

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED: 8/21/80

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC
Black Mingo Baptist Church (preferred)
AND/OR COMMON
Belin Church

2 LOCATION

Approximately 1.5 miles north-northwest of the intersection of
South Carolina Highway 41 and South Carolina Highway 51.

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN
Nesmith

VICINITY OF

NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
Sixth

STATE
South Carolina

CODE
045

COUNTY
Williamsburg

CODE
089

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Southeast Baptist Association Rev. Edward M. Carney
STREET & NUMBER
12 N. Rosemary Avenue

CITY, TOWN
Andrews

VICINITY OF

STATE
South Carolina 29510

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC
Williamsburg County Courthouse
STREET & NUMBER
125 West Main Street

CITY, TOWN
Kingstree

STATE
South Carolina 29510

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
Inventory of Historic Places in South Carolina
DATE
1973 (update)

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS
South Carolina Department of Archives and History

CITY, TOWN
Columbia

STATE
South Carolina 29211

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Black Mingo Baptist Church, located in Williamsburg County approximately three miles southeast of Nesmith, South Carolina, was constructed ca. 1843 with funds provided by Cleland Belin. An example of the meeting house form of church building, Black Mingo Baptist Church also features elements which reflect a local interpretation of the Greek Revival style.

Exterior: A two-story rectangular block, the church is set on low brick piers. Pier brickwork is American Common bond. The frame building is sheathed with weatherboard and has a low-pitched gable roof. Presently, the roof is covered with modern composition shingles, although the original wood shingled roof is intact beneath. A wide, beaded entablature with a deep, plain boxed cornice extends unbroken around the perimeter of the roofline. An unfluted, two-story pilaster distinguishes each corner of the building. Round headed windows with intersecting tracery are featured on all elevations. The central bay of the facade (northwest elevation) and the northeast and southwest elevations have narrow, three-paneled, double doors with a semi-circular transom with intersecting tracery.

The facade is divided into three evenly spaced bays; the first story features a central doorway flanked at right and left by a 9 over 6 window and the second story features three 6 over 6 windows. This elevation is characterized by a deep, boxed pediment created by the gable end. The three-bay door and window arrangement of the facade is repeated on both side elevations with the exception that the bays are more widely spaced. A large 30 over 30 window dominates the central bay of both stories of the southeast elevation; it is flanked by 6 over 6 windows on the first story level. The deep, boxed pediment of the facade gable end is repeated on the rear elevation.

The church is distinguished by several elements reflective of the Greek Revival style, including: the two-story, unfluted corner pilasters; the wide beaded entablature; and the deep, boxed pediments. Also of note are the scriptural quotations on panels mounted in the center of the frieze on the northwest and southwest elevations.

Interior: The building has a rectangular floor plan. A second-story slave gallery on three sides with dado paneling to the balcony rail, is supported by elongated wooden columns. A double-run stairway located to the left of the front entrance leads to the gallery. Basically unaltered since its construction, the church features original fabric throughout, including: wide board floors; wide horizontal board wainscoting and wide vertical board walls above; and, the vaulted path and plaster ceiling of the nave. Of particular note are the original pews and the scriptural quotations painted on the front of the pulpit, over the rear window and front door, and on the frieze below the slave gallery.

Surroundings: Black Mingo Baptist Church is located in a rural setting and is encircled by wooded land. South Carolina secondary road 162 bounds the property to the northwest and southwest. Included in the nominated acreage is a cemetery which surrounds the church and includes graves of Cleland Belin and other early members of the congregation. Because of the isolation of the site and the threat of vandalism, a high chain link fence has been erected around the property.

3 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) (Local History)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES ca. 1843

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Black Mingo Baptist Church, located in Williamsburg County approximately three miles southeast of Nesmith, South Carolina, near the site of the deserted town of Willtown, was built ca. 1843 with funds donated by Cleland Belin. The meeting house type church features characteristics which reflect a local interpretation of the Greek Revival style. The building is historically significant because of its association with the development of the Baptist denomination in the Willtown area and with an individual prominent in the history of the region.

According to local tradition Cleland Belin, who was a descendant of William Screven, founder of the Baptist Church in the South, came to Willtown ca. 1810 to live with his uncle John Screven. The tradition continues that Belin became a Baptist, and a meeting house was constructed near Willtown ca. 1820. However, the first primary record of a Baptist Church in the vicinity of Willtown is a reference in the 1840s to Black Mingo Baptist Church.

Willtown was located on the banks of Black Mingo Creek, and Cleland Belin became one of the most prosperous and prominent residents of the area as a merchant and owner of flat bottom boats. He built the Black Mingo Baptist Church ca. 1843 near his residence approximately one half mile from the village of Willtown. The Black Mingo congregation became a member of the Welsh Neck Baptist Association ca. 1845. At this time the church had twelve white and six black members and was supplied by the association with a missionary minister. During the nineteenth century the group grew slowly. However, by the 1920s the congregation had disbanded and Black Mingo Baptist Church was abandoned. In 1936 finding the building in need of repair and threatened by abuse, the congregation of nearby Nesmith Baptist Church resolved to "preserve the property and keep it in repair" and to hold worship services in the church not less than four times a year. Today Black Mingo Baptist Church continues to be maintained, and services are held in the church on the fifth Sunday of each month that has a fifth Sunday.

