

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED SEP 28 1979  
DATE ENTERED APR 17 1980

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Christ Episcopal Church

AND/OR COMMON

Same

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

120 N. New Hampshire Street

---NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Covington

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First (Robert Livingston)

STATE

Louisiana

--- VICINITY OF

CODE

022

COUNTY

St. Tammany Parish

CODE

103

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERICAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Christ Episcopal Church

STREET & NUMBER

120 N. New Hampshire Street

CITY, TOWN

Covington

STATE

Louisiana

--- VICINITY OF

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

St. Tammany Parish Court House

STREET & NUMBER

510 East Boston Street

CITY, TOWN

Covington

STATE

Louisiana

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Louisiana Historic Sites Survey

DATE

1979

---FEDERAL  STATE ---COUNTY ---LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

State Historic Preservation Office

CITY, TOWN

Baton Rouge,

STATE

Louisiana

# 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		

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Old Christ Episcopal Church is set beside a modern brick church (New Christ Episcopal) in a 20th century residential neighborhood in Covington.

Built in about 1840, as a three-bay, gable-fronted Greek Revival frame church, the building has been much modified over the years. A number of extensions have been added, some about 1890, some about 1915, and one in the mid-20th century. Although the mid 20th century wing is attached to the church it is not integral to the old structure and could be easily detached or demolished without harm to the church.

The building has evolved as follows:

- 1) In about 1890 six large lancet windows replaced the earlier square head windows. A semi-octagonal chancel with 2 opalescent stained glass windows was added at the rear, and a cove-molded wooden plank ceiling was installed. Finally, a large octagonal tower was added to the facade along with a large stained glass lunette.
- 2) In about 1915 the present rear gallery was added to the nave. The octagonal tower acquired a conical roof, and the present front entrance porch with its stained glass, round head windows was added.

In summation, although the church began as an unpretentious Greek Revival chapel, the present nominated building largely reflects the Queen Anne Revival style.

# 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 1847

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Jonathan Arthur

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Christ Episcopal Church is architecturally significant as an unusual example of the Queen Anne Revival taste in church architecture. Its octagonal tower, for example, which is normally a residential form, is probably the only one in the state's church architecture. Moreover, Christ Church is easily the most striking and pretentious church building in the town of Covington.

Since its beginning in 1846 Christ Church has been an integral part of the community of Covington, Louisiana, and the present church building has been in continuous use as a place of worship since its construction in 1847. It is presently being used as the Chapel in a complex of church buildings belonging to Christ Episcopal Church.

Christ Church, Covington, was organized as a parish of the Protestant Episcopal Church in 1846, and officially adopted the name of Christ Church on December 26, 1846. The original volume of the Vestry minutes is still in the church, and indicates that most of these founding parishioners were of English ancestry from the southern states along the Atlantic coast, and were prominent citizens of the community.

The site for the church, "a certain square of ground lying and being situated in the Town of Covington being Square Number thirty-six, in the Division of Spring" was purchased by the original Vestry at a Sheriff's Sale on January 11, 1847 for \$50.

Jonathan Arthur, a 35-year-old naturalized citizen from London, England, was among the original parishioners, and he was selected as architect. The original specifications and contract between Christ Church and Mr. Arthur are still at the church and are also recorded at the St. Tammany Parish Court House. The total construction price was to be \$1350, one half to be paid when the building was "raised, enclosed, and the roof on," the other half to be paid upon completion. Bishop Leonidas Knox Polk consecrated Christ Church on April 11, 1847.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Carter, Hodding and Betty W. Carter, So Great a Good (Seryanee, Tenn.: University Press, 1955), pp. 63, 70, 150, 160, 221, 351.  
 Duncan, Herman C., The Diocese of Louisiana : Some of Its History, 1838-1888 (New Orleans: A.W. Hyatt, 1888), pp. 142-143.  
 Naturalization papers of Jonathan Arthur, 2 December 1840, St. Tammany Parish Records.  
 St. Tammany Parish Conveyance Records, Book A-2, p. 45.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

**UTM NOT VERIFIED**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .4 acres

QUADRANGLE NAME \_\_\_\_\_

QUADRANGLE SCALE \_\_\_\_\_

UTM REFERENCES

A 15 779870 3374550  
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B \_\_\_\_\_  
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C \_\_\_\_\_

D \_\_\_\_\_

E \_\_\_\_\_

F \_\_\_\_\_

G \_\_\_\_\_

H \_\_\_\_\_

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION Begin at the intersection of New Hampshire and 21st Street (south corner); proceed SE along curb 110 ft. turn 90° and proceed to Branch Creek then proceed NW along the north bank to the east curb of New Hampshire Street then proceed NE to starting point. Boundaries include the church & modern wing and immediate

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE	setting, approximately .4 acres.
STATE	.CODE	COUNTY	CODE	

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Mrs. William P. Gibert

ORGANIZATION

Christ Episcopal Church

DATE

June 1979

STREET & NUMBER

P.O. Box 659

TELEPHONE

(504) 892-2766

CITY OR TOWN

Covington

STATE

Louisiana 70433

# 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 National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

*Bernard Lewis*

TITLE

DATE

9/10/79

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

*for Selby G. Oltch*  
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

4/17/80

ATTEST: *Beth Groves*  
 CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE

4/15/80

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Christ Church, Covington, Louisiana  
**CONTINUATION SHEET** ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

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In its early years Christ Church was plagued by yellow fever and the ravages of the Civil War, and by the Reconstruction Period it was in very bad repair. By 1873 the roof had fallen in and the walls were rotted, but with the arrival in that year of the Rev. H.C. Duncan as Rector repairs were begun. At some time during this era the plaster interior walls were replaced by the present beaded wood. The original spire was destroyed by the hurricane of 1915 and was replaced with the present bell tower.

