided into four bays; windows are identical to the windows on the facade. The east elevation contains four evenly spaced windows; the west elevation contains a secondary entrance and three evenly spaced windows. An apse with a single six-over-four vertical sash window on the east and west elevation is attached to the rear (north elevation) of the church.

The church has a central aisle plan with pews on both sides.

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The interior was altered in the late nineteenth or early twentieth century (the oldest member of the congregation has no memory of the church in its original configuration). A dropped, beaded-board ceiling was installed, which obscures the original vaulted ceiling and beam rafters and the interior view of the lancet window. This lowered ceiling also clips the pointed arched molding surround which defines the apse. A partition has been built at the entrance of the church, above and below the balcony, which creates a narthex with a Sunday school room and storage space above. This balcony is reached by a stair inside the secondary entrance on the west elevation.

According to tradition, the stone for the foundation was quarried and the clay for the brick walls was dug from the creek bed behind the church near the site of an earlier church building.

A large cemetery, northwest of the church, includes gravestones dating back to 1795 and is enclosed by a cast-iron fence.

AREA OF SIGNIFICANCE: Architecture/Religion

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: S (FOR OFFICE USE ONLY)

SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANCE

This immediate area of Fairfield County has been served by a Presbyterian congregation since before 1785.(1) The Reverend William Martin, a Covenanter minister from Ireland who settled in South Carolina in 1772, preached at the Wolf Pit, a quarter mile from the present Mount Olivet church, about the time of the American Revolution.(2) In 1785 there was an established church in the vicinity called Wateree Church, after nearby Wateree Creek. The church was subsequently named Mount Olivet Presbyterian Church and a building was constructed near the present site around 1800.(3) The present building, which was completed in 1869, is significant as a basically intact example of a rural church building, illustrating local construction techniques and stylistic characteristics of the period.(4) In addition, the large cemetery northwest of the church contains several historically and artistically significant gravestones.

ACREAGE: 6 acres

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: The boundary of the nominated property is shown as the black line on the accompanying Fairfield County Tax Map # 75, parcel 15, with a scale of 400 feet to the inch. It includes the historic building, cemetery, and the remainder of the parcel.

QUAD NAME: Winnsboro

QUAD SCALE: 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCE POINT: 17/496880/3813540

OTHER INFORMATION: See South Carolina Historical Marker Files, on file at the South Carolina Department of Archives and History, for additional historical information.

NOTES

1) Minutes of Session at Waxhaw, 13 April 1784, in Minutes of the Presbytery of South Carolina, 1784, The Historical Foundation of the Presbyterian and Reformed Churches, Montreat, North Carolina.

2) George Howe, History of the Presbyterian Church in South Carolina, 3 volumes, (Columbia, S.C.: Duffie and Chapman, 1870), I: 503; Charles Archibald Stevenson, Historical Sketch of Mount Olivet Presbyterian Church, Located Seven Miles North of Winnsboro on Old Rocky Mount Road, Fairfield County, South Carolina (n.p., 1947), pp. 3-6.

3) Stevenson, pp. 7-8; Howe, 2:86.

4) Stevenson, p. 12.