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

OMB No. 1024-0018

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NAT. REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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 Greenville Presbyterian Church

other names/site number

2. Location

street & number Greenville Church Road — not for publication ___
city or town Donalds — vicinity x
state South Carolina code SC county Greenwood code 047 zip code 29638

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 — 4/6/98
Signature of certifying official — Date

Mary W. Edmonds, Deputy SHPO, S.C. Department of Archives & 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:

✓ 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):

Edson H. Beall — 5-20-98
Signature of Keeper — Date of Action

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
- ___ site
- ___ structure
- ___ object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
2		buildings
2		sites
	1	structures
		objects
4	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)

Cat:	Sub:
Religion	religious facility
Funerary	cemetery

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat:	Sub:
Religion	religious facility
Funerary	cemetery

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)
Greek Revival

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation	brick
roof	fiberglass shingles
walls	brick
other	wood

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

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)

- x **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 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)
Religion
Architecture

Significant Dates
1852

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

Period of Significance
1777 - ca. 1860

Architect/Builder
Johnson
Painter, Jacob
Seawright, James

Narrative Statement of Significance
(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography
(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: S.C. Department of Archives & History

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 10.6 acres

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

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
1	17	380200	3801320	3	17	380010	3801100
2	17	380210	3801140	4	17	379940	3801340

___ 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 Howard C. and Ouida G. Nickles

organization Greenville Presbyterian Church date December 27, 1997

street & number 1168 Highway 185 South telephone 864-379-2866

city or town Donalds state SC zip code 29638

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 Congregation of Greenville Presbyterian Church and Trinity Presbytery of Presbyterian Church, USA

street & number P.O. Box 157 telephone 864-379-2544

city or town Donalds state SC zip code 29638

Narrative Description

Greenville Presbyterian Church is located in a rural setting in Greenwood County, on state road 54 (Greenville Church Road), approximately .25 miles west of US Highway 178, in the vicinity of Shoals Junction and Donalds. Regular religious services and social gatherings have been conducted on this site since 1773. The church building itself has also been in continuous use since its construction in 1852, providing a place for worship and other religious and social activities for its congregation and community. Also present on the property and contributing to the overall historic character of Greenville Presbyterian Church are the small brick Session House, constructed to match in detail the sanctuary, a large historic cemetery, and a natural spring.

The church building, finished in a straightforward and unadorned "meeting house" form, however, basically Greek or Classical Revival in style, is rectangular in shape and measures 64' 10" x 46' 9". It is constructed of brick handmade on the site. It features solid brick walls sixteen inches thick. The foundation, also of brick construction, is approximately eight inches thicker than the walls. A Portland cement stucco was applied to the foundation during the early twentieth century, and is in need of repair or removal. The bricks are laid in a five-to-one common bond with a dirt/lime-based mortar. Since original construction the exterior brick walls have been repointed with a sand/lime-based mortar. The exterior walls are twenty feet high. The roof features boxed cornices and pedimented brick gables. The roof structure was designed to be "a Self supporting one Plan & Size of timbers at the discretion of the undertaker who is to be responsible for its Strength & adaptation to the building for which it is intended."[1] It is interesting, however, that the architect, an unknown Mr. Johnson who specified all dimensions and materials for the building, made this allowance but had stipulated previously that the roof was to have "Seven pair of Principle Rafters with one King [actually a straining beam rather than a true king post] & two Queen posts to each together with the customary Braces. Sise of timbers wall Plates 4 by 12^{in} Crop Girders 6 by 10^{in} Principle Rafters 6 by 8 Purlines & Truss Braces 4 by 6^{in} King & Queen Posts 6 by 12^{in} Crown Board 2 by 5^{in} Small Rafters 2 1/2 by 5."[2]

The principal facade (east gable end) is three-bays wide and consists of a central entrance with a double-leaf paneled door, approached by four stone or masonry steps with iron handrail, flanked by two six-over-six, double-hung sash windows. On the upper or gallery level are three six-light windows. On either side elevation and near the front are single-leaf entrances to the church's narthex, and four large six-over-six, double-hung sash windows, and on the west (rear) elevation are two six-over-six, double-hung sash. Because of a rear brick addition, the northernmost window is no longer exposed to view from the exterior. All windows and doors feature jack arches and louvered wooden shutters, except for those on the southern and western exposure.

