

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



982

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

1. Name

historic St. Landry Catholic Church

and/or common Same

2. Location

street & number 900 N. Union St. N/A not for publication

city, town Opelousas N/A vicinity of congressional district 8th - Gillis Long

state LA code 22 Parish
~~county~~ St. Landry code 097

3. Classification

Category <input type="checkbox"/> district <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) <input type="checkbox"/> structure <input type="checkbox"/> site <input type="checkbox"/> object	Ownership <input type="checkbox"/> public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private <input type="checkbox"/> both Public Acquisition <input type="checkbox"/> in process <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> being considered	Status <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied <input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> work in progress Accessible <input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> no	Present Use <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> educational <input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> museum <input type="checkbox"/> park <input type="checkbox"/> private residence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious <input type="checkbox"/> scientific <input type="checkbox"/> transportation <input type="checkbox"/> other:
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4. Owner of Property

name St. Landry Catholic Church Parish Rev. Gary Schexnayder, Pastor

street & number 900 N. Union St.

city, town Opelousas N/A vicinity of state LA 70570

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. St. Landry Parish Courthouse

street & number P. O. Box 750 Corner of Court and Landry Streets (no specific address)

city, town Opelousas state LA 70570

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

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

date 1982 federal state county local

depository for survey records Louisiana State Historic Preservation Office

city, town Baton Rouge state LA

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		_____ N/A

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The St. Landry Catholic Church is located at 900 N. Union Street in Opelousas in a mixed residential/commercial area with an essentially modern character. It is a large, brick, basilician plan building with a massive central tower, a nave and side aisles, a single transept and a broad apse. In its day it would have been called Romanesque. Although it was built in 1908, it has much in common with churches built under the influence of the mid-nineteenth century Romanesque Revival. The exterior is essentially a Gothic parish church form which is articulated mainly with Romanesque motifs. A few minor alterations have been made; however, they in no way should be considered detrimental to its architectural integrity.

Romanesque features include:

1. The broad flat wall surfaces.
2. The almost complete lack of buttresses.
3. The extensive use of blind arch trim.
4. The fact that most of the fenestration openings are small in comparison to the surrounding wall surface.
5. The exclusive use of round head fenestration.
6. The multiple round arch entrances.
7. The double arch mullions.
- *8. The four octagonal turrets which embrace the westwork.
- *9. The four additional corner turrets which embrace the corners of the upper central tower.
10. The faceted conical roofs which surmount the towers.

* The use of subsidiary round or octagonal turrets is a Romanesque feature, but the turrets at St. Landry Church are relatively delicate and seem more Gothic in feeling.

Gothic features include:

1. The use of a spire atop the central tower.
2. The use of entrance gables.
3. The fact that the larger central entrance gable protrudes above the first stage of the tower.
4. The essentially vertical lines of the building.
5. The rose windows at each end of the transept arms.

The interior features a false barrel vaulted nave with false groin vaulted aisles. The aisles are divided from the nave by a Corinthian arcade with enlarged capitals and false marble shafts. The nave ceiling is articulated with elaborate tie bars.

Since the church was built, the following changes have been made;

1. Sheetrock screens have been erected around the lower level of the apse.
2. The pews have been replaced.
3. A rear office wing has been added which encompasses the apse.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1908 **Builder/Architect** Architects: Owen and Diboll

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph) Criterion C

The St. Landry Roman Catholic Church is significant on the local level in the area of architecture for the following reasons:

- (1) It is undoubtedly the finest example of Romanesque Revival architecture in St. Landry Parish. Other examples are more or less confined to a few remote reflections of the style in brick commercial architecture.
- (2) It is an architectural landmark in the city of Opelousas. It is without question the tallest and most monumental historic structure in the city. Beyond this, the church represents a highly developed stylistic statement by a "high style" urban architectural firm. This is in sharp contrast to the other historic buildings in Opelousas, most of which represent the work of builder-contractors.

UTM NOT VERIFIED
DELEGATE NOT VERIFIED

9. Major Bibliographical References

St. Landry Catholic Church Parish Records

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property approx. 1.4 acres

Quadrangle name OpeLouisas, La.

Quadrangle scale 1=62500

UMT References

A

1,5	5,8,8,3,2,5	3,3,7,9,1,2,5
Zone	Easting	Northing

B

Zone	Easting	Northing

C

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D

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E

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F

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Please refer to sketch map.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Ruth Fontenot

organization Evangeline Economic and Planning District date Jan, 1982

street & number P. O. Box 90070 telephone (318) 233-3215

city or town Lafayette state LA 70509

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Robert B. DeBlieux

Robert B. DeBlieux

date March 22, 1982

title State Historic Preservation Officer

For HCRS use only

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

Beth Crowne

date 5/3/82

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

ST. LANDRY CATHOLIC CHURCH
 OPELOUSAS, LOUISIANA

