7. America at Work

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

Christ Episcopal Church, Mars Bluff

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

S.C. Highway 327   __NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN   CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Florence   X_ VICINITY OF   # 6

STATE   CODE   COUNTY   CODE

South Carolina   045   Florence   041

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
__DISTRICT	X_PUBLIC	X_OCCUPIED	__AGRICULTURE	__MUSEUM
X_BUILDING(S)	X_PRIVATE	__UNOCCUPIED	__COMMERCIAL	__PARK
__STRUCTURE	__BOTH	__WORK IN PROGRESS	__EDUCATIONAL	__PRIVATE RESIDENCE
__SITE	**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**	**ACCESSIBLE**	__ENTERTAINMENT	X_RELIGIOUS
__OBJECT	__IN PROCESS	__YES: RESTRICTED	__GOVERNMENT	__SCIENTIFIC
	__BEING CONSIDERED	X_YES: UNRESTRICTED	__INDUSTRIAL	__TRANSPORTATION
		__NO	__MILITARY	__OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Diocese of South Carolina

STREET & NUMBER

Drawer 2127

CITY, TOWN   STATE

Charleston   __ VICINITY OF   South Carolina   29403

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.   Darlington County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN   STATE

Darlington   South Carolina

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Inventory of Historic Places in South Carolina

DATE

1973 (update)   __FEDERAL X_STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS   South Carolina Department of Archives & History

CITY, TOWN   STATE

Columbia   South Carolina

⬛7 DESCRIPTION

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Christ Episcopal Church was constructed in 1859 and is an excellent vernacular example of the "Carpenter Gothic" style of architecture.

Cruciform in plan, the church is of board and batten construction and rests upon low brick piers. The roof is steeply pitched with simple wooden brackets supporting the eaves. Windows and doors are pointed-arched, in the Gothic Revival style, and feature simple wooden tracery.

Entrances are located on both sides of the structure, in the projecting transepts. An entrance is also located at the northern end of the structure (at the rear of the church). Attached to this facade is a small wing which serves both as a vestry room and a cover for the door.

Ca. 1945 the wooden shingled roof was replaced by composition shingles. The original windows were replaced by the existing transparent glass ca. 1955.

INTERIOR: The interior of the church is simple and virtually unaltered. The walls are plaster, and floors are heart pine. The steeply pitched wooden ceiling is supported by exposed cross bracing. The original pine pews, altar rail, and other church furniture have been preserved.

SURROUNDINGS: The church is located in a formerly rural area which is now beginning to show signs of development. Adjacent to the church and included within the nominated acreage is the cemetery which contains the graves of many of the original parishioners and their descendants.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD

—PREHISTORIC
—1400-1499
—1500-1599
—1600-1699
—1700-1799
X—1800-1899
—1900-

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

—ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC
—ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC
—AGRICULTURE
X—ARCHITECTURE
—ART
—COMMERCE
—COMMUNICATIONS

—COMMUNITY PLANNING
—CONSERVATION
—ECONOMICS
—EDUCATION
—ENGINEERING
—EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT
—INDUSTRY
—INVENTION

—LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
—LAW
—LITERATURE
—MILITARY
—MUSIC
—PHILOSOPHY
—POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

X—RELIGION
—SCIENCE
—SCULPTURE
—SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
—THEATER
—TRANSPORTATION
—OTHER (SPECIFY)

SPECIFIC DATES 1859   **BUILDER/ARCHITECT**

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Located in rural Florence County, South Carolina, Christ Episcopal Church is an excellent example of a vernacular interpretation of the Gothic Revival style of architecture (also known as "Carpenter Gothic"). The church is also exemplary of the small and frequently isolated churches in South Carolina which have played an important part in the religious and social life of their surrounding communities.

The history of Christ Church began ca. 1843 when Dr. Edward Porcher, formerly of the lower part of the state, was successful in arranging for Episcopal services to be held in the Mars Bluff community. In 1859 Dr. Porcher gave two acres of land on which the present church was erected. On June 5, 1859, Rev. Thomas Frederick Davis consecrated Christ Church. Families associated with the church included Greggs, Bacots, Ashbys, Harllees, Rogers, McCalls and others.

For the next fifty years Christ Church maintained an active, although small, congregation. With the organization and growth of St. John's Episcopal Church in the nearby town of Florence, membership at Christ Church declined. Ca. 1918 the church was closed, although interest in it has remained strong since that time. In the 1930's Bible classes were held in the church, and in the 1940's services were occasionally held. In 1950 Christ Church was reorganized as a mission and continues to be so today. With this reorganization, much effort has been made to keep the church in good repair. Services are now held regularly.

ARCHITECTURE: Christ Church is an excellent vernacular example of the "Carpenter Gothic" style of architecture. Erected in 1859, the church is of board and batten construction and features pointed arched windows and doors, as well as exposed roof bracing. Also typical of the style are the wooden brackets, the steeply pitched roof, and the simple wooden tracery.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

"Christ Episcopal Church, Centennial Service." 31 May, 1959.

"Constance Gregg Gets Harllee Cup." _Florence Morning News_, 8 March 1978, p. 7-A.

Florence, South Carolina. Registry of Christ Episcopal Church.

(continued)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY ___ca. 2___

QUADRANGLE NAME ___Florence East___   QUADRANGLE SCALE ___1:62,500___

UTM REFERENCES

A |1,7| |6,6,6,4,0,0| |3,7,9,0,3,0,0| B |_| |_,_,_,_,_| |_,_,_,_,_|
   ZONE EASTING   NORTHING   ZONE EASTING   NORTHING

C |_| |_,_,_,_,_| |_,_,_,_,_| D |_| |_,_,_,_,_| |_,_,_,_,_|

E |_| |_,_,_,_,_| |_,_,_,_,_| F |_| |_,_,_,_,_| |_,_,_,_,_|

G |_| |_,_,_,_,_| |_,_,_,_,_| H |_| |_,_,_,_,_| |_,_,_,_,_|

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The property is bounded in the east by South Carolina Highway 327 and on the north, south and west by the property of Eb. Willis.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE   Mrs. Agnes Willcox
Florence City-County Historical Commission
Kappy McNulty

ORGANIZATION   DATE
South Carolina Department of Archives & History   March 26, 1978

STREET & NUMBER   TELEPHONE
P. O. Box 11,669 Capitol Station   (803) 758-5816

CITY OR TOWN   STATE
Columbia   South Carolina

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

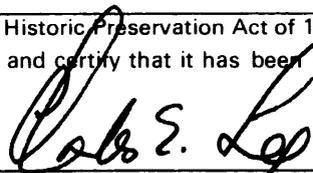THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

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

TITLE   Charles E. Lee
State Historic Preservation Officer   DATE May 28, 1978

GPO 921-803

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

CONTINUATION SHEET   . ITEM NUMBER   9   PAGE one

Gregg, Constance. A History of Christ Church, Mars Bluff. Florence,
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Thomas, Albert Sidney. A Historical Account of the Protestant Episcopal
    Church in South Carolina. Columbia, S.C.: R. L. Bryan, 1957, p. 46.