

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number _____ Page _____

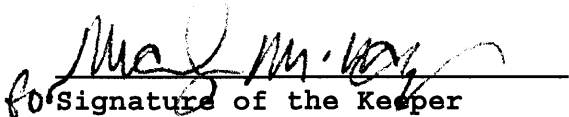
SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 97001298 **Date Listed:** 11/17/97

First Methodist Church Lincoln MISSISSIPPI
Property Name County State

N/A
Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.


Signature of the Keeper

2/1/99
Date of Action

=====
Amended Items in Nomination:

Section No. 6

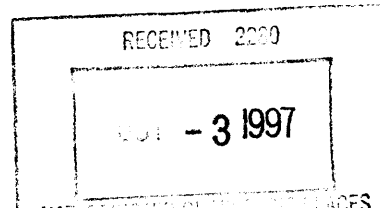
This nomination is amended to show that both the historic and current functions of this building are religious facility. Although the building combines both religious and educational functions, its description as a religious facility will make it easier for this property to be studied with others like it.

This change has been confirmed with the Mississippi SHPO.

DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

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National Park Service



1298

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name First Methodist Church

other names/site number First United Methodist Church (preferred)

2. Location

street & number 215 West Cherokee Street n/a not for publication

city or town Brookhaven n/a vicinity

state Mississippi code MS county Lincoln code 85 zip code 39601

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this 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 meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)
Kenneth H. P. Paul SEPT. 29, 1997
Signature of certifying official/Title Date
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
State of 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 official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the 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:)

Signature of the Keeper for [Signature] Date of Action 11/28/97

First United Methodist Church
Name of Property

Lincoln, MS
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>one</u>	<u>one</u>	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
<u>one</u>	<u>one</u>	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

n/a

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

n/a

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

religion: church-school

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

religion: church-school

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Classical Revival: Neo-Classical Revival

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete

walls brick

roof clay tile

other glass, wood

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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First United Methodist Church
Lincoln County, Mississippi

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

EXTERIOR

First United Methodist Church faces north at 215 West Cherokee Street in downtown Brookhaven, in Lincoln County. Built in 1916, this Neo-Classical Revival style church with interior Craftsman details retains a high degree of architectural integrity. First United Methodist Church is eligible for National Register of Historic Places listing under Criterion C and Criterion Consideration A as an excellent example of twentieth-century ecclesiastical design in the state of Mississippi. The church is a highly symmetrical, monumental brick building in a running bond, with concrete and wood trim, and a red tile roof. Of masonry construction, the church is two stories tall plus a full English basement, and features extensive use of stained glass. All elevations retain a very high degree of integrity, with nearly all of the original features and fabric intact.

The church was designed in the Neo-Classical Revival style by architect John Gaisford, and built by I.C. Garber under the supervision of Eugene McCormick, supervising architect. The facade (north) has a formal front gabled pediment with modillion blocks, full entablature, and five bay colonnaded portico. The entrance portico is articulated by six Tuscan order concrete columns. The two end columns rest on engaged brick pedestals. The recessed entrance portico is raised seven steps from grade on concrete steps, which are continuous across the north elevation. The church has a compound T plan, with a central block (north) and projecting bays (south). The facade features a complex geometric decorative motif, which is repeated on other elevations. The modillioned tympanum is brick in a checkerwork pattern. The architrave is decorated with cruciform-shaped concrete medallions, inset with a diamond shape. These are centered over each column, and also appear on the architrave return. This motif is repeated on other elevations, albeit in a simplified form. The three double-leaf, six-panel, four-light wood entry doors have fixed transoms, each with a metal patterned screen. Each door is surmounted by a concrete console table, with a decorative diamond and rectangle motif in the lintel. The two end bays are flanked by engaged concrete pilasters and punctuated by corner blocks. Each end bay has a large rectangular brick section outlined by a projecting brick course, which visually distinguishes it from the overall running bond. These sections

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are inset with two additional rectangles, also outlined by a projecting brick course, and located above and below a central cruciform-shaped detail. All of these rectangular areas are trimmed with small cornerblocks. This geometric pattern is repeated on other elevations, albeit in a simplified form. Above each of the five bays are similarly outlined brick rectangles punctuated by cornerblocks.

