

Form 10-300
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	South Carolina
COUNTY:	Orangeburg
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	MAY 13 1974

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)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
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 type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) APR 14 1974

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: _____

COUNTY: _____

ENTRY NUMBER: MAY 13 1974

DATE: _____

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)				(Check One)	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input 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

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.



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5. 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) **ca. 1850**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

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.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Clark, Elmer T., J. Manning Potts, and Jacob S. Payton, eds. The Journal and Letters of Francis Asbury in Three Volumes. Nashville: Abingdon Press.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	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
NW	° ' "	° ' "		33°	27'	34"
NE	° ' "	° ' "		80°	43'	07"
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 4 acres

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: William H. Brabham -- Historic Preservation Division Roger Gramling

ORGANIZATION: South Carolina Department of Archives and History DATE: January 4, 1974

STREET AND NUMBER: 1430 Senate Street

CITY OR TOWN: Columbia STATE: South Carolina CODE: 045

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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
Charles E. Lee

Title State Historic Preservation Officer

Date 4/2/74

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

A. R. Mortensen
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 5/13/74

ATTEST: [Signature]
Keeper of The National Register

Date 5/10/74

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