NPS Form 10-900
(Rev. 10-90)

OMB No. 1024-0018

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NATIONAL REGISTER, HISTORY & EDUCATION
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Hopewell Presbyterian Church and Hopewell Cemetery
other names/site number

2. Location

street & number 5314 Old River Road not for publication
city or town Florence vicinity
state South Carolina code SC county Florence code 041 zip code 29505

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination __ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets __does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant __ nationally __statewide X locally. (__ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Mary W. Edmonds 4/28/2000
Signature of certifying official Date

Mary W. Edmonds, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, S.C. Dept. of Archives and History, Columbia, S.C.
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property __ meets __does not meet the National Register criteria. (__See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is: Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

for Edson H. Beall 6.2.00

✓ entered in the National Register
__See continuation sheet.
__determined eligible for the National Register
__See continuation sheet.
__ determined not eligible for the National Register
__ removed from the National Register
__ other (explain):

Hopewell Presbyterian Church and Hopewell Cemetery
Name of Property

Florence County, South Carolina
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

X private
__ public-local
__ public-State
__ public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

X building(s)
__ district
X site
__ structure
__ object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
2	1	buildings
1		sites
		structures
		objects
3	1	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)
N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register
0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Category:	Subcategory:
RELIGION	Religious Facility
FUNERARY	Cemetery

Current Functions
(Enter caregories from instructions)

Category:	Subcategory:
RELIGION	Religious Facility
FUNERARY	Cemetery

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)
Greek Revival

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation	Brick
walls	Wood: Weatherboard
roof	Asphalt
other	Stone: Marble
	Granite
	Concrete

Narrative Description
(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Hopewell Presbyterian Church and Hopewell Cemetery
Name of Property

Florence County, South Carolina
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

__ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
__ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
_X_ C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period,or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
__ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

_X_ a owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
__ b removed from its original location.
__ c a birthplace or a grave.
_X_ d a cemetery.
__ e a reconstructed building, object,or structure.
__ f a commemorative property.
__ g less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture
Art

Period of Significance

ca. 1770-1946

Significant Dates

1779
1842
1946

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Narrative Statement of Significance

Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

__ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
__ previously listed in the National Register
__ previously determined eligible by the National Register
__ designated a National Historic Landmark
__ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # ____
__ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # ____

Primary location of additional data:

_X_ State Historic Preservation Office
__ Other State agency
__ Federal agency
__ Local government
__ University
__ Other

Name of repository:

Hopewell Presbyterian Church and Hopewell Cemetery
Name of Property

Florence County, South Carolina
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 5.72 acres

UTM References
(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
1	17	626976	3777105	3	17	626845	3776950	5	17	626861	3777163
2	17	626878	3776910	4	17	626826	3777090				

___See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)
Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Sarah Fick
organization Historic Preservation Consultants, Inc. date December 1999
street & number P.O. Box 1112 telephone (843) 723-1746
city or town Charleston state SC zip code 29402

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:
Continuation Sheets
Maps
A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.
Photographs
Representative **black and white** photographs of the property.
Additional items
(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Hopewell Presbyterian Church
street & number 5314 Old River Rd. telephone (843) 665-1308
city or town Florence state SC zip code 29505

name Hopewell Cemetery Association
street & number 4530 Claussen Rd. telephone (843) 662-1449
city or town Florence state SC zip code 29505

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended(16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.). **Estimated Burden Statement**: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.0. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

Summary Description

Hopewell Presbyterian Church and Hopewell Cemetery are historically related properties set at opposite sides of Old River Road in the Claussen community of rural Florence County. The church, completed in 1842, is a good example of a frame edifice in the Greek Revival style. The cemetery, in use since the late eighteenth century, occupies a three-acre site where the original Hopewell Presbyterian Church stood. It contains a notable collection of nineteenth century marble headstones and monuments, many signed by their carvers, laid out in a distinctive pattern of alignment by family. Inside the cemetery is the church's early Session House.

