

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

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This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Union Church, Yellow Pine Church

other names/site number Yellow Pine Christian Church

2. Location

street & number Yellow Pine Road & LA HWY 7 N/A not for publication

city or town Sibley vicinity

state Louisiana code LA county Webster code 119 zip code 71073

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally, statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Gerrit Hobby 12/8/94
Signature of certifying official/Title Gerrit Hobby, Date
LA SHPO, Dept of Culture, Recreation and Tourism
State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

entered in the National Register. See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain:)

for Signature of the Keeper Marg Mary Date of Action 1/25/95

Union Church
Name of Property

Webster Parish, LA
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION/religious facility

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION/religious facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Gothic Revival

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete

walls weatherboard

roof metal

other

Narrative Description

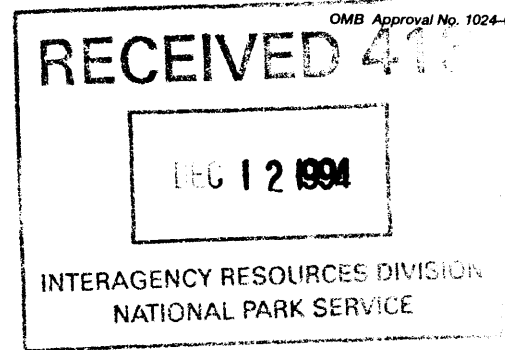
(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Union Church, Webster Parish, LA

Section number 7 Page 1



The Union Church (c.1900) is a frame country church with Gothic Revival windows. Located in a fairly remote rural setting on Yellow Pine Road, it is one of only two buildings remaining in what was once the large, bustling sawmill town of Yellow Pine. Other than the possible loss of a side tower, the building is well preserved.

The rectangular church has a steeply pitched roof and is sheathed in shiplap siding. The building's original brick piers have been largely replaced with concrete piers. The lancet windows feature molded tops with keystones and a simple tracery pattern formed by muntins.

There is some controversy over the building's original appearance. One long-time church member remembers it having a short entrance tower attached to the west side and another says it did not. The architectural evidence is inconclusive. In support of a tower being removed is a vertical strip interrupting the sheathing (see photo). The shiplap siding does not exactly line up on each side of the vertical strip. There are no discernible "ghost marks" on the interior, which one would expect if a salvaged window from the tower replaced what was previously a door. Also, a tower literally "stuck on" to the side of a rectangular church would have been extremely unusual. (Typically the tower would have been an integral part of the building rather than an appendage.)

Related to the tower mystery are changes to the front entrance. If the church originally had a side tower entrance, then what is now a front door would have been a window, one assumes. It is clear from the architectural evidence that the present squared off front opening is not original. In addition to its overall appearance is a clue on the interior indicating that there was originally a lancet opening here -- door or window, depending on whether or not there was ever an entrance tower. (The clue is a keystone located about a foot or so above the door matching those found on the interior lancet surrounds and at the same level.) The front porch sheltering the entrance appears to date from the bungalow period. The present simple posts are modern.

The interior is impressive for a simple country church and is largely unaltered. It is distinguished by a vaulted ceiling and narrow gauge unpainted boards laid in contrasting decorative patterns. For example, the wall where the altar is located has, from bottom to top, a wainscot with vertical boards, a large section of boards laid diagonally in contrasting patterns, narrow panels with horizontally laid boards, and finally, another section of contrasting diagonally laid boards. Thin boards define the various sections, creating a paneled effect. The

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Union Church, Webster Parish, LA

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horizontal panels (located above the windows) are accented with bull's eye cornerblocks. The simple window surrounds feature a keystone. The pews appear to be original. Interior alterations consist of carpeting and ceiling fans and the creation of a small bathroom at each of the front corners.

Assessment of Integrity

Even if the worse case scenario is true (i.e., a lost tower), Union Church retains the bulk of its original character and hence can convey its significance as a very rare survivor from a large sawmill town that exists now almost entirely in memories and the historical record. As one of only two buildings to survive from the town, and the best preserved of the two, it is an immensely important reminder of the town of Yellow Pine's history.

