

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received **SEP 30 1985**
date entered

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

1. Name

historic First Methodist Church of Greenwood

and/or common First United Methodist Church of Greenwood

2. Location

street & number 310 West Washington Street

NA ___ not for publication

city, town Greenwood NA ___ vicinity of

state Mississippi code 28 county Leflore code 83

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
___ district	___ public	☒ occupied	___ agriculture
☒ building(s)	☒ private	___ unoccupied	___ commercial
___ structure	___ both	___ work in progress	___ educational
___ site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	___ entertainment
___ object	___ in process	___ yes: restricted	___ government
	N/A ___ being considered	☒ yes: unrestricted	___ industrial
		___ no	___ military
			___ museum
			___ park
			___ private residence
			☒ religious
			___ scientific
			___ transportation
			___ other:

4. Owner of Property

name North Mississippi Conference of the United Methodist Church

street & number P. O. Drawer U

city, town Grenada NA ___ vicinity of state Mississippi 38901

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Office of the Chancery Clerk
Leflore County Courthouse

street & number Courthouse Square

city, town Greenwood state Mississippi 38930

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

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

date 1982 ___ federal ☒ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records Mississippi Department of Archives and History

city, town Jackson state Mississippi

7. Description

Condition

☒ excellent

☐ good

☐ fair

☐ deteriorated

☐ ruins

☐ unexposed

Check one

☒ unaltered

☐ altered

Check one

☒ original site

☐ moved

date NA

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Located at the northeast corner of the intersection of East Washington Street and Cotton Street, the First United Methodist Church is a Romanesque Revival church building with its principal, gable-end facade fronting Washington Street. A gabled wing of lesser height extends from the western elevation of the principal block to present a gable facade on Cotton Street. In the angle formed by the main block and the projecting gabled wing is a tall, square, dominating tower with battlemented parapet and pyramidal roof surmounted by a finial. On the Washington Street elevation, the dominating tower is somewhat balanced on the other side of the main block by a projecting wing with gable-end facade whose roof is pierced by a small tower, or minaret, at its junction with the main block. Extending across the facade of the main block, linking the large tower to the gabled projection with minaret is a flat-roof arcaded entry porch. Balancing the large tower on the Cotton Street elevation is a short square tower with pyramidal roof and finial. The building features the semi-circular arched openings with archivots that are typical of Romanesque Revival architecture. Windows, which are arranged primarily in units of three, are filled with stained glass. Numerous belt courses divide the building horizontally.

East of the main church building is a three-story brick Sunday school building that was constructed in 1924 and designed by local architect Frank R. McGeoy. The five-bay building features a shaped parapet, brickwork panels with corner blocks and central diamonds of stone of cement, projecting end bays, and windows filled paired, one-over-one double-hung sash set beneath transoms.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
☐ prehistoric	☐ archeology-prehistoric	☐ community planning	☐ landscape architecture	☐ religion
☐ 1400–1499	☐ archeology-historic	☐ conservation	☐ law	☐ science
☐ 1500–1599	☐ agriculture	☐ economics	☐ literature	☐ sculpture
☐ 1600–1699	☒ architecture	☐ education	☐ military	☐ social/
☐ 1700–1799	☐ art	☐ engineering	☐ music	☐ humanitarian
☒ 1800–1899	☐ commerce	☐ exploration/settlement	☐ philosophy	☐ theater
☐ 1900–	☐ communications	☐ industry	☐ politics/government	☐ transportation
		☐ invention		☐ other (specify)

Specific dates 1898 **Builder/Architect** Reuben Harris Hunt (Chattanooga)

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The First United Methodist Church is one of Mississippi's most outstanding examples of Romanesque Revival architecture. Its significance is based not only on the high quality of its architecture but also on its outstanding integrity, which is unusual for an architectural style that so often suffers from the removal of the towers and other ornamentation so characteristic of the Romanesque Revival Style. The church was constructed in 1898 during the midst of one of the city's worst yellow fever epidemics and was designed by Reuben Harris Hunt of Chattanooga, Tennessee. Hunt was the designer of the most notable buildings constructed in Greenwood, which include the First Baptist Church (being demolished), the Leflore County Courthouse, the First Methodist Church, and a Romanesque school building that burned. All of these buildings were constructed between 1898 and 1910, a boom period for the city of Greenwood. The Sunday school addition to the east was constructed in 1924 and was designed by Frank R. McGeoy, a native of Memphis, Tennessee. McGeoy designed many local landmark buildings in Greenwood, including the Beaman House, the temple for Congregation Ahavath Rayim, and the Wesley Methodist Church on Howard Street.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Miller, Mary Warren, preservation consultant with the Historic Natchez Foundation. Inspection of the First United Methodist Church of Greenwood, June 10, 1985.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property less than once acre

Quadrangle name Greenwood, Miss.

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

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7	6	1	5	2	0
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3	7	1	2	2	1	0
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Zone Easting Northing

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Zone Easting Northing

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Parcels 9, 10, 11, and 12 of block 15 of the Howard Part of the city of Greenwood. The property is bounded on the south by East Washington Street and on the west by Cotton St.

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

state NA code county code

state NA code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Mary Warren Miller

organization Historic Natchez Foundation

date June 15, 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 25, 1985

For NPS use only

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

See Continuation sheet for listings

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF GREENWOOD
310 West Washington Street, looking north-
easterly at the southerly and westerly ele-
vations

Greenwood Multiple Resource Area

Greenwood, Leflore County, Mississippi

Mississippi Department of Archives & History

Mary Ellen Bowen

December 1982 (verified June 1985)

Photo 1 of 2



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF GREENWOOD
310 West Washington Street, looking north-
easterly at the southern and westerly ele-
vations

Greenwood Multiple Resource Area
Greenwood, Leflore County, Mississippi
Mississippi Department of Archives & History
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December 1982 (verified June 1985)
Photo 2 of 2