

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM**

1. Name of Property

historic name: Lebanon Presbyterian Church
other names/site number:

2. Location

street & number: Lebanon Presbyterian Church Road, 5 miles northeast of Utica
city or town: Utica
state: Mississippi code: MS county: Hinds code: 25 not for publication N/A
vicinity N/A
zip code: 39175

3. 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant ___ nationally ___ statewide locally. (___ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Kenneth H. P. Paul SEPT. 30, 1999
Signature of certifying official Date

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
State or 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 commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:	Signature of the Keeper	Date of Action
___ 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): _____	_____	_____

5. Classification

Ownership of Property:

private

Number of Resources within Property:

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Category of Property:

building

Contributing

Noncontributing

1

1

2

3

buildings
sites
structures
objects
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

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions: Religion: religious facility

Current Functions: Religion: religious facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification(s): Mid-Nineteenth Century

Materials:

foundation: brick, sandstone

roof: shingle

walls: wood weatherboard

other: doors, wood; windows, original glass; shutters, wood

Narrative Description:

See Continuation Sheets

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- XXX C 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.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Areas of Significance
architecture

Period of Significance
1836-1949

Significant Dates
1836, 1854, 1863

Criteria Considerations:

Property is:

- XXX A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a grave.
- XXX D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Significant Person(s) n/a

Cultural Affiliation(s) n/a

Architect/Builder: unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance: See continuation sheets.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography 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

- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record

Primary Location of Additional Data

- XXX State Historic Preservation Office
 - Other State agency
 - Federal agency
 - Local government
 - University
 - XXX Other
- Name of repository:

Lebanon Presbyterian Church Minutes

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: 4.5 acres

UTM References:	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
A	15	733650	3559410	C		
B				D		

___ See continuation sheet and USGS Learned Quadrangle Map.

Verbal Boundary Description See continuation sheet.

Boundary Justification: See continuation sheet.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Dr. Mary Collins Landin

organization: Collins Farms

street & number: 3084 Tom Collins Road

city or town: Utica

FAX: 601/885-9185 E-MAIL landinmc@aol.com

state: MS

date: 27 April 1999

telephone: 601/885-8683

zip code: 39175

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(s)

name: Lebanon Presbyterian Church, c/o Mrs. George B. Worrell, Clerk

street & number: 1600 Worrell Road

city or town: Utica

telephone: 601/885-6397

state: Mississippi

zip code: 39175

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 the 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.

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National Park Service

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Lebanon Presbyterian Church
Hinds County, Mississippi

7. DESCRIPTION

Located approximately five miles northeast of Utica, Mississippi, in southwest Hinds County, on Lebanon Presbyterian Church Road, which leads off Mississippi Highway 18 between Utica and Raymond, the church, cemetery, and property is located in rolling farmland and woods. The church is fronted by the old Utica-Raymond Road, which was the original highway from Jackson to Port Gibson in the 19th Century. The church is a vernacular, frame, gable-front church building constructed in 1854 by members of the church and slaves of those members. Heart pine sleepers (sills) underneath the church are still virtually intact, and are 12x12 and 14x14 inches, 70 feet long. The hand-hewn heart pine flooring is also 70 feet long. The timbers came from pines growing adjacent to the church house.

Directly behind the church is a very large cemetery which was begun in 1836 by the same families who constructed the church. This cemetery has several hundred graves, many of which are burials in the 19th Century, and a number of which died from the yellow fever epidemics that plagued the Lebanon-Utica area in the 19th Century. Most of the people buried there are original members and descendants of one large, extended family, 14 of the 15 children of Robert and Mary Randolph McNair of Old District 96 in South Carolina, who emigrated in the 1830s by wagon caravan with their spouses and children. They include the ancestors of the Honorable Thad Cochran, U. S. Senator from Mississippi, as well as a number of other locally prominent citizens.

