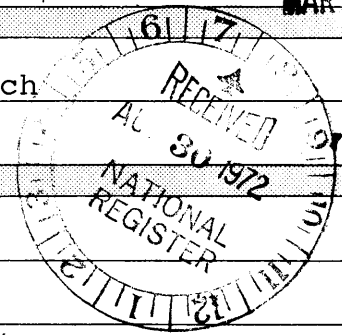


STATE: Mississippi  
 COUNTY: Jefferson  
 FOR NPS USE ONLY  
 ENTRY NUMBER:      DATE: MAR 20 1973

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)



**1. NAME**  
 COMMON: Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church  
 AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**  
 STREET AND NUMBER:  
 CITY OR TOWN: Rodney  
 STATE: Mississippi 39158      CODE: 28      COUNTY: Jefferson      CODE: 063

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>Vacant, restoration planned.</u>

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**  
 OWNER'S NAME: Rodney Foundation, Inc.  
 c/o Mrs. J. O. Jones, President  
 STREET AND NUMBER: P. O. Drawer 280  
 CITY OR TOWN: Gulfport      STATE: Mississippi 39501      CODE: 28

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**  
 COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Office of the Chancery Clerk  
 STREET AND NUMBER: Jefferson County Courthouse  
 CITY OR TOWN: Fayette      STATE: Mississippi 39069      CODE: 28

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**  
 TITLE OF SURVEY: Historic American Buildings Survey  
 DATE OF SURVEY: April, 1972       Federal       State       County       Local  
 DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Division of Prints and Photographs  
 STREET AND NUMBER: Library of Congress  
 CITY OR TOWN: Washington      STATE: District of Columbia      CODE: 08

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Mississippi  
 COUNTY: Jefferson  
 ENTRY NUMBER: MAR 20 1973  
 DATE:      FOR NPS USE ONLY

## 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)

 Excellent     Good     Fair     Deteriorated     Ruins     Unexposed

(Check One)

 Altered     Unaltered

(Check One)

 Moved     Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church is a small carpenter gothic structure, measuring only 26 feet by 56 feet, which has been graphically described by Eudora Welty as, "A little Catholic church tiny as a matchbox, with twin steeples carved like icing over a stile in a flowery pasture."

The structure's simple rectangular plan contains a vestibule under a belfry, a nave, and a chancel containing a sanctuary in the recess formed by two rooms at the east end (probably, a sacristy and an acolyte chamber). The eastern section containing the sanctuary and the two rooms, like the main body of the church, has a gable roof, board and batten exterior walls, a molded eave board, and a projecting baseboard with a simple molded cap. However, certain architectural details indicate that the eastern section is a later addition. Its roof is several feet lower, and at the juncture of the two sections the battens are wider and the baseboard is butt jointed. The rear section was once supported by posts which have been replaced by brick piers to match the rest of the building. The cornice for the addition is a simple board but that on the rest of the church is cut out between each batten to form a straight-sided pointed arch. In addition, the two side windows, one lighting the sacristy and the other the acolyte chamber, have simple rectangular frames enclosing sash windows (six over six) while all openings in the main section of the church are capped by drip moldings over straight-sided pointed arches. Both the north and south elevations contain three windows of this shape, each divided by a vertical member into two tall narrow sash windows (eight over ten). The vertical divider splits at the top, giving the rectilinear pointed arch shape to the top of each of the sash windows and forming a single central diamond pane above them.

On the facade, a center belfry, which houses the original bell, rises above the gable. At the corners of the belfry and facade, slightly projecting pilasters rest on the baseboard and extend up beyond the walls, forming four sided pedestals for pinnacles. Pinnacles still crown the pilasters which flank the facade, but those on the belfry have been lost along with the battlements which ran between the belfry pilaster extensions.

On the north and south elevations of the belfry are louvered openings in frames like those of the nave windows. On the east side of the belfry, above the entrance and also in each side of the entrance are windows identical to those of the nave. The entrance doorway is recessed between the pilasters which rise to form the corners of the belfry. Under a horizontal wooden molding, the drip molding of the door frame and the two panelled leaves of the door repeat the shape and tracery division of the windows. According to an early photograph (ca. 1900), the exterior was painted white except for the foundation board, the window trim, the pilasters, and portions of the pinnacles

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Mississippi	
COUNTY	
Jefferson	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	MAR 26 1973

(Number all entries)

7.  
and battlements, which were painted a dark color.

