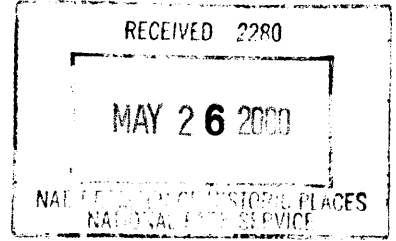


1718



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 Mt. Olivet Episcopal Church and Cemetery

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 335 Main Street NA not for publication

city or town Pineville NA vicinity

state Louisiana code LA county Rapides code 079 zip code 71360

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.)

Jonathan Fricker May 12, 2000
Signature of certifying official/Title Jonathan Fricker, Date
Deputy 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): _____

low
Signature of Keeper

Date of Action

Edson H. Beall 6/22/00

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 3 columns: Contributing, Noncontributing, and Resource Type (buildings, sites, structures, objects, Total). Values: Contributing 1, 1, 2; Noncontributing 0; Total 2.

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
Funerary

Sub. Religious Facility
Cemetery

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Cat. Religion
Funerary

Sub. Religious Facility
Cemetery

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Gothic Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick
walls Weatherboard
roof Asphalt
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

NA

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

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
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

Period of Significance

1858

Significant Dates

1858

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

NA

Cultural Affiliation

NA

Architect/Builder

Architect: Attributed to Richard Upjohn; see Historical Note

Builders: Charles Schraeder, Theodore Schaedel, Christian Baden

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:

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 5.273 Acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

1 15 553340 3464810

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 March 2000

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 See Continuation Sheet

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state LA zip code _____

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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CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7 Page 1

The Mt. Olivet Episcopal Church and Cemetery property is situated slightly north of the Red River in the Rapides Parish town of Pineville. The focus of the nomination is the church, a frame one-story Gothic Revival chapel built in 1858 within the grounds of a park-like cemetery established around 1824. As the historic setting for the church, the cemetery is being counted as a contributing element. The one-story building stands near the front of the cemetery and faces a busy Pineville thoroughfare which serves as the cemetery's eastern boundary. Despite alterations, the church and cemetery remain eligible for National Register listing.

The rectangular Mt. Olivet chapel features a steeply pitched roof with flared eaves, board and batten siding, and lancet windows on each side. One of these windows retains its simple tracery pattern, but the others have had their original glazing replaced by 20th century stained glass (see below). A small covered porch shelters the double paneled doors which serve as the building's front entrance. Its gabled roof repeats the steep pitch and flaring eaves found on the church itself. Although not a Gothic Revival trait, large brackets beneath overhanging eaves also grace the exterior. The interior features a vaulted ceiling with scissor-like trusses and a triple arch Gothic arcade which separates the altar area from the sanctuary. The arches spring from paneled pillars. Additional scissor-like trusses are found above the altar.

The chapel has received a number of alterations over the years, some of which are historic. These can be organized according to date and include:

- 1) the 1873 addition of a three room, shed roof sacristy at the rear of the chapel.
- 2) the 1881 cutting of an arched opening into one of the new rear rooms to create a recessed chancel.
- 3) the above mentioned replacement of original windows with stained glass (early twentieth century through 1950s). The installation of a quatrefoil window piercing the facade above the porch also occurred early in this period. (Much later all of these windows were covered with protective plexiglass.)

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- 4) the 1946 construction of a two-story brick parish hall whose design repeats some of the church's nineteenth century detailing. One front corner of the hall literally stands only a few feet from the corresponding rear corner of the church. A Gothic Revival style breezeway (also 1946) connects the older and newer structures. A belfry consisting of an open pointed arch arcade surmounted by a tall conical roof was added to the spot where the two buildings' corners almost touch in order to tie them together visually (also 1946).
- 5) the recent replacement of the original reredos with a replica.

Despite these changes, the chapel still exhibits all of its original Gothic Revival features except for the simple tracery pattern of the windows. Furthermore, the 1946 parish hall and breezeway addition are compatible with the older building and, because the church projects forward from the later structures, it remains visually dominant. As a rare and early example of the Gothic Revival style within Rapides Parish, Mt. Olivet is a strong candidate for National Register listing.

Contributing Element: The Cemetery

As previously mentioned, Mt. Olivet Cemetery pre-dates the accompanying church and, thus, has always been associated with it. The cemetery consists of a large, well-landscaped, fenced block subdivided into numerous burial plots. A number of these are fenced off to form private sections for various families. Burials began at what is now the cemetery's rear, or west, side and have moved forward (eastward) over the years. For this reason the church, sited as mentioned above at the cemetery's eastern end, is flanked by newer grave sites. A small lawn separates the church from the cemetery's eastern wall and the street beyond.

As mentioned above, the earliest marked grave dates to 1824. Fully 50 percent of the cemetery's 1,548 graves (recorded as of January 2000) range between this early date and 1919. Another 27 percent date to between 1920 and 1949. Only 23 percent of the total number of graves have been added to the cemetery since 1950. Although Mt. Olivet is still classified as active, new burials are relatively rare. For example, only two occurred in 1998 and five in 1999.

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Tombstones from the earlier period are visually dominant and reflect the Victorian preference for carved ornament. Many are the height of an average person's waist, and a number are much taller. Designs include, but are not limited to, hearts, crosses, obelisks and urns. Although most of the markers are made of stone, a few are in more unusual materials such as brick and metal. The newer graves are interspersed among the historic burials in order to place family members together. Modern grave markers are low in scale, and the cemetery's historic character is rarely impacted by them (see photographs).

