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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any 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 certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).

1. Name of Property

historic name Boyce Methodist Church

other names/site number First United Methodist Church of Boyce

2. Location

street & number 309 Londonderry Ave not for publication

city or town Boyce vicinity

state Louisiana code LA county Rapides code 079 zip code 71409

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,
I hereby certify that this x 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 x meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

 national statewide x local

Signature of certifying official Nicole Hobson-Morris

7-30-13
Date

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
Title

Louisiana Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official

Date

Title State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register determined eligible for the National Register

 determined not eligible for the National Register removed from the National Register

 other (explain) _____

Signature of the Keeper

9/12/2013
Date of Action

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	1	buildings
		district
		site
		structure
		object
1	1	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)

Queen Anne Revival

Gothic Revival

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation: Brick Piers

walls: Vinyl, wood

roof: Metal

other: _____

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

Summary Paragraph

Constructed in 1899, the Boyce Methodist Church is a single story, wood frame building that stands on a quiet residential block located in the small Rapides Parish town of Boyce, settled on the west bank of the Red River in Central Louisiana. It is one of the few historical structures remaining in the town of Boyce. The vernacular building shows the influence of both the Queen Anne Revival and Gothic Revival styles, lending it distinction among the other significant historical structures in the town listed on the National Register. Although all exterior walls have received vinyl siding, the building retains its National Register eligibility because its significant architectural features remain intact and visible.

Narrative Description

Setting:

The Boyce Methodist Church sits on the southeast corner of Londonderry Ave and Wicklow Street near the main commercial concourse, Ulster Avenue. It stands within a large, well-kept church yard that extends to the bulwark of the Red River levee. The way the church is positioned on the lot adds so much to its distinctive bucolic character. The church stands with its narrow side elevation to the street and its longer façade facing sideways. This positioning creates a true vista for the entire length of Londonderry Ave (six city blocks). Thus, it is readily seen from Ulster Ave and is visually dominant. The church also adjoins the oldest residential area of Boyce and sits near the Carnahan House, listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Many of the older Victorian styled homes near the church are modest with yards that are very simple and display some native plantings along the street.

Overall Design:

This is a single story wooden building with asymmetrical massing, including a rectilinear main block, square corner bell tower and, on the opposite side, a rectilinear side addition. The building's Gothic Revival features include its steeply pitched roof, arched Gothic Revival transom above the entrance doors in the bell tower, large and dominating pointed arch window on the facade, smaller lancet windows in other locations, and the presence of simple tracery patterns in the transom and most of the windows. The geometrical massing of the bell tower's upper stages, the tower's textured surfaces, and its witch hat-like roof are identified with the Queen Anne Revival Style. Texture is found in the fishscale shingles covering one of the tower stages and the louvers enclosing the base supporting the steeple. Additionally, some might interpret the Gothic Revival tracery as a form of texture.

Façade (West Elevation):

This is a single story rectilinear wooden structure with a very steep gabled roof, a dominant front facing gable and a corner-facing square bell tower. The asymmetrical massing is a dominant feature of the church. The steeply sloped gabled roof extends the full depth of the church and covers the original nave of the church built in 1899. An additional side bay was added to the full length of the church along with the addition of a rear shed roof area in the mid 1920's because the size of the congregation was growing and there was a need to increase the size of the nave and chancellery area. A 1905 photograph of the church façade is included in the supplemental materials accompanying this nomination. The entrance to the church is housed in the corner

facing square bell tower. The double entry doors to the church have a modified gable-shaped hood cover that protects the solid wood entry doors and fixed glazed Gothic Revival pointed transom. The four stage bell tower features a steeply angled section of fishscale patterned shingles that differentiate it from the plainer clapboard siding covering the rest of the bell tower and the church. This shows the influence of the Queen Anne Revival style, which was still popular when the church was built.

The main gable end of the church has a large Gothic Revival pointed arch window with translucent colored glass. It is subdivided by a simple tracery design into three sections. This window dominates the facade. All of the church windows are translucent colored glass set within lancet windows whose muntins form a simple pattern in the manner of tracery. These windows are most notably a characteristic of the Gothic Revival style and are among the church's most dominant exterior features. A smaller single hung Gothic pointed arch window is also on the addition (added in the mid 1920's) and was one of the original windows from the church reused in this location. A parapet wall hides the sloped roof beyond. All of the façade is sheathed in clapboards. Below the façade the foundation consists of brick piers.

Bell Tower:

The most outstanding exterior feature of the church is the Queen Anne styled square corner entry and bell tower, which will be described in total here. It has four stages beginning with the square lower, clapboarded section containing the entry doors with their original transom window and later projecting arched hood covering. This lower section terminates in an outlining modillion cornice. The square base of the second stage overhangs the cornice below. Above this base the second stage consists of a steeply angled, geometric roof section, clad in decorative fishscale wood shingles. It has four sides at the bottom but transitions into eight sides at the top so that it can support the third stage. The latter is an octagonal drum with louvers on each of its eight sides. It houses a bell. A flared skirt, eight-sided roof serves as a steeple. It rises from the louvered section and terminates at the base of a crowning cross. The roof design is reminiscent of the witch's hat motif sometimes associated with the Queen Anne Revival style. Finally, there is a narrow lancet window (without tracery) on the tower's north facing wall.

North Elevation:

The north elevation is dominated by the corner tower. In addition to the tower's single hung narrow lancet window mentioned above, three additional lancet windows are located down the length of the building. These have translucent colored glass and muntins forming a simple pattern in the manner of tracery and match most of the other windows in size and style throughout the church. A lower shed roofed wing was added at the rear in the mid 1920's; its side is part of the north elevation. The addition houses the chancellery functions and extends from the east end of the building. An exterior door is located on this side for easy access by the laity. This wall is also clapboarded, and the foundation along this side consists of brick piers.

