

(Rev. 10-90)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

historic name: Bethany Presbyterian Church
other names/site number:

2. Location

street & number: Highway 48 at Perry Road
city or town: Centreville vicinity X
state: Mississippi code: MS county: Amite code: 005 zip code: 39631

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ___ nationally ___ statewide X locally. (___ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Kenneth H. P. Paul MAY 6, 2003
Signature of certifying official 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

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:
___ entered in the National Register, Signature of the Keeper Date of Action
___ 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):

5. Classification

Ownership of Property:

private

Number of Resources within Property:

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Category of Property:

building

Contributing

1

Noncontributing

buildings
sites
structures
objects
Total

1

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

n/a

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions:

Religion: religious facility

Current Functions:

Religion: religious facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification(s):

Greek Revival

Materials:

foundation: brick
roof: metal
walls: weatherboard
other

Narrative Description:

See Continuation Sheets

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

- 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.

Areas of Significance
Architecture

Period of Significance
1855

Significant Dates
1855

Criteria Considerations:

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Significant Person(s)

Cultural Affiliation(s)

Architect/Builder
unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance: See continuation sheets.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography 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

- State Historic Preservation Office
 - Other State agency
 - Federal agency
 - Local government
 - University
 - Other
- Name of repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property:

UTM References:	Zone	Easting	Northing
	15	692050	3442450

___ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description See continuation sheet.

Boundary Justification: See continuation sheet.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title:	Richard J. Cawthon, Chief Architectural Historian	date: December 2002
organization:	Mississippi Department of Archives and History	telephone: (601) 359-6940
street & number:	P. O. Box 571	zip code: 39205-0571
city or town:	Jackson	state: MS

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner(s)

name:	Bethany Presbyterian Church	
	c/o Richard F. Mayfield, Clerk of Session	
street & number:	2609A Ewell Road	telephone: (601) 645-5750
city or town:	Centreville	state: MS zip code: 39631

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. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the 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 Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

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Bethany Presbyterian Church
Amite County, Mississippi

Description

Bethany Presbyterian Church is a small wood-frame building with Greek Revival detailing, built about 1855. It is located on the north side of State Highway 48 at the intersection of Perry Road in the rural settlement of Ariel, about four miles east of Centreville, Mississippi. The church faces eastward toward Perry Road.

The church is a simple rectangular gable-roofed building. The exterior walls are clad in painted weatherboard. The building has four identical sets of original double-leaf doors, two on the front (east) wall and two on the rear. Each door leaf has eight recessed panels in a Greek Revival pattern. Above each set of doors is an original eighteen-light transom. The north and south side walls each have five windows. These are eight-over-eight-over-eight triple-hung wood-sash windows protected by exterior louvered shutters. The building has a standing-seam metal roof.

The interior consists of a single rectangular room measuring approximately forty-two feet wide by sixty feet long, with a ceiling height of seventeen feet, six inches. Rows of simple wooden pews are arranged along two aisles that extend the length of the building. A low partition runs through the center section of pews, dividing the seating area in half. At the west end of the room, centered between the two back doors, is a pilastered rostrum containing a centered pulpit flanked by two lecterns. In front of the rostrum are a communion table and two chairs.

The interior walls and ceiling are clad in 1" x 8" tongue-and-groove boards attached with square nails. The floors are also 8" tongue-and-groove boards, which have been partially covered by carpeting on the aisles and in the area surrounding the pulpit. The original oil lamps were wired for electricity and re-installed about 1971-72. At this same time, a large central chandelier was installed.

