

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

NATIONAL
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Holy Innocents' Episcopal Church
other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number SW Corner of Main Street and Craig Street n/a not for publication
city, town Como n/a vicinity
state Mississippi code MS county Panola code 107 zip code 38619

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<u> </u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u> </u>	<u> </u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u> </u>	<u> </u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> objects
			<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:
N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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. See continuation sheet.

Yemeth H. P. Pool September 30, 1987
Signature of certifying official Date

DSHPO Mississippi Department of Archives and History
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. 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:)

Adams Byers 11-5-87
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Religion/religious structure

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Religion/religious structure

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Gothic

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation stucco

walls weatherboard

roof slate

other N/A

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

Situated on 0.53 of an acre and encircled by a cast iron fence, Holy Innocents' Episcopal Church of Como faces east onto Main Street. Built in 1872 in the Carpenter Gothic style, the small, one-story church with steeply pitched cross-gabled roof is cruciform in plan and has a 1944 addition to the rear. The building is raised on stuccoed brick piers and is finished with white clapboards, projecting baseboards and slender, tapered wooden buttresses.

The front-gabled main (east) facade contains a centered entrance porch flanked by stained glass lancet windows and surmounted by a circular window. This circular window, which is said to have inspired the name of the church, is a stained glass memorial given by Mrs. N.R. Sledge, Sr., in the name of her grandchildren Katie and Tommy Hunter in memory of their mother who died in 1870 (Parish Register, Holy Innocents' Episcopal Church, on microfilm at the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson). The porch, which is carried by four short square posts, has a pointed arched opening surmounted by a trefoil. At the peak of the porch roof is a wooden cross.

The gable ends of the building are trimmed with a wide, simple raked entablature, which on the main facade is further decorated with paired brackets. The roofing material was originally cypress shingles but is now slate.

Buttresses frame the front facade and punctuate the five bays of the north and south elevations of the nave section of the church. A tall, narrow, rectangular stained-glass window capped by a label and surrounded by plain trim and sill occupies each bay. The gabled transept has a lower roof line than the nave and contains two single-leaf entrances topped with labels on its east elevation and a rectangular stained-glass window with label and plain trim and sill on both its north and south elevations. The chancel contains a large, pointed-arched, stained-glass window with plain trim and moulding on its west elevation. The rear addition, which was built in 1944, houses the Sunday school and parish house. The addition is a frame, gable-roofed structure on the southwest corner which neither contributes to the significance of the building nor detracts from it.

Immediately inside the main entrance is the nave, with plastered walls and wainscoting of vertical stained boards. Straight beams extending from the apex of the ceiling are connected to curved, carved beams which continue midway down the wall to create transverse arches.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Holy Innocents' Episcopal Church, Como, Panola County, Mississippi

Section number 7 Page 1

These arches and the ceiling are dark stained wood.

The chancel is separated from the nave by an elevated floor and wooden railing. A pointed arch supported by columns frames the entrance to the chancel and is flanked on either side by a smaller pointed arch, the one on the north being a blind arch. The ceiling of the chancel is also of stained wood and has plain decorative beams. The lectern and pulpit of burnished brass are original to the building.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1873

Significant Dates

1873

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Architect: Cook, James B.
Builder: Johnson, Andrew

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

Holy Innocents' Episcopal Church derives its significance from its architectural character, being one of the most sophisticated of the few Carpenter Gothic style churches remaining in Mississippi (Criterion C). Also significant is the fact that the church was built by Andrew Johnson, a prolific and creative north Mississippi contractor and architect of the late nineteenth century, whose work is described in the National Register of Historic Places thematic nomination, "The Architecture of Andrew Johnson in North Mississippi." (Because the church was not designed by Johnson, this nomination is not being submitted as part of the thematic nomination.) Early in his Mississippi career, Johnson served as contractor on at least three Panola County buildings designed by James B. Cook, an English architect based in Memphis. Of these three buildings, only Holy Innocents' Episcopal Church in Como survives.

As early as 1860, efforts were made to establish an Episcopal church in Como; however, it was not until 1872 that Holy Innocents' Episcopal Church was organized by Rev. William S. Speirs. The congregation, feeling the need for a building in which to worship, placed N. R. Sledge, Jr., in charge of collecting the necessary funds. A lot containing 0.53 of an acre was donated by Colonel and Mrs. Monroe Pointer; and although only \$1,500 had been donated for building the church, it was decided to commence construction. The cornerstone was laid December 25, 1872, and the building was completed within the next year. Because the church was deeply in debt, N. R. Sledge and Sons assumed all liabilities and the church was consecrated on October 21, 1873, by Bishop Green. (Parish Register, Holy Innocents' Episcopal Church, on microfilm at Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson).

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Holy Innocents' Episcopal Church. Parish Register. Microfilm copy at Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson, MS.

(This nomination is based on a draft submitted by Mr. Ruffin Sledge Davis of Vicksburg, MS., 1987.)

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 # _____

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property less than one acre.

UTM References

A

1	6
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2	2	9	9	2	0
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3	8	2	2	9	1	5
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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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D

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Lot 30, Block 9, Town of Como, Mississippi

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The property consists of the city lot which the building has occupied since its construction.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Brenda Rubach and Richard Cawthon
organization Mississippi Dept. of Archives & History date July 24, 1987
street & number P. O. Box 571 telephone (601) 354-7326
city or town Jackson state MS zip code 39205