United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

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 instructions. Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if provided (NRS Formation 2009).

Name of Property	nd narrative items on continuation sheet	ts if neede	ed (NPS Form 10-900a).
historic name Baptist Church of Christ at Sardis			
other names/site number Sardis Baptist Church			
2. Location			
street & number Sardis Road		Г	not for sublication
oits or town 1 - 1 - 11		_	not for publication
city or town Louisville		X	vicinity
	Winston code 159	zip cod	de _39339
3. State/Federal Agency Certification			
As the designated authority under the National Historic	Preservation Act as amended		
I hereby certify that this <u>X</u> nomination <u>request for registering properties in the National Register of His requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.</u>	or determination of eligibility mosts	the doc	umentation standards professional
In my opinion, the property X meets does not rebe considered significant at the following level(s) of significant at th	meet the National Register Criteria.	I recom	nmend that this property
nationalstatewideX_local	1-25-2011		
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government			
In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the Nation	nal Register criteria.		
Signature of commenting official	Date	-	
Title	State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Go	overnment	
4. National Park Service Certification		_	
I hereby certify that this property is:			
entered in the National Register	determined eligible for the Na	ational Reg	gister
determined not eligible for the National Register	removed from the National Re	egister	
other (explain:)			
Signature of the Keeper	Data of Aut		
	Date of Action		

(Expires 5/31/2012)

Baptist Church of Christ at Sardis		Winston, Mississippi		
Name of Property	County and State			
5. Classification			1 1 1 1 1 1 1	
Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply.) Category of Property (Check only one box.)		(Do not include prev	ources within Pr	s in the count.)
	W	Contributing	Noncontributio	
X private	X building(s)	1	2	buildings
public - Local	district	1		sites
public - State	site			structures
public - Federal	structure		0	objects
	object	2	2	Total
Name of related multiple pr (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of N/A	operty listing a multiple property listing)		ntributing resource ntional Register	ces previously
6. Function or Use				
Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions.)		Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions.)		
Religion: religious facility		Religion: religious facility		
Funerary: Cemetery		Funerary: Ceme	etery	
7. Description				
Architectural Classification		Materials (Enter categories fr	rom instructions.)	
Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions.)				
Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions.)		(Enter categories fr		
7. Description Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions.) Other		(Enter categories foundation:F		
Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions.)		(Enter categories foundation:F walls:Wood		

(Expires 5/31/2012)

Baptist Church of Christ at Sardis
Name of Property

Winston, Mississippi County and State

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a summary paragraph that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

Summary Paragraph

The Baptist Church of Christ at Sardis, commonly known as Sardis Baptist Church, is a small wood frame vernacular country church located approximately fifteen miles east of Louisville, Mississippi in Winston County. The Church was established in 1883¹ and the current structure was erected in 1917 replacing an earlier frame church constructed in 1902-1903 on the same site. The church is a single room with beaded board walls and ceiling, and still has its original pews. The church is located in a rural part of Winston County on Sardis Road and situated among dense tree growth. There is a cemetery to the rear of the church where church members are buried. In addition two modern out buildings, a pavilion and small bathroom building, have been constructed more recently on the site.

Narrative Description

Site

The church is located on a one acre site off of Sardis Road in rural Winston County. A gravel drive from Sardis Road leads to the church and wraps around the church building forming a loop (Photo # 1). On the site is the church building (photo # 2), a cemetery (Photo #8), pavilion (Photo #9), and a small bathroom building (Photo #10). The buildings and cemetery are in a clearing surrounded by dense tree growth. There are a couple of large mature trees close to the church, one in the front and one in the back, between the church and cemetery. The site rises slightly from the road and the church sits on the highest point on the site giving it prominence. Grass covers the portion of the site not covered by trees.