East Elevation:

The clapboarded east (rear) elevation is dominated by the steeply pitched gabled main roof, the lower shed roof, and the rear of the gabled wing housing the chancel and administrative functions. The top of a diamond shaped stained glass apse window located in the main gabled portion of the church is visible above the shed roof. Two lancet windows with translucent glass and muntins forming a simple pattern in the manner of tracery flank an exterior door to the chancel area. The foundation along this side also consists of brick piers.

South Elevation:

The nave of the church was expanded in the mid 1920's with a clapboarded side bay running the full length of the nave. Three lancet windows with translucent colored glass and muntins are original and were moved from the original exterior wall and placed on this façade. These lancet windows are identical to the other lancet windows in size and style. The fourth lancet window from the 1899 church was moved to the

addition's front façade elevation, as mentioned above. The foundation along this side also consists of brick piers.

Floor Plan:

One side of the church's plan consists of a square corner facing bell tower containing the building's main entrance, a rectangular worship area housing a nave and a raised sanctuary, and an added room behind the sanctuary for chancellery functions. On the opposite side, the plan contains an expansion of the nave, behind which is found a second rear area (located beside the chancellery room) for church administration. A rear entrance is located within this wing.

Interior Description:

The interior of the church is very simple and dignified. The wall and the ceiling coverings are the church's interior feature of interest. The walls consist of narrow beaded board separated by a chair rail wood trim located at the window sill level that forms a wainscot on the lower portion of the walls. The ceiling of the nave is a vaulted angled arch with a painted beaded board ceiling that runs in the same direction as the wall board. All of the walls and the ceiling are painted a warm white and this creates a soft contrast to the oak stained church pews in the worship space. A wooden kneeling rail separates the raised sanctuary area from the nave. There is a large angled arch recessed in the rear wall of the nave that denotes the "implied apse area" and the raised platform area separates the nave from the sanctuary space. The diamond shaped aspe window is visible above the arch.

Alterations:

As indicated above, the church has received a number of alterations over the years, some of which are actually historic. These can be organized according to the date and include:

1. The church's original floor plan of 1899 was a rectangular space containing a nave with a polygonal apse at the rear of the church as noted in the Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps of 1907 and 1912. The original polygonal apse was very small and may have only projected from the rear wall of the church five to six feet. The author of this nomination assumes that the large segmented arch currently recessed in the rear wall of the nave was the original opening of the apse in the rear of the church. We only have the Sanborn Maps as a reference for the 1899 church plan. The wall material within the "implied apse area" matches the adjacent wainscot and wall material.
2. The mid-1920's nave addition of the side bay increased the overall size of the nave. All floor and wall materials match the original beaded board walls, ceiling and flooring. There is no marked difference in the floor at the connection between the addition to the nave and all of the floor boards were threaded back and staggered to match the original stained boards. The ceiling of the side bay is sloped and, on the façade, is hidden behind a parapet wall. The addition's beaded board ceiling material matches the original beaded board ceiling in the nave. The original windows on the south elevation of the nave wall were moved to the addition wall and three of the lancet windows were placed in the same locations along the wall as the original windows. The fourth original lancet window was placed on the front of the nave addition.
3. On the east elevation in the area where the apse of the church may have once existed, a rear shed roofed area was added to house the chancellery area in the mid 1920's. Probably at the same time, the raised sanctuary space was incorporated into the rear portion of the original nave.

4. In the 1970s a crosswalk with roof and steps was built to connect the rear of the church to a late 1930s parish hall.
5. Although the date of the vinyl siding application is unknown, it may have occurred when a significant storm damaged the church in 1957. A modified gabled hood cover was added to cover the front entry door.
6. The diamond shaped stained glass window located above the large angled arch in the rear wall has been replaced twice. Due to a significant storm in 1957 several of the colored window panes have been replaced. The diamond shaped stained glass window located above the large segmented arch in the rear wall was one of these. In the 1990s the church commissioned another diamond shaped window to replace that added in 1957.

Assessment of Integrity and Mitigation:

The church maintains its integrity of location, setting, association, feeling, and most importantly, design. Integrity of workmanship and materials remain intact on the interior and partially intact on the exterior. The only challenge to integrity of materials is the exterior vinyl siding. Although this installation is regrettable, the siding does not diminish the original distinguishing architectural character of the church. The Queen Anne Revival four stage tower with its wooden fishscale shingle details and louvers and its witch hat-like roof/steeple remains visible and dominant on the exterior of the building. Also remaining are the Gothic Revival windows on all four exterior walls of the church. Although a few window panes have been replaced, most of the original translucent colored glass panes in the windows are original. The congregation diligently searched for the period glass and found a source in New Orleans to replace the few damaged areas (and wisely keep some of this glass on reserve). Although in some photos the parish hall appears as a large addition projecting on both sides of the church's rear elevation, it is actually a separate, later building. The church projects forward from the later structure and remains visually dominant. The breezeway connecting the two has only a minor impact on the church and cannot be seen from the front. Finally, the replaced diamond shaped, stained glass window is in keeping with the church's overall design and, furthermore, is largely hidden on the exterior by the rear shed. On the interior, the walls, ceiling and flooring materials are all original or match the original material in the structure and are well preserved. The additional side bay added in the 1920's to the nave matches the original materials of the church. The church's original architectural character still stands forth as a rare architectural landmark within the community of Boyce. The Boyce Methodist Church is a worthy candidate for National Register listing.

Non-Contributing Element

A large but undistinguished 1930s-era parish hall stands behind and perpendicular to the church. It is being counted as a non-contributing element because it is not contemporary with the historic resource.

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.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1899

Significant Dates

1899

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Charles Stuckey - builder

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 old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.
- N/A Criteria Considerations not applicable

Period of Significance (justification)

The period of significance (1899) is based upon the year the builders completed the construction of the candidate.

Criteria Consideratons (explanation, if necessary)

Although the candidate is a religious facility, its nomination to the National Register is justified because it meets the requirements for significance under Criterion C for architectural design, as allowed by Criteria Consideration A.

