

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received AUG 18 1983
date entered

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

1. Name

historic St. Philomene Catholic Church and Rectory

and/or common same

2. Location LA 1

street & number Louisiana Highway 1

N/A not for publication

city, town Labadieville

N/A vicinity of

state Louisiana

code 22

county Assumption Parish

code 007.

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name The Catholic Diocese of Baton Rouge

504-387-0561

street & number Box 2028 1800 Acadian Throughway

city, town Baton Rouge

N/A vicinity of

state Louisiana 70821

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Assumption Parish Courthouse

street & number Louisiana Highway 1 P.O. Box 249

city, town Napoleonville

state Louisiana 70821

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title LA Historic Sites Survey

has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1977

federal state county local

depository for survey records Louisiana State Historic Preservation Office

city, town Baton Rouge

state Louisiana

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date <u>N/A</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The St. Philomene Church and Rectory Complex (c. 1888) consists of a stuccoed brick Gothic style church and a frame late Greek Revival rectory located in the small town of Labadieville on the west bank of Bayou Lafourche. Changes in the complex have been relatively few and minor.

CHURCH:

The five-bay basilican plan parish church has a small crossing and a central frontal tower over the narthax. (According to church records, the arms of the crossing were added a few years after the church was completed.) The tower and the facade are accented with angle buttresses and protruding pinnacles. They are also ornamented with blind lancet arcades and bands of stylized quatrefoils. (The latter could also be crosses; the mason's intent is not clear.) All windows and doors are of the two center type, which marks them as early Gothic in style. The exterior culminates in a graceful octagonal spire. The interior features false vaulted ceilings with tiny parallel ribs which resemble board and batten siding. The aisles are separated from the nave by pillars with foliated capitals and multiple shafts formed of colonnettes. There is also a second story gallery with a lancet panel front. The apse culminates in a semi-circular series of pointed arches with vaults that merge in an elaborate fan form.

The following changes have been made in the church:

1. A new organ with a large cabinet has been installed over the narthax. It occupies most of the aforementioned second story gallery.
2. Most of the old exterior doors have been replaced with modern glass doors.
3. The sacristy area behind the apse has been modernized.
4. Two of the rear doorways have been fitted with aluminum awnings.

RECTORY:

The frame story-and-a-half rectory has a central hall plan, three rooms deep, with a rear kitchen wing. The building is conservatively styled with Greek Revival square post galleries and six over six windows. It could almost be taken for a c. 1850 plantation house were it not for its large plate glass transoms and side lights and its Italianate mantels. Also, the columns have articulated bases, which is not a Greek Revival convention, and the front door obviously dates from the late-nineteenth century. The rectory is listed as a contributing element because it is contemporaneous with the church and because it is a vital part of the overall significance of the church complex (Item 8).

Since construction the rectory has been fitted with 2 small lean-to bathrooms and the attic story has been reworked for an apartment for the priest.

Assesment of Integrity:

In the opinion of the State Historic Preservation Office, the described changes in the church and the rectory should be regarded as minor.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates c. 1888 **Builder/Architect** Architect unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph) Criterion C

The St. Philomene Church and Rectory Complex is locally significant in the area of architecture because it is an architectural landmark within the context of the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth century buildings of Assumption Parish.

The Louisiana Comprehensive Historic Sites Survey has identified some 284 50+ year old structures in Assumption Parish, the vast majority of which date from the late-nineteenth or early-twentieth centuries. St. Philomene Church is one of two churches which represent the apex of architectural styling and sophistication in the parish during this period. Both are large well-developed brick Gothic Revival churches. Their superiority to the vast majority of the parish's patrimony is evident if one contrasts them with the cottages, shotgun houses, and plantation houses and stores which predominate in the area. Whereas the two churches represent strong, studied, and specific stylistic statements, the mass of other buildings merely partake of the current builder styles of the time, such as Eastlake, late Greek Revival, or Queen Anne Revival. None can be said to represent a specific overall reference to this or that particular historical style in the way that the churches can.

One might think that the 1896 Romanesque Revival Assumption Parish Courthouse would offer some competition to the two churches as an architectural landmark. But it is only vaguely Romanesque Revival, and in truth, it most closely resembles a simple Italianate villa of the 1840's or '50's.

The two churches which represent the height of architectural development in the parish during this period are St. Elizabeth (N.R.) and St. Philomene. Of these, St. Philomene is noteworthy for two reasons: (1) Unlike St. Elizabeth, St. Philomene retains its original spire. (2) Unlike St. Elizabeth, the St. Philomene complex retains its contemporaneous rectory. Hence it can be seen as a superior example, within Assumption Parish, of a church property complex of the period.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Louisiana Comprehensive Historic Sites Survey, Assumption Parish, Research Report (with supporting primary and secondary sources), prepared by John A. Meyer and Joseph A. Casse, Jr. Copy in National Register file at LA State Historic Preservation Office.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property approximately 2 acres

Quadrangle name Labadieville, LA

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A

1	5	6	9	7	6	2	0	3	3	0	2	5	4	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

B

Zone			Easting				Northing							

C

Zone			Easting				Northing							

D

Zone			Easting				Northing							

E

Zone			Easting				Northing							

F

Zone			Easting				Northing							

G

Zone			Easting				Northing							

H

Zone			Easting				Northing							

Verbal boundary description and justification

Please refer to enclosed sketch map.

