

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED
MAY 31 1977

DATE ENTERED

DEC 16 1977

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORMSEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC



The Lancaster Presbyterian Church

AND/OR COMMON

The Old Presbyterian Church and Cemetery

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

West Gay Street (between French and Plyer Streets)

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Lancaster

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

5th

STATE

South Carolina

CODE

045

COUNTY

Lancaster

CODE

057

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☐ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☐ OCCUPIED☒ UNOCCUPIED☒ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☐ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☐ COMMERCIAL☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☐ MUSEUM☐ PARK☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☒ OTHER: None

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Lancaster County Society for Historical Preservation, Inc.

STREET & NUMBER

Box 1132

CITY, TOWN

Lancaster

VICINITY OF

STATE

South Carolina

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Lancaster County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Lancaster

STATE

South Carolina

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Inventory of Historic Places in South Carolina

DATE

1973 (update)

☐ FEDERAL ☒ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

S. C. Department of Archives and History

CITY, TOWN

Columbia

STATE

South Carolina

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

Lancaster Presbyterian Church was built ca. 1862 in the Early Gothic Revival style. Building dimensions are 60' by 37'. The stone foundation supports a water table of stuccoed brick. The walls, approximately 16" thick, are of handmade brick.

The entrance facade features a projecting narthex with crenellated parapet. It was originally accentuated with a tripartite portal configuration of which only the central door remains intact. Located above the narthex is a pointed-arched window, while on each side is a lancet window. The apex of the gable features a bargeboard.

Originally, a tower supporting a steeple rose from the left side. According to church records, a committee recommended in 1884 that the steeple be demolished and replaced with a new design. Sometime after ca. 1910, the tower was completely removed.

The sides of the church are composed of five bays with brick label moldings surmounting the tall, narrow windows. The windows on the sides (directly adjacent to the front facade) are bricked-in. The lower portions of the other windows were bricked in ca. 1930, but the original stained glass is still intact in their upper sections.

Interior: Two doors lead from the narthex into the church sanctuary. Basilican in plan, the church features a gallery along the sides and back of the sanctuary and culminates in an arched pulpit apse. The walls are stuccoed and scored to resemble stone (although presently covered by painted canvas). The original ceiling is plaster on split lath but has been covered by a wooden ceiling.

Interesting details include hood moldings over the arches, cornice brackets with pendants under the gallery, and round wooden columns supporting the gallery.

The church is presently in poor condition. Prior to the stabilization now in progress, portions of the roof had collapsed, thereby extensively damaging the floor. Brickwork needs repointing, windows need repairing, and the ceiling needs replacing. Despite these obstacles, a very active preservation organization has been formed to restore the building and adapt it to a community use. In 1976 the South Carolina General Assembly authorized \$5,000 to finance the project which has also received a Bicentennial grant of \$5,000.

Surroundings: The cemetery, dating from the 1830s, is located to the left and rear of the church.

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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" 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 1862

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Sidney Retting

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Lancaster Presbyterian Church, located near the center of Lancaster, South Carolina, has played an integral part in this community's history since the mid 1800s. The church cemetery, significant in its own right, contains the graves of many of the town's leading citizens. Completed ca. 1862, the present church is thought to have been the first brick church in Lancaster County.

The Lancasterville Presbyterian Church was organized in 1835. In that year Eliza S. Gill deeded one acre and 18 poles, "whereon the Presbyterian church is built,"¹ to the trustees of the Presbyterian Church. The first pastor of the church was the Rev. James H. Thornwell who served until 1838. (Thornwell later became a leading Presbyterian and educator and served as President of South Carolina College from 1851 to 1855.)

In 1860 it was decided to erect a new church (the present structure) on the site of the original one. The contract was given to Sidney Retting of Charlotte, North Carolina, and the church was completed by January 1862. Designed in the Early Gothic Revival style, this church was dedicated on March 29, 1862.

Prominent local individuals have been associated with the church throughout its history. These include George McCottry Witherspoon (1812-1898), a commissioner of public buildings, member of the South Carolina House of Representatives, member of the South Carolina Senate, a district judge, and probate judge of Lancaster County; and Leroy Springs (1861-1931), a leading manufacturer and banker who organized several cotton mills in the area, including the present-day Springs Mill.