General Description

Standing at the southwest side of Old River Road, Hopewell Presbyterian Church is a two-story frame Greek Revival-style building with pedimented front gable end, two-story portico with two wood pillars and matching pilasters at the enclosed outer bays, and bands of five windows, taller at the principal level, at the side elevations. The building is clad in weatherboard, except that the tympanum and wide architrave have flushboard siding, and rests on a brick pier foundation with brick infill.

Within the portico are two pairs of double doors, each in a narrow surround with transom and sidelights, placed against the enclosure walls. The two upper level windows are more centrally placed and not aligned above the doors. Between the doors is a bronze plaque mounted in 1949 that reads "Hopewell Presbyterian Church. Founded 1770." Upper level windows are 8/8 double-hung wood sash, with 12/9 sash at first level openings at the side elevations. The stair enclosure at the west bay of the facade is accessed by a single door within the portico and lit by a first-level window at the west elevation; the left enclosure has a single door at the east elevation. The gable roof is covered with composition shingles.

The interior of the historic church is a single room, its plaster walls undecorated except by a round clock hung on the west wall in 1910 by the Ladies' Aid Society. Behind the altar table, the pulpit and chairs are on a raised platform at the north end, flanked by choir or vestry sections with paneled apron wall. Pews are in three sections, and there is a gallery or balcony above the outer pews at the south, east and west walls. Wood columns support the balconies and upper ceiling. The sanctuary retains its early hand-planed pews and flushboard paneling at the ceilings. Except between the pews, flooring is concealed by wall-to-wall carpeting.

Alterations that have taken place over time have been carefully executed and do not affect the integrity of the historic building. Adjacent at the west side is a one-story lateral brick-veneered educational building, constructed in 1958. A frame addition clad in vinyl siding was built at the rear of the historic church in the early 1980s. Its ramp allows wheelchair access into the church without affecting the important facade, as the gable ends extend only slightly beyond the planes of the building. Some historic fabric was lost when this addition was built: two double door openings were reused as interior doorways to the new wing, and a tall landing-level window and two second level windows infilled. Their frames are visible at the interior wall. The rear stair (constructed for slave

congregants) was removed.[1] In 1925 the balconies were partitioned for Sunday School classrooms.[2] The partitions were removed in 1968 and the gallery restored.

Other modern alterations - fixed exterior blinds installed in the mid-1960s, a pair of metal handrails attached to the front pillars, indoor-outdoor carpet at the portico - are insignificant and easily reversible.

Hopewell Cemetery occupies just over three acres of high ground about one-half mile south of the wetlands of Jefferies Creek. This level site at the northeast side of Old River Road was the original location of Hopewell Presbyterian Church, around which the cemetery developed. The building was taken down when the present church was erected in 1842, and the cemetery spread into its former site near the center of the rectangular cemetery. The cemetery is an undivided portion of a 50.7 acre tract conveyed to Hopewell Cemetery Association in 1946. To the original two acres the trustees added a 78′ wide section at either end. The rest of the parcel is farmed, with row crops to the east and south and timber to north and west.

A grassed incline leads up from the road to the edge of the cemetery, which is fronted with an early twentieth-century fence of iron spikes, with double-leafed gate made by the Stewart Iron Works Company of Ohio. The gateway arch with finial and scrolled volutes bears the name "Hopewell." In 1990 a flight of brick steps was built to the gate, and the brick paving extended to the new Veterans Memorial just inside the gate. Automobiles use a paved perimeter drive that enters each side through brick gateposts with modern iron gates and runs along the rear property line, marked by a low wire fence. The cemetery extends from the driveway to the side boundary lines, which are enclosed with chain-link fencing.

The cemetery is organized as rows of headstones dotted with larger monuments. The grassy aspect is uninterrupted by drives or even pedestrian ways; foot traffic has not created any definite paths through the site. A number of scattered pine trees were knocked down by Hurricane Hugo in 1989, but several large cedars remain near the road and toward the back. Since the early twentieth century, flowering shrubs and small ornamental trees have been planted near the east and west ends along the front edge of the site. Its interior is mostly unplanted, and lots are not fenced. The granite or concrete copings that mark a few lots dates from the late nineteenth and early twentieth century, when families responded to the rural cemetery movement by enclosing defined spaces. At the back of the property, within the paved drive, is the Session House. This small gable-roofed frame building on low brick piers has only one exterior opening, a heavy board door at its south lateral side. It has recently been reroofed, with cedar shakes replacing mid-twentieth century composition shingles.

