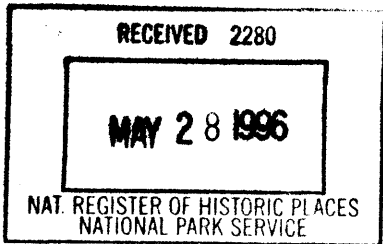


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service



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 Pleasant Valley Methodist Church

other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

2. Location

street & number Pleasant Valley Road, 0.8 mile east of MS Hwy. 28 N/A  not for publication

city or town Hazlehurst  vicinity

state Mississippi code MS county Copiah code 29 zip code 39083

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. Deal May 21, 1996  
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 certifying 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:)

for Signature of the Keeper Mag M. Way Date of Action 7/12/96

Name of Property

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	
1	1	buildings
	1	sites
		structures
		objects
1	2	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

Historic and Architectural Resources of Copiah County, Mississippi

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Religion: religious facility

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Religion: religious facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Mid-Nineteenth Century

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation sandstone; concrete

walls weatherboard

roof slate

other

Narrative Description

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

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.)

- Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
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.
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:

- owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
removed from its original location.
a birthplace or grave.
a cemetery.
a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
a commemorative property.
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

circa 1840

Significant Dates

circa 1840

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of Property 2.75 acres

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 

1	5
---	---

7	3	1	7	0	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

3	5	1	6	3	1	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

  
Zone Easting Northing

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 By**

name/title Brenda R. Crook, Architectural Historian

organization Mississippi Dept. of Archives and History date February 26, 1996

street & number P.O. Box 571 telephone (601) 359-6940

city or town Jackson state MS zip code 39205-0571

**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 Pleasant Valley Methodist Church, c/o Dean Coke

street & number 1002 Pleasant Valley Road telephone 601/277-3518

city or town Hazlehurst state MS zip code 39083

**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.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetPleasant Valley Methodist Church  
Copiah County, MississippiSection number 7 Page 1

## 7. DESCRIPTION

Located approximately 14 miles southwest of Hazlehurst in the hilly, forested, southwest corner of Copiah County, the Pleasant Valley Methodist Church is a vernacular, frame, gable-front church building constructed circa 1840. The church is situated in a wooded valley and faces east onto Valley Creek, with Pleasant Valley Road running along the south. Behind the church is a cemetery that was established about 1935 and an education building erected in 1956. Huge oak trees, dogwood, and redbud trees grace the property.

Resting on the original sandstone piers, bolstered with additional concrete block piers, the church is a two-by-four bay, gable-front building clad in weatherboards and crowned by a slate roof. The main (east) facade has two bays, each containing double-leaf, one-panel doors topped by a four-light transom. Both side elevations feature four nine-over-nine, double-hung windows framed by wooden louvered blinds. The rear elevation has a small central polygonal apse with novelty siding and two four-over-four, double-hung windows. To the south of the apse is an entrance containing double-leaf, one-panel doors topped by a four-light transom, and to the north of the apse is a nine-over-nine, double-hung window.

The one-room structure has a wooden floor, flush board walls with wide baseboards, beaded board ceiling, original pews, and a dais with altar rail having turned balusters, molded hand rail, and globular finials on the newels. Each of the east doors opens onto an aisle that separates the sanctuary into three sections of pews. The pews in the central section are divided in half by a low wooden wall. According to a member of the congregation, the small apse with segmentally-arched opening was added and a slave gallery that spanned the rear wall was removed more than 70 years ago (Sanders). The removal of the slave gallery may date to the application of the beaded board ceiling around the turn of the century.