Union Church
Name of Property

Webster Parish, LA
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS): N/A

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

industry

Period of Significance

c. 1900-1913

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

unknown

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Union Church
Name of Property

Webster Parish, LA
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property .45 acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1

1	5
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4	6	9	6	6	0
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3	5	9	3	2	2	0
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Zone

Easting

Northing

2

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3

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Zone

Easting

Northing

4

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title National Register Staff

organization Division of Historic Preservation date October 1994

street & number P. O. Box 44247 telephone 504-342-8160

city or town Baton Rouge state LA zip code 70804

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Yellow Pine Christian Church
c/o Mrs. W. E. McKinney, Secretary

street & number Rt. 1, Box 235 telephone _____

city or town Sibley state LA zip code 71073

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Union Church, Webster Parish, LA

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Union Church is locally significant in the area of industry because it is one of only two buildings to survive from the once large sawmill town of Yellow Pine, and of the two, it is the best preserved.

The sawmill town of Yellow Pine was founded in 1900 when Long-Bell Lumber Company of Kansas City, Missouri rebuilt following a fire which destroyed the mill they had purchased in 1898. The subsidiary of Long-Bell which operated at Yellow Pine was the Globe Lumber Company. In addition to erecting a large, state-of-the-art mill complex, Globe built a company town, providing for all the needs of their employees. There were houses, a commissary, an office building, a hotel and boarding house, a school, a church, a doctor's office, etc. The church was called Union Church because it was used by a different denomination each Sunday of a given month. A 1904 document mentions an average payroll at Yellow Pine of 750 persons and 210 houses for employees. In 1904, the Globe Lumber Company owned 68,093 acres of standing timber and had a cutting capacity of about 225,000 board feet per day, with lumber being shipped all over the United States. But by 1913, the great virgin forest of the area had been depleted and a new mill site had to be selected. (This is in contrast to the usual pattern in Louisiana where the timber played out in the 1920s.) Globe shifted its operations to Texas and Washington, and employees either moved with the mill or sought work elsewhere. In effect, the town of Yellow Pine was abandoned. Even as early as 1930 there was little left. A visitor in that year wrote: "Her fair forests have all been cut down, the mill is gone, most of the residences and the hotel have been torn down and removed, and the busy worker gone into new fields."

Today, short of archaeological investigations, one would have no idea that there was once a large company town at Yellow Pine. Apparently back in the woods one can see the foundations of the mill and the old vault from the office. Located on Yellow Pine Road are the only two surviving buildings, the church and what is believed to be the school. The latter is now a residence, and its brick porch dates from after the sawmill town era.

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BIBLIOGRAPHY

Lindsey, Allen Dale. "Yellow Pine: The Life and Death of a Lumber Town." North Louisiana Historical Association Journal, Fall 1969, Vol. 1, No. 1.

Webster Parish, Louisiana: The Homeseeker's Paradise! The Eden of the New South! The Promised Land of Peace and Plenty! c.1904.

Longino, Luther. Thoughts, Visions and Sketches of North Louisiana, 1930.

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Union Church, Webster Parish, LA

Section number 10 Page 1

Boundary Description

Legal property description: Plat of survey of .45 acre tract described as follows: Begin at the SW corner of the SE 1/4 of NE 1/4, Section 7, Township 17 North, Range 9 West, Webster Parish, La., and run East 1,049.8 feet, thence run North 737 feet to the North R/W of Yellow Pine Road for the point of beginning: Thence run N 70 degrees, 21 minutes E along said R/W 167 feet, thence run N 20 degrees 26 minutes W 120.56 feet, thence run S 68 degrees 17 minutes W 166.76 feet, thence run S 20 degrees 16 minutes W 114.53 feet to the point of beginning.

Boundary Justification

Boundaries follow property lines of parcel of land upon which the nominated resource is located.