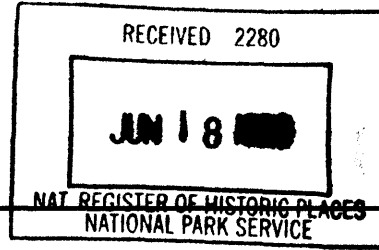


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM**

**1. Name of Property**

historic name Hopewell Presbyterian Church  
other names/site number Church at Camp Hopewell

**2. Location**

street & number 2070 County Rd. #10 not for publication N/A  
city or town Oxford vicinity X  
state Mississippi code MS county Lafayette code 71 zip code 38655

**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets  
\_\_\_ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant \_\_\_ nationally \_\_\_ statewide X  
locally. ( \_\_\_ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer  
Signature of certifying official

JUNE 3, 1999  
Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property \_\_\_ meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register criteria.  
( \_\_\_ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

**4. 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): \_\_\_

Edson H. Beall 7-15-99

Boy  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

**5. Classification**

Ownership of Property (Check only one box.)	Category of Property (Check as many boxes as apply.)	Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources.)	
		Contributing	Non-contributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	—	— sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-state	<input type="checkbox"/> site	—	— structures
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	—	— objects
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing N/A Number of contributing resources previously listed in the NR 0  
 (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

**6. Function or Use**

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)  
 Cat: Religion Sub: religious facility  
 — —  
 — —  
 — —  
 — —  
 — —  
 — —  
 — —

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)  
 Cat: Religion Sub: religious facility  
 — —  
 — —  
 — —  
 — —  
 — —  
 — —  
 — —

**7. Description**

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)  
Mid-Nineteenth Century  
 —  
 —

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)  
 foundation horizontal stumps on rocks; concrete block  
 roof composition shingles  
 walls wood (weatherboard)  
 other n/a

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition on continuation sheet/s.)

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria** (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations** (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Areas of Significance** (Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance** 1849-1949 \_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates** c. 1849 \_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person** (Complete if Criterion B is marked above) N/A

**Cultural Affiliation** N/A \_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder** Unknown \_\_\_\_\_

**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Explain significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

**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
- Name of repository  
Miss. Dept. of Archives & History

USDI/NPS Registration Form

Property Name Hopewell Presbyterian Church

County and State Lafayette County, Mississippi

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of Property less than 1 acre

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	<u>15</u>	<u>278 280</u>	<u>3808 275</u>	3	-	-
2	-	-	-	4	-	-
	<u>See continuation sheet.</u>					

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Joan Embree

organization Preservation Consultant

date Feb. 25, 1999

street & number 1364 Lake Valley Road

telephone (601) 324-0410

city or town Starkville

state MS zip code 39759

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets**

**Maps**

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

**Photographs**

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

**Property Owner**

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Presbytery of St. Andrew

street & number 24 County Road #231 telephone (601) 234-6069

city or town Oxford

state MS zip code 38655

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7 Page 1

Name of property Hopewell Presbyterian Church

County and state Lafayette, Mississippi

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**DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY**

The Hopewell Presbyterian Church at 2070 County Road 10, on Woodson Ridge, near Oxford, Lafayette County, Mississippi, is a one-story, gable-front, rectangularly-massed vernacular church built circa 1849. Woodson Ridge was a community in the hilly, rural area north and east of Oxford, Mississippi with enough residents and influence to get permission for a congregation separate from the First Presbyterian Church of Oxford in 1839. The extant church is a replacement for the original log building, which burned in 1849, according to church records. The church faces west, toward a road leading east and north from Oxford. Two cemeteries are associated with the building, an African-American cemetery on a downhill slope to its south, and a cemetery for Caucasian members on a knoll to its west. The church and the cemeteries are now incorporated into the grounds of the Presbytery of St. Andrews' Hopewell Camp and Conference Center. The Center includes several modern dwellings, buildings and structures used for Presbytery meetings. The Hopewell Presbyterian Church is nominated within its immediate surroundings, 20 feet of landscaped ground in each direction.

The church has a medium-pitched roof covered with composition shingles. The gable on the western facade has boxed eaves with cornice molding and a wide, simple fascia. A diamond-shaped vent centered in the gable has mitred corners, rounded edges, and cutwork details. (See photo #1.) The only other facade details are the once-common pairs of double-leafed doors used as entries. Each entry has two beveled, two-panel doors in a simple wooden surround. Replacement, pre-fabricated concrete steps lead directly from each door to the ground. Each set of steps has modern iron hand railings.