On the west elevation, the central block has four sets of windows and transoms, and the projecting T section has a cross-gabled roof and north-facing secondary entrance. The base and stringcourses, as well as modillioned cornice, are continuous along the entire west elevation. The entablature continues the decorative medallion motif over each window, although the form has been simplified to a diamond-within-a-rectangle. In the central block, the four windows are double-light stained glass. The transoms are single-light stained glass. All four windows and transoms are fixed and protected by plexiglas. Each window has the decorative medallion motif centered in the lintel, and is surmounted by a decorated console table, which is in turn surmounted by a patterned brick spandrel panel. The transoms have concrete lintels, corner blocks, and keystones. The first window on the northwest corner, which corresponds to the vestibule inside, is slightly smaller than the other three. The basement level has a door-window-window pattern, symmetrical with the fenestration above. The basement door is a single-leaf, glass and panel with one light, while the basement windows on the west elevation are simple double-light casements with opaque glass and no ornamentation.

The projecting T bay of the west elevation has a side entrance door (facing north), reached by a flight of twenty concrete steps. The steps are flanked by a brick wing wall with concrete cap. The single-leaf four-light wood door is topped by a transom and flanked by a single-light stained glass window. The entry is surmounted by a decorative cruciform medallion flanked by two blocks, and a double-light stained glass window. Underneath the stair is a west-facing, at-grade round arch opening with keystone, which leads to another basement entrance, flanked by a one-over-one window in the north-facing wall.

The projecting bay of the west elevation has a tripartite division. The central section also projects slightly, and features engaged brick pilasters with concrete capitals under the west-facing cross gable with a modillioned pediment. The pilasters are decorated with a

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diamond shape below the capital, while the architrave above repeats the facade's cruciform medallion. The central section of this tripartite bay has three first floor, and two second floor, double-light stained glass windows, separated by patterned brick spandrel panels, which are inset with a decorative diamond-and-rectangle motif. The second floor windows are separated by a blind window with a decorative rectangular concrete panel, flanked by cornerblocks. There are a pair of double-light stained glass windows on the first and second floors on each side of the central section. Each window has the decorative diamond motif centered in the lintel. These windows are trimmed with cornerblocks and separated by patterned brick spandrel panels. The three basement casement windows (southwest) are covered by a later addition (the 1970s youth room).

The church's rear elevation (south) has a pedimented gable end with modillions, and a pair of flanking single bays on either side of a central, slightly projecting bay. Since the grade gradually drops to the south, there are three full stories at the rear elevation. The base and stringcourse, and modillioned cornice and medallions, are continuous across this elevation. The window surrounds are less ornamented than those on other elevations and have simple lintels. The building's only chimney is located at the first bay (southwest). All second and third floor windows are stained glass; the basement casement windows are plain glazing. Starting at the first bay (southwest), both second and third floors have a double-light stained glass window with cornerblocks. In the central bay, all second and third floor stained glass windows are triple-light, except for the last pair on the southeast and southwest sides, which are double-light. The second and third floor southeast bay fenestration is identical to the southwest bay. The basement southwest bay has a double-light window, while the central bay has a door and sidelight, two single-light and a triple-light window. The southeast corner basement bay has a single-leaf, six-panel wood door and transom. The church's only altered stained glass window is on this elevation (second floor, missing two lights).

The church's side elevation (east) is identical to the west elevation.

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EDUCATION BUILDING

In 1952, a brick two-story education building was added to the church's west elevation. It faces north, with an asphalt roof, and rests on a concrete foundation. This non-contributing addition is connected to the church at the basement side entrance (west) by a one-story hallway link. The only alteration to the church involved a new door in the west wall. The new two-story section is held away from the church and does not obscure any historic windows above the basement level. There are two bands of aluminum awning windows at the first and second floors on each end bay. The center bay has a paired aluminum second floor window and a central pedimented entry at-grade.

The 1952 addition's side elevation (west) has six modern stained glass windows on the first floor (corresponding to the chapel inside) and a band of aluminum awning windows. The second floor has four bands of aluminum awning windows. The addition's rear elevation (south) is three bay, window-door-window pattern. There is an exterior metal stair from the second floor.

