

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received NOV 25 1983

date entered

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

1. Name

historic Arizona Methodist Church

and/or common Arizona United Methodist Church

2. Location

street & number ^{LA} Highway 806 (no specific address) N/A not for publication

city, town Arizona N/A vicinity of

state LA code 22 county Claiborne Parish code 027

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

4. Owner of Property

name Arizona United Methodist Church

street & number c/o Dorris S. Robinson, Chairman of the Board 318-927-3614
Route 4, Box 263

city, town Homer N/A vicinity of state LA 71040

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Claiborne Parish Courthouse

street & number East Main (no specific street address) P. O. Box 330

city, town Homer state LA 71040

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title LA Historic Sites Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1983 federal state county local

depository for survey records LA State Historic Preservation Office

city, town Baton Rouge state LA

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date N/A

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Arizona Methodist Church was constructed c.1880 in Arizona in central Claiborne Parish. The frame vernacular Greek Revival church retains its original architectural character, including all of its exterior features and some of its interior features. The changes that have been made do not detract from its significance as one of the best known examples of Greek Revival church architecture in northern Louisiana and as the landmark of the Arizona vicinity.

The rectangular building retains all of its major Greek Revival elements. These include the following:

- (1) Friezes and gable returns on both the front and rear gables, friezes with architrave molding on the eaves, and pilaster cornerboards on all four elevations. The gable returns, friezes, and cornerboards give the feeling of columns with full entablatures.
- (2) Pediment-shaped moldings over the windows on the side elevations.
- (3) Identical pediment-shaped moldings over the transomed rear doors.

The classically inspired round arched fanlights over the central entrance and windows are another distinctive exterior feature.

Although the only apparent major change to the exterior has been the addition of the small pyramidal roofed bell tower, there have been numerous alterations to the interior of the church. Nevertheless, it retains its molded window surrounds, round vaulted plank ceiling, and plank walls in the two rear Sunday School rooms. A major interior renovation was done c.1940, when the following changes were made:

- (1) The vestibule was converted into two Sunday School rooms and a small vestibule.
- (2) The altar was moved forward and two Sunday School rooms created behind it.
- (3) The walls were covered with fiberboard.
- (4) New flooring was installed.

None of the changes noted above detract from the structure's significance as an important example of rural Greek Revival church architecture in northern Louisiana and as the landmark of the Arizona community.

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.1880 **Builder/Architect** Doss Pennington, Builder

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph) Criterion C

The Arizona Methodist Church is locally significant in the area of architecture as one of the best examples of rural Greek Revival church architecture in northern Louisiana and as the landmark of the rural area around the Arizona community.

Churches of this style (i.e., "watered down" versions of a Greek temple) were common in the eastern states between 1830 and 1860, but there are few examples to be found in northern Louisiana, which was settled during that era.* Although the style is generally thought of as dying out after the Civil War, examples of it were built in rural areas throughout the state well toward the end of the century. There are only six known examples of these churches in the thirteen northernmost parishes in the state. Except for the one at Athens, which has a full pediment, the others have less pronounced Greek Revival features or have been more altered. The Arizona Methodist Church is distinguished from them by its pilaster cornerboards, gable returns, and pediment-shaped moldings over its windows and doors.

On a more local level, this church building is the only surviving historic landmark of the Arizona community, which during the postbellum period was a thriving town with a substantial cotton mill and academy.

*The settlers' devotion to the ideals of the Classical Age can be seen in the names chosen for neighboring towns like Homer, Athens, and Sparta.

9. Major Bibliographical References

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property approximately 1/8 acre

Quadrangle name Summerfield, LA

Quadrangle scale 1:62,500

UTM References

A

1	5	5	0	4	0	0	0	3	6	2	7	6	0	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 DORRIS ROBINSON (ITEM 4)

name/title National Register Staff

organization Division of Historic Preservation
State of Louisiana date September 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*

Robert B. DeBlieux

title State Historic Preservation Officer date November 18, 1983

For NPS use only

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

Melores Byers
Keeper of the National Register

Entered in the
National Register

date 12/22/83

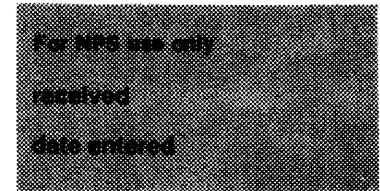
Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

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Continuation sheet Arizona Methodist Church

Item number 9

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Bibliography:

