District # 2 - Floyd Spence

9. Society and Social Conscience

Form 10-300
(Oct. 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(TYPE ALL ENTRIES - COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS)

1. NAME

COMMON:
White House United Methodist Church

AND/OR HISTORIC:
White Meeting House; White Church

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
10 miles N of Orangeburg on US Highway 301, near I-26 intersection

CITY OR TOWN:
Orangeburg

STATE:
South Carolina

CODE: 045

COUNTY:
Orangeburg

CODE: 075

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (CHECK ONE)

□ District
□ Building
□ Site
□ Structure
□ Object

□ Public
□ Private
□ Both

OWNERSHIP

PUBLIC ACQUISITION:
□ In Process
□ Being Considered

STATUS

□ Occupied
□ Unoccupied
□ Preservation work in progress

ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC

□ Yes:
□ Restricted
□ Unrestricted
□ No

PRESENT USE (CHECK ONE OR MORE AS APPROPRIATE)

□ Agricultural
□ Government
□ Park
□ Transportation
□ Comments
□ Commercial
□ Industrial
□ Private Residence
□ Other (Specify) Ref. 10-979
□ Educational
□ Military
□ Religious
□ Entertainment
□ Museum
□ Scientific

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
S.C. Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church

STREET AND NUMBER:
1420 Lady Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Columbia

STATE:
South Carolina

CODE: 045

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
Orangeburg County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:
Amelia Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Orangeburg

STATE:
South Carolina

CODE: 045

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Inventory of Historic Places in South Carolina

DATE OF SURVEY:
1973
□ Federal
□ State
□ County
□ Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
South Carolina Department of Archives and History

STREET AND NUMBER:
1430 Senate Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Columbia

STATE:
South Carolina

CODE: 045
This clapboard church, built ca. 1850, stands on the site of earlier log churches of one of the earliest Methodist societies in Orangeburg County. The four-acre location on which all the church structures have stood was deeded to the Methodist Episcopal Church on October 1, 1790, by Daniel Syfret.

Exterior: The present building is of simple rectangular meeting house design and has a medium gable roof. The clapboard siding is original. Brick steps and the portico supported by two columns on brick pillars were added to the entrance in 1939 along with five church school rooms to the rear.

Interior: With the exception of the choir loft, stained glass windows, and carpet, the interior appears much as it originally did. The pews are of hand-hewn pine, as is the altar railing. The wainscoting is of ten-inch boards; eight inch boards panel the rest of the interior.

The eight globe filigree chandelier and pulpit lanterns, installed in 1850, were formerly fueled by kerosene but have since been electrified. The original lectern was fashioned from a section of the oak tree which provided shelter for preaching when the earlier structures could not accommodate large crowds. Bishop Francis Asbury and others used a board that was attached to the tree for a lectern. A fellowship hall was constructed nearby in 1957 and the cemetery occupies approximately one acre to the rear of the church.
White House United Methodist Church is the oldest Methodist Congregation in Orangeburg County and was visited by Bishop Francis Asbury.

Architecture: Exemplifying what is commonly referred to as the Meeting House style, White House Church is a plain rectangular building with clapboard siding, a bare and simple design affording only the essentials needed for worship. Aisles separate hard benches, and in the Meeting House tradition, emphasis is not on the altar but on the pulpit, identifying the sermon as the most important element of the service.

This same design was utilized by many congregations in South Carolina. Availability of wood and simplicity of design made it a common style with occasional variations or additions of a belltower or Greek revival portico. Most examples were in the more rural areas of the state and generally served less affluent congregations.

White House Church is one of the finer and increasingly rare examples of the "meeting house" style in South Carolina. Abandonment, demolition, and modernization through brick veneer has diminished this once typical sight.

Religion/Philosophy: This ca. 1850 building, third on the site, houses the oldest Methodist Congregation in Orangeburg County. As early as 1786 a Methodist Society had probably been established in the Four Holes Swamp area of Orangeburg County. By 1788, the members were worshipping at "white meeting house" on the branch waters of Middle Pen Creek.

The earliest structure was of logs and was located on a four acre tract that was deeded to the Methodist Episcopal Church in 1790.

Francis Asbury, the first Bishop of American Methodism, visited the congregation on December 24, 1801, and again on January 10, 1803. Large crowds for the noted speakers necessitated outdoor worship under an oak, a portion of which has been preserved as a lectern.

Several outstanding Methodists who have served White House Church include William Wightman, later president of Wofford College, and William Capers, Bishop of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CORNER</th>
<th>LATITUDE</th>
<th>LONGITUDE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NW</td>
<td>Degrees Minutes Seconds</td>
<td>Degrees Minutes Seconds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NE</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SE</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SW</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 4 acres

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: Roger Gramling
William H. Brabham -- Historic Preservation Division

ORGANIZATION: South Carolina Department of Archives and History

STREET AND NUMBER: 1430 Senate Street

CITY OR TOWN: Columbia

STATE: South Carolina

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: State Historic Preservation Officer

Date: 4/12/74

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 5/13/74

ATTEST:

Keeper of the National Register

Date: 5/10/74