

Post & Courier

CHARLESTON COUNTY COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING **Tuesday, April 13, 2021 at 6:30 PM**

Notice is hereby given that Charleston County Council will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, April 13, 2021, at 6:30 p.m. in the Beverly T. Craven Council Chambers, Lonnie Hamilton, III Public Services Building, 4045 Bridge View Drive, North Charleston, SC 29405 on the following:

1. Amendment to the Charleston County Historic Preservation Ordinance;
2. HIST-02-21-00021: Request to designate TMS 202-00-00-168 (4058 Betsy Kerrison Pkwy, Johns Island), Hebron Center, formerly known as Hebron Presbyterian Church, as a Historic Property on the Charleston County Historic Designation list.

Public comments, written and oral, are invited. Submission of written public comments is encouraged and those wishing to provide written public comments for the public hearing should email comments to CCHPC@charlestoncounty.org by 12:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 13, 2021.

This Public Notice is in accordance with Section 6-29-760 of the Code of Laws of South Carolina.

Kristen L. Salisbury
Clerk of Council

**DESIGNATION OF HISTORIC PROPERTY: HIST-02-21-00022
CASE HISTORY**

**Historic Preservation Commission: March 16, 2021
Public Hearing: April 13, 2021
Planning & Public Works Committee: April 22, 2021
First Reading: April 27, 2021
Second Reading: May 11, 2021
Third Reading: May 25, 2021**

CASE INFORMATION

Location: 4058 Betsy Kerrison Parkway (Johns Island)

Parcel Identification: 202-00-00-168

Council District: 8-Johnson

Property Size: 0.86 acres

Application: The applicant is requesting a Designation of Historic Property application to list Hebron Center, formerly Hebron Presbyterian Church, constructed in 1868, on the Charleston County Historic Designation list.

Parcel Information and Area Description:

The subject property is zoned AGR and has a church structure constructed in 1868 and a graveyard. Adjacent properties to the east, south, north, and west are also zoned AG-10 and are used for residential and agricultural purposes.

Historic Significance: The Hebron Center, formerly Hebron Presbyterian Church, was constructed in 1868 by formerly enslaved individuals using lumber from a shipwreck off Seabrook and Kiawah beaches. The church was established in 1867 when a small group of freed, formerly enslaved people submitted a petition to the Presbyterian synod to establish a "Freedman's church." The builders of Hebron Presbyterian Church did not wait for the church's official blessing and moved forward to complete the structure. The church has served the Black community on Johns Island since its origin in 1868. The Hebron Center is not listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Application History

Current Applications: There are no additional applications for this property.

Previous Applications: In 2014, an application to install a freestanding sign for the Hebron Center was approved (application number CONS 4-14-18181).

Designation of Historic Property Requirements:

The *Charleston County Code of Ordinances, Chapter 21, Historic Preservation, Sec. 21-3.B* states, "The historic preservation commission may nominate historic properties and/or historic districts within the unincorporated area of Charleston County for designation with written consent from the owners of such properties pursuant to this section, provided such nominations comply with the designation of historic property process and requirements contained in this section. Additionally, applications to designate historic properties within the unincorporated area of Charleston County may be submitted by the property owner(s) of the subject property(ies), site(s), building(s), structure(s), object(s), or district(s) provided such applications comply with

the designation of historic property process and requirements contained in this section.”

Sec. 21-3.h, Approval Criteria, states “In order for an application for designation of historic property to be approved, one or more of the following criteria must be met:(1)Has significant inherent character, interest, history, or value as part of the rural county or heritage of the county, state or nation;(2)Is of an event significant in history;(3)Is associated with a person or persons who contributed significantly to the culture and development of the county, state or nation;(4)Exemplifies the cultural, political, economic, social, ethnic, or historic heritage of the county, state or nation;(5)Individually or collectively embodies distinguishing characteristics of a type, style, or period in architecture or engineering;(6)Is the work of a designer whose work has significantly influenced the development of the county, state or nation;(7)Contains elements of design, detail, materials, or craftsmanship which represent a significant innovation;(8)Is part of or related to a square or other distinctive element of community planning;(9)Represents an established and familiar visual feature of the neighborhood or community;(10)Has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in pre-history or history (potential archaeological site); and/or(11)Is deemed eligible for or already listed on the NRHP.

Zoning and Planning Director Review and Report regarding Approval Criteria of Sec. 21-3.H:

In granting a designation of historic property application, the Historic Preservation Commission shall consider one or more of the following criteria:

- (1) Has significant inherent character, interest, history, or value as part of the rural county or heritage of the county, state or nation;*
- (2) Is of an event significant in history;*
- (3) Is associated with a person or persons who contributed significantly to the culture and development of the county, state or nation;*
- (4) Exemplifies the cultural, political, economic, social, ethnic, or historic heritage of the county, state or nation;*
- (5) Individually or collectively embodies distinguishing characteristics of a type, style, or period in architecture or engineering;*
- (6) Is the work of a designer whose work has significantly influenced the development of the county, state or nation;*
- (7) Contains elements of design, detail, materials, or craftsmanship which represent a significant innovation;*
- (8) Is part of or related to a square or other distinctive element of community planning;*
- (9) Represents an established and familiar visual feature of the neighborhood or community;*
- (10) Has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in pre-history or history (potential archaeological site); and/or*
- (11) Is deemed eligible for or already listed on the NRHP.*

The applicant’s letter of intent addresses the following approval criteria:

1. Has significant inherent character, interest, history, or value as part of the rural county or heritage of the county, state or nation;

Applicant Response: “The Hebron Presbyterian Church building is one of the earliest African American churches founded after the Civil War. It is of the few wooden church buildings that has survived for over 150 years on Johns Island. The first building was constructed in 1868 using shipwreck lumber found floating on Seabrook and Kiawah beaches, by formerly enslaved carpenters and founding members of the church, Jackson McGill and John Chisholm. The Church on Johns Island, South Carolina was organized in 1865 at the end of the Civil War near Gregg Plantation. Under the leadership of the Reverend Ishmael Moultrie, the congregation went from worshipping under a bush tent, to a new building in April 1970. It is one of the oldest buildings on the island and one of the few standing African American churches as many have perished. A secular tug of war then commenced in cities across the state as white elders fought to retain total control of the Presbyterian Church. Fortunately, the builders of Hebron Presbyterian Church did not wait for the church’s official blessing and completed work on their church. This was a moment in history as the Reverend Ishmael Moultrie, was one of the earliest African American clergyman.”

