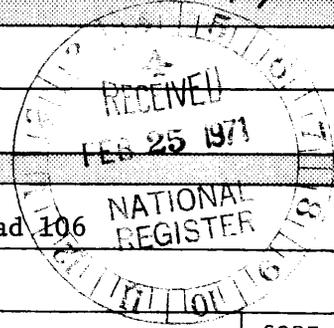Form 10-300
(July 1969)

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: |
| Fairfield |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY |

| ENTRY NUMBER | DATE |
| 71.5.45.0033 | 5/6/71 |

RECEIVED
FEB 25 1971
NATIONAL
REGISTER

S E E   I N S T R U C T I O N S

1. NAME

COMMON:

Saint Stephen's Episcopal Church

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

Ridgeway vicinity about 1 mile northeast on County Road 106

CITY OR TOWN:

Ridgeway vic.

| STATE | | CODE | COUNTY: | | CODE | |
| South Carolina   29130 | | 45 | Fairfield | | ~~28~~ 039 | |

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:

Saint Stephen's Episcopal Church

STREET AND NUMBER:

| CITY OR TOWN: | STATE: | CODE |
| Ridgeway | South Carolina | 45 |

STATE:

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:

Fairfield County Court House

STREET AND NUMBER:

Congress Street

| CITY OR TOWN: | STATE | CODE |
| Winnsboro | South Carolina | 45 |

COUNTY:

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

South Carolina Preliminary Survey of Historic Places

DATE OF SURVEY: 1969   ☐ Federal   ☒ State   ☐ County   ☐ Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

South Carolina Department of Archives and History

STREET AND NUMBER:

1430 Senate Street, P. O. Box 11,188 Capitol Station   29211

| CITY OR TOWN: | STATE: | CODE |
| Columbia | South Carolina | 45 |

ENTRY NUMBER 71.5.45.0033

FOR NPS USE ONLY

DATE 5/6/71

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	☒ Excellent	☐ Good	☐ Fair	☐ Deteriorated	☐ Ruins	☐ Unexposed

	slightly *(Check One)*		*(Check One)*	
	☒ Altered	☐ Unaltered	☐ Moved	☒ Original Site

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

Gothic Revival design. Steep gable flared roof, rose window in gable. Front entrance on west end with double doors. Steep gabled pavilion with double doors on south side. Exterior originally of pine, painted maroon. Around 1920, church was brick veneered. Wing, containing the parish house and church school, was added in 1940s.

Nave is smaller variation of Christ Episcopal Church, Greenville. The pine interior is given a finish, which is rare, described as a "lost art." It was stained or painted in a natural brown (pine-like) and while the paint or varnish was still wet, rubbed vertically with heavy burlap bagging, giving the wood a "natural finish" of wood grain appearance. It has not been duplicated in recent years. All pews, walls, ceiling, groins, etc. have same finish.

Windows were originally clear glass, papered with a stained-glass-like paper. In 1949 stained glass windows designed and made by the Payne Studios of Patterson, N. J. were installed. Above and on each side of the altar are window memorials to the three founders. In the high apex west end is a rose window, especially beautiful in the late afternoon sunlight. All windows are memorials to former members. Walls contain numerous memorial plaques and tablets, some white marble, some bronze. Noteworthy is the white marble tablet listing the large number of parishioners who served in the Confederate Army and Navy. Additional scrolls honor veterans of subsequent wars.

Sanctuary furnishings are mahogany. Altar is surmounted by a hand-some dark mahogany cross. The bishop's chair and the rector's chair are heavy mahogany with a fine patina. The credence shelf and the pulpit-lectern were made by the Rt. Reverend Sidney Thomas, direct descendant of a church founder and Episcopal Bishop for the Diocese of South Carolina 1928-1944.