On its north elevation, the boxed eaves, cornice molding and simple fascia continue across the building at the roof line. Three large evenly-spaced, 6/6 double-hung windows open into the church. (See photo #2.) Although some old shutter hardware remains intact, the shutters are now fixed at the window edges. On the north elevation, as on the others, the foundation is a concrete block wall. Weatherboards are used as siding on all elevations.

On its rear, east, elevation, a "bump-out" altar section added circa 1930 has an upper-gable opening for an electric venting fan. (See photo #3.) The eastern extension is shed-roofed, and has 4/4 double-hung side windows at east and west. The extension is centered, 3 feet/8 inches deep and 11 feet/7 inches wide. The fan housing above the extension is also shed-roofed and has a louvered and screened vent opening to the outside. An opening in the southern side of the concrete-block foundation under the extension allows access to the church foundation. Most of the interior piers are original, having horizontally-placed, flattened logs on flat rocks on the ground. Original piers have been replaced by the concrete block foundation under the church's exterior walls. Adzed sills and joists with mortice and tenon joinery still underpin the church within the new concrete block foundation.

The south elevation is the same as the north elevation. (See photo #4.)

Many original fittings and details survive on the church interior. Viewed from the entry doors, the interior is an open, rectangular space divided by straight-backed early wooden pews in three ranks forming two aisles. (See photo #5.) The pews, made of thick heart pine boards, have molded top and end rails and mitred corners. Interior walls are covered with flush tongue-and-groove boards and painted white above a high, molded "chair rail" and brown below. Surrounds on original windows and doors have projecting mitred edge boards, no surviving hardware. (See photos #6,7.) Heart pine boards 6 to 7 inches wide are used as flooring. The flat, beadboard-covered ceiling may have been installed at the same time as the hanging school lights when the church was electrified in the 1920s. Some cast iron wall fixtures for kerosene lanterns survive on side elevations. Modern gas heaters have been installed near the center of the south elevation and toward the front of the north elevation. In the eastern extension created for the altar, a raised platform ten-and-a-half-feet wide extends nearly three feet into the church. An oak altar with gothic arches between legs is the only furniture on the dias, aside from a carved wooden cross. (See photo #8.) A handmade pine lectern of wide, heart pine lumber with simple moldings is stationed to the east of the altar on the main floor.

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 2

Name of property Hopewell Presbyterian Church

County and state Lafayette, Mississippi

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Hopewell Presbyterian Church, an ante-bellum, rural, vernacular church on Woodson Ridge near Oxford, Lafayette County, Mississippi, is significant under Criterion C for architecture because it is an increasingly-rare example of a double-entrance, gable-front church. It is also significant for its relative state of preservation. Hopewell retains its original framing, weatherboard, windows, doors, and interior fittings including woodwork, floors, and pews.

Vernacular wood-frame churches with double entrances, once common for "small rural Baptist, Methodist, and Presbyterian congregations (1830s-1870s)" have mostly been lost to neglect or alteration. (Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson. National Register Files. Lafayette County. Sand Springs Church.) Surviving examples of similar churches include: Bethany Presbyterian Church in Aerial, Amite County; Concord Presbyterian Church in Madison County; Boykin Methodist Church in Smith County; Friendship Presbyterian Church in Chickasaw County; and Franklin Presbyterian Church in Holmes County. (Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson. National Register Files.)

Hopewell Church is the second building constructed by the mid-nineteenth century Woodson Ridge congregation. The first building, recorded as having been built of logs c. 1839, burned c. 1849 according to church records. ("Records." Oxford Presbyterian Church, Oct. 1839) Original church members were land owners and their families and slaves who moved into an area originally settled by a planter named Woodson. The community apparently never grew to include commercial structures, but a rural school was established there about 1900 and ran until local schools were consolidated into the county system about 1914. (Wilds interview) The U.S. Census for 1840 found that the population of the county was 56 percent white and 44 percent slave. (U.S. Census Records, Lafayette County, 1840) The second building is a much more sophisticated church, built at the same location with milled siding and trim and in the current style. Its minimal style details include massing, boxed eaves with cornice molding, a cutwork vent in the gable end, and layered and/or milled interior moldings on door and window openings and on walls. All of these details indicate a congregation familiar with current construction trends and materials and willing to incur added expense for their inclusion.