The narthex is twelve feet wide with an eight-foot ceiling spanning the entire width of the building on the east end. Immediately above the narthex is the balcony, originally constructed with a three tier elevated floor. The three exterior doors open into this narthex and there are two doors opening from the narthex into the sanctuary. Just inside the narthex, on the north and south entrances, are stairs that lead to the balcony, originally made for and used as a slave gallery. The east facade double door is original with a hand-made hook-and-eye latch with a wooden lever to secure the hook into the eye. The narthex now contains a historical display case containing some artifacts and historical material. Among these are a handwritten sermon by the Reverend John Cunningham Williams as preached here in 1867, a diary kept by the Reverend William F. Pearson when he served in the Civil War as a chaplain for the Second Regiment, South Carolina Volunteers, a retired pulpit bible, as well as historical photographs. There is also a refurbished eighteenth century sofa presented to the church by a former member.

The sanctuary measures 52' x 44' with a ceiling height of seventeen feet. The ceilings of the narthex and sanctuary are constructed of hand planed tongue and groove pine boards of various widths, and they remain in excellent condition. The plaster walls, applied directly to the brick, remain in excellent condition, and are unadorned except for six stone tablets along the west wall, either behind or near the pulpit, that commemorate the service of former pastors, one stone tablet to the Scotch-Irish founders of the church, and one to the church members who fought and died in the Confederate army. The window sashes are of heart pine glazed with clear glass containing some imperfections giving a wavy appearance. The trim for the doors and windows is also made of hand-planed pine. Pulpit furniture, purchased in 1900, remains in use today.

A brick educational building was added to the rear of the building in 1952; however, it is connected by a narrow building which is recessed sufficiently from the side walls of the historic sanctuary, is lower in height and profile, and therefore does not detract from or overwhelm the original structure.

The Session House is located forty-one feet to the south and parallel to the church and is of the same style and material as the church. It measures eighteen feet by fourteen feet with exterior walls measuring fourteen feet high and the ceiling ten feet in height. The Session House is thought to have been built before 1859 by James Seawright for the sum of $174.75.[3]

A large cemetery, located immediately across the dirt road and in front of the church contains graves which date from the eighteenth century, the earliest being 1777. Identifiable graves number approximately 1,200. Numerous markers, some purchased from the government but many private,

indicate service in the American Revolution and Civil War. Many markers are signed by their stonecutters, inclusive of such names as Thomas Walker, John White, and W.T. White, all of Charleston. One, in rare fashion, even locates the White stonecutting operation on Meeting Street in Charleston. There are also a number of fieldstone markers, some of which are hand wrought and incised in a somewhat primitive fashion.

A natural spring is located some five hundred feet northwest of the church on church property. It is enclosed with cut granite stone, was used for drinking water as well as for baptisms, and remains in use today.

NOTES

[1]"Dimension of the Greenville Church," handwritten specifications for construction of building, 1852, by Johnson, Architect.

[2]Ibid.

[3]Memorandum of the Greenville Church Building Committee with James Seawright, member of building committee and "contractor" of Session House, undated.

Statement of Significance

Greenville Presbyterian Church is significant for its broad impact on the history of the area known as Long Canes in what is now Greenwood County. The church, along with other Presbyterian churches in the Long Canes area, influenced the basic structure of society for Scots-Irish settlers in this part of South Carolina. The earliest history of Greenville Presbyterian Church is interwoven with that of the Scots-Irish pioneers who, in the 1760s, petitioned their Synod for ministers as they sought to establish and maintain a Presbyterian Church in the Long Canes area of the colony of South Carolina.