In the late 1970's, a one-story youth room was constructed behind the hallway link (north), filling the space between the church and 1952 addition. It abuts the church, obscuring three basement windows, but it is not physically connected.

The 1952 and 1970s additions have minimal physical connection to the church and involved very little loss of historic fabric. Although the 1970s infill abuts the church below the base course, the two-story section is held away. The education building's setback, brick cladding, and two-story scale are sympathetic with the church's size, material, and massing. The 1970s youth room is simply infill behind the north hallway link. Overall, these contemporary additions do not significantly detract from the church's integrity or architectural character.

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INTERIOR

The interior of First United Methodist Church is based the Akron plan, with a balcony, offices, and Sunday School rooms in the rear of the nave, and a full basement. The walls are clad in plaster, the floors are wood, and all wood trim and pews are pine varnished to resemble walnut. There is extensive use of leaded stained glass windows, and to a lesser extent, highly ornamented plaster detailing. Overall, the interior is an eclectic stylistic mix of the Neo-Classical Revival style and Craftsman styles. The interior retains a high degree of integrity, with most of the original features and fabric intact.

The three entry doors (north) lead into the entrance vestibule, which forms a wide hallway running the length of the building (east to west). The end walls of the vestibule each feature a triple-light stained glass window. The vestibule leads to two side aisles along the east and west walls, and then to the doors to the sanctuary. In most Akron plan churches, the most common transition is from the vestibule to the nave to the chancel, with the Sunday School behind the chancel. At First United Methodist Church, however, one enters the chancel directly from the vestibule, and the transition is vestibule to the chancel to the nave, with the Sunday School behind the nave.

Once inside the sanctuary, the double-leaf six-panel doors are topped by an elaborate table console with a pair of plaster floral swags. Above each door is a large pierced wooden screen, featuring a intricate scroll and circle pattern. There are two additional screens inside the choir loft walls (east and west). These screens hide the organ pipes. The chancel sits on a raised platform accessed by four steps, and has a paneled central pulpit and paneled chancel rail. The choir and pipe organ are separated by another paneled wood rail immediately behind the pulpit. The entire chancel is enframed by a large, ornate plaster proscenium with a pair of scrolled brackets and a stylized, naturalistic leaf motif. This plaster proscenium is, in turn, framed by a surround and pair of wood Tuscan order pilasters.

The chancel and nave have a beamed wood ceiling arranged in a geometric pattern, with a heavy molding along the perimeter of the ceiling. The beams themselves are deep, and have decorative moldings. Seven ornate brass pendant light fixtures are hung with chains

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from rosettes at the beam crossings. There are also six ceiling fans hung from poles. Four contemporary ceiling lights have been added in the nave, as well as downlights behind the chancel. The eight stained glass windows and transoms on the east and west walls feature opalescent glass in a formal geometric and floral pattern. The predominant colors are shades of amber and green-gold, with accents of pale blues, greens, and lavenders. All windows are trimmed in wood with wooden sills. The east and west walls feature eight large Tuscan order pilasters, which join a horizontal cap molding. These pilasters are centered between each window. The northwest and northeast corners have a slender version of the same pilasters.

The floor of the nave is slightly raked. The church retains all original pews, arranged in a grouping of three sections in the central block, with two flanking and two intermediary aisles. There are two additional pew sections at the rear of the nave, separated from the central section by an east-west aisle. These pews have a central and two side aisles. The compound plan widens after the central block to accommodate a pair of enclosed stair halls on the west and east walls. These stairs each have simple square spindles with a newel post. On the west side, a small elevator has been inconspicuously located in a space adjacent to the stair hall. The interior west nave wall in this location is curved; the corresponding original east wall is not.