3. Is associated with a person or persons who contributed significantly to the culture and development of the county, state or nation;

Applicant Response: "The Members of the church were historically significant as they were a small group of freed slaves, frustrated with the refusal of the white leaders of the local Presbyterian church to help establish their own autonomous church, who submitted a petition to the Presbyterian synod in 1867 to establish a 'Freedman's church' a church erected by and for black people. The Reverend Moultrie perceived the shipwreck as a gift from God. The Reverend Moultrie who led this historic church was born on St. Helena Island and educated at the Penn School, one of the country's first schools for freed slaves was also a history maker who was a leader for a large area south of Charleston. Moultrie encouraged his congregation to embrace their new freedom by learning to read and write. His pulpit of education coupled with his extemporaneous style of preaching made him a popular figure among the community that inhabited the Sea Islands and his influence was felt from John's Island to Wadmalaw to Edisto. He was a local leader of importance. After the church moved to a new building, the building was converted to the Hebron Center by Franciscan nuns. A Famous book was written about one of the "saints" of the Hebron Center Alfreda LaBoard, which was now being used by a quilting group, by Mary Whyte a painter of note, who wrote "Alfreda's World" and the fame of the book resulted in boxes of cloth for the quilters arriving from places as far away as Mexico and Hawaii, and started a mini Renaissance. The book is described in this way: 'Descendants of slaves, an extraordinary group of African American women welcomed Whyte to their community, and changed her life and paintings in many ways. This book chronicles in dialogue and images the evolution of a friendship between the artist and Alfreda, who became the subject of many of Whyte's paintings.'"

4. Exemplifies the cultural, political, economic, social, ethnic, or historic heritage of the county, state or nation;

Applicant Response: "The Building use has changed but the building has been preserved. Much of the history does not exist in written annals, but the congregation was a robust 225 members which was not recorded by the Presbyterian church until 1873. The Church prospered and in 1965 it was decided to erect a new church. Each member was taxed \$100 in support of the new building fund and fundraising progressed until 1969 when construction commenced. Like the original building work was slow, taking place when the members had time and money. In November 1976 the congregation moved to the new brick church at 2915 Bohicket Road, and the old church sat empty. A group of Franciscan nuns opened a Center as a gathering place and operated it until Hurricane Hugo greatly damaged the building. In 1980 a group of Franciscan nuns helped convert the historic church into a senior citizens center. Sisters Irene Kelly and Bernadine Jax were in search of an ecumenical outpost on John's Island since the Charleston Dioceses had only one small church to service the entire island. Hebron's Pastor, J.W, Washington partnered with the sisters and founded the Hebron St Francis Senior Citizen Center, a ministry and soup kitchen for elder citizens in the empty Hebron Church building. By the mid 1980s people of all faiths were congregating at the old church for a weekly dose of spiritual enlightenment and nourishment. A small kitchen was created where the altar had stood, and tables were filled with handicrafts. A quilting group was formed and they created beautiful quilts with material they collected. But then Hurricane Hugo struck in 1989, damaging its foundation and giving it a slight lean. The Franciscans left and this void was filled by Alfreda Gibbs Smiley LaBoard. She became the heart of the Hebron group meeting in the damaged building. LaBoard became friends with Mary Whyte a painter of note, when one day LaBoard was taking a pan of hot cornbread from the oven and Mary Whyte arrived and observed that 'The cornbread was burnt on one end because the floor of the church was slanted.' They became friends and this friendship was chronicled in the book 'Alfreda's World' and the fame of the book resulted in boxes of cloth for the quilters arriving from places as far away as Mexico and Hawaii, and a mini Renaissance was begun. The church members are part of the Gullah Geechee culture and today the Gullah Geechee organization has a location on John's Island. Many members of the now combined congregations of Hebron and Zion still maintain the traditions of the Gullah Geechee. Many of the Gullah Geechee weavers still sell their beautiful creations which are created using skills handed down for hundreds of years and the native sweet grass of South Carolina."

5. Individually or collectively embodies distinguishing characteristics of a type, style, or period in architecture or engineering;

Applicant Response: "The architecture of the building is also very unique and includes a colorful story of a shipwreck. When word of a marooned schooner and its bounty of timber reached the Rev. Moultrie, he dispatched the heartiest members of the bush church to row out to the shipwreck. The errant material was collected and slowly towed to shore where a covey of oxen cart carried it across Hope Plantation to the site that would become home to the area's first church built by and for freed slaves. They named the church Hebron in honor of the ancient holy city referenced in the book of Genesis. Jackson McGill and John Chisholm were carpenters with skills that were developed during enslavement. The mortise and tenon timber frame structure is one of the few that remain on John's Island and it is the oldest freestanding structure built by freed slaves. Chisholm and McGill constructed a handsome building which consisted of a narthex and balconies along three of its four walls to maximize the number of congregants who could fit in the church. When the Church was restored with the help of fund raising, it was revealed that the wooden cants of the balcony floor joists possess a distinctive curvature, which confirms the rostrum(dais) of the shipwrecked schooner was indeed given new life as a spiritual bulwark. This confirmed the oral history of the church and in part represents the way that God creates something new, from disaster. It contains beautiful wooden floors, walls, balcony and interior."

Staff Recommendation: Because the application meets one or more of the approval criteria, Staff recommends approval.

Pursuant to Chapter 21, *Historic Preservation*, Section §21-3.H, *Approval Criteria*, of the Charleston County Code of Ordinances, (adopted July 18, 2006), the Historic Preservation Commission may recommend approval of designations of historic property requests to County Council only if the Historic Preservation Commission finds that the proposed designation meets one or more of the criteria in §21-3.H.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION MEETING: March 16, 2021

Recommendation: Approval (9-0).

Notifications: 293 notification letters were sent to owners of property within 300 feet of the boundaries of the subject parcels, individuals on the Historic Preservation Interested Parties List, and the Johns Island Interested Parties List on February 26, 2021. Additionally, the request was noticed in the Post & Courier on February 26, 2021.

COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING: APRIL 13, 2021

Speakers: The applicant, Tamy Lockhart, was available for questions.

Notifications: 293 notification letters were sent to owners of property within 300 feet of the boundaries of the subject parcels, individuals on the Historic Preservation Interested Parties List, and the Johns Island Interested Parties List on March 26, 2021. Additionally, the request was noticed in the Post & Courier on March 26, 2021.

Designation of Historic Property Application:
Hebron Center, Johns Island

Historic Preservation Commission:	March 16, 2021
Council Public Hearing:	April 13, 2021
PPW Committee:	April 22, 2021
First Reading:	April 27, 2021
Second Reading:	May 11, 2021
Third Reading:	May 25, 2021

Charleston County Historic Preservation Ordinance

- Adopted in 2018
- Created the Historic Preservation Commission; members appointed by Council
- Creates a path for communities or properties to be designated as historic on a local register (voluntary process)
- Provides a layer of protection for historic properties or districts by requiring review by the Historic Preservation Commission prior to permitting or subdivision

Charleston County Council
9 members; Elected
Final decision-makers on:
Designation of Historic Properties/Districts

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9 members; Elected  
Final decision-makers on:  
Designation of Historic Properties/Districts"] --> B["Historic Preservation Commission  
9 members; Appointed  
Review/recommend: Designations of Historic  
Properties/Districts; Applications for National Register  
listing  
Final decision-maker: Certificates of Historic  
Appropriateness"]; style A fill:#fff,stroke:#fff,stroke-width:2px; style B fill:#fff,stroke:#fff,stroke-width:2px;
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Historic Preservation Commission
9 members; Appointed

*Review/recommend: Designations of Historic
Properties/Districts; Applications for National Register
listing*

*Final decision-maker: Certificates of Historic
Appropriateness*

What makes something historic?