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria)

The Boyce Methodist Church is locally significant under Criterion C: Design in the area of architecture. The church has a combination of Queen Anne Revival and Gothic Revival styling that is significant within rural Rapides Parish. It is also one of the three most architecturally significant landmarks left in the parish's small community of Boyce. It especially illustrates the adaptation of Queen Anne and Gothic Revival style religious architecture to the simpler needs and resources of a small rural congregation. The period of significance for both architectural cases is 1899, the year of the church's construction.

Narrative Statement of Significance (provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance)

Parish-wide Significance

As stated above, Boyce Methodist Church is significant at the local level because the church's stylistic mixture of Queen Anne Revival and Gothic Revival is notable in the rural areas of Rapides Parish.

Although its use is not entirely restricted to churches, the Gothic Revival style is most closely associated with religious architecture. The style's popularity is largely the result of a reform effort, known as the Ecclesiological movement, which originated within England's Anglican Church in the 1830s. By the 1840s it had reached the United States, where it spread through the Episcopal Church. Proponents of the movement believed the Middle Ages to have been an "Age of Faith" in which devout people built "good buildings." These "good buildings" (medieval Gothic churches) were by definition Christian and were considered the most appropriate models for church architecture.

By 1890 the railroad had brought new architectural influences to Louisiana. One of these was the Queen Anne Revival style, which the state's residents quickly adopted for residences. However, with its emphasis on massing and the use of texture, the Queen Anne was more of an exterior than an interior style. Fortunately, the era's tendency to combine elements from different styles into one overall design kept what could have been a difficulty from being a problem. Thus, churches with Queen Anne elements on their exteriors were often found with interiors in the Gothic Revival. However, the Boyce Methodist Church is a combination of Queen Anne and Gothic Revival style on the exterior.

Because the rural communities could not duplicate the fancier churches of Alexandria, the State Historic Preservation Office knows of only one other church in rural Rapides Parish with architectural significance for a Queen Anne styled exterior. This church is St. John Baptist, constructed between Alexandria and Lecompte in 1888. St. John Baptist Church is a small clapboard building with its exterior walls and square bell tower's surfaces treated with clapboard, shingling and paneling indicative of the Queen Anne/Eastlake style. It does not have any Gothic Revival detailing on the exterior and its interior is relatively plain. However, its apse survives.

In comparing the two churches (Boyce Methodist and St. John Baptist), it should be noted that:

1. Although Boyce Methodist Church has less Queen Anne shingling than St. John Baptist and has lost its apse, it has ten Gothic Revival styled windows (1 large and 9 lancet) with translucent glass

and simple tracery details along the exterior. St. John Baptist's windows are in a Classical, round arch style.

2. With its different treatments on each level and narrow lancet window in one bell tower wall, Boyce Methodist's four stage square bell tower is the more visually interesting of the two.
3. Both are small churches whose exteriors are more significant than their interiors. Additionally, St. John Baptist's interior has been modernized.

In conclusion, the Boyce church's combination of Queen Anne Revival and Gothic Revival styling is as important as St. John Baptist's Queen Anne appearance. Furthermore, Boyce Methodist's combination of styles appears to be unusual for rural Rapides Parish. Both churches are significant within the context of rural Rapides Parish and deserve to be listed on the National Register. St. John Baptist is already listed. This nomination will provide the same recognition for Boyce Methodist.

Significance As a Local Landmark:

Also as stated above, Boyce Methodist Church is locally significant in the area of architecture, as it is one of the three most impressive architectural landmarks surviving in the community of Boyce. The period of significance for this case is also 1899.

Despite its long history, the Cotile Landing/Boyce area lacks the collection of significant historic structures which one might expect to find in a community of its age and former prosperity. There are no extant structures from Cotile Landing. Many were destroyed during the Civil War when Bank's federal army advanced through the region to the Battle of Mansfield and then upon their defeat at Mansfield retreated through this area and burned warehouses, buildings, plantation houses, barns, many structures along the Red River, and every building on the plantations of Boyce and Blanchard. Some of the town's buildings were apparently destroyed by a later fire in the business district. Others were lost to the Red River, according to an old plat map showing that the waterway took almost a third of Boyce's original street grid.

According to the Division of Historic Preservation's c. 1985 Standing Structures Survey of Boyce, only 86 buildings which were at least fifty years old survived at that time. Other than the candidate, the Eastlake and Italianate style Carnahan house and St Phillips Episcopal Church (both National Register) are the only buildings that can be considered architectural landmarks. There are about a dozen other structures displaying elements associated with the Eastlake style and several dozen small cottages with slight touches of the Queen Anne Revival style such as projecting bays and patterned shingles in their gables. The rest of the residences are not historic. Only one historic commercial building survives. Although it has an embellished cornice, its storefront has been slightly modified and the entire building is in poor condition. Thus, the Boyce Methodist church, now named First United Methodist Church of Boyce and listed on the United Methodist Church Historical Register, ranks as a significant landmark within the undistinguished architectural background of Boyce. As such, it is a good candidate for National Register listing.

Developmental history/additional historic context information (if appropriate)

The present town of Boyce is located a mile south of the site of an old frontier settlement established in the 1700's on the west bank of the Red River, originally known as Cotile Landing. There Bayou Jean de Jean flows into Red River. It is generally accepted that Old Red River once formed a 30 mile navigable oxbow from Cotile Landing (later Boyce) through the confluence of Bayou Jean de Jean and Bayou Rapides back to the Red River at post du Rapids, later Alexandria, at the foot of the rapids in Red River. This oxbow route was used particularly when the rapids in the Red River prohibited passage there. The frontier Cotile settlement was essentially French with hunters, traders and Indian trappers bearing their goods to the landing. The old land descriptions were in arpents (a historic French measure of land). The name Cotile is a French connotation combining cote (hillside) with an isle (island). Cotile is the actual geographical description of the area. A range of hills cradles the confluence of the two bayous and the alluvial valley was enriched by the seasonal overflow from both bayous and the Red River for centuries before the levees were built. The rich farm land formed there is of fine quality and great depth and is historically known as the Rapides Island. However, the US Postal address for the settlement was Cotile until Boyce was incorporated in 1887. This region is considered one of the oldest settlements in the western portion of Rapides Parish.

