

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
 RECEIVED 10 SEP 1979
 DATE ENTERED DEC 13 1979

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC Pine Ridge Church
 AND/OR COMMON Pine Ridge Presbyterian Church

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER NE of Natchez at MS Highway 554
 CITY, TOWN Pine Ridge X VICINITY OF Natchez
 STATE Mississippi CODE 28 COUNTY Adams CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT Fourth
 CODE 1

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Trustees, Pine Ridge Presbyterian Church
 STREET & NUMBER Pine Ridge Road and Highway 554
 CITY, TOWN Natchez VICINITY OF STATE Mississippi 39120

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Office of the Chancery Clerk
 Adams County Courthouse
 STREET & NUMBER Courthouse Square
 CITY, TOWN Natchez, Mississippi 39120 STATE

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Statewide Survey of Historic Sites
 DATE 1937, 1974
 DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Mississippi Department of Archives and History
 CITY, TOWN P. O. Box 571 Jackson, Mississippi 39205 STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Pine Ridge Church is situated on a twenty-two-acre tract on the northwestern side of the intersection of Pine Ridge Road and Miss. Hwy. 554 and Foster Mound Road, approximately seven miles north of Natchez. The church is set back two hundred feet from the crossroads on grounds landscaped with live oak, magnolias, and crepe myrtle. The church cemetery flanks the sanctuary along its southwestern elevation.

The church complex consists of a brick sanctuary (1909) with a frame two-story classroom addition (1976) along the rear (northwestern) elevation, a brick Covenant Hall (1964) set back and connected to the sanctuary by a shed-roof addition, and a brick Session House (1829). The present sanctuary stands on the site of the original log sanctuary (1808) and a later brick sanctuary (1828) destroyed by a tornado in 1908.

Similar to though less academically inspired than its predecessor, the extant sanctuary has a steeper roof pitch and a more prominent corbeled cornice, a circular fanlight replacing an elliptical one, and round-arch stained-glass windows replacing the clear glass in the earlier structure. The sanctuary interior features a barrel-vaulted ceiling, plaster walls, and paneled box pews. The pyramidal-roofed Covenant Hall, connected to the Session House by an inconspicuous brick hyphen, has facade treatment similar to the Session House but without the pedimented roof front and boxed cornice. The three-bay Federal-style Session House has two six-over-six-light windows and a double-leaf entrance door surmounted by a semicircular fanlight with tracery. Early photographs and scarring indicate that the boxed cornice, which now returns on the gable end, originally continued across the facade to form a pediment. A blind sunburst-pattern elliptical window is set in the tympanum. The Session House interior features plaster walls, a carved Adamesque mantelpiece on the northwest wall, and a later brick floor.

The architectural significance of the church complex, apparent primarily in the Federal-style Session House and secondarily in the Colonial Revival sanctuary, is heightened by the appealing pastoral setting of the property. In 1979 the Pine Ridge Church became the first Presbyterian property in Mississippi to be listed on the American Presbyterian/Reformed Historical Sites Registry by the Presbyterian Historical Society, Philadelphia.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
	<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			Black History

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Pine Ridge Church, the oldest active Presbyterian church in Mississippi and the Old Southwest (Thomas L. Haman, "Beginnings of Presbyterianism in Mississippi," Publications of the Mississippi Historical Society 10:218), has figured prominently in the historic development of Presbyterianism in the state. Architecturally significant through the application of Federal-style design elements in the Session House (1829) and sympathetic Revival-style features in the later sanctuary (1909) and Covenant Hall (1964), the Pine Ridge Church is also representative in form and association of religious and educational institutions in Mississippi.

The beginning of Pine Ridge Church may be traced to the organization in 1807 of Salem Presbyterian Church by missionary James Smylie at the town of Washington, four miles east of Pine Ridge. The third Presbyterian church to be organized in the state, after the Bethel Church near Uniontown (extinct) in 1804 and Bayou Pierre Church near Port Gibson in 1807 (Haman, p. 217), the church was moved to Pine Ridge in 1808, and a log church was erected on the site of the present sanctuary (Adams Co., Miss., Deed Book E:25; Session Book A, p. 6.). James Smylie, Joseph Bullen, Jacob Rickhow, and William Montgomery, four clergymen who came to the Mississippi Territory as missionaries who were instrumental in the settlement of the territory and the expansion of the Presbyterian Church, figured prominently in the early history of the Pine Ridge Church (Walter B. Posey, "The First Session Book of the Oldest Presbyterian Church in Mississippi," The Journal of Mississippi History 10:133.) Smylie, the first pastor of the church, also gained notoriety in his later years with publication in 1835 of a pro-slavery reply to the Rev. John P. Vandyke of the Presbytery of Chillicothe in Ohio, who complained of "the low state of religion in the country" and by a non sequitur attributed it to the ownership of slaves by professing Christians in the South (Frances Allen Cabaniss and James Allen Cabaniss, "Religion in Ante-bellum Mississippi," The Journal of Mississippi History 6:222). The reply, known as "Smylie's Pamphlet" and based on Biblical texts, was used extensively by "protagonists of the 'peculiar institution' all over the South" (Cabaniss and Cabaniss, p. 222).

The Presbytery of Mississippi, the organization of Presbyterian churches in Mississippi, Louisiana, Texas, and Arkansas, was organized at Pine Ridge by William Montgomery in 1816 (Haman, p. 221). In 1821 the Pine Ridge Church became the first in the state to obtain a charter directly from the legislature that provided for ownership of the church property through a board of trustees of members (Mary Henderson Lambdin, A Brief History of Pine Ridge Presbyterian Church [Natchez: M. L. McDonald Printers and Publishers, 1968], p. 6). The African Branch of the Pine Ridge Church was formed in the early 1830s to serve the spiritual needs of the local black population. "The congregation of black people amounted to upwards of two hundred souls. The services were conducted with the utmost order and decorum, and attended with great solemnity" (Session Book, 1823-1838, vol. 2, pp. 101-102).

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Adams Co., Miss. Chancery Clerk. Deed Books, E,Q,LL,MM. Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson. Microfilm

Cabaniss, Frances Allen, and James Allen Cabaniss. "Religion in Ante-bellum Mississippi," The Journal of Mississippi History 6:222ff.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

UTM NOT VERIFIED

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 5.73

QUADRANGLE NAME Pine Ridge

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 1,5 6,5,6 5,6,0 3,5,0,0 5,0,0
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

All of tract I, as outlined on enclosed survey of Pine Ridge Church.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Jack A. Gold Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION Mississippi Department of Archives and History DATE June, 1979

STREET & NUMBER P. O. Box 571 TELEPHONE (601) 354-7326

CITY OR TOWN Jackson STATE Mississippi 39205

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL STATE X LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE Arthur R. Williams

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer DATE August 22, 1979

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Sally J. Webb DATE 12/13/79
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST (w) A. Davis DATE 12/3/79
CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 & 9 PAGE 1

8 - SIGNIFICANCE

The Session House, probably the only extant structure of its type in Mississippi, was used by the elders of the church to conduct business; however, early records indicate that the structure was built in 1829 as a schoolhouse and "to answer the purpose of a session house" (Session Book, 1823-1838, vol. 2, p. 58). The school operated until 1904, when a public school was established in the area (Joseph McConnell, current pastor of Pine Ridge Church, interviewed by Jack A. Gold, architectural historian with the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson, at Pine Ridge, Miss., May 11, 1979). The educational role of the church was also apparent with the founding of a seminary across the road from the church in 1854 (Lambdin, p. 10). The school was disbanded after the Civil War.

9 - MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Gold, Jack A., architectural historian with the Mississippi Department of Archives and History. Inspection of Pine Ridge Church, May 11, 1979
- Haman, Thomas L. "Beginnings of Presbyterianism in Mississippi," in Publications of the Mississippi Historical Society 10:203-221.
- Lambdin, Mary Henderson. A Brief History of Pine Ridge Presbyterian Church. Natchez: M. L. McDonald Printers and Publishers, 1968.
- McConnell, Joseph, pastor of Pine Ridge Church. Interview by Jack A. Gold, architectural historian with the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson, at Pine Ridge, Miss., May 11, 1979.
- Posey, Walter B. "The First Session Book of the Oldest Presbyterian Church in Mississippi," The Journal of Mississippi History 10:132-144.
- Session Book of Pine Ridge Church, 1823-1838, A, vol. 2.