Immediately inside the door is the vestibule with side walls corresponding to the belfry walls above. Through a door opening, is a rectangular room with plaster walls, and a flat matched board ceiling. The room is divided into nave and chancel by a dark wood railing. On the east wall, two side altars flank a wooden pointed arch which frames the sanctuary recess. The plaster vault of the sanctuary continues the shape of this arch to the rear wall of the recess. The floor of the sanctuary is raised in two levels. Two doors, one on each side wall of the sanctuary, lead to the sacristy chambers. At the rear of the south sacristy a doorway opens onto the exterior.

Original wooden furniture includes the pews, the high altar and two side altars; a gothic confessional at the west end, to one side of the vestibule, is out of character with the symmetry of the rest of the building and is probably a later addition. The 1870 rectory which was located to the north of the church was razed at an undetermined date. Presently all the windows and the rear entrance have been boarded for protection until funds become available to restore Sacred Heart Church to its original state.



8. SIGNIFICANCE

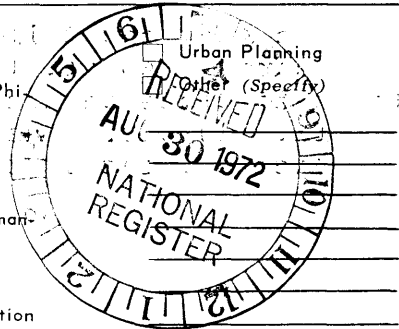
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian     16th Century     18th Century     20th Century  
 15th Century     17th Century     19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1868**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |   |   |   |
|--|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input type="checkbox"/> Political                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | Other (Specify) _____                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science                        | _____                                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture                      | _____                                   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian            | _____                                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater                        | _____                                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation                 | _____                                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |   | _____                                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            |   |   | _____                                   |



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church at Rodney, Mississippi, was built in 1868, when the once flourishing river town was beginning to decline due to a change in the course of the Mississippi River. According to the Baptismal Record at Our Lady of Sorrows Cathedral (commonly referred to as St. Mary's), Natchez, the Catholics at Rodney were visited by Father James, John, or Jean Francois on June 20, 1844, and by the Vicar-General, Blease Raho on May 11, 1851. (It is probable, though unconfirmed, that the clergy visited Rodney more often than once every seven years).

Although there is no recorded organized activity of the Rodney Catholics until 1867, they were evidently served by the priest at Port Gibson, approximately 20 miles northeast of Rodney. On January 30, 1861, Bishop William Henry Elder wrote Rev. Philip Huber of Port Gibson: "You ought to visit the Crane and Schroeber families at Rodney before coming to Natchez." Bishop Elder's communique indicates there was some minor activity among the Rodney Catholics before the Civil War.

According to the records at the Natchez-Jackson-Diocese Archives, the Rev. Charles Van Queckelberge of Port Gibson assisted at Rodney prior to the building of the Sacred Heart church. Father Van Queckelberge wrote Bishop Elder, January, 1867, "We have secured church grounds at Rodney, Mr. Serdis' lot. The people are in pretty good spirits. I think we will be able to carry the thing through." Evidently this transaction was not carried out since the present church property was purchased from George Hay, November 14, 1867. Unfortunately, there are no church records pertaining to Sacred Heart between January, 1867 and possibly July, 1868 when the church was being constructed; however, the papers (diaries and ledgers) of Patrick Murphy (1830-1925), who built the church, are housed at the Department of Archives, Louisiana State University. This collection reveals that Murphy also acted as mediator and benefactor for the purchase of the church property. His entry on October 6, 1867, reads: "Sunday went to Mass only a few men present...settled the question with Mr. G. Hays [sic], 500 dollars for 200 feet front on Comerse [sic] Street running back to creek shaped this" (a penciled sketch of church property is included in this

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Correspondence with The Most Reverend Charles P. Greco, the Bishop of Alexandria, P. O. Box 5665, Alexandria, Louisiana 71301, December 3, 1971.  
 Historic American Buildings Survey. "Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church," April, 1972; 6 photographs.  
 "Index to Diocesan Archives (Natchez), 1837-1941," (Typescript), IX, 340-350. Chancery Office, Catholic Diocese of Natchez-Jackson, Inc., 237 E. Amite Street, Jackson, Mississippi.

