

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

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

For NPS use only

received

JUL 16 1987

date entered

AUG 13 1987

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*

Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Tulip Methodist Church

and or common same

2. Location

street & number unmarked road off LA 518, Tulip community

N/A not for publication

city, town Marsalis

vicinity of

state LA

code 22

county Claiborne Parish

code 027

3. Classification

Category

district
 building(s)
 structure
 site
 object

Ownership

public
 private
 both

Public Acquisition

N/A in process
N/A being considered

Status

occupied
 unoccupied
 work in progress

Accessible

yes: restricted
 yes: unrestricted
 no

Present Use

agriculture
 commercial
 educational
 entertainment
 government
 industrial
 military

museum
 park
 private residence
 religious
 scientific
 transportation
 other:

4. Owner of Property

name Tulip Methodist Church Board of Trustees

Lawrence W. White, Chairman

street & number Rt. 1, Box 166

city, town Homer

vicinity of

state LA 71040

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Claiborne Parish Courthouse

street & number E. Main (no specific address)

P. O. Box 330

city, town Homer

state LA 71040

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title LA Historic Sites Survey

has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1984

federal state county local

depository for survey records Louisiana Historic Preservation Office

city, town Baton Rouge

state LA

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date N/A

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Tulip Methodist Church (1872) is a five bay frame building with simple Greek Revival details. It is located in a rural hilltop setting near the tiny community of Tulip. The church is very well preserved on both the interior and exterior, and the few alterations that have occurred are minor.

The Tulip Methodist Church is styled to resemble a simplified Greek temple. It features a pedimented front, a full entablature, and paneled corner pilasters. The rear is not styled. The two front doors lead to a pair of interior aisles which in turn lead to a pair of rear doors. Between the rear doors is a raised pulpit area with three lecterns. The pews are all original, with the center group featuring a central divider which at one time separated men and women. The interior is starkly plain with six inch tongue and groove boards covering the walls and ceiling. Other features include the four panel doors, the nine over nine windows, and the stone piers which form the foundation. The church was originally lit by kerosene lanterns, and electricity has never been installed.

Alterations:

Since construction four of the stone piers in the rear have been replaced, aluminum awnings have been installed over the doors, the steps have been replaced, and a clear varnish has been applied to the interior. These changes, of course, are minor when one considers how unaltered the church is on the whole. It is indeed particularly rare to find a church with this degree of integrity on both the exterior and interior. Admittedly, the awnings are unfortunate, but they are easily reversible and do not obscure any significant architectural features.

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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1872 **Builder/Architect** Builder: Tulip Methodist Church

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph) Criterion C

The Tulip Methodist Church is locally significant in the area of architecture as a superior example among a limited number of surviving rural Greek Revival churches in northern Louisiana. The context for significance encompasses the state's fifteen northernmost parishes.

Boxy, temple-shaped, sparingly detailed churches of this type are firmly within the provincial Greek Revival tradition. Although they are related to country Greek Revival churches found in the East and Midwest, Louisiana examples are starker and often post-Civil War. Extant examples are concentrated in northern Louisiana, largely because it is a church type associated with the Baptist and Methodist denominations that predominated in the region. It is impossible to ascertain how many of these churches once existed in northern Louisiana, although it is reasonable to assume that many rural communities had them. But today there are only about a dozen remaining examples in the fifteen-parish region, and some of these have been adversely altered. Also, it is an archetype with an uncertain future because most examples are in remote locations, and many are no longer being used on a regular basis.

In addition to the issue of rarity, Tulip Methodist Church is superior to most other examples. The typical rural Greek Revival influenced church in the region has plain gables with simple corner boards and gable end returns. By contrast, the Tulip Methodist Church is a much stronger stylistic statement, featuring a fully articulated (and correctly proportioned) pediment, a full entablature, and paneled pilasters. Also, whereas Tulip Methodist is almost completely intact, some of the other examples have received major interior renovations and/or front porch additions.

Historical Note:

Tulip Methodist Church traces its direct origins to a division in the membership of the Pisgah Methodist Church in 1872. With part of the membership going to Homer, there was need for a new location and house of worship nearer the remaining membership. Thus the move of about two miles south to the village of Tulip. The church was erected during the summer of 1872, given the name Tulip Methodist Church, and the approximate cost of fifteen hundred dollars was paid by the subscribers. Regular services are no longer held at Tulip Methodist Church, with its only use being occasional revival meetings and the annual Tulip Memorial Day.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Daily ledger of William A. Watson, Secretary of Pisgah Society and Tulip Methodist Church, 1871-75.

Claiborne Parish Conveyance Records.

Harris, D. W. and Hulse, B. M. The History of Claiborne Parish, Louisiana. 1886.

Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Northwest Louisiana. Southern Publishing Co., 1890.

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property @ 1/6th of an acre

Quadrangle name Arcadia, LA

Quadrangle scale 1:62500

UTM References

A

1	5	5	0	1	5	6	0	3	6	1	5	8	5	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

B

Zone	Easting				Northing									

C

Zone	Easting				Northing									

D

Zone	Easting				Northing									

E

Zone	Easting				Northing									

F

Zone	Easting				Northing									

G

Zone	Easting				Northing									

H

Zone	Easting				Northing									

Verbal boundary description and justification Boundaries were chosen to discretely encompass the significant church building. The boundary lines cut closely around the building in order to exclude an adjacent modern bathroom dependency and an adjacent cemetery whose graves are predominantly fairly recent. Please refer to enclosed sketch map.

