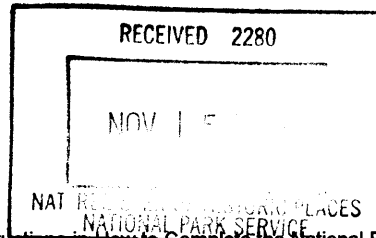


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



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 How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "X" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. 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 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 St. Patrick's Catholic Church

other names/site number Spirits of Woodland

2. Location

street & number 21997 Louisiana Highway 23 NA not for publication

city or town West Pointe à la Hache NA vicinity

state Louisiana code LA county Plaquemines code 075 zip code 70083

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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 nationally statewide X locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Geri Hobdy November 3, 1999
Signature of certifying official/Title Geri Hobdy Date
LA SHPO, Dept. of Culture, Recreation and Tourism

State or 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 this 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):

Edson H. Beall Signature of Keeper Date of Action 12/17/99

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

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

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- X building(s)
district
site
structure
object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Table with columns: Contributing, Noncontributing, buildings, sites, structures, objects, Total. Values: 1, 0.

Name of related multiple property listing

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

NA

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Cat. Religion

Sub. Religious Facility
Church-related Residence

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Cat. Work in Progress

Sub.

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Gothic Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete
walls Wood Weatherboard
roof Metal Aluminum
other

Narrative Description

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

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "X" next to 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.
X 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" next to all that apply.)

- X A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
X B removed from its original location.
C a birthplace or a 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.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture
[Blank lines for input]

Period of Significance

1918
[Blank lines for input]

Significant Dates

1918
[Blank lines for input]

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

NA

Cultural Affiliation

NA
[Blank lines for input]

Architect/Builder

John Edgcombe & Sons (Builder)
[Blank lines for input]

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

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 #

Primary location of additional data:

- X State Historic Preservation Office
Other State agency
Federal agency
Local government
University
Other
Name of repository:

St. Patrick's Catholic Church

Name of property

Plaquemines Parish, LA

County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than an acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

1 15 226100 3275960

2 _____

3 _____

4 _____

____ 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 1999

street & number P.O. Box 44247 telephone (225) 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 the SHPO or FPO.)

name Foster Creppel; Jacques & Claire Creppel

street & number 21997 Louisiana Highway 23 telephone (504) 564-2700

city or town West Pointe à la Hache state LA zip code 70083

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 the 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 Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7 Page 1

St. Patrick's Catholic Church, constructed in 1918, is a wood frame building exhibiting elements of the Gothic Revival style. It is located in West Pointe à la Hache—a rural community south of New Orleans on the west bank of the Mississippi River. Additions made in 1937 moderately enlarged the structure, but did not make an impact on either the building's style of architecture or its integrity. In October 1998, the building was moved to Woodland Plantation (within the same parish) and an addition was made.

Although often mistaken for the original parish church dating from 1883, a 1954 parish history (developed at the time that the candidate building was deconsecrated and a new church erected) clearly indicates that this structure was constructed in 1918 to replace an earlier church building which had been destroyed by a 1915 hurricane. Parish history suggests that materials were salvaged from the earlier church and used in constructing the candidate building.

The simple gable-fronted building features a low projecting gable-front entry which forms the interior vestibule. This main entrance features two paneled doors surmounted by an multi-paned ogee transom. A lancet window is located on each side elevation of this gabled projection. Flanking the projecting gable and located on the main gable are two sets of windows—narrow two-over-two windows with lancet windows of the same width above. Each of these four windows are fitted with panes of colored glass evocative of the stained glass and tracery work found in high-style examples of Gothic Revival architecture. Set into the gable near the roof ridge is a bull's eye window with colored glass—also suggestive of window tracery styles often seen in Gothic and Gothic Revival architecture. Each side elevation features six operable pointed arch windows glazed with colored glass; like the windows found at the front gable, the muntins in these windows also reflect Gothic tracery styles. The westernmost window on the north side of the building has been lowered and modified to accommodate a door near a new handicapped accessible entrance; the door used was exchanged with an original door opening on the southwesternmost area of the original building.