Church Exterior

The church is a small wood frame vernacular building typical of rural churches in Mississippi. It is rectangular in shape, approximately 30' by 40', and has a high pitched front facing gable roof. The front façade features two symmetrically placed entry doors (Photo #2). According to Mississippi architectural historian Richard Cawthon it is a typical form for rural churches with examples in Mississippi that date back to the 1850s.²

The church sits on a foundation of local rocks moved to the site for the foundation. The foundation rocks were used for an earlier church on the site constructed 1902-1903. The current church was completed in 1917, after the first church was destroyed, and was built in the same location on the same foundation rocks. According to church members, the current church is a replica of the first church. The foundation rocks are located approximately 10' apart.

The church is sided in wood clapboard that is 4½" deep and there are 4" wide corner boards where the clapboard terminates. The roof is sheathed in V-crimp metal panels, a replacement of the original roof which was most likely wood shakes. The church is approximately 14' high off of the ground to the eave and 28' high to the peak of the roof. The church sits approximately 1' off of the ground. The roof has a gable return on the front and rear (south and north elevations) with eaves that extend about 1' on the sides (east and west elevations) of the church with fascia boards of approximately 4" and a frieze below of approximately 10".

The front, or south elevation, has a pair of symmetrically placed wood doors each with four recessed panels set in simple framed openings. The doors are not original as a historic photograph of the church shows that the doors were originally

¹ Baptist Church of Christ at Sardis Minutes, 1883.

² Sherry, Pace. Historic Churches of Mississippi, p. x.

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Baptist Church of Christ at Sardis

Name of Property

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wood with five vertical panels each. Pre-formed concrete steps, with three steps, lead to each door and have a simple metal rail to the right of each set of steps. Between the doors is a light bulb socket with a metal cover over it attached to the siding.

Both the sides, or the east and west elevations, are the same, with four wood double hung sash windows each with four panes over four panes (Photo #4). The windows have simple wood frames and sills. The windows are 78" tall and 38" wide with their frames.

The rear, or north elevation, has a door and window which are asymmetrically placed. The door is wood with six recessed panels and the window matches those on the side elevations. A wood ramp has been constructed recently over the steps for easier access to the church. There is also a light bulb socket with a metal cover over it attached to the siding in the same fashion as the one on the front elevation.

Church Interior

The church is accessed from the front by a pair of doors or from the rear by a single door. Architectural historian Richard Cawthon believes that the twin doors on the front became a customary element of traditional church building which derived from the practice of having separate entrances in some churches for men and women.³

The interior is one large room with no partitions. At the north end of the interior and centered in the wall is a pulpit raised 1' off of the ground with three lecterns (Photo #6). The pulpit is 8'4" wide and 6'9" deep. Just behind the pulpit at the left corner is the rear window. A closet was added to the northwest corner of the church to store the piano. It does not go all the way to the ceiling. When entering the church there is a small space before the rows of pews start. There are three sets of pews, six rows each that are parallel to the front of the church (Photo #7). In front of those pews there is a rectangular open space in front of the pulpit and to either side of that space are four rows of pews that are perpendicular to the other pews. All of the pews are movable, 15" deep, and were handmade for the church. They were built in three lengths, 10'3", 8'4", and 6'5". The 10'3" pews are those that are closest to the pulpit. The 6'5" pews are the center pews of the three sets of pews and the 8'4" pews are the ones on the outside against each side wall.

The cross section of the interior of the church features an approximate 30 degree slope of the ceiling at about 10' off the floor up to a flat ceiling that spans the interior. The walls and ceilings are covered in tongue-and-groove double beaded pine board panels that are stained. The floor is covered in 5 ½" pine boards with a simple flat baseboard. The doors have simple plain board trim that is stained and the windows have trim made out of the same beaded board used on the walls and ceilings.

Besides the addition of the closet, the only alteration to the interior was the addition of few simple light bulb sockets for lighting. They were actually added in the 1980s. There has been no heating or air conditioning added to the building. In fact there is no evidence that the building was ever heated with a wood stove as there are no cuts in the walls or ceilings for a flue.

