



# Historic Sites Survey

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION: This is a rectangular wood-frame church, five bays in length and three bays in width, aligned on an east-west axis, with a vestibule and porch extending to the east and a chancel extending to the west. Stylistically it combines High Victorian Gothic composition with detailing and surface treatments characteristic of the Victorian Queen Anne and Shingle Styles.

The exterior walls are clad in horizontal lap siding above a dado band of narrow, beaded-vertical boards. The bays are articulated by buttresses which are flared and shingle-surfaced above the line of the dado. Each side bay contains a gothic arched window of etched glass surrounded by colored glass. On the north and south walls, the second and fourth bays rise into side gables above the eaves of the roof. The windows in these bays are wider and taller than the others, extending into their gables.

On the west end the projecting chancel is gabled and has another gabled projection--apparently a later addition--extending from it. On the east end the projecting vestibule has two sets of peaked double doors, one (cont.)

## ALTERATIONS:

The chancel has been extended to the west. A parish house built in 1948 and since enlarged extends to the north. Both additions are compatible yet readily identified.

## OUTBUILDINGS:

## LANDSCAPE FEATURES:

Small lawns with bedded plantings and large oak and pine trees surround the building. A large paved parking area is located to the east of the northern addition.

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

St. John's Episcopal Church is one of the most accomplished High Victorian Gothic churches in Mississippi, and is probably the finest church of that style entirely of wood construction in the state. Formerly and erroneously attributed to Louis Sullivan, St. John's is actually a simplification of a design by Manly N. Cutter, a New York architect, for the Church of the Ascension in Rockville Center, Long Island, which was published in the July 11, 1891, issue of The Churchman. Records of the church indicate that the design was to be based on the published plans. Although Sullivan, who was spending his winters in Ocean Springs at that time, may have played an advisory role. (Robert Twombly, Louis Sullivan, His Life and Work [New York: Viking, 1986] pp 490-491; and information from St. John's Church).

NAME: St. John's Episcopal Church  
 STREET NO: Northwest corner of Rayburn & Porter Ave

TOWN/VIC: Ocean Springs

COUNTY: Jackson

BLOCK/LOT:

PRESENT OWNER: Episcopal Diocese of Mississippi  
 ADDRESS 112 S. West St., Jackson, MS 39201

PRESENT USE: Church

FORMER USE: Church

DATE: 1892

STYLE: High Victorian Gothic with Queen Anne and Shingle Style elements

ARCH/BUILDER: based on a published design by Manly

SOURCE OF DATE: N. Cutter of New York

Parish records

ENVIRONMENT: residential

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE

NEIGHBORHOOD

LOCAL

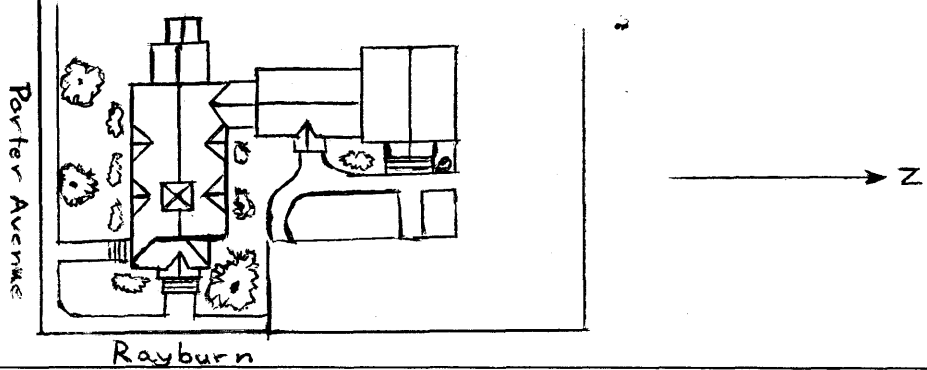
STATE X

NATIONAL

PHOTOS

NEG. # 1661: 39, 40, 41

SITE OR AREA PLAN WITH NORTH ARROW AND SHAPE OF STRUCTURE:



CONTINUATION:

Architectural Description (cont.)

facing east under a bracketed gable, the other facing south onto a hip-roofed corner porch. Above the vestibule the main gable is finished in embricated shingles and contains a large rose window. Toward the east end of the steeply-pitched roof is an open-sided belfry surmounted by a steep, slightly-flared four-sided spire. The interior, which is very intact, features exposed roof trusses.

PHYSICAL CONDITION:

Excellent

THREATS:

None

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

Lot 4, Block 116 of the City of Ocean Springs Map Adopted by the Board of Aldermen

ACREAGE: less than one acre

UTM REF:

|   |              |                       |                           |
|---|--------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| A | 1   6        | 3   2   4   0   9   0 | 3   3   6   5   6   0   0 |
|   | ZONE EASTING |                       | NORTHING                  |
| C |              |                       |                           |
| B |              |                       |                           |
|   | ZONE EASTING |                       | NORTHING                  |
| D |              |                       |                           |

FORM PREPARED BY:

DATE

Brian Berggren and Richard Cawthon

May 15, 1986



St. John's Episcopal Church, Porter and  
Rayburn Avenues

Facade and south elevation, oblique view  
to northwest

Individual nomination

Ocean Springs,<sup>MRA</sup> Jackson County, Mississippi  
Mississippi Dept. of Archives & History

Brian Berggren

November 1985

Photo 1 of 2



St. John's Episcopal Church, Porter and  
Rayburn Avenues

North elevation, view to south

Individual nomination

Ocean Springs, <sup>MSA</sup> Jackson County, Mississippi

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Photo 2 of 2