In the late 1700's Virginians and Marylanders began to move into the Cotile area. They took advantage of the Spanish ownership of Louisiana (1762-1800) and negotiated generous Spanish land grant claims. The range of the Cotile hills took on the names of these families: Henderson Hill, Howerton Hill and McNutt Hill. The area plantations began to form along the bayous and near the Red River and flourished until the Civil War.

As early as 1827 Cotile Landing was a busy inland port serving cotton planters who utilized the Red River steamboat traffic to carry their crops to the New Orleans market. Red River traffic became truly substantial in 1831 when "The Great Log Raft" in Red River was removed by Captain Henry Shreve. The bustling Cotile Landing economy supported a series of warehouses and stores which served the surrounding area and the plantation culture grew and thrived until the Civil War.

The community of Boyce was founded by the family of that name. Judge Henry Boyce (1797 – 1873) was born in Londonderry, Ireland, and upon settling in Rapides Parish married Irene Archinard. The Archinard family came from Switzerland and settled on a cotton plantation in Rapides Parish. (They would send their sons back to Geneva to be educated.) The Boyce family began to acquire land all around Cotile Landing. The Boyce family property was called Ulster plantation and was apparently divided into Upper and Lower Ulster. Judge Boyce was first a district judge and then was nominated to a federal judgeship by President Zachary Taylor and served in that position until the Civil War.

The Boyce family and the Blanchard family of the adjoining plantation were influential in persuading the Texas and Pacific Railroad in routing its new line from Shreveport to New Orleans through the area, and to locate the terminal (round house - 1882) on the highest elevation on Ulster Plantation. One son of the Blanchard Family, Newton Crain Blanchard, a lawyer and at that time a US Congressman, would become Governor 1904-1908. In 1882 Henry A. Boyce, son of Judge Boyce, began to move Cotile Landing to the Lower Ulster plantation, near the proposed site of the terminal and had the land there subdivided for sale as town lots. The younger Henry named all of the new town's streets with Irish names honoring his father's birthplace in Ireland. In 1887 he incorporated the town, naming it in honor of his father who had died in 1873.

The old Cotile post office moved to Boyce and a series of businesses opened. The main avenue, Ulster, was designed with a long raised median appointed with gas lights. A T&P Hotel was built across the avenue from a two story train depot very near the tracks. The bank was located on this avenue. Several big grocery stores and a large mercantile store served the populace. Four churches were housed in the part of the town east of the railroad (Episcopal, Methodist, Baptist and Catholic). West of the railroad were four other churches that served that area. Several big cotton gins and accompanying structures that supported the agricultural economy of the surrounding areas were built. A photograph was taken in 1906 of about 140 Boyce High School students, well dressed and prosperous looking. Many of those pictured and named would become significant leaders in Rapides Parish. It is meaningful to note that at this time Newton Crain Blanchard, a native of the area, was Governor of Louisiana (1904-08) and many of his relatives are pictured. Many decedents of the Blanchard family continue to this day to be loyal members of the Methodist church. In 1910 the Standard Oil Company built Rapides Station (a pumping site) just four miles south of Boyce. Ten families lived there in a new village style settlement with a beautifully kept village green and well maintained residences. The students from this orderly arrangement attended the school at Boyce and added another agreeable element. An impressive three story brick school was constructed in 1924 and added a central rich focus to the community. Many of the teachers boarded in Boyce. A newspaper called *The Boyce Planter*, was published in Boyce in the 1920's and 30's. Other early vital economic entities within a five mile radius of Boyce were the huge Bentley Lumber Company at Zimmerman and the geo-thermal health resort at Hot Wells. Regrettably, the town's amazing prosperity lasted for only a half century. Shortly after the twentieth century began, river traffic started to diminish. Then in 1926 the Texas and Pacific moved their railroad roundhouse to Alexandria. The devastating Mississippi River flood of 1927 further diminished the economy of the town. The subsequent development of the Red River levee system would secure the town but would subsume about one third of the town's grid.

Boyce had traditionally been the agricultural and commercial hub for a portion of Northwest Rapides Parish and, like many southern towns, has seen that commercial importance diminish as the loss of the railroad roundhouse, the Red River Bridge and finally the major north-south highway reduced traffic due to I-49 being rerouted around the town. Boyce has also suffered due to its proximity to Alexandria, and the town's major institutions (post office, school, grocery stores) have been relocated from main street and spread out down the highway. However, as Alexandria grows to the north, Boyce has begun to take on the character of a bedroom community with its population working outside of Boyce. Many of the townspeople of Boyce choose to live there for the benefits of a rural lifestyle. The possibilities for growth are present; however, as the Alexandria International Airport has recently been opened north of Alexandria and is about nine miles south from Boyce. An outstanding industrial park has also been developed there. It is nationally recognized, as it represents a highly successful transition from a closed US Air Force Base. A major utility company, CLECO, and a large lumber company, Boise Cascade, are both two miles from the town of Boyce. Another large lumber industry, R.O. Martin, just ten miles north of Boyce, operating on a 24 hour basis, adds to the economic dynamics of the region. A new school was built in Boyce in 1988 just north of the town. In 2010 the census showed Boyce to have approximately 1,300 residents.

Historical Note:

The historical documents of the congregation indicated that the Boyce Methodist Church was probably an out-growth of several of the local Methodist gatherings in the rural areas who were very supportive of the formation of a substantial church in Boyce. The oldest gathering may have been at Cotile Point, the original setting of the early settlement known as Cotile Landing which later became the present town of Boyce. The

Methodist Church located on Howerton Hill (presently known as the small community of Hot Wells) was one of these small gatherings that joined the Boyce church. There were also small Methodist congregational gatherings at Lamotte's Bridge and Henderson Hill (presently known as Red Store Hill) and Eden Plantation. A Methodist pastor's typewritten manuscript of The History of the Boyce Circuit indicates that the first Boyce Methodist Church was erected in 1886 upon a lot donated to the church in 1885 by Mrs. Anna Gertrude Seip Boyce, wife of Henry A. Boyce, who founded the town. Tragically the original church burned in 1898. The organ and the church furniture were saved and the present church was immediately built on the same site in 1899. One of the present members of the church relates that her grandparents were the first couple to be married in the church in 1902. The church survived the Great Depression and the economic decline following the loss of the T & P railroad roundhouse in Boyce.