- Has significant inherent **character, interest, history, or value** as part of the rural county or heritage of the county, state or nation.
- Is of an **event** significant in history.
- Is associated with a **person** or persons who **contributed significantly to the culture and development** of the county, state or nation.
- Exemplifies the **cultural, political, economic, social, ethnic, or historic heritage** of the county, state or nation.
- Individually or collectively embodies **distinguishing characteristics of a type, style, or period** in architecture or engineering.

What makes something historic? (cont.)

- Is the work of a **designer** whose work has significantly influenced the development of the county, state or nation.
- Contains elements of design, detail, materials, or craftsmanship which represent a **significant innovation**.
- Is part of or related to a square or other **distinctive element of community planning**.
- Represents an **established and familiar visual feature of the neighborhood or community**.
- Has yielded, or may be likely to yield, **information** important in pre-history or history.
- Is deemed **eligible for or already listed on the NRHP**

Designation of Historic Property or District

- *Voluntary* application process by which property owners can request to have their individual property or a group of properties (historic district) added to a local (County) list of Historic Properties, if approved by County Council.
- Application process that must have the **written consent** of the property owner(s), or for historic districts, must include a petition of consent showing that at least 51% of the registered voters within the proposed district are in favor of the designation.

Designation of Historic Property Application

Parcel ID: 202-00-00-168

Acreage: 0.86 acres

Property Address: 4058 Betsy Kerrison Parkway

Area: Johns Island

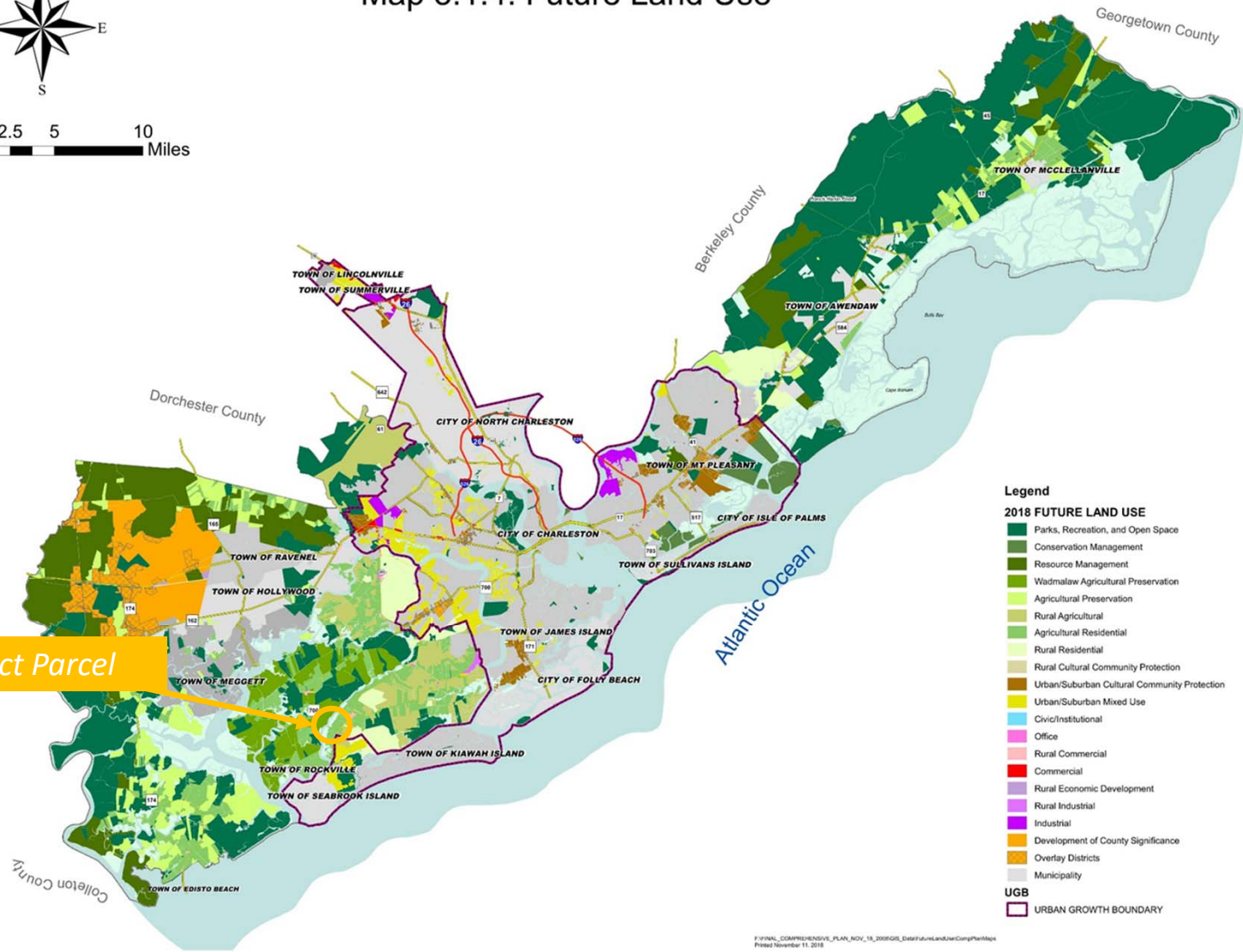
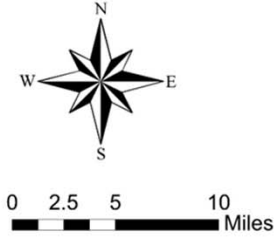
Owner: Hebron Presbyterian Church of
Johns Island

Request: Designation of Historic Property application to list Hebron Center, formerly Hebron Presbyterian Church, constructed in 1868, on the Charleston County Historic Designation list.

Application History

- Current Applications: There are no additional applications for this property.
- Previous Applications: In 2014, an application to install a freestanding sign for the Hebron Center was approved (application number CONS 4-14-18181).