Because the cemetery is historically associated with Mt. Olivet Church and retains a strong historic character, it is being counted as a contributing element.

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The Mt. Olivet Episcopal Church is locally significant in the area of architecture as an early and rare example of the Gothic Revival style within Rapides Parish. In addition, it is among only a handful of buildings which survive to represent the parish's early architectural patrimony.

Created in 1805, Rapides is a large parish with extensive rural areas. Its economy is based primarily upon the growing of sugar cane and cotton and the harvesting of timber. The parish supports only two communities of any size. Pineville, located adjacent to the north bank of the Red River, was founded as a combination trading and military post in the early 1700s but did not receive its name until the founding of the parish. Its population was estimated at 15,885 in 1999. Alexandria, already divided into town lots when the parish was organized, lies adjacent to the river's south bank directly across from Pineville. Its estimated 1999 population was 50,366.

Rapides Parish was surveyed for the Division of Historic Preservation in the mid-1980s. The survey identified 4,932 buildings over 50 years of age. Of this number, only eight (less than one percent) are in the Gothic Revival style. Of these examples, only the Mt. Olivet Episcopal Church and Trinity Episcopal Church near Cheneyville (National Register) illustrate the original flowering of the Gothic Revival style in America (1840s and 1850s). The others date from the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, making them specimens of the continued interest in the Gothic taste as the most appropriate style for churches.

Although Rapides was settled quite early, the parish experienced extensive Civil War action. This included the burning of plantation buildings as well as portions of Alexandria. Because of this and more modern re-development, little remains in the parish from the antebellum period. The only known survivors are Mt. Olivet, Trinity Episcopal, and about a dozen medium size plantation houses. Thus, Mt. Olivet's 1858 construction date makes it a landmark in the parish's architectural patrimony.

Historical Note

Mt. Olivet Episcopal Church was built in 1858 as a mission of St. James Episcopal Church in Alexandria. As previously mentioned, the site chosen for the building was within a previously existing cemetery, for which St. James paid \$700 in the

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spring of that year. The \$700 was raised by Mrs. A. D. McCoy, wife of St. James' first rector, who taught a day school in her home to raise funds for the church. In his 1888 book, *History of the Diocese of Louisiana*, Reverend Herman Cope Duncan (who served as St. James' rector from 1880 - 1917) attributes the Pineville chapel's design to New York architect Richard Upjohn. The building was consecrated by Episcopal Bishop and future Confederate general Leonidas K. Polk on June 29, 1859.

In 1873 the Mt. Olivet congregation became a separate church, assuming the name of St. Peter's. However, in 1880 the church again became a mission of St. James and resumed its original name. The congregation once again became independent from its mother church in 1948 and had become an official Episcopal parish by 1952. By the 1960s the congregation had outgrown the chapel. Because the presence of nearby graves prevented further expansion of the historic building, the parishioners then made the decision to build a new church at a different location. The Mt. Olivet Church and its adjoining 1946 parish hall now belong to the Episcopal Diocese of Western Louisiana, which uses the parish hall as its offices. Mt. Olivet Cemetery remains under the ownership of Alexandria's St. James Episcopal Church.

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BIBLIOGRAPHY

Breakdown of Mt. Olivet Cemetery burial dates by decade; copy in National Register file.

Division of Historic Preservation. Standing Structures Survey of Rapides Parish, Louisiana.

Duncan, Herman C. *The Diocese of Louisiana Some of Its History, 1838-1888* (New Orleans: A. W. Hyatt, 1888).

Excerpts from minutes of St. James Episcopal Church, Alexandria, Louisiana, typescript; copy in National Register file.

Slack, Reverend W. S. "Historical Sketch of Mt. Olivet Cemetery," typescript; copy in National Register file.

Morgan, Janet. "Mt. Olivet Chapel and Cemetery," January 1984, typescript; copy in National Register file.

"Mt. Olivet Chapel and Cemetery," n.d., typescript; copy in National Register file.

Site visit by National Register staff.

Various correspondence and newspaper articles concerning installation of stained glass windows in the church, 1925-1947; copies in National Register file.

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CONTINUATION SHEET**

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BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

The boundary is shown as a bold line on the attached sketch map.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION:

Boundaries follow historic property lines to encompass the church and its historically related cemetery.

(NB: The cemetery shown to the south of the nominated property on the attached USGS map is an unrelated Jewish cemetery.)

PROPERTY OWNERS:

Church: Robert J. Hargrove, Bishop
The Episcopal Diocese of Western Louisiana
P. O. Box 2031
Alexandria, Louisiana 71309
(318) 442-1304

Cemetery: The Very Reverend Paul D. Tunkle
Rector
St. James Episcopal Church
1620 Murray Street
Alexandria, Louisiana 71301-6843
(318) 445-9845

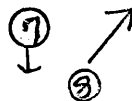
Sketch Map of
MT. OLIVET EPISCOPAL
CHURCH AND CEMETERY
Pineville, Rapides Parish, LA

Singer Street

Scale: 1" = 80'

N

BOUNDARY



CEMETERY

Ball Street



PARISH HALL
ADDITION



CHURCH

CEMETERY

CEMETERY



Main Street