The congregation celebrated their centennial in 1986 using the date 1886 to 1986 from the construction of the original church. A loyal congregation of local Methodist families maintains the church and grounds with great pride. The entrance to the church is always carefully kept with welcoming plantings and flower beds in all seasons. There are always fresh flowers in vases and urns inside the church for all worship services. The church has always demonstrated a genuine civility and regard for the people of the town and openly welcomes the community to its religious services and its many social gatherings.

9. Major Bibliographical References and Sources

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form)

A Centennial Celebration of Boyce Methodist Church 1886-1986.

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_____. Historic Cotile, Baptist Message Press, 1967.

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Fricker, Jonathan; Fricker, Donna; and Duncan, Patricia L. *Louisiana Architecture: A Handbook on Styles*. Lafayette, LA: Center for Louisiana Studies, University of Southwestern Louisiana, 1998

Gore, Laura Locoul. Memories of the Old Plantation Home & A Creole Family Album, The Zoe Company, Inc. Vacherie, LA. , 2001. There are many references to the Boyce Family.

Heck, Robert W. Religious Architecture of Louisiana. Louisiana State University Press, 1995. (Professor of Architecture, LSU). The church is noted in this book.

Historic Plat Map of Boyce, LA. produced by the T & P Railway, March 1882, copy in National Register File.

Interview, Baker, Mary David. She shared information from her family collection of histories of early Cotile settlers. She also was responsible for having the 1906 photograph of Boyce students published in *Le Raconteur: Le Comité des Archives de la Louisiane*. 2/12/2012

Interview, Carpenter, Reverend Eddie, former pastor of the Boyce Methodist Church, he shared historical information. 1/30/2012

Interview, Dunbar, Reverend Walton, pastor of the Boyce Methodist Church, he shared historical material from the church archives. 9/30/2012

Interview, Eversull, Juanita L. (Mrs. Pitts Eversull) a lifelong member and is presently the oldest member of the congregation contributed to the long history of the church. Her home Longview along Bayou Rapides is listed on the National Register. 9/10/2012

Interview, Ford, Mary Lynelle, she shared information from her family bible and her grandparents were married in the church in June 1902. 9/12/2012

Interview, Gill, Alice Elizabeth Hunter, Boyce, La. Recollections of the Hunter family's long commitment to Boyce Methodist Church, 4/5/2011. Ms. Gill is owner of Bayouside Plantation.

Interview, James, Ella Elizabeth, she shared histories from the early Cotile families. She conducted most of the interviews and is the owner of Cordelia (The Blanchard House) on Bayou Jean de Jean, listed on the National Register of Historic Places. 11/1/2010

Interview, James, Roy Ambrose, He and his family are active, lifelong members and were strong supporters of the church. 7/10/2012

Interview, Johnson, Cecilia Maude Nolan (Mrs. J.E. Johnson) shared information from her mother, Janice Sewell's collection of history on the church. 8/9/2011.

Interview, Juneau, Marianne Jones, (Mrs. Irby Juneau) her father was once mayor of Boyce and the family has some early photographs of town of Boyce located on the river bank. She is a lifelong member of the church. 3/10/2011.

Interview, Keppinger, Lawson C. offered copies of documents, maps, and pictures from the Sewell collection (noting nomination procedure to the National Register for the Carnahan House, which he now owns). 4/8/2011.

Interview, Pharis, Alice Sullivan (Mrs. George Pharis) an active member who furnished the Historical summary of the church. 2/14/2011

Interview, Shreve, Mr. and Mrs. Louis, were very active in acquiring the period glass for the church windows and both are active landscape artists for the church yard. 8/21/2012

Interview, Wettermark, Alfred Boyce, great grandson of Judge Henry Boyce shared information from his archival collection 4/11/2012

Interview, Wise, Jerry, Publisher DeQuincy News and Cameron Pilot, a 1946 graduate of Boyce High School who shared information and the 1906 photograph of Boyce students from his collection. 1/12/2011

McAlester, Virginia and Lee. A Field Guide to American Houses. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, Inc.; reprinted. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, Inc., 2006.

Nation, Evelyn, "A Short History of the Boyce Methodist Church," 1986, a typewritten manuscript, including the 1905 photograph of the church, in the Boyce Methodist Church Archives.

Parish of Rapides, Clerk of Court, copy of the Deed from the State of Louisiana State of Rapides Property Record books notes the transfer of property from Gertrude Seip Boyce (Mrs. Henry A. Boyce) to the Boyce Methodist Church in Dec 1, 1885.

Phillips, Bernice L. "A History of Boyce." A research paper presented to social studies professor at Northwestern State College. 1956.

Le Raconteur: *Le Comite des Archives del la Louisiana*, Vol. XXXII, No. 2, June 2012, Photo of Students at Boyce School 1906, Boyce, Rapides Parish, LA, pages 155-158 and inside back cover.

Sanford Fire Insurance Maps of Boyce, LA., March 1907, Sheets 1-2, Maps of Boyce, LA. November 1912, Sheets 1-3.

Site visit by National Register Staff

Tinnin, Reverend Jack H., 46th Methodist pastor of the Boyce Methodist Church, The History of the Boyce Circuit, 1964, a typewritten manuscript in the Boyce Methodist Church Archives.

Whittington, G.P. Rapides Parish Louisiana: A History, a reprint from the *Louisiana Historical Quarterly*, Baton Rouge, La., Franklin Press, 1935.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

NA

- 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 # _____
- Not applicable – no previous documentation on file

Primary location of additional data:

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

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): N/A

Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive black and white photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Name of Property: Boyce Methodist Church

City or Vicinity: Boyce

County: Rapides **State:** LA

Photographer:

Date Photographed: Fall 2012

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

1 of 11

Façade and east elevation showing addition to main block; camera facing north
Parish Hall is visible behind the church.