Map 3.1.4: Future Land Use

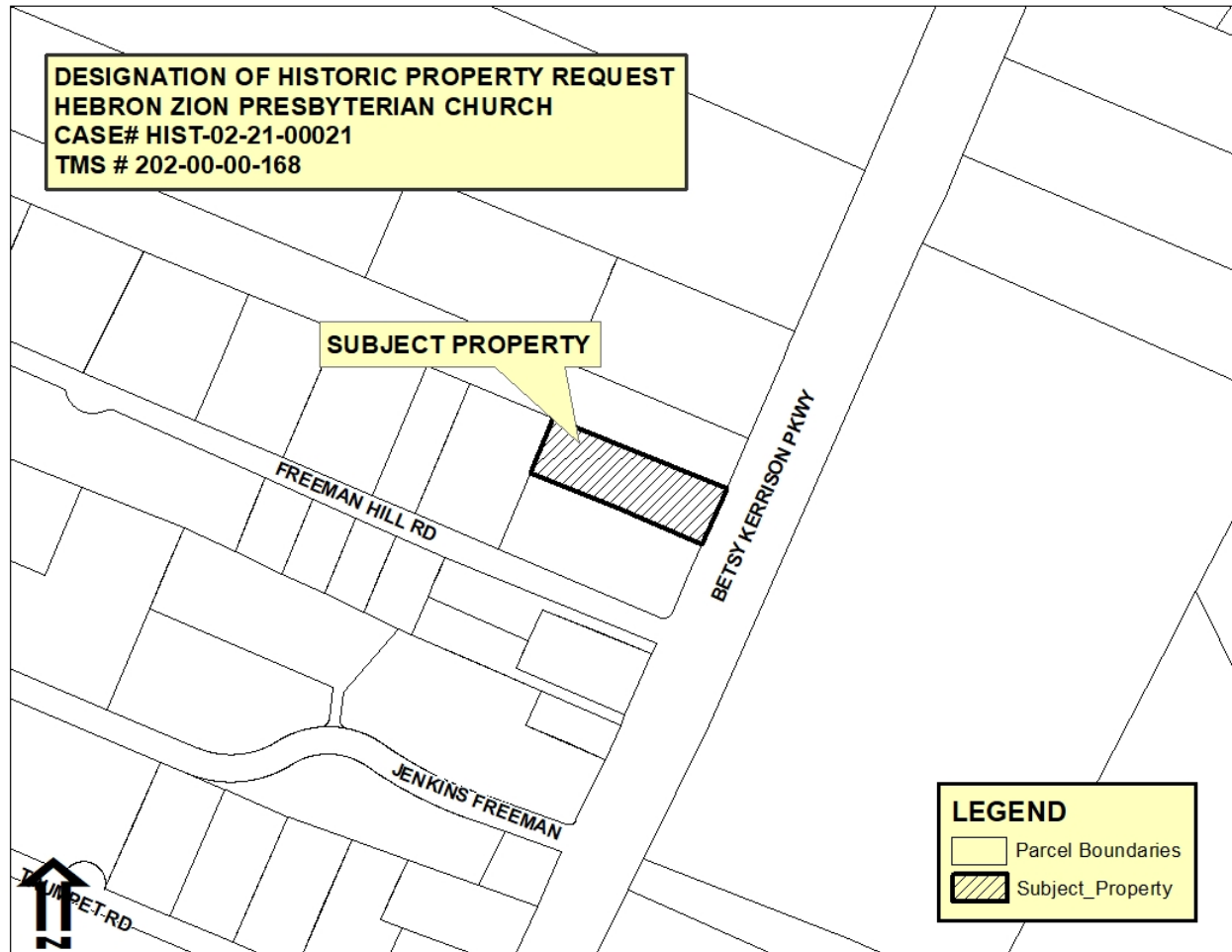


Subject Parcel

- Legend**
- 2018 FUTURE LAND USE**
- Parks, Recreation, and Open Space
 - Conservation Management
 - Resource Management
 - Wadmalaw Agricultural Preservation
 - Agricultural Preservation
 - Rural Agricultural
 - Agricultural Residential
 - Rural Residential
 - Rural Cultural Community Protection
 - Urban/Suburban Cultural Community Protection
 - Urban/Suburban Mixed Use
 - Civic/Institutional
 - Office
 - Rural Commercial
 - Commercial
 - Rural Economic Development
 - Rural Industrial
 - Industrial
 - Development of County Significance
 - Overlay Districts
 - Municipality
- UGB**
- URBAN GROWTH BOUNDARY

FINAL_COMPREHENSIVE_PLAN_NOV_18_2008GIS_DataFutureLandUseCompParishes
 Printed November 11, 2018

Location Map



Aerial View



The subject property is zoned Agricultural Residential (AGR). Adjacent properties in the County to the West are zoned AGR. Properties to the East are zoned AG-8, AGR, and PD. Properties to the North are zoned AGR. Properties to the South are in the Town of Kiawah Island, zoned R-4, and AGR.

Hebron Center – Site Visit



East Elevation



West Elevation

Hebron Center – Site Visit



North Elevation



South Elevation

Hebron Center - Site Visit



Interior



Interior

Hebron Center – Site Visit



Exterior Window Detail



Interior Window Detail

Approval Criteria for Designation of Historic Property

The Charleston County Code of Ordinances, Chapter 21, Historic Preservation, Sec. 21-3.B states, “The historic preservation commission may nominate historic properties and/or historic districts within the unincorporated area of Charleston County for designation with written consent from the owners of such properties pursuant to this section, provided such nominations comply with the designation of historic property process and requirements contained in this section. Additionally, applications to designate historic properties within the unincorporated area of Charleston County may be submitted by the property owner(s) of the subject property(ies), site(s), building(s), structure(s), object(s), or district(s) provided such applications comply with the designation of historic property process and requirements contained in this section.”

Sec. 21-3.h, Approval Criteria, states **“In order for an application for designation of historic property to be approved, one or more of the following criteria must be met:”**

- (1) Has significant inherent character, interest, history, or value as part of the rural county or heritage of the county, state or nation;
- (2) Is of an event significant in history;
- (3) Is associated with a person or persons who contributed significantly to the culture and development of the county, state or nation;
- (4) Exemplifies the cultural, political, economic, social, ethnic, or historic heritage of the county, state or nation;
- (5) Individually or collectively embodies distinguishing characteristics of a type, style, or period in architecture or engineering;
- (6) Is the work of a designer whose work has significantly influenced the development of the county, state or nation;
- (7) Contains elements of design, detail, materials, or craftsmanship which represent a significant innovation;
- (8) Is part of or related to a square or other distinctive element of community planning;
- (9) Represents an established and familiar visual feature of the neighborhood or community;
- (10) Has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in pre-history or history (potential archaeological site); and/or
- (11) Is deemed eligible for or already listed on the NRHP.

Approval Criteria for Designation of Historic Property

The applicant provided a response to Approval Criteria 1, 3, 4, and 5 from Section 21-3.H.