Cemetery

Behind the church building is a small cemetery where church members are buried. The cemetery is surrounded by a modern decorative iron fence and the gravesites are laid out in traditional rows (Photo #8). There is no landscaping or pathways to delineate the rows and the ground is covered in grass. According to an inventory of the cemetery, the earliest burials occurred in 1915 with three buried that year. There are approximately 160 people buried in the cemetery. Markers in the cemetery vary in shape, size and material. There are markers of marble, granite, wood and native rocks.

Accessory Structures

³ Pace, Sherry. Historic Churches of Mississippi, p. x.

⁴ Garret, Hazel Crenshaw and Taunton, Louis. Winston County, Mississippi Cemeteries, p. 359 – 362.

(Expires 5/31/2012)

Baptist	Church	of	Christ	at	Sardis
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Name of Property

Winston, Mississippi
County and State

There are two recent accessory structures added to the church property, an open-air pavilion, and a bathroom building. Both are non-contributing structures.

The open-air pavilion was constructed in 2002 and is 80' long by 25' wide. Metal box columns support I beams that form the roof structure (Photo #9). The roof is covered in metal panels. Under the pavilion are fixed tables supported by metal columns with plywood tops. The pavilion has a concrete floor.

The bathroom building was constructed in 2007 and is an 8' by 16' metal building. The building has a rear sloping shed roof with an overhang over the front elevation which has two doors for the bathrooms (Photo #10). The building and roof are both sided in metal panels. The doors are metal clad wood with six projecting panels.

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Baptist Church of Christ at Sardis Name of Property

Winston, Mississippi County and State

	tement of Significance cable National Register Criteria	Areas of Significance
(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property		(Enter categories from instructions.)
r Nati	onal Register listing.)	Architecture
ПА	Property is associated with events that have made a	Architecture
	significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.	
В	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	Period of Significance
	artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.	1917
D	Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.	Significant Dates
Mark "	ria Considerations x" in all the boxes that apply.) erty is:	Significant Person (Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)
·opo	.,	N/A
X A	Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.	N/A
В	removed from its original location.	Cultural Affiliation
		N/A
- C	a birthplace or grave.	
K D	a cemetery.	
E	a reconstructed building, object, or structure.	Architect/Builder
F	a commemorative property.	William Thaddeus Puckett
G	less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.	

Period of Significance (justification)

The Period of Significance is the construction date for the building of the current church.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

The building is eligible for listing for significance associated with Architecture, a non-sectarian basis of significance.

Baptist Church of Christ at Sardis

Name of Property

(Expires 5/31/2012)

Winston, Mississippi County and State

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria.)

The Baptist Church of Christ at Sardis, completed in 1917, is located in rural Winston County approximately fifteen miles from the town of Louisville. It was built for and is still owned by the same congregation. The church is an outstanding example of vernacular church architecture, which over the span of its life has received only minor changes. The church is a single room and retains original features such as wood double hung windows, wood clapboard exterior walls, beaded board interior walls, original pine floor, and pews built specifically for the building. The Baptist Church of Christ at Sardis has maintained a high degree of historic integrity making it eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C - Architecture.

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

Winston County was established on December 23, 1833 from territory that was acquired from the Choctaw Indians through the treaty of Dancing Rabbit in 1830.¹ It was named in honor of Colonel Louis Winston a surveyor and military commander in territorial Mississippi.² Louisville, the closest town to the church is located about 15 miles away and was laid off in blocks and lots in 1834.³ It was also named in honor of Louis Winston. Louisville was incorporated in 1836.⁴ It became the junction for several stage lines and was on the great mail route from Nashville to New Orleans.⁵ The railroad came to Louisville and Winston County in 1905.⁶ The first settlers of Winston County principally came from the Carolinas by way of Georgia and Tennessee.⁷ Baptists entered the county first and in 1834 a Baptist Church was established in Louisville.⁸

The congregation of the Baptist Church of Christ at Sardis was established the First Sabbath in July of 1883 when the Abstract of Faith, the Church Covenant, and the Rules of Decorum were adopted. At the first meeting of the congregation there were four females and three males. They also adopted the name "Sardis" for the church as well. 9

¹ Dunbar, Rowland. Mississippi, Volume II, L-Z, p. 986.