The practice of burying family members side-by-side has resulted in a landscape defined by a series of neat rows, the lines diverging slightly from each other but generally southeast to northwest. This pattern of arrangement, with loose organization by family unit, the gravestones arranged in rows rather than in clusters, has been identified in North Carolina as a strong Scots-Irish custom.[3] While burials are placed traditionally, with feet to the east, most markers are inscribed not on the east, or inner, face, but on the west.

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1 "Church is Preparing for Dual Celebration," 1968 clipping from The State newspaper.

2 Rhonda Gregg (Eckhardt), "Hopewell Presbyterian Church," MS, np, 1964.

3 M. Ruth Little, Sticks and Stones. Three Centuries of North Carolina Gravemarkers (Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1998), p. 63, 79.

Placement of the inscriptions on the "back" side of headstones is seen in rural cemeteries that lie on the east side of a historic road. Here it probably indicates the important direction - the Claussen crossroad to the west - from which visitors to the cemetery would be coming.

With only a few ledger stones, and no box tombs or family vaults, Hopewell Cemetery is dominated by marble headstones, many with accompanying footstones, and monuments. The majority date from the early nineteenth century to the early twentieth century. There are many examples of the standardized upright tablets offered by large shops of the 1800s, those with a rounded center parapet with round "shoulders" or caps being generally earlier than those with a low gabled top. Many headstones are set upon above-ground bases of sandstone or marble. There are also skillfully made examples of architecturally-carved scroll, obelisk and pedestal monuments, most on bases, some with the floral or fabric motifs favored during the Victorian era. On the whole, however, the gravestones in Hopewell Cemetery share the restrained classicism of the church, without the excessive sentimentality that characterizes suburban "rural" cemeteries of the late nineteenth century. The carvers of at least 75 monuments have been identified by their trade signature on a stone or its base, most often on the front, the name usually reduced to initials and a surname, and sometimes the carver's city. The attributed markers were nearly all made in Charleston, with a few from Cheraw, Sumter, Macon (Georgia), Baltimore and New Haven.

Surrounded by earlier gravestones, the markers placed after the end of the period of significance do not affect the sense of Hopewell Cemetery as a historic burial ground. The custom of burying relatives near each other has resulted in a range of burial dates throughout the property. The new stones are additions, not substantial alterations, and the site retains its overall integrity and sense of time and place. Other alterations are very typical of rural cemeteries. Some gravestones may be out of place, some have been lost, and urns have been removed from a few pedestals. The stone and carvings are mostly in excellent condition, especially by comparison with contemporary gravestones in polluted urban environments. Evidence of inappropriate repair or resetting is visible on a few markers, but most have been well-treated except the common problem of mower and trimmer damage. These alterations do not outweigh the integrity of the property or its ability to convey its significant historic associations as a cemetery used by generations of a rural community tied together by church membership and family connections.

Summary Statement of Significance

Hopewell Presbyterian Church is eligible under Criterion C in the area of ARCHITECTURE as a building that embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction. It is eligible under Criteria Consideration A because it derives its primary significance from its architectural distinction. The building, completed in 1842, is a good example of the Greek Revival style as applied to the simple meeting house form.

Hopewell Cemetery is also eligible under Criterion C in the area of ART because of the collection of gravemarkers that embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, and that represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction. Hopewell Cemetery is eligible under Criteria Consideration D because it derives its primary significance from distinctive design features.

Historical Background

Hopewell Presbyterian Church is believed to have been organized ca. 1770. Its location on Old River Road (Highway 57) is just below the Claussen community that developed around the intersection of the two important roads (today's Highways 57 and 327) that connected Darlington and Cheraw with ferries across Lynches River and to Georgetown.