The only other structure on church property is a small, separate restroom facility constructed in the 1980s, also built by church members. Very large red oaks stand close to the church and in the cemetery, and the banks of the old Utica-Raymond Road are covered with trees and shrubs of various sizes. The road has not been used for vehicular traffic in over 60 years.

The church rests partially on its original sandstone piers, and was bolstered approximately 45 years ago with additional brick piers. The church is a two-by-four bay structure with a shingle roof and trimmed with box cornices with incomplete returns in front and back. The front facade has two bays, each containing double-leaf, one-panel doors topped by four-light transoms. Both side elevations feature four four-over-four, double-hung windows that were originally framed by wooden louvered shutters. The rear elevation has

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Section number 7 Page 2 Lebanon Presbyterian Church
Hinds County, Mississippi

a single four-over-four center window framed by a wooden louvered shutter that matches shutters removed approximately 30 years ago. There is no rear entrance. Both front openings and all windows are trimmed with plain narrow surrounds.

The one-room interior of the church retains its original pews, with a longer set placed in the middle, and two shorter sets on each side of two aisles. A small section of original pews are placed on each side of the pulpit for choir members. The altar, pulpit, and other furniture are also original. Original wooden floors that now have carpet aisle runners are still in place. The walls on all four sides are clad in dark-paneled walnut and wide baseboards. The upper walls and ceiling are clad in beaded boards, which may have been added near the turn of the 20th Century. During World War I, the old slave gallery that was at the rear of the sanctuary along the wall was removed.

The church building has no modern amenities such as electricity, water, fans, or air conditioning, and the original lantern hook hangs from the ceiling for lighting. The one concession to the active church congregation is the installation of a propane space heater that is operated on cold Sundays. The church building has no locks on its doors, which are fastened with plain metal hooks. There are no walks leading to church steps.

Both the cemetery and the old Utica-Raymond Road are counted as contributing features, along with the church and the historic property.

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Section number 8 Page 3 Lebanon Presbyterian Church
Hinds County, Mississippi

8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Built in 1854, the Lebanon Presbyterian Church is locally significant for its architectural character (Criterion C), being an outstanding example of a vernacular, antebellum, wooden, gable-front church building with two entrances in the gable end. It is the only intact, with almost no modification, antebellum church known to survive in Hinds County, Mississippi.

The Lebanon Presbyterian 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 and physical integrity. The building also retains integrity of location, and the setting remains as it was historically---fronting the old Utica-Raymond Road of the 1830-1930's era. It is located in an isolated spot in a rural farming and forested community. Its cemetery was begun 18 years prior to the construction of the church, in 1836. The cemetery has been carefully maintained for 163 years, contains hundreds of graves, and is still actively used by the extended families of this congregation.

The congregation of the Lebanon Presbyterian Church is active and has approximately 50 faithful members. An annual Homecoming and dinner-on-the-ground is held, and is attended by several hundred people. The cemetery is maintained by the Lebanon Cemetery Association, under the leadership of church members.

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Lebanon Presbyterian Church
Hinds County, Mississippi

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Foote, Shelby. 1963. *The Civil War from Fredericksburg to Meridian*. Random House, New York, New York. 988 pp. (includes a detailed evaluation of McPherson's route from Grand Gulf through Utica to engage at Raymond, then on to Jackson, Mississippi, in the Vicksburg Campaign, May 1863)

Landin, M. C. 1982. *The Collins and Travis Families and Their Allies: The Interrelationships of Twenty-Five Southern Colonial Families and Their Development*. Hederman Brothers Publishers, Jackson, Mississippi. 433 pp. + appendices. (includes history of the McNair clan, the community, and the Lebanon Presbyterian Church)

Landin, M. C. 1988. *The Old Cemeteries of Hinds County, Mississippi, from 1811 to the Present*. University Press, Jackson, Mississippi. 539 pp. (includes a listing and history of all the graves in the Lebanon Cemetery)

Lebanon Presbyterian Church. 1954. Program of the 100th Anniversary and Homecoming, including publication of early church minutes detailing church building construction.

