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Terms The floor plan of Chapel of the Cross consists of porch, nave, organ niche, chancel, and sacristy, all fully articulated on the exterior. Although a sacristy was an original feature, the present one is a replacement (ca. 1940), as is apparent from its brickwork and roof pitch. The building measures approximately 23 feet by 70 feet, with foundations six feet in width narrowing to two feet at grade. The brick walls, laid in common bond with headers every six rows, rise from a stucco-over-brick water table which projects in a double bevel. The expanse of the elevations is otherwise broken horizontally only by string courses at window sill level and denticulated bands of brick recessed beneath the cornice. Verticality is emphasized by piers on the side elevations and, at the corners of nave and chancel, two-stage brick buttresses containing one element in the lower offset and two in the upper, all with cement weatherings. The composition is chiefly heightened, however, by centering on the west front a taller pair of buttresses which at the roof line are altered 45 degrees in the direction of their placement to terminate in a bell cote. The latter, rising approximately 15 feet above the steeply pitched gable roof, is pierced by an arch in which a plantation bell was hung in 1956 to replace the original one melted down for Confederate ammunition during the Civil War. Tara Marc

According to local tradition, the stained glass in the elongated single windows of the nave and in the triplet chancel window was also lost during the war. Each window now contains opaque, colorless glass consisting of three rectangular lights topped by a fourth which repeats the lancet shape of the arched openings. An earlier roof of hand-riven cypress shingles has been covered with asbestos sheeting, and at the east apex of the nave roof a small brick chimney with plain cap protrudes a foot above the ridgepole. The west elevation is accented by five wrought-iron tie-rod heads at the roof angles and a shallow, four-course arch of corbeled headers which defines the difference in plane between the wall and the base of the bell cote. The compound arch thus suggested is introduced fully at the door of the south porch, which provides the only public entrance to the chapel. Two stone steps, in recent years repaired with cement, lead up to a decorative iron gate, beyond which are double-leaf arched doors with battens opening into the porch.

The interior of the porch is highlighted by a molded plaster lancet arch which enframes the doorway leading into the The arch motif is restated in brick between nave and ornave. gan niche, nave and chancel, and chancel and sacristy, and in wood in the braces of the open-timbered ceiling. The collar beams of the latter feature single rows of carved trefoils along their upper surfaces. An extension of the nave roof covers the organ niche, but on the interior the continuity has been ob-

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Form 10-300a (July 1969)	UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE	^{state} Mississippi		
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7. scured within the niche by the later installation of a separate ceiling of different pitch. Another change is the removal of plaster from all walls except those of the porch and painting the brick beneath an ivory color similar to that applied to the exterior walls. The resulting exposure of the material which does the work of construction, though not an original feature, is consistent with the revival of medieval building practices which in the first half of the nineteenth century produced such churches as Chapel of the Cross.

The emphasis on the gothic is augmented on the interior by the carved rosewood bishop's chair and altar rail, both of which were imported from England as part of the original furniture, and the original baptismal font, rendered from a single block of Italian stone. Later acquisitions, which in some instances replace original pieces subsequently lost, include an organ, lectern, Eucharist and altar candle holders and the American ensign. The altar, raised by two series of low steps, is also a replacement, and although its frontal expanse is carved in a trio of large rosettes, it is as a whole in keeping with the almost austere simplicity of the chapel structure and appointments. The original pews were removed from the chapel in the 1890s and stored for safekeeping in a building on the grounds of Chapel of the Cross Episcopal Church, Rolling Fork, Mississippi. Ironically, they were destroyed a few years later when the building burned, and the wooden pews now in place at Chapel of the Cross, Madison County, were installed during the 1950s. All are of undetermined age but the ones on the north side of the nave are reputedly older than those on the east. The pine board flooring, supported by hand-hewn oak joists, is bare except for carpeting down the aisle, across the chancel, and over the entire floor surface of the sanctuary. Electrical lighting is provided by lantern pendants suspended from the roof braces, and heating by gas has replaced the coal-burning stove which stood in a corner of the nave between the organ niche and the chancel. The pipe opening for the stove remains visible in the spandrel of the chancel arch.

