

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

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

1. Name

historic Wesley Memorial Methodist Episcopal Church

and/or common Wesley United Methodist Church

2. Location

street & number 800 Howard 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NA not for publication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	☐ museum
☒ building(s)	☒ private	☐ unoccupied	☐ commercial	☐ park
☐ structure	☐ both	☐ work in progress	☐ educational	☐ private residence
☐ site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	☐ entertainment	☒ religious
☐ object	NA in process	☐ yes: restricted	☐ government	☐ scientific
	☐ being considered	☒ yes: unrestricted	☐ industrial	☐ transportation
		☐ no	☐ military	☐ other:

4. Owner of Property

name 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. Leflore County Courthouse--Office of the Chancery Clerk

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☐ moveddate NA

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Wesley United Methodist Church is a brick, late Victorian Gothic church building with gable-end easterly facade, corner tower, and seven-bay, buttressed, northerly side elevation. The entrance doorway is located in the projecting center bay of the facade and features double-leaf doors set within a semi-elliptical, arched opening. Above the entrance doorway is a large, single, Gothic window with tracery. The corner tower is a two-stage tower with parapet walls. The first stage features multi-light paired windows set beneath label window heads, and the second stage has paired, arched openings filled with louvers. Extending from the southern elevation is a gabled, brick hyphen connecting a hipped-roof gymnasium building to the main church. The facade of the gymnasium features a gabled parapet in front of the hipped roof to echo the gable-end facade of the church. The single-bay facade of the gymnasium features a central entrance with double-leaf doors set within a semi-elliptical arched opening. The bay above the entrance doorway features a label window head and is filled with three, transomed windows with multi-light sash.

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) black history

Specific dates 1921 **Builder/Architect** Frank R. McGeoy

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Wesley United Methodist Church was organized in 1870, shortly after the end of the Civil War. The organization of the church was an outgrowth of the desire of the black community to have a greater voice in church affairs by having their own churches distinct from the white churches where they had earlier worshipped as slaves. The present building was constructed in 1921 and was designed by local architect Frank R. McGeoy, a native of Memphis, Tennessee, who designed such local landmark buildings as the Beaman House, the First Methodist Church Sunday School Building, and the temple building for Congregation Ahavath Rayim. The Wesley United Methodist Church has served, for many years, as the center of social activity for the Greenwood black community. Constructed with a companion gymnasium wing, the church complex, before integration, was the site of such functions as school basketball games and graduation ceremonies.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Greenwood, Miss.

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	5	7	6	1	8	4	5	3	7	1	1	6	1	5
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

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D

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Verbal boundary description and justification Lots 1 and 4 of block 13 in the Henry Addition of the City of Greenwood--bounded by Howard Street to the east and Gibbs Street to the north.

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 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

date

See continuation sheet for listing
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration



Wesley United Methodist Church
800 Howard Street, looking southwesterly
Greenwood Multiple Resource Area
Greenwood, Leflore County, Mississippi
Mississippi Department of Archives & History
Mary Ellen Bowen
December 1982 (verified June 1985)
Photo 1 of 1