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

state	code	county	code
N/A			

state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title National Register Staff ASSISTED BY SUSAN ROACH-LANKFORD AND
Division of Historic Preservation ELINOR M. SEWARD

organization State of Louisiana date May 1987

street & number P. O. Box 44247 telephone 504-922-0358

city or town Baton Rouge state LA 70804

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

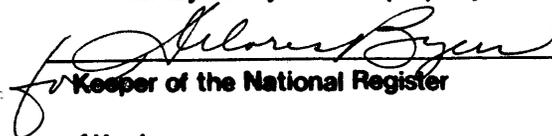
As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National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

State Historic Preservation Officer signature 
Robert B. DeBlieux

title State Historic Preservation Officer date July 9, 1987

For NPS use only

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

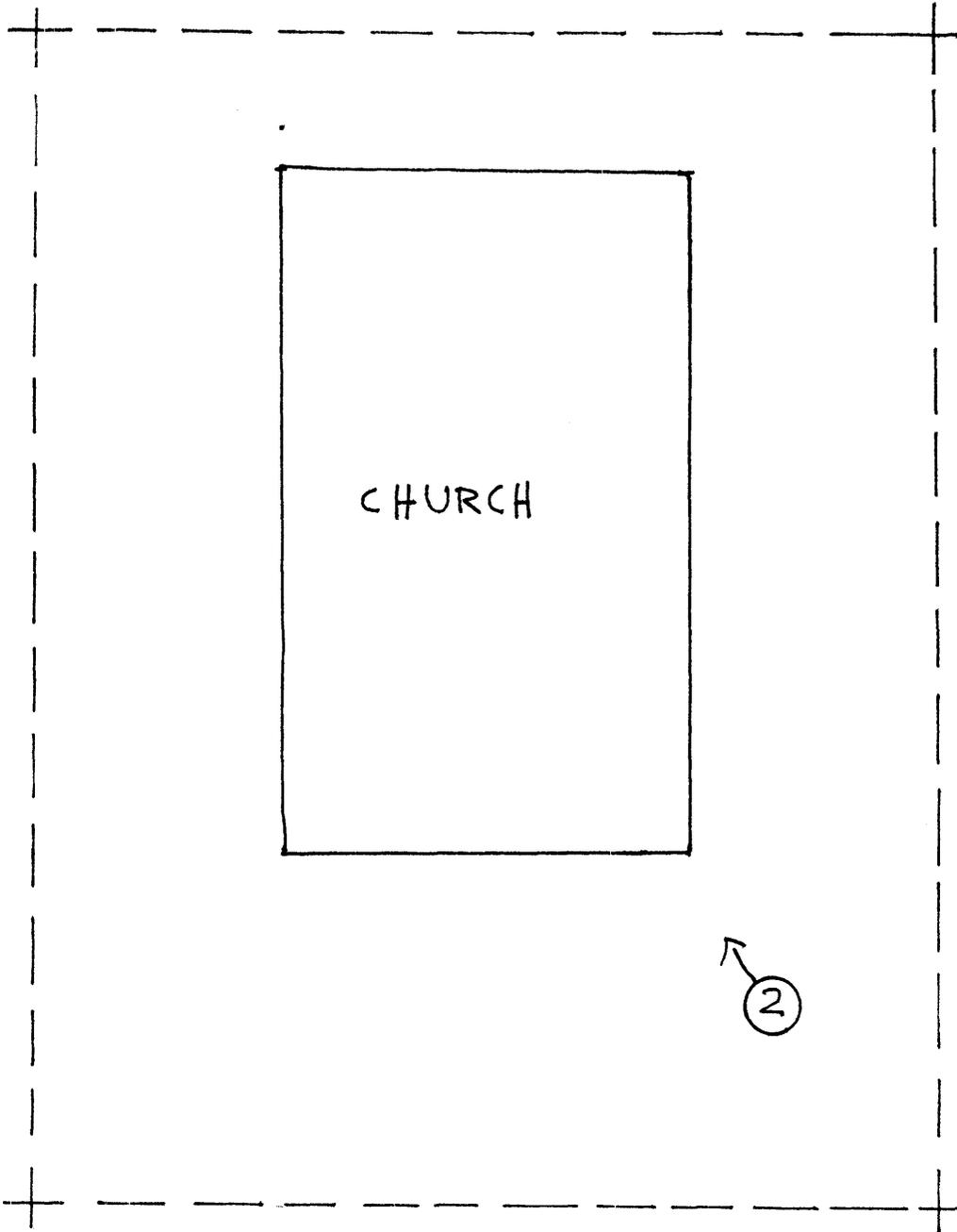
 date 8-13-87
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: _____ date _____

Chief of Registration

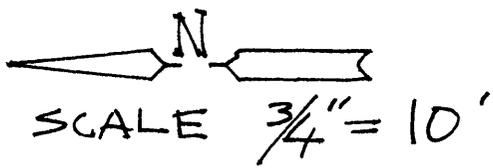
TULIP METHODIST CHURCH
TULIP COMMUNITY
CLAIBORNE PARISH LA.

③ →



① ↗

↖ ②



CHURCH PROPERTY
NR BOUNDARY
LINE