Hopewell was established by Scottish Presbyterians "direct from North Ireland" (Scots-Irish or "Ulster Scots" like the Jolly and McClenaghan families); those born in Scotland, like the McKenzies; and "those loyal whigs [sic] and staunch Presbyterians the Greggs & Wilsons," who had been affiliated with Indian Town Church across Lynches River in Williamsburg County.[1] Aimwell Presbyterian Church, about twenty miles to the south, was founded soon afterward, and for the first years the two congregations shared a supply minister.[2] As the Pee Dee region's population increased, new churches were organized in developing communities. Hopewell claims several daughter churches: Darlington Presbyterian (1829), Florence (First) Presbyterian (1858-1861), Effingham Presbyterian (1906). Each of these drew some members away from Hopewell. Along with new home churches, they developed new cemeteries.

Hopewell Presbyterian Church called its first full-time minister in 1790.[3] By that time, the original edifice, thought to have been at the north side of Old River Road, must have been built. That first building burned shortly after construction and was replaced by a church that stood on the present cemetery site until 1842, when it was in turn replaced. The church's earliest records burned in 1896, and a new set was begun. The "Minutes of Session" dated 1897 recount a great deal about the men who were involved in the church and its hierarchy, but without mention of the designer or builders of the 1842 house of worship.[4] The style of the building indicates a congregation whose decision-makers were aware of current architectural tastes and the influence of Greek Revival design. The

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1 Col. R. G. Howard, "Session Minutes: Notes as to the history of Hopewell Presbyterian Church, April 4, 1897," MS, np, 1897. The Rev. James M. Readling, History of Hopewell Presbyterian Church, Claussen South Carolina, 1770-1970 (Claussen: Presbyterian Church Bicentennial Committee, 1970), p. 4.

2 Mills' Atlas shows a Meeting House on the site of the cemetery, but incorrectly identifies a church about fifteen miles to the south (probably Aimwell) as Hopewell.

3 Readling, History of Hopewell Presbyterian Church, p. 5.

4 Howard, "Session Minutes."

modified temple form they selected for their meeting house was in the mainstream of 1840s fashion.

Hopewell was the heart of a community made up of scattered plantation families, some of them very large landowners. Member families included these wealthy cotton planters, and their slaves. In 1841 the church had 115 white and 139 black members, nearly all of them slaves; in 1852 membership comprised 120 white and 100 black.[5] When the Civil War began, slaves made up half the rolls of churches in Harmony Presbytery, of which Hopewell is part. Their withdrawal in favor of independent black churches is reflected in Hopewell's membership: it fell from 213 in 1860 to 104 in 1867.[6] However, some African-Americans remained into the twentieth century. Church history recounts two black families using the balcony in about 1906.[7] Trustees today report a persistent tradition that some slaves were buried in Hopewell Cemetery, probably in the area just southeast of the Session House, but there is no evidence in the form of markers or depressions.

Hopewell Cemetery has not been accurately mapped over the years, and what early records existed burned with the church minutes. The 1897 history states "it is more than probable that the cemetery has been used as a place of burial since the church was founded although the oldest memorial was erected to Mrs. Gregg [Elizabeth, wife of Captain James Gregg] who died in 1799."[P] In 1946 the Hopewell Cemetery Association, Inc. was chartered, one of its duties to provide perpetual care of individual graves and family plots separately from the management of the church. The cemetery was conveyed to the association as part of a 50.7-acre parcel of farmland; income from the balance of the land supports the cemetery.[8]

Markers in the cemetery show a range of dates up to the present, with nineteenth century burials predominating. The cemetery was used by, and is a tangible reminder of, the prominent white plantation families of this section of Florence County. The quality of the markers proves they were consumers who valued and could afford fine work. Eight men buried in Hopewell Cemetery were representatives in the South Carolina House or Senate before 1890. There are also at least forty men who served with the Confederate Army. Eight of them died during the war years, nineteen more before the turn of the century. The thirteen veterans who lived into the twentieth century, the last one dying in 1927, kept the war real for the Hopewell community. Their Confederate service is recalled by inscriptions, emblems like the palmetto tree on the headstone of John Scott (d. 1910), and the iron Confederate crosses set in the grass on his and several other graves.

