



West Presbyterian/Protestant Church

Baptists, Methodists, and Presbyterians established congregations in West in 1870 and used the same building (on alternate Sundays) where the West Presbyterian/Protestant Church is now located.

The plaque on the exterior of this church reads: "Begun circa 1840 as a Methodist Church in the Wheeling community and served as a hospital during the Civil War. Rolled on logs to this location. Established as a Presbyterian Church in 1870. Used as a 'union,' or community, church until 1885. Rebuilt in 1921."

Several former stated supply pastors of West Presbyterian Church included professors at Reformed Theological Seminary in Jackson, MS.

In 2001, this church withdrew from Presbyterian affiliation and became the non-denominational West Protestant Church until the end of January, 2011, when it closed for services due to the loss of members through death and relocations.

In 2014, the property was deeded to the West Historical and Preservation Society, along with a substantial maintenance stipend.

West City Cemetery is located on the east and north sides of this church.

Site No. 6 – West Methodist Church, across the street from West Presbyterian Church, on Church Street

MS Designated Landmark (1989)



West Methodist Church

West Methodists discontinued using the "union church" in 1885 with the construction of this building by Michael Lafayette Ammons, who also made the pews, altar rail, and frescoes. Bishop Charles Betts Galloway dedicated the church in 1885. It became a Mississippi landmark in 1989.

This small, half-time church is affiliated with the MS Methodist Conference.

Site No. 7 – West Civic Club Building, 1 block due south of the West Methodist Church, on Church Street

MS Designated Landmark (2015)



West Civic Club/Masonic Building

This building, constructed in 1925, had the unique distinction of housing the West Grammar School on the lower level and the West Masonic Lodge and West High School

commercial studies department on the upper level. It was deeded to the West Civic Club and West Historical and Preservation Society in 1999 by West Lodge No. 532 F.&A.M. and West Chapter No. 119, Order of the Eastern Star, which had acquired the property in 1959 from Holmes County. The West Civic Club uses the building for club and community purposes, including the annual West School Reunion.

Site No. 8 – West Baptist Church, 1 block North of the West Civic Club, then 1 block east on Green Street



West Baptist Complex

West Baptists discontinued using the "union church" following the construction of a white, frame building, which was remodeled and brick-veneered, with dedication in 1962.

Pulpit furniture and choir chairs were made by a church deacon, Eris E. Tate, who was featured in *The Deacon* magazine in 1972.

In addition to the sanctuary building, the complex now includes an adjacent fellowship hall (a former Post Office), and a small meeting room (a former feed and seed store).

This church was once served as pastor by two different editors of *The Baptist Record*, the state Baptist newspaper – Dr. A. L. Goodrich, and Dr. P. I. Lipsey. Another pastor, Dr. W. T. Lowery, was later president of Blue Mountain College.

A Walking Tour Of The Town of West's "Mississippi Designated Landmarks" And Other Historical Sites



**Site No. 1 – Casey Jones
Welcome Center, U.S. Hwy. 51
MS Designated Landmark (1986)**



The Casey Jones Welcome Center

This building -- originally the railroad depot in the Town of Pickens, MS, and reported to be 150 years old -- was moved by truck in June 2008 to West from Vaughn, MS, where it housed the Casey Jones Museum, which was operated as a state park until 2004.

Casey Jones, 36, died just north of Vaughn in the early morning hours of April 30, 1900, when the Cannonball steam locomotive he was engineering on a run (through West) from Memphis, TN, to Canton, MS, plowed into another train on the track. A fellow railroad worker penned a song about Casey and the wreck, and the legend of Casey Jones began.

Through Rep. Mary Ann Stevens' efforts, with town approval, the building was acquired at no cost to West. Grants from state agencies funded the move to West -- a two-and-one-half day, tedious road trip that involved the help of various utilities, whose overhead lines had to be raised for passage of the building underneath.

The building is located on the east side of the railroad tracks, near the site on the west side of the tracks where the town's original depot (which was relocated years ago to property near Eupora, MS) was located.

The building contains a large model train village, as well as railroading and Casey Jones memorabilia.

**Site No. 2 – Alexander – Brock
Building, Across Hwy. 51 from
the Casey Jones Welcome
Center, on Front Street
MS Designated Landmark (1996)**



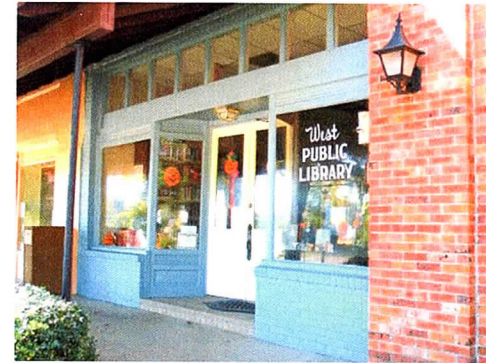
The Alexander-Brock Building

The Alexander-Brock Building was built in 1911 to house a general mercantile business by C. B. Alexander and Richard Reed Brock on the site of what had been the first store in West.

In 1992, Charles W. Campbell, M.D., of Lexington -- a West native and grandson of C. B. Alexander -- gave the building to the just-formed West Historical and Preservation Society, which began a long and extensive renovation of the structure and installation of restrooms and central air and heat. Various grants from a private foundation and government agencies, along with WH&PS fund-raisers and dues, enabled the restoration to be completed in 2008.

The WH&PS uses the handicap-accessible building for special-occasion functions. It was given landmark status in 1996 by the MS Department of Archives & History.

**Site No. 3 – West Public
Library – Front Street, ½
Block North of the Alexander-
Brock Building**



The West Public Library

The West Public Library -- part of the Mid-Mississippi Regional Library System -- houses a large collection of audio-visual and print materials (including a children's story book by West author Lynn Hathcock), and several Internet-equipped computer terminals.

The library is located in a former dry goods store which later served as a temporary city hall, with two-cell jail in the rear, where Jezebel, the town's most famous cat, once gave birth. A granite monument on the lawn in front of the library notes the death of Jezebel, who was memorialized in 1985 during a public ceremony at the library site.

The jail cells are now located on the grounds of the Mississippi Agriculture and Forestry Museum in Jackson, MS.

A wall-sized mural upstairs was painted by local artists Helen Gelston Cade, a former librarian, and Frances Melton.

A library annex occupies an adjoining former general merchandise store and has served as a part-time literacy center, meeting room, and polling location during county, state, and federal elections.

**Site No. 4 – The Heffner –
McLellan Museum (at the end
of Front Street, then ½ block
west on Carrollton Street,
across from the Post Office)**



Heffner-McLellan Museum

The Heffner-McLellan Museum was established in 2008 through the generosity of Holmes County native Moselle Heffner Zimmer, a descendant of Robert Lightfoot McLellan and Martha (Mat) Adeline Tate McLellan, who requested prior to her death that her antiques, collectibles, and a financial contribution be made available to the West Historical and Preservation Society to honor her family.

The benefactor, a teacher, collected the museum's contents during her lifetime, with some of the heirlooms belonging to her parents and grandparents.

The museum is located in a former residence dating to the late 1800s that had become vacant and deteriorated and was slated for demolition when it was acquired by the West Historical and Preservation Society through a gift made by native Westonian Joe O. McLellan, also a descendant of Robert Lightfoot and Mat McLellan, and was renovated specifically for the museum. It is open on special occasions and by special arrangement. Contact the West City Hall for information.

**Site No. 5 – West Presbyterian
Church (a.k.a. West Protestant
Church, ½ block west of the
Heffner-McLellan Museum, on
Carrollton Street)**