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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 of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Clinton A.M.E. Zion Church
other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number Johnson Street not for publication
city, town Kershaw vicinity
state South Carolina code SC county Lancaster code 057 zip code 29067

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	_____ buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	_____	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____	_____ structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>1</u>	_____ objects
			_____ Total

Name of related multiple property listing:
Historic Resources of Lancaster County

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this 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 meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Mary W. Edmonds _____ Date 12/11/89
Signature of certifying official
Mary W. Edmonds, Deputy SHPO, SC Department of Archives & History, Columbia, SC
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official Date _____
State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register. Entered in the National Register Mark J. Bosher 2/16/90
 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:) _____

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action _____

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Religion/Religious Structure

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Religion/Religious Structure

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Late Victorian/Gothic

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick/Concrete

walls Wood / Weatherboard

roof Asphalt

other _____

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Clinton A.M.E. Zion Church (1909) is located on Johnson Street in the small town of Kershaw in southern Lancaster County. This vernacular, frame, Gothic Revival church is architecturally significant as a particularly intact twentieth century church building constructed by an early black Kershaw congregation.

Additional Information

The building is a one-story, T-shaped, frame structure covered with clapboard siding and has a brick pier foundation with concrete block infill. It has a front pent-gabled roof on the north facade and a lower pent-gable side ell on the east elevation with a engaged bell tower with pyramidal roof projecting from the north facade. A skirt roof divides the tower into two vertical sections. The rear or south elevation has a hipped roof apse with a single door. A later one-room, shed-roof addition on the north side is attached in the rear ell projecting gable. The main entry is through two paneled double doors with a peaked transom and simple decorative door surround (the concrete steps are later.) Windows are generally one-over-one-light or six-over-six-light double-hung sash, with either stationary one-light or four-light peaked transoms with simple trim. The north facade features double doors in the first floor of the bell tower and a boarded window with peaked transom-light in the second level of the tower, single double-hung sash window and a single door with a stationary peaked transom in the lower front gable section and a narrow four-over-four, double-hung sash window on the north facade of the ell. The west facade has five windows with peaked transoms. The recessed apse has a single door with peaked transom-lights on the east and west facades and two windows with peaked transom-lights. These windows and the east door have been boarded. The east facade has one single door with a peaked transom-light.

The interior of the tower base serves as a vestibule which opens into the larger space used as the sanctuary. The gabled ell, once part of the sanctuary, at some point, was partitioned into bathrooms. The later shed addition is used as a pastors study and has access to the exterior. The sanctuary has its original lighting fixtures and beaded-board wainscotting. The pulpit and choir areas are separated from the

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Ethnic Heritage/Black

Period of Significance

1909

Significant Dates

1909

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

Architect/Builder

Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

This church was built in 1909 by Clinton A.M.E. Zion Church, which was the first separate black church established in Kershaw in the early twentieth century. It is significant both as a particularly intact example of Gothic Revival church architecture common in the period and as an example of early institutions in Kershaw's black community. Clinton A.M.E. Zion Church was named for Isom Caleb Clinton, an ex-slave who was a prominent minister in the A.M.E. Zion Church and who was ordained as a bishop in 1892.(1)

Although the Clinton A.M.E. Zion Church is a religious property, it is remarkably intact, having undergone few alterations since 1909. It is eligible for the National Register under the themes of Architecture and Ethnic Heritage/Black.

NOTES

(1) Telephone interview with Mr. Willie J. Robinson, Kershaw, S.C., 11 October 1989; Louise Pettus and Martha Bishop, Lancaster County: A Pictorial History (Norfolk: The Donning Company, 1984), p. 186; Bishop William J. Walls, The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church (Charlotte: A.M.E. Zion Publishing House, 1974).

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

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 # _____

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository:

SC Department of Archives & History,
Columbia, SC

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of property Less than one acre

UTM References

A

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5	3	7	8	8	0
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3	8	2	2	9	4	0
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 Zone Easting Northing

C

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B

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 Zone Easting Northing

D

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the nomination is shown as the black line on the accompanying Lancaster County Tax Map 156-I, Parcel P-13, drawn at a scale of 1" = 100'.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The nominated property includes the church and its immediate surroundings.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title J. Tracy Power, NR Historian/Frank Brown III, NR Architectural Historian
 organization SC Department of Archives & History date 12 October 1989
 street & number PO Box 11669 telephone (803) 734-8610
 city or town Columbia state SC zip code 29211

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sanctuary by a small step, and a communion rail composed of large turned posts with smaller turned balusters. A similar semi-circular rail, step, and semi-circular arched opening supported by turned posts separates the choir from the pulpit area. Painted on the arch's molding is "The Lord is the holy temple: Let all the earth keep silence before him." The original ceiling has been covered with acoustical tile.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

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Continuation Sheet**

PHOTOGRAPHS

Section number _____ Page 1

Name of property: Clinton A.M.E. Zion Church
(Historic Resources of Lancaster County
multiple property submission)

Location of property: Lancaster County, South Carolina

Photographer: South Carolina Department of Archives and History Staff

Location of negative: South Carolina Department of Archives and History

Date of photograph: June 1989

1. Facade
2. Left (south) elevation
3. Interior