

PHO 686034

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED OCT 12 1978  
DATE ENTERED DEC 8 1978

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME St. John's Lutheran Church

HISTORIC St. John's Church

AND/OR COMMON

St. John's Lutheran Church (preferred), The White Church

2 LOCATION St. John's Lutheran Church

STREET & NUMBER County Road 170, approximately 1 mile north of its intersection with Highway 176

CITY, TOWN

Pomaria

VICINITY OF

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

3

STATE

South Carolina

CODE 045

COUNTY Newberry

CODE 071

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
- MUSEUM
- COMMERCIAL
- PARK
- EDUCATIONAL
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ENTERTAINMENT
- RELIGIOUS
- GOVERNMENT
- SCIENTIFIC
- INDUSTRIAL
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER: vacant

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

St. John's Lutheran Church Congregation

STREET & NUMBER

Route 1, Box 13

CITY, TOWN

Pomaria

VICINITY OF

STATE South Carolina 29126

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Newberry County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

College Street

CITY, TOWN

Newberry

STATE South Carolina 29108

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Inventory of Historic Places in South Carolina

DATE

1973 (update)

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL  regional

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

South Carolina Department of Archives and History

CITY, TOWN

Columbia

STATE South Carolina

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED Ca. 1892	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Located in rural Newberry County, St. John's Lutheran Church is a frame structure set upon stone foundations. It is believed to have been constructed in 1809 as the third structure to serve the St. John's congregation. Rectangular in shape, it features a dentil cornice, some beaded weatherboards, and a jerkin-head roof (the majority of which is covered by tin).

Exterior: The front facade features a small gabled portico with dentil cornice, supported by two wooden columns. The entrance consists of two three-paneled doors with an arched panel above. The front facade also features an unusual configuration of windows with matching pairs in three successive tiers. The side facades are identical, each featuring five 12/12 windows. The rear reveals a semi-circular chancel with two Gothic-style windows. This chancel is believed to date from ca. 1892. All other windows feature solid-paneled shutters, surmounted by semi-circular window arches.

Interior: The interior of the structure features a barrel vaulted ceiling (wooden) and wide board walls. Narrow wooden stairways in the front corners of the church give access to a slave gallery. The original pews have been replaced (ca. 1892). It appears that at about the same time, the chancel was enlarged. It is believed, however, that the remaining communion rail, altar, lectern, and pulpit with sounding board are original.

Church services were held in this structure until 1950 when a new brick church was erected nearby (on the east side of county road 170). Although no longer used by the congregation, St. John's has been maintained in good condition.

Surroundings: A small mid-19th Century school building is located east of the church and is included within the nominated acreage. This structure is rectangular in shape, and is of clapboard construction. It rests upon wooden foundations and has a gable roof with boxed cornice. The front facade features two entrances. The side facades have 6/6 windows. The interior is as unadorned as the exterior, featuring simple wide-board floors, walls and ceilings. This structure is now used as a boy scout meeting place. The church and old school house comprise the southern portion of the nominated acreage. Located to the north is the church cemetery which continues to be used today and is within the nominated acreage. Although the majority of the graves date from the late 19th Century to the present, there are several early graves with fieldstone markers.

Located at the extreme northwest corner of the nominated property is a 20th Century marker indicating the site of an earlier church, believed to have been the second church building.

Located to the east of the nominated property is county highway 170. The brick church currently used by the congregation is located on the east side of this road (and is not within the nominated acreage). Surrounding the nominated acreage on all other sides is additional church property which is forested and known as the "church woods".

# 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input 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      ca. 1809                                      BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The history of St. John's Lutheran Church reflects much of the religious history in the Dutch Fork area of South Carolina -- an area settled largely by Swiss and Germans who were affiliated with both the German Reformed and Lutheran Churches and out of necessity came to worship together. Additionally, St. John's features several details (such as a dentil cornice, windows surmounted by arched panels and a barrel vaulted ceiling) which reflect a degree of sophisticated architectural design. Finally, St. John's is important as having been both a religious and cultural center in the Dutch Fork area throughout its history.