² Lewis, William. The Centennial History Winston, County, Mississippi, p. 25.

³ Ibid.

⁴ Ibid, p. 49.

⁵ Dunbar, Rowland. Mississippi, Volume II, L-Z, p. 987.

⁶ Newsom, Jeannie. A History of Winston County, p. 220.

lbid, p. 219.

⁸ Ibid. p. 186-187.

⁹ Baptist Church of Christ at Sardis Minutes, 1883.

(Expires 5/31/2012)

Baptist Church of Christ at Sardis

Name of Property

Winston, Mississippi County and State

There is no reference in the church minutes as to the original location of the church. The church membership continued to grow over the years and by 1898 there were forty-seven male members and fifty-nine female members. In 1899 at the August meeting of the church it resolved itself into a committee to raise funds for the construction of a church and a building committee was appointed.¹⁰

On January 6, 1902 a deed was filed with Winston County for the sale of land from W.N. Haggard to Sardis Baptist Church. The plot of land was one acre and the legal description as follows: beginning at a point 70 yards south of the N.W. Corner of the N.W. ¼ of sec. 22, T14, R14, and running thence south 140 yards to the New Macon Road thence east along said road 35 yards thence North 140 yards thence West 35 yards to place of beginning containing one acre in N.W. ¼ of said sec. 22 T14, R14.

The next mention of the new church appears in the Saturday before the third Sunday in October 1902 minutes. It states that the collecting committee was to collect what money they could for the purposes of completing the new church, suggesting that the church was under construction by then. In the minutes on the Saturday before the third Sunday in January, 1903 the collecting committee was discharged suggesting that the church was complete by then. There is no reference in the minutes to the church congregation moving into the new church. The church minutes after May of 1904 have been lost.

According to church members the church that was built in 1902-1903 was destroyed by fire or storm and the present church erected in 1917 on the foundation rocks of the original church and was a replica of the earlier church. 11

The church built in 1917 is similar to other rural churches in Mississippi with its rectangular shape, high pitched front facing gable roof, and two symmetrically placed front entry doors. According to Mississippi architectural historian Richard Cawthon, it is a typical form for rural churches with examples in Mississippi that date back to the 1850s. Surviving examples include the circa 1855 Bethany Presbyterian Church near Centreville in Amite County (NR, 2003), and the 1854 Lebanon Presbyterian Church near Learned in Hinds County (NR, 1999). The 1905 Toxish Baptist Church (III) near Pontotoc in Pontotoc County was another example of the style; however, it has been demolished. Historic photos of that church show a very similar exterior and interior to the Sardis Baptist Church. It is difficult to determine how many churches of this rural vernacular style are left in Mississippi since they were built in rural areas and there is no centralized record of construction, the style used, or whether they remain today.

According to church members the church was built by carpenter and builder William Thaddeus Puckett who was also a church member. The pews and pulpit are original to the church and were possibly made by the builder of the church as well. The lumber used in the construction of the churches and pews came from logs grown in the community and milled at a local portable saw mill owned by J.W. Haggard, also a member of the church.¹⁴

The church is no longer being used regularly for church services. Members from the congregation still meet there for a Memorial Day service every year on the fifth Sunday in May or the first Sunday in June. Weddings, funerals, and family reunions still take place at the church.

The Baptist Church of Christ at Sardis is an outstanding and very intact example of rural churches that were built across Mississippi from the 1850s to the early 1900s. The wood frame, one-room church retains original siding, windows, interior finishes, pews, and pulpit. It has received only minor changes with the roof material, wood doors, and lighting. It remains in a very rural location, and there has been no development around the church so the rural quality of the site has not been diminished. The church is accessed from a long rural road and the church property itself is surrounded by dense tree growth, again giving it that rural quality.

