

NRHP

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

SEP 15 2022

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any 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.

LISTED

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Griffith Memorial Baptist Church

Other names/site number: Jackson Revival Center Church

Name of related multiple property listing:
N/A

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

2. Location

Street & number: 519 West Silas Brown Street

City or town: Jackson State: Mississippi County: Hinds

Not For Publication: Vicinity:

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

 national statewide X local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

 A B X C D

<p style="font-size: 2em; color: blue; text-align: center;"><i>Kate Blount</i></p> <hr/> <p>Signature of certifying official/Title:</p>	<p style="font-size: 1.5em; color: blue; text-align: center;">7-29-22</p> <hr/> <p>Date</p>
<p>State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</p>	
<p>In my opinion, the property <u> </u> meets <u> </u> does not meet the National Register criteria.</p>	
<hr/> <p>Signature of commenting official:</p>	<hr/> <p>Date</p>
<hr/> <p>Title :</p>	<hr/> <p>State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</p>

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4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

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

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Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u> </u>	buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u> </u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

RELIGION/religious facility

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

RELIGION/religious facility

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE 19th AND 20th CENTURY REVIVAL/Classical Revival/Neo-Classical Revival

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: Brick/Concrete

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

Located at 519 West Silas Brown Street in Jackson, Hinds County, Mississippi, the (former) Griffith Memorial Baptist Church is an early 20th Century Neo-Classical Revival church building constructed of light-yellow brick with cast stone trim and details. Its Roman temple inspired form is emphasized with its monumental tetrastyle portico composed of Temple of the Winds columns which is approached by a wide set of twenty steps which lead to the piano nobile where the auditorium/sanctuary is located. The building, consisting of both the original 1930 structure and the 1951 addition, contains 27,631 square feet and has a high level of historic integrity. The architectural integrity of the church building is emphasized by the deteriorated nature of the surrounding neighborhood. The Jackson Revival Center, the current owner of the building, has done an exemplary job maintaining the building while the surrounding neighborhood has undergone substantial decline thus leaving the (former) Griffith Memorial Baptist Church as the most substantial, impressive and intact, historic structure in the immediate area.

Narrative Description

The former Griffith Memorial Baptist Church is a fine example of early 20th Century Neo-Classical Revival architecture. The building, both the 1930 and the 1951 educational and administrative wing addition, clad in textured yellow brick veneer with classical accents of cast stone decorating the original building, is located at the northwest corner of West Silas Brown

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Street and Langley Avenue. Both buildings are topped with low pitched roofs of asphalt shingles hidden from view behind high parapets topped with cast stone coping. The roof itself is supported by steel trusses. The original church building faces north toward West Silas Brown Street. The 1951 addition faces west toward Langley Avenue. The entire building contains 27,631 square feet. The 1930 building is rectangular in shape with the long axis oriented north to south. The 1951 educational building addition is also rectangular in shape but oriented east to west.

The north facing façade of the original building is dominated by a two-story tetrastyle portico composed of fluted Temple of the Winds columns of cast concrete supporting a simplified Corinthian entablature with a denticulated cornice. Rosettes are centered in the frieze above each column. The tympanum of the pediment has a denticulated cornice. Located at the center of the tympanum is an oculus, or bull's eye window, with radial glazing, flanked by decorative cast stone swags. Flanking the portico on each side is a bay of solid brick wall. Located near the top of each wall is a large cast stone plaque of an urn flanked by swags. The entablature is referenced on the flanking walls with courses of soldier bricks located next to the bottom and the top of the entablature. On the west side of the portico at the basement level is an entrance composed of a partially glazed wooden paneled door sheltered by a modern flat awning. A blind brick arch with a cast-stone key stone tops the door. The spring point of the arch is set on the cast stone water table, serving here as an impost, that encircles the building. A small six light window lights the area under the front stairs on both the western and eastern elevations. On the east side of the portico at the basement level is a single eight over one wooden sash window. Topping this window is a blind arch similar to that topping the entrance on the west side.

A grand stair of twenty concrete steps, flanked by stepped cheek walls topped with a wide cast stone coping, leads from the street level to the piano nobile, or main level. Original cast iron lighting standards are located on the cheek walls near the base of the steps. At the top of the steps is an area sheltered underneath the projecting portico where entrance into the building is accessed via three sets of paneled, double leaf doors, each topped by a leaded glass transom. The outer doors are outlined with a decorative design of bricks set in a soldier course while the central door is flanked by sets of two cast stone pilasters that support a cast stone decorative blind arch in a "fan" design. This central door is also outlined with a soldier course of brick. Set in the brickwork above each pair of outer doors is a brick panel design. Above this is set three pairs of hopper windows, each pair consisting of six lights, which are centered above each pair of doors, all outlined in soldier course bricks creating a frame around each window like the detailing around the outer entrance doors. A simple cast iron railing links each outer column to the wall of the building.

Even with the floor of the portico is a cast stone stringcourse, reminiscent of a water table, that encircles the building dividing the basement from the piano nobile. The western elevation, visible from Langley Avenue, clearly shows the three levels of the 1930 building consisting of the raised basement, the piano nobile (main floor) and the top floor. The first bay of the western elevation heading south contains what was originally a window but is now filled mainly with aluminum louvers. The top of the opening contains a transom consisting of a pair of windows

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with muntins in a roman lattice pattern. The opening also has a cast stone sill and a centrally located cast stone keystone within a brick jack arch. Located below this window is an oculus, or bull's eye window with radial glazing. The next four bays all contain two stacked triple windows, composed of a center window of three over three vertical light sash flanked by sidelights of two over two vertical light sash. The portion of the brick wall located below the top floor windows and above the piano nobile windows is slightly recessed from the main wall plane. Located at the center of each of these recessed sections is a cast stone decorative plaque consisting of an urn flanked by swags. These plaques are identical to those on the façade. These recessed sections are topped by a brick jack arch centered on a cast stone keystone. Each triple window has a cast stone sill. The basement level contains four sets of two windows composed of eight over eight wooden sash windows located below each section above. Each pair of windows is outlined in brick soldier course brickwork. The eastern elevation to this point is virtually identical to the western elevation except for there not being an oculus. Two basement windows are located in the northern most bay of the eastern elevation. There is also a single leaf door located in the northern most of the two basement windows in the second bay. On both elevations past the fifth bay the wall plane projects slightly. On the western elevation the projecting bay contains a staircase on the inside which is accessed by a single leaf partially glazed wooden paneled door sheltered by an aluminum awning. A small six over six wooden sash window is located near the first landing of the interior stair. A large, double window composed of six over six wooden sash with a transom of two sash with muntins in a roman lattice pattern. The former windows in the first bays, now filled with louvers, resembled this window originally. Past this projection the wall plane returns to its original depth. This last part of the building has four basement windows like the others on this elevation but without the framing of soldier bricks so they are treated as separate windows. On the piano nobile level are five eight over eight wooden sash windows and four eight over eight wooden sash windows on the top level with a wider space between the middle two windows. The eastern elevation of the projected portion contains paired windows of eight over eight wooden sash on the piano nobile and upper levels with soldier brick enframement but no keystones. The basement windows are also eight over eight but of shorter proportions. All the windows have cast stone sills. The last four bays on the eastern elevation are also eight over eight wooden sash with cast stone sills on the basement and upper levels. The windows on the piano nobile have been replaced with new clad six over six windows. There are additional three small openings immediately south of the projecting part of the eastern elevation; a small four light wooden sash at the basement level, a replacement clad four light window on the piano nobile and aluminum louvers on the upper level. A square chimney is located at the southeastern corner of the 1930 building. The southern elevation of the building is visible only above the one-story hyphen added after 1962¹ to connect the 1930 building with the 1951 addition. The windows on the piano nobile have been replaced with six over six clad windows. The original eight over eight windows survive on the upper level.

