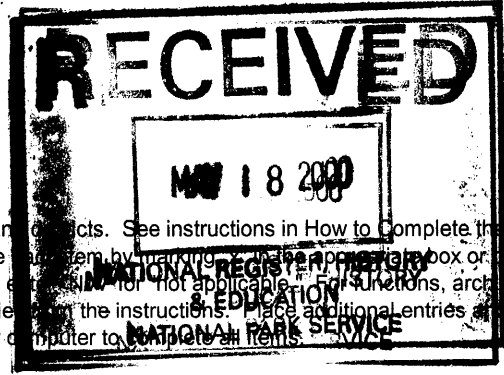


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and objects. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete this form by marking 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. Olive Baptist Church  
other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

2. Location

street & number 301 Church Street not for publication \_\_\_\_\_  
city or town Mullins vicinity \_\_\_\_\_  
state South Carolina code SC county Marion code 067 zip code 29574

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 5/8/2000  
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:

- entered in the National Register  
\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the  
National Register  
\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the  
National Register
- removed from the National Register

Edson H. Beall 6/15/03  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

\_\_\_ other (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

Mt. Olive Baptist Church  
Name of Property

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**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply)

**Category of Property**  
(Check only one box)

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include previously listed resources)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	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 categories from instructions)

Category: RELIGION

Subcategory: religious facility

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)  
Late Gothic Revival

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)  
foundation brick/concrete  
walls brick  
roof asphalt  
other

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

Mt. Olive Baptist Church  
Name of Property

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**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.
- 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.)

- 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  
ETHNIC HERITAGE/BLACK  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

1922 – ca. 1950  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

1922  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

\_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

Ford, Wade Alston  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**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
- Other

Name of repository:

\_\_\_\_\_



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**Continuation Sheet**

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Mt. Olive Baptist Church  
Name of Property  
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Mt. Olive Baptist Church, located at 301 Church Street [northeast corner of Church and Mullins streets] in Mullins, South Carolina, a town in northeastern Marion County, is a one-story brick cruciform building constructed between 1922 and 1926 with a complex hip and gable roof now clad with composition shingles.

Situated on a level lot and set upon a brick foundation with a protruding brick watertable, the sanctuary is a Late Gothic Revival building laid in five-to-one American or common bond. Featuring twin corner towers of unequal height flanking the Church Street façade [south elevation], the sanctuary is accessed by brick wraparound steps and through two sets of double-leaf doors with pointed brick arch-framed stained glass transoms on each of the exposed elevations of the towers. The taller of the towers, located at the building's southwest corner nearest the street intersection, also contains a marble cornerstone, circular stained glass windows or an oculus above each entrance at the second level, a projecting brick beltcourse delineating the uppermost or third level, and a belfry containing four large pointed-arch openings [now infilled with metal panels painted white]. While the shorter of the two towers does not contain similar or identical decorative elements, both towers boast flat-topped turretted corners which intersect and punctuate their flared pyramidal roofs now clad with composition shingles.

Each of the building's principal facades projects to the south, east and west and features a large, tripartite Gothic-arched, leaded stained glass window flanked by stained glass lancet windows. Thrusting upward into an engaged gable, the large central windows point to half-moon shaped attic ventilators now infilled with painted-white metal panels similar to that in the belfry. On the north side of the west projection is a secondary entrance with single-leaf door and segmental-arched transom, while on the west elevation of the north [rear] projection is a lancet window. An early, if not original, wing extends to the north of the rear elevation and contains a segmental-arched, single-leaf door with transom, a lower or nested hip roof, and an engaged gable. Brick, single-flue chimneys pierce the main building's roof along the south slope of the west façade's gable and along the north slope of the east façade's gable.

In more recent years a small hipped roof extension was added to the rear (north), as was a one-story brick Sunday school building. Extending at the rear of the church building in an easterly direction, this ancillary building clearly reads as a modern, subordinate addition which allows the historic sanctuary to continue to dominate the site and convey its historic architectural integrity and significance.

