

PH06 72441

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	MAR 15 1978
DATE ENTERED	MAR 15 1978

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

## 1 NAME

HISTORIC

\*\*

St. James Episcopal Church

AND/OR COMMON

## LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

208 North 4th Street

\_\_NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Baton Rouge

\_\_ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

6th - Henson Moore

STATE

Louisiana

CODE

22

COUNTY

East Baton Rouge

CODE

033

## CLASSIFICATION

### CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

### OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

### STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

### PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERICAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER:

## OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

St. James Episcopal Church

STREET & NUMBER

208 North 4th Street

CITY, TOWN

Baton Rouge

\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE

Louisiana

## LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

East Baton Rouge Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

St. Louis Street

CITY, TOWN

Baton Rouge

STATE

Louisiana

## 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

"Historic Baton Rouge," by Robert W. Heck

DATE

1971 CRP

\_\_FEDERAL \_\_STATE \_\_COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

City-Parish Planning Commission

CITY, TOWN

805 St. Louis Street, Baton Rouge

STATE

Louisiana

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

St. James Episcopal Church is a late Gothic Revival idiom structure with an aisled cruciform plan. Constructed in 1889-1895, it was designed by Col. W. L. Stevens, architect. It contains 5,913 square feet including the basement.

The building's foundation is of corbeled brick piers with 6" x 8" cypress sills and 2" x 12" floor joists. The exterior masonry walls are 1'7" thick, red brick, laid in common bond. The structure was recently repointed with red mortar. Interior walls are wood lathe and plaster above a 3'6" high arcaded cypress wainscot. The interior is supported by arch-braced trusses, the largest in the nave spanning approximately 35'.

The building has an east-west orientation with the apse on the eastern end and a square bell tower on the southwest corner. The narthex may be entered from doors in the north, west, or south sides.

The west side of the tower has triple lancet arches with a single arched brick label mold. These windows contain stained glass.

The doors on the south and west sides are each contained in a compound equilateral arch with ogee arch-shaped label mold topped with a Celtic cross. The door facing south leads into the bell tower, while the western door enters directly into the narthex. Above each label mold are six rampant arches, three on each side, with a larger lancet arch surrounding the Celtic cross. The door on the northern side appears to be a simple arch, and a brick covered walk butts against the exterior wall of the narthex on that side. Above the doors and on all four sides there are round windows with semicircular brick label molds. The corners of the tower are marked by brick buttresses.

Above the buttresses is a string course. On each side of the tower there are three narrow slot-like recessed brick panels with squared brick label mold above. Over this are equilateral arches topped by label molding. Tracery within these form pairs of lancet arches. Louvers cover the bells installed there.

The top edge has denticulation above small lancet arches on each side. A Latin cross tops the tower. The western end of the nave also contains a lancet arch with tracery and is topped by a Latin cross.

Three windows, each a lancet arch with brick label mold and each containing stained glass, adorn both sides of the rear of the nave. Buttresses separate the windows and mark the corners of the transepts.

Both large transept windows are lancet with tracery over stained glass. Each is topped by an ogee-shaped label mold and then a rose window.

The arched nave windows in front of the transepts have been bricked in on the south side of the building but still contain glass on the north side.

# 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 1889

BUILDER/ARCHITECT W. L. Stevens

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Congregation of St. James Church was founded in 1844. An "Episcopal Congregation of Baton Rouge" had been granted a 10-year charter in 1820, but the charter was not renewed. "St. James Church of East Baton Rouge" was officially reorganized shortly after a visit from Bishop Leonidas Polk (the Fighting Bishop of the Confederate Army) in January of 1843.

The original frame church was constructed in 1845-1846 and the present structure in 1889-1895. The existing church is the second oldest Gothic Revival church in the City of Baton Rouge. Because of its side tower and substantial proportions, it is closer in feeling to the ecclesiastical, mid-century Gothic Revival style than the older church, St. Joseph's, whose massing is symmetrical and whose proportions are thin and papery. The church is also a local landmark.

The architect was Col. W. L. Stevens; the contractor was W. H. Miller. Stevens was later prominent in the Spanish-American War and served as the state's Adjutant-General.

The Congregation of St. James was, for 98 years, the only established Episcopal parish in the city.

10-27-89

8/10/89

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Interview with Raymie Edmonds, Architect, AIA

Church Records: St. James Episcopal Church

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one

QUADRANGLE NAME \_\_\_\_\_

QUADRANGLE SCALE \_\_\_\_\_

UTM REFERENCES

A 1,5 | 6,7,4 | 1,4,0 | 3,3 | 6,9 | 7,1,0

B \_\_\_\_\_ | \_\_\_\_\_ | \_\_\_\_\_  
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C \_\_\_\_\_ | \_\_\_\_\_ | \_\_\_\_\_

D \_\_\_\_\_ | \_\_\_\_\_ | \_\_\_\_\_

E \_\_\_\_\_ | \_\_\_\_\_ | \_\_\_\_\_

F \_\_\_\_\_ | \_\_\_\_\_ | \_\_\_\_\_

G \_\_\_\_\_ | \_\_\_\_\_ | \_\_\_\_\_

H \_\_\_\_\_ | \_\_\_\_\_ | \_\_\_\_\_

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

STATE MAPS

St. James Episcopal Church is located at the corner of North Fourth Street and Convention Street.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Mrs. Charles Coates, Mrs. C. Irving Dameron and Mrs. J. A. Tucker (revised: J. Fricker -

ORGANIZATION

St. James Episcopal Church

DATE February, 1978)

January, 1975

STREET & NUMBER

208 North 4th Street

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Baton Rouge

STATE

Louisiana

# 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

*Andrea Thompson*

TITLE

Secretary, Dept. of Culture Recreation & Tourism (SHPO)

DATE

2/16/78

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

*W. M. ...*

DATE

5/5/78

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

*Walter Cole*

DATE

4-26-78

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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CONTINUATION SHEET

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The apse itself is half an octagon with an ambulatory. The altar rail is wood with brass standards and the Chancel chairs echo the Gothic Revival motifs of the structure. The panels on the apse walls were hand carved by the Rev. J. L. Tucker, DD, Rector, 1899-1906 and his son, the Rev. Louis Tucker, 1906-1909. Each panel has a different design.

The three windows in the apse were originally clear glass with tracery forming three lancet arches, but were replaced with Tiffany stained glass in 1910.