The 1937 rear addition and ell provided additional space at the rear of St. Patrick's (likely used as the sacristy), with a rectory at the second floor. Although this phase of construction does not match the original, it is compatible in material and sympathetic in design and thus does not affect the overall integrity of the original Gothic influence. The hip-roofed addition features two-over-two windows with false segmental arch shaping (panes of glass covered by segmentally arched pieces of wood). Two entrances to this addition feature paneled doors, although the south

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National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7 Page 2

entrance to the ell is glazed and is also shaped with a false segmental arch in keeping with the windows.

The nave of the church is finished with tongue-in-groove boards and wide baseboards with wood floors. The most distinctive feature of the interior is the coved ceiling, likely intended as an interpretation of far grander Gothic and Gothic Revival arched ceilings. The chancel also features coved ceilings, along with a rounded rear wall which gives the chancel the overall feel of a rounded space. The entrance vestibule is finished with beaded board.

This sense of roundness is noted also at the choir loft, located above the entrance to the church and overlooking the nave. Supported by two boxed columns finished with plain molded capitals and bases, the choir loft is elliptical in shape. The boxed columns repeat at the loft level. The stair accessing the loft features a newel post with a ball finial and a sharply sloped rail topping the stair enclosure. The interior of the church has been painted with colors similar to those found in the building prior to its rehabilitation.

The interior of the 1937 addition (sacristy and rectory) is finished with plain board walls and wood floors. The rectory at the second floor is divided into five rooms; the first floor is composed of one large open space.

An addition constructed since the building's re-location to the Woodland property will provide space for restrooms and service areas. Connected via a covered walkway, the addition was designed with a hipped roof in order to be sympathetic to the 1937 addition. Because of the similarity of materials (several 1937 windows displaced as a result of the connection were also salvaged and re-used) and the compatibility of the design, it is not believed that this small addition has compromised the building's historic integrity.

During the 1937 construction project, the church was moved farther from the Mississippi River—from the east side of Louisiana Highway 23 in Port Sulphur to the west side. It was from this location, just downriver from West Pointe à la Hache, that the church building was moved in October 1998 and placed at its current location on the Woodland Plantation property (National Register).

The church's previous setting was an overgrown area directly to the rear of the 1954 St. Patrick's Catholic Church (built to replace the candidate building). Situated

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**United States Department of the Interior
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Section 7 Page 3

between a wooded lot and a large metal storage building and adjacent to the church cemetery, threats to the vacant building included unrepaired damage sustained during a storm (including a large hole through the roof and ceiling) and occasional acts of vandalism. The parish was unable to afford the liability of a large, rapidly deteriorating structure and had no means to restore the building. In the end, the only alternative to the building's eventual demolition was its removal from church property and rehabilitation by another party.

The move was accomplished by dismantling the roof truss system and moving the body of the church building by truck to its new location. Due to the size of the building and its condition, it was deemed necessary to move St. Patrick's in several pieces. The roof system was completely removed so that the building could clear the oil pipelines which intermittently cross the highway. The front gable projection forming the vestibule was removed; the remaining portion of the building was then divided cross-wise into two approximately equal sections. The church building was then reassembled at its current location; the roof truss system was reconstructed using both new materials and historic members salvaged from the structure.

Long noted as a liability to the church parish and faced with eminent demolition, the rapidly deteriorating church building was acquired by the owners of Woodland Plantation under an agreement to move it. The building is currently undergoing rehabilitation, with the intention of using the main church as a restaurant and reception area; the restored rectory will be used as the owner's residence. When moved to the Woodland property, the church building was situated between the main house and Louisiana Highway 23. In siting St. Patrick's at its new location, no attempt was made at a re-creation of a "village setting" or plantation complex. The new location, a fundamentally rural one, is in keeping with the historic setting of the church—as it appeared prior to construction of the new church and other surrounding modern buildings.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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St. Patrick's Catholic Church is of local architectural significance as a landmark in an isolated rural parish largely devoid of styled historic buildings. It is believed by the SHPO to be the only surviving prominent example of the Gothic Revival style in Plaquemines Parish.

Plaquemines is one of Louisiana's oldest parishes, having been created in 1807. Located south of New Orleans, the parish was largely uninhabitable owing to its proximity not only to the mouth of the Mississippi River, but also to adjacent swamps and other open waterways. However, large-scale agriculture (principally sugarcane) flourished on the arable land that was available. For example, in 1860 there were 31 large slaveholdings in Plaquemines Parish (defined as a holding of 50 or more slaves). In terms of population centers, there were none; the parish seat was (and is) a small hamlet.