1. Has significant inherent character, interest, history, or value as part of the rural county or heritage of the county, state or nation;

Applicant Response: “The Hebron Presbyterian Church building is one of the earliest African American churches founded after the Civil War. It is one of the few wooden church buildings that has survived for over 150 years on Johns Island. The first building was constructed in 1868 using shipwreck lumber found floating on Seabrook and Kiawah beaches, by formerly enslaved carpenters and founding members of the church, Jackson McGill and John Chisholm. The Church on Johns Island, South Carolina was organized in 1865 at the end of the Civil War near Gregg Plantation. Under the leadership of the Reverend Ishmael Moultrie, the congregation went from worshipping under a bush tent, to a new building in April 1970. It is one of the oldest buildings on the island and one of the few standing African American churches as many have perished. A secular tug of war then commenced in cities across the state as white elders fought to retain total control of the Presbyterian Church. Fortunately, the builders of Hebron Presbyterian Church did not wait for the church’s official blessing and completed work on their church. This was a moment in history as the Reverend Ishmael Moultrie, was one of the earliest African American clergyman.”

Approval Criteria for Designation of Historic Property

The applicant provided a response to Approval Criteria 1, 3, 4, and 5 from Section 21-3.H.

Criteria 3. Is associated with a person or persons who contributed significantly to the culture and development of the county, state or nation;

Applicant Response: “The Members of the church were historically significant as they were a small group of freed slaves, frustrated with the refusal of the white leaders of the local Presbyterian church to help establish their own autonomous church, who submitted a petition to the Presbyterian synod in 1867 to establish a ‘Freedman’s church’ a church erected by and for black people. The Reverend Moultrie perceived the shipwreck as a gift from God. The Reverend Moultrie who led this historic church was born on St. Helena Island and educated at the Penn School, one of the country’s first schools for freed slaves was also a history maker who was a leader for a large area south of Charleston. Moultrie encouraged his congregation to embrace their new freedom by learning to read and write. His pulpit of education coupled with his extemporaneous style of preaching made him a popular figure among the community that inhabited the Sea Islands and his influence was felt from John’s Island to Wadmalaw to Edisto. He was a local leader of importance. After the church moved to a new building, the building was converted to the Hebron Center by Franciscan nuns. A Famous book was written about one of the “saints” of the Hebron Center Alfreda LaBoard, which was now being used by a quilting group, by Mary Whyte a painter of note, who wrote “Alfreda’s World” and the fame of the book resulted in boxes of cloth for the quilters arriving from places as far away as Mexico and Hawaii, and started a mini Renaissance. The book is described in this way: ‘Descendants of slaves, an extraordinary group of African American women welcomed Whyte to their community, and changed her life and paintings in many ways. This book chronicles in dialogue and images the evolution of a friendship between the artist and Alfreda, who became the subject of many of Whyte’s paintings.’”

Approval Criteria for Designation of Historic Property

The applicant provided a response to Approval Criteria 1, 3, 4, and 5 from Section 21-3.H.

Criteria 4. Exemplifies the cultural, political, economic, social, ethnic, or historic heritage of the county, state or nation;

Applicant Response: “The Building use has changed but the building has been preserved. Much of the history does not exist in written annals, but the congregation was a robust 225 members which was not recorded by the Presbyterian church until 1873. The Church prospered and in 1965 it was decided to erect a new church. Each member was taxed \$100 in support of the new building fund and fundraising progressed until 1969 when construction commenced. Like the original building work was slow, taking place when the members had time and money. In November 1976 the congregation moved to the new brick church at 2915 Bohicket Road, and the old church sat empty. A group of Franciscan nuns opened a Center as a gathering place and operated it until Hurricane Hugo greatly damaged the building. In 1980 a group of Franciscan nuns helped convert the historic church into a senior citizens center. Sisters Irene Kelly and Bernadine Jax were in search of an ecumenical outpost on John’s Island since the Charleston Dioceses had only one small church to service the entire island. Hebron’s Pastor, J.W, Washington partnered with the sisters and founded the Hebron St Francis Senior Citizen Center, a ministry and soup kitchen for elder citizens in the empty Hebron Church building. By the mid 1980s people of all faiths were congregating at the old church for a weekly dose of spiritual enlightenment and nourishment. A small kitchen was created where the altar had stood, and tables were filled with handicrafts. A quilting group was formed and they created beautiful quilts with material they collected. But then Hurricane Hugo struck in 1989, damaging its foundation and giving it a slight lean. The Franciscans left and this void was filled by Alfreda Gibbs Smiley LaBoard. She became the heart of the Hebron group meeting in the damaged building. LaBoard became friends with Mary Whyte a painter of note, when one day LaBoard was taking a pan of hot cornbread from the oven and Mary Whyte arrived and observed that ‘The cornbread was burnt on one end because the floor of the church was slanted.’ They became friends and this friendship was chronicled in the book ‘Alfreda’s World’ and the fame of the book resulted in boxes of cloth for the quilters arriving from places as far away as Mexico and Hawaii, and a mini Renaissance was begun. The church members are part of the Gullah Geechee culture and today the Gullah Geechee organization has a location on John’s Island. Many members of the now combined congregations of Hebron and Zion still maintain the traditions of the Gullah Geechee. Many of the Gullah Geechee weavers still sell their beautiful creations which are created using skills handed down for hundreds of years and the native sweet grass of South Carolina.”

Approval Criteria for Designation of Historic Property

The applicant provided a response to Approval Criteria 1, 3, 4, and 5 from Section 21-3.H.

Criteria 5. Individually or collectively embodies distinguishing characteristics of a type, style, or period in architecture or engineering;

Applicant Response: “The architecture of the building is also very unique and includes a colorful story of a shipwreck. When word of a marooned schooner and its bounty of timber reached the Rev. Moultrie, he dispatched the heartiest members of the bush church to row out to the shipwreck. The errant material was collected and slowly towed to shore where a covey of oxen cart carried it across Hope Plantation to the site that would become home to the area’s first church built by and for freed slaves. They named the church Hebron in honor of the ancient holy city referenced in the book of Genesis. Jackson McGill and John Chisholm were carpenters with skills that were developed during enslavement. The mortise and tenon timber frame structure is one of the few that remain on John’s Island and it is the oldest freestanding structure built by freed slaves. Chisholm and McGill constructed a handsome building which consisted of a narthex and balconies along three of its four walls to maximize the number of congregants who could fit in the church. When the Church was restored with the help of fund raising, it was revealed that the wooden cants of the balcony floor joists possess a distinctive curvature, which confirms the rostrum(dais) of the shipwrecked schooner was indeed given new life as a spiritual bulwark. This confirmed the oral history of the church and in part represents the way that God creates something new, from disaster. It contains beautiful wooden floors, walls, balcony and interior.”

