

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
10 SEP 1979
RECEIVED
NOV 13 1979
DATE ENTERED

**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

College Church

AND/OR COMMON

College Hill Presbyterian Church

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

College Hill Road

CITY, TOWN

College Hill

VICINITY OF

Oxford

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
First

STATE

Mississippi

CODE
28

COUNTY
Lafayette

CODE
71

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERICAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Elders and Deacons of the College Presbyterian Church

STREET & NUMBER

College Hill Road

CITY, TOWN

Oxford

VICINITY OF

STATE
Mississippi 38655

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Office of the Chancery Clerk
Lafayette County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Courthouse Square

CITY, TOWN

Oxford, Mississippi 38655

STATE

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Statewide Survey of Historic Sites

DATE

1977

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Mississippi Department of Archives and History

CITY, TOWN

P. O. Box 571 Jackson, Mississippi 39205

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input 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

College Church faces east on College Hill Road in the Mississippi community of College Hill, approximately four miles northwest of Oxford. The brick structure is set back two hundred feet from the road, and is flanked along its south and west elevations by the church cemetery which predates construction of the present sanctuary. Landscaped grounds are planted with elms, oaks, magnolias, maples, and cedars.

The Greek Revival-style sanctuary, constructed in 1846, features a well-proportioned tetra-style portico carried by Tuscan columns. The east facade is further articulated by four Tuscan pilasters, which add definition to the two side entrance bays. Each of the double-leafed entrance doors is surmounted by a flat-faced lintel. Above each is a smaller dutch-type door that provided access to a slaves' gallery (removed after the Civil War) and improved ventilation for the sanctuary. The prominent roof entablature is carried around the three-bay side (north and south) elevations. Elongated and paired four-over-four-light windows have stained-glass sash, which was installed apparently during a repair program in 1864 (Congregational and Sessional Records of College Church [College Hill: 1835-1865]). A two-bay two-story addition with a pyramidal roof was constructed on the rear (west) elevation ca. 1940. In 1970 a one-and-a-half-story brick educational building was constructed adjacent to the north elevation of the sanctuary. The structure, though contemporary in design and plan, is sympathetically placed and does not detract from the architectural integrity of the sanctuary. Brickwork on the sanctuary exterior and all cemetery monuments were sandblasted in 1977.

The sanctuary interior features original plaster walls, paneled box pews, pulpit furniture, pine floor, and two round cypress columns supporting the main truss beam of the structure. Window architraves are flat faced with chamfered corners. The original plaster ceiling was replaced after the Civil War with a narrow-boarded ceiling.

8 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 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1846 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Francis Timmons

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Constructed in 1846 in the rural College Hill community, College Church has survived military occupation by Union troops and has retained the architectural integrity of the Greek Revival-style sanctuary through the continuing preservation efforts of its congregation.

College Church was organized in 1836 as Ebenezer Church after its founder Ebenezer McEwen (Daniel W. Hollis, Look to the Rock [Richmond: John Knox Press, 1961], p. 141). Church services were held in a log structure that also served as a church school, located approximately three hundred feet south of the present sanctuary (Hollis, p. 141). The name was changed to College Church in 1841 (Congregational and Sessional Records of College Church [College Hill: 1835-1865]).

In 1842 the church was given a parcel of land (Lafayette Co., Miss., Deed Book 3:316) by the Trustees of North Mississippi College, a nearby school which operated from 1840 to 1860. The property was used for the construction of a church in 1846. Francis Timmons was contracted to build the structure and was paid \$2,683.63 (Congregational and Sessional Records). Union troops under General Sherman occupied College Hill and College Church in 1862, causing considerable property damage and aggravation in the community (Maud Morrow Brown, "The War Comes to College Hill," The Journal of Mississippi History 16:22), and "depriving the community the privilege long granted to it of worshipping God in his own house" (Congregational and Sessional Records). Pulitzer prize-winning author William Faulkner married Estelle Franklin at College Church in 1929.