Church minutes indicate Hopewell was formed in 1839 by Bishop A.M. McCallum of the First Presbyterian Church of Oxford, Chickasaw Presbytery, Presbyterian Church of the United States, at the request of seven members of the Oxford congregation. Members originally "dismissed" by the Oxford Session to incorporate the new church were John and Margaret Kimmons, Kenneth Clark, Daniel and Erixna McFarland, and Mr. and Mrs. Allen Shivers. Within the year, other members of the Clark, MacFarland, and Kimmons families joined the church, as well as Mary Berringer, O.H., Ann H., and Katherine Wilie, and Elias Rambo. Originally, land for the church grounds and its two cemeteries was deeded to the church by George McFarland in July of 1843 (Deed book D, p.36) Other land deeded to the church in later years, creating the current camp grounds.

Church historians are especially proud that 11 of its members became ordained ministers from shortly after its founding (1850) through 1930 (Jones, et. al., p. 1) Hopewell's Presbyterian ambassadors were: Eber Elam Bigger, John Alexander Kimmons, James McEwen Kimmons, Levi Hope Kimmons, Eugene Stewart Lowrance, William Lee Lowrance, William Nichols Lowrance, Dr. Fred Stewart McCorkle, James McEwen, Samuel Washington Newell, and Rufus Washington Shivers. All of these men were born into Hopewell Church. They would have completed their training and taken on their own churches during their mid-20s, according to the Rev. Murphey Wilds, a church historian.

As established, the church had both Caucasian and African-American members. Oral church history indicates that seating for blacks and whites was separated, but not how the seating was assigned. Separate cemeteries were established for black and white members. (See Description section.) Black members of Hopewell were slaves from the farms and plantations of the church members up through the Civil War. When, in September of 1861, "the Hopewell Church voted in favor of a resolution separating the Presbyterian Churches in the

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 3

Name of property Hopewell Presbyterian Church

County and state Lafayette, Mississippi

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE, CONTINUED

Confederate States from those in the north," it did so "in a sincere belief that the peace, unity, and a greater prosperity of the Southern Church demand it owing to the existence of two distinct governments hostile to each other within the limits of the present Assembly's Jurisdiction; and owing especially to the unfriendly, schismatical, and unconstitutional resolutions passed by the last Assembly in Philadelphia." (Jones, Duvall, et.al. p. 2) Few Southerners had attended the February, 1861 meeting of the General Assembly in Philadelphia, where a resolution pledging loyalty to the Federal Government had been adopted. By June 5 of 1861, all of the Confederate states had seceded from the Union. Chickasaw Presbytery commissioners were among those at a General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the Confederate States of America held in Augusta, GA in December of 1861, where the declaration of separation was written. (Thompson, E.T. Presbyterians, Vol. I, Chapter 35) It wasn't until 1983 that the northern and southern segments of the Presbyterian Church re-united to form the Presbyterian Church (USA).

Following the Civil War, Freedmen were recorded as becoming members of Hopewell Church in 1868, 1880, and 1886. Church records show that between 1860 and 1882 there were 183 white and 47 black communicants. Eight black members joined in 1869. The last African-American member was taken into the congregation in May of 1886. ("Minutes." Session of Hopewell Church) Dr. Murphy Wilds, a Hopewell Church historian, says he knows of no black Presbyterian churches founded in the county after this date, so it is difficult to determine how long after 1886 African Americans remained part of Hopewell's congregation.

Although the church remained active on the record, its membership had largely dispersed by the end of the 1940s. "By 1948... the congregations became so small that the Presbytery considered changing the status of Hopewell Church," according to the unpublished church history. The history records that "on December 31, 1948, the Hopewell Church deeded its property to the Presbytery while retaining the right to worship and conduct its services and religious programs as its congregation deems proper." (Jones, Duvall, et.al., p. 2) The status of the church remained the same until early 1981, when the church was dissolved. By 1981, the church building was a key element in the Hopewell Camp and Conference Center, established in 1951 on church property, by deed of the church. The original church building and its two related cemeteries are now included in grounds with modern meeting halls, shelters, and cabins constructed for camp and conference use. These modern buildings and facilities do not detract significantly from the rural setting of the 160-year-old church. The church grounds retain their rural identity and, by placement and construction, feature Hopewell Church as the center focus of the camp.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 9,10 Page 4

Name of property Hopewell Presbyterian Church

County and state Lafayette, Mississippi

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**Section 9**

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Jones, Margeret McCorkle and Mary Neill Duvall. "Hopewell Presbyterian Church." Unpublished history written in 1997, in Lafayette County, MS, with 1998 amendments by Rev. Murphey C. Wilds.

Lafayette County, Mississippi. Chancery Clerk. Deed Book D, p. 36. Lafayette County Courthouse, Oxford, MS.

Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson, MS. National Register File. Lafayette County, Sand Spring Presbyterian Church National Register Nomination, 1993.