Staff & Historic Preservation Commission
Recommendation:

Approval (9-0)

Notifications

March 16, 2021 HPC Meeting:

- **February 26, 2021:** 293 notification letters were sent to owners of property within 300 feet of the boundaries of the subject parcels, individuals on the Historic Preservation Interested Parties List, and the Johns Island Interested Parties list.
- **February 26, 2021:** This meeting was advertised in the Post and Courier.

April 13, 2021 Public Hearing:

- **March 26, 2021:** 293 notification letters were sent to owners of property within 300 feet of the boundaries of the subject parcels, individuals on the Historic Preservation Interested Parties List, and the Johns Island Interested Parties list.
- **March 26, 2021:** This meeting was advertised in the Post and Courier.

Public Input

- Historic Charleston Foundation provided a letter of support of the historic designation.

Designation of Historic Property Application:
Hebron Center, Johns Island

Historic Preservation Commission:	March 16, 2021
Council Public Hearing:	April 13, 2021
PPW Committee:	April 22, 2021
First Reading:	April 27, 2021
Second Reading:	May 11, 2021
Third Reading:	May 25, 2021

Designation of Historic Property or District – Application Form

Owner Information (In the case of applications for the Designation of a Historic District, a petition and/or written consent from 51% or more of the registered voters of the properties in the proposed Historic District is required. This may be attached separately.)

First Name:	Last Name:	Hebron Zion Presbyterian Church
Mailing Address:	2915 Bohicket Rd, John's Island, SC 29455	
Home/Cell Phone #:	843-559-0865	
Email Address:	RGarrett@hebronzionpcusa.org	

Applicant Information (if not being submitted by owner)

First Name:	Tamy	Last Name:	Lockhart
Mailing Address:	1628 Live Oak PK, Seabrook Island, SC 29455		
Home/Cell Phone:	843-768-9199		
Email Address:	tlock1313@gmail.com		

Property Information (if applying for the Designation of a Historic District, property details of all the properties in the district may be attached separately)

Address:	4058 Betsy Kerrison Pkwy, Johns Island, SC 29455		
TMS #:	202-0000-168	Acres:	.858
Deed:	C076-401	Plat:	CM-100
Zoning:	AGR		

Brief description of district property, object, site, building, structure requested to be designated historic:

I (we) certify that Tamy Lockhart is the authorized representative for my (our) Designation of Historic Property or District application.

Tamy Lockhart
Signature of Owners

1/16/2021
Date

Signature of Applicant (if other than owner)

Date

Hebron Center Letter of Intent

Formerly Hebron Presbyterian Church 4058 Betsy Kerrison Parkway, Johns Island, South Carolina
Is seeking the designation as a historic building. This letter addresses those characteristics that qualify a building to be designated as "Historic".

1. Has significant inherent character, interest, history, or value as part of the rural county or heritage of the county, state or nation;

The Hebron Presbyterian Church building is one of the earliest African American churches founded after the Civil War. It is one of the few wooden church buildings that has survived for over 150 years on Johns Island. The first building was constructed in 1868 using shipwreck lumber found floating on Seabrook and Kiawah beaches, by formerly enslaved carpenters and founding members of the church, Jackson McGill and John Chisholm. The Church on Johns Island, South Carolina was organized in 1865 at the end of the Civil War near Gregg Plantation. Under the leadership of the Reverend Ishmael Moultrie, the congregation went from worshipping under a bush tent, to a new building in April 1970. It is one of the oldest buildings on the island and one of the few standing African American churches as many have perished. A secular tug of war then commenced in cities across the state as white elders fought to retain total control of the Presbyterian Church. Fortunately, the builders of Hebron Presbyterian Church did not wait for the church's official blessing and completed work on their church. This was a moment in history as the Reverend Ishmael Moultrie, was one of the earliest African American clergyman.

3. Is associated with a person or persons who contributed significantly to the culture and development of the county, state or nation;

The Members of the church were historically significant as they were a small group of freed slaves, frustrated with the refusal of the white leaders of the local Presbyterian church to help establish their own autonomous church, who submitted a petition to the Presbyterian synod in 1867 to establish a 'Freedman's church' a church erected by and for black people. The Reverend Moultrie perceived the shipwreck as a gift from God.

The Reverend Moultrie who led this historic church was born on St. Helena Island and educated at the Penn School, one of the country's first schools for freed slaves was also a history maker who was a leader for a large area south of Charleston. Moultrie encouraged his congregation to embrace their new freedom by learning to read and write. His pulpit of education coupled with his extemporaneous style of preaching made him a popular figure among the community that inhabited the Sea Islands and his influence was felt from John's Island to Wadmalaw to Edisto. He was a local leader of importance. After the church moved to a new building, the building was converted to the Hebron Center by Franciscan nuns. A Famous book was written about one of the "saints" of the Hebron Center Alfreda LaBoard, which was now being used by a quilting group, by Mary Whyte a painter of note, who wrote "Afreda's World" and the fame of the book resulted in boxes of cloth for the quilters arriving from places as far away as Mexico and Hawaii, and started a mini Renaissance. The book is described in this way: "Descendants of slaves, an extraordinary group of African American women welcomed Whyte to their community, and changed her life and paintings in many ways. This book chronicles in dialogue and images the evolution of a friendship between the artist and Alfreda, who became the subject of many of Whyte's paintings."

4. Exemplifies the cultural, political, economic, social, ethnic, or historic heritage of the county, state or nation;

The Building use has changed but the building has been preserved. Much of the history does not exist in written annals, but the congregation was a robust 225 members which was not recorded by the Presbyterian church until 1873. The Church prospered and in 1965 it was decided to erect a new church. Each member was taxed \$100 in support of the new building fund and fundraising progressed until 1969 when construction commenced. Like the original building work was slow, taking place when the members had time and money. In November 1976 the congregation moved to the new brick church at 2915 Bohicket Road, and the old church sat empty. A group of Franciscan nuns opened a Center as a gathering place and operated it until Hurricane Hugo greatly damaged the building. A group of Franciscan nuns opened a Center as a gathering place and operated it until Hurricane Hugo greatly damaged the building.

In 1980 a group of Franciscan nuns helped convert the historic church into a senior citizens center. Sisters Irene Kelly and Bernadine Jax were in search of an ecumenical outpost on John's Island since the Charleston Dioceses had only one small church to service the entire island. Hebron's Pastor, J.W, Washington partnered with the sisters and founded the Hebron St Francis Senior Citizen Center, a ministry and soup kitchen for elder citizens in the empty Hebron Church building. By the mid 1980s people of all faiths were congregating at the old church for a weekly dose of spiritual enlightenment and nourishment. A small kitchen was created where the altar had stood, and tables were filled with handicrafts. A quilting group was formed and they created beautiful quilts with material they collected, But then Hurricane Hugo struck in 1989, damaging its foundation and giving it a slight lean. The Franciscans left and this void was filled by Alfreda Gibbs Smiley LaBoard. She became the heart of the Hebron group meeting in the damaged building. Laboard became friends with Mary Whyte a painter of note, when one day LaBoard was taking a pan of hot cornbread from the oven and Mary Whyte arrived and observed that "The cornbread was burnt on one end because the floor of the church was slanted". They became friends and this friendship was chronicled in the book "Afreda's World" and the fame of the book resulted in boxes of cloth for the quilters arriving from places as far away as Mexico and Hawaii, and a mini Renaissance was begun.