To the northwest of the church is Decell Hall, an education building erected in 1956. This building is a one-story, two-by-four bay, frame structure resting on concrete piers and crowned by a gable roof with exposed rafter tails. Behind the church is a cemetery that was established about 1935. Both the education building and cemetery are counted as noncontributing elements.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetPleasant Valley Methodist Church  
Copiah County, MississippiSection number 8 Page 2

## 8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Built circa 1840, the Pleasant Valley Methodist Church is locally significant for its architectural character (Criterion C), being an excellent example of a vernacular, antebellum, wooden, gable-front church building with two entrances in the gable end. It is one of only two antebellum churches known at this time to survive in Copiah County, the other being the Tabernacle Methodist Church (1857), located approximately six and one-half miles northwest of Hazlehurst on the Dentville Road.

The Registration Requirements for Religious Resources are discussed on pages 67-69 of the MPS cover document entitled "Historic and Architectural Resources of Copiah County, Mississippi." (The associated historic context developed in the MPS cover document and represented by this property is "The Plantation Era in Copiah County, 1823-1865.") The Pleasant Valley Methodist Church was evaluated using the Mississippi Department of Archives and History's guidelines for assessing vernacular churches and was found to be eligible because it is a rare surviving example of an antebellum, gable-front church with two entrances in the gable end and because it displays a high degree of architectural integrity. The building also retains integrity of location, and the setting remains as it was historically--a small clearing located along Valley Creek. The building also retains a high degree of integrity of feeling and association.

Although records are vague as to the exact date of the founding of Pleasant Valley Methodist Church, they indicate that the church was organized sometime between 1830 and 1840, and the present building constructed about 1840 to 1845. One of the more notable events in the church's history was the revival held there in October 1849, which reportedly lasted for 25 days and nights and resulted in the conversion of over 100 souls and the addition of 123 members to the church. The best known layman to come from the church was Major Reuben Webster Millsaps, for whom Millsaps College in Jackson is named. Millsaps received his early religious training in the church, which was located about two miles from his family's home.

Today, the Pleasant Valley Methodist Church has about 50 members, and services are held here the second and fourth Sundays of each month.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Pleasant Valley Methodist Church  
Copiah County, Mississippi

Section number 9, 10 Page 3

---

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Cawthon, Richard J. "National Register Eligibility Criteria for Churches in Mississippi." Unpublished, January 28, 1994. On file at the Historic Preservation Division, Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson.

Crook, Brenda, architectural historian with the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson. Inspection of Pleasant Valley Methodist Church, February 23, 1996.

Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson. Historic Preservation Division. Historic Resources Inventory. Copiah County.