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5 Readling, History of Hopewell Presbyterian Church, p. 10.
6 Readling, History of Hopewell Presbyterian Church, p. 14, 83.
7 Readling, History of Hopewell Presbyterian Church, p. 52-53.
8 "Proposed Bylaws of the Hopewell Cemetery Association as a corporation," February 1984. Title to Real Estate dated 6/26/1946.

The preference for alignment is evident with four members of the Scottish-born McKenzie family, 1886-1891, all marked with low unornamented stones; behind them is a later granite marker stating "McKenzie." At least eight members of the Gregg family lie in a row near the center of the cemetery, with obelisks for John (1854) and his sister Bessie (1869) in the middle. The McClenaghan line is headed by three obelisks (George, 1840, only child of Matilda, 1844, and John, 1853), north of which are slim tabletstones with rounded caps for three earlier family members, 1821-1835, then four segmental-arched headstones from 1878-1900, and a granite marker from 1927. The late-nineteenth century markers, and a row in front of them, are bounded by granite coping laid to stake out a family plot. The McSween family, 1881-1937, all lie in a row, but the inscription on William's stone (d. 1903) jars the pattern by being written on the east side.

Bibliography

Harlee, Thomas, D. S. "Marion District, South Carolina." 1818, rev. ed. in Mills, Robert, *Atlas of the State of South Carolina.* 1825.

Hopewell Cemetery Association files.

Hopewell Presbyterian Church files.

Little, M. Ruth. *Sticks and Stones: Three Centuries of North Carolina Gravemarkers.* Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1998.

McGahee, Susan H., and Mary W. Edmonds. *South Carolina's Historic Cemeteries: A Preservation Handbook.* Columbia: SCDAH, 1997.

Readling, Rev. James M. *History of Hopewell Presbyterian Church, Claussen, South Carolina 1770-1970.* Claussen: Hopewell Presbyterian Church Bicentennial Committee, 1970.

Verbal Boundary Description

Hopewell Presbyterian Church is on Florence County Tax Map 311, a part of Parcel 4. The boundaries are the south side of Old River Road, the west and northwest boundaries of the Tax Parcel, and a line extending the southwest boundary of the Tax Parcel northeast to Old River Road.

Hopewell Cemetery is on Florence County Tax Map 311, a part of Parcel 5. The boundaries are the north side of Old River Road, and the lines enclosed by fencing at the sides (264' deep) and back line (508').

Boundary Justification

The boundary for the church property is the same as that of the Tax Parcel, except that the southwest line has been drawn to exclude the 1953 manse and its yard, parking area and garden. The boundary for the cemetery is the same as the Tax Parcel on the south (road) side. The other three boundaries lie along the fences that mark the area used as Hopewell Cemetery.

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Photographs

Location of Original Negatives: State Historic Preservation Office
South Carolina Department of Archives and History

The following information is the same for all photographs:

Name of photographer: Sarah Fick
Historic Preservation Consultants, Inc.

Date of photographs: November 23, 1999

Photo View

1. Hopewell Presbyterian Church, view facing southwest through Hopewell Cemetery.
2. Hopewell Presbyterian Church, view facing southwest.
3. Hopewell Presbyterian Church, view facing south.
4. Hopewell Presbyterian Church, view facing northwest.
5. Hopewell Presbyterian Church, interior view facing east.
6. Hopewell Presbyterian Church, interior view facing southwest.
7. Hopewell Cemetery, gate, view facing northeast.
8. Hopewell Cemetery, view facing west; at left are columnar pedestals with urns (Margaret and Samuel O. McCown, d. 1854) made by W. T. White.
9. Hopewell Cemetery, view facing north. Tall pedestal by Hemphill and Stubbs (William McCall, 1858).
10. Hopewell Cemetery, view facing east.
11. Hopewell Cemetery, detail of unattributed headstone (Francis Wilson Sweet, d. 1880), view facing east.
12. Hopewell Cemetery, Session House, view facing northeast.