Architecture: Black Mingo Baptist Church, a meeting house type building, is a significant example of a local interpretation of the Greek Revival style. In addition, the church has been maintained and is virtually unaltered except for the roof covering. Notable architectural features include: the round headed window and door openings with intersecting tracery; the two-story, unfluted corner pilasters; the wide beaded entablature; the deep, boxed pediments; and, the slave gallery supported by elongated columns.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Boddie, William Willis. History of Williamsburg: Something About the People of Williamsburg County, South Carolina, From the First Settlement of Europeans About 1705 until 1923. Columbia, S.C.: The State Company, 1923, pp. 195, 253, 292, 318, 319, 321.

Florence Morning News (Florence, S.C.), 8 August 1976.

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approximately 2 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	17	643935	3720790	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundary of the Black Mingo Baptist Church nomination is shown as the red line on the accompanying map entitled "Property Tax Map, Williamsburg County, South Carolina" and drawn at a scale of 330 feet to the inch. Also, see Probate Records of Williamsburg County, Will Book D, pp. 500, 501, Williamsburg County Courthouse, Kingstree, S.C.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

FORM PREPARED BY

NAME/TITLE Mary Watson,
Historic Preservation Division

Mrs. Elaine Eaddy, Three Rivers Historical Society
Kathy Hendrix, Waccamaw Regional Planning and
Development Council

ORGANIZATION

South Carolina Department of Archives and History

DATE

May 26, 1980

STREET & NUMBER

Box 11,669, Capitol Station

TELEPHONE

803-758-5816

CITY OR TOWN

Columbia

STATE

South Carolina 29211

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL X

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-685), 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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Chas E. Lef

TITLE

SC SHPO

DATE

June 4, 1980

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet

Item number 9

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- King, Joe M. A History of South Carolina Baptists. Columbia, S.C.: General Board of the South Carolina Baptist Convention, 1964), p. 432, 446.
- Ledger of John Gordon in possession of Miss Marjorie Altman, Kingstree, S.C.
- McGill, Samuel D. Narrative of Reminiscences in Williamsburg County. Columbia, S.C.: The Bryan Printing Co., 1897, pp. 165, 264.
- Minutes of the Eighteenth Anniversary of the Welsh Neck Baptist Association, Held with the Welsh Neck Church, Society Hill, November 10th-13th, 1849. Charleston, S.C.: J. A. Burke 1850, p. 8.
- Minutes of the Eighteenth Annual Session of the South-East Baptist Association, Held with the Black Mingo Church, November 5th, 6th, and 7th, 1903. Greenwood, S.C.: Connie Maxwell Orphanage Print, 1904, p. 14.
- Minutes of the Fifteenth Anniversary of the Welsh Neck Baptist Association, Held with the Black Creek Church, Darlington District, November 7-10, 1846. Charleston, S.C.: T.W. Haynes, 1847, pp. 2, 6, 7.
- Minutes of the Fifty-Fifth Anniversary of the Welsh Neck Baptist Association, Held with the Florence Baptist Church, Darlington County, S.C., November 17-19, 1886. Greenville, S.C.: Hoyt and Keys, 1886, p. 22.
- Minutes of the Fifty-First Anniversary of the Welsh Neck Baptist Association, Held with the Welsh Neck Baptist Church, Darlington County, S.C., November 9-12, 1882. Greenville, S.C.: Baptist Courier Book and Job Office, 1883, p. 30.
- Minutes of the Fifty-Fourth Anniversary of the Welsh Neck Baptist Association, Held with the Swift Creek Baptist Church, Darlington County, S.C., November 11-13, 1885. Greenville, S.C.: Hoyt and Keys, 1885, p. 24.
- Minutes of the Fourteenth Anniversary of the Welsh Neck Baptist Association, Held in Cheraw, S.C., Nov. 8-11, 1845. n.p., n.p., n.d., pp. 7-9, 17.
- Minutes of the South East Baptist Association, Held with the Kingstree Baptist Church, Williamsburg Co., S.C., November 19-21, 1886. Greenville, S.C.: Hoyt and Keys, 1886, pp. 3, 9.
- Minutes of the Thirteenth Anniversary of the Welsh Neck Baptist Association, Held with the Gapway Church, Marion District, S.C., November 9-12, 1844. n.p., n.p., n.d., pp. 7, 9.
- Minutes of the Twenty-Eighth Anniversary of the Welsh Neck Baptist Association, Held with the Darlington Church, Darlington District, November 12-15, 1859. Charleston, S.C.: A. J. Burke, 1859, p. 30.
- Minutes of the Twenty-Ninth Anniversary of the Welsh Neck Baptist Association, Held with the Black Creek Church, Darlington District, November 10-13, 1860. Charleston, S.C.: A. J. Burke, 1860, p. 24.

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

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date entered

Continuation sheet

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Minutes of the Twenty-Second Anniversary of the Welsh Neck Baptist Association, Held with the Hartwell Church, November 12-15, 1853. Charleston, S.C.: Walker and James, 1854, p. 12.

Minutes of the Twenty-Third Anniversary of the Welsh Neck Baptist Association, Held with the Ebenezer Church, November 11-14, 1854. Charleston, S.C.: A. J. Burke, 1854, p. 16.

Minutes of the Welsh Neck Baptist Association at Its Seventeenth Anniversary, Held with the Antioch Church, Darlington District, S.C., November 11th-14th, 1848. Columbia, S.C.: I. C. Morgan, 1849, pp. 6, 9.

Probate Records of Williamsburg County, Will Book D, pp. 403-406, 500, 501. Williamsburg County Courthouse, Kingstree, S.C.

The County Record (Kingstree, S.C.), 22 May 1974.

The Weekly Observer (Hemingway, S.C.), 26 April 1979.

Rhems
Quadrar

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