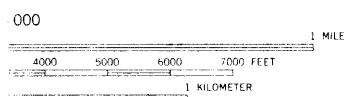
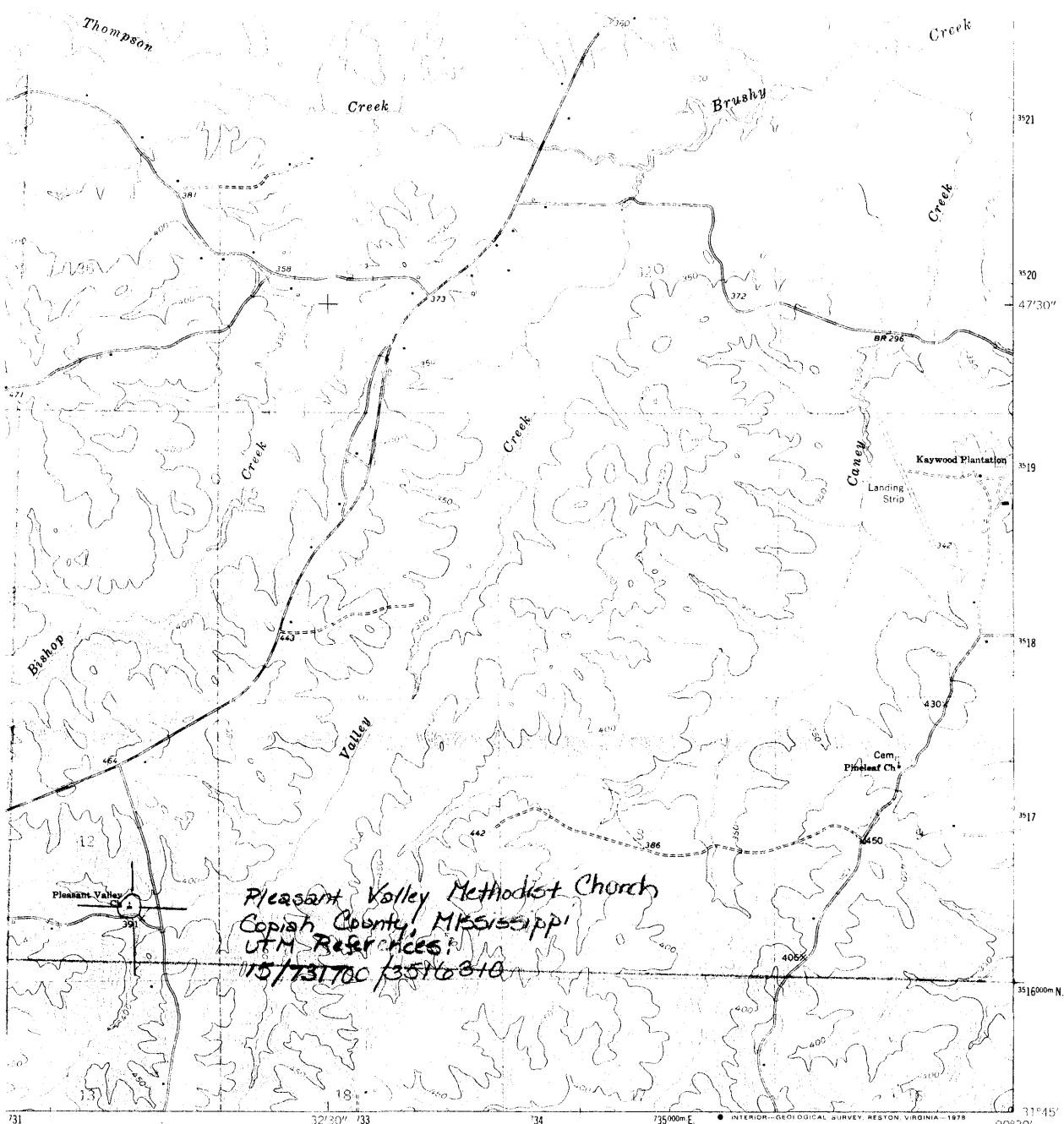
Sanders, Doris Price, member of Pleasant Valley Methodist Church. Interviewed by Brenda R. Crook, architectural historian with the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson, at the Pleasant Valley Methodist Church on February 23, 1996.

"The Story of Pleasant Valley Church." The Mississippi Methodist Advocate, December 2, 1959, page 39.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Verbal Boundary Description: The boundary of the nominated property consists of a rectangle of land with sides that are parallel or perpendicular to the ridge of the roof of the Pleasant Valley Methodist Church. Measuring from the center point of the roof ridge of the church 100 feet north, 400 feet east, 100 feet south, and 200 feet west, the resulting rectangle of land has sides that are 200 feet by 600 feet in length. This property is located in the SE 1/4 Section 12, Township 9 North, Range 6 East.

Boundary Justification: The boundary includes 2.75 acres of the 37.5 acres presently owned by the church. The boundary was selected to include the church, cemetery, education building, and their immediate setting. The boundaries were drawn to take into account the situation of the church near the intersection of Pleasant Valley Road and Sylvarena Road. The nominated acreage reflects the very rural nature of the church's setting and includes land historically associated with the church.



VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929

MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
 FEDERAL GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092  
 A FULL LIST OF SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



ROAD CLASSIFICATION  
 Medium-duty ——— Light-duty - - - - -  
 Unimproved dirt .....  
 State Route

SMYRNA, MISS.  
 N3145—W9030/7.5  
 1963

AMS 2847 I SE—SERIES V843