As early as 1765 the minutes of the Synod of New York and Philadelphia record a supplication from settlers in the Long Canes for ministers. In the 1760s and 1770s, Presbyterian ministers, most from Pennsylvania, traveled to the Long Canes area of South Carolina and five churches emerged from their itinerate ministry. Among those churches was a congregation named Saluda[1]. By 1783, definite boundaries were fixed between the several churches of the Long Canes area, as agreed by commissioners from each church. This agreement formally expressed the community's desire to make the area "Christian and, more particularly, a Presbyterian community."[2]

Saluda church is believed to have been named so because many of its members resided near the Saluda River. When the church was chartered in 1787, Saluda changed its name to Greenville Presbyterian Church. The site for the church was located centrally in Boonesborough township which had been laid out in the 1760s for prospective Scots-Irish immigrants.[3] The 1787 church was a log structure, but was replaced in 1804 with a wood-sided building.

In 1852 the present church building was constructed, consisting of a sanctuary, gallery, and narthex. The church was built from bricks made on the site some 400 yards southeast of the chruch. The new building housed a congregation that had slowly, but steadily, grown from just a small faithful few to 147 members in 1847.[4] The new church building allowed congregational life to blossom in the last half of the nineteenth century as a church school was established at mid-century and a Presbyterian Women's organization was founded in 1895.[5] The Greenville Presbyterian Church building was no longer new as the twentieth century arrived but it was adapted to new technologies. In 1925 Coleman gas lanterns were installed in the sanctuary only to be replaced by electric incandescent lights in 1938.

The date the cemetery at Greenville Presbyterian was established is unknown. The earliest mention of the cemetery in church records appears in 1888, but the earliest identifiable marker is from 1777 and there are at least twenty-seven soldiers from the American Revolution buried at Greenville.[6]

NOTES

[1]John H. Leith, Greenville Presbyterian Church: The Story of a People, 1765-1973 (Richmond, VA: Whitted and Shepperson, 1973), 15-16; George Howe, History of the Presbyterian Church in South Carolina (Columbia, SC: Duffie & Chapman, 1870), 443.

[2]Leith, 16.

[3]Ibid., 20

[4]Ibid., 27

[5]Margaret Adams Gist, Presbyterian Women of South Carolina (Greenville, SC: The Woman's Auxiliary of the Synod of South Carolina, 1929), 682.

[6]Leonardo Andrea, The Forty-Sixth Annual Wyatt Reunion. Leonardo Andrea, June 15, 1952.

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary for the Greenville Presbyterian Church is shown as the dark line on the attached Greenwood County Tax Map #2, Section 5, and an approximately 10.6 acre segment of Parcel 1, drawn at a scale of 1" = 400', dated 2/27/1979; also can be seen on the attached sketch map, drawn at a scale of 1" = 200'.

