

United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

For NCRS use only

received FEB 23 1982

date entered MAR 25 1982

## 1. Name

historic Church of the Holy Trinity

and/or common Same

## 2. Location

SC 13 and SC 29

street & number Intersection of S. C. Highway 13 and S. C. Highway 29  not for publication

city, town Ridgeland *vic.*  vicinity of congressional district First

state South Carolina code 045 county Jasper code 053

## 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

## 4. Owner of Property

name Church of the Holy Trinity (Episcopal Church)

street & number Route 3

city, town Ridgeland  vicinity of state South Carolina 29936

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Jasper County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Ridgeland state South Carolina 29936

## 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Inventory of Historic Places  
in South Carolina

has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1979  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records South Carolina Department of Archives and History

city, town Columbia state South Carolina 29211

---

## 7. Description

---

**Condition**

excellent  
 good  
 fair

deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

**Check one**

unaltered  
 altered

**Check one**

original site  
 moved date \_\_\_\_\_

---

**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

The Church of the Holy Trinity, built ca. 1858, is located in the community of Grahamville just outside Ridgeland in Jasper County, South Carolina. The church, which is constructed in the Carpenter Gothic style, is outlined on three sides by an iron fence that was erected at the same time as the church building. The fenced yard contains three graves dating from before the Civil War.

Exterior: About sixty feet long and thirty feet wide, the Church of the Holy Trinity was built in the Carpenter Gothic style. It consists of a rectangular nave with a buttressed bell tower on the southwest corner. Native cypress was used in the board and batten sheathing of the wood frame building. A low brick pier foundation supports the church. The steeply pitched gable roof, which originally had wooden shingles, has been recovered with composition shingles. The three-staged bell tower has an exterior entrance to the stairway leading to the gallery, which was the old slave gallery and which now houses the pipe organ. A small sacristy on the southeast corner of the church building leads directly to the sanctuary.

The facade of the church is distinguished by arched double doors, each with a pair of vertical panels. S-shaped brackets support the gabled overdoor. Centered above the overdoor is a wheel window. The central doorway is flanked by single six-over-six double-hung windows. A bargeboard with triangular piercings highlights the gable end. The south and north elevations are pierced by paired six-over-six windows with louvered shutters. Many of the window panes are original.

Interior: A large painted-glass window distinguishes the interior. The nave is covered by a hammer-beam timber roof. All of the church furnishings, pews, pulpit, lectern, prayer desk, altar rail, Holy Table, bishop's chair, and flooring, are of yellow pine with hand rubbed finish. The walls are plaster. The nave was originally separated from the narthex by a colonnade of octagonal wooden pillars; this colonnade has been replaced by a solid wall. The gallery above the narthex has been adapted to house the organ. The original gallery pews have been preserved in the parish house.

The church has been sensitively adapted to contemporary demands with heating and lighting systems. Kneeling pads were installed in the pews around 1960.

Surroundings: The Church of the Holy Trinity is set in a grove of large live oaks, which were set out in the nineteenth century by the ladies of the congregation. These trees add considerably to the visual appearance of the church. Along with the church building the church property contains two nonhistoric buildings, a rectory constructed in 1948-49 and a parish house constructed in 1959 with a 1968 addition.

## 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

**Specific dates** ca. 1858 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Church of the Holy Trinity is located in the community of Grahamville near Ridgeland in Jasper County, South Carolina. The present church, constructed ca. 1858, is the third building associated with an Episcopal congregation formed in the early years of the nineteenth century by Grahamville planters. The Church of the Holy Trinity is architecturally significant as a notable example of the Carpenter Gothic style.

### Additional Information

The Church of the Holy Trinity is located in old St. Luke's Parish in what was Granville County.<sup>1</sup> Services were held in Grahamville, a summer resort village for planters, as early as 1824 in a chapel-of-ease established for planters weary of the day long journey to the parish church at Bull Hill (near Pritchardville); the chapel was called Union.<sup>2</sup> As the congregation grew the building became inadequate and was replaced. The second building was consecrated by Bishop Nathaniel Bowen in 1830 under the name of Chapel of the Holy Trinity. In December 1834 the congregation was incorporated into a separate congregation as the Church of the Holy Trinity.<sup>3</sup> During the service of Rev. Arthur Wigfall the building was taken down and the present building was completed by 1858 and consecrated by Bishop Thomas F. Davis in 1859.<sup>4</sup> Trinity's primary benefactor and the sole contributor for the construction of the existing building was James Bolan, rice planter, of Bolan Hall Plantation and Grahamville.<sup>5</sup>

