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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

AUG 23 1989

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

NATIONAL
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name St. Peter's Roman Catholic Church

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 1529 Assembly Street

not for publication

city, town Columbia

vicinity

state South Carolina code SC

county Richland

code 079

zip code _____

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	_____	buildings
<u>1</u>	_____	sites
_____	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Name of related multiple property listing:
Historic Resources of Columbia

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Mary W. Edmonds

8/15/89

Signature of certifying official

Date

Mary W. Edmonds, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, SC Dept of Archives & History

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register.
- See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:) _____

Arlene Beyer

9/28/89

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Religion/Church

Funerary/Cemetery

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Religion/Church

Funerary/Cemetery

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Victorian Gothic

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick

walls Brick

roof Slate

other Terra Cotta

Wood

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

St. Peter's Roman Catholic Church is of the late Gothic Revival style. It exhibits a neo-Gothic style derived from English church architecture. The cruciform floor plan provides a high central nave with lower side aisles leading to the chapels in the transept spaces. The apse, semicircular in plan, is crowned with a half-dome vault. Culminating in the characteristic pointed arches and groin vaults, the compound column shafts give a strong vertical emphasis to the interior. The building's walls are broken open by large expanses of highly articulated stained glass windows, using stone tracery to highlight the rose windows at each side of the transept.

The church is constructed of locally selected dark red brick, trimmed with Bedford stone and dull glazed white terra cotta. The roof is of Buckingham slate while the main doors are of cathedral oak.

The spire of the church terminates in a cross at 163 feet above grade. It has four Gothic gables at its base, where it rises from the square tower. The tower rises partly from the gable roof and partly from the grade. It is centered in the facade and contains the main entrance.

A deep recess with clustered pointed arches trimmed with white terra cotta contains the main double doors which open to a narthex flanked by two narrow vestibules. A bay on the right side has a stair case leading to the chair and organ loft.

Originally, oak floors filled the Gothic arches leading from the narthex and side vestibles to the sanctuary and side aisles.

Separating the nave and the aisles on each side are Gothic arches, twelve feet wide, springing from foliated capitals of clustered columns. The inner section of each cluster continues thirty feet above the floor to the springline of the ceiling arches.

The Gothic vaulted ceiling rises fifty-one feet above the floor. The groins are articulated with simulated ribs of moulded plaster, radiating to the circular bases. Half-vaults in the side aisles spring from seraphim consoles and also have plaster ribs.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Period of Significance

Significant Dates

Architecture

1906-1908

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

Architect/Builder

Milburn, Frank Pierce

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

St. Peter's Roman Catholic Church is primarily significant as an excellent example of Gothic church architecture, designed by a major regional architect of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. It is also significant for its association with one of the most important Catholic churches in South Carolina, established in 1821 and considered the "mother church" of many congregations in South Carolina, North Carolina, and Georgia.

Architecture

This Gothic Revival church, built in 1906, was designed by Frank Pierce Milburn, one of the most significant and prolific architects working in the South from the 1880s to the 1920s. Milburn, a Kentucky native, practiced throughout the Southeast, most notably in North and South Carolina. Among his most important buildings include several railroad stations, built in his capacity as architect for the Southern Railway Company; several buildings for the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; and the extensive enlargements of the South Carolina State House and the Florida State Capitol. Milburn practiced extensively in Columbia, publishing three editions of Designs from the Work of Frank P. Milburn, Architect, Columbia, S.C. from 1901 to 1905. In addition to his work on the State House, other notable Milburn buildings in Columbia include Union Station, the South Carolina State Dispensary Office Building (listed in the National Register in 1973 and 1979, respectively), and the Columbia City Hall and Opera House (demolished).

