

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY  
NOMINATION FORM

Continuation Sheet

Item Number

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Name Historic Woodrow Memorial Presbyterian Church Location 2221 Washington Street  
Common Bishop's Memorial A.M.E. Church Classification Building

Owner Trustees of Bishop's Memorial A.M.E. Church  
c/o W.A. Pinckney  
2219 Washington Street  
Columbia, South Carolina

Representation in Existing Surveys

Description: An early 20th Century brick church, Bishop's Memorial A.M.E. Church is cruciform in shape with an apsidal end. Front facade is asymmetrical with a three-story brick tower on the left. A central gabled section with full entablature is flanked by a tower with entrance on the left and another entrance on the right. On the front facade a large round-headed arch with stained glass window and a stone sill is flanked by brick pilasters.

Roofline of tower has been altered and segmental pediments originally found above cornice have been removed.

Sides also feature round-headed arches with stained glass windows.

Located in the predominantly black section of Waverley, Bishop's Memorial A.M.E. Church is situated on a tree-lined residential street.

Significance

The Bishop's Memorial African Methodist Episcopal Church was constructed in 1907-1908 as the Woodrow Memorial Presbyterian Church. This church was built under the aegis of Columbia's First Presbyterian Church as a memorial to Dr. James Woodrow, an important figure in Columbia's religious and educational life.

James Woodrow (1828-1907) was a professor at the Columbia (Presbyterian) Theological Seminary, and publisher and editor of the Southern Presbyterian (a weekly newspaper) and Southern Presbyterian Review (a theological quarterly). Controversy concerning Woodrow's stand in favor of teaching evolution at the Presbyterian Seminary caused a major upheaval in the Presbyterian Church of the United States in the 1880s. Debates before state synods resulted in a request for his resignation as a professor of natural sciences. In 1886 after Woodrow's refusal to resign, the denomination's General Assembly voted to dismiss him.

Acreage .24

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Verbal Boundary Description running 70' along Washington Street with a side property line of 150'.

UTM Reference Point Columbia North 17/4983203763000

Other Information

Significance continued:

Following the loss of his teaching position, Woodrow became President of the Central National Bank of Columbia until 1891 when he was appointed President of South Carolina College (later University of South Carolina). After leaving the college in 1897, he resumed his position as President of the Central National Bank until 1902.

Woodrow Memorial Church served a Presbyterian congregation until about 1924. In 1929, due to the growing black population in the Waverly section of Columbia, the church became the Salters Memorial A.M.E. Church and in 1943 the name was changed to Bishop's Memorial A.M.E. Church. Architecturally significant, the church is a well-built early 20th Century structure notable for the refined proportions of its interior detailing, and its exterior entablature and apsidal end.