SUNDAY SCHOOL ROOMS AND OFFICES

At the rear of the nave is a curved balcony with rooms at the nave and balcony levels. These rooms are used for offices, meeting rooms, and Sunday School, and are accessed by a series of interior doors facing the nave. Typical of Akron plan churches, these rooms were designed to provide flexible spaces to serve both worship and education; that is, the doors and windows facing the nave, as well as sliding partitions in between the rooms, could either be opened to increase seating for services, or closed for meetings and Sunday School. These rooms all have plaster walls, wood floors, and Craftsman style wood baseboard and window trim. The rear (south) and side (west and east) exterior stained glass windows in these rooms are smaller, simplified versions of the nave windows, featuring a formal, geometric design with naturalistic details.

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At the nave level, beneath the balcony, the west interior wall has three eight-over-eight double-hung windows and a single-leaf twelve-light door, which leads to the pastor's study and church office. The study has the only mantel in the building, with simple engaged colonettes, tile inset, and metal fire screen. The west exterior wall has four double-light stained glass windows.

There are three small rooms on the south interior wall, each accessed by double-leaf twelve-light French doors. Each door is flanked by two interior eight-over-eight double-hung windows. The top half of each demising wall has a large, double-sided chalkboard, which slides down into the wall cavity on a rope-and-pulley system. This unusual feature allows spatial flexibility and communication between the classrooms. The chalkboards and lower walls are treated visually as one unit, with a geometric Craftsman style surround and base. The upper chalkboards, and the plaster wall immediately above, are divided vertically with wood trim into four sections, while the lower wall is divided into eight vertical sections. There are six chalkboards, one on each west and east walls of the three rooms. In the late 1970's, two chalkboards were covered with plywood paneling (east and west walls of the financial secretary's office), and one was covered by a bookcase (east wall of the middle room). These alterations are easily reversible. The south exterior wall has four double-light and three triple-light stained glass windows.

There is an adult classroom on the east wall, which mirrors the pastor's study and church office to the west. Accessed by a single-leaf, twelve-light door, this space was originally two smaller rooms, which were altered in the late 1970s when the demising wall with its chalkboard was removed. A chalkboard is intact on the southwest wall. The room has three interior eight-over-eight double-hung windows. There is one additional interior eight-over-eight double-hung window facing the chancel (north) and a six-panel wood door connecting to the east stair hall. The east exterior wall has three double-light stained glass windows.

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BALCONY SUNDAY SCHOOL ROOMS

The balcony is accessed from the east and west stair halls through six-panel wood doors on each side. The balcony rails are curved, following the structural plan, with simple wood spindles and a molded handrail. There are no interior windows on the balcony. All rooms have plaster walls, wood floors, and Craftsman style baseboard and trim. The chalkboard walls have a Craftsman style surround and base, divided vertically by wood trim into four chalkboard sections above and eight wall sections below. Some chalkboard walls were removed in the late 1970s; in all cases, the surrounds and pulleys remain in place as cased openings.

The two west balcony rooms were altered when the demising wall with its chalkboard partition was removed to create one large space. The room is accessed by a double-leaf glass-and-panel door with nine-lights, flanked by narrow glass-and-panel sidelights with three-lights. On the interior wall (northwest corner) is a double-leaf glass-and-panel door with nine-lights, framed by a wood surround. A chalkboard is intact on the southwest demising wall. The exterior west wall has two double-light stained glass windows.

There were originally five small rooms on the balcony south wall, accessed by single-leaf glass-and-panel doors with nine-lights at either end, and three double-leaf glass-and-panel doors with nine-lights in the center. Two demising walls were removed to create two large rooms for junior high (southeast) and elementary classes (southwest), leaving one original room in the center. In the southwest classroom, there are two chalkboards: on the northwest and southeast demising walls. The latter has been covered with plywood paneling. The central room has two chalkboards, both covered by plywood paneling. The junior high classroom has two chalkboards: on the southeast and northeast demising walls. The latter has been covered with plywood paneling. The south exterior wall (rear) four double-light and four triple-light stained glass windows.

There were originally two rooms on the east wall, which were combined to make one large space. The chalkboard exists on the southeast demising wall. The door and fenestration pattern are the same as the corresponding room on the west balcony.