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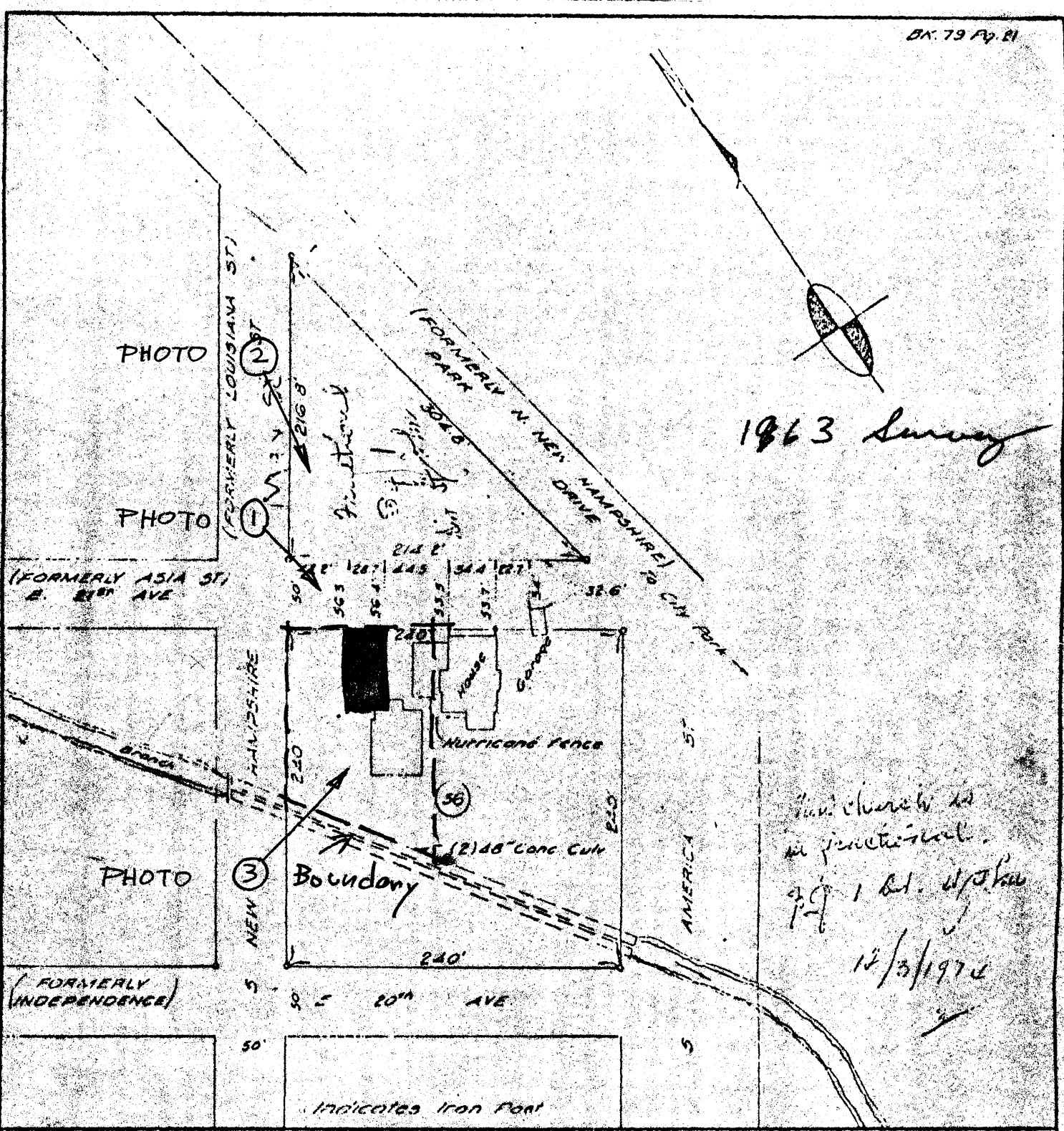
Christ Church, Covington, Louisiana  
**CONTINUATION SHEET** ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 2

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Specifications and contract for original church building, located at Christ Episcopal Church.

Vestry Minutes, Christ Episcopal Church, located at the church.

1963 Survey



This church is  
 in practical  
 1st. 1st. 1st. 1st.  
 12/3/1976

MAP PREPARED FOR THE EXCLUSIVE USE OF  
**THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

SHOWING A SURVEY MADE OF PROPERTY LOCATED IN  
 Square 36 in the Division of Spring, The Town of Covington,  
 St. Tammany Parish La.

THIS MAP IS GUARANTEED BY CORRELL AND IN ACCORDANCE  
 WITH A CAPITAL SECURITY MATH... UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE UNDERSIGNED

*Robert A. Berl*

MISSISSIPPI REGISTERED LAND SURVEYOR      COVINGTON, LOUISIANA

SCALE: 1" = 100'      DATE: April 3, 1963      NUMBER: J-63-85

**LAND ENGINEERING SERVICES, INC., COVINGTON, LOUISIANA**