In the adjoining cemetery, there are a number of decorative wrought-iron enclosures surrounding individual family plots. The most ornate is that of the Johnstone family - a superb period piece composed of organic forms (flowers, leaves, vines) of rusticated framework of gnarled branches.

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The Episcopal parish (now mission) of Chapel of the Cross, Madison County, at present-day Mannsdale, was established in (1850) on what was then the plantation of Mrs. Margaret L. Johnstone (1808-1880). The chapel was built by Mrs. Johnstone as a memorial to her husband, John T. Johnstone (1801-1848), who came to Mississippi from Hillsborough, North Carolina, ca. 1820 with his brothers Samuel and William. The three men patented land near Livingston, the first permanent settlement in Madison County, and engaged in extensive farming operations. From his holdings of approximately 2600 acres, John T. Johnstone accumulated a fortune which made possible the construction of two elaborate plantation residences: Ingleside, a wedding gift in 1846 to the elder Johnstone daughter Frances (1825-1907) and her husband William Britton of North Carolina; and Annandale, built in 1855 for Johnstone's widow and their second daughter Helen (ca. 1839-1917). Both houses were later destroyed by fire, Ingleside ca. 1905 and Annandale in 1923.

During the 1840s worship services were held at Annandale in the original Johnstone house which preceded the 1855 mansion and in a schoolhouse in the neighborhood. The resident clergyman was the Reverend John Freeman Young (1820-1885), later doctor of divinity from Columbia College, assistant minister at Trinity Church, New York, and second Bishop of Florida. In June, 1851, for a consideration of \$10.00, Margaret L. Johnstone deeded to the Diocese of Mississippi 10 acres of her plantation as the site of Chapel of the Cross. Construction was already underway at the time, as had been noted by William Mercer Green, first Bishop of Mississippi, in his journal entry of March 31, 1851:

> The next day [April 1] I preached in Madison County in a school-house near the residence of Mrs. Margaret L. Johnston [sic]. I was assisted by Rev. Mr. Young, who has ministered to a small congregation in that place for the last eighteen months. On my way to the schoolhouse, I passed one of the most beautiful structures of the Church kind to be found in any of

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Mississippi History, XII Chapel of the Cross Parish Regis	9 and facing pages. d William Mercer Green, First sissippi." The Journal of (January, 1950), pp. 3-27.
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12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION	NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION
As the designated State Liaison Officer for the Na- tional 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 X State Locas X Name A. McLemore Title Director, Miss. Dept. of	I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register. Roberton Utley Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation DateA13/12 ATTEST:
Archives and History Date February 23, 1972	Keeper of The National Register

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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COUNTY

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

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our Southern or Western dioceses. It is the church erected by Mrs. Johnstone, assisted by her family and a few of her neighbors, and which is indebted for much of its architectural completeness to the taste and unremitting labor of Rev. Mr. Young. The building is yet unfinished.... (Journal of the Proceedings of the Twenty-Sixth Annual Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church, in the Diocese of Mississippi, 1852, p. 22.)

Although Bishop Green commended Mr. Young's contributions to the building program, a family tradition still current among direct Johnstone descendants credits the design of the chapel to "an English architect by the surname of Wills." Phoebe Stanton, in The Gothic Revival & American Church Architecture; An Episode in Taste, 1840-1856, also includes Chapel of the Cross among Wills' works, noting that "This church is attributed to Wills by the New York Ecclesiologist." No other primary documents to confirm the attribution have been located, but the structure is obviously an adaptation of a "Sketch of a First-pointed Church" by Frank Wills which was published in the October, 1849, issue of the New York Ecclesiologist. The parent organization, the New York Ecclesiological Society, had been founded the year before by men whom Phoebe Stanton has described as "those clergymen most responsive to the Oxford Movement, architects intent upon and educated in English Gothic revival theories, and laymen of High Church inclinations who possessed an avocational interest in architecture." By a combination of circumstances (the architectural and ceremonial preferences of the men involved as well as the liturgical requirements of the Anglican service), the 13th-century churches still extant in a number of rural English parishes became the recommended models for building in the ecclesiological manner, in the United States as well as in England.