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BASEMENT

The basement serves as additional meeting, Sunday School, and utilitarian space. As such, it is plain and unornamented. All walls are plaster, with linoleum floors or carpet, simple doors and woodwork, and contemporary lighting. The basement's central space is Fellowship Hall, an open assembly area. The kitchen is located to the north, and has a Craftsman style built-in cupboard with glazed doors. The kitchen can also be accessed through exterior doors on the east and west elevations. Fellowship Hall was originally flanked by three rooms on either side (east and west). There are now five rooms because one demising wall was removed on the southeast side. These rooms function as a library and adult classrooms; each is separated from the open area by a double pair of hinged glass-and-panel nine-light doors, which fold flat to enlarge Fellowship Hall. In the middle of the building is a lateral hallway, connecting to the east and west interior stair halls and exterior stairs. The rear (south) of the basement is accessed by a north-south hallway. There is a central parlor, day care rooms, and a boiler room on the south wall, and a storage room on the east wall. Except for the parlor, all of these rooms have exterior windows and/or doors on the west, south, and east elevations. The three side (west) basement windows are covered with gypsum-board infill where the church abuts the 1970s youth room.

EDUCATIONAL BUILDING

The 1952 building first floor plan has two hallways: one connects to the church on the north and runs east-west, and the second central hall runs north-south. The entrance vestibule is a two-story space. On the west side is a small chapel with six red and blue stained glass windows. The central hall is parallel to the front entry. The first floor has interior stairs and mechanical rooms (east) as well as several rooms on the south elevation (rear). The second floor has a central hall and rooms for offices, Sunday School, and choir practice. It has an exterior stair. The youth room is located in-between the 1952 addition and the church, and is one large open space, with a separate entry on the rear (south).

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OUTBUILDINGS

At the rear of the church (south), is a circa 1960 one-story brick storage structure.

SITE

The church sits on land that slopes gently from north to south. There are side lawns and foundation plantings (east and west) with playground equipment and several trees in the rear yard (south). The 1952 addition has a front sidewalk and foundation plantings. There is no evidence of any historic landscape features. Parking is off-site.

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.)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or 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.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(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 # _____

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

architecture

Period of Significance

1916-1917

Significant Dates

1916-1917

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

n/a

Cultural Affiliation

n/a

Architect/Builder

John Gaisford, architect

Eugene McCormick, supervising architect

I.C. Garber, builder

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

First United Methodist Church files

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The First United Methodist Church has statewide significance under Criterion C and Criterion Consideration A for architecture as a well-designed and well-preserved example of a Neo-Classical Revival style church with interior Craftsman details of the early twentieth century. Built in 1916, and enlarged in 1952 and the 1970s, the First United Methodist Church is one of only four major institutional, civic, or religious buildings of this style and period in Brookhaven, and it is certainly one of the most intact. The other major Neo-Classical Revival buildings in Brookhaven listed on the National Register of Historic Places include the 1910 Old City Hall, listed 6/16/83, and the 1911 U.S. Post Office, listed 10/28/83. The 1914 Lampton Auditorium, on the former campus of Whitworth College, is also designed in the Neo-Classical Revival style. It is located directly across West Cherokee Street from First United Methodist Church, and is potentially eligible for the National Register.

The history of First United Methodist Church is closely linked with that of Milton J. Whitworth, an early settler who was instrumental in the founding and growth of Brookhaven. Whitworth, a staunch Methodist, donated land and money for the first United Methodist Church building, built in 1857, and land for the second United Methodist Church building, built in 1904. Whitworth again donated land and money to establish a Methodist school for young ladies in Brookhaven. The founding of the college in 1858 by Whitworth and the Methodist community gave great impetus to the expansion of the church, especially in view of the fact that the student body was required to attend Sunday services. The College's social and cultural functions likewise invigorated the community for many years. Whitworth College was operated by the Methodist Church until 1938, when it merged with Millsaps College.

Other ecclesiastical architecture in Brookhaven includes the one-story frame 1896 Temple B'nai Sholom and the late Victorian Catholic Church. The latter is sheathed in aluminum siding and has lost most of its interior integrity. The brick 1906 First Presbyterian Church is an eclectic Gothic style. The 1914 First Baptist Church was designed in the Neo-Classical Revival style, but has suffered extensive interior removals and a massive new

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addition. None of these are comparable to First United Methodist Church either stylistically, or in terms of integrity.