There is a historic cemetery located adjacent to the church, but it is not included within the nominated property. A church annex building has also been excluded from the nominated property.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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Bethany Presbyterian Church
Amite County, Mississippi

Statement of Significance

Bethany Presbyterian Church, built about 1855, is locally significant under Criterion C in the area of Architecture as a very intact and representative example of a rural vernacular church of the 1850s. It is a notable example of an architectural form that was widely used for rural churches in Mississippi in the 19th century – a gable-roofed, simple rectangular building with two entrances in the front-facing gable end. This type of church building was constructed in Mississippi from the 1820s into the 1910s. They were most commonly built of wood, though a few were of brick construction. As of 2002, eighteen surviving examples from the antebellum period have been identified in Mississippi, in varying degrees of integrity. Among the most intact of these are:

- Tabernacle Methodist Church (1857) in Copiah County (National Register 1996)
- Pleasant Valley Methodist Church (1840s) in Copiah County (National Register 1996)
- Hopewell Presbyterian Church (1839) in Lafayette County (National Register 1999)
- Sand Spring Presbyterian Church (1854) in Lafayette County (National Register 1993)
- and Bethany Presbyterian Church in Amite County.

Lebanon Presbyterian Church (1859) in Hinds County (National Register 1999) is also of this type, but is less intact from the antebellum period, having been partially rebuilt about 1890-1900.

Simple rectangular churches with a single, center entrance on the front-facing gable end, such as China Grove Methodist Church (1860-61) in Walthall County (National Register 1984), were apparently less common than the double-entrance type during the antebellum period, though they became more numerous in the later 19th century, and some double-entrance churches were later remodeled into single-entrance buildings.

Bethany Presbyterian Church is notable for its high degree of architectural integrity. It retains all four of its original sets of Greek Revival double-leaf doors with transoms. The interior retains its simple plank walls and ceiling, and the original pews remain in use. The church stands today as an exceptionally well preserved example of antebellum vernacular religious architecture in Mississippi.

The congregation of Bethany Presbyterian Church was founded in 1808. The present structure is the third building on this site.

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Bethany Presbyterian Church
Amite County, Mississippi

Major Bibliographical References

This document was based upon a draft provided by Richard F. Mayfield, Clerk of Session, Bethany Presbyterian Church, in October 2002.

Other information was derived from National Register files and Historic Resources Inventory files of the Historic Preservation Division, Mississippi Department of Archives and History.

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property consists of the Bethany Presbyterian Church building itself, located at UTM reference 15 – 692050 – 3442450, and a small square of land, 100 by 100 feet, centered on the roof ridge of the building and parallel to the sides of the building.

It is a part of a larger tract owned by the church and located in the SW quarter, Section 32, Township 2 North, Range 2 East, in Amite County, Mississippi.

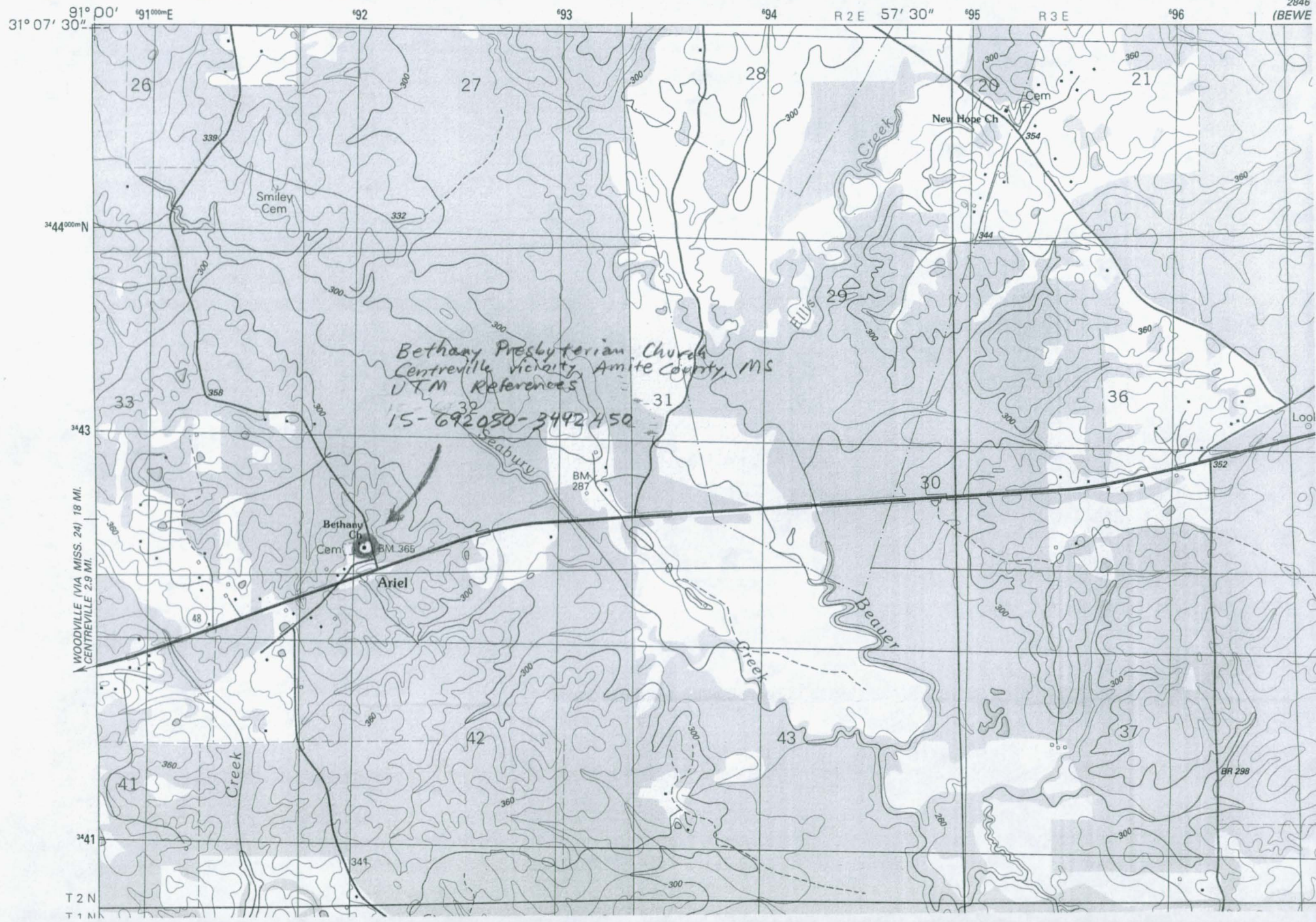
Boundary Justification

This nominated property contains the church building itself, but excludes the adjacent cemetery and the adjacent non-historic church annex building.

2746 II NE
(GLOSTER)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

2846
(BEWE)



WOODVILLE (VIA MISS. 24) 18 MI.
CENTREVILLE 2.9 MI.

T 2 N
T 1 N



RESTAURANT
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH IN ASHELEY
THURSDAY - 1934
FIRST SERVICE 7:00 P.M.

Dethony Presbyterian Church
Amite County, Mississippi

Photograph by Richard S. Morris
December 2002

Miss. Dept. of Archives & History
frontal view from east-northeast

Photo 1 of 8



Delmarly Presbyterian Church
Amite County, Mississippi

Photograph by Richard S. Morris
December 2002

Miss. Dept. of Archives & History
Southernly front door, viewed from east
photo 2 of 8

309 0212 N 1



Bethany Presbyterian Church

Amite County, Mississippi

Photo by Richard S. Morris

Dec. 2002

Miss. Dept. of Archives & History

exterior, viewed from southwest

photo 4 of 8



Bethany Presbyterian Church
Amite County, Mississippi

Photo by Richard S. Morris

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Miss. Dept. of Archives & History

Interior, view toward east

Photo 3 of 8



Bethany Presbyterian Church
Amite County, Mississippi

Photo by Richard S. Morris

Dec. 2002

Miss. Dept. of Archives & History

exterior, south end (rear), viewed from southwest

photo 5 of 8



Bethany Presbyterian Church
Amite County, Mississippi

Photo by Richard S. Morris

Dec. 2002

Miss. Dept. of Archives & History

interior view of a window

photo 6 of 8



Bethany Presbyterian Church
Amite County, Mississippi

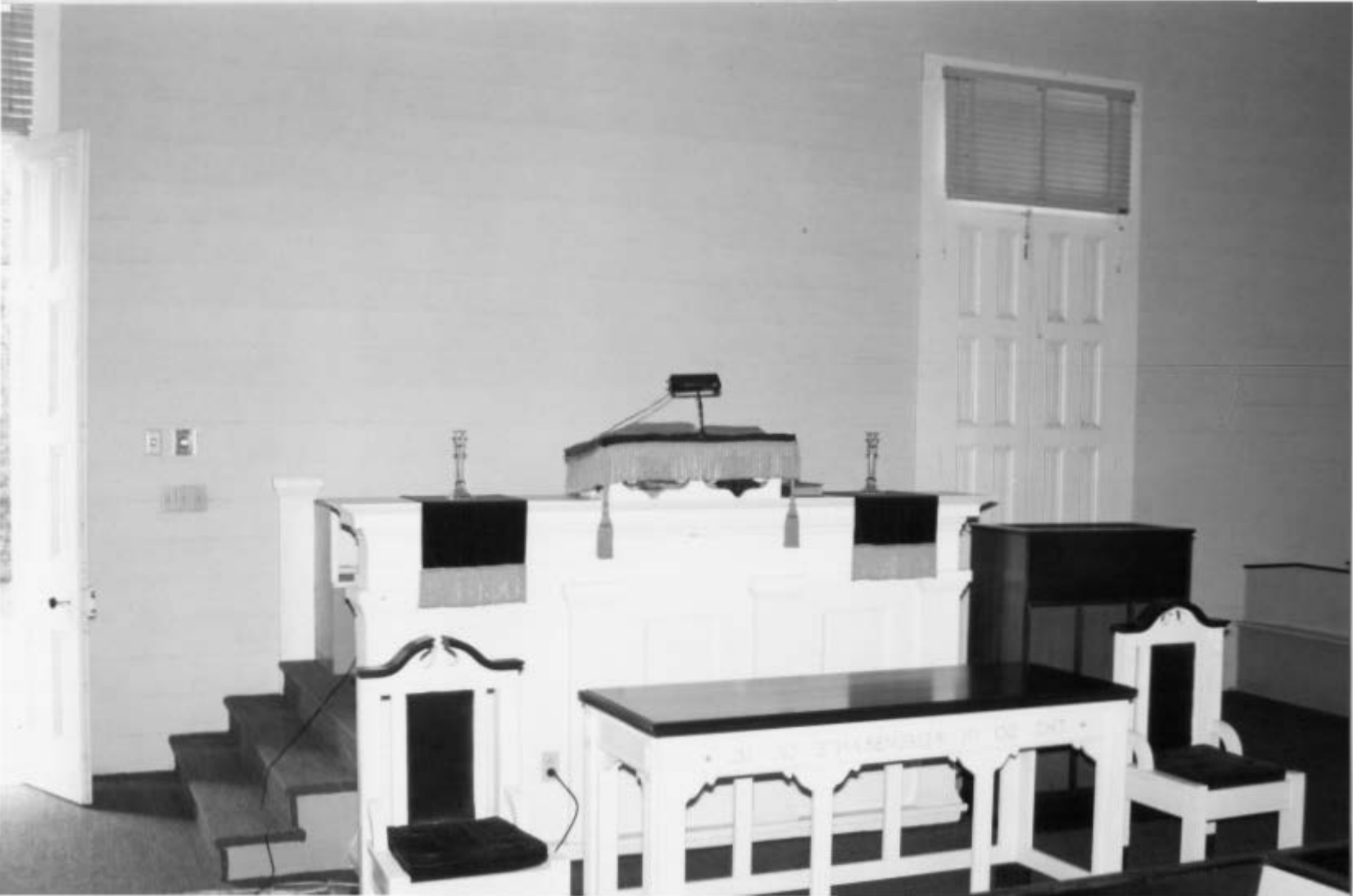
Photo by Richard S. Morris

Dec. 2002

Miss. Dept. of Archives & History

interior, view to the south

photo 7 of 8



Bethany Presbyterian Church
Amite County, Mississippi

Photo by Richard S. Morris

Dec. 2002

Miss. Dept. of Archives & History
pulpit, view to the west

photo 8 of 8