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

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

RECEIVED
NAT. REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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 Mt. Zion Presbyterian Church
other names/site number

2. Location

street & number S.C. Hwy. 154 [St. Charles Road] not for publication
city or town Bishopville vicinity X
state South Carolina code SC county Lee code 061 zip code 29010

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 6/3/03
Signature of certifying official Date

Mary W. Edmonds, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, S.C. Dept. of Archives and 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: Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

√ entered in the National Register — for Edson H. Beall 7.17.03
__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):

Mt. Zion Presbyterian Church
Name of Property

Lee County, South Carolina
County and State

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
(Do not include previously listed resources)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
2	1	buildings
1		sites
		structures
		objects
3	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)

Category: RELIGION
Subcategory: Religious Facility

Current Functions
(Enter caregories from instructions)

Category: RELIGION
Subcategory: Religious Facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)
Neo-Classical Revival

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)
foundation Brick
walls Brick
roof Slate
other Limestone
Wood

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

Mt. Zion Presbyterian Church
Name of Property

Lee County, South Carolina
County and State

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)

__ 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 in 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.
__ 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)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1830-1911

Significant Dates

1851
1911

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Wilson & Sompayrac (Architects)
Padgett, William (Builder)

Narrative Statement of Significance

Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

(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:

__ State Historic Preservation Office
__ Other State agency
__ Federal agency
__ Local government
__ University
x Other
Name of repository:
Mt. Zion Presbyterian Church

Mt. Zion Presbyterian Church
Name of Property

Lee County, South Carolina
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Approximately five acres

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

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
1	17	571284	3773393	3	17	571097	3773341
2	17	571264	3773305	4	17	571113	3773412

___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 J. Tracy Power, Historian, and Andrew W. Chandler, Architectural Historian, SHPO, with assistance from Archie H. Chandler, Jr.
organization S.C. Department of Archives and History date 11 February 2003
street & number 8301 Parklane Road telephone (803) 896-6182
city or town Columbia state SC zip code 29223

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 Mt. Zion Presbyterian Church, c/o Mr. Harvey W. Shaw, Jr., Clerk of Session
street & number 248 Mt. Lisbon Road telephone (803) 428-3640
city or town Bishopville state South Carolina zip code 29010

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended(16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.). **Estimated Burden Statement**: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.0. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

Mt. Zion Presbyterian Church, located approximately seven miles south of Bishopville on SC Highway 154 [St. Charles Road], a road that roughly parallels the west side of Black River in the St. Charles community of Lee County, is set within a partially wooded parcel that contains the brick sanctuary, frame Session House, and historic cemetery.

The church, a Neo-Classical Revival edifice constructed in 1911 according to plans by the prominent Columbia architectural firm of Wilson & Sompayrac, is a linear gable-front, temple-form, two-story brick building laid in Flemish bond with an eastern-oriented facade. Set upon a raised brick foundation surmounted by a soldier course water table, the building's most imposing feature is its tetrastyle portico featuring a full-width masonry stair with cheek walls and monumental limestone columns and pilasters of the Ionic order. The portico's pediment, as well as the building's surrounding entablature, is embellished with modillions. Its smooth stuccoed tympanum is adorned with a semi-circular louvered vent with keystone, an element repeated in the building's rear gable where the entablature terminates in returns. Each of the buildings four corners is accentuated with brick quoins and each of the building's end walls rises to a brick parapet with stone coping and unornamented acroterion at the corners and peaks. Within and central to the portico is the ceremonial entrance with double-leaf paneled door, multi-light transom, and classical surround featuring a segmental-arched pediment. To either side of the entrance is a four-over-four light double-hung window with limestone sill and brick jack arch lintel. Above each of these windows is a bull's eye window with radiating traceried glazing, brick surround and keystones. On either side elevation are three large Palladian windows featuring nine-over-nine-light windows, three-over-three-light sidelights, full fanlight transoms, and limestone sills, keys and imposts. Beneath the window on the south elevation and nearest the rear of the building are two small basement-level windows.