First United Methodist is also significant as one of the best remaining intact examples of early twentieth century Neo-Classical Revival churches in south central Mississippi, based on information available in the Mississippi Department of Archives and History statewide index of "Architecturally Notable Churches and Synagogues in Mississippi."¹ The index identifies only three other comparable churches in an eight county area (defined here as those counties contiguous with Lincoln: Copiah, Lawrence, Walthall, Pike, Amite, Franklin, and Jefferson Counties). They are the 1919 First United Methodist Church and the 1926 Presbyterian Church, both listed in the Crystal Springs National Register Historic District, in Copiah County on 3/14/97, and the 1925 First Baptist Church in Hazlehurst, which has been identified in the statewide survey as potentially eligible for the National Register. All three churches are brick with colonnaded porticos, and have modest exterior detail and ornamentation.

The Neo-Classical Revival style was used in ecclesiastical architecture in Mississippi from approximately 1905 to 1925. While there are approximately sixty churches of this style and period identified in the Mississippi statewide inventory, there are fewer than a dozen listed on the National Register as contributing elements in a historic district, and none are listed individually.

The First United Methodist Church is a very accomplished example of Neo-Classical Revival, with its formal front gabled pediment with modillion blocks, full entablature, and five bay Tuscan order columns. This symmetrically arranged building of monumental proportions is enlivened by materials with contrasting color and texture (red brick, concrete, wood), and a complex geometric decorative motif with ornamental brickwork. The church exterior retains a very high degree of integrity, with nearly all of its features and fabric intact.

¹ "Architecturally Notable Churches and Synagogues in Mississippi," National Register Files, MDAH, Jackson, MS.

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The interior of First United Methodist Church is an impressive example of an Akron plan church, with balcony, offices, and Sunday School rooms at the rear of the nave. The plan is unusual in that the entrance vestibule leads directly to the sanctuary, rather than to the nave. The Sunday School rooms were designed to provide flexible spaces to serve both worship and education; that is, the interior doors, windows, and sliding partitions in-between the rooms could either be opened to increase seating for services, or closed for meetings and Sunday School.

The interior is also distinguished by an eclectic mix of the Neo-Classical Revival and Craftsman styles. Although many of the nave's rich decorative details, including the proscenium, stained glass windows, and ornamented plaster reflect the Neo-Classical Revival style, the geometric use of visually dominant dark pilasters and beams juxtaposed against the plaster walls convey a strong sense of the Craftsman style. In the Sunday School rooms and offices, the Craftsman style is dominant in the woodwork and sliding chalkboard walls. The interior retains a high degree of integrity, with most of the original features and fabric intact.

Alterations and additions to First United Methodist Church occurred in 1952 and the late 1970s. In 1952, a brick two-story education building was added to the church's west elevation, connected to the church through a new door in the west basement wall and a one-story hallway link. In the late 1970s, the empty space in-between the hallway and education building was infilled to create a youth room. Although this room abuts the church below the base course, it is not physically connected. The additions have minimal physical connection to the church and involved very little loss of historic fabric. The education building's setback, brick cladding, and two-story scale are sympathetic with the church's size, material, and massing. The 1970s youth room is simply infill behind the north hallway link. Taken together, these non-contributing contemporary additions do not significantly detract from the church's integrity or architectural character.

All interior alterations occurred in the late 1970s. They included the addition of an elevator inside a wall cavity, unobtrusively located next to the west stair hall. Five (of fifteen) demising chalkboard walls were removed in the Sunday School rooms. Where these walls were removed, the Craftsman surrounds remain in place as a cased openings.

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Three individual chalkboard partitions are covered with reversible materials. One demising wall was removed in the basement. The three west basement windows that abut the youth room are infilled by gypsum-board. All interior alterations have been handled sensitively and do not detract from the church's integrity or architectural character.