The front doors at the top of the stairs enter the vestibule which stretches across the front of the building. At each end of the vestibule is a staircase. The one located in the eastern end is a simple two flight staircase that leads only to the balcony. Rather than a railing composed of

¹ 1962 Sanborn Map for Jackson shows the 1930 building, the 1951 addition but only a small connection between the buildings, not the hyphen there now.

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balusters, the stairs are enclosed by a solid wall with a handrail on top. There are simple square newels with simple square caps at the first step, the first landing and the top of these stairs. A closet with a two-panel door is located under the stairs. At the western end of the vestibule is the second staircase. This staircase is detailed like the first one but is an open well staircase leading from the ground floor entrance located at the northwest corner of the building to the balcony.

Access from the vestibule into the auditorium/sanctuary is via two sets of paneled double leaf doors in line with the two outer sets of double leaf doors entering the building from the portico. The auditorium/sanctuary contains three separate ranks of pews separated by two aisles leading from the doors to the dais at the front of the room. Behind the dais and separated from it by a slightly projecting proscenium arch is the choir loft then behind that the original baptistry. Physically separating the dais from the choir loft is a paneled railing with two gates in a roman lattice pattern, The proscenium arch is framed by two pairs of fluted pilasters with Temple of the Winds capitols. Centered above the top of each capitol and below the crown molding is a gilded rosette. A U-shaped balcony, containing its original theater style wooden folding seats, stretches across the rear of the auditorium/sanctuary and down the eastern and western walls to the southern wall.

Located behind the choir loft and baptistry area and accessed via single leaf partially glazed doors, one to each side of the dais, is a u-shaped corridor that leads through the western door to a rear staircase detailed like those in the vestibule but here a single passenger elevator has been installed in the stairwell. Across from this staircase is access to the choir loft and baptistry via a small staircase with a simple railing of square newels, square handrail and closely spaced square sectioned balusters. A similar staircase is located on the eastern side of the baptistry and choir area. Past the staircase and across the rear of this level is the choir-room. A restroom and a "Hospitality Room" with a brick fireplace are in the eastern end of this area. The upper level, accessed via the rear staircase and through partially glazed doors located in the southern end of the balcony, has a similar arrangement of rooms but above the choir room is the original youth area consisting of a large central room with two classrooms on each side. The interior doors, mostly two panel or partially glazed, door and window trim and baseboards as well as the plaster walls throughout the interior of the building are original. Accessible via the western stairs in the front vestibule and the rear stairs located south of the auditorium/sanctuary, the basement contains classrooms and offices arranged around an off-center corridor that stretches from the basement vestibule area in the north through to a rear vestibule area at the rear stairs. Both basement vestibules have direct access to the exterior via ground level entrances located at the front western stairs and the rear stairs. Across the rear vestibule from the rear stairs to the east is the original Pastor's Study. The study is a basic room but does possess some architectural distinction since it is the location of a second simple craftsman inspired brick fireplace like the one in the Parlor on the first floor. Going south from this rear vestibule area are additional support spaces as well as access from the hyphen which leads via a short flight of steps into the first floor of the Education Building.

The 1951 Education Building was constructed to house additional classrooms and fellowship space. Like the original building, the Education Building has a flat roof hidden behind a parapet

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with cast stone coping. The Education Building is oriented east to west, perpendicular to the orientation of the original building. After 1962, the Education building was joined to the original building via a one story, yellow textured brick hyphen with a single leaf slab door sheltered by an aluminum awning and a single small aluminum sash window. The addition of the hyphen essentially makes the two into a single building. The Education Building, a two-story, textured yellow brick structure, was designed to blend in with the original Neo-Classical 1930 building although architecturally it is designed in a simplified late Moderne style. The architectural details are spare and restricted only to the façade and the first bay of the northern and southern elevations. A cast stone water table is used on the façade and the first two bays of the northern and southern elevations as well. The facade is slightly taller than the rest of the building. The windows of both the first and second floors of each of the first bays of the northern and southern elevations are set within a brick frame of soldier course bricks. In addition, these first northern and southern bays are set out slightly from the rest of their elevations as well as being slightly taller. Most of the architectural detailing of the façade is restricted to the centrally located entrance bay which is set out slightly from the main plane of the building which is totally devoid of fenestration. The main entrance is centered in this slightly projecting area and is further emphasized by being slightly recessed in a series of four recessing frames of soldier course brickwork. The entrance is via double-leaf paneled doors with a transom and sidelights. The doors are accessed via two semi-circular steps. Above the doors is a cantilevered semi-circular awning with "Fellowship Hall" spelled out in surface mounted letters, on the edge of the awning. Above the doors is an aluminum framed casement window of obscure glass with sidelights; the central casements and sidelights have transoms as well as lights below. All windows are six over six aluminum sash with cast stone lintels. The southern elevation, past the first bay, contains ten six over six aluminum sash on the first floor and six on the second floor with the last bay containing aluminum louvers. The northern elevations first floor is partially incorporated into the hyphen obscuring most of its fenestration while the second floor has a fenestration like that of the southern elevation, six windows, past the first bay, with the last, or seventh bay, containing aluminum louvers. The rear, or eastern elevation has six, six over six aluminum sash on the second floor with, on the first floor, a six over six sash, single leaf door, a small aluminum sash window partially obscured by a mechanical installation, a single leaf door and a final six over six aluminum sash window. Over each door is a square vent filled with aluminum sash.

The double-leaf front doors open into a vestibule that extends across the entire western end of the interior. The northern and southern ends of the vestibule each contain a staircase leading to the second floor. A restroom is located underneath the landing of each stair. Directly in front of the entrance into the building is located a set of double leaf slab doors with small square lights, flanked by simple square single light windows all opening into the original fellowship hall. At the eastern end of the fellowship hall is a stage area. To the north is the access to the original building and a kitchen area. To the south are classrooms that have been converted into offices. Each classroom (now office) space is accessed from the fellowship hall by original partially glazed single leaf doors with three light transoms with the original wood finish. Large sections of the wall on both the southern and northern sides are composed of original glass block which allows some natural light into the fellowship hall which has no windows. The second floor is similarly arranged with the exception of a small hallway, flanked by classrooms and restrooms,

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leading east from the vestibule into a large central room surrounded by classrooms, some of which have the original wooden folding doors used to subdivide the rooms as needed. Glass block walls are used in this area as well to provide some natural light into the area. The Education Building has a remarkable degree of integrity retaining original doors, trim, baseboards, plaster walls and glass block as well as original acoustic ceiling tiles and light fixtures.

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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.)

- 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.
- 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.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location
- C. A birthplace or grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1930

Significant Dates

Original building dedicated in 1930

Addition built 1951

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

N.W. Overstreet, Architect, Original 1930 portion

Albert Hays Town, designer with N.W. Overstreet, 1930 portion

Currie and Corley, Builders, Raleigh, MS, Original 1930 portion

Spain and Biggers, Architects, 1951 Education Addition

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The former Griffith Memorial Baptist Church, now a campus of the Jackson Revival Center, is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places for local significance under Criterion C for Architecture as a well-designed and well-preserved example of an Early 20th Century Neo-Classical style church. Built in 1930 with a school and administration addition circa 1950, the former Griffith Memorial Baptist Church is a notable example of this style and period

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of architecture in Jackson, Mississippi. A. Hays Town, who would go on to become a significant regional architect, designed the original 1930 building during his early years as a designer working for N.W. Overstreet, one of Mississippi's most prolific 20th century architects. Griffith Memorial Baptist Church is an outstanding example of Neo-Classical Revival architecture in Jackson. The period of significance, 1930, is when the current church building was dedicated. The period also represents a time when the Neo-Classical Revival style of architecture, while still a prominent influential architectural style, especially in buildings of civic and religious institutions, would begin to decline in popularity during the following decades, as first the economic hardships of the Great Depression made significant classical architecture too cost prohibitive and second the increasing pressure from and influence of modern architectural styles and movements arriving from Europe made building such structures less popular.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

The Mississippi territory was created by the government of the United States in 1798 from land ceded to the U.S. government by Spain. The original territorial capital was in Natchez which had served as a colonial center of government for the region. On December 10, 1817, Mississippi was admitted to the Union as the 20th state. In 1821, the state legislature appointed a three-man committee which eventually located a site for a new capital city near the geographical center of the state and near a navigable river. In 1822, this site became Jackson.