2 of 11

Façade; camera facing northeast
Parish Hall is visible behind the church.

3 of 11

West elevation and façade; camera facing east, northeast
Parish Hall is visible behind the church.

4 of 11

West elevation, showing rear addition; camera facing southeast
Parish Hall is visible behind the church

5 of 11

Rear and west elevation; camera facing south

6 of 11

Interior; tracery window, beadboard wainscot, beadboard walls and ceiling

7 of 11

Interior; chancel and interior of addition

8 of 11

Interior: Lancet windows with colored glass

9 of 11

Interior; lancet windows, chancel and pews

10 of 11

Interior; kneeling rail; pulpit, beadboard wainscot and wall

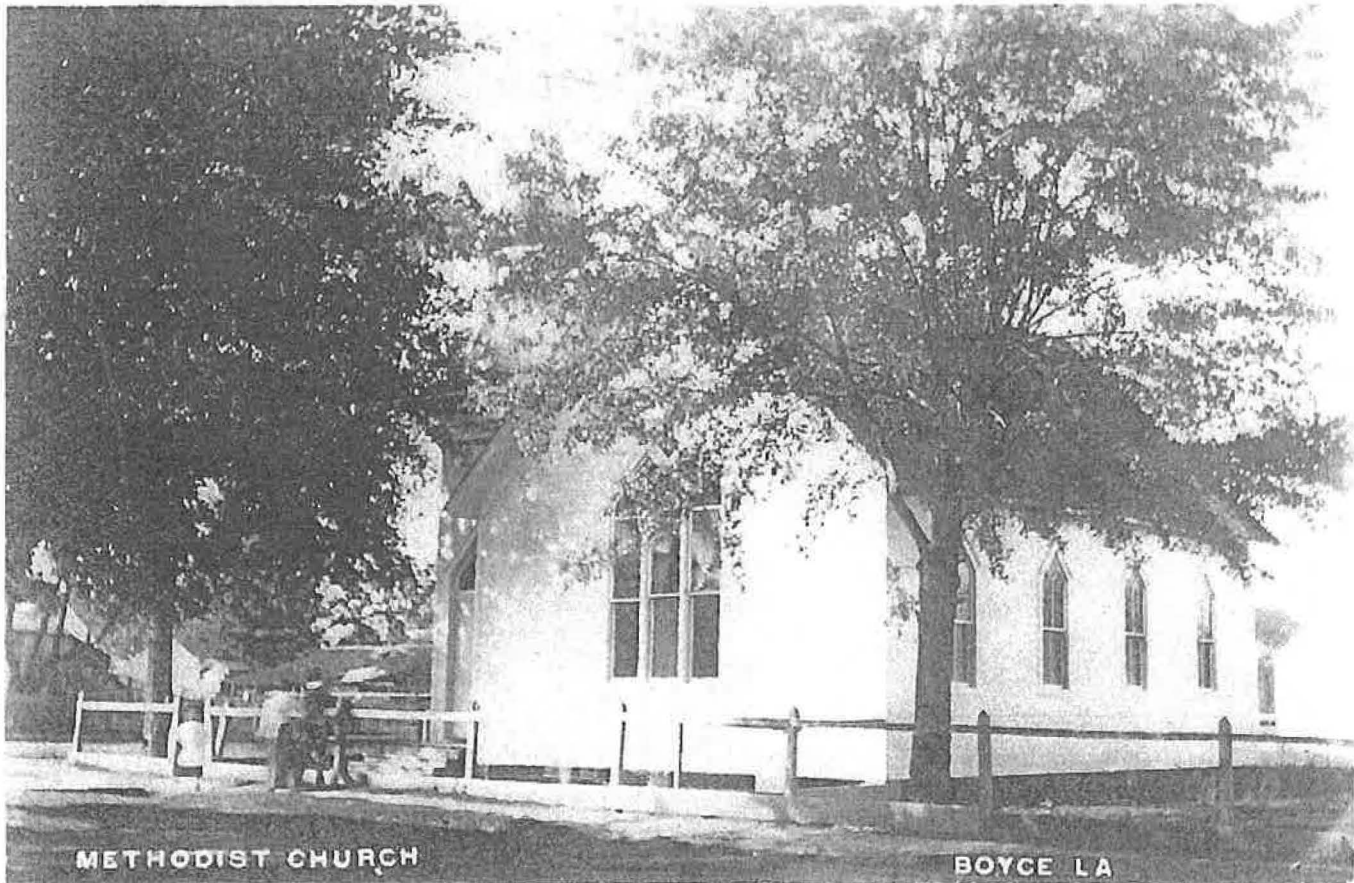
11 of 11

Interior; entrance to chancellery room

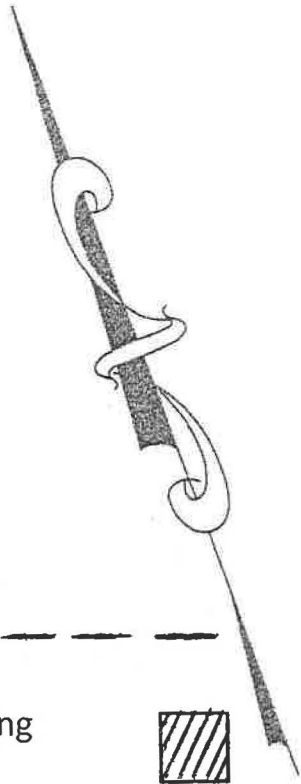
Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.


Figure 1
Boyce Methodist Church
Boyce, Rapides Parish, LA
1905



Church built 1905 by Charles Stuckey after fire destroyed original church in December (8th) of 1898. The organ and furniture was saved from the fire.