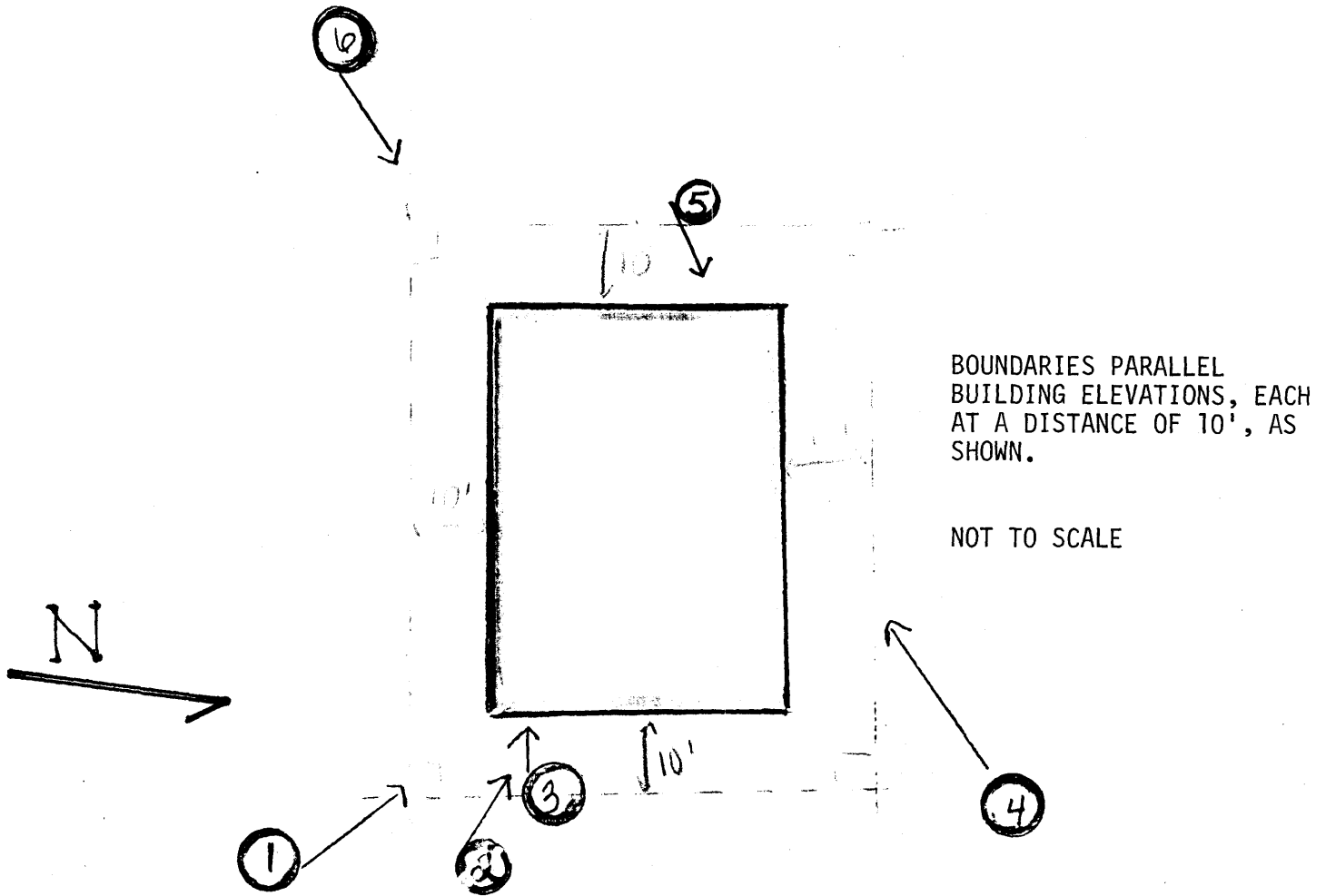
Historic Standing Structures Survey, Claiborne, Union, Lincoln, Webster, Bossier, Caddo, Bienville, Morehouse, Ouachita, and East Carroll Parishes. On file in LA State Historic Preservation Office.

Robinson, Dorris. Historical sketch of Arizona Methodist Church. On file in LA State Historic Preservation Office.

Conveyance Records, Claiborne Parish.

Arizona Academy Site Historic Marker File. LA State Historic Preservation Office.

ARIZONA METHODIST CHURCH, LAIBORNE PARISH



HIGHWAY 806