The church members are part of the Gullah Geechee culture and today the Gullah Geechee organization has a location on John's Island. Many members of the now combined congregations of Hebron and Zion still maintain the traditions of the Gullah Geechee. Many of the Gullah GeeChee weavers still sell their beautiful creations which are created using skills handed down for hundreds of years and the native sweet grass of South Carolina.

5. Individually or collectively embodies distinguishing characteristics of a type, style, or period in architecture or engineering;

The architecture of the building is also very unique and includes a colorful story of a shipwreck. When word of a marooned schooner and its bounty of timber reached the Rev. Moultrie, he dispatched the heartiest members of the bush church to row out to the shipwreck. The errant material was collected and slowly towed to shore where a covey of oxen cart carried it across Hope Plantation to the site that would become home to the area's first church built by and for freed slaves. They named the church Hebron in honor of the ancient holy city referenced in the book of Genesis. Jackson McGill and John Chisholm were carpenters with skills that were developed during enslavement. The mortise and tenon timber frame structure is one of the few that remain on John's Island and it is the oldest freestanding structure built by freed slaves. Chisholm and McGill constructed a handsome building which consisted of a narthex and balconies along three of its four walls to maximize the number of congregants who could fit in the church. When the Church was restored with the help of fund raising, it was revealed that the

wooden cants of the balcony floor joists possess a distinctive curvature, which confirms the rostrum(dais) of the shipwrecked schooner was indeed given new life as a spiritual bulwark. This confirmed the oral history of the church and in part represents the way that God creates something new, from disaster. It contains beautiful wooden floors, walls, balcony and interior.

Sources:

Climbing 'Jacob's Ladder' by Robert Behre Post and Courier May 13, 2000

Historic church focus of Gullah Gala by Denisha Graham

Salvaging Salvation – The History of Hebron – Zion Church by Ida Becker

Hebron – St Francis Center – A Brochure for the Community Picnic May 17, 2003 (Original Sources unknown) sources unknown)

Much of African American History in America is Oral History

Signed,

Tamy Lockhart

The Story of Hebron Presbyterian Church

The Hebron Presbyterian Church on Johns Island, South Carolina was organized in 1865 at the end of the Civil War near Gregg Plantation. The first building was constructed in 1868 using shipwreck lumber was found floating on Seabrook and Kiawah beaches, by formerly enslaved carpenters and founding members of the church, Jackson McGill and John Chisholm. Under the leadership of the Reverend Ishmael Moultrie, the congregation went from worshipping under a bush tent, to a new building in April 1970.

The church was formed when a small group of freed slaves, frustrated with the refusal of the white leaders of the local Presbyterian church to help establish their own autonomous church, submitted a petition to the Presbyterian synod in 1867 to establish a 'Freedman's church' a church erected by and for black people. A secular tug of war then commenced in cities across the state as white elders fought to retain total control of the Presbyterian Church. Former slaves living in rural isolation were not subject to such intense scrutiny by the parochial white parishioners' governing the church. Fortunately, the builders of Hebron Presbyterian Church did not wait for the church's official blessing and completed work on their church.

Blacks attending the white Presbyterian church of Johns Island during slavery constituted the membership of the original Hebron Presbyterian Church. After reconstruction, the white Presbyterian Church of the South dropped all Blacks, causing them to find a place of their own in which to worship. Most of the former slaves were determined to remain with the Presbyterian faith so they met in a bush tent singing and praying. At that time Evangelist Moultrie went about organizing Black Presbyterian churches as mission churches to the Northern Presbyterian Church, which is now the Presbyterian Church USA (PCUSA).

The construction of Hebron Church began in 1865 when a tempest blew a schooner carrying a load of timber against the DeVeaux Bank, an estuarine island located southwest of Kiawah at the mouth of the North Edisto River. Word of the shipwreck spread to a group of freed slaves who had constructed a bush church out of pine trees and Palmetto fronds on a plot of land near Gregg Plantation. The Reverend Ishmael Moultrie, an evangelist who led service at the bush church, perceived this news as a gift from God.

Born on St. Helena Island and educated at the Penn School, one of the country's first schools for freed slaves, Moultrie encouraged his congregation to shrug off the mantle of servitude and embrace their new freedom by learning to read and write. His pulpit of education coupled with his extemporaneous style of preaching made him a popular figure among the community that inhabited the Sea Islands and his influence was felt from John's Island to Wadmalaw to Edisto.

When word of the marooned schooner and its bounty of timber reached Moultrie, he dispatched the heartiest members of the bush church to row out to the shipwreck. The errant material was collected and slowly towed to shore where a covey of oxen cart carried it across

Hope Plantation to the site that would become home to the area's first church built by and for freed slaves. They named the church Hebron in honor of the ancient holy city referenced in the book of Genesis.

Jackson McGill and John Chisholm were carpenters whose skills were developed during enslavement. The mortise and tenon timber frame structure is one of the few that remain on John's Island and it is the oldest freestanding structure built by freed slaves. They constructed a handsome building which consisted of a narthex and balconies along three of its four walls to maximize the number of congregants who could fit in the church. This building served as a spiritual center of the island's formerly enslaved population for almost 100 years when the congregation moved to a newer building. It remains one of John's Island's greatest landmarks.

Much of the history does not exist in written annals, but the congregation was a robust 225 members which was not recorded by the Presbyterian church until 1873. The Church prospered and in 1965 it was decided to erect a new church. Each member was taxed \$100 in support of the new building fund and fundraising progressed until 1969 when construction commenced. Like the original building work was slow, taking place when the members had time and money. In November 1976 the congregation moved to the new brick church at 2915 Bohicket Road, and the old church sat empty.

In 1980 a group of Franciscan nuns helped convert the historic church into a senior citizens center. Sisters Irene Kelly and Bernadine Jax were in search of an ecumenical outpost on John's Island since the Charleston Dioceses had only one small church to service the entire island. A meeting with Hebron's Pastor, J.W, Washington, yielded a partnership and the sisters found the Hebron St Francis Senior Citizen Center, a ministry and soup kitchen for elder citizens in the empty Hebron Church building.

