

# Historic Sites Survey

Inventory No. 3



State of Mississippi  
Department of Archives & History  
P. O. Box 571, Jackson, MS. 39205

**ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:** Located in a residential neighborhood, the Byhalia United Methodist Church is a Gothic-influenced, gable-roofed, brick structure, featuring an asymmetrical tower and a modified cruciform plan. The double-leaf main entrance, set within a lancet-arched opening, consists of paneled doors surmounted by a transom of intersecting tracery and is sheltered by a gable-roofed porch of exposed, scissor-beam truss construction, which was a later addition. The single exposed corner of the square tower is braced by angle buttresses, and the tower is crowned by a two-stage, frame belfry with lancet-arched openings and a spire. The present belfry is a ca. 1950 replacement of the original open, balustraded belfry which consisted of four, square, paneled brick piers supporting a pented pyramidal roof with foliate finial. Although of different sizes, all windows are triangular headed (of vernacular Gothic influence) with gauged voussoirs and make use of stained glass of varying patterns. The larger windows employ interesting tracery. Molded eaves trim, shaped rafter ends, and exposed purlins complete the eclectic design of the church.

**ALTERATIONS:**  
Original steeple replaced ca. 1950s

**OUTBUILDINGS:** N/A

**LANDSCAPE FEATURES:** N/A

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:** The Byhalia United Methodist Church is a significant structure within the architecture of Andrew Johnson. The building is the only example of Johnson's ecclesiastical work (except for his possible design contributions to John Wright Johnson's Sardis United Methodist Church) and shows the work of his mature hand. The small, formal brick church exhibits solid Gothic features and provides a subdued contrast to Johnson's livelier picturesque residential structures.

**NAME:** Byhalia United Methodist Church ✓  
**STREET NO:** College Avenue ✓  
**TOWN/VIC:** Byhalia  
**COUNTY:** Marshall ✓  
**BLOCK/LOT:** See Verbal Boundary Description  
**PRESENT OWNER:** Mississippi Conference of the United Methodist Church  
**ADDRESS:** P. O. Box 931, Jackson, Mississippi 39205  
**PRESENT USE:** Church  
**FORMER USE:** Church  
**DATE:** 1906  
**STYLE:** Late Gothic Revival  
**ARCH/BUILDER:** Andrew Johnson  
**SOURCE OF DATE:** Tablet on building  
**ENVIRONMENT:** Village  
**LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE**  
NEIGHBORHOOD  
LOCAL  
STATE X  
NATIONAL

**PHOTOS**

**NEG. #**

