

SIGNIFICANCE

AREA OF SIGNIFICANCE: Architecture - Religion

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: S (for office use only)

SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANCE

Richland Presbyterian Church is significant as a rare virtually unaltered example of a nineteenth century rural, vernacular church. Its congregation was probably the first organized Presbyterian church in lower Richland County, having its roots in a mission Sunday School established there in 1873.¹ This church was not constructed until 1883, when people of the community with both Lutheran and Presbyterian backgrounds joined together to erect a building on land purchased from the Trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church.² It was dedicated with eleven members by the Rev. John L. Girardeau, Presbyterian theologian, in May 1884. Officially received into Charleston Presbytery on November 16, 1884, Richland Presbyterian Church was not chartered until October 3, 1885. In 1914, the church became a charter member of the newly formed Congaree Presbytery.³

The building remained in use until 1922, when a new brick church in the town of Eastover was completed and occupied. The effort toward relocation had begun in 1919, when the congregation decided that more people could be served if a move to the nearby town was undertaken.⁴

The adjacent cemetery, located on land given by Mr. and Mrs. Absalom Joyner, is surrounded by an iron fence.

ACREAGE: Approximately 1.5 acres

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: The boundary of the nominated property is shown as the black line on the accompanying Richland County tax map #36600, section 1, parcel 17, with a scale of 1 inch equalling 400 feet. It includes the historic building (church), a cemetery and their immediate surroundings.

QUAD NAME: Wateree

QUAD SCALE: 1:24000

UTM REFERENCE POINT: 17/527679/3744700

SOUTH CAROLINA INVENTORY FORM FOR HISTORIC DISTRICTS AND
INDIVIDUAL PROPERTIES IN A MULTIPLE PROPERTY SUBMISSION

NAME OF MULTIPLE PROPERTY SUBMISSION: Lower Richland County Multiple Resource Area
PREFERRED NAME OF PROPERTY: Richland Presbyterian Church
HISTORIC NAME OF PROPERTY: Same
COMMON NAME OF PROPERTY: Old Richland Presbyterian Church
LOCATION: County Road 1313 near Gadsden
CLASSIFICATION: Building
OWNER: Richland Presbyterian Church
Eastover, S. C. 29044

DESCRIPTION

Richland Presbyterian Church is a one-story, frame church building constructed in 1883 in rural Richland County. The building is essentially unaltered since its construction.

The building's primary feature is an octagonal entrance tower on its facade (south elevation.) The tower has a Gothic-arched portal in its forward facet, with single windows in flanking facets; louvered vents are located in the upper stage of the tower. An octagonal hipped roof with flared eaves rises to a metal finial at the top of the tower.

The body of the church is rectangular, with a gabled roof and weatherboard siding. The east and west side elevations have three six-over-six windows with louvered shutters. The rear (north elevation) has three windows, with the central window elevated slightly above the lateral windows. The gable roof has a box cornice with returns; roofing is modern sheet metal.

The spartan interior of the church has original plaster walls and board-and-batten ceiling. A cemetery enclosed by an iron fence is included in the nominated acreage.