The sanctuary is accessed from two vestibules within the tower structures. A rope pull for the church's bell is still evident within the westernmost or principal vestibule. Paneled double and single-leaf doors lead into the sanctuary which reflects the cruciform plan of the building's exterior form and massing. Encircling the large space is a beaded board wainscot with heavy molded wood rail, above

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Section number 7 Page 6

Mt. Olive Baptist Church  
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which are flat, unadorned plaster walls. The ceiling, superbly crafted in miter-cornered beaded board planes, mirrors the complexity of the exterior hipped roof and culminates in a box-framed Greek cross. The cross's beaded board recessed panel is fitted together using miter cuts to create a decorative effect. A semi-domical apse provides a chancel at the center of the north wall of the sanctuary, while a slightly smaller arched choir alcove flanks the pulpit area to the left [west]. Single leaf, horizontal-paneled doors access anterooms to the rear of the choir alcove and to the right [east] of the chancel. A balustrade separates the chancel from the choir area which it partially surrounds. Set upon hardwood floors, seating within the sanctuary consists of curved, wooden pews with a Tudor Gothic end-panel motif. Arranged in three banks, the pews allow for two inner and two narrower outer aisles and surround the projecting raised pulpit platform. A lighted cross is located above the chancel arch, while the entire space is lighted by hanging brass chandeliers.

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Section number 8 Page 7

Mt. Olive Baptist Church  
Name of Property  
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Mt. Olive Baptist Church is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C as an example of early twentieth century Late Gothic Revival architecture. Mt. Olive is also eligible under Criterion A for its association with the history of African-American life and culture in Mullins, South Carolina.

Wade Alston Ford, a young African-American architect from Lake View, South Carolina, designed the church and directed its construction between 1922 and 1926. The church was built with volunteer labor from five craftsmen who were members of the congregation.

Ford received his education from the Lake View graded schools and by attending a boarding school at Allen University, a historically African-American college in Columbia, South Carolina. Ford continued to excel academically and graduated near the top of his class in 1921 with a bachelor's degree in Architecture and Building from the South Carolina State Agricultural & Mechanical College in Orangeburg. Ford chose to work as an architect and craftsman near his hometown of Lake View and the surrounding area and is known to have contributed to the construction of St. John African Methodist Episcopal (A.M.E.) Church in Marion, South Carolina, and another A.M.E. church in Bucksport, South Carolina.

Mt. Olive Baptist Church has been an important center of religious and civic activity for the African-American community of Mullins. The church has been home to countless weddings and funerals and served as a meeting place for local clubs and organizations. Due to limited space at local schools, commencement exercises for each grade were held at the church sometime culminating in a two-week festival of graduation each school year. The church also hosted fellowship unions, local and state Baptist association meetings, and the National Baptist Convention's Annual Session during the 1940s. The church has also hosted nationally known gospel artists such as Rosetta Thorpe and Marie Knight.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Johnson, Doris Ford, Evelyn Reaves Lewis, and Matthew Alphonso Owens, interviews by Fannie Leonard Simmons, October-November 1998, June 1999; Fannie Leonard Simmons, Mt. Olive! Mt. Olive!: Centennial Yearbook 1882-1982 Mt. Olive Baptist Church (The Centennial Yearbook Staff 1982) 26

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Name of Property  
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County and State

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**Bibliography**

- Johnson, Doris Ford. Interviews with Fannie Leonard Simmons. October-November 1998.  
Mrs. Johnson is the daughter of the late Wade Alston Ford, architect of Mt. Olive Baptist Church, and lives in Lake City, South Carolina.
- Lewis, Evelyn Reaves. Interviews with Fannie Leonard Simmons. October-November 1998, June 1999.
- Owens, Matthew Alphonso. Interviews with Fannie Leonard Simmons. June 1999.
- Simmons, Fannie Leonard. Mt. Olive! Mt. Olive!: Centennial Yearbook 1882-1982, Mt. Olive Baptist Church. The Centennial Yearbook Staff, 1982.



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Mt. Olive Baptist Church  
Name of Property  
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**Verbal Boundary Description**

The boundary for the Mt. Olive Baptist Church is reflected as Section 5, Parcel 32 on the accompanying Marion County Tax Map #408, drawn at a scale of one inch equalling 100 feet.

**Boundary Justification**

The nominated acreage includes the historic sanctuary and attached non-historic Sunday school building associated with Mt. Olive Baptist Church.