Church has been in continuous use. Grounds include a well-kept cemetery with tombstones bearing names of builders and early families. Handsome wrought-iron fence and gateway encloses churchyard.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD *(Check One or More as Appropriate)*

☐ Pre-Columbian ☐ 16th Century ☐ 18th Century ☐ 20th Century
☐ 15th Century ☐ 17th Century ☒ 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) *(If Applicable and Known)* 1854

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

Aboriginal
☐ Prehistoric
☐ Historic
☐ Agriculture
☒ Architecture
☐ Art
☐ Commerce
☐ Communications
☐ Conservation

☐ Education
☐ Engineering
☐ Industry
☐ Invention
☐ Landscape
   Architecture
☐ Literature
☐ Military
☐ Music

☐ Political
☒ Religion/Phi-
   losophy
☐ Science
☐ Sculpture
☐ Social/Human-
   itarian
☐ Theater
☐ Transportation

☐ Urban Planning
☐ Other *(Specify)*

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Oldest church in Ridgeway, and the oldest public building in the area, St. Stephen's is a gem of modified Gothic architecture.

One of few Gothic designs in Fairfield County. Pointed arches in doorways, ceilings, and windows give the vertical feeling of pure Gothic. Entire nave, groin-vaulted gives the impression of height.

Like Christopher Wren's English churches, these American Gothic churches were designed for worshipping and preaching. There are no columns to obstruct the view; the chancel and sanctuary are raised slightly above the central nave where the congregation sits, sings, and kneels.

All interior wood is original heart of pine, cut on plantation of Palmer family. Foundation and chimney brick were baked on Thomas family plantation. Land for church and burying ground was given by a third founding family, the Davises.

Saint Stephen's Episcopal Church reflects the migration of Low Country planters to Up Country South Carolina and the subsequent building of the first Up Country Episcopal churches, most of which attracted various denominations, especially Presbyterians and Huguenots, who had no churches of their own.

Established September 25, 1839, as a Chapel-of-Ease to St. John's Parish, Fairfield. Administered as part of St. John's until 1889. Rector from 1865 to 1868 was the Reverend William Porcher Dubose, who later became Dean of the Theological School at University of the South, Sewanee, Tennessee.

Present building was consecrated August 4, 1854, by Bishop Thomas F. Davis. The Reverend John Dewitt McCollough, designer of numerous S. C. Episcopal churches was architect for and later rector of St. Stephen's.

Church still serves small, active congregation.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Bolick, Julian Stevenson. A Fairfield Sketchbook. Clinton, South Carolina: Jacob's Brothers, 1963.

McMaster, Fitz Hugh. History of Fairfield County. Columbia, South Carolina: The State Commercial Printing Company, 1946.

Reynolds, Emily Bellinger and Faunt, Joan Reynolds. Biographical Directory of the Senate of the State of South Carolina 1776-1964. Columbia, South Carolina: South Carolina Archives Department, 1964.

Thomas, Albert Sidney, A Historical Account of the Protestant Episcopal Church in South Carolina. Columbia, S.C.: The R.L. Bryan Company, 1957.
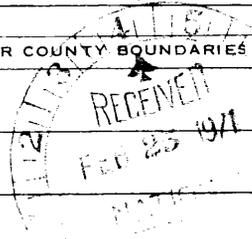
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

CORNER	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					
	LATITUDE			LONGITUDE				LATITUDE			LONGITUDE		
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"		34°	18'	42"	80°	57'	22"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"							
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"							
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"							

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 9½ acres

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

RECEIVED FEB 25 1971

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

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:

Ben F. Hornsby, Historic Resources Coordinator I

ORGANIZATION

South Carolina Department of Archives and History

DATE: January 8, 1971

STREET AND NUMBER:

1430 Senate Street P. O. Box 11,188 Capitol Station 29211

CITY OR TOWN: Columbia

STATE: South Carolina

CODE: 45

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 _____

Title Director, South Carolina Department Archives and History

Date February 14, 1971

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

MAY 6 1971

Date _____

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

APR 19 1971

Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS