

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 "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Georgetown Methodist Church

Other names/site number: Georgetown United Methodist Church

Name of related multiple property listing:

Historic and Architectural Resources of Copiah County

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

2. Location

Street & number: 1002 Lane Avenue

City or town: Georgetown State: Mississippi County: Copiah

Not For Publication: ☐ Vicinity: ☐

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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 at the following level(s) of significance:

 national statewide X local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

 A B XC D

<p><u>Ketur Blunt Director</u></p> <p>Signature of certifying official/Title:</p>	<p><u>12-1-15</u></p> <p>Date</p>
<p>State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</p>	

<p>In my opinion, the property <u> </u> meets <u> </u> does not meet the National Register criteria.</p>	
<p>Signature of commenting official:</p>	<p>Date</p>
<p>Title :</p>	<p>State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</p>

Georgetown Methodist Church
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4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- ☐ entered in the National Register
☐ determined eligible for the National Register
☐ determined not eligible for the National Register
☐ removed from the National Register
☐ other (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private: ☒
- Public – Local ☐
- Public – State ☐
- Public – Federal ☐

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s) ☒
- District ☐
- Site ☐
- Structure ☐
- Object ☐

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Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

RELIGION/religious facility

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

RELIGION/religious facility

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE 19th AND EARLY 20th CENTURY
AMERICAN MOVEMENTS/Other

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: wood, brick

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

Georgetown Methodist Church is located in Georgetown, Mississippi which is a small, quiet community 15 miles east of Hazlehurst, the county seat of Copiah County. The church is a one-story vernacular church built in 1934. The church, located at the corner of Lane Avenue and Broad Street, is set in a quiet part of town with woods to the south (Photo 1).

Narrative Description

The Georgetown Methodist Church is located near the southern edge of Georgetown, Mississippi, in a residential neighborhood. The church is slightly set back from Lane Avenue on a well-kept lawn, at its intersection with Broad Street. Other than some small bushes flanking the porch, there is no formal landscape plan.

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Exterior

The simple T-shaped wood clapboard church faces west and has a front-facing gable roof with a projecting gabled porch entry. A hip-roofed classroom wing on the east end of the sanctuary runs perpendicular to the sanctuary, creating a T-shape floor plan which is original. The west façade (primary) has central, double-leaf, 6-panel doors, surmounted by a rectangular 2 x 6 transom. To either side of the doors is a pair of 4/4 wood double-hung windows. The entry is sheltered by a simple distyle gabled porch supported by two round columns. There is no evidence to suggest whether the round columns are original or replacements. The porch gable and main gable have knee-braces. The eaves have decorative exposed rafter tails. The gable entry and roof both have vents for attic ventilation. The stoop is concrete with brick steps. A concrete sidewalk connects the road in front of the church to the front entry and then splits to the north and south, continuing around both sides of the building and leading to the classroom entries at the rear of the building (Photo2).

An original hipped-roof classroom wing on the east side of the building runs perpendicular to the main building and has an original door, matching that of the main entry, on each side, allowing for ingress and egress (Photo 3). Both doors are original 6-panel wood doors with 4-light transoms. The wing contains a classroom and bathrooms. Five wood 6/6 double-hung windows with original decorative glass panes are located on the north and south façades of the sanctuary (Photo 4). Protective plexi-glass has been installed over the windows on the south facade closest to the street (Photo 5). The east façade has five wood 6/6 double hung windows also with original decorative glass panes. The roof is finished with composite shingles and the foundation is made of brick piers. The perimeter of the foundation of the classroom wing has been infilled with brick in a "latticed" fashion (Photo 6). There has been no known alteration to the exterior of the building other than this and the roof.

Interior

The front entry leads directly into a large sanctuary (Photo 7). The walls are horizontal wood bead board painted white. The bottom portion has a stained wood wainscoting of vertical bead board. The materials are original. The floors are original heart pine wood, covered by commercial low profile carpet. The ceilings are white painted bead board. On the north and south walls are protruding chimney flues covered with bead board. These flues were once used for the stove heaters (Photo 8). Four sets of original "school house" lights illuminate the sanctuary. The front of the sanctuary has an updated railing to create a pulpit area (Photo 9).