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Section number Photographs Page 10 Mt. Olive Baptist Church  
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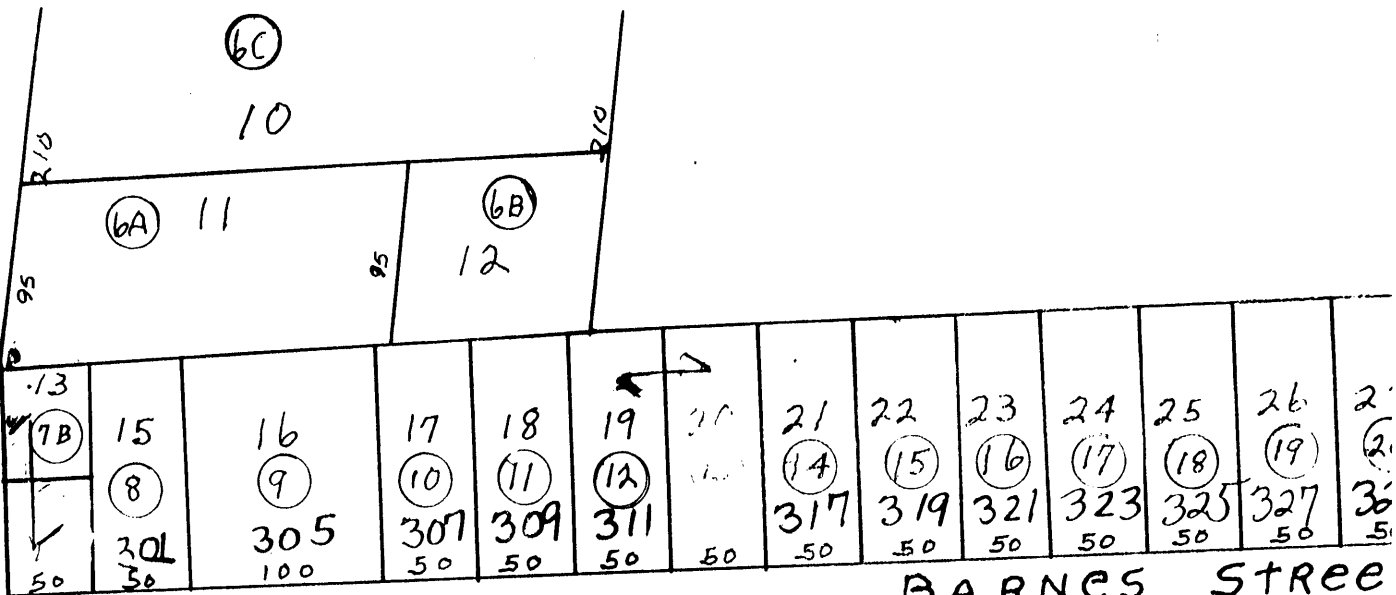
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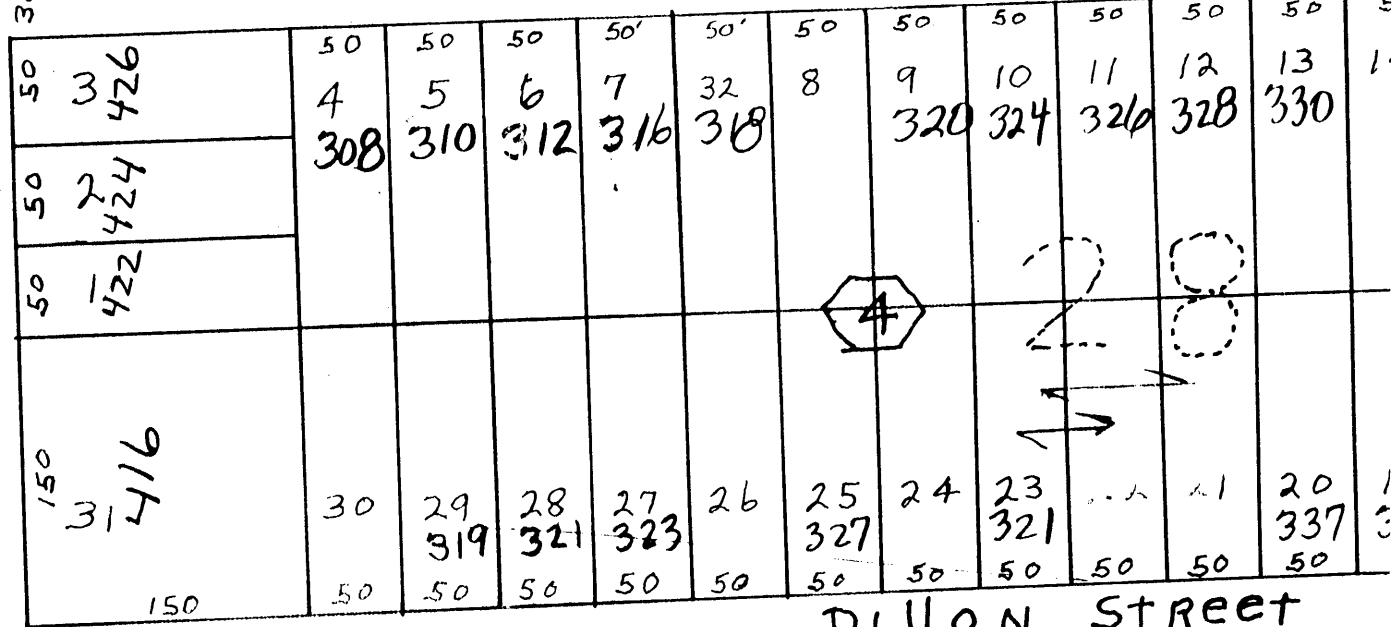
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Location of Property: Mullins, Marion County, South Carolina  
Name of Photographer: Maggie Riales:  
Date of Photographs: June 1999  
Location of Original Negatives: Mt. Olive Baptist Church, Mullins, SC