Thompson, E.T. Presbyterians In The South, Vol. I. Richmond, VA: John Knox Press, 1963.

United States. Bureau of the Census. Population Schedules, Lafayette County, MS, 1840.

Wilds, Murphey, Rev., interviewed by telephone, by Joan Embree, historic preservation consultant, Jan. 26, 1999.

**Section 10**

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary is made up of arbitrary lines extending 20 feet in all cardinal directions from the exterior walls of Hopewell Presbyterian Church. (See U.S.G.S. map.)

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the 1849 church and its immediate surroundings and excludes the remainder of the property now operated by St. Andrews' Presbytery as the Hopewell Camp and Conference Center..



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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section Photographs Page 5

Name of property Hopewell Presbyterian Church

County and state Lafayette, Mississippi

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The following information is the same for all photographs:

- (1) Hopewell Presbyterian Church
- (2) Near Oxford, Lafayette County, Mississippi
- (3) Joan E. Embree, preservation consultant
- (4) October, 1998
- (5) Mississippi Department of Archives and History

Photo 1--(8) View of the facade (S), view from south

Photo 2--(8) View of east elevation, view from east

Photo 3--(8) View of north elevation, view from north

Photo 4--(8) View of west elevation, view from west

Photo 5--(8) View of interior, view from south

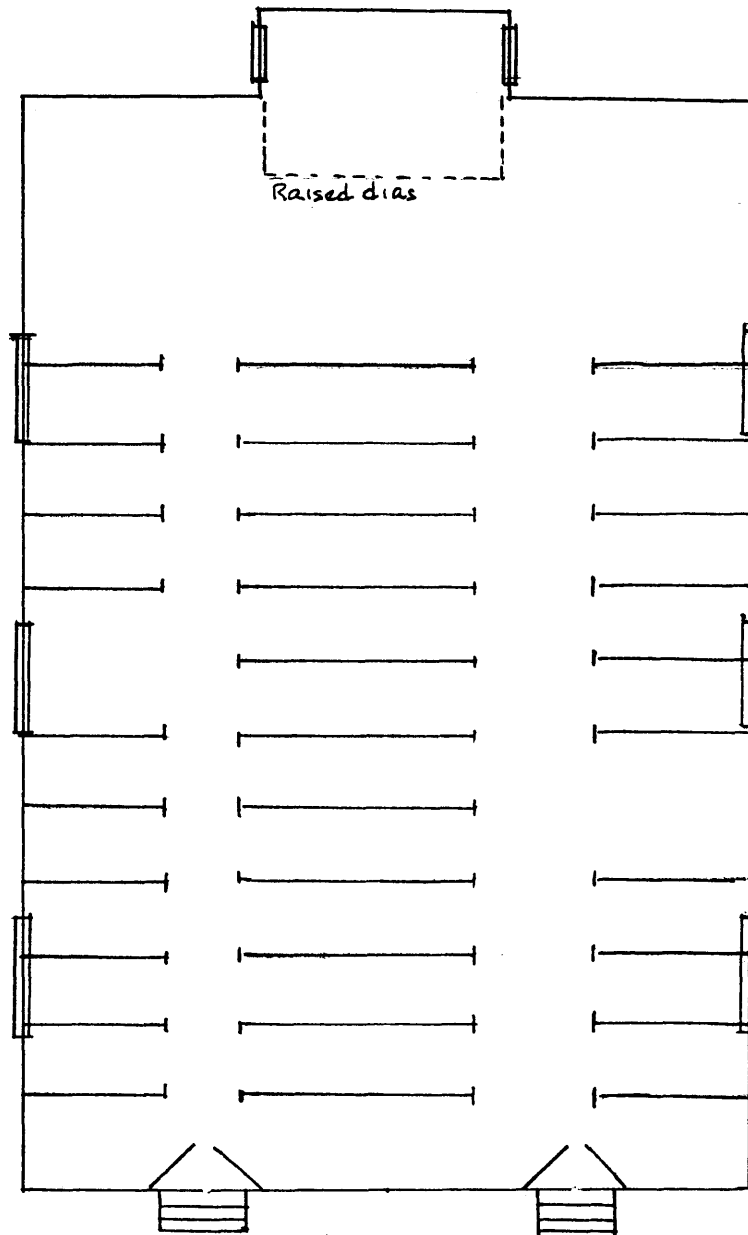
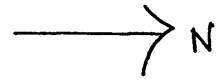
Photo 6--(8) View of windows and walls, view from southwest