Frank Wills (d. 1856) was appointed the official architect of the New York Ecclesiological Society following his arrival in New York City after work in Exeter, England, and Fredericton, New Brunswick. Although most of his churches were executed in New York State, his practice was national in scope, with commissions in Claremont, New Hampshire; Pittsfield, Massachusetts; Oberlin, Ohio; Napoleonville, Louisiana; and San Francisco. The <u>New York Ecclesiologist</u> of July, 1853, listed as his design Grace Episcopal Church, Canton, Madison County, Mississippi, a "carpenter Gothic" miniature which, though lacking the jewel-like elegance of Chapel of the Cross, has a churchly charm all its own. His familiarity with the design and decoration of the English medi-

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eval church made Wills a particularly able exponent of the New York Ecclesiological Society's crusade for correct church building in America. For isolated parishes throughout the country which lacked professional architectural guidance on-site, the "Sketch of a First-pointed Church" was a solution which could be translated, via plans and specifications, by a local master builder or mason.

In the case of Chapel of the Cross, the sketch and its accompanying ground plan were modified to meet the needs of a small congregation. Only the nave and the chancel were utilized, omitting transepts and tower, but the diminutive result was ecclesiological excellence, even to the orientation of the chancel (eastward) and the south porch. Wills himself had earlier (1846-47) supervised construction of St. Anne's Chapel, Fredericton, New Brunswick, on a markedly similar (i.e., abbreviated) plan. The provenance of both St. Anne's and Chapel of the Cross is the English stylistic group of small rural parish churches of the Middle Ages to which St. Michael's Longstanton; Little Casterton, Rutlandshire; and Howell's Church, Lincolnshire (all known to Wills) belong.

At this point in time, the circumstances in which the design of Chapel of the Cross was chosen can only be conjectured. (An obvious source of information, the parish register, is not available for this earliest period or any other prior to 1965. In that year the current register was begun by the 12th rector, the Reverend Samuel A. Tomlinson, III, who, according to his successor, the Reverend Cecil B. Jones, Jr., had made a vigorous but fruitless attempt to locate earlier registers, which had disappeared years before.) The "Sketch of a First-pointed Church" could have been recommended to Margaret L. Johnstone by Mr. Young, a possibility which would clarify somewhat Bishop Green's praise of the rector for the "architectural completeness" of the chapel. Certainly in view of the latter's subsequent holding of high church office, he would presumably have been, even early in his career, in sympathy with the aims of the New York Ecclesiological Society and familiar with its publication. Although the papers of John Freeman Young (deposited in the Southern Historical Collection, University of North Carolina Library) do include a small group of letters from the Mississippi years, there are no references therein to Chapel of the Cross.

An examination of the papers of Bishop Green in the collections of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History is equally unrewarding on the specific subject of the chapel construction. It is possible, however, to document the ecclesiological orientation which would have made the bishop favor the Wills Form 10-300a (July 1969)

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8.0 design. According to Nash K. Burger, former historiographer of the Diocese of Mississippi, the future Bishop Green had in 1823

> served as emissary from the North Carolina diocesan convention to inform the Rev. John S. Ravenscroft of his election as first Bishop of North Carolina. Ravenscroft, a man of pronounced views and determined personality, exerted a 'potent influence'...on the future first Bishop of Mississippi....

At least two published accounts of Ravenscroft's life were written by Bishop Green, and these make clear the close relation between the two men. This connection helps to explain the origin of that strong churchmanship which marked Bishop Green's career in Mississippi. Bishop Ravenscroft, who had come into the Church from the Methodists, was, Bishop Green himself tells us, a 'High Churchman' and 'an avowed follower of Hobart.' And Bishop Hobart, of New York, was in his time 'probably the most Catholic bishop in the Anglican Communion.'

Bishop Green has been described as 'as old-fashioned High Churchman.' The roots of that churchmanship are to be found in those North Carolina years under Bishop Ravenscroft. Hobart...Ravenscroft...Green that is the succession. (The Journal of <u>Mississippi History</u>, Vol. XII, January, 1950, p. 6.)