First United Methodist Church was designed by John Gaisford, architect, of Memphis Tennessee. Gaisford was born in Warminster, England in 1876 and educated in London. In 1901, he emigrated to the United States and settled in Memphis in 1905. Gaisford was elected to the American Institute of Architects in 1915, and died in Memphis in 1918.² He was the architect for at least fifteen churches in the South, as well as hospitals, schools, courthouses, institutional buildings, and numerous residences.³ In Mississippi, Gaisford was the architect for the 1912 Como Methodist Church, in Como, Panola County, the 1913-14 (Old) Mississippi Baptist Hospital in Jackson (not extant), and the 1914 First Baptist Methodist Church in Columbia, Marion County.⁴

Eugene McCormick, supervising architect of First United Methodist Church, was born in Brookhaven in 1870. He was a self-taught architect and builder, and died in 1954. According to his granddaughter, Mrs. John McNeil, McCormick worked on Brookhaven's Old Masonic Lodge (not extant), the Y-Hut at Whitworth College, a number of Brookhaven homes built during the early 1900s, as well as buildings at Copiah-Lincoln Junior College at Wesson.⁵ The Mississippi Department of Archives and History files reveal that McCormick also worked on the remodeling of the Lawrence County Courthouse in Monticello in 1924.⁶

An early settlement in the Brookhaven area was established sometime before 1818, when Samuel Jayne emigrated to Mississippi from Brookhaven, Long Island, New York. He and his brothers pre-empted land from the Government along the Bogue Chitto River, and

² Thomas Dies, Building Ordinances of Memphis, (Memphis, TN, P.Douglass, 1913), p. viii.

³ J.L. Herndon, "Architects in Tennessee," (MA thesis, Columbia University, 1975).

⁴ "Survey of Architects Working in Mississippi," National Register Files, MDAH, Jackson, MS.

⁵ McNeil, Mrs. John. Interviewed by Russell Burns, Brookhaven, MS., April 26, 1997.

⁶ "Survey of Architects Working in Mississippi," National Register Files, MDAH, Jackson, MS.

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established a post office, a store, and a mill in the new "Brookhaven." Milton Jacob Whitworth was a neighbor of the Jaynes, and owned a large plantation to the west of the their holdings. Born in Tennessee in 1811, he moved to Mississippi, where he proved to be a progressive-minded individual with commercial and cultural vision.

The coming of the railroad in the 1850s precipitated rapid growth in the Bogue Chitto River Valley after a route from New Orleans to Canton, Mississippi was proposed by the New Orleans, Jackson, and Great Northern Railroad. Whitworth made an offer of \$1000 to Ezekiel Hudnall for his land if the railroad came through the property. In 1856, purchasing agents for the railroad approached Samuel Jayne, but he refused to sell land. Whitworth offered a right-of-way through his new 320 acre property, purchased from Hudnall, and the railroad secured a change of course. Whitworth laid out a site for a new town, which included a strip of land for the railroad 300 feet wide and 2000 feet long. This donation was contingent on the condition that all passenger trains stop at its station. By 1857, settlers began arriving in the new town, and the name Brookhaven was appropriated from Jayne's original village a few miles away. In March 1858, the first train rumbled through Brookhaven.

The First United Methodist Church was organized in 1857. The first building (not extant) was a simple front gabled structure with a steeple and single room. The \$3000 cost for the land and hand-dressed lumber was a gift from Whitworth. By 1859, the Brookhaven District of the Methodist Church was formed. Whitworth anticipated future expansion for the church, and in 1864, deeded two additional lots for that purpose.

Whitworth again donated land and money to establish a Methodist school for young ladies in Brookhaven. This college replaced Elizabeth Academy, in Washington, Mississippi after it was destroyed by fire. Elizabeth Academy, founded in 1818, was the first college in the nation granting degrees to women. In 1858, Whitworth entered into a partnership with Henry J. Harris, a Methodist pastor in Claiborne County, to establish a female college. Whitworth, who owned the land, deeded Harris a one-half interest, except for the land where the Methodist Church stood. The college opened in 1859 as the Brookhaven College for Young Ladies. Designed by architect Alfred Elliot Moreton, the campus

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included a park-like setting. By 1860, friction had developed Whitworth and Harris, and Whitworth declared himself sole proprietor and changed the name to Whitworth College.