Other fenestration on either side elevation includes four-over-four light windows near the building's front corners; below the window on the north elevation is a small square window indicating a basement space in that part of the building as well. Toward the rear along both side elevations is an arched, double-leaf entrance with transom sheltered by small, arch-ceilinged porticos of the Ionic [Scamozzi] order. Each of these is accessed by stone steps with iron balustrades. Along the northern elevation a modern masonry handicap ramp with iron balustrade accesses the entrance principally used by members, but does not impact significantly the building's architectural integrity. To the left of the north entrance is a small four-light window; all other fenestration that flanks these porticoed entrances on the principal or second floor level is six-over-six light, double-hung sash windows with limestone sills and jack arch lintels. At the center of both levels of the rear [west] elevation are three six-over-six light, double-hung sash windows with limestone sills and jack arch lintels.

The building's roof is pitched and clad in slate shingles, and features an internal gutter system with metal collection boxes and downspouts at each corner.

The church's interior contains a narthex at the building's east [principal] end that accesses the sanctuary to either side of the pulpit. The sanctuary, oriented in an eastward direction, contains walls and ceiling finished in smooth plaster with monumental Doric order pilasters accentuating the wall surfaces between the large Palladian windows, at each corner and to either side of the arched overflow and balconied alcove at the west end of the room. A modillioned plaster entablature encircles the room, while plastered beams adorn the ceiling to create a paneled appearance. At the east end of the sanctuary is a raised central bow-front and paneled pulpit that projects from an apsidal-shaped and cove-ceilinged alcove. A large keystoned arch spans the alcove and extends to either side to accommodate the access doors flanking the pulpit in a modified Palladian composition. A large wooden cross is attached to the curved wall of the alcove. To either side of the pulpit, with its speaking lectern, chairs and communion table, is a paneled box enclosure that accommodates an organ, piano and choirs. Curved wooden pews, arranged in three banks to create a double-aisled configuration, are part of the 1911 church's original furniture. To the rear of the sanctuary are two floors of Sunday School rooms, with corridors that access the sanctuary's overflow area and upper balustraded and bracketed balcony.

Directly to the rear of the church building is a small, four-bay wide, one-story lateral-gabled frame building, constructed in 1851 as Mt. Zion Presbyterian Church's Session House. Set upon a solid brick foundation [altered from open brick piers], it features two four-paneled doors on its principal [east] façade and a nine-over-nine light, double-hung sash window with louvered shutters on the outer side of each and toward the ends of the building. Other windows consist of four identical ones along the rear [west] elevation, two on the north gable end, and two on the south gable end flanking a brick chimney with a corbeled cap. The building's roof features a boxed cornice and returns at the gable ends and is clad in wood shingles. On its interior is a large open space, with a remnant of the wall that once divided the interior into two spaces, likely an alteration from 1910 when a fire destroyed the 1855 sanctuary and forced the members to worship in the Session House. The building today still contains a historic mantel and fireplace, wide pine flooring, and accommodates the church's session and other artifacts from the church's history.

Between S.C. Highway 154 and the sanctuary's east facade is a large cemetery containing graves of church members dating from ca. 1830 to the present. A number of gravestones date to the antebellum period; however, most are postbellum and early twentieth century in vintage. A scattering of deciduous trees and flowering shrubs are also present within the metal-fenced graveyard.

A small modern brick-veneered building just north of the sanctuary is a noncontributing resource.

Mt. Zion Presbyterian Church, in the community of St. Charles, south of Bishopville in rural Lee County, is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C, for its significance in Architecture. This Neo-Classical Revival building, constructed in 1911, is an excellent and unusual example of an early twentieth-century sanctuary in rural eastern South Carolina and one of the many designs by the architectural firm of Wilson & Sompayrac of Columbia, the most successful firm in the state during the first two decades of the century. Its principals were Charles Coker Wilson (1864-1933) and Edwin Douglas Sompayrac (1868-1935).[1]

