

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: South Carolina	
COUNTY: Marion	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	MAR 4 1973

**1. NAME**

COMMON: Old Ebenezer Church
AND/OR HISTORIC: Ebenezer Methodist Episcopal Church, South

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER: Intersection of Roads W-34-197 and S-34-22			
CITY OR TOWN: Five miles south of Latta; eight miles north of Marion			
STATE South Carolina	CODE 45	COUNTY: Marion	CODE 067

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)				
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) Ebenezer Memorial & Hist. Assoc.	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME: Ebenezer Memorial and Historical Association			
STREET AND NUMBER: Box 281			
CITY OR TOWN: Latta	STATE: South Carolina	CODE 45	

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Marion County Clerk of Court			
STREET AND NUMBER: North Main Street			
CITY OR TOWN: Marion	STATE: South Carolina	CODE 45	

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY: Pee Dee Regional Historical Site Survey			
DATE OF SURVEY: June 1972 <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local			
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Pee Dee regional Planning and Development Council			
STREET AND NUMBER: P.O. Box 4366			
CITY OR TOWN: Florence	STATE: South Carolina	CODE 29501 45	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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COUNTY:

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## 7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Exterior : Built in 1856, this one story rectangular church has a surface of white clapboard. Old Ebenezer rests on low pillars of hand-made brick which provide an open basement of about three or four feet. Between the three pillars of the main facade are two wooden stairways, each with six risers.

Stairs lead to two identical front doors. Double-leaf doors have six symmetrical panels on each section and are surmounted by a cornice and framed by simplified pilasters. Facade also features a window between the two doors and two additional windows, each located on the far side of the two doors.

Each of the three lugsill windows has a cornice above the nine-over-nine-light panes. Double-hung sash windows are pegged together. During the 1971 restoration, the original louvered shutters were repaired and now protect the windows.

Modified wooden pilasters are featured on the corners of the church. Surrounding the exterior is an unornamented frieze and a boxed cornice. A clapboard gable lies under the medium gable roof which is covered with hand-riven black cypress shingles dating from 1921 repairs.

The rear (south) facade, overlooking the cemetery, was formerly identical to the front elevation. However, an original central window has been covered by weatherboarding.

Matching side facades are the width of five bays with windows identical to those of front facade.

Interior : The commodious church sanctuary measures forty feet in width by fifty feet in length. Original features that have been lost include a slave gallery, removed before the turn of the century. Altar and pulpit are original; however, they have been moved from the north end of the church to the south end. A third change is the present diagonal, beaded boards which cover original plastered walls.

Floor and ceiling, however, are of the original wide pine planks. Joists supporting the floor were hand-hewn. Along the center of the building, three posts support the sixteen foot high ceiling. A wooden rail connecting these posts formerly separated the church into two sections with women sitting on the left and men on the right-hand side. Preservationists have found the original hand-made pews with back and seat made of one long plank each. These pews are now being installed in their former locations, attached directly to the wainscoting.

Surroundings : Old Ebenezer Church is situated on a one acre, partially wooded lot. The congregation has a view of the well-kept cemetery from the double-leaf doors flanking each side of the altar. Church property is bounded on the west side by the Old Stage Road from Fayetteville to Georgetown, and on the north side by the Sellers to Mullins road.

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## 3. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Pre-Columbian☐ 16th Century☒ 18th Century☐ 20th Century☐ 15th Century☐ 17th Century☒ 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1856

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Aboriginal

☐ Prehistoric☐ Historic☐ Agriculture☒ Architecture☐ Art☐ Commerce☐ Communications☐ Conservation☐ Education☐ Engineering☐ Industry☐ Invention☐ Landscape☐ Architecture☐ Literature☐ Military☐ Music☒ Political☐ Religion/Phi-

losophy

☐ Science☐ Sculpture☐ Social/Human-

itarian

☐ Theater☐ Transportation☐ Urban Planning☐ Other. (Specify)

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The heritage of Old Ebenezer Church is found in the history of Methodism. In opposition to the Anglican practice of identifying a clergyman with a certain church, Methodists advocated itinerant preaching, known as "riding circuit." This practice, particularly successful in late eighteenth century rural America, was led by Francis Asbury. His journal is now the definitive source for tracing his circuit rides and the preliminary organization that led to the rapid growth of the Methodist denomination.