By the mid 1980s people of all faiths were congregating at the old church for a weekly dose of spiritual enlightenment and nourishment. A small kitchen was created where the altar had stood, and tables were filled with handicrafts. A quilting group was formed and they created beautiful quilts with material they collected,

But then Hurricane Hugo struck in 1989, damaging its foundation and giving it a slight lean. The Franciscans left and this void was filled by Alfreda Gibbs Smiley LaBoard. She became the heart of the Hebron group meeting in the damaged building. Laboard became friends with Mary Whyte a painter of note, when one day LaBoard was taking a pan of hot cornbread from the oven and Mary Whyte arrived and observed that "The cornbread was burnt on one end because the floor of the church was slanted". They became friends and this friendship was chronicled in the book "Afreda's World" and the fame of the book resulted in boxes of cloth for the quilters arriving from places as far away as Mexico and Hawaii, and a mini Renaissance was begun.

However, the building continued to deteriorate and an alarmed Whyte spread the word of the historical treasure to a handful of Kiawah residents who did not take long to become active. The

congregation along with dedicated community members hosted its first Gullah Gala in 2003 to raise awareness of the church's history and needs. Fundraising was begun with a candlelight service with quilts hung from the rafters. The fund raising focused first on repairing a leaky roof and the tilting of the walls. This created new hope for the congregation, but unfortunately three years after the first gala, the group lost their Matriarch Alfreda LaBoard. More than 600 people attended her funeral. In Reverend River's eulogy, he characterized LaBoard's life as one of suffering, selfless service to others and strength born from faith, an apt description of the church itself. LaBoard also served as an inspiration to Mary Whyte and the architect hired for the restoration, Christopher Rose.

During the restoration it was revealed that the wooden cants of the balcony floor joists possess a distinctive curvature, which confirms the rostrum(dais) of the shipwrecked schooner was indeed given new life as a spiritual bulwark. This confirmed the oral history of the church and in part represents the way that God creates something new, from disaster.

Today the Hebron Presbyterian Church building stands as a beautiful and historical treasure on Johns Island. It is one of the oldest structures on John's Island and contains unique architectural features created by the original carpenters.

December 7, 2020











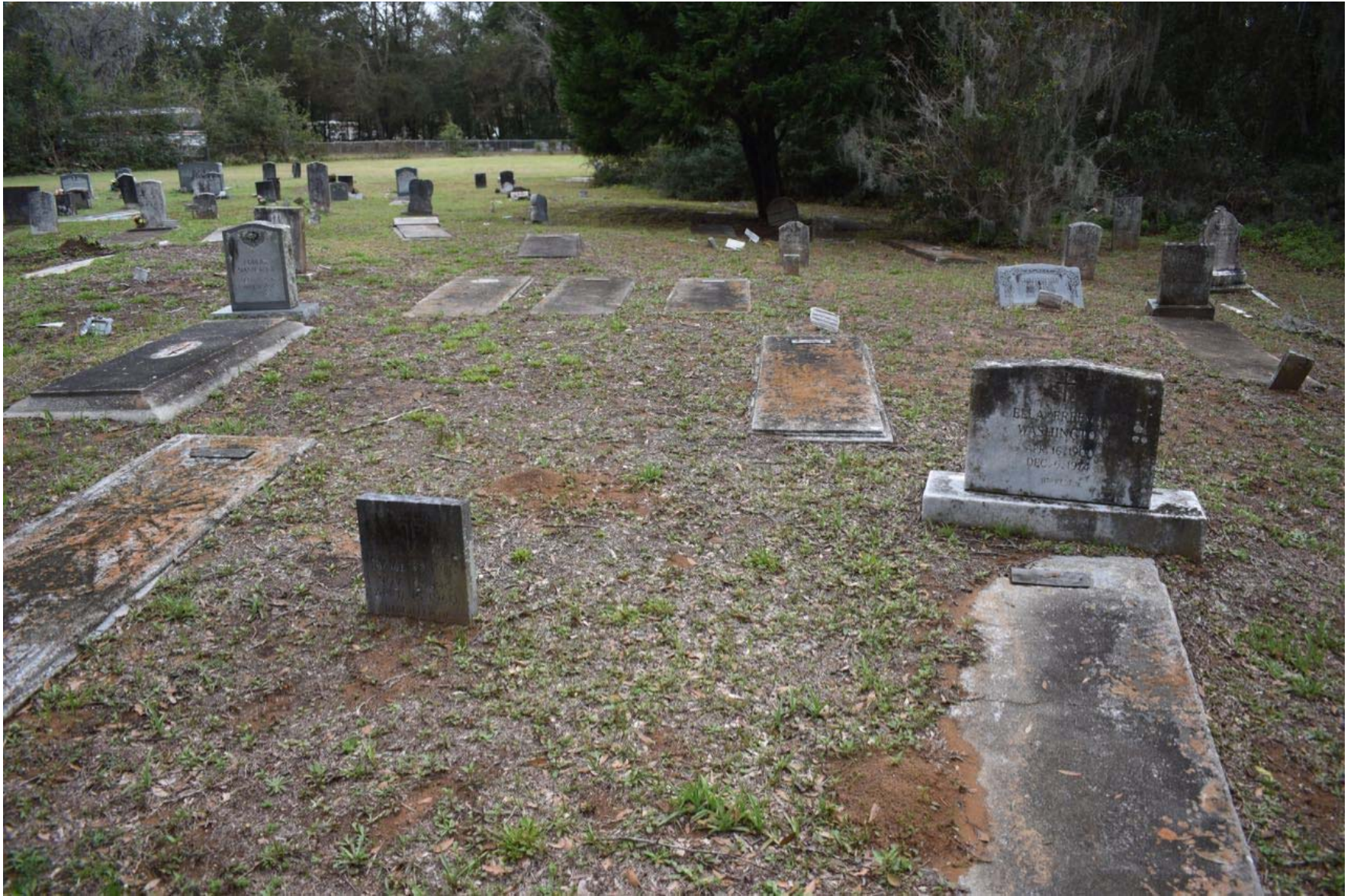


































Niki R. Grimball

From: Drolet, Cashion <cdrolet@historiccharleston.org>
Sent: Tuesday, April 13, 2021 12:14 PM
To: CCHPC
Subject: Hebron Zion Presbyterian Church

CAUTION: This email originated outside of Charleston County. Do not click links or open attachments from unknown senders or suspicious emails. If you are not sure, please contact IT helpdesk.

On behalf of Historic Charleston Foundation, I am pleased to write to you in support of designation of Hebron Zion Presbyterian Church as an historic site in Charleston County. Hebron Zion Presbyterian Church has a rich history on the Sea Islands dating to the 1890s. As such, we believe that the Church meets the approval criteria identified in Section 3 of Chapter 21 of the County's Code of Ordinances, most notably criteria 1, 4, and 9. Respectfully, the Foundation encourages Commission members to vote in favor of the application.

Sincerely,
Cashion Drolet



HISTORIC CHARLESTON FOUNDATION

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