It is believed that St. John's Church was established in the 1750s by German settlers. According to an historical account written in 1875, these early settlers brought with them a Rev. Luft who built the first log church. There are indications, however, that Rev. John Gasser was also involved in the early history of St. John's. In 1754 he petitioned His Majesty's Council in South Carolina for aid, stating that he had come to the Dutch Fork area to preach, but was experiencing difficulty in so doing. He requested the Council's support for a church and schoolmaster. Tradition indicates that Gasser ministered to the St. John's congregation during these early years.

In 1763 the elders of the Dissenting Congregation of Crims Creek were granted 100 acres of land for a glebe and church building. It is believed that the St. John's Church which stands on this land today was erected in 1809, while the site of an earlier structure (thought to have been the second church building), is indicated by a nearby marker (erected during the 20th Century).

Church records during these formative years are non-existent, hence it is difficult to trace the earliest history of St. John's. However, many references to St. John's Church are found in the mid-19th Century diaries of the Reverends Godfrey Drehr, Thaddeus Street Boinest, and Daniel Efird. In 1824 the South Carolina Synod of Lutheran Churches was organized, and in that year the session meeting was held at St. John's. In 1838 the session meeting of the Synod was again held at St. John's. In ensuing years, however, there developed dissension among Lutheran churches in South Carolina concerning theology and church practices. The congregation of St. John's experienced this dissension and consequently changed its synodical affiliation several times.

According to tradition, from the time of its establishment until 1921, St. John's provided educational instruction; an 1826 plat of the St. John's land indicates a schoolhouse near the church. Today, located adjacent to the church, is a small mid-19th Century frame structure which is believed to have served as a schoolhouse.

Throughout its history, St. John's has been important in the spiritual, cultural, and educational life of the Dutch Fork area -- an area where the Lutheran tradition remains continued

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Bernheim, G. D. History of the German Settlements and of the Lutheran Church in North and South Carolina. Philadelphia: The Lutheran Book Store, 1872; reprint ed., Spartanburg, South Carolina: The Reprint Company, 1972.

continued

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY ca. 12.88

QUADRANGLE NAME Jenkinsville, S.C.

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

DA	1 7	4 6 5 7 0 0	3 7 9 0 2 4 0	AB	1 7	4 6 5 8 6 0	3 7 9 0 2 4 0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
B	1 7	4 6 5 8 6 0	3 7 8 9 9 0 0	C	1 7	4 6 5 7 0 0	3 7 8 9 9 0 0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
E				F			
G				H			

## VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The property is bounded on the east by Highway 170 for .2 mile, on the west by the property of St. John's Church for .2 mile, and on the north and south

(continued..)

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Kappy McNulty; Horace E. Harmon, Jr., Director, Lexington County Historical Museum; and William Douglas Smyth

ORGANIZATION

S.C. Department of Archives & History

DATE

July 21, 1978

STREET & NUMBER

P.O. Box 11,669, Capitol Station

TELEPHONE

(803) 758-5816

CITY OR TOWN

Columbia,

STATE

South Carolina 29211

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

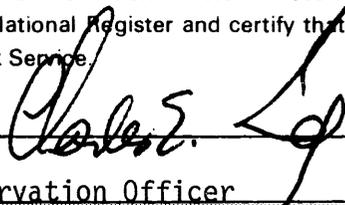
NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

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

9/19/78

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

12.8.78

ATTEST: *Jann H. Malone*

DATE

12/8/78

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

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strong today. Although the congregation dedicated a new sanctuary in 1950, the old church has been maintained by members as a reminder of their heritage.

Architecture: St. John's is unusual architecturally, reflecting a more sophisticated design than is usually found in rural 19th Century churches in South Carolina. St. John's retains some beaded siding, a dentil cornice, and a jerkin-head roof. The front facade features paneled entrance doors with an arched panel above, and an unusual configuration of windows with matching pairs in three successive tiers. The interior of the structure features a barrel vaulted ceiling. This church is believed to be the oldest frame Lutheran church building in South Carolina.

The frame schoolhouse building located within the nominated acreage is also significant architecturally. Constructed during the mid-19th Century, it is simple in design, consisting of one large room with wide-board floors, walls and ceiling.