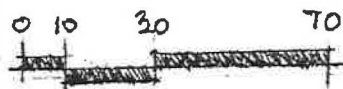
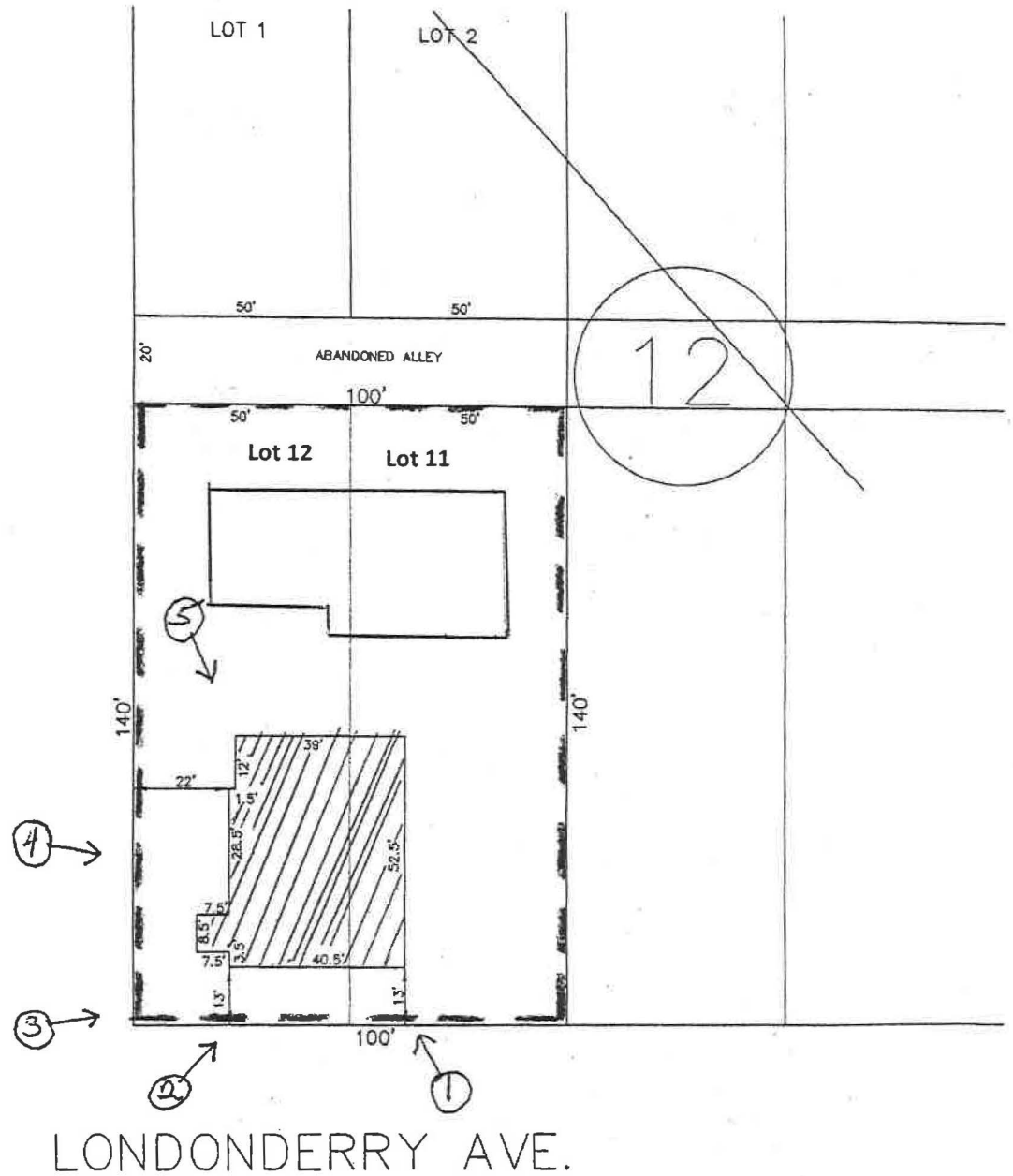
Boundary 