The church cemetery contains the graves of many of Lancaster's leading citizens. These include:

Dr. Joseph Henry Foster (1835-1885), Brigadier General/Medical Corps, Confederate Army

Dr. Robert L. Crawford (1825-1862), a captain in the Confederate Army, a signer of the Ordinance of Secession

Colonel James H. Witherspoon, Jr. (1810-1865), judge of the Court of Ordinary for Lancaster District, Commissioner in Equity for Lancaster District

(continued)

¹South Carolina Department of Archives and History, Lancaster County Deeds, Book N, p. 13 1/2.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Floyd, Viola C. Lancaster County Tours. Lancaster: Lancaster County Historical Commission, 1956.

Hemphill, J. C. Men of Mark in South Carolina, Vol. I. Washington, D.C.: Men of Mark Publishing, Company, 1907.

(continued)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA *approx. 4 acres - M.D. Eddy 7/1/77*

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than 4 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A 1 7 5 2 0 7 4 0 3 8 4 1 5 0 0
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The northern boundary of the Lancaster Presbyterian Church & Cemetery starts at a point 235 feet east of the corner of Plyler Street & West Gay Street. The northern boundary from this point runs in a straight line east fronting West Gay Street for a distance of 205 feet. The eastern boundary runs from this north-east corner point south in a straight line for a distance of 234 feet along the west property line of Walter Evans and rear property lines of J. P. Horton, Jr. (Cont.)

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Kappy McNulty, Historic Preservation Division

ORGANIZATION

S. C. Department of Archives and History

STREET & NUMBER

P. O. Box 11,669, Capitol Station

CITY OR TOWN

Columbia

The Rev. Robert E. Libbey, Pres.
Lancaster County Society for
Historical Preservation, Inc.

DATE

February 28, 1977

TELEPHONE

(803) 758-5816

STATE

South Carolina

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL X

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

4/14/77

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DATE

12/16/77

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

12.14.77

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE one

George McCottry Witherspoon (1812-1898)

Andrew Mayer (1808-1893), first mayor of the town of Lancaster

In 1926 the congregation moved to a new church on Main Street in Lancaster. The old structure was then used by another church and later by the Masons. In 1962 it was purchased by Dr. Benjamin F. Emanuel under whose direction it became the Carolina Museum. Unoccupied since 1972, the church was purchased in 1976 by the Lancaster County Society for Historical Preservation, Inc. Plans are presently being made to use the church as a community center and park.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE one

Hollis, Daniel W. South Carolina College, Vol. I. Columbia: University of South Carolina Press, 1951.

Howe, Rev. George. History of the Presbyterian Church in South Carolina, Vol. II. Columbia: W. J. Duffie, 1883.

Jones, F. D., and Mills, W. H., eds. History of the Presbyterian Church in South Carolina Since 1850. Columbia: Synod of South Carolina, 1926.

Lancaster County Historical Commission. Inscriptions from Old Cemeteries in Lancaster County, South Carolina. Lancaster: Tri-County Publishing Company, 1974.

May, John A., and Faunt, Joan R. South Carolina Secedes. Columbia: University of South Carolina Press, 1960.

Reynolds, E. B., and Faunt, J. R. Biographical Directory of the Senate of the State of South Carolina. Columbia: S. C. Archives Department, 1964.

Lancaster, S. C. Session Records of the Presbyterian Church, Lancaster, S. C., 1835-1926. (typewritten copy.)

South Carolina Department of Archives and History. Lancaster County Deeds. Book N, p. 13 1/2.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 10

PAGE one

and William Plyler. The southern boundary runs from this south-east corner point west in a straight line for 125 feet along the rear property lines of Nancy Hersey and Marion Blanks, then turns in a south south west direction for 50 feet along the property line of Marion Blanks, then turns west for 69 feet in a straight line along the rear property line of S.E. Hough. The western boundary runs from this south west corner point north in a straight line for 274 feet along the east property lines of Olan Hinson and Louise Thompson to the beginning point of the boundary which is the north west corner point.