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

state N/A code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By Assisted by John A. Meyer and Joseph A. Casse, Jr. 402 Lagarde, Thibodaux LA 70301

name/title National Register Staff, Division of Historic Preservation

organization State of Louisiana date June 1983

street & number P.O. Box 44247 telephone 504-342-6682

city or town Baton Rouge state LA 70804

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state 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 National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature 

Robert B. DeBlieux

date August 8, 1983

title State Historic Preservation Officer

For NPS use only

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

Patrick Andrus

date 9/27/83

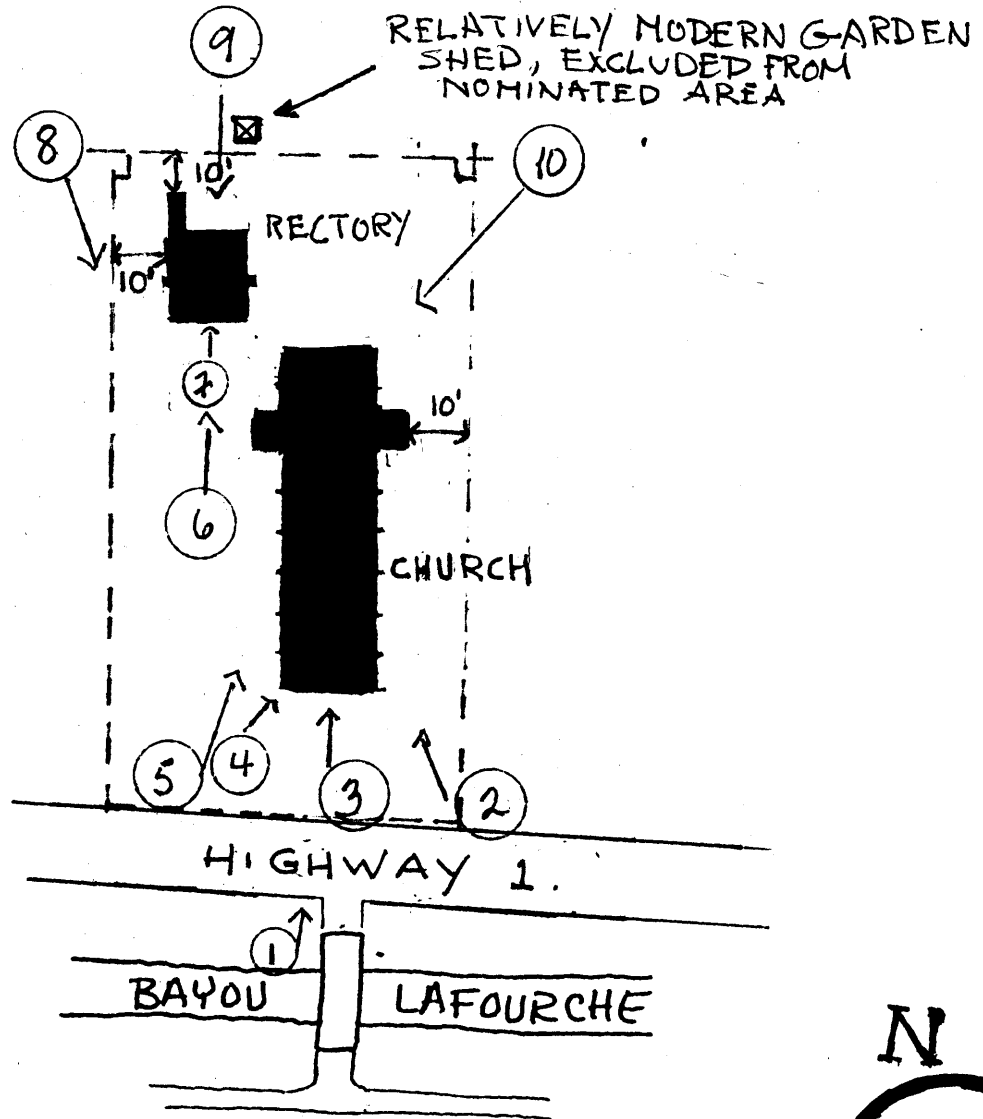
67 Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

ST. PHILOMENE CATHOLIC CHURCH AND RECTORY LABADIEVILLE, LA. ASSUMPTION PARISH



Boundary lines are parallel to building facades, DISTANCES AS SHOWN.