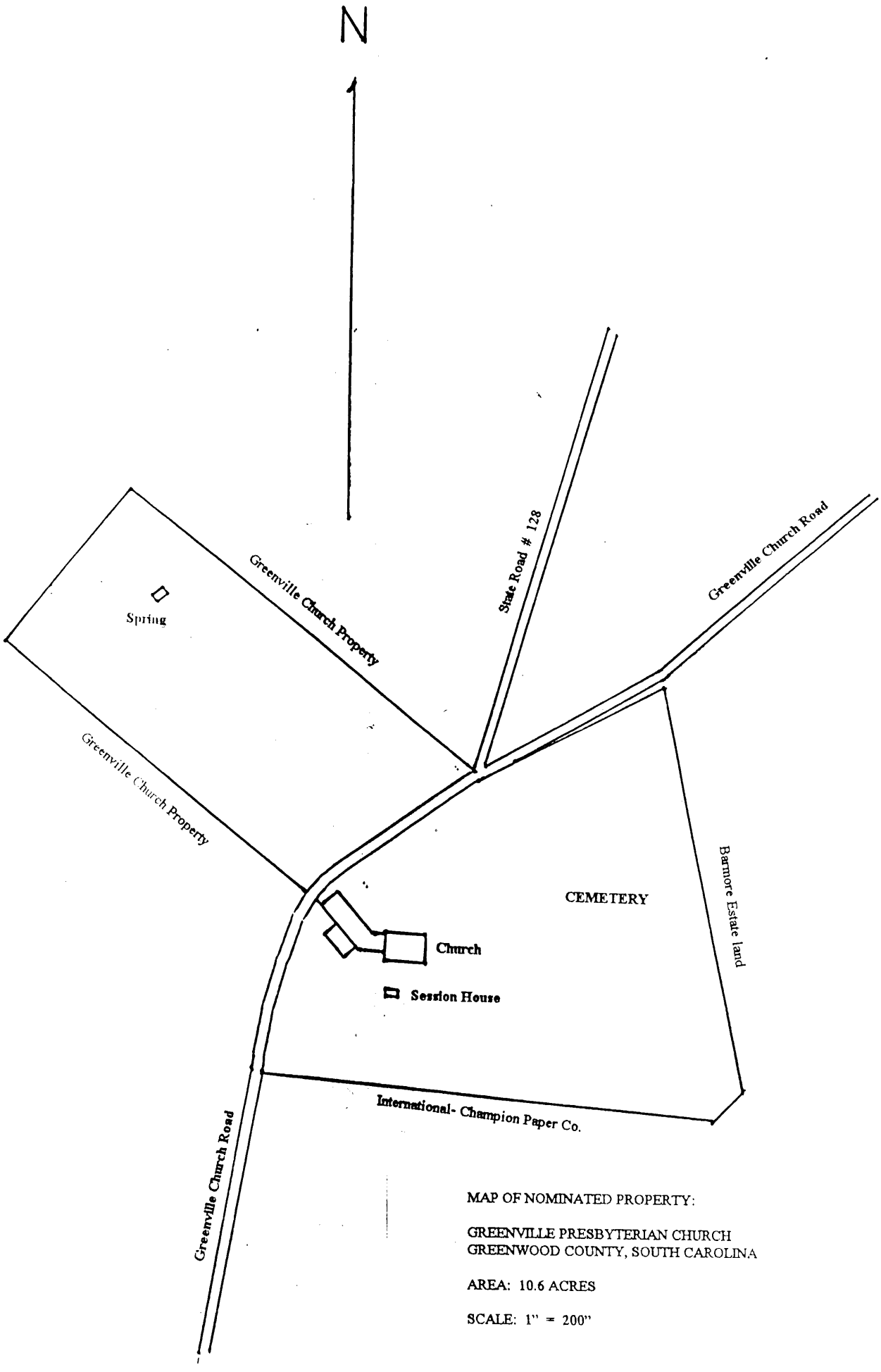
Verbal Boundary Justification

The property includes the historic sanctuary, Session House, cemetery, and spring that are historically associated with Greenville Presbyterian Church.

The following information is the same for each of the photographs:

Name of Property: Greenville Presbyterian Church
Location of Property: State Road 54 (Greenville Chruch Rd.), Donalds, SC
Greenwood County
Name of Photographer: Howard C. Nickles, Donalds, SC
Date of Photographs: November 25, 1997
Location of Original
Negatives: Howard C. Nickles, Donalds, SC

1. East (principal) facade
2. East oblique view (east and north sides)
3. South facade of church and session house
4. South oblique view of church (south and east sides)
5. West oblique view (west and south sides)
6. Interior view of sanctuary (facing west)
7. View of wall plaques on west wall
8. "
9. "
10. "
11. Wall plaque on south wall
12.-22. Tombstones from Greenville Presbyterian Church cemetery
23.-24. Spring



MAP OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

GREENVILLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
GREENWOOD COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA

AREA: 10.6 ACRES

SCALE: 1" = 200"