Mt. Zion Presbyterian Church had its origins in Salem Black River Presbyterian Church, about fifteen miles south near Mayesville, which was founded in 1759 and formally organized in 1770. Mt. Zion was organized as a separate congregation in 1809; its first sanctuary, a frame building, was located one and a half miles north of this location on Broad Branch, a tributary of the Black River. As the congregation grew in size to more than one hundred members, its trustees began to plan for a larger church and a new site on which to build it. They purchased four acres at the present site from Robert Commander in 1829, and constructed the first sanctuary here, also a frame building, sometime in the 1830s. Two resources from the antebellum period contribute to the significance of the property: the church cemetery, laid out in 1830 on an additional acre of land secured from Commander that year, and the Session House, built in 1851. The second sanctuary on this site, another frame building, was built in 1855.[2]

The 1855 sanctuary burned in February 1910, and the Mt. Zion congregation worshipped in the Session House while the present sanctuary—the fourth to serve this church—was being designed and constructed. This church, designed by the firm of Wilson & Sompayrac and built by William Padgett at a cost of $19,000.00, was completed in June 1911 and dedicated in June 1912.[3] With minimal exceptions the 1911 sanctuary has not been altered or added to since its construction.

Architecturally, the 1911 sanctuary demonstrates a sophistication not often seen in rural church architecture in South Carolina in the early twentieth century. It is a building not only representative of the type of design work being produced by Wilson & Sompayrac, a firm that served as a training ground for young architects and designers within and outside South Carolina, but one that reflects the relative wealth of an agriculturally-rich cotton farming region of the state in the era before the advent of the boll weevil and agricultural depression.

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[1] John E. Wells and Robert E. Dalton, *The South Carolina Architects, 1885-1935: A Biographical Dictionary* (Richmond: New South Architectural Press, 1992), pp. 171, 209-219.
[2] Gertrude McLaurin Shaw, "Mt. Zion Presbyterian Church, 1809-1976," unpublished typescript in the possession of Mr. Archie H. Chandler, St. Charles, S.C.; Cassie Nicholes, *Historical Sketches of Sumter County: Its Birth and Growth*, Volume I (Sumter, S.C.: Sumter County Historical Commission, 1975), pp. 161-64.
[3] Shaw, "Mt. Zion Presbyterian Church, 1809-1976;" Nicholes, pp. 161-64.

Verbal Boundary Description:

The boundary for the Mt. Zion Presbyterian Church is delineated as parcel 75 on the accompanying Lee County Tax Map #051, containing approximately five [5] acres and drawn at a scale of 1" = 400'.

Verbal Boundary Justification:

The nominated acreage contains the historic sanctuary of Mt. Zion Presbyterian Church, the historic Session House, and the historically associated cemetery, all of which contribute to the significance of the property, and the wooded setting immediately surrounding these resources. It also contains a small noncontributing brick-veneered building that is integral to the property and would be difficult to exclude from the boundaries.

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

Name of Property:	Mt. Zion Presbyterian Church
Location of Property:	S.C. Highway 154, Bishopville vicinity Lee County, South Carolina
Name of Photographer:	J. Tracy Power, South Carolina SHPO
Date of Photographs:	4 March 2003
Location of Original Negatives:	S.C. Department of Archives and History, Columbia

1. Facade; Noncontributing Building at Right
2. Facade and Right Elevation
3. Facade and Left Elevation; Session House at Left Rear
4. Rear Elevation; Noncontributing Building at Left
5. Facade Entrance Detail
6. Pulpit, Flanking Doors, and Flanking Box Enclosures
7. Pulpit, Flanking Doors, and Pews
8. Pulpit, Flanking Doors, Flanking Box Enclosures, and Pews
9. Detail of Plaster and Moldings
10. Balcony
11. Pews, Windows, and Balcony
12. Pews and Balcony
13. Pew Detail
14. Cemetery, with Sanctuary in Background
15. Cemetery
16. Cemetery
17. Cemetery
18. Session House
19. Session House, Door Detail
20. Session House, Window Detail
21. Noncontributing Modern Brick-Veneered Building