Contributing Element 

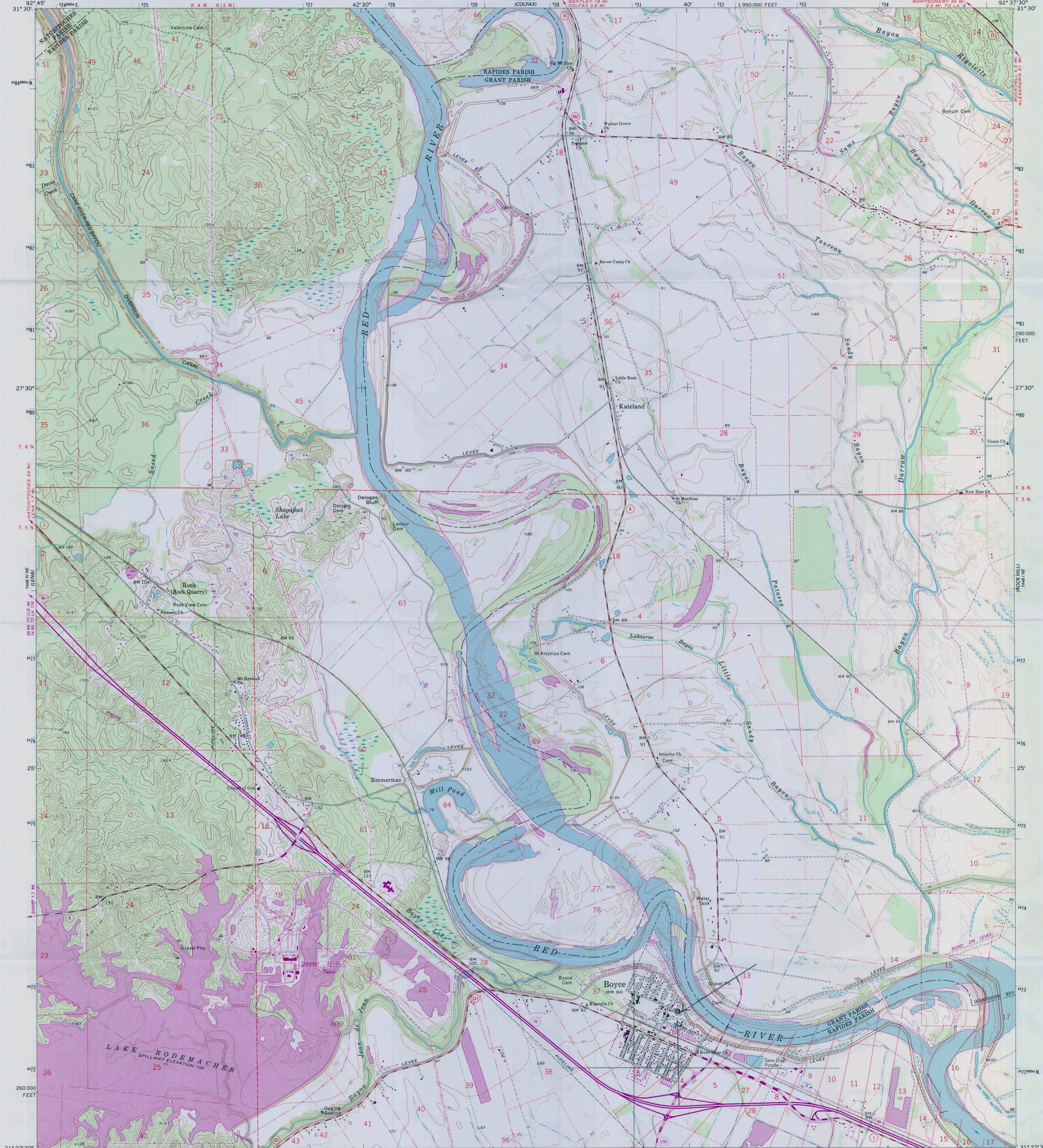
Non-Contributing Element 

Boyce Methodist Church
Boyce, Rapides Parish, LA

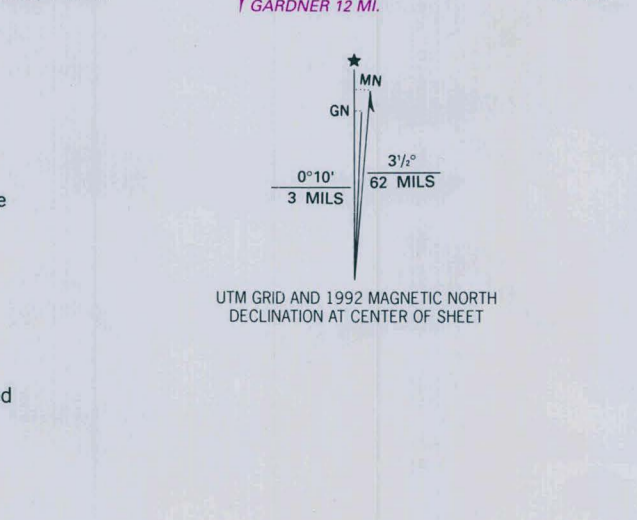
WICKLOW ST.



SKETCH TO INDICATE THE LOCATION OF THE METHODIST WITHIN LOTS 11 & 12, SQUARE 12, TOWN OF BOYCE, RAPIDES PARISH, LOUISIANA



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and Louisiana Geodetic Survey
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial
photographs taken 1970. Field checked 1971
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Louisiana coordinate system, north zone
To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983
move the projection lines 15 meters south and
14 meters east as shown by dashed corner ticks
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 15, shown in blue
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where
generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked
Revisions shown in purple compiled in cooperation with
State of Louisiana agencies from aerial photographs
taken 1990 and other sources. Contours not revised. This
information not field checked. Map edited 1992



SCALE 1:24 000
CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
DOTTED LINES REPRESENT 5-FOOT CONTOURS
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929
THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
AND LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND DEVELOPMENT, BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA 70804
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

Boyce Methodist Church
Boyce, Rapides Parish, LA
151 531 540 / 3472 700

ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Primary highway, hard surface
Secondary highway, hard surface
Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
Unimproved road
Interstate Route
U. S. Route
State Route

BOYCE, LA.
NW/4 BOYCE 15' QUADRANGLE
31092-D6-TF-024
1971
REVISED 1992
DMA 7446 1 NW - SERIES V885























UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Boyce Methodist Church

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: LOUISIANA, Rapides

DATE RECEIVED: 8/02/13 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 8/26/13
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 9/10/13 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 9/18/13
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 13000733

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: Y SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 9/12/2013 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Excellent interior integrity. Still retains form. Vinyl siding Remnant of historic lap siding

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept

REVIEWER J. Gubben DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N 0 see attached SLR Y/N 0

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



JAY DARDENNE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

State of Louisiana
OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR
DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE, RECREATION & TOURISM
OFFICE OF CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT
DIVISION OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ASSISTANT SECRETARY

July 31, 2013

TO: Mr. James Gabbert
National Park Service 2280, 8th Floor; National Register of Historic Places
1201 "I" Street, NW; Washington, DC 20005

FROM: Patricia Duncan, Architectural Historian, National Register Coordinator
Louisiana Division of Historic Preservation *Pat Duncan*

RE: Boyce Methodist Church, Rapides Parish, LA

Enclosed please find a nomination form with supporting materials for the above referenced property or historic district. Should you have any questions, please contact me at 225-219-4595.

PD/pld

Enclosures:

- 1 Original National Register of Historic Places nomination form
- NA Multiple Property Nomination form
- 1 CD with electronic images and digital copy of nomination
- 11 Photograph(s)
- 1 Original USGS/NOAA map(s)
- 0 Location/Latitude-Longitude Maps
- 1 Sketch map(s)/figure(s)/exhibit(s) (included in Figures)
- 0 Piece(s) of correspondence
- 0 Other _____

COMMENTS:

_____ Please ensure that this nomination receives substantive review

_____ This property has been certified under 36 CFR 67

_____ The enclosed owner(s) objection(s) do _____ do not _____ constitute a majority of property owners.

_____ Other: