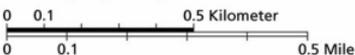


Rocky Springs Site Milepost 54.8



Rocky Springs is located 54 miles north of Natchez, 30 miles south of Jackson, and less than 20 miles from Vicksburg, Mississippi. The closest town with food and gas service in Port Gibson, just 15 miles south of the campground along the Parkway.

Rocky Springs Site (milepost 54.8) In the 1790s new settlers were attracted to this area by the rich soil and many springs. They cleared the land, built homes, and, in 1837, built an impressive brick church. By 1860 Rocky Springs was a prosperous rural community of 2,616 people. Several owned property valued at \$50,000 to \$100,000. The community had a Methodist church, post office, Masonic lodge, and several stores. Between 1860 and 1920 the area was devastated by the Civil War, yellow fever, the boll weevil, and land erosion. Today only the church and cemetery, two rusting safes, and abandoned cisterns mark the site of the town. The area includes the 22-site campground, picnic tables, horseback riding, self-guiding trails through the townsite and to the spring, and a hiking trail on the old trace. Camping and picnicking supplies are available at Port Gibson or Utica, both about 15 miles away.



The Methodist church at Rocky Springs.