S. C. Congressional District # 1 Theme (8): The Contemplative Society Office of L. Mendel Rivers Form 10-300 UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR (July 1969) NATIONAL PARK SERVICE South Carolina COUNTY: NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES Jasper INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM FOR NPS USE ONLY ENTRY NUMBER DATE (Type all entries - complete applicable sections) I. NAME COMMON: Gillisonville Baptist Church AND/OR HISTORIC: 2. LOCATION STREET AND NUMBER: On U. S. Highway 278 in town: Less than 1 mile from junction of U.S. 278 & S.C. 462 Gillisonville (Mailing address: Route 2, Ridgeland, S.C. 29936) CODE CODE 27 Jasper 45 South Carolina 3. CLASSIFICATION CATEGORY ACCESSIBLE OWNERSHIP STATUS (Check One) TO THE PUBLIC Z Public District Public Acquisition: Yes. E Building □ Occupied Restricted 😾 Private ☐ In Process Site ■ Structure Unoccupied ▼ Unrestricted ☐ Both Being Considered Object Preservation work ☐ No in progress PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate) Agricultural ☐ Government Park ☐ Transportation ☐ Comments ~ Commercial Industrial Private Residence Other (Specify) Educational ■ Military X Religious Entertainment Museum Scientific OWNER OF PROPERTY Z OWNER'S NAME: Gillisonville Baptist Church STREET AND NUMBER: ш On U. S. Highway 278 in town CITY OR TOWN: STATE: S CODE Gillisonville South Carolina 45 5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Jasper County Court House STREET AND NUMBER: CITY OR TOWN: STATE CODE Ridgeland South Carolina 45 6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS TITLE OF SURVEY: ENTRY NUMBER South Carolina Survey of Historic Places (Preliminary) DATE OF SURVEY: Federal X State DATE OF SURVEY: 1969
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: County Local South Carolina Department of Archives and History STREET AND NUMBER: 1430 Senate Street, Box 11,188 Capitol Station CITY OR TOWN: CODE Columbia 45 South Carolina

. DESCRIPTION							
				(Check One)			
COMPLETION	Excellent	🔀 Good	☐ Fair	Deteriorated	Ruins	Unexposed	
CONDITION		(Check Or	ie)		(Che	eck One)	
	☐ Alter	red	🗓 Unaltered		Moved	🔀 Original Site	
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Greek Revival style of white clapboard with brick foundation piers. Portico supported by Doric columns on pedestals, gable roof. Large central door is flanked by smaller doors, the latter crowned by a transom. Building is four bays long (third is a door). Others are large rectangular three—sash windows with clear panes. The square tower which rises from the gable ridge pole contains two sections. The first is enclosed but possesses a section which may have been open formerly. The second, which contains the bell, is open. Its roof is supported by four round columns.

Interior - Two side aisles lead to communion table, in front of a high wall-type pulpit that is entered from either side by a balustraded staircase. Floor of random-width boards. Box pews. Slave gallery in rear is supported by chamfered columns.

Church and cemetery surrounded by ancient moss laden trees.



SIGNIFICANCE			
PERIOD (Check One or More as A	Appropriate)		
Pre-Columbian	16th Century	18th Century	20th Century
☐ 15th Century	☐ 17th Century	19th Century	
SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicabl	e and Known) 1838		
AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Che	ck One or More as Appropris	ate)	
Abor iginal	☐ Education	☐ Political	Urban Planning
☐ Prehistoric	Engineering	Religion/Phi-	Other (Specify)
★ Historic	☐ Industry	losophy	
☐ Agriculture	Invention	Science	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
	Landscape	Sculpture	
☐ Art	Architecture	Social/Human-	
☐ Commerce	Literature	itarian	
☐ Communications	X Military	☐ Theater	
Conservation	Music	Transportation	

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The church and a dwelling are the remains of the old town of Gillisonville (one-time seat of old Beaufort District), which was burned by Sherman's Army in 1865.

Church was constituted 1836 as the summer home of Coosawhatchie Baptist Church so it might escape the insects and "fever" of the hot summer months. Built 1838, and named Gillisonville Baptist Church in 1886.

Architecturally significant: It was apparently constructed by local craftsman and possesses many original features such as the box pews, flooring, and balcony with columns.

Historically: Church was used as headquarters for a contingent of Union troops during the Civil War. The old communion set was etched by a Union soldier "War of 1861-2-3-4. Feb. 1865. This is done by a Yankee soldier." The set is still in use.



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Anonymous. Historic Gillisonville Raptist Church. No date.

Julien, Carl and Martin, Chlotilde. <u>Sea Islands to Sandhills</u>. Columbia, South Carolina: University of South Carolina Press, 1954.

WPA. South Carolina, A Guide to the Palmetto State. New York: Oxford University Press, 1941.

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