

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received SEP 30 1985

date entered

OCT 31

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Carmel Presbyterian Church

and/or common Carmel Church

2. Location

street & number On the eastern side of Carmel Church Road about one mile south of its intersection with Kingston Road NA— not for publication

city, town Natchez —x— vicinity of

state Mississippi code 28 county Adams 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"/> commercial |
| <input type="checkbox"/> structure | <input type="checkbox"/> both | <input type="checkbox"/> work in progress | <input type="checkbox"/> educational |
| <input type="checkbox"/> site | Public Acquisition | Accessible | <input type="checkbox"/> entertainment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> object | NA <input type="checkbox"/> in process | <input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted | <input type="checkbox"/> government |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> being considered | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted | <input type="checkbox"/> industrial |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> no | <input type="checkbox"/> military |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> museum |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> park |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> private residence |
| | | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> scientific |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> other: |

4. Owner of Property

name Carmel Presbyterian Church

street & number c/o Mrs. Edwin Ogden Route 1, Box 397

city, town Natchez —x— 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 state Mississippi 39120

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Statewide Survey of Historic Sites has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1973 federal state county local

depository for survey records Mississippi Department of Archives and History

city, town Jackson state Mississippi

7. Description

| | | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| Condition | | Check one | Check one |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site |
| <input type="checkbox"/> good | <input type="checkbox"/> ruins | <input type="checkbox"/> altered | <input type="checkbox"/> moved date <u>NA</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> fair | <input type="checkbox"/> unexposed | | |

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Carmel Presbyterian Church is located on approximately twenty-six acres in the Second Creek community about twelve miles southeast of Natchez, Mississippi. From its picturesque position atop a knoll, the church faces westerly to the Carmel Church Road, which cuts through the church acreage and extends southerly from the Kingston Road to the Kingston-Hutchins Landing Road. The church is a temple-form, one-by-four-bay frame building set on brick foundation piers and a partial basement. The basement is entered through a bulkhead on the south side. Rising above the west end of the gable roof is a three-stage tower with domed roof. The corner pilasters of the short, square-sectioned, first stage support a molded cornice. Beneath the similar cornice of the tall, square-sectioned center stage are half-round, Greek Ionic columns set in antis of the corner pilasters and set on each side of square-headed, louvered openings with simple, wide-board surrounds separating them from the matched boards which finish the tower. Similar but smaller louvered openings occupy each face of the octagonal top stage, which is separated from the domed roof by a richly molded cornice supported by very simple corner pilasters.

The main block of the building is sheathed in clapboards and trimmed on the front and sides by a heavy, full entablature whose molded cornice is carried along the upper edges of the pediment. The portico is supported by molded box columns echoed at the front corners of the facade by pilasters. Unmolded boards frame the windows which contain nine-over-nine, double-hung sash and are closed by original louvered blinds on the exterior. The smooth surface of the matched-board facade is trimmed with a simple base-board and is broken only by the opening of the front door. The entrance frontispiece consists of paneled pilasters supporting a heavy, full entablature with a simple pedimented overpanel. Each of the two leaves of the door is finished with a single molded panel.

On the plastered interior, the focal point is the elevated pulpit set in front of a large Greek Revival frontispiece on the back wall. The frontispiece, framed by the two windows on the back wall, consists of paired, paneled, Doric pilasters supporting a heavy, full entablature surmounted by a pedimented overpanel. The pulpit lectern is faced by two molded panels set between paneled pilasters which are repeated as newels at each end of the raised area. All the pilasters support a single molded cornice, broken at the central projection of the lectern. Flanking the lectern, the upper panels are replaced by rows of turned balusters. At each side, unrailed, closed-stringer stairs descend to the side, their faces decorated with panels. The box pews are closed by single molded-panel doors whose molded caps rise at the end of each pew to form a scroll. The pews, with their scrolls and astragal molding on the doors, are duplicates of those at the First Presbyterian Church of Natchez. The window surrounds are simply molded and the baseboards are beaded.

To the rear of the church and located within the nominated acreage is the Gillespie family cemetery, which was deeded by family members to the church in the late nineteenth century (Deed Book 3I:596).