In 1856 Rev. Arthur Wigfall preached "A Sermon Upon Duelling." The sermon, later published upon the request of a group of local residents, sparked the formation of the Grahamville Association for the Suppression of Duelling. The society met twice yearly in the "free church of this village."<sup>6</sup>

**Architecture:** The Church of the Holy Trinity is an outstanding example of Carpenter Gothic church architecture. The style developed as a carpenter's interpretation of the English Gothic Revival architecture of the early nineteenth century, with the masonry designs of the English architects translated into wooden construction. The proportions of the Church of the Holy Trinity, the asymmetrical composition, the wheel window, and the buttressed tower are exemplary of the Gothic Revival; the interpretation of these elements in wood, along with the board and batten sheathing of the church, are typical of Carpenter Gothic. The interior of the Church of the Holy Trinity is especially noteworthy for its hammer-beam timber roof, and for its nineteenth century furnishings.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

ACQUISITION

See continuation sheet

UTM NOT VERIFIED

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 2.2

Quadrangle name Ridgeland

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UMT References

A 

1	7	5	0	3	2	7	0	3	5	9	2	3	6	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

E 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

**Verbal boundary description and justification** The boundary of the nominated property is shown as the red line on the accompanying photostat of the Jasper County Tax Map #145-00-00-207. This boundary includes all significant buildings, sites, and structures.

### 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 John Wells, Suzanne Pickens

Fred Merritt, Cindy Cole, Lowcountry Council Governments; Debbie Pinckney, Church of the Holy Trinity.

organization S. C. Department of Archives and History date June 8, 1981

street & number 1430 Senate Street telephone (803) 758-5816

city or town Columbia state South Carolina 29211

# 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Charles E. Lee 2/8/82

title Charles E. Lee date 2/8/82  
State Historic Preservation Officer

### For HCERS use only

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

date 3/25/82

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior**  
**Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**  
**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet 1

Item number 9

Page 1

Beaufort, S.C. St. Helena Episcopal Church. Records, passim.

Dalcho, Frederick. An Historical Account of the Protestant Episcopal Church in South Carolina. Charleston, S.C.: E. Thayer, 1820, pp. 387, 388.

Davidson, Chalmers Gaston. The Last Foray, The South Carolina Planters of 1860: A Sociological Study. Columbia, S.C.: University of South Carolina Press, 1971, pp. 178-179, 186-187, 194-195.

Grahamville, S. C. Church of the Holy Trinity. Minutes of the Vestry, passim.

Grahamville, S. C. Church of the Holy Trinity. Register, passim.

Perry, Grace Fox. Moving Finger of Jasper. Ridgeland Junior Chamber of Commerce, pp. 32-33, 84-89.

Thomas, Albert Sidney. A Historical Account of the Protestant Episcopal Church in South Carolina 1820-1957. Columbia, S.C.: The R.L. Bryan Company, 1957, pp. 192-196; 325-326.

Wigfall, Rev. Arthur. A Sermon Upon Duelling. Charleston, S.C.: A. E. Miller, 1856, pp. 4,5,19,20.

FOOTNOTES

<sup>1</sup>Grace Fox Perry. Moving Finger of Jasper, Sponsored by Ridgeland Junior Chamber of Commerce, pp. 32-33.

<sup>2</sup>Ibid. p. 85; The Monthly Record, January 1875, n.p.; Albert Sidney Thomas, An Historical Account of the Protestant Episcopal Church in South Carolina, 1820-1957 (Columbia, S.C.: The R. L. Bryan Co., 1957), p. 193.

<sup>3</sup>Perry, pp. 85-86; The Monthly Record.

<sup>4</sup>Thomas, p. 326, Entry of February 10, 1858, Minutes of the Vestry, 1850-1858, Church of the Holy Trinity, Grahamville, S. C.

<sup>5</sup>The Monthly Record.

<sup>6</sup>Rev. Arthur Wigfall, A Sermon Upon Duelling, (Charleston, S.C.: A.E. Miller, 1856), pp. 4,5,19,20.