The cemetery on the church grounds is also significant and tied directly to the church as members of the congregation are buried in the cemetery. The cemetery is to the rear of the church and is outlined by a decorative iron fence. The earliest burials in the cemetery date back to 1915 and burials are still occurring. There are approximately 160 grave sites in the

¹⁰ Baptist Church of Christ at Sardis Minutes, August, 1889.

¹¹ Preliminary Evaluation Questionnaire for National Register Listing – Baptist Church of Christ at Sardis

¹² Sherry, Pace. Historic Churches of Mississippi, p. x.

¹³ Cawthon, Richard J. Lost Churches of Mississippi, p. 166-167.

¹⁴ Preliminary Evaluation Questionnaire for National Register Listing – Baptist Church of Christ at Sardis

recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey #_

(Expires 5/31/2012)

Baptist Church of Christ at Sardis Name of Property	Winston, Mississippi County and State
cemetery which are arranged in standard rows. Many of the earmarble and stone grave markers. In addition there are several	
The Baptist Church of Christ at Sardis is eligible for listing in the integrity as an outstanding example of a rural, wood frame, one setting. The church has a great deal of original materials, and of the church, making it a superb example of rural Mississippi of	e-room, church in Mississippi which remains in its rural finishes which are still intact on both the exterior and interior
Developmental history/additional historic context informat	tion (if appropriate)
9. Major Bibliographical References	
Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparin	g this form.)
Baptist Church of Christ at Sardis - Church Minutes. 1883 - 1	903. On file with current church members.
Cawthon, Richard J. Lost Churches of Mississippi. 2010. Unit	versity Press of Mississippi: Jackson, Mississippi.
Garret, Hazel Crenshaw and Taunton, Louis. Winston County, Mississippi.	Mississippi Cemeteries. 1993. G&T Publishers: Louisville,
Hoffman, Jeannie Newsom. A History of Winston County. 200	04. Taunton Publishers: Louisville, Mississippi.
Pace, Sherry. Historic Churches of Mississippi. 2007. University	sity Press of Mississippi: Jackson, Mississippi.
Preliminary Evaluation Questionnaire for National Register List the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Ja	
Rowland, Dunbar. <i>Mississippi – Volume II – L-Z.</i> 1976 (reprint Spartanburg, South Carolina.	from 1907 edition). The Reprint Company, Publishers:
Previous documentation on file (NPS):	Primary location of additional data:
preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been requested)	State Historic Preservation Office Other State agency
previously listed in the National Register previously determined eligible by the National Register	Federal agency Local government
designated a National Historic Landmark	University
recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #	Other Name of repository:

(Expires 5/31/2012)

Baptist Church of Christ at Sardis Name of Property				Winston, Mississippi County and State		
Historic Re	sources Survey	Number (if assigned):				
0. Geogr	aphical Data					
	f Property 1 de previously listed r	resource acreage.)				
JTM Refe		s on a continuation sheet.)				
			3			
1 16 Zone	321699 Easting	3668958 Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing	
2			4			
Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing	
Verbal Bo	at a point 70 yar	otion (Describe the boundaries	rner of the N.W. 1/4	of sec. 22, T14, R1	14, and running thence south 1	
Verbal Bo Beginning yards to the place of be Boundary	at a point 70 yar e New Macon Reginning containing	rds south of the N.W. Co	aid road 35 yards the said sec. 22 T14, are selected.)	hence North 140 ya	14, and running thence south 1 and thence West 35 yards to	
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Maps: A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

Submit the following items with the completed form:

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.

(Expires 5/31/2012)

Baptist Church of Christ at Sardis

Name of Property

Winston, Mississippi County and State

- **Continuation Sheets**
- Additional items: (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Name of Property: Baptist Church of Christ at Sardis

City or Vicinity: Louisville

State: Mississippi County: Winston

Photographer: David Preziosi

Date Photographed: June 24, 2010

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

View of the First Baptist Church of Christ at Sardis from Sardis Road looking northeast.

2 of 10

South or front elevation of the First Baptist Church of Christ at Sardis looking north.

North or rear elevation of the First Baptist Church of Christ at Sardis looking south.

4 of 10

East or side elevation of the First Baptist Church of Christ at Sardis looking west.

5 of 10

View of the front and side elevations of the First Baptist Church of Christ at Sardis looking northeast.

View of the interior of the First Baptist Church of Christ at Sardis looking north towards the rear of the church.

7 of 10

View of the interior of the First Baptist Church of Christ at Sardis looking south towards the front of the church.

8 of 10

View of the First Baptist Church of Christ at Sardis cemetery behind the church looking north.

9 of 10

View of the pavilion looking southeast.

10 of 10

View of the front elevation of the bathroom building looking southeast.

Baptist Church of Christ at Sardis

(Expires 5/31/2012)

Winston Mississippi

Name of Property	County and State		
Property Owner:			
(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)			
name Sardis Baptist Church			
street & number Sardis Road	telephone		
city or town Louisville	state MS zip code 39339		

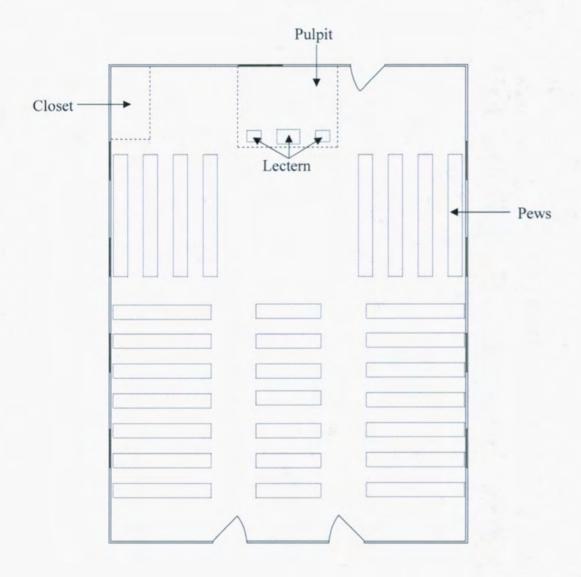
Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management. U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

First Baptist Church at Sardis Winston County

Floor Plan

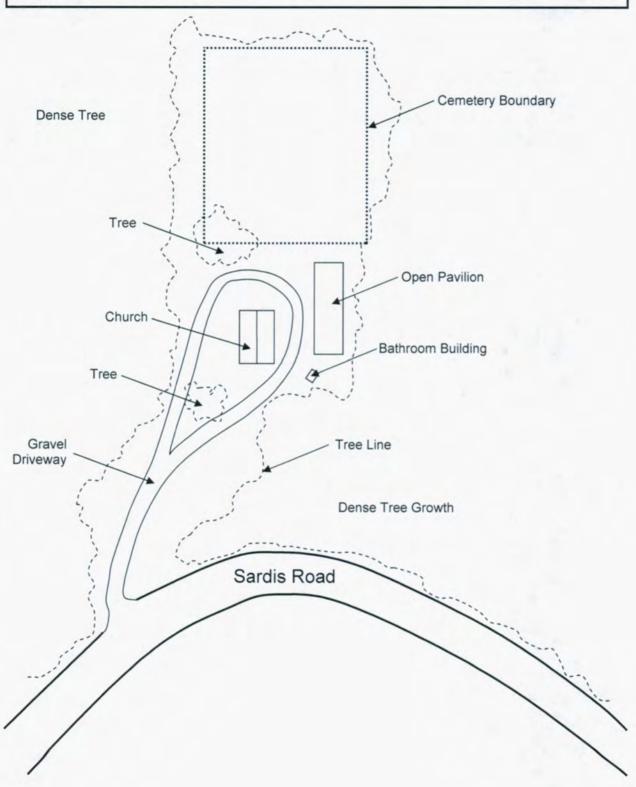




Scale: 1/8" = 1'

