

## Old Brick Church

Ebenezer Meeting House, commonly referred to as the Old Brick Church, built in 1788, was the birthplace of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian denomination in South Carolina. Ebenezer pastor, the Reverend James Rogers, first ARP moderator, organized the Associate Reformed Synod of the Carolinas here on May 9, 1803. Reverend Rogers was pastor of Ebenezer until his death on August 21, 1830, and was buried in the church cemetery.

The small rectangular building with gable roof and unornamented windows is plain in design with a double door in the front and another at the west end leading to a narrow staircase and slave gallery. The interior is classic in its simplicity with long, straight-back pews, constructed of heart of pine with mortise and tenon joints that are hand-pegged. The dais-style pulpit, three steps above floor level with plain rails around two sides, back against wall, is entered by a pair of steps at the front, one set on either side of center which contains a bible stand.

The church and adjoining cemetery, with numerous graves of Revolutionary and Confederate war soldiers, is surrounded by a granite wall added in 1852. The large granite blocks were likely quarried from what is now known as the Anderson Quarry, located within two miles southeast of the church.

The 14th Corps of Major General William T. Sherman's Left Wing, commanded by Brevet Major General Jefferson C. Davis, had crossed Little River at the Old Brick Church as it advanced toward Winnsboro on February 21, 1865. Davis' 1st Division, commanded by General William P. Carlin, marching northwest from the junction of Alston and Monticello roads, was the first to arrive at the Ebenezer Meeting House and Little River. Carlin would find the bridge over Little River had been "partially destroyed" by Confederate cavalry in an effort to impede the advance of the Union forces. General George P. Buell, commanding Carlin's 2nd Brigade, repaired the bridge using the floor boards and joists that were removed from the church. Carlin's 1st Division was across Little River "and in camp by 4 p.m." on the afternoon of Monday, February 20, about half a mile from the crossing "at the forks of the road beyond." The 3rd Division of the 14th Corps, followed by the 2nd Division and trains, began crossing the river early the next morning on February 21. An apology left by an unknown Yankee soldier written in pencil on an interior section of plaster wall of this historic meeting house is still legible 150 years later and remains as an act of compassion at a time of war.

Citizens of this Community-

Please excuse us for Defacing your house of worship so much. It was absolutely necessary to effect a Crossing over the creek

A Yankee

The church congregation had grown in numbers until the onset of the Civil War when the young manhood of the congregation joined the Confederate Army en masse. Later the church was repaired and remained in active use until 1920.

The Ebenezer Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church was listed to the National Register of Historic Places on August 19, 1971.

The church is now maintained by a seven-member overseeing commission, the Commission of the Old Brick Church, under the auspices of the Catawba Presbytery of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church.