At the rear of the sanctuary, to each side of the pulpit, are two wood, two-paneled, doors with simple wood trim. These doors lead to a large classroom (Photo 10). Evidence suggests that a wall once separated the room into four small classrooms. One men's and one women's bathroom is located at the rear corners of the classroom. The materials in the classroom are the same as the sanctuary, white bead board and commercial low profile carpet over wood floors. Between the bathrooms and classroom is evidence of another set of flues. These form diagonals where the bathroom wall meets the rear of the classroom. They are covered with bead board.

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The bathroom walls are covered in sheets of light paneled wood. This was added at a later date and is not original to the building. The building does not have central air. Electric heaters provide heat.

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- ☐ 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.
- ☒ 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.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- ☒ A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- ☐ B. Removed from its original location
- ☐ C. A birthplace or grave
- ☐ D. A cemetery
- ☐ E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- ☐ F. A commemorative property
- ☐ G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1934

Significant Dates

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

n/a

Cultural Affiliation

n/a

Architect/Builder

unknown

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Georgetown Methodist Church is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C for association with Architecture. The building is a good example of vernacular church form. Built in 1934 and dedicated in 1936, it is the only vernacular, wood, gable-front church in Georgetown.

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

The congregation of Georgetown Methodist Church first met in a "house" as early as the 1850s.¹ On April 22, 1882, and again one year later on April 23, 1883, tornadoes hit Georgetown and destroyed the church. Many lives were lost in the 1883 incident.² It is not known whether the two previous buildings were located on the same piece of property as the present church. According to some of the older members of the church, the previous sanctuary burned around 1929.³ Older members heard that a local carpenter named Moore Dickerson built the church, but there is no documentary evidence to about the building's construction.⁴

The Georgetown Methodist Church was originally part of the Brookhaven District. The present church was built under the leadership of L.T. Nelson during his 4th year as pastor. Nelson served as pastor 1932 – 1934. The church was not completed, however, until after the session of the conference in 1934. The first service in the building was the first service conducted by G. E. Allan, pastor 1935 – 1936. A dedication ceremony took place November 6, 1936. Dr. Charles W. Crisler, presiding elder of the Brookhaven District, preached a sermon and dedicated the church shortly thereafter. An adjourned session of the 4th quarter conference was held in the afternoon. A special invitation was extended to all former pastors to be present.⁵

Georgetown was once a thriving town along a main railroad line, but the population dwindled when the Gulf, Mobile & Ohio merged with the Illinois Central railroad in the 1970's. The small community has a small Methodist following and therefore has had to reduce services to once per month. The church is maintained primarily by the family of Carolyn Beasley, a church member since the 1970s. Ms. Beasley and her family, the Board of Trustees, and the members of the church have maintained the building to the present and are interested in ensuring that the building is appreciated for its historical significance.

¹ "Georgetown, June Notice," *New Orleans Christian Advocate*, July 5, 1856.

² "1883 Georgetown Cyclone," *New Orleans Christian Advocate*, May 3, 1883.

³ Beasley, Carol. Personal Interview. June, 2009.

⁴ Beasley, Carol. Personal Interview. June, 2009.

⁵ "Georgetown Church Dedication," *New Orleans Christian Advocate*, October 15, 1936.

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Church buildings symbolize a commitment by their congregations to the community and a certain level of permanence within the development of the town. In evaluating churches, it must be determined whether the building is architecturally significant as a well-crafted example of a recognized architectural movement, and, if so, whether it retains sufficient integrity of design and workmanship to accurately convey that significance. Four factors can be used in making distinctions. They are age, rarity of the building's architectural form, craftsmanship, and physical integrity.

Historic religious buildings in Copiah County include simple frame, vernacular, gable-front buildings as well as buildings constructed in the Queen Anne, Gothic Revival, Neoclassical Revival, and Craftsman styles. The Georgetown United Methodist Church is a vernacular, frame, gable-front church building with a high degree of integrity.

The interior and exterior maintain a high degree of integrity. The original wood siding and wood doors are extant along with 15 original wood 6/6 double-hung windows and four 4/4 wood double-hung windows. All 6/6 windows contain original decorative glass panes. The two double-entry front doors match the two rear exterior doors. The exterior foot print has not been altered and the brick piers are original.

The interior has original bead board walls and wainscoting along with original lights, pews, and heart pine flooring throughout. Chimneys flues were left in place in the main sanctuary and the rear classrooms. No heating or air conditioning has been installed.

The only other extant church in Georgetown is the First Baptist Church. The church building, built in c.1925 in the Neo-classical style is radically different from the simpler Methodist church.

The Pleasant Valley Methodist Church (NR, 1996) and the Tabernacle Methodist Church (NR, 1996), both near Hazlehurst, MS, are similar to the Georgetown Methodist Church. Although both the Pleasant Valley and Tabernacle churches are much older, the continuity of design and materials illustrate the continuing reliance on this vernacular building style for rural and small town churches in Mississippi.

The Registration Requirements for Religious Resources are discussed on pages 67-69 of the MPS cover document entitled "Historic and Architectural Resources of Copiah County, Mississippi." The Georgetown Methodist Church was evaluated using the Mississippi Department of Archives and History's guidelines for assessing vernacular churches and was found to be eligible because it is a rare surviving example of a wood frame, gable-front church and it displays a high degree of architectural integrity. The building also retains integrity of feeling and association.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Beasley, Carol. Personal Interview. June, 2009.

"1883 Georgetown Cyclone," *New Orleans Christian Advocate*, May 3, 1883.

"Georgetown Church Dedication," *New Orleans Christian Advocate*, October 15, 1936.

"Georgetown, June Notice," *New Orleans Christian Advocate*, July 5, 1856.

"Charges of the Mississippi Conference and the Pastors Serving Them – Georgetown,"
Methodism in the Mississippi Conference 1920 – 1939, pg. 251.

Mississippi Dept. of Archives and History, Preservation Division. "Georgetown Methodist Church, Georgetown Historic Resource Inventory, SHPO inventory file. June 14, 1994.

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 # _____
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

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

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): 029-GEO-0003 _____

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10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1 acre

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates (decimal degrees)

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude: Longitude:

2. Latitude: Longitude:

3. Latitude: Longitude:

4. Latitude: Longitude:

See Continuation Sheet

Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

☐ NAD 1927 or ☐ NAD 1983

1. Zone: Easting: Northing:

2. Zone: Easting: Northing:

3. Zone: Easting: Northing:

4. Zone: Easting : Northing:

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Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

Lots nine (9) and ten (10) of Square four (4) in the town of Georgetown, Copiah County, Mississippi according to the official plat of the town of Georgetown on file in the chancery clerk's office of Copiah County, Mississippi.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary is the lot which the church sits upon.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Tricia Nelson
organization: Preservation Consultant
street & number: PO Box 995
city or town: Crystal Springs state: MS zip code: 39059
e-mail LMNelson10@aol.com
telephone: 601-941-3182
date: August 8, 2015

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

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Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Georgetown Methodist Church

City or Vicinity: Georgetown

County: Copiah

State: MS

Photographer: Tricia Nelson

Date Photographed: June 2009 and July 2014

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

- | | |
|----------|---|
| 1 of 10: | MS_Copiah County_Georgetown Methodist Church_0001
View From Church |
| 2 of 10: | MS_Copiah County_Georgetown Methodist Church_0002
West Facade |
| 3 of 10: | MS_Copiah County_Georgetown Methodist Church_0003
East Facade |
| 4 of 10: | MS_Copiah County_Georgetown Methodist Church_0004
North Facade |
| 5 of 10: | MS_Copiah County_Georgetown Methodist Church_0005
South Facade |
| 6 of 10: | MS_Copiah County_Georgetown Methodist Church_0006
Foundation |
| 7 of 10: | MS_Copiah County_Georgetown Methodist Church_0007
Front of Sanctuary |
| 8 of 10: | MS_Copiah County_Georgetown Methodist Church_0008 |

Georgetown Methodist Church

Name of Property

Chimney Flue

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9 of 10: MS_Copiah County_Georgetown Methodist Church_0009
Sanctuary

10 of 10: MS_Copiah County_Georgetown Methodist Church_0010
Large Classroom

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 100 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.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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Continuation Sheet

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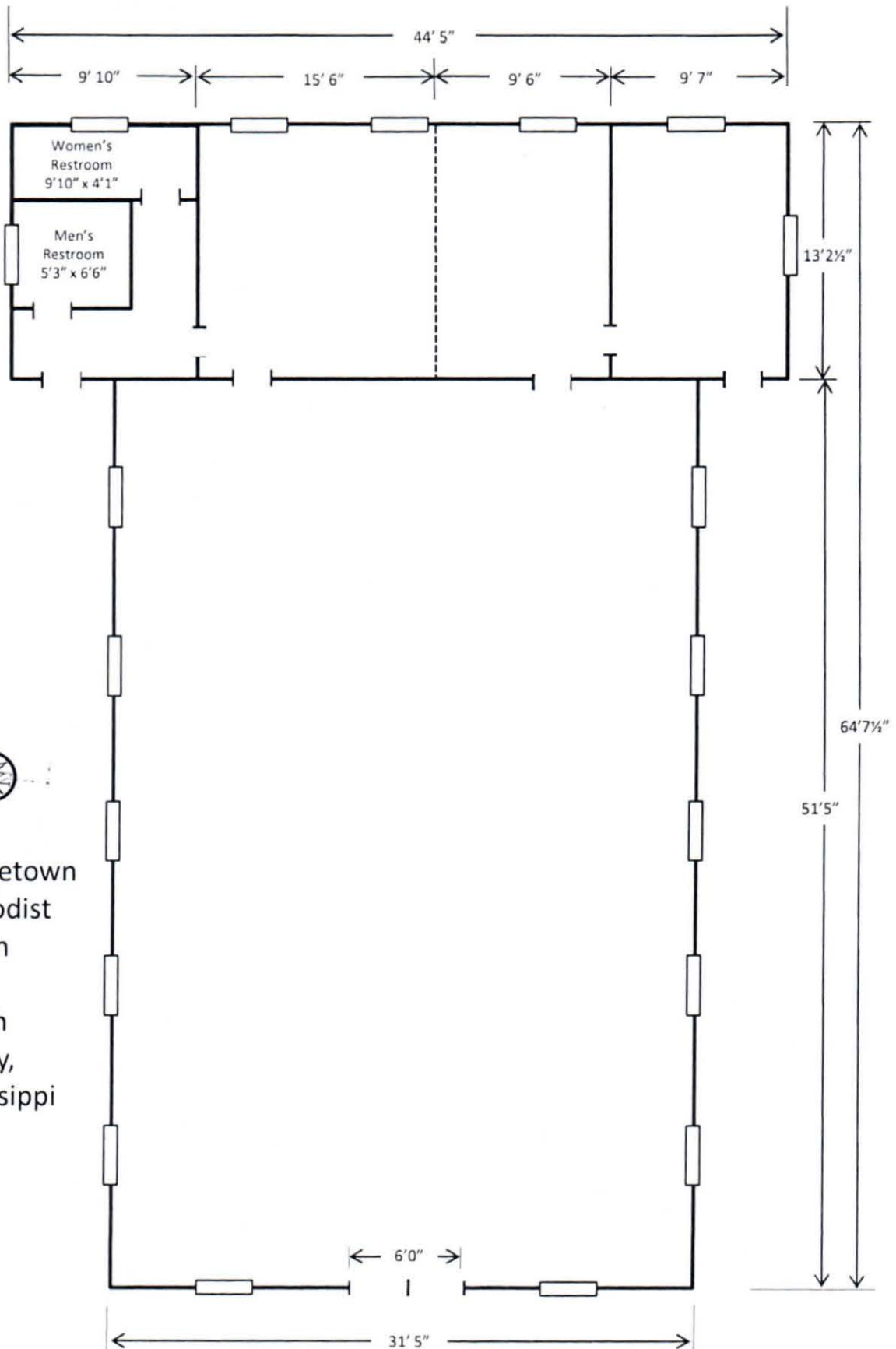
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Historic and Architectural Resources of
Copiah County

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)





Georgetown
Methodist
Church

Copiah
County,
Mississippi



MS Copiah County Georgetown Methodist Church 0001



MS Copiah County Georgetown Methodist Church 0002



MS Copiah County Georgetown Methodist Church 0003



MS Copiah County Georgetown Methodist Church 0004



MS Copiah County Georgetown Methodist Church 0005



MS Copiah County Crasgetown Methodist Church 0004



MS Copiah County Georgetown Methodist Church 0007



MS Copiah County Georgetown Methodist Church 2008



MS Copiah County Greorgetown Methodist Church
0009



MS Copiah County Georgetown Methodist Church 0010