The First Methodist Church continued to grow and was filled to overflowing by the congregation, Whitworth College students, and Sunday school pupils. Plans for expansion resulted in the second First Methodist Church building (not extant), completed in 1904 at a cost of nearly \$12,000 on land donated by Whitworth. The brick Gothic Revival structure featured a large auditorium and lancet windows.

By 1910, the town grew with new Mississippi Central Railroad, built to facilitate the growth of the lumber and sawmill industries. New banks and industries were established and a library and hospital were constructed. The concomitant rapid growth of First Methodist's Sunday School program prompted yet another building campaign, and in December 1916 the cornerstone of the third Methodist Church was laid on a lot on Cherokee Street across the street from the old church. The opening ceremonies were held in June 1917. The cost of the building was \$43,484, which included \$5000 for the lot, \$2500 for the seating, \$1200 for the windows, and \$500 for the lighting. In 1927, the congregation installed a pipe organ.

The Sunday School continued to grow rapidly, and in 1951 a contract was let to Moreton and Pell General Contractors for a new educational building. Designed by John Bishop Seavey, the building opened in 1952 at a cost of nearly \$100,000.

Today, the First United Methodist Church is worthy of individual listing in the National Register of Historic Places in the state of Mississippi as an elegant building that embodies the architectural vocabulary, design principles, and craftsmanship of the Neo-Classical Revival style. Further, its eclectic interior reflects both the Neo-Classical Revival and Craftsman styles. It retains a very high degree of architectural integrity of design and workmanship, as well as integrity of location, setting, feeling, and association.

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10. Geographical DataAcreage of Property less than 1 acre**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1 5	7 4 2 4 2 0	3 4 9 6 3 7 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing
2			

3			
	Zone	Easting	Northing
4			

 See continuation sheet**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 Byname/title C.W. Adams Architectural Historianorganization n/a date June 1, 1997street & number 626 Mohawk Ave. telephone 601-981-2640city or town Jackson state MS zip code 39216**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 SHPO or FPO.)

name MS Annual Conference of the United Methodist Churchstreet & number 321 Mississippi St. telephone 601-354-0515city or town Jackson state MS zip code 39202**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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First United Methodist Church
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BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

In Block M of the City of Brookhaven, Mississippi, the west 70 feet of Lots 1 and 2, and the west 70 feet of the north 35 feet of Lot 3, and the west half of Lot 4 and west half of the south fifteen feet of Lot 3 and the east 30 feet of Lot 16.

Justification:

City of Brookhaven Tax Collector's Office description of land upon which sits the nominated property.

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First United Methodist Church
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PHOTOS

For all photos:

First United Methodist Church
Brookhaven, Lincoln County, Mississippi
Mickey Wallis
May 1997
Mississippi Department of Archives and History

EXTERIOR

Photo #

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 | Church facade (north), view to south |
| 2 | Church side elevation (west), view to east |
| 3 | Education building facade (north), view to southeast |
| 4 | Education building side elevation (west), view to east |
| 5 | Church rear elevation (south), view to north |
| 6 | Church side elevation (east), view to west |
| 7 | Storage building, view to south |

INTERIOR

Photo #

- | | |
|----|--|
| 8 | Sanctuary and chancel , view to north |
| 9 | Door surround and pierced screen in sanctuary, view to north |
| 10 | Detail, door table console and plaster swags, view to north |
| 11 | Chancel plaster proscenium, screen, and table console, view to northeast |
| 12 | Detail chancel plaster proscenium, view to north |
| 13 | Stained glass window, sanctuary, view to west |
| 14 | Stained glass transom, sanctuary, view to west |
| 15 | Brass pendant light, sanctuary, view straight up |

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First United Methodist Church
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Photo #

- | | |
|----|---|
| 16 | Sanctuary, balcony, and Sunday school rooms, view to south |
| 17 | Balcony and Sunday school rooms, view to southeast |
| 18 | Chalkboard partition wall in Sunday School room, view to east |
| 19 | Stained glass window, 1 st floor Sunday School room, view to south |
| 20 | Fellowship hall, basement, view to north |
| 21 | Sunday school room doors, basement, view to east |
| 22 | Parlor, basement, view to southeast |