

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NCRS use only
received NOV 12 1980
date entered DEC 11 1980

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Grace Episcopal Church

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 203 Main Street ___ not for publication

city, town Rosedale ___ vicinity of congressional district 1st.

state Mississippi code 28 county Bolivar code 11

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Trustees of the Diocese of Mississippi

street & number P. O. Box 1636

city, town Jackson ___ vicinity of state Mississippi 39205

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Bolivar County Courthouse

street & number Office of the Chancer Clerk

city, town Rosedale state Mississippi

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date ___ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" 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

Located on Main Street in Rosedale, Mississippi, is Grace Episcopal Church, a small, one story, carpenter Gothic building set upon low brick foundation piers.

The white clapboarded frame walls are pierced by lancet windows containing stained glass (some of which is original). Encircling the building is a skirt with a simple molded cap and a wide frieze.

The center bay of the three-bay, westerly, gable-end facade is occupied by a buttressed rectangular tower with octagonal spire that more than doubles the height of the building and constitutes the main exterior ornament of the church. On each side of the tower belfry is a blind arcade and a louvered pointed arch opening capped by a drip molding all set below a steep gable. Fronting the tower is a narrow, shed-roof porch with pediment. The porch, which is supported by two Tuscan columns, shelters the double leaf entrance doors, each of which features six molded panels.

Immediately inside the doors is a vestibule with a small round window on each side wall. A rectangular opening leads onto the interior where the walls and ceiling are covered with diagonal matched boards. The nave is wainscoted with double-vertical boards. From the boxed ridge of the roof, boxed rafters extend to the eaves where they are supported by brackets rising from the top of the four pointed windows on each side of the nave.

The chancel is separated from the nave by a raised floor and a dark railing. Also, the chancel projects at the sides into transepts. An arch, supported by boxed columns at the entrance to the chancel and is the width of the center aisle, is repeated at the entrance to the narrow east-end recess containing the sanctuary. The floor of the sanctuary is raised one level to accommodate a communion rail. Behind the altar is a large wide pointed arch divided into three smaller pointed arch windows.

Original wooden furniture includes the pews, lectern, and litany desk. A marble font is located at the entrance to the nave. The altar was installed at the turn of the century, and came from St. James' Episcopal Church in Greenville, Mississippi.

Two minor alterations have occurred to the church. A vestry set in the angle of the north transept and the sanctuary is probably an addition. The front porch columns are substitutes for the original square-section posts with brackets. Aside from these two changes the building remains much as it was at the time of its construction in 1879.

The three-room rectory, which faces west, about thirty feet south of the church was built in the early 1920s to replace the 1903 rectory that burned.

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 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 1879

Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

In the architectural context of Rosedale, and Bolivar County, Mississippi, Grace Episcopal Church is an important example of the carpenter Gothic style. In this sparsely populated, agrarian Delta county few church structures were built during the nineteenth century and fewer still have survived. Thus, it is not surprising that this 1879 building is the oldest extant church in the county. Similarly, it is the finest carpenter Gothic building in the county and one of the few examples of the Gothic Revival to date from the nineteenth century. While hardly ambitious in size, and somewhat spare of ornament, the pleasing proportions of the nave, the picturesqueness of the tower and the repetition of the Gothic arch motif make this a most pleasing vernacular design.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

10. Geographical Data

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Acreege of nominated property less than 1 acre

Quadrangle name Rosedale, Ms. - Ark.

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

1	5	6	8	2	4	9	5	3	7	4	7	7	6	5
Zone			Easting				Northing							

B

Zone			Easting				Northing							

C

Zone			Easting				Northing							

D

Zone			Easting				Northing							

E

Zone			Easting				Northing							

F

Zone			Easting				Northing							

G

Zone			Easting				Northing							

H

Zone			Easting				Northing							

Verbal boundary description and justification

See attached xerox copy of Rosedale, Mississippi, Tax Map. The property is outlined in red, and the map is located in the Tax Assessor's Office, Rosedale Town Hall, Rosedale, Mississippi.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Clinton I. Bagley

organization date

street & number Box 1332 telephone 601-332-7956

city or town Greenville, state Mississippi 38701

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Elmer R. Hilliard

title State Historic Preservation Officer date October 29, 1980

For HCRS use only
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Henry W. Ray date 12/11/80
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: Just D. Dink date 12/10/80
Chief of Registration

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED NOV 12 1980

DATE ENTERED

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

CONTINUATION SHEET 1

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 1

Adams, William S. " Brief History of Grace Episcopal Church."
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Bagley, Clinton I. Research Consultant, Inspection of Grace Church,
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Historic Records Survey Project (WPA). June, 1940.

Lamar, Curt. History of Rosedale, Mississippi. Reprint Co.,
Spartanburg, Sc. 1976.

Leafcroft, Helen and Richard. Churches and Cathedrals, Their Build-
ing and Use. Penguin Books. Harmondsworth, Middlesex. 1964.

Pierson, William H. American Buildings and Their Architects (The
Corporate and the early Gothic Styles). Anchor Books. Garden
City, N.Y. 1980.