Such a chain of ecclesiological influence is also described by Phoebe Stanton:

The mid-nineteenth-century parish church revival in the United States was fostered by the generation of churchmen within the administrative and intellectual structure of the Protestant Episcopal community who had inherited the ideas of the Right Reverend John Henry Hobart, Bishop of New York from 1816 to 1830. The enthusiastic acceptance of the English church form with its deep chancel is the expression in architec-

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ture of the sympathy with the Oxford Movement and High Church practices which Hobart shared with the brilliant men who followed N him.

...These men took the parish church revival into their dioceses and parishes, where they would become influential....By 1845 all along the eastern seaboard a sympathy for the parish church revival had been established and, like the Church and the nation itself, these new ideas were expanding into the South and Middle West. (The Gothic Revival & American Church Architecture; An Episode in Taste, 1840-1856, pp. 215-216.)

It is evident from entries in Bishop Green's yearly journals that his relations with the Johnstone family were especially close. Mrs. Johnstone, at least, had apparently been a parishioner at one of his earliest pastorates, St. Matthew's, Hillsborough, North Carolina, in the 1820s. During a subsequent residence at the University of North Carolina, Bishop Green provided at his own expense the brick for the Episcopal church which served the university and the town of Chapel Hill; its name: Chapel of the Cross.

For nearly a decade following its consecration on September 19, 1852, and its admission to the diocese in 1853, Chapel of the Cross, Madison County, flourished as a small but dedicated parish under the guidance of Dr. Henry Sansome, a native of Nottinghamshire, England. The effects of the Civil War on the plantation economy of the neighborhood, however, were reflected in the fate of the chapel, as described in 1867 by Bishop Green:

> ...I stopped a moment to see the "Chapel of the Cross," and was grieved at heart in contrasting its present deserted and decaying condition with what it was a few years ago. It was then surrounded by its early friends and founders, and blessed with frequent ministrations, black and white sharing equally in the instructions of a faithful Pastor. Now, strangers are pressing their boundaries close up to the sacred enclosure of its dead; mould is fast gathering on its walls, and from Lord's day to Lord's day no track is seen of any one going up to this House of

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In 1868 the parish again became active upon the arrival of Dr. George Carroll Harris (1836-1911). Mrs. Harris was Helen Johnstone, daughter of John T. and Margaret L. Johnstone and famous in local legend as "the bride of Annandale." In 1859 Helen Johnstone had been engaged to marry Henry Grey Vick, nephew of the Reverend Newet Vick, founder of Vicksburg, but her fiancé died in a duel in Mobile and was buried on their wedding date in the Chapel of the Cross cemetery. (John T. and Margaret L. Johnstone, a number of their descendants, and Hugh Miller Thompson, second Bishop of Mississippi and the father-in-law of a Johnstone great-granddaughter, are also buried in the cemetery.) During a three-year residence, Dr. Harris founded and conducted the Annandale Training School for the education of young men preparing for the ministry, but it was shortlived. The parish itself was inactive and without a rector from 1871 to 1882, at which time the Harrises returned for a period of six years. Bishop Green recorded that the chapel, "dear to me by many sad but pleasing memories, had by Dr. Harris been substantially repaired, and put in a condition to be comfortably used."

Following Dr. Harris' third and final pastorate at Chapel of the Cross (1892-1896), there was a vacancy once more, and in 1903 the parish was declared extinct and removed from the diocese. The struggle against the adversities of half a century, including war and Reconstruction, a declining membership, and sporadic services and pastoral care, appeared to have been lost, but only for a decade. In August, 1913, the third Bishop of Mississippi, Theodore Du Bose Bratton,

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celebrated the Holy Communion, confirmed four persons and preached to our congregation in this beautiful rural chapel.... The Chapel has been partially repaired, a new roof and windows are in place, the splendid grove, relieved of its dense undergrowth, and a fence will soon enclose this beautiful sylvan lot of 12 [sic] acres, in the middle of which stands the Chapel and graveyard. (Journal of the Eighty-Seventh Annual Council of the Diocese of Mississippi, 1914, p. 76.)