McIntire, Carl. 1978. "Dark Church". Feature article in the Clarion Ledger, Jackson, Mississippi, published 26 November 1978, about the Lebanon Presbyterian Church, with no electricity and no modern features, and detailing its architectural features and early construction information.

Smedes, Susan Dabney. 1887. *Memorials of a Southern Planter*. A. A. Knopf Publishers, New York. 339 pp. (8 editions in the USA and Europe, history of her father's plantation less than one mile from the Lebanon Presbyterian Church).

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Verbal Boundary Description: The boundary of the nominated property consists of an unevenly shaped approximate triangle of 4.5 acres (see attached sketch). The side and front grounds of the church consists of about 1.5 acres, and the cemetery of 3 acres. The church and cemetery property is bounded on the south by a pasture fence south of the old Utica-Raymond Road, on the north and west by another landowner whose land is in forest, and on the east by the Lebanon Presbyterian Church Road. The property is located in the southwest 1/4 of the northeast 1/4 of the northeast 1/4 of Section 32, Township 4 North, Range 4 West, Second Judicial District, Hinds County, Mississippi.

Boundary Justification: The boundaries being nominated include all land owned by the Lebanon Presbyterian Church congregation and the church cemetery association, and include the church's portion of the old Utica-Raymond Road, the church building, the church grounds, and the historic cemetery.

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National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

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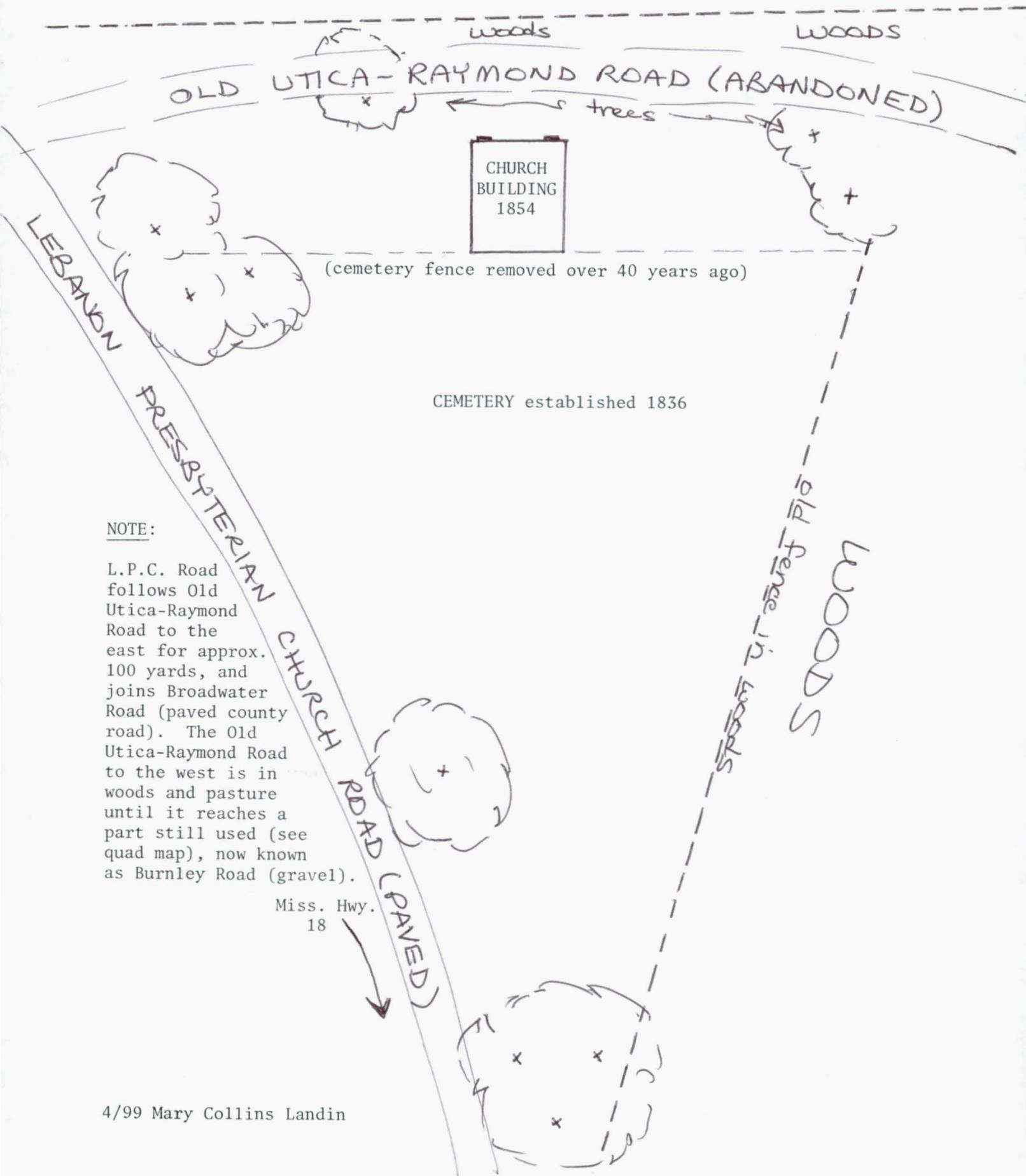
Lebanon Presbyterian Church
Hinds County, Mississippi

PHOTOGRAPHS

1. Lebanon Presbyterian Church
2. Hinds County, Mississippi
3. Mary Landin
4. Spring 1999
5. Mississippi Department of Archives and History

Photo 1 of 14	View of front of church from old road bank, from SW
Photo 2 of 14	View of church from old road bank, from SE
Photo 3 of 14	View of back window, louvered shutter detail
Photo 4 of 14	View of interior, looking N to front of sanctuary
Photo 5 of 14	View of interior, front of church
Photo 6 of 14	View of interior, from pulpit
Photo 7 of 14	View of interior, looking E
Photo 8 of 14	View of interior, looking E
Photo 9 of 14	View of interior, looking S toward doors
Photo 10 of 14	View of rear elevation of church
Photo 11 of 14	View of rear elevation of church and relationship to cemetery
Photo 12 of 14	View of 1836 burial marker in cemetery
Photo 13 of 14	View of church from road bed
Photo 14 of 14	View of old roadbed of Utica-Raymond Road

LEBANON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH AND CEMETERY

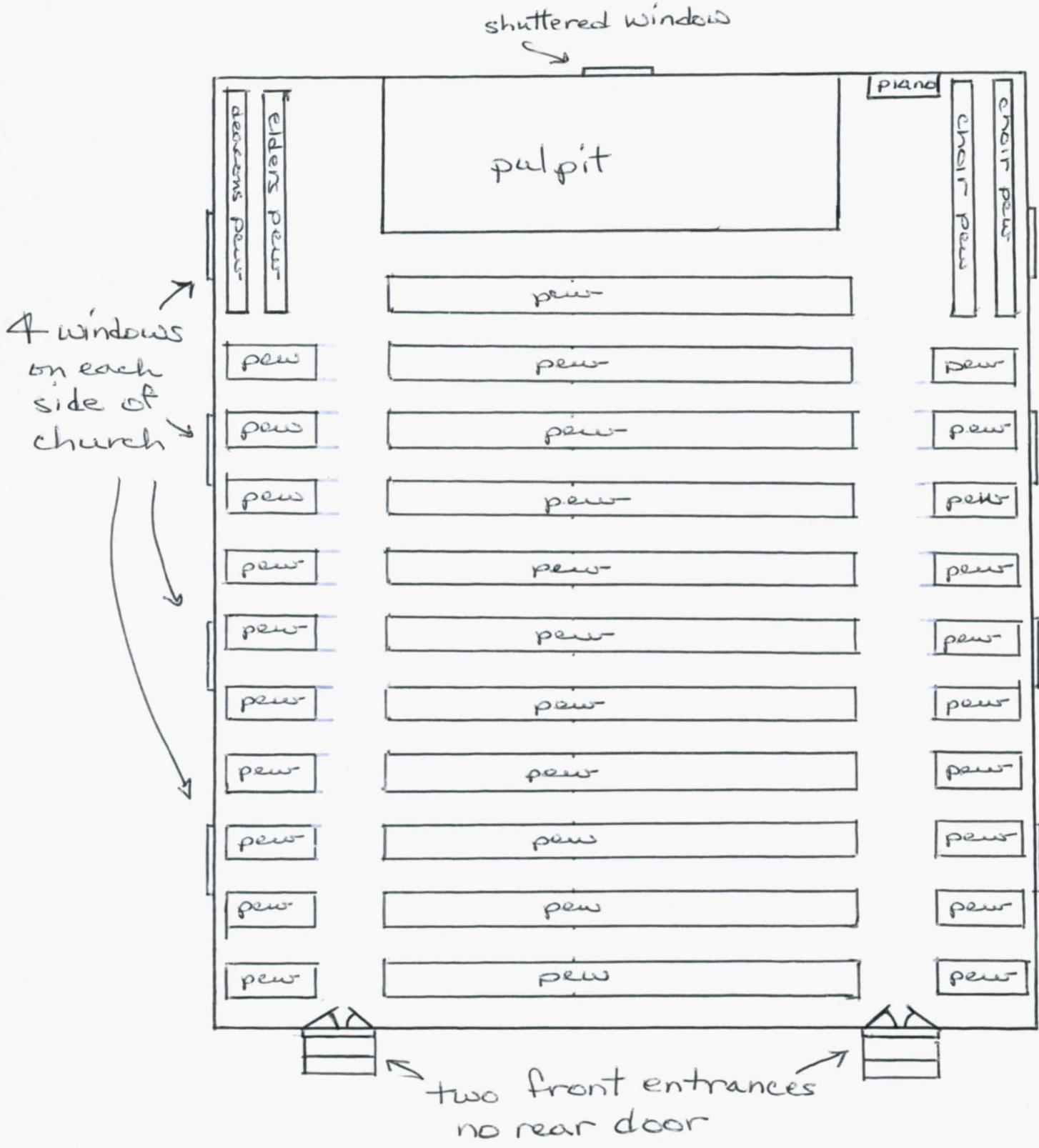


NOTE:

L.P.C. Road follows Old Utica-Raymond Road to the east for approx. 100 yards, and joins Broadwater Road (paved county road). The Old Utica-Raymond Road to the west is in woods and pasture until it reaches a part still used (see quad map), now known as Burnley Road (gravel).

Miss. Hwy.
18

LEBANON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH CONSTRUCTED 1854





Lebanon Presbyterian
Church
Hinds County, MS
15/172250/3559A10



99 3 1

front of church from old road,
taken from southeast



99 3 1

front of church from old road
bank, from southwest



99 3

back windows, lowered shutter

detail



99 3 1

interior, looking south
toward door



99
3
!

intention, looking north to front
of sanctuary



99 3 1

front of church



99 3 1

church intension from pulpit



99 3 1

church interior, looking east



99 3

intention of crush looking at



JOHN B.

SON OF
W. S. & A. F.

GIBBES
DIED

Sep. 20, 1836
AGED 21 Yrs.
Sm. Ads.

99 3

1836 burial in cemetery



99 3 1

back of Lebanon Presbyterian Church
and partial view of cemetery



99 3 1

closing of books of accounts



old roadbed of Utter - Raymond Road



99 3 1

view of church from road head