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 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 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 type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement | <input type="checkbox"/> philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1900- | <input type="checkbox"/> communications | <input type="checkbox"/> industry | <input type="checkbox"/> politics/government | <input type="checkbox"/> other (specify) |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> invention | | |

Specific dates 1850's (stylistic) **Builder/Architect** unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Carmel Presbyterian Church is one of Mississippi's most significant essays in the vernacular Greek Revival Style, based on its high degree of architectural finish, its outstanding integrity, and its picturesque pastoral setting. The church is also important in providing a sense of place for the old plantation communities of Second Creek and Kingston, located a few miles southeast of Natchez. Probably constructed in the 1850's, the church is a vernacular Greek Revival echo of the Federal Style First Presbyterian Church in downtown Natchez. The Roman Tuscan columns of the Federal Style tower of the First Presbyterian Church become Greek Ionic columns in the tower at Carmel Church. The Federal, arched, louvered openings of the octagonal stage of First Presbyterian's tower become square-headed openings at Carmel. On the interior, the pews and pew doors of the two churches are seemingly identical, and the Greek Revival frontispiece behind the pulpit and the pulpit itself closely match the pulpit and frontispiece installed in the First Presbyterian Church in an 1851 remodeling.

The present church building is apparently the second building constructed for Carmel Presbyterian Church, which was organized by 1825, the year the church came under the care of the Presbytery (Records of Carmel Presbyterian Church, Presbyterian Historical Association, Montreat, North Carolina). The first church building was erected on land donated by Philander Smith (Adams County, Mississippi, Deed Book P:177), and, for the past fifty years, many people in the community had assigned the church building a construction date of ca. 1825. An 1850's stylistic date is substantiated by newly located documentary evidence that the existing Carmel Church building is the second building and is not located on the same parcel of land where the first church was built. In 1871, shortly after the death of former Carmel Church minister Benjamin Chase, his heirs deeded to the trustees of the church "all the tract of land known as Carmel Church property upon which the present church stands lying and situated on the Southwestern Corner of Mantua Plantation," in exchange for the property earlier acquired by the church from Philander Smith (Deed Book RR:101). The 1850's stylistic date is based on the use of ogee and angle moldings, a molding profile that became popular in the Natchez area in the 1850's, on the wide-board window surrounds, and on the similarity of Carmel Church to the First Presbyterian Church in Natchez as it appeared after an 1851 remodeling.

The architectural integrity of Carmel Church is outstanding with the only alteration occurring on the portico where the box columns have been cut at the bottom and placed on high brick piers that extend above the level of the floor. Although Carmel Church today has no active congregation and is used only a few times a year for religious services, the church is carefully maintained by the Ogden family, long-time members of the church.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Adams County, Mississippi. Chancery Clerk, Deed Books P, RR, 3I.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property Approx. 8 acres

Quadrangle name Kingston, Miss.-LA.

Quadrangle scale 1:62500

UTM References

A

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B

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| Zone | | | Easting | | | | Northing | | | | | | | |

Verbal boundary description and justification See accompanying copy of Adams County tax map showing the nominated property outlined in red. The nominated portion represents all the acreage owned by the church that is located on the eastern side of the Carmel Church Road. The nominated property is located in T.5 N. and R.2 W.--sections 3 and 4.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

| state | code | county | code |
|-------|------|--------|------|
| NA | | | |

| state | code | county | code |
|-------|------|--------|------|
| NA | | | |

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Mary Warren Miller/preservation consultant

organization Historic Natchez Foundation

date August 5, 1985

street & number P. O. Box 1761

telephone (601) 442-2500

city or town Natchez

state Mississippi 39120

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state 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