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By the following spring, Bishop Bratton could report the revival complete:

On April the 19th, 1914, I organized the Chapel of the Cross, Annandale, Madison County....This organization revives a mission which flourished before the war, was continued for some years after it and was closed years before my coming. It also restores one of the most beautiful brick chapels in the Diocese, for which Mr. Sessions [lay reader and future vicar of Chapel of the Cross] and the good people who form the country neighborhood of the chapel are due the full credit. (Journal of the Eighty-Seventh Annual Council of the Diocese of Mississippi, 1914, p. 53.)

In 1956 full physical restoration of Chapel of the Cross was initiated as a project of the Dancing Rabbit Creek Chapter of the Children of the American Revolution, sponsored by the Magnolia State Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, Jackson. For one year the restoration was also the project of the National Society of the Children of the American Revolution, and the chapel has been designated a national shrine by the Southeastern Region. Services are conducted on the second Sunday afternoon of each month by the vicar, who is also rector of Grace Church in Canton. In recent years the Bishop of Mississippi has made his annual visitation to the chapel on Easter Sunday.

Chapel of the Cross is probably the outstanding example of nineteenth-century Gothic Revival church architecture in Mississippi. The source of its design, the quality of its construction, and the social and economic milieu which engendered it, make the chapel a monument not to a family nor even a denomination, but to a cultural phenomenon of its own time: the American ecclesiological movement.

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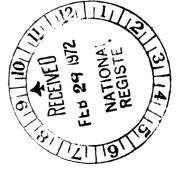
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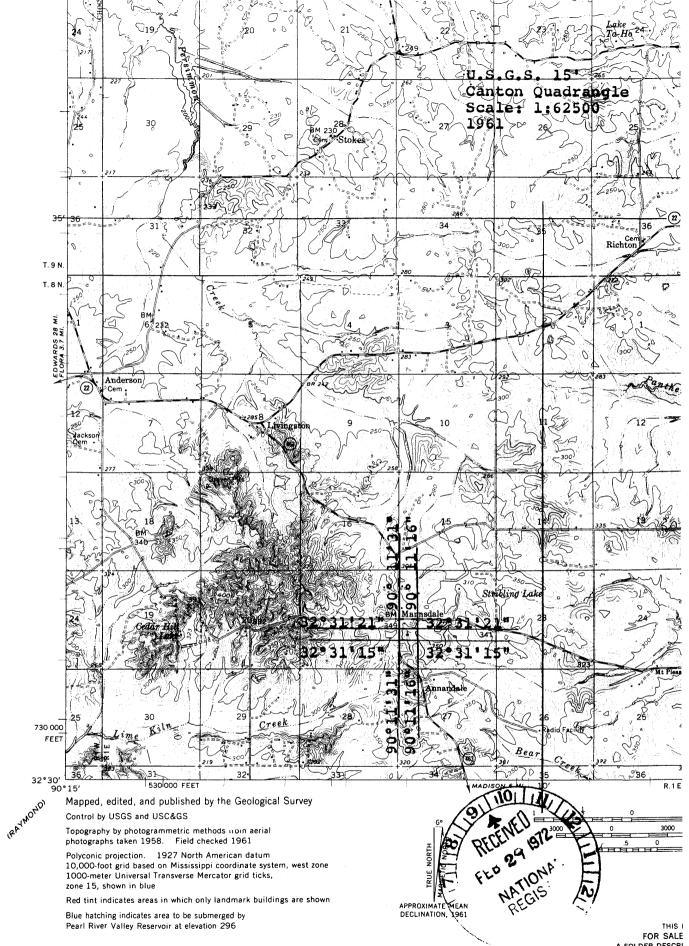
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9. Works Progress Administration. <u>Inventory of the Church Archives</u> of <u>Mississippi</u>. <u>Mississippi Historic Records Survey</u> Project sponsored by the <u>Mississippi Department of</u> Archives and History, Jackson, <u>Mississippi</u>, 1940.





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