

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY  
NOMINATION FORM

Continuation Sheet

Item Number

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<u>Name</u>	Historic Ruff's Chapel	<u>Location</u>	Junction of U.S. 21 and S.C. 34
	Common Ruff's Chapel	<u>Classification</u>	Building
<u>Owner</u>	Methodist Conference 1420 Lady Street Columbia, S.C.		

Representation in Existing Surveys

Description - Built about 1870 by David H. Ruff, Ruff's Chapel is a single story rectangular frame building, sheathed in weatherboard, with a gable roof. There are two sets of double doors on the facade, topped by four-light transoms and simple entablatures supported on scroll brackets. Windows are six over six over six sash, except for one six over six window on the northeast side and two small peaked five over four windows on the apse at the rear of the building. The roof is covered with embossed metal shingles. The square open belfry has a metal covered bellcast hip roof with a ball finial. According to tradition, Mr. Ruff threw sixty silver dollars into the metal when the bell was cast, to give it a silvery tone. The bell was recently removed for safekeeping after an attempt was made to steal it.

Significance - Ruff's Chapel was the first Methodist Church built in Ridgeway. It was built by a prominent Ridgeway merchant, David H. Ruff, who is buried in the small cemetery surrounding the church. The church's location, on a small hill overlooking the town, and its historical associations establish it as a landmark in Ridgeway. The United Methodist Conference has leased the building to the town of Ridgeway for twenty-five years, and efforts are underway to find funding to restore the building and find an appropriate use for it.

Acreage 1.29

Verbal Boundary Description - The boundary of the Ruff's Chapel nomination is shown as the red line on the accompanying map entitled "Ridgeway Multiple Resource Nomination" and drawn at a scale of 100 feet to the inch. The nominated property includes all significant buildings and structures.

UTM Reference Point 17/503885/3795690

Other Information - The requirement excluding properties owned by religious institutions from the National Register should be waived for Ruff's Chapel for the following reasons:

1. It was built by an individual prominent in the history of Ridgeway.
2. It is a significant part of Ridgeway's architectural heritage.

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