Photo 7--(8) View of doors from interior, view from north

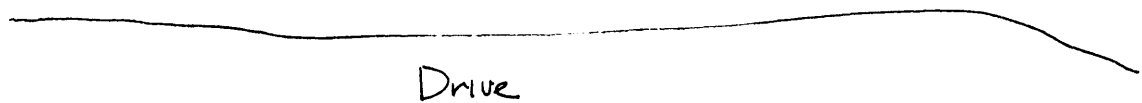
Photo 8--(8) View of interior of northern extension and altar, view from south

# HOPEWELL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

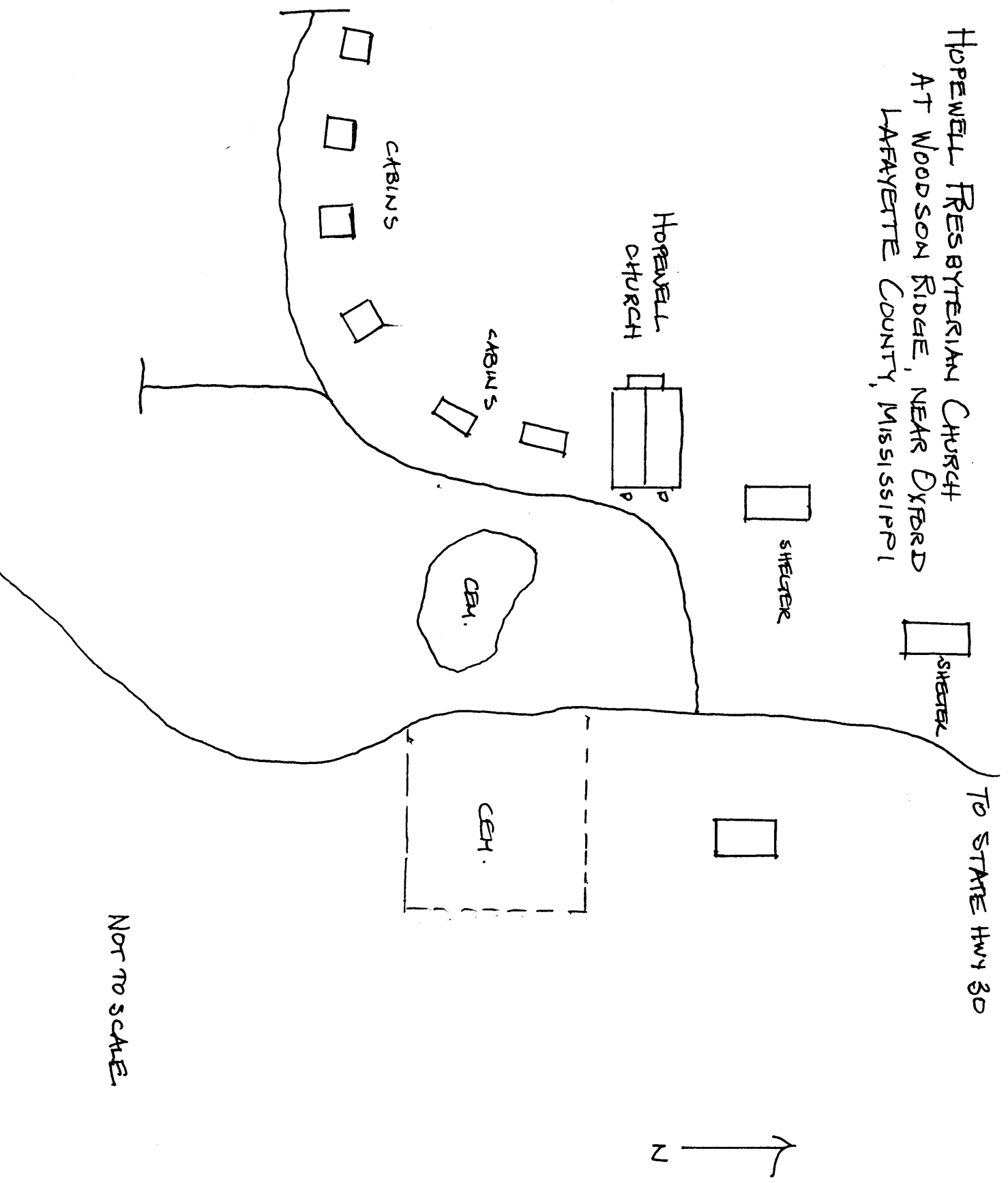
LAFAYETTE COUNTY, MS



SCALE  
 $\frac{1}{4}'' = 2'$



HOPWELL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
AT WOODSON RIDGE, NEAR DYBIRD  
LAFAYETTE COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI



NOT TO SCALE