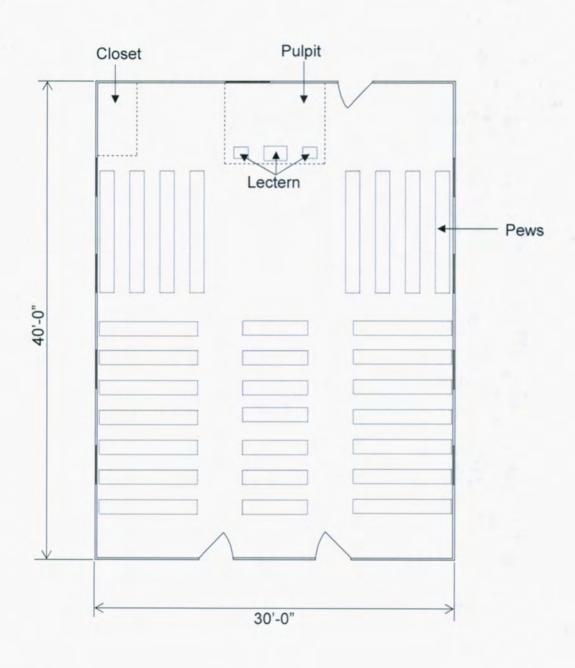












Scale: 1/8" = 1'

Aerial Map







W E

Location Map





Baptist Church of Christ at Sardis

Sardis Road Louisville Vicinity, Winston, Mississippi

Photo 1 0F10



Baptist Church of Christ at Sardis Sardis Road Louisville Vicinity, Winston County, Mississip

Photo Zofla



Baptist Church of Christ at Sardis Sardis Road

Louisville vicinity, Winston County, Mississip

Photo 3 of 10



Buptist Church of Christ at Sardis Sardis Road Louisville vicinity, Winston County, Mississi

Photo 4 of 10



Buptist Church of Christ at Sardis Sardis Road Louisville vicinity, Winston County, Mississi

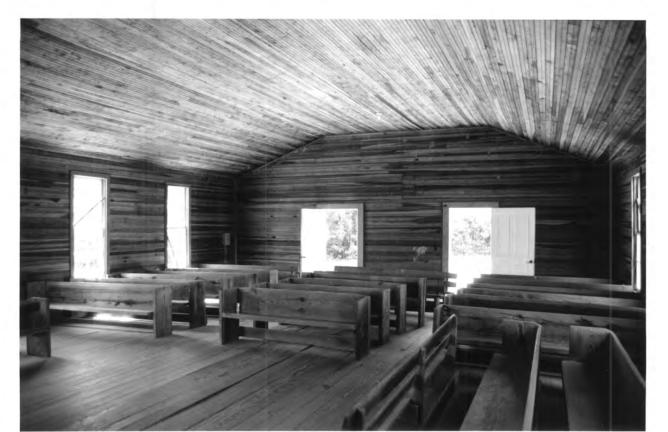
Photo 5 of 10



Buptist Church of Christ at Sardis Sardis Road

Louisville vicinity, Winstan County, Miss

Photo 6 of 10



Baptist Church of Christ at Sardis Sardis Road Louisville vicinity, Winston County, Missis

Photo 70 of 10



Baptist Church of Christ at Sardis

Louisville vicinity, Winston County, Miss

Sardis Road

Photo 8 of 10



Buptist Church of Christ at Sardis Surdis Road

Louisville vicinity, Winston County, Missis

Photo 390f 10



Baptist Church of Christ at Sardis

Sardis Road

Loursville vicinity, Winston County, Mi

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