The decade immediately before the Civil War was a successful one. The state constructed a monumental Greek Revival State Capitol Building and Governor's Mansion, the city constructed a substantial City Hall. Most of the major religious denominations built permanent houses of worship during this period and many substantial houses were built in town. The railroad made its way to the city during this time as well. The Vicksburg and Alabama Railroad connected the city to points east and west and what would ultimately be known as the Mississippi Central connected Jackson with the communities north and south. The war brought considerable destruction and damage to the city. Jackson however, recovered and by the late 19th century was experiencing considerable growth and progress.

The early twentieth century was a time of growth and expansion for the City of Jackson. As the railroad surpassed the Mississippi River in importance growth moved to the State Capitol and Jackson became the economic, educational and cultural hub of Central Mississippi. By the 1930 census, Jackson finally became the largest city in the state surpassing the Meridian and Vicksburg for that distinction. During the Great Depression of the 1930s the city continued to grow with many citizens relocating to the community from smaller towns and rural areas.² Oil was discovered near Jackson in 1939 in Yazoo County bringing more economic prosperity.³ The coming of World War II had a direct impact on the City of Jackson when the city's municipal airport was designated the Jackson Army Air Base. In addition to the Army Air Base, Camp

² Todd Sanders, "Admiral Benbow Inn" National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 1978), Section 8, Pages 6-7.

³ Mississippi Encyclopedia, Tinsley Field, <https://mississippiencyclopedia.org/entries/tinsley-field/>

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Livingston, located adjacent to the Air Base, served as a training ground for troops.⁴ Beyond this military activity, many industries in Jackson were involved in the manufacturing of items for the war effort.⁵ After the war, due to its location along established rail lines and a post war influx of oil money, Jackson experienced an intense period of industrial growth⁶. This industrial growth led to the steady increase in the City's population. By 1948 there were more than 200,000 residents in over 250 suburbs in the metropolitan area.⁷ Many large post-war neighborhoods were located to the north and west of the city. Located within these new neighborhoods were new schools, shopping areas and new churches. The suburban sprawl largely begun during the early post-war period continued throughout the late 20th and into the early 21st century ultimately leading to the decline of many older neighborhoods located closer to the city center.

The (former) Griffith Memorial Baptist Church is located at 519 West Silas Brown Street in West Jackson. The history of the congregation, as is true with most Baptist churches in Jackson, of both historically white and historically black congregations, can trace its origins back to 1838 when First Baptist Church was founded in Jackson. Sixteen people met in their houses for religious services until 1844 when the First Baptist Church built its first building at North West Street and Yazoo Street. By 1860, the congregation had grown to 331 members.⁸

Following the Civil War, the population of the City of Jackson continued to grow as the city expanded to the west, primarily along West Capitol Street where in 1901, the Second Baptist Church opened, the first time since the Civil War that a major new white Baptist church of the Southern Baptist denomination was established in the City of Jackson.⁹ This congregation grew along with the city and the neighborhood. On July 6, 1925, Second Baptist Church changed its name to Calvary Baptist Church. Calvary Baptist Church continued to flourish and on March 27, 1927, construction began on the existing building, an impressive Neo-Classical structure designed by R.H. Hunt of Chattanooga, TN. This structure was listed on the National Register of Historic Places on May 14, 2013.¹⁰

The (former) Griffith Memorial Baptist Church has its origins in 1906 when the leadership of the First Baptist Church organized prayer meetings in the general area of Jackson where Griffith Memorial would soon be established. The church at first met in the Rankin Street Methodist Church but soon moved to the James Z. George School. A member of First Baptist Church, Mr.

⁴ *From Frontier Capital to Modern City-A History of Jackson, Mississippi's Built Environment, 1865-1950*, Gainesville, GA: The Jaeger Company, circa 2000, page 107.

⁵ *Ibid*, page 108

⁶ *Ibid*, page 110

⁷ *Ibid*, page 111

⁸ Darren Pellegrin, "Calvary Baptist Church," National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 1978), Section 8, Page 16.

⁹ Black members of First Baptist Church, which originally had both white and black members, became a separate body and formed Mt. Helm Baptist Church in 1867. Second/Calvary Baptist was the second Baptist church in Jackson in the Southern Baptist convention, while Mt. Helm and its sister churches became part of the National Baptist convention. See Mt. Helm Baptist Church website: <https://www.mthelm.org/history>

¹⁰ Darren Pellegrin, "Calvary Baptist Church," National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 1978), Section 8, Page 16.

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Richard Griffith, donated the land for the construction of the first building of this nascent congregation. Soon afterwards, he passed away and his widow donated \$1,000.00 towards the construction of the new church which was named in his honor. Griffith Memorial Baptist Church thus became the third white Baptist church organized in the City of Jackson. This first building, located at the Northwest corner of Winter and Hunter Streets,¹¹ was dedicated on November 10, 1907.¹² The current Griffith Memorial Church is located at the corner of West Silas Brown Street and Langley Avenue, approximately two blocks to the northwest of the original location. As the neighborhood grew, so did the congregation.

By October 1927, or twenty-one years after it was officially established, Griffith Memorial Church had grown to the point that its first building was inadequate for the needs of the increasing congregation. The original church consisted of twelve members; by 1928, the membership had grown to 480 with “new additions every Sunday.”¹³ Even after the addition of a balcony in the sanctuary, the construction of nine new classrooms, and the conversion of the parsonage into use for Sunday school, the original facility was simply not large enough. Because of this continued growth of the congregation plans were put into place in 1928 to build in 1929 a “commodious and attractive” three-story brick building. For this, the membership budgeted \$16,550.00.¹⁴

The completed building was formally opened on October 26, 1930. A brief article that ran in the *Daily Clarion Ledger* on that day provides some details about the new church building. For example, it was erected at a cost of “approximately \$70,000.00”, which is considerably more than the congregation had budgeted just about two years before. The building is described as being built of “cream brick with white stone trim” and being “three stories and is planned for 700 capacity in Sunday School with auditorium for 700 seats by using the balcony”. The article also credits the design of the building to N.W. Overstreet, architect, of Jackson with Currie and Corley of Raleigh as builders.¹⁵

At the time Griffith Memorial was designed and constructed, N. W. Overstreet had been practicing architecture in Jackson since 1912. Overstreet was a Mississippi native from Jones County, who attended Mississippi A&M where he received a degree in Mechanical Engineering. While at college he worked one summer in the office of R. H. Hunt, a prolific regional architect based in Chattanooga, Tennessee. Overstreet completed his formal education upon graduation from the University of Illinois in 1910 with a degree in Architectural Engineering. By the time Overstreet’s office received the commission for the Griffith Memorial Church, he had been involved in the design of several churches around the state including some in the Neo-Classical style, namely the Memorial Methodist Church (1922) in Bolton, Hinds County; the (former) Central Presbyterian Church (1925) on Capitol Street in Jackson; the First United Methodist

¹¹ Sanborn Map of Jackson, Mississippi, page 48, 1925

¹² “View of the Griffith Memorial Church showing a part of the congregation-new building planned”. *Daily Clarion-Ledger*, December 2, 1928, page 6,

¹³ Ibid

¹⁴ Ibid

¹⁵ “New Church Opening Today.” *Daily Clarion-Ledger*, October 26, 1930, page 12,

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Church in Hollandale, Washington County (1925-26); and the First Baptist Church of Mount Olive, in Covington County (1926-27). Interestingly, the First Baptist Church of Mount Olive looks like a simplified version of the Griffith Memorial Church. The Mount Olive building lacks the Temple of the Winds Corinthian Columns and decorative cast stone plaques of the later structure and instead is fronted by a simple tetra-style portico of Tuscan columns and decorative brick work alone on the facade. The Mount Olive building has similar massing to Griffith Memorial and a floor plan that appears to be a mirror-reverse of Griffith Memorial.