Marion County was among the southern regions included in Asbury's circuit rides, and one of his journal entries contains a reference to a meeting held on the Old Stage Road and past the Buck Swamp Bridge, the immediate vicinity of the present-day church. Although Ebenezer Church was not actually in existence at this time, members accept Asbury's entry of March 15, 1787, as referring to the origins of their church.

Official documentation with the name of Ebenezer Church first appears in the Methodist Quarterly Conference Journal of 1835. A church building, antedating the present sanctuary, was destroyed by fire according to an article in The Marion Star of March 13, 1855.

The present church was built in 1856 by William Dillon. A slave gallery, which was later removed, corroborates the pre-Civil War construction date.

Ebenezer's records reflect another nation-wide trend, the surge of evangelism and revival meetings in the late nineteenth century. The Church Register of September, 1890 records 55 new members who joined by "profession of faith."

Local church members researched and directed restoration of the exterior early in 1971. They plan to complete interior restoration also.

Architecturally, Old Ebenezer Church is basically the simple, pragmatic "Meeting House Style" with two entrances on the main facade, corresponding doors on rear facade, and gable roof. However the builder chose to add refinements to the basic plan: cornices and pilasters indicate the influence of the classic revival idiom.

Supervised by William Dillon, a local businessman and builder, the manual craftsmanship found at Old Ebenezer was the work of slave artisans. Primary materials such as bricks, nails, and planks were also fashioned by local blacks. The heart-pine clapboard church with

# 9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Bucke, Emory Stevens.(editor) The History of American Methodism, Volume II, New York: Abingdon Press, 1964. p. 310-311.  
 Chreitzberg, D.D. Early Methodism in the Carolinas. Nashville: Publishing House of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, 1897. (reprinted,1972)  
 Church Register, 1883-1921, Ebenezer Methodist Episcopal Church, South. (Owned by T. C. Powers, RFD 1, Marion, S.C.)  
 The Marion Star (Marion, S.C.) Volume III, No. 46, March 13, 1855.  
 Wallace, D.D. A Short History of South Carolina. Columbia: University of South Carolina Press, 1961, pp. 637 & 639.

# 10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		34 ° 17 ' 10 "	79 ° 24 ' 38.9 "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		34 17 20	79 23 10	
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: one acre

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

# 11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Caroline Dixon Historic Preservation Assistant

ORGANIZATION: South Carolina Dept. of Archives & History DATE: July 20, 1972

STREET AND NUMBER: 1430 Senate Street 11188 Capitol Station

CITY OR TOWN: Columbia STATE: South Carolina CODE: 45

# 12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National ☐ State ☐ Local ☒

Name

Charles E. Lee

Title Director, S. C. Department of Archives & History

Date

# NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Robert M. Utley  
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date

3/30/73

ATTEST:

Madeline  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date

3/22/73

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
South Carolina	
COUNTY	
Marion	
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	MAR 30 1973

(Number all entries)

8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

OLD EBENEZER CHURCH

its handmade features reflects a rural southern setting and uncomplicated ecclesiastical doctrine.

Political Significance: The Governor of South Carolina from 1897 to 1899, William Haseldon Ellerbe, was a member of Ebenezer. His initial gubernatorial victory was especially significant because he was opposed by Ben Tillman, former governor and powerful demagogue senator of South Carolina. The thirty-four year old Ellerbe served as governor during the Spanish-American War and was re-elected to a second term; he died, however, in 1899 before completing this term of office.

The Ellerbe family gave the communion service to Ebenezer Church.