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- Hallman, Rev. S. T., ed. The History of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod of South Carolina. Columbia: Farrell Printing Company, 1924, pp. 136-139.
- Historical Sketches of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod of South Carolina. Charleston: A. J. Burke, 1875, pp. 5, 7, 38-39.
- Holcombe, Brent H., trans. Journal of the Rev. Godfrey Drehr, 1819-1851. Easley, South Carolina: Southern Historical Press, 1978.
- Pope, Thomas H. The History of Newberry County, South Carolina, Vol. I. Columbia: University of South Carolina Press, 1973, pp. 7, 78-79.
- Sease, Rosalyn Summer. A Brief History of St. John's Lutheran Church. St. John's Lutheran Church Historical Committee, 1970.
- South Carolina Department of Archives and History. Royal Grants, Vol. 11, p. 318; Royal Plat Book, Vol. 8, p. 346; State Grants, Vol. 78, p. 588; State Plats, Vol. 48, p. 80; Council Journal, Vol. 23, pp. 89, 171-172.
- South Caroliniana Library. Thaddeus Street Boineest Papers and Diary.
- South Caroliniana Library. Daniel Efird Papers.
- The History of Synod Committee, ed. A History of the Lutheran Church in South Carolina. Columbia: R. L. Bryan, 1971, pp. 711-713.

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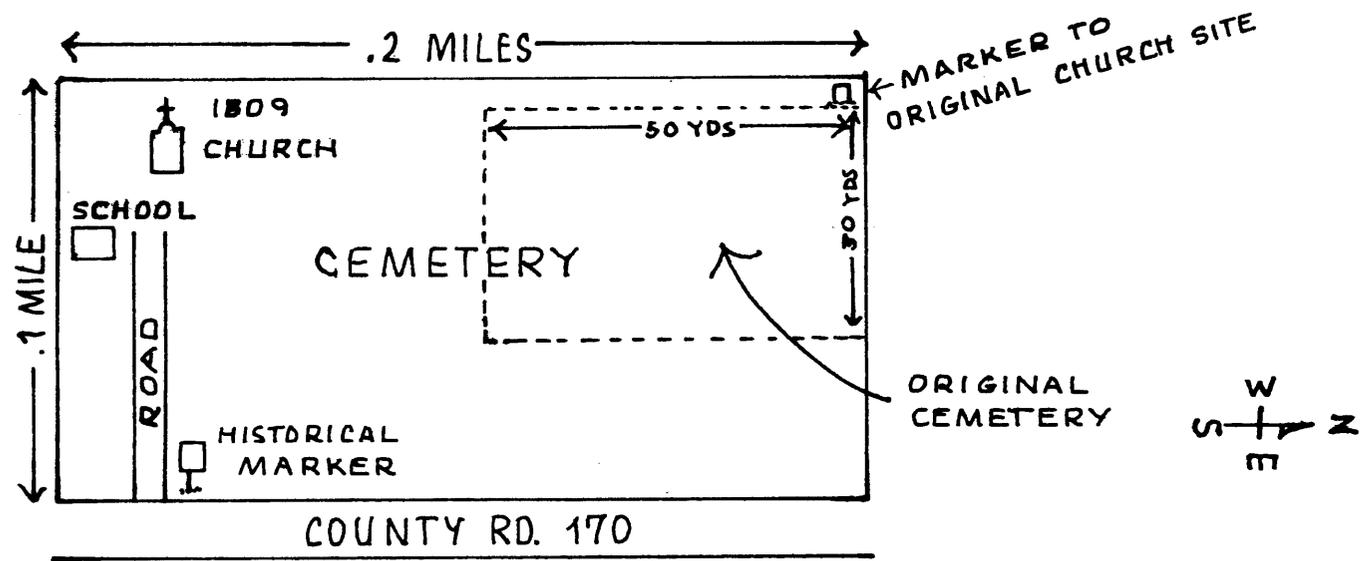
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by property belonging to St. John's Church for .1 mile.

Site plan -- St. John's Lutheran Church, Newberry County, S.C.

OCT 12 1978

# SITE PLAN - ST. JOHN'S CHURCH



12.88 ACRES

St. John's Lutheran Church, Newberry County, S. C.  
NOT DRAWN TO SCALE