Kenneth H. P'Pool

title Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

date September 26, 1985

For NPS use only

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

for Shelores Eyer
Keeper of the National Register

Entered in the
National Register

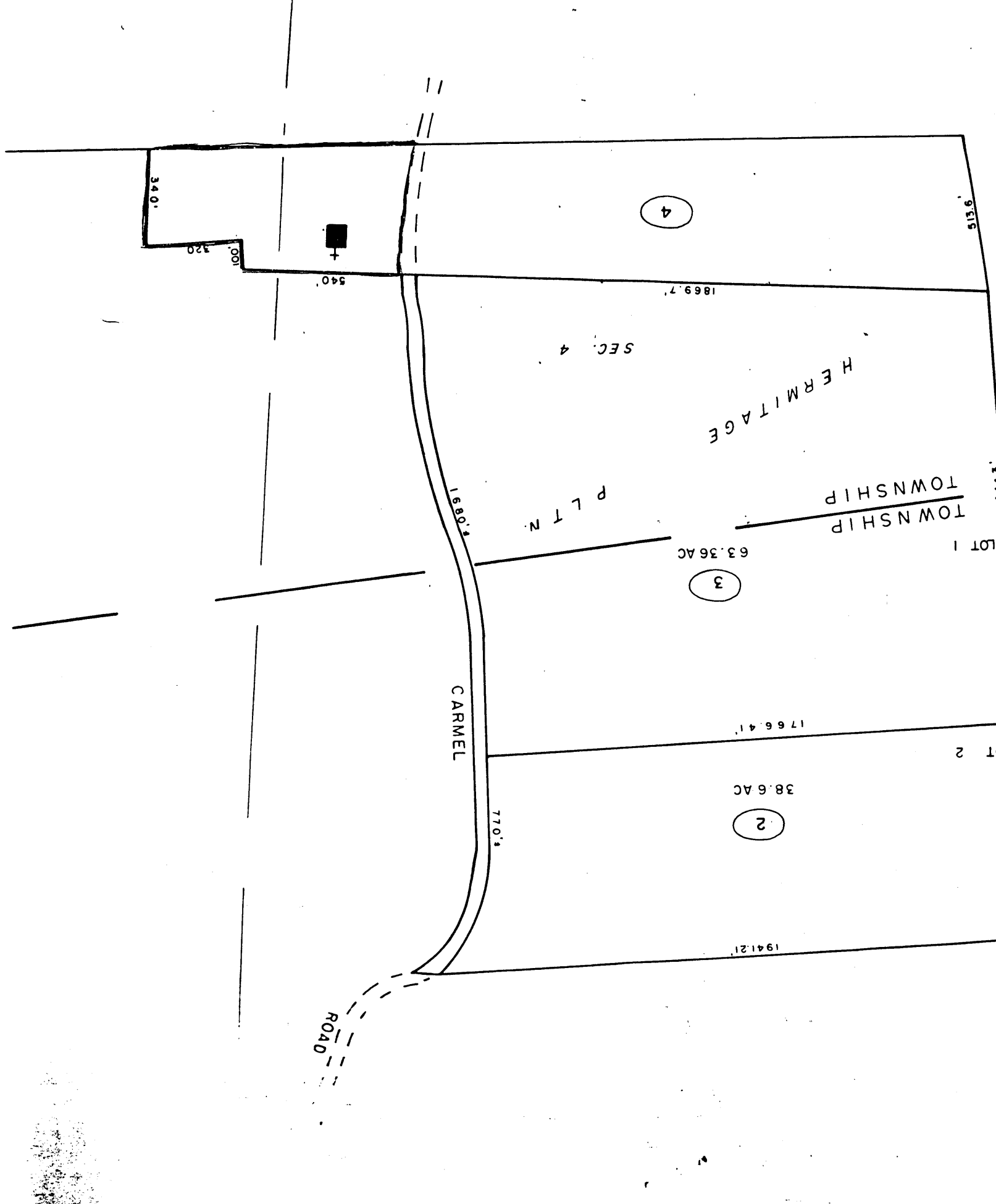
date 10-31-85

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

CARMEL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Natchez, Adams County, Mississippi



340.0'

320.00'

540.00'

540.0'

4

1869.7'

SEC. 4

HERMITAGE

PLTN.

TOWNSHIP

LOT 1

63.36 AC

3

1766.41'

LOT 2

38.6 AC

2

CARMEL

1680.3'

770.3'

ROAD

1941.21'

9515.6'



CARMEL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Natchez, Adams County, Mississippi

Looking southeasterly, the westerly
facade and northerly side elevation

Mary W. Miller, Historic Natchez
Foundation, February 1984 (verified
April 1985)

Photo 1 of 3



CARMEL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Natchez, Adams County, Mississippi

Looking southeasterly, the tower
of Carmel Church

Mary W. Miller, Historic Natchez
Foundation, February 1984 (verified
April 1985)

Photo 2 of 3



CARMEL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Natchez, Adams County, Mississippi

Looking easterly, the interior of
Carmel Church.

Mary W. Miller, Historic Natchez
Foundation, February 1984 (verified
April 1985)

Photo 3 of 3