

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

historic name: Senatobia Christian Church

other name/site number: Senatobia Latvian Lutheran Church

2. Location

street & number: 407 West Tate Street

not for publication: N/A

city/town: Senatobia

vicinity: N/A

state: Mississippi code: MS county: Tate code: 137 zip code: 38668

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ 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 ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Kenneth H. P. Paul
Signature of certifying official

February 1, 1994
Date

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

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4. National Park Service Certification

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I, hereby certify that this property is:

_____ entered in the National Register _____
_____ See continuation sheet. _____
_____ determined eligible for the _____
_____ National Register _____
_____ See continuation sheet. _____
_____ determined not eligible for the _____
_____ National Register _____
_____ removed from the National Register _____
_____ other (explain): _____

Signature of Keeper_____
Date
of Action

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5. Classification

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Ownership of Property: Public-local

Category of Property: Building

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing
1	-0- buildings
-0-	-0- sites
-0-	-0- structures
-0-	-0- objects
1	-0- Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: N/A

Name of related multiple property listing:

Historic and Architectural Resources of Senatobia, Mississippi

6. Function or Use

Historic: RELIGION

Sub: Religious facility

Current : VACANT/NOT IN USE

Sub:

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

Romanesque

Other Description: N/A

Materials: foundation BRICK
walls WOOD/Weatherboard

roof ASPHALT
other Wooden steeple

8. Statement of Significance

APPLICABLE NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE

ARCHITECTURE

- 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.
- X 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.

PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE

1887

CRITERIA CONSIDERATIONS N/A

SIGNIFICANT DATES

1887

Property is:

SIGNIFICANT PERSON

N/A

CULTURAL AFFILIATION

N/A

ARCHITECT/BUILDER

Unknown

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9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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X See continuation sheet.

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 # _____

PRIMARY LOCATION OF ADDITIONAL DATA:

X State historic preservation office

Other state agency

Federal agency

Local government

University

Other

-- Specify Repository: Mississippi Department of Archives and History

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10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of Property: Less than one acre

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

A	<u>16</u>	<u>227970</u>	<u>3834390</u>	B	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
C	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	D	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

 See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description: See continuation sheet.

Boundary Justification: See continuation sheet.

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11. Form Prepared By

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Name/Title: John Linn Hopkins, Preservation Consultant

Organization: N/A

Date: June 1, 1993

Street & Number: 974 Philadelphia Street

Telephone: (901) 278-5186

City or Town: Memphis

State: TN

Zip: 38104

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PROPERTY OWNER

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Name: Tate County Board of Supervisors

Street & Number: 201 South Ward Street

Telephone: (601) 562-5661

City/Town: Senatobia

State: MS

Zip Code: 38668

United States Department of the Interior
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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 7 Page # 1 Senatobia Christian Church
Senatobia, Tate County, MS

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

The former Senatobia Christian Church is a late-nineteenth century frame church building designed with Romanesque Revival influences, which stands at 411 West Tate Street in a location known today as Lot 6 of Block 5 in Section 99G of the city of Senatobia, Tate County, Mississippi. The topography of the area around the church gently slopes westward from high ground at the Tate County Courthouse (NR pending), less than a block to the east, towards a small creek located at mid-block on West Tate Street, approximately one hundred feet to the west of the church. The church is set back from the line of West Tate Street by some twenty-five feet.

The church was built in 1887 as a one-story, frame, gable-front church, three-bay wide at front and five bays in depth. The front (south) facade features a centered steeple that projects slightly forward and rises a half-story above the gable end, topped with an octagonal spire containing peaked louvered vents on four sides. The steeple does not contain a space ever outfitted as a bell chamber. The front facade of the steeple is outfitted with a semi-circular arched 2/2 double-hung sash located in its upper half, centered over the entrance. The entrance is composed of a semi-circular arched, paneled and slightly recessed reveal which contains a four-panel double-door topped with a fanlight. Panels above the front window and above the entrance are decorated with bead board and applied diagonal stickwork, vaguely Stick-Style in their influence.

The roofs of the building are covered with asphalt shingles, with a boxed cornice, frieze and cornice returns. Exterior wall surfaces are covered with weatherboard. Both the western and eastern side facades have 2/2 semi-circular double-hung sashes set within semi-circular reveals. The rear (northern) facade is unbroken by windows or doors. The church is set upon low brick piers.

The church sanctuary is laid out as a traditional center-aisle seating plan, with small Sunday School/office rooms in each of its four corners. A choir loft is located on the southern portion of the sanctuary, above the short entrance corridor. Upon entering the church, an office room is located to either side of the short hall; the L-plan stair to the choir loft is located to the immediate right of the entrance. At a point about eight feet inside of the doors, a seam in the flooring and other breaks in the trim finishes suggests that another set of doors may have been located here, creating an entrance vestibule. If so, this feature was removed ca. 1950-55.

The seating area of the sanctuary is simply-detailed with plaster walls and an original bead-board ceiling, which has been subsequently covered with acoustical tile. The pews have been removed from the interior, though their locations and orientation are visible as "ghosts" on the flooring. The flooring itself was installed over the original in ca. 1950.

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The dais of the sanctuary is located at center between two small rooms. The walls facing the seating area are angled to recede towards the dais. Each room has a doorway containing a false-grained four-panel door topped with a single-light transom. The rear wall of the dais is painted with a trompe d'oeil mural, suggesting a receding Corinthian colonnade; the painted work dates from the renovation of the church in ca. 1950-55. The dais itself is an alteration from this date as well; the front portion of the dais steps down from its original platform height, the leading edge was outfitted with a low, open altar rail. Portions of this ca. 1950-55 construction are now demolished.

Finishes throughout the interior of the church are a mix of original work and later remodeling. Doors located throughout are original four-panel doors. A wainscot of bead board decorates the lower walls of the sanctuary and its secondary spaces. Portions of the wainscot are "railroad" board replacements from ca. 1950-55, especially in the area of the dais and the front Sunday School rooms. The balustrade of the choir loft also appears to date from this later remodeling. None of the original or historic lighting fixtures remain in the sanctuary.

The Christian Church was completed and placed in service on February 6, 1887, and was employed by its congregation until the 1930s, when the congregation dwindled and apparently disbanded. The church was renewed in its service after 1949 by the arrival of a group of Latvian refugees, displaced by World War Two. The church was renamed the Latvian Lutheran Church of Senatobia; it was at this time that the building experienced a number of the modifications visible today. The Latvian Lutheran Church ceased to exist in the late 1970s. The church was again abandoned and has been purchased by Tate County. The building is currently used for storage.

Carpenter, Howard, editor, The History of Tate County. (Senatobia, MS: B/C Printing, 1975)

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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Senatobia, Tate County, MS

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10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundaries of the Senatobia Christian Church nomination are confined to its existing lot, known as Parcel 6 of Block 5 in Map 99G of the city of Senatobia, fronting 100 feet on West Tate Street and running 120 feet in depth.

Boundary Justification

The property placed in nomination comprises all that land historically associated with the Senatobia Christian Church since its construction in 1887.

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number Photos Page # 6 Senatobia Christian Church
Senatobia, Tate County, Mississippi
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PHOTO LIST

SENATOBIA CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Senatobia, Tate County, Mississippi

Photographer: John Linn Hopkins

Date: July, 1993

Negatives: Mississippi Department of Archives and History
(Photos from MDAH Survey Files are cited as appropriate)

Photo 1 of 8 (MDAH 2688:11)

View of the front (south) facade, facing north.

Photo 2 of 8 (MDAH 2688:12)

View of the front (south) and side (east) facades, facing northwest.

Photo 3 of 8

View of the rear (north) facade, facing southwest.

Photo 4 of 8 (MDAH 2586:24a)

View of the chancel of the sanctuary, with its ca. 1950-55 murals.

Photo 5 of 8

View of one of the two small rooms flanking the chancel.

Photo 6 of 8

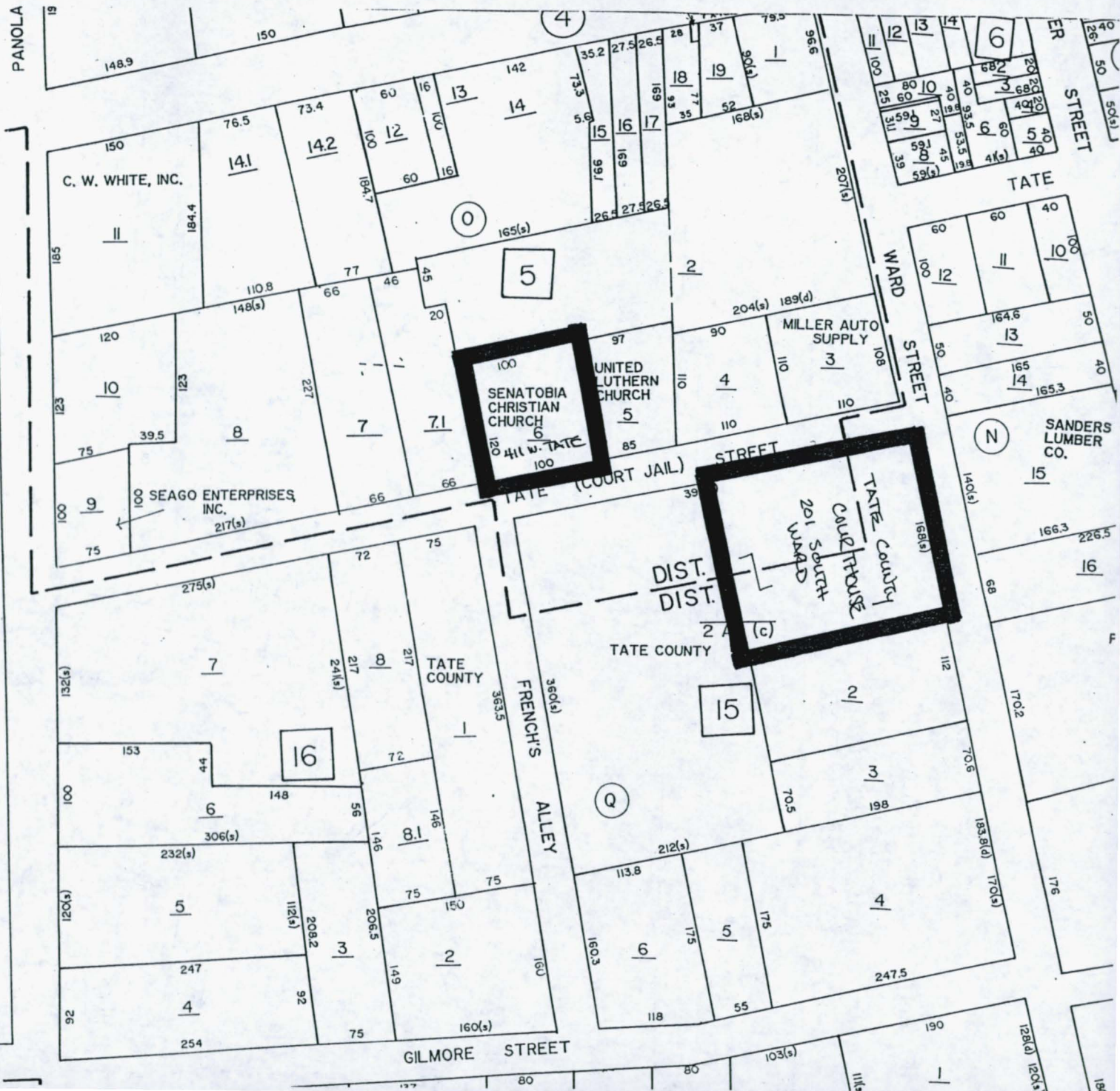
View of one of the four original doors remaining in the church,
one of two retaining its original wood graining treatment.

Photo 7 of 8

View of the balcony and entrance area from the east side of the
chancel.

Photo 8 of 8

Painted sketch of a Corinthian capital, presumably done as a sketch
for the chancel murals in ca. 1950-55, located on the east wall of the
sanctuary.



SENATOBIA CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(BELOW, LEFT)

411 WEST TATE STREET
SENATOBIA, TATE COUNTY, MS

SCALE: 1" = 100'

Boundary: [redacted]

TATE COUNTY COURTHOUSE
(ABOVE, RIGHT)

201 SOUTH WARD STREET
SENATOBIA, TATE COUNTY, MS

SCALE: 1" = 100'

Boundary: [redacted]





SENATORIA CHRISTIAN CHURCH

SENATORIA, TATE COUNTY, MS

PHOTO 1 OF 8



SENATORIA CHRISTIAN CHURCH

SENATORIA, TATE COUNTY, MS

PHOTO 2 OF 3



SENATORIAL CHRISTIAN CHURCH
SENATORIAL, TATE COUNTY, MS
PHOTO 3 OF 8



Senatobia Christian Church

Senatobia, Tate Co., MS

Photo 4 of 8



SENATORIAL CHRISTIAN CHURCH
SENATORIAL, TATE COUNTY, MS
PHOTO 5 OF 8



SENATORIA CHRISTIAN CHURCH
SENATORIA, TATE COUNTY, MS
PHOTO 6 OF 8



SENATORIA CHRISTIAN CHURCH
SENATORIA, TATE COUNTY, MS
PHOTO 7 OF 8



SENATORIAL CHRISTIAN CHURCH
SENATORIAL, TATE COUNTY, MS
PHOTO 8 OF 8