The architectural significance of the Greek Revival sanctuary is derived from the academic application of classical design features such as the tetrastyle portico, applied pilasters, and pedimented roof form. The presence of stained-glass window sash, while not original to the structure, adds historical interest by serving as a reminder of the church's abuse during the Civil War years.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Brown, Maud Morrow. "The War Comes to College Hill," Journal of Mississippi History 16:22-30

Congregational and Sessional Records of College Church. College Hill, 1835-1865.

Gold, Jack A., architectural historian with the Mississippi Department of Archives and History. Inspection of the College Church, Apr. 6, 1979.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

UTM NOT VERIFIED

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than two

QUADRANGLE NAME Oxford

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:62500

UTM REFERENCES

A 1, 6 | 2, 6, 3, 9, 6, 0 | 3, 8, 1, 1, 8, 7, 5

B | |

C | |

D | |

E | |

F | |

G | |

H | |

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

See boundary line on enclosed sketch map.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Jack A. Gold

Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION

Mississippi Department of Archives and History

DATE

June, 1979

STREET & NUMBER

P. O. Box 571

TELEPHONE

(601)354-7326

CITY OR TOWN

Jackson

STATE

Mississippi

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE X

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), 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

Elmer R. Hilliard

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

August 22, 1979

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Tommy Calcutt O'Shull

DATE

11-13-79

ATTEST:

Carl + Doris

DATE

11/12/79

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 1

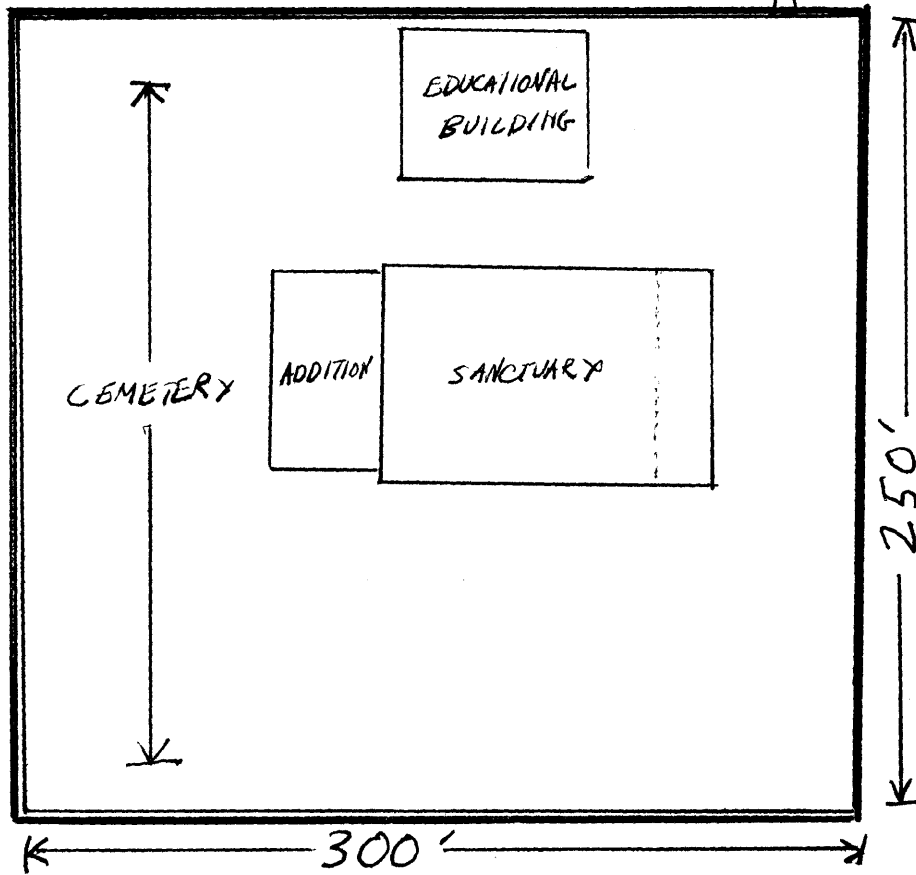
9 - MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Hollis, Daniel W. Look to the Rock. Richmond: John Knox Press, 1961.



College Church
College Hill,
Mississippi

SKETCH MAP



Boundary of nominated property: 