Additional Information

The first permanent Catholic priest assigned to Columbia arrived in 1820, and the original St. Peter's sanctuary, designed by Robert Mills, was completed in 1824. Irish laborers, working on the Columbia Canal, made up the nucleus of the new congregation. The church was renovated and enlarged over the next seventy-five years, but soon after the

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository:

St. Peter's Roman Catholic Church
History Committee

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of property 1.3 acres

UTM References

A

1	7
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4	9	6	4	8	0
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3	7	6	2	5	6	0
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 Zone Easting Northing

C

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B

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 Zone Easting Northing

D

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property is shown as the black line on the accompanying Richland County Tax Map # 09014, Block 13, Lot 6, drawn at a scale of 1" = 100'.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The nomination includes the church and historic cemetery and their immediate settings.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By John A. Boudreaux, AIA, Architect; Sue Hagood and Catherine R. Saleeby,
 name/title St. Peter's Roman Catholic Church History Committee; with assistance of SHPO Staff
 organization _____ date 19 April 1989
 street & number P.O. Box 1896 telephone (803) 779-0036
 city or town Columbia state SC zip code 29201

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Pointed arch windows with Gothic tracery and stained glass light the aisles. Smaller pointed arch windows with stained glass are found in the clerestory.

A shallow transept has three pointed arch windows with Gothic tracery and stained glass on the lower level of each end, with a stained glass rose window, twelve feet in diameter, on the upper level at each end.

The apse of the church contains five large stained glass windows, five feet wide and eighteen feet high, chronicling the events in the life of Christ. The apse windows were made in Munich, Germany, while the side windows are said to have been made in Tiffany studios in New York.

The length from the front to the rear wall of the sanctuary is 131 feet; across the nave and aisles sixty-four feet; and across the transept seventy-nine feet, with a tower that rises to 163 feet above the sidewalk level.

The tower, the dominant feature, has a recessed entrance on its first stage, with a multiple archivolt arch encompassing. A tall, crocketed gable surmounts this arch; a small niche with a free-standing figure of St. Peter is in the gable end. Double-shouldered buttresses rise to the second stage of the tower. This second stage has a tripartite traceried Gothic window beneath a hood-mold. The third stage of the tower has three single lancets on each face of the tower. The buttresses here terminate in gable hoods. The fourth stage of the tower has terra cotta corner pinnacles and tall gabled louvers centered on each face with crocketed pinnacles at the sides of each gable. An octagonal, slate-sheathed spire rises from this stage to terminate in a Latin Cross.

The facade of the church behind the tower has raked parapets shielding the aisles of the church. These sides have the single lancet windows on their lower level and a single traceried pair on their second level beneath a cement band; beneath the raking parapets, tripartite blind arcade corner buttresses, double-shouldered, rise to octagonal pinnacles at the sides of the facades.

The nave of the church is five bays, with low shed-roofed aisles divided into single bays by double-shouldered buttresses and lancet windows in each bay. Broad single lancets are in each bay of the clerestory above the aisle roofs. The aisle roofs and the nave roof have corbeled arcades in their eaves. Tall transepts project beyond the aisles on each side of the church with three large paired lancets in their ends and large rose windows above the lancets.

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The polygonal apse of the church has a low ambulatory around it and single lancets in each of the apse's faces. The apse is as high as the nave. A single brick chimney rises at the southwest corner of the apse/transept interface.

The bell in the tower is fifty-five inches in diameter and was cast in 1911 by the McShane Bell Foundry in Baltimore, Maryland. The weight of the bare bell is 3,500 pounds with a total weight of 4,500 pounds for the bell and hardware.

In 1966-67 the interior of the church was remodeled and refurbished in a contemporary twentieth century style. Originally, the church had Italian marble altars and marbleized wood wainscoting, fourteen feet high in the apse. During these renovations, the three marble altars, the confessionals, and the baptismal font were replaced. In addition, the two end stained glass windows over the altar were plastered over, the pews were painted and rearranged, and the Stations of the Cross were painted white.

