

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

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

For NCRS use only

received NOV 12 1980

date entered DEC 11 1980

1. Name

historic Grace Episcopal Church

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 203 Main Street not for publication

city, town Rosedale vicinity of congressional district 1st.

state Mississippi code 28 county Bolivar code 11

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Trustees of the Diocese of Mississippi

street & number P. O. Box 1636

city, town Jackson vicinity of state Mississippi 39205

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Bolivar County Courthouse

street & number Office of the Chancery Clerk

city, town Rosedale state Mississippi

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Condition

☒ excellent
☐ good
☐ fair

Check one

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Located on Main Street in Rosedale, Mississippi, is Grace Episcopal Church, a small, one story, carpenter Gothic building set upon low brick foundation piers.

The white clapboarded frame walls are pierced by lancet windows containing stained glass (some of which is original). Encircling the building is a skirt with a simple molded cap and a wide frieze.

The center bay of the three-bay, westerly, gable-end facade is occupied by a buttressed rectangular tower with octagonal spire that more than doubles the height of the building and constitutes the main exterior ornament of the church. On each side of the tower belfry is a blind arcade and a louvered pointed arch opening capped by a drip molding all set below a steep gable. Fronting the tower is a narrow, shed-roof porch with pediment. The porch, which is supported by two Tuscan columns, shelters the double leaf entrance doors, each of which features six molded panels.

Immediately inside the doors is a vestibule with a small round window on each side wall. A rectangular opening leads onto the interior where the walls and ceiling are covered with diagonal matched boards. The nave is wainscoted with double-vertical boards. From the boxed ridge of the roof, boxed rafters extend to the eaves where they are supported by brackets rising from the top of the four pointed windows on each side of the nave.

The chancel is separated from the nave by a raised floor and a dark railing. Also, the chancel projects at the sides into transepts. An arch, supported by boxed columns at the entrance to the chancel and is the width of the center aisle, is repeated at the entrance to the narrow east-end recess containing the sanctuary. The floor of the sanctuary is raised one level to accommodate a communion rail. Behind the altar is a large wide pointed arch divided into three smaller pointed arch windows.

Original wooden furniture includes the pews, lectern, and litany desk. A marble font is located at the entrance to the nave. The altar was installed at the turn of the century, and came from St. James' Episcopal Church in Greenville, Mississippi.

Two minor alterations have occurred to the church. A vestry set in the angle of the north transept and the sanctuary is probably an addition. The front porch columns are substitutes for the original square-section posts with brackets. Aside from these two changes the building remains much as it was at the time of its construction in 1879.

The three-room rectory, which faces west, about thirty feet south of the church was built in the early 1920s to replace the 1903 rectory that burned.

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 1879

Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

In the architectural context of Rosedale, and Bolivar County, Mississippi, Grace Episcopal Church is an important example of the carpenter Gothic style. In this sparsely populated, agrarian Delta county few church structures were built during the nineteenth century and fewer still have survived. Thus, it is not surprising that this 1879 building is the oldest extant church in the county. Similarly, it is the finest carpenter Gothic building in the county and one of the few examples of the Gothic Revival to date from the nineteenth century. While hardly ambitious in size, and somewhat spare of ornament, the pleasing proportions of the nave, the picturesqueness of the tower and the repetition of the Gothic arch motif make this a most pleasing vernacular design.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

10. Geographical Data

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Acreage of nominated property less than 1 acre

Quadrangle name Rosedale, Ms. - Ark.

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

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3	7	4	7	7	1	6	5
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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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Verbal boundary description and justification

See attached xerox copy of Rosedale, Mississippi, Tax Map. The property is outlined in red, and the map is located in the Tax Assessor's Office, Rosedale Town Hall, Rosedale, Mississippi.

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

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Clinton I. Bagley

organization

date

street & number Box 1332

telephone 601-332-7956

city or town Greenville,

state Mississippi 38701

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

 national state X 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Elmer R. Hilliard

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date October 29, 1980

For HCRS use only

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

Forrest W. Ray
Keeper of the National Register

date 12/11/80

Attest: Just D. Dink
Chief of Registration

date 12/10/80

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED NOV 12 1980

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET 1

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 1

Adams, William S. " Brief History of Grace Episcopal Church."
Unpub. n.d.

Bagley, Clinton I. Research Consultant, Inspection of Grace Church,
June 10, 1980.

Bolivar County. Deed Book AA. p.552. (Rosedale, Mississippi)

Inventory of Church Archives of Mississippi, The Mississippi
Historic Records Survey Project (WPA). June, 1940.

Lamar, Curt. History of Rosedale, Mississippi. Reprint Co.,
Spartanburg, Sc. 1976.

Leafcroft, Helen and Richard. Churches and Cathedrals, Their Build-
ing and Use. Penguin Books. Harmondsworth, Middlesex. 1964.

Pierson, William H. American Buildings and Their Architects (The
Corporate and the early Gothic Styles). Anchor Books. Garden
City, N.Y. 1980.



Grace Episcopal Church

Rosedale, MS

Bolivar Co.

Credit & neg: C.I.Bagley

NOV 12 1980

Box 1332

DEC 11 1980

Greenville, MS 38701

Facade & north elevation of church and
rectory to south of church

1/3



Grace Episcopal Church

Main St. Rosedale, Ms.

Facade (west elev.) 7-15-80

Credit: Clint Bagley *Bolivia Co*

Box 1332

Greenville, Ms. 38701

DEC 11 1980

2/3

NOV 12 1980



Grace Episcopal Church
201 Main St. Rosedale, Ms. 6-15-80

Interior: nave, chancel, sanctuary,
B. Oliver Co. and east wall.

Credit: Clint Bagley

11 1980 Box 1332
Greenville, Ms.

NOV 12 1980

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