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	0' 0" 0"	0' 0" 0"		31° 51' 26"	91° 11' 56"	
NE	0' 0" 0"	0' 0" 0"				
SE	0' 0" 0"	0' 0" 0"				
SW	0' 0" 0"	0' 0" 0"				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **One acre**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
**Clinton Ikerd Bagley, Junior Historian**

ORGANIZATION: **Mississippi Department of Archives and History**      DATE: **August 22, 1972**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Post Office Box 571**

CITY OR TOWN: **Jackson**      STATE: **Mississippi 39205**      CODE: **28**

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

**NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name **R. A. McLemore**      *R.A.*  
**R. A. McLemore**

Title **Director, Miss. Dept. of Archives and History**

Date **August 22, 1972**

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

*Robert M. Utley*  
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date **8/20/73**

ATTEST: *[Signature]*  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date **8.13.73**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Mississippi	
COUNTY Jefferson	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	1973

(Number all entries)

8. entry). The following day Murphy wrote: "Went to Rodney got the correct lines of church he agreed to pay \$300 down. Found no money so I got my self in a Scrape." Shortly after the property was acquired by Bishop Elder for \$500, construction was initiated. The exact date the church was occupied is not known, except that Father Van Queckelberge wrote Bishop Elder in 1868 (no month given), stating that he expected to have the church ready for use by the first Sunday in August. On December 14, 1868, Father Van Queckelberge again wrote Bishop Elder reporting that "There is nothing there (Rodney) but the body of the Church, and a little one besides. It is not plastered. Still we use it. It is \$200 in debt."

Murphy's diary for 1867-1868 contains occasional, though almost illegible, references to the construction of the church, most of which are entries recording payments to his workers for their services. In the entries made between February and April, 1867, he occasionally mentioned making fronts on side elevations, and painting the frames. One entry for late 1868 reveals that T. Dohan brought a bell "for our little church worth \$300." Unfortunately, the Murphy papers do not contain any drawings or plans for the church nor the source of its design. After Murphy completed his work on the church, he continued his construction activities in the Rodney area, and acted as sexton for the mission. According to his diaries and correspondence with the clergy, he built a priest's house in late 1870, and collected rent from a house on the church property.

In mid-1869, Father Van Queckelberge was transferred, due to bad health, to a coastal parish, an action which provoked the Rodney Congregation. So intense were the congregation's feelings for Father Van Queckelberge that they sent a petition to Bishop Elder asking that Father Van Queckelberge be retained. During the summer of 1870, Father Philip Huber returned to Rodney and Port Gibson, where he remained approximately a year. During his pastorate, the afore-mentioned priest's house was constructed. Also, in 1870, the mission received a Christmas gift from the Society at Brussels for Poor Churches (Society for the Propagation of the Faith) for being one of the most destitute churches in the diocese. It is thought that this gift contained the vestments and altar hangings. In 1871, Father Huber reported to Bishop Elder that the value of the church, lot and house was approximately \$3500 (Index to Diocesan Archives [Natchez], 1837-1941, p. 342).

For approximately the next eight years the mission was occasionally served by several priests. According to the entries

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

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Mississippi	
COUNTY Jefferson	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	1972

(Number all entries)

8.  
in the Index to Diocesan Archives (Natchez), 1837-1941, page 346, a school operated at the church in the late 1870s. The Diocesan records also indicate that the school created a financial drain on the treasury, and the parents of the children were levied a certain amount per month to compensate for the cost incurred. (This was a vast undertaking when the economy of the community was declining).

In 1894, the church was the setting for the christening of the future Most Reverend Bishop Charles P. Greco, Bishop of the Diocese of Alexandria (Louisiana). Bishop Greco was the first Mississippian to become a Roman Catholic Bishop.