1. NW view, camera pointing SW, showing portion of parking area, Mullins Street, portion of Smith-Cooper Funeral Home
2. South view from pulpit, camera looking SW, showing pews and windows
3. West view of windows and pews, camera looking west
4. West view of exterior, camera looking east
5. Choir and pulpit area with lighted cross, camera looking North
6. South exterior view
7. West view of pews
8. East exterior view
9. SE exterior view
10. North view of pulpit and choir area
11. SW view of chandeliers, pews, windows
12. Cross in ceiling with chandeliers
13. SE view of pews, windows, chandeliers

MULLINS STREET

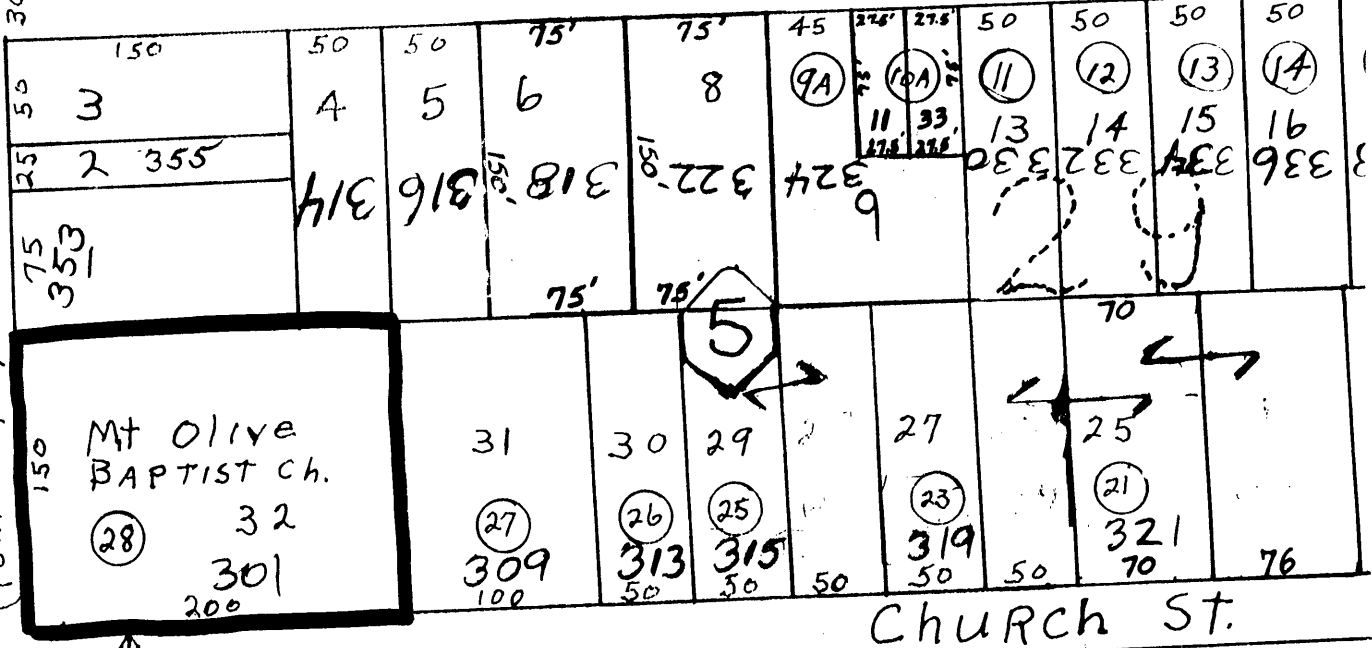


BARNES STREET



DILLON STREET

(FORMERLY YARBORO AVE.)



Church St.

MT. OLIVE BAPTIST CHURCH