Between 1983 and 1985 the structure was reinforced and the interior underwent an extensive renovation, which included redecorating the sanctuary, restoring the Stations of the Cross, and the steel reinforcement of the bell tower. The baptismal font, the pews, the statues, and the windows, however, are the originals. As a result, St. Peter's reflects the dignity, elegance, and beauty of the Gothic style.

A brick veneer building was attached to the north side in 1967.

At the rear of the church, a cemetery dating from c. 1840 covers a large area extending westward to Park Street. A recreational area for the church school is on the south side of the church. (1)

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beginning of the twentieth century it was torn down to make way for a new sanctuary.

Milburn was commissioned to design the church, and Father Thomas J. Hegarty, St. Peter's priest, was instrumental in much of the necessary planning and fundraising. Construction began in March 1906 and was completed near the end of 1908; the church was dedicated in January 1909. The new sanctuary and its furnishings cost some \$60,500.

The cemetery at the rear of the church, with burials dating to c. 1840, contains several graves of the Irish laborers who helped make up St. Peter's original congregation. Other notable persons buried in the cemetery include John R. Niernsee, engineer and original architect of the South Carolina State House, and Father James Wallace, one of the early priests of St. Peter's. The cemetery walls were erected after the Civil War to protect the 1824 sanctuary.(2)

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NOTES

(1) Description by John A. Boudreaux, AIA, Architects Boudreaux, Hulstrand & Carter Ltd, Columbia, S.C.

(2) Father T.J. Hegarty, History of St. Peter's Parish (Columbia: The State Company, 1914), passim.; The Reverend Dr. J.J. O'Connell, Catholicity in the Carolinas and Georgia (New York: B.A. Sadler and Company, 1879), pp. 274-284; Robert P. Stockton, "Carolina Landmark," The State (Columbia, S.C.), 19 November 1978; Lawrence Wodehouse, "Frank Pierce Milburn (1868-1926), A Major Southern Architect," North Carolina Historical Review L:3 (July 1973), 289-303; Frank P. Milburn, Designs from the Work of Frank P. Milburn, Architect, Columbia, S.C. (Columbia: The State Company, 1901; Second Edition, 1903; Third Edition, 1905).

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Hegarty, Father T.J. History of St. Peter's Parish. Columbia: The State Company, 1914.
- Milburn, Frank P. Designs from the Work of Frank P. Milburn, Architect, Columbia, S.C. Columbia: The State Company, 1901; Second Edition, 1903; Third Edition, 1905.
- O'Connell, The Reverend Dr. J.J. Catholicity in the Carolinas and Georgia. New York: B.A. Sadler and Company, 1879.
- Stockton, Robert P. "Carolina Landmark." The State (Columbia, S.C.), 19 November 1978.
- Wodehouse, Lawrence. "Frank Pierce Milburn (1868-1926), A Major Southern Architect," North Carolina Historical Review L:3 (July 1973).

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PHOTOGRAPHS

Section number _____ Page 1

The following information is the same for each of the photographs:

Name of property:	St. Peter's Roman Catholic Church
Location of property:	Columbia, Richland County, South Carolina
Photographer:	P. Pate
Location of negative:	St. Peter's Roman Catholic Church History Committee

Additional information for each photograph follows:

1. St. Peter's Roman Catholic Church
August 1987
Facade and left oblique elevation
2. St. Peter's Roman Catholic Church
August 1987
Facade
3. St. Peter's Roman Catholic Church
August 1987
Steeple detail
4. St. Peter's Roman Catholic Church
August 1987
Right elevation
5. St. Peter's Roman Catholic Church
August 1987
Right rear oblique elevation
6. St. Peter's Roman Catholic Church
August 1987
Rear elevation and Cemetery
7. St. Peter's Roman Catholic Church
August 1987
Interior view of main altar and stained glass windows
8. St. Peter's Roman Catholic Church
August 1987
The Stations of the Cross and Tiffany windows
9. St. Peter's Roman Catholic Church
August 1987
Baptismal font