During the flood of 1927, the church was damaged but repaired the following year. By 1933 the population of Rodney had diminished to less than a hundred. By 1957 there were only seven communicants at Sacred Heart and services were discontinued that year. On February 25, 1969, the Natchez-Jackson Diocese deeded the property to the Rodney Foundation, Inc., for restoration. Presently the church is awaiting restoration when funds become available. Sacred Heart is probably the most outstanding of the few remaining examples of carpenter gothic church architecture in Mississippi.



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE		Mississippi	
COUNTY		Jefferson	
FOR NPS USE ONLY			
ENTRY NUMBER		DATE	
		MAR 20 1973	

(Number all entries)

9.  
Interviews:

The Most Reverend Richard O. Gerow, S.T.D., L.L.D.  
(Retired Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Natchez-Jackson,  
Inc.), 237 E. Amite Street, Jackson, Mississippi,  
February-July 1972.

Mrs. J. O. Jones, President, Rodney Foundation, Inc.  
P. O. Drawer 280, Gulfport, Mississippi, December 3, 1971,  
and July 18, 1972.

Miss Ellen McNamara, Secretary to Bishop Gerow, Diocesan  
Archives, 237 E. Amite Street, Jackson, Mississippi,  
February-July, 1972.

Mr. John M. Montgomery, AIA, Jackson, Mississippi,  
November 1971-July 1972.

Logan, Marie T. Mississippi-Louisiana Border Country.  
Baton Rouge: Claitor's Publishing Division, 1970. Pp. 89-90  
and 104.

Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson,  
Mississippi: "Rodney" Picture File.

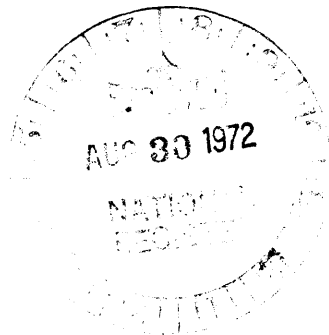
Murphy (Patrick) Papers, Department of Archives, Louisiana State  
University, Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Office of the Chancery Clerk, Jefferson County Courthouse,  
Fayette, Mississippi. Deed Book L, pp. 565-567, and Deed  
Book 5K, pp. 366-368.

Personal inspection by Clinton Ikerd Bagley, November 11, 1971.

Pillar, James J., O.M.I. The Catholic Church in Mississippi,  
1837-65. New Orleans: Hauser Press, 1964. P. 8.

Welty, Eudora. "Some Notes on River Country," The Romantic South.  
Edited by Harnett T. Kane. New York: Coward-McCann, Inc.,  
1961. P. 352.





10/8/87

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

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Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church  
~~Claiborne~~ County, MS

*Jefferson*

REMOVAL APPROVED

Keeper

*Amy Schulz* 11/23/87

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NOTE:

This nomination is a resubmission  
for a listed property that has been  
moved.

October 8, 1987  
NATIONAL REGISTER

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

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 Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church

other names/site number Confederate Memorial Chapel

### 2. Location

street & number Grand Gulf Military Monument Park  N/A not for publication

city, town Port Gibson (approx. 7 miles SW)  vicinity

state Mississippi code MS county Claiborne code 21 zip code 39150

### 3. Classification

#### Ownership of Property

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

#### Category of Property

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

#### Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>1</u>	<u>      </u> buildings
<u>      </u>	<u>      </u> sites
<u>      </u>	<u>      </u> structures
<u>      </u>	<u>      </u> objects
<u>1</u>	<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.

Kenneth H. P. Pool  
Signature of certifying official

9/25/87  
Date

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer - Miss. Dept. of Archives & 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:)

Amy Schlagel

11/23/87

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 Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation brick  
walls weatherboard  
roof shake  
other N/A

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

Moved from its original location in Rodney, Mississippi, in 1983, the Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church is now situated on a prominent hill, facing southwest, in the Grand Gulf Military Monument Park near Port Gibson. The small Carpenter Gothic structure measures only 26 feet by 56 feet and is supported by brick foundation piers. The structure is rectangular in shape and contains a vestibule under a belfry, a nave, and a chancel containing a sanctuary in the recess formed by a sacristy and an acolyte chamber. The northeastern section containing the sanctuary and the two rooms, like the main body of the church, has a gable roof covered with cedar shakes, board and batten exterior walls, a molded eave board, and a wide projecting baseboard with a simple molded cap. However, certain architectural details indicate that the northeastern section is a later addition. Its roof is several feet lower, and at the juncture of the two sections the battens are wider and the baseboard is butt jointed. The cornice for the addition is a simple board but that on the rest of the church is cut out between each batten to form a straight-sided pointed arch. In addition, the two side windows, one lighting the sacristy and the other the acolyte chamber, have six-over-six, double-hung windows with plain trim while all openings in the main section of the church have molded surrounds with drip moldings over straight-sided pointed arches. Both the northeast and southwest elevations have three openings of this shape, each containing paired, tall, narrow windows separated by a mullion which splits at the top, giving the rectilinear pointed arch shape to the top of each of the windows and forming a single central diamond pane above them. Each window contains an eight-light fixed sash over a ten-light casement.

On the main facade a center belfry rises above the gable. At the corners of both the belfry and the facade, slightly projecting pilasters rest on the baseboard and extend up beyond the walls, forming four-sided pedestals which support pinnacles. The pinnacles and the crenellation on the belfry are reproductions of the originals. The northwest and southeast elevations of the belfry contain louvered openings in frames like those of the nave windows. On the southwest side of the belfry, above the entrance and also on each side of the entrance, are windows identical to those of the nave. A wooden cross extends from the peak of the drip mold of the window in the belfry.

See continuation sheet

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

SACRED HEART ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH, Claiborne County, Mississippi

Section number   7   Page   1  

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The entrance is recessed between the pilasters which form the corners of the belfry. Under a horizontal wooden molding, the drip molding of the door frame and the two panelled leaves of the door repeat the shape and tracery division of the windows. Five steps with balustrades featuring chamfered newel posts, molded handrails and plain balusters lead to a one-bay entrance porch. This stairway was constructed in the Gothic mode after the church was moved in 1983.

The rear (northeast) elevation of the church contains only one opening--an entrance on the eastern end.

A circa 1900 photograph of the church indicates that the exterior was painted white except for the baseboard, window trim, pilasters, and portions of the pinnacles and battlements, which were painted a dark color. During restoration of the church, the exterior was painted white and the trim dark green.

Immediately inside the door is the vestibule, which is enclosed by paired doors, each having three horizontal panels and three long, vertical lights. The nave is a rectangular room with plaster walls, wainscoting of vertical beaded boards with molded rail, and a flat matched board ceiling. The room is divided into nave and chancel by a wooden railing. On the northeast wall, two side altars flank a wooden pointed arch supported by pilasters framing the sanctuary recess. The plaster vault of the sanctuary continues the shape of this arch to the rear wall of the recess. The floor of the sanctuary is raised in two levels. Two doors, one on each side of the sanctuary, lead to the sacristy chambers. At the rear of the southeast sacristy, a doorway opens onto the exterior. Original wooden furniture includes approximately half of the pews, the high altar and two side altars, and the Gothic confessional.

Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church is located within the 505 acre Grand Gulf Military Monument Park, which was listed in the National Register in 1972, in a semi-wooded area not unlike its original setting. Prior to moving the building, the new site was examined by a State historical archeologist who concluded that it did not possess historical or archeological significance that would be adversely affected by the intrusion of the property.

**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

1867-1868  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Dates

1867-1868  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Person

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_

Architect/Builder

Patrick Murphy  
\_\_\_\_\_

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

Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church derives its significance from its architectural character (criterion C). It is probably the most outstanding of the few remaining examples of Carpenter Gothic ecclesiastical architecture in Mississippi. The church has been restored and features such fine Carpenter Gothic details as board and batten siding trimmed with a cornice which has been cut out between each batten to form straight-sided pointed arches; tall, narrow, pointed-arched openings capped by drip molds; pinnacles; and a crenellated tower.

In order to save the church from imminent demolition, it was given to the State of Mississippi by the Rodney Foundation, Inc., and moved to the Grand Gulf Military Monument Park in 1983 for restoration. Because Carpenter Gothic architecture is rare in Mississippi and because the church is an outstanding example of this style, the preservation of the building itself was of greater importance than the preservation of its context in Rodney.

The Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church was constructed between 1867-1868 by Patrick Murphy, whose diary contains occasional references to the construction of the church (Patrick Murphy papers, Department of Archives, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA). In the entries made between February and April of 1867, he occasionally mentioned making front and side elevations, and painting the frames. Unfortunately, Murphy's papers do not contain any drawings or plans for the church nor the source of its design. After construction of the church was completed, Murphy continued his construction activities in the Rodney area and acted as sexton for the mission.

By 1933 the population of Rodney had diminished to less than one hundred, and by 1957 there were only seven communicants remaining at Sacred Heart, so services were discontinued. In 1969, the Natchez-Jackson Diocese deeded the church to the Rodney Foundation, Inc., who subsequently deeded it to the State of Mississippi. It is currently being used as a non-denominational chapel at the Grand Gulf Military Monument Park.  See continuation sheet

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

Bagley, Clinton Ikerd, Junior Historian with the Mississippi Department of Archives & History, Jackson. Inspection of Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church in Rodney, Nov. 11, 1971.

Gerow, The Most Reverend Richard O., S.T.D., L.L.D. (Retired Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Natchez-Jackson, Inc.) Interviewed by Clinton Ikerd Bagley, Junior Historian, Mississippi Department of Archives & History, Jackson, February - July 1972.

"Index to Diocesan Archives (Natchez), 1837-1941," (Typescript), IX. Chancery Office, Catholic Diocese of Natchez-Jackson, Inc., Jackson, MS.

Jones, Mrs. J. O., President, Rodney Foundation, Inc. Interviewed by Clinton Ikerd Bagley, Junior Historian, Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson, Dec. 3, 1971 and July 18, 1972.

Logan, Marie T. Mississippi-Louisiana Border Country. Baton Rouge, LA: Claitor's Publishing Division, 1970.

See continuation sheet

**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 # MS-208
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

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

**Specify repository:**

Catholic Diocese of Natchez-Jackson, Inc.,  
Jackson, MS & Louisiana State Univ.

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of property less than one acre

**UTM References**

A 

1	5	6	8	3	8	4	0	3	5	4	5	5	9	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

C 

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B 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D 

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See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

On a tract of land located within the Grand Gulf Military Monument Park, Claiborne County, the nominated property is a rectangular area 46' x 76' in size, extending 10' in each direction from the exterior walls of the building itself, measured from the center of the church.

See continuation sheet

**Boundary Justification**

This boundary is intended to include only the building and its immediate surroundings.

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Brenda S. Rubach/Architectural Historian  
organization Mississippi Dept. of Archives and History date August 26, 1987  
street & number P. O. Box 571 telephone (601) 354-7326  
city or town Jackson state MS zip code 39205

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

SACRED HEART ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH, Claiborne County, Mississippi

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McNamara, Ellen, Secretary to Bishop Gerow, Diocesan Archives. Interviewed by Clinton Ikerd Bagley, Junior Historian with the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson, Feb. - July 1972.

Montgomery, John M., AIA. Interviewed by Clinton Ikerd Bagley, Junior Historian with the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson, Nov. 1971 - July 1972.

Murphy (Patrick) Papers, Department of Archives, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Office of the Chancery Clerk, Jefferson County Courthouse, Fayette, Mississippi. Deed Book L, pp. 565-567, and Deed Book 5K, pp. 366-368.

Pillar, James J., O.M.I. The Catholic Church in Mississippi, 1837-65. New Orleans: Hauser Press, 1964.

Rubach, Brenda, Architectural Historian with the Mississippi Department of Archives and History. Inspection of Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church at Grand Gulf Military Monument Park, August 17, 1987.

(This nomination is based on an earlier nomination written by Clinton Ikerd Bagley, Junior Historian, Mississippi Department of Archives and History, August 22, 1972.)

#8 - STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

In order to determine the level of significance for Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church, it was evaluated against the other known Carpenter Gothic churches in Mississippi. Those churches include (1) Grace Episcopal Church, Rosedale, Bolivar County; (2) Grace Episcopal Church, Canton, Madison County; (3) Holy Innocents' Episcopal Church, Como, Panola County; (4) Church of Our Savior, Iuka, Tishomingo County; (5) Church of the Redeemer, Biloxi, Harrison County; and (6) St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Lexington, Holmes County. Upon comparison, Sacred Heart was found to be the most sophisticated example of Carpenter Gothic ecclesiastical architecture remaining in the state.