Today, Plaquemines Parish remains rural and sparsely populated. There are relatively few historic structures, and almost all of these are unpretentious folk buildings. The SHPO staff knows of no example of the Gothic Revival style in Plaquemines Parish other than the former St. Patrick's Church (hesitant touches of Gothic Revival styling can be seen on the pointed arch glazing of the entrance sidelights at the main house of Woodland Plantation). In summation, Plaquemines Parish never had very many architecturally significant structures and the ravages of time, flooding, hurricanes, and the Civil War have only decreased the number. For example, three significant plantation houses have disappeared within the past several decades. Against this backdrop, it is clear that the former St. Patrick's Church remains a major architectural statement within Plaquemines Parish.

As was the custom, the religious needs of the people in this rural area were served by members of the religious who traveled from home to home. The first Catholic church on the west side of the lower Mississippi River was built in the 1860s, but was destroyed soon thereafter. By the 1870s, interest in construction of a new parish church was growing. Construction began in 1881 and was completed in 1883 on the church which would serve the new St. Patrick's parish. The major hurricane of October 1893 (which obliterated much of Louisiana's southeast coast) destroyed the church's steeple and bell tower. The reconstructed steeple was again toppled when the church was largely destroyed by another hurricane in September 1915. During the summer of 1918, the church building was dismantled. Salvaging most of the materials (according to church history), the current building was constructed.

St. Patrick's Catholic Church

Name of property

Plaquemines Parish, LA

County and State

NPS Form 10-900-a
(8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

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BIBLIOGRAPHY

Hingle, Jules. "The Franciscan Return to the Lower Delta." Port Sulphur, La.: St. Patrick's Catholic Parish, 1954.

LaVigne, Birdie. "St. Patrick's Church: 1870-1954." Port Sulphur, La.: St. Patrick's Catholic Parish, 1954.

St. Patrick's Catholic Church

Name of property

Plaquemines Parish, LA

County and State

NPS Form 10-900-a
(8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

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BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION AND JUSTIFICATION

Because the building has been moved from its historic location and the new setting has no historic association with it, boundaries are drawn to include only the discrete acreage surrounding the candidate building. As per NPS instruction, these boundaries have been designated for the nomination although the land is already listed as part of the Woodland Plantation nomination.

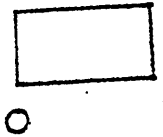
MISSISSIPPI RIVER

WOODLAND PLANTATION PROPERTY

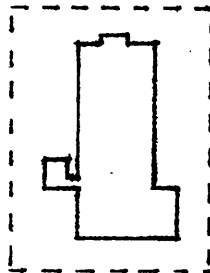
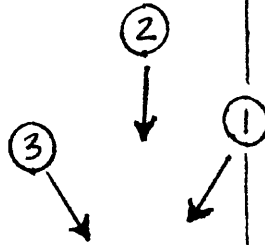


OVERSEER'S HOUSE

MAIN HOUSE



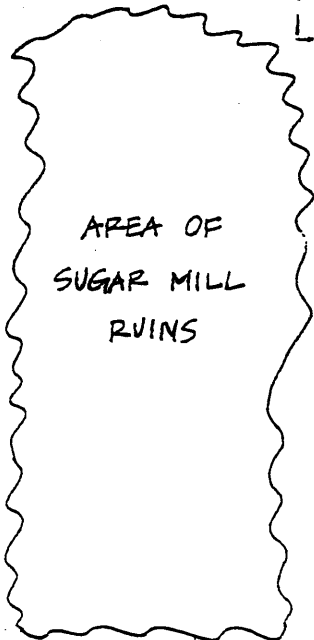
TENANT HOUSE



SHELL ROADBED



ST. PATRICK'S CATHOLIC CHURCH
PLAQUEMINES PARISH, LA



AREA OF SUGAR MILL
RVINS

1" = APPROXIMATELY 100'
--- BOUNDARY LINES

MAP IS INTENDED TO SHOW
RELATIONSHIP OF ELEMENTS.