The *Daily Clarion-Ledger* credits the design of Griffith Memorial to the firm of N. W. Overstreet. According to architectural historian David Sachs, the task for designing the new church was given to Overstreet's new employee, Albert Hays Town¹⁶ Town was born in 1903 in Crowley, Louisiana. After graduating from Tulane University in 1926 he moved to Jackson to work for N. W. Overstreet where he soon began to work on the recently acquired commission to design the new Mississippi State Hospital. This new facility, located at Whitfield in Rankin County, was to consist of a large, park like campus of substantial red brick Colonial Revival buildings. Dr. Mitchell, the superintendent of the hospital, had supposedly requested that the buildings be designed in the "Southern Colonial Style" which is generally regarded as a style influenced by the architecture of the late colonial and early federal period in American history, circa 1770 to 1830, but with a heavy dose of classically derived columns and porticos. Town showed his talent and his work ethic and quickly moved on to work on other designs for the firm such as the Holmes County Community Hospital in Lexington, an addition to the E.E. Bass School in Greenville, and the Griffith Memorial Baptist Church. These early projects clearly show that Town was an adept designer when working within a classically derived genre.¹⁷ Town's grasp of classical detailing would become more and more apparent as he continued to hone his craft. While Town is often associated with the Art Deco and Moderne inspired architecture he helped design after he became a partner in the firm with Overstreet in 1931, Town always showed an affinity for the classical in his designs. This appreciation for the Classical was no doubt strengthened when he recorded many of the grand Classical houses in Natchez for the Historic American Buildings Survey in the early 1930s. The classical influence in Town's architecture can be seen, for example, at the Chester R. Underwood House, 807 Pinehurst Street, Jackson. While often regarded as the finest example in Mississippi of a house designed in the Moderne style, the Underwood house has some latent classical elements such as the overall Palladian symmetry of the façade, the vaguely classical detailing of the iron railing at the second-floor level and the simple denticulated cornice at the roofline of the center block. The firm of N. W. Overstreet & A.H. Town was very active throughout the 1930s designing many public buildings including schools and jails. The firm was dissolved only when Mr. Town decided that he wanted to move home to Louisiana in 1939.¹⁸ It was in his later years in

¹⁶ David Helburn Sachs, "The Work of Overstreet and Town-The Coming of Modern Architecture to Mississippi," D.Arch. (University of Michigan, 1986), p.166.

¹⁷ Sachs, "The Work of Overstreet and Town," pp.164-166.

¹⁸ Mississippi Historic Resources Inventory (HRI) Database. Retrieved June 30, 2022, from the Mississippi Department of Archives and History (MDAH) <https://www.apps.mdah.ms.gov/Public/rpt.aspx?rpt=artisanSearch&Name=town%2C%20albert%20hays&City=Any&Role=Any>

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Louisiana that Mr. Town developed the style of architecture for which he would be remembered throughout the Southeast. The “Town style” is known for its use of regional vernacular, often classically inspired, architectural details incorporated into elegant high-end private houses constructed with salvaged architectural elements and materials.

In addition to showing Mr. Town’s grasp of classical detail on the buildings’ exterior, the overall design and layout of Griffith Memorial Baptist Church was apparently influenced by the architectural guidelines of the Southern Baptist convention which began publishing building guides in 1917. The 1926 edition of this publication appears to be a typical example. This publication must have been very useful not only for the congregation but also for architects in designing buildings to meet the needs of those congregations. Written almost like a Sunday School lesson, this book includes chapters on how to address any issue a congregation might face when planning a new building from selecting a lot (corner lots, such as the site of Griffith Memorial, are the best), selecting an architect, and how to finance the construction. The last third of the book includes examples of typical building designs and floor plans for congregations of various sizes from the largest for congregations of 3000 to 5000 to the smallest with an enrollment of 100 to 400.¹⁹

While it is difficult to state with certainty how great an influence this publication had on Town as he designed Griffith Memorial, the layout of the building does bear some similarity to the layout of the “typical church plan” suggested for churches and Sunday Schools numbering 500 to 1000.²⁰ This makes sense given the size of the congregation of Griffith Memorial at the time they constructed their new building. The exterior design of Griffith Memorial is similar to some of the “model” buildings in this section as well. For example, the design of the First Baptist Church of Arcadia, Florida, holds some resemblance to that of Griffith Memorial. The exterior is composed as a raised temple style with a prominent set of steps leading from the sidewalk to the main entrance on the piano nobile. The interior arrangement of the vestibule and the auditorium is also similar.²¹ The exterior preliminary design for the First Baptist Church of Dothan, Alabama, also bears some semblance to Griffith Memorial.²² While the resemblance of these two examples to Griffith Memorial may just be due to the fact that the designers involved were working with the Neo-Classical style and following a clearly laid out plan arrangement, there is evidence that Town’s employer, N. W. Overstreet, a Deacon at Jackson’s First Baptist Church, was familiar with the work of the Architectural Department of the Baptist Sunday School Board and its publications. In Mr. Burroughs’ 1926 book, there is a rendering of an alternate design showing how the plan for the Arcadia church could be developed in the Gothic Revival style. This published design was by the firm of Ferrand & Fitch, of St. Louis, and it bears a striking resemblance to Jackson’s First Baptist Church, 1924-27, which was a joint venture of N.W. Overstreet and Gabriel Ferrand.²³

¹⁹ P.E. Burroughs, *How to Plan Church Buildings*, Nashville, TN: Southern Baptist Convention, 1926.

²⁰ Ibid, p. 147

²¹ Ibid, pp. 92-96

²² Ibid, p. 91

²³ Ibid, p. 97

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The mid to late 1920s were a busy time for church construction among the Baptist congregations of Jackson. In addition to the new First Baptist Church (1924-27), Calvary Baptist Church on West Capitol Street completed a new structure in 1929. While the new First Baptist was designed in the Gothic Revival Style, Calvary and Griffith Memorial were both designed in a style that was less common for churches in Jackson, the Neo-Classical style. While much larger than Griffith Memorial, both churches employ with equal success the Neo-Classical style. All three churches were inspired in their design and layout by the publications of the Architectural Department of the Baptist Sunday School Board.

The origins of the Neo-Classical Style can be traced to the World's Columbian Exposition, held in Chicago in 1893 to mark 400 years since Columbus first arrived in the Americas. Most of the exposition buildings were designed and built in the Neo-Classical style which, as the name implies, is derived from the architecture of Ancient Greece and Rome but used those sources in a new way for new needs in a new time, hence "New Classicism" or Neo-Classical. Neo-Classical architecture was used for all types of buildings including the previously discussed church buildings, public buildings such as state capitols and courthouses, schools, banks, and private residences. Neo-Classical architecture can be as formal and historically accurate as the architect and builder wish. Indeed, the style transverses the highly formal and academic Beaux Arts as seen at the Mississippi State Capitol of 1903 to the relatively simple Neo-Classical Griffith Memorial Church.

Neo-Classical was not the dominant style chosen for church buildings in Jackson. In fact, only six Neo-Classical church buildings survive in Jackson. Other styles, primarily the Gothic Revival and the Colonial Revival, dominated church building design in Jackson during the first half of the 20th century. The Gothic Revival, which first became popular for churches in Jackson in the 19th and early 20th centuries, as seen in the High Victorian Gothic of St. Andrews Episcopal Cathedral and St. Peter's Catholic Church, 1903 and 1900 respectively, continued to be very popular in the city throughout the early and mid-20th century as can be seen in First Baptist Church and many smaller examples such as St. Luke's Methodist (1930) and St. James Episcopal (1954-55).

The oldest Neo-Classical Church Building in Jackson, Galloway Memorial Methodist Church, was constructed in 1913-15 to the designs of R.H. Hunt of Chattanooga, Tennessee and is an elegant and sophisticated building. Galloway's most prominent architectural feature is its eastward facing portico of eight Tuscan columns supporting a simple pediment. A prominent addition, built in 1953, continues the Neo-Classical theme of the original building and was designed by N.W. Overstreet and Associates. The (former) Central Presbyterian Church, built 1925, was designed by N. W. Overstreet in a personalized version of the Neo-Classical.²⁵ Rather than have the main entrance located with a temple front as is usually the case with Neo-Classical architecture, in this building Overstreet designed dual entrances connected by an engaged colonnade of Tuscan columns. Glendale Methodist Church, now known as Wells Memorial Methodist Church, was constructed in 1927. This simple red-brick building is fronted by a Neo-Classical portico of Corinthian Columns. The roof has a prominent overhang derived from the

²⁵ Sachs, "The Work of Overstreet and Town," p. 103.

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Craftsman Style which gives the building more of an eclectic appearance than Neo-Classical. Calvary Baptist Church, the largest Neo-Classical church building in Jackson, was completed in 1929. The original front part of the building, visible along West Capitol Street, was designed by R. H. Hunt, and is dominated by a centrally located portico of six Corinthian columns. Like Griffith, the main level of the building, or piano nobile, is set on a high basement. A broad flight of steps accesses the main entrance under the portico. The building is constructed of buff colored brick. Crestwood Baptist Church built in 1950-51 of tan colored brick, is the last church building in Jackson constructed in a version of the Neo-Classical style. The building is fronted by a tetra-style portico of Temple of the Winds columns reminiscent of the portico at Griffith Memorial. Unlike Griffith, however, the building lacks a raised basement with the result that the portico is accessed at grade. The portico itself is attached to the front of the gable roofed building making the proportions less successful than those at Griffith Memorial. A simple Colonial Revival steeple is located on the eastern end of the roof above the portico.

Apart from the oldest and most recent examples of the Neo-Classical Church buildings in Jackson, all were completed in the five-year period from 1925 to 1930.

Another architectural style that became very popular for church buildings in Jackson beginning in the 1940s was the Colonial Revival. While this style had long been popular primarily for houses but also for public and institutional buildings, it was not used for the design of churches in Jackson until the late 1940s and early 1950s. Among the many examples of churches designed in this style in Jackson are the First Presbyterian Church (1951) and the former Broadmoor Baptist Church on Northside Drive (1954-55). This style, while at first glance appearing to be very similar to the Neo-Classical style, can be differentiated in a few simple ways. One way is in how classical details are used. Rather than drawing directly from Classical sources as most Neo-Classical architecture did, Colonial Revival churches instead take their inspiration from churches built in the East Coast colonies in the 18th and early 19th centuries. While most of these details are ultimately classical in inspiration, drawing on the same classical Greek and Roman sources, they are generally simpler and slightly less sophisticated. One element that most Colonial Revival churches include that usually is not found on Neo-Classical churches is the steeple. These steeples, inspired ultimately by English architects Christopher Wren and James Gibbs in their designs for parish churches, most notably Gibbs' design of St. Martin in the Fields in London from the 1720's. The steeple, a hallmark of Gothic design, was initially difficult for architects to incorporate in a Classical style; however, Wren and Gibbs were able to succeed. These various steeple designs inspired numerous imitators in the American colonies such as St. Michaels in Charleston, the Old North Church in Boston, and Bruton Parish Church in Williamsburg. In the 20th century, these colonial churches inspired the design of many new churches being constructed all across the United States. Another distinguishing feature is the use of red brick in the Colonial Revival church, a nod to the red brick architecture of Colonial America. Most Neo-Classical churches, if not constructed of stone, by contrast use brick in a buff or stone color to better emulate the classical Greek and Roman stone temples that were their ultimate inspiration.

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Griffith Memorial Baptist Church, among the few examples of Neo-Classical church architecture in Jackson, while not the oldest, the largest, or the last of the style in the city, is arguably the most sophisticated. The use of the Temple of the Winds order for the portico, which is among the most elaborate of the Classical orders, the elegant details and pleasing proportions found throughout the structure, and the elevation of its main floor, or piano nobile, on a raised basement all contribute to the successful design of the building and clearly identify it as an important example of the Neo-Classical style church.

The congregation of Griffith Memorial Baptist Church continued to use their new building for many years. As the membership increased along with the population of the City of Jackson, a two-story educational and fellowship wing, designed by Spain and Biggers of Jackson, was added to the rear in 1951.²⁶ This firm was led by James Manly Spain (1884-1958), a Mississippi born architect. Mr. Spain had a roundabout way to the practice of architecture. He received his B.A. from Mississippi College in 1910. In 1916 he received his M.A. from Mississippi College. He served for four years as Superintendent of Education of Pontotoc County, where he was born, then moved to Shelby in Bolivar County where he was Superintendent of Education for five years. At some point he took extension classes in architectural engineering from Mississippi State which lead to the shifting of his career interests from education to architecture. He continued his architectural education at Columbia University in 1918-1919. In 1921 he began working as a draftsman and field representative in the Jackson office of N.W. Overstreet. In 1923 he began his own architectural practice in Jackson. In 1948 he and his son in law Boyce Biggers, formed Spain and Biggers. He worked as an architect until his death in 1958. He was a Deacon at Jackson's First Baptist Church, as was N.W. Overstreet.²⁷ Throughout his career he designed many church buildings, many for Baptist congregations which given his active involvement with the Baptist Church, is not surprising. He also designed many education related buildings including public schools and college and university campus buildings. His early background in education must have been helpful when designing these educational structures. In addition to the design for the Education Building at Griffith Memorial, Spain and Biggers were the architects for the educational wing at Leavell Woods Methodist Church, 1947-48, the education building at the First Baptist Church in Clinton, Mississippi in 1952, and the educational wings at Woodland Hills Baptist Church, Broadmeadow Methodist and Broadmoor Baptist all in 1954-55.²⁸

The grand opening for the new education building was reported in *The Baptist Record* on May 31, 1951: "This new building is a two story brick with an auditorium on each floor. Walls of *both*

²⁶ "Spain and Biggers to take Bids for Education Building" *Clarion-Ledger*, Jackson, Mississippi, Sunday, March 19, 1950, page 7.

²⁷ Mississippi Historic Resources Inventory (HRI) Database. Retrieved June 30, 2022, from the Mississippi Department of Archives and History (MDAH) MDAH database entry for James Manly Spain. LINK <https://www.apps.mdah.ms.gov/archivist/rpt.aspx?rpt=artisanProfile&artisanID=299>

²⁸ Mississippi Historic Resources Inventory (HRI) Database. Retrieved June 30, 2022, from the Mississippi Department of Archives and History (MDAH) DAH database entry for Spain and Biggers LINK <https://www.apps.mdah.ms.gov/archivist/rpt.aspx?rpt=artisanProfile&artisanID=297>

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auditoriums are of glass blocks.” The brief story goes on to say that “there is a beautiful modern kitchen on the ground floor convenient to the playgrounds.”²⁹

Rebecca Hasie, a member of the congregation since birth, was born about the same time that the new education building was completed and remembers fondly this building and the later days of Griffith Memorial in its Silas Brown location. Ms. Hasie, who grew up in a house on Langley Avenue about a block away from the building, recalls that the membership drew from the surrounding neighborhood. The members came from all walks of life, working class and middle class, white collar and blue collar. She recalled the education building’s glass block walls as being one of the features she admired most. She also remembered how the building was used for Bible School classes. The first floor, in addition to the fellowship hall, had classrooms for the congregation’s adults. The second floor was where the Junior Department, 7th, 8th, and 9th grades, were located. The Children’s department, below 7th grade, was in the basement of the original building while the Senior Department, 10th, 11th and 12th grades, had its classrooms on the upper floor of the original building. Ms. Hasie remembered that at its largest, the congregation at this location was between 500 to 600 and more. In the 1970s and 80s, many of the members of the congregation began to move out of the neighborhood and into the newer suburban areas south and west of the city. The church at first attempted to retain these members through the establishment of a satellite campus on Terry Road. Simultaneously, the African American families who were moving into the neighborhood did not attend Griffith Memorial resulting in a decreasing attendance at the Silas Brown location. As time progressed, it became more and more difficult for the church to financially support two campuses, so the decision was made to sell the old building on Silas Brown and relocate Griffith Memorial to the satellite campus located at 5275 Terry Road. Since its relocation to Terry Road, Griffith Memorial Baptist Church has integrated and now many black families worship there. In fact, 10 or 15 years ago, the congregation elected its first black Deacon.³⁰

Thankfully, rather than be outright demolished or abandoned and allowed to deteriorate as has happened to so many grand religious structures in Jackson built during this time, the church building was sold to Jackson Revival Center, JRC, in 1987. JRC, established by Raymond Owen Biard in 1965, became the first church in the state of Mississippi that was of the “Full Gospel/Pentecostal Persuasion . . . to become a fully integrated congregation. Within a very short time, there were Native Americans, African Americans, Mexicans, Caucasians and interracial couples all worshipping together.”³¹ JRC completed its new sanctuary in 1966, located at 608 West Porter Street, which was dedicated on May 15 of that year.³² This structure is located one block south of the (former) Griffith Memorial Church at 519 West Silas Brown Street. JRC outgrew this original structure and in 1987 acquired the (former) Griffith Memorial Church building. JRC continued to grow and by 2017 had relocated its main campus to a newly purchased property located at 4655 Terry Road. JRC continues to use the (former) Griffith

²⁹ “Educational Plant Dedicated at Griffith Memorial”. *The Baptist Record*, Thursday, May 31, 1951, page 11.

³⁰ Interview with Ms. Rebecca Hasie by the author, May 9, 2022.

³¹ History of JRC provided by the congregation.

³² “New Sanctuary,” *Clarion-Ledger*, May 16, 1966, page 6,

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Memorial Church building for educational and outreach purposes. Griffith Memorial Baptist Church and JRC are once again neighbors, now on Terry Road.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Burroughs, P.E. *How to Plan Church Buildings*, Nashville, TN: Southern Baptist Convention, 1926.

“Educational Plant Dedicated at Griffith Memorial”. *The Baptist Record*, May 31, 1951, page 11.

History of JRC provided by the congregation, no date, no page numbers, no author.

Interview with Ms. Rebecca Hasie by the author, May 9, 2022

Mississippi Historic Resources Inventory (HRI) Database. Retrieved June 30, 2022, from the Mississippi Department of Archives and History (MDAH) MDAH database entry for James Manly Spain.

<https://www.apps.mdah.ms.gov/archist/rpt.aspx?rpt=artisanProfile&artisanID=299>

Mississippi Historic Resources Inventory (HRI) Database. Retrieved June 30, 2022, from the Mississippi Department of Archives and History (MDAH) DAH database entry for Spain and Biggers

<https://www.apps.mdah.ms.gov/archist/rpt.aspx?rpt=artisanProfile&artisanID=297>

Mississippi Historic Resources Inventory (HRI) Database. Retrieved June 30, 2022, from the Mississippi Department of Archives and History (MDAH) <https://www.apps.mdah.ms.gov/Public/rpt.aspx?rpt=artisanSearch&Name=town%2C%20albert%20hays&City=Any&Role=Any>

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Pellegrin, Darren. “Calvary Baptist Church”, National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 1978).

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Sanborn Map of Jackson, Mississippi, page 48, 1925. “Spain and Biggers to take Bids for Education Building” -*Clarion-Ledger*, March 19, 1950, page 7.

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Sanders, Todd. "Admiral Benbow Inn" National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 1978).

"View of the Griffith Memorial Church showing a part of the congregation-new building planned". *Daily Clarion-Ledger*, December 2, 1928, page 6.

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 # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

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

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1.56 acres

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

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Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude: 32.290928 Longitude: -90.195939

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The boundary of the nominated property includes the property historically associated with the church at the northwest corner of West Silas Brown Street and Langley Avenue. The boundary of the nominated property is located at the southeast corner of West Silas Brown Street and Langley Avenue and is that property on which is located the 1930 Griffith Memorial Baptist Church and the 1951 Educational Building addition. The irregularly shaped site is approximately 316 feet in width and 355 feet in depth and contains 67,780 square feet or 1.56 acres. The tax parcel ID numbers for the property are 170-121 and 170-132.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary chosen for the property are those boundaries historically associated with the (former) Griffith Memorial Baptist Church, located at 519 West Silas Brown Street.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Todd Sanders

organization: _____

street & number: 635 Ralde Circle

city or town: Ridgeland state: MS zip code: 39157

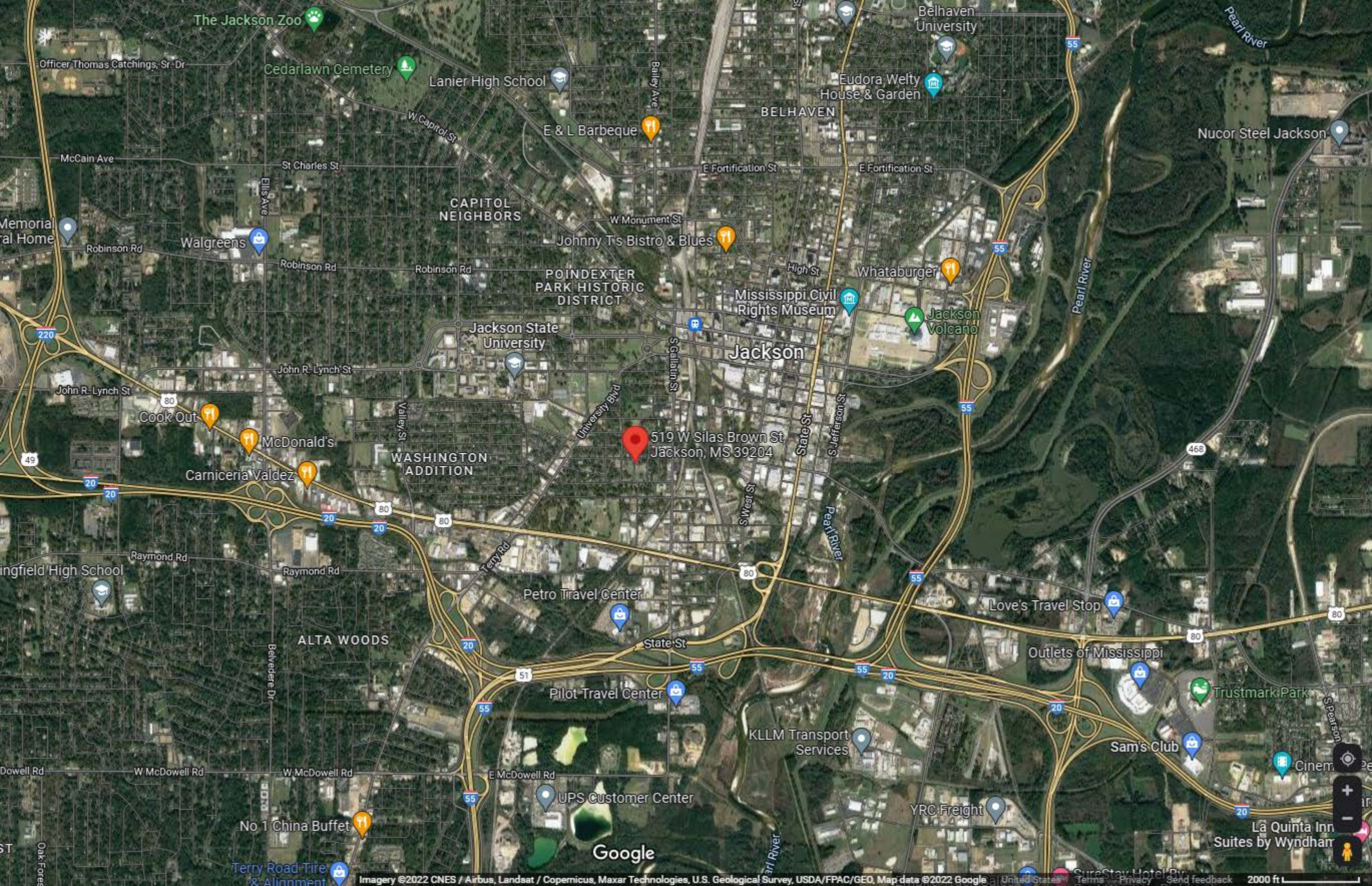
e-mail mshistorichouses@yahoo.com

telephone: 601-942-3196

date: _____

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:



The Jackson Zoo

Cedarlawn Cemetery

Lanier High School

Belhaven University

Eudora Welty House & Garden

Nucor Steel Jackson

CAPITOL NEIGHBORS

POINDEXTER PARK HISTORIC DISTRICT

Jackson

Jackson State University

Mississippi Civil Rights Museum

Jackson Volcano

519 W Silas Brown St
Jackson, MS 39204

WASHINGTON ADDITION

ALTA WOODS

Petro Travel Center

Love's Travel Stop

Outlets of Mississippi

Pilot Travel Center

KLLM Transport Services

Sam's Club

UPS Customer Center

YRC Freight

No 1 China Buffet

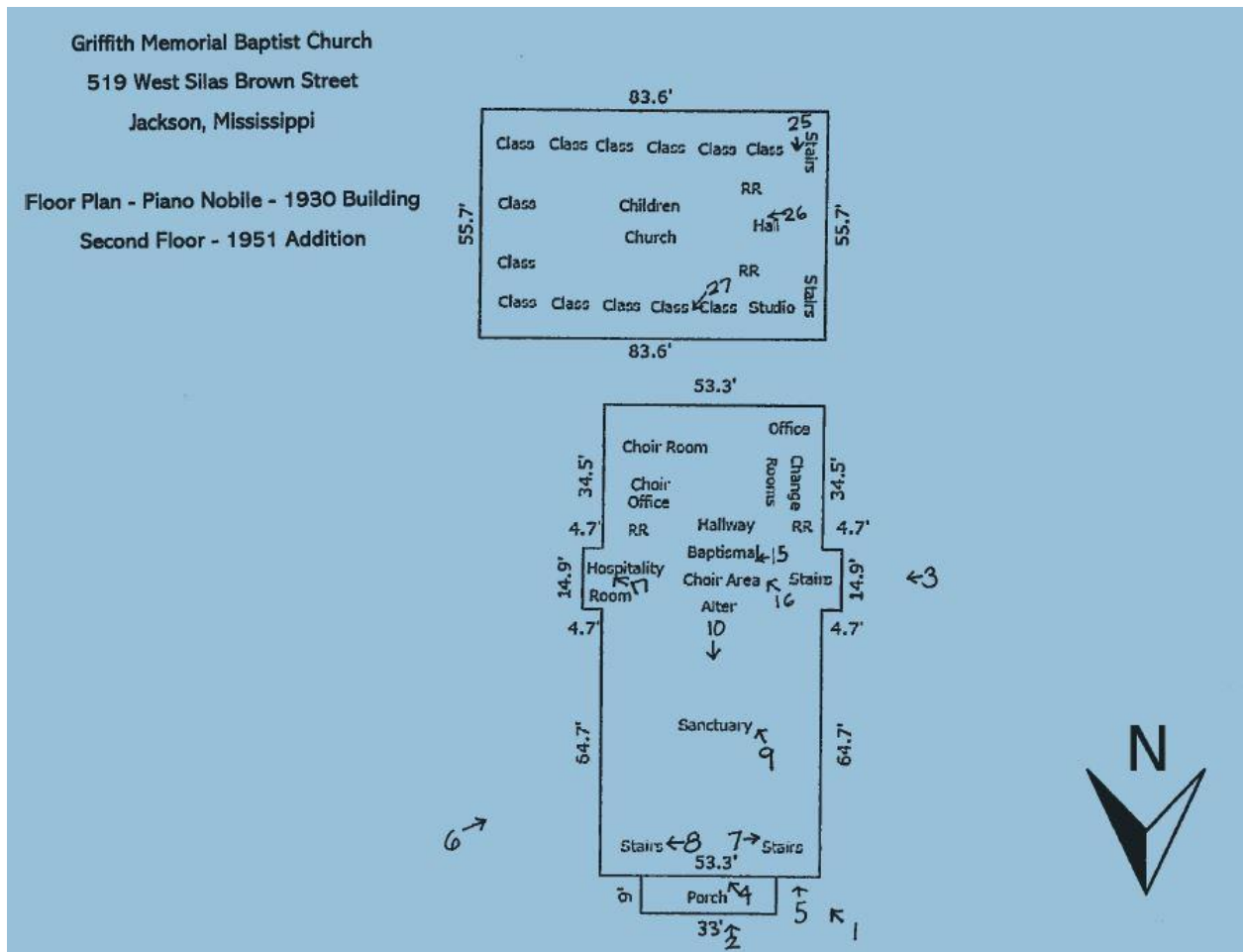
Google

La Quinta Inn Suites by Wyndham

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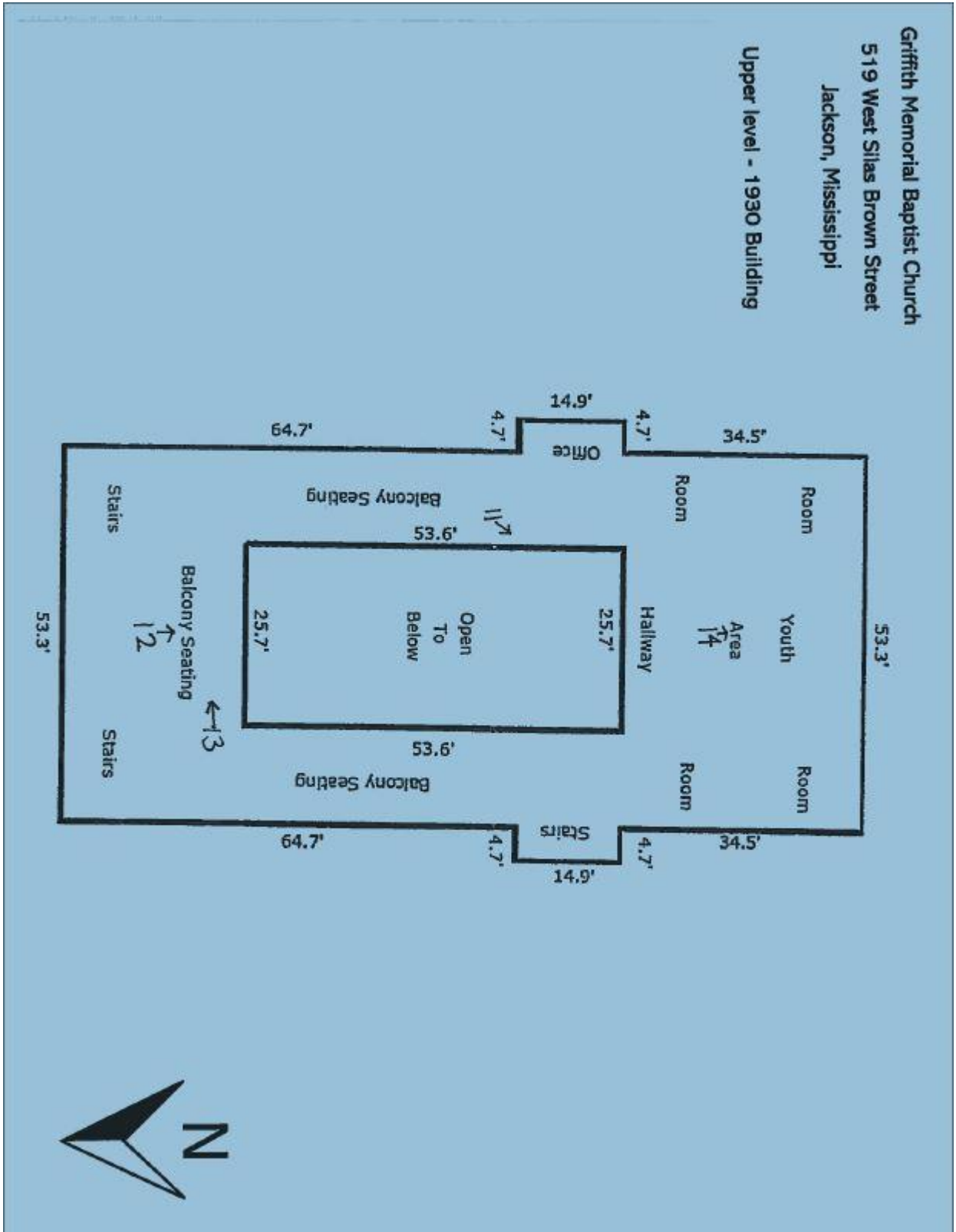
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- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)



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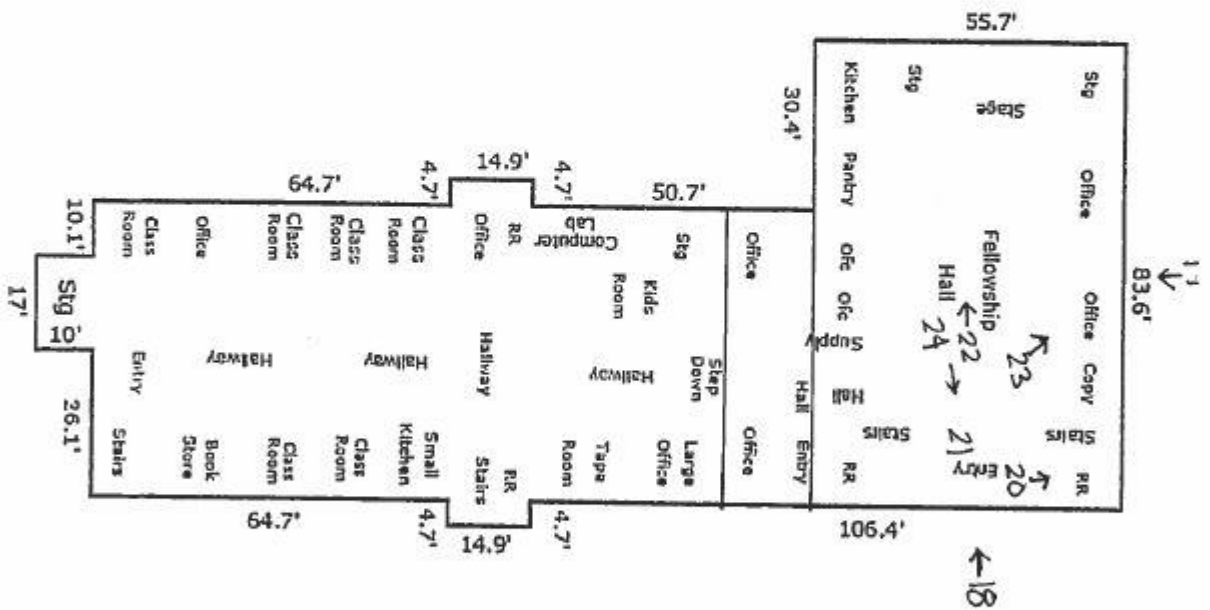
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Griffith Memorial Baptist Church
519 West Silas Brown Street
Jackson, Mississippi
Floor Plan - basement level - 1930 Building
First Floor - 1951 Addition



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Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: (former) Griffith Memorial Baptist Church

City or Vicinity: Jackson

County: Hinds

State: Mississippi

Photographer: Todd Sanders

Date Photographed: April 1, 2022

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

- 1 of 27. View to Southeast. Northwest corner of building.
- 2 of 27. View to South. Façade of building.
- 3 of 27. View to East. West elevation.
- 4 of 27. View to Southeast. Detail under portico showing central entrance.
- 5 of 27. View to Southwest. Detail of decorative plaque west of portico.
- 6 of 27. View to Southwest. East elevation.
- 7 of 27. View to West. View of western stairs in vestibule.
- 8 of 27. View to East. Eastern vestibule staircase.
- 9 of 27. View to South. Auditorium/sanctuary.
- 10 of 27. View to North. View of balcony from auditorium/sanctuary.
- 11 of 27. View to South. Detail of proscenium arch with pilasters.
- 12 of 27. View to South. View of auditorium/sanctuary from balcony.
- 13 of 27. View to East. View of original balcony seating.
- 14 of 27. View to South. Original Youth room.
- 15 of 27. View to East. Original baptistry.
- 16 of 27. View to Southeast. Stairs leading to choir loft and balcony.
- 17 of 27. View to South. Fireplace in Hospitality Room.
- 18 of 27. View to East. Educational Building façade.
- 19 of 27. View to North. Educational Building southern elevation.
- 20 of 27. View to South. Vestibule and southern stairs of Educational Building.
- 21 of 27. View to ceiling. Original light fixture in the vestibule of the Educational Building.
- 22 of 27. View to East. Fellowship Hall.
- 23 of 27. View to South. Original doors to classrooms and original glass block wall in Fellowship Hall.

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- 24 of 27. View to West. Doors from Fellowship Hall back to vestibule.
- 25 of 27. View to North. South stairs looking up to second floor Education Building.
- 26 of 27. View to East. Second floor hallway to large center room second floor.
- 27 of 27. View to Northeast. Folding doors located in second floor classroom.

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for nominations 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.460 et seq.). We may not conduct or sponsor and you are not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for each response using this form is estimated to be between the Tier 1 and Tier 4 levels with the estimate of the time for each tier as follows:

- Tier 1 – 60-100 hours
- Tier 2 – 120 hours
- Tier 3 – 230 hours
- Tier 4 – 280 hours

The above estimates include time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and preparing and transmitting nominations. Send comments regarding these estimates or any other aspect of the requirement(s) to the Service Information Collection Clearance Officer, National Park Service, 1201 Oakridge Drive Fort Collins, CO 80525.

MS_Hinds County_Griffith Memorial Baptist Church_0001



MS_Hinds County_Griffith Memorial Baptist Church_0002



MS_Hinds County_Griffith Memorial Baptist Church_0003



MS_Hinds County_Griffith Memorial Baptist
Church_0004



MS_Hinds County_Griffith Memorial Baptist
Church_0005



MS_Hinds County_Griffith Memorial Baptist Church_0006



MS_Hinds County_Griffith Memorial Baptist
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MS_Hinds County_Griffith Memorial Baptist
Church_0026



MS_Hinds County_Griffith Memorial Baptist Church_0027

