

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

**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 Antioch Baptist Church

and/or common same

2. Location

street & number 1057 Texas Avenue N/A not for publication

city, town Shreveport N/A vicinity of congressional district 4th - Charles Roemer

state Louisiana code 022 parish ~~XXXX~~ Caddo code 017

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Antioch Baptist Church

street & number 1057 Texas Avenue

city, town Shreveport N/A vicinity of state LA 71101

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Caddo Parish Courthouse

street & number 500 Texas Street, Room 103

city, town Shreveport state LA 71101

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

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

date 1981 federal state county local

depository for survey records 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 Antioch Baptist Church is located along the once fashionable Texas Avenue just outside the Shreveport central business district. The solid brick church is raised on a high basement. The interior space is rectangular with a semi-octagonal apse set in the center of one of the long walls. The apse faces pews arranged in semicircular rows. There is also a curved second story gallery. The church space is surmounted by a shallow suspended vault. Access to the gallery is provided by means of a half-turn winding stair set in a round turret.

The asymmetrical massing of the church is predominantly vertical. The structure is surmounted by a pair of broad gable roofs set at a 90° angle to each other. The front facade is flanked by two square pyramid roof towers. Both towers contain entrances to the building on the ground floor and storage areas on the second floor. The taller of the two towers is on the southwest corner. It has a third story with a bricked in archway on each face. Abutting the large corner tower is the turret which contains the aforementioned staircase. The south facade is almost as elaborately articulated as the front. At its east end is a two-story octagonal tower which contains storage space on both floors. Both of the church's two-story towers are dominated by the three-story tower when the church is seen from the preferred three-quarter view.

Most of the church's exterior features were inspired by the Romanesque Revival. These include the aforementioned towers and broad gables as well as the round arch fenestration pattern, the corbel table cornices, and the small dormers in the roof of the large corner tower.

There are two elements which were inspired by the Gothic Revival style. They are the rose windows in the centers of the front and south facades and the slight tracery treatment given some of the other windows.

Additional exterior features worthy of note are as follows:

(1) The front facade is noteworthy for its Baltimore brick facing. (2) The brickwork around the large central window has a chamfered effect. (3) The aforementioned stair turret is constructed of curved bricks. (4) The arches and impost blocks are picked out in white terra cotta.

The interior retains the following significant features:

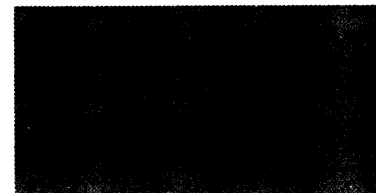
(1) The cast-iron fluted Corinthian columns which support the gallery. (2) The three-part wooden archway over the apse. (3) The elaborate pressed tin ceiling (added in 1910). (4) The stained glass window designs which are dominated by muted pink and blue glass.

The following changes have been made within the past forty years:

(1) A one-story office wing was constructed on the north side of the building. (2) A staircase was added in the southeast corner of the interior. (3) The basement level has been renovated. (4) The baptismal was moved from the basement into the rear of the apse. (5) The interior walls have been partially recovered. A low dado has been installed around three of the walls using wood paneling. In addition, the wall surrounding the apse has been treated with pink and white panels in a checkerboard pattern. (6) The apse furniture has been replaced. (7) Apparently at one time the

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Continuation sheet

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Antioch Baptist Church (cont'd)

7. Description (cont'd)

aforementioned octagonal tower on the south facade was open. Today it is enclosed for storage purposes. (8) The arched openings in the belfry of the three-story tower were bricked in. (9) Ductwork has been installed behind the interior gallery.

Assessment of Integrity:

All of the above changes should be regarded as relatively minor and certainly should not be considered to threaten the building's architectural integrity nor its significance. The church has not been altered so much that it no longer represents the work of its architect, nor has it lost those Romanesque Revival features which make it one of the most architecturally pretentious black churches in the state.

SUMMARY PARAGRAPH:

The Antioch Baptist Church (1901-03) is a large brick Romanesque Revival church located in an urban setting. In the past forty years there have been several alterations made to the church, but they are all relatively minor and do not create an integrity problem. The church retains the full measure of its architectural identity as a Romanesque Revival structure designed by one of the state's most prominent architects.

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 1901-03 **Builder/Architect** N. S. Allen, Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph) **Criterion C**

The Antioch Baptist Church is significant in the area of architecture for two reasons: (1) It represents the work of a prolific master. The architect was N. S. Allen, F.A.I.A., Shreveport's first true architect and Louisiana's first Fellow of the American Institute of Architects. In 1870 Allen came to Shreveport to practice architecture. During the final third of the nineteenth century he designed over 300 buildings and literally changed the skyline of Shreveport. It is known that there are only two other examples of Allen's work remaining in Shreveport. (2) It is an architectural landmark among black churches in Louisiana because of its pronounced Romanesque Revival articulation. There is probably no other period black church in Louisiana whose design followed "high style" trends as closely, as competently, or as elaborately as Antioch did. It must be noted in this regard that most old black churches across the state are humble, unpretentious structures with little or no styling. In addition, it is probably the only historic black church in the state designed by the acknowledged leading architect of a major urban area.

The Antioch Baptist Church was organized in 1866 when seventy-three newly freed blacks secured letters of honorable dismissal from the First Baptist Church (white) and formed the First Colored Baptist Church. In 1871 the congregation changed its name to Antioch Baptist Church. The present church building was completed in 1903.

SUMMARY PARAGRAPH:

The Antioch Baptist Church is significant on the state level in the area of architecture for the following reasons:

- (1) It is one of only three extant examples of the work of N. S. Allen, one of Louisiana's most prominent architects.
- (2) It is one of the state's most architecturally pretentious black churches.

9. Major Bibliographical References

(See Continuation Sheet)

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property approx. .25 acre

Quadrangle name North Highlands, La.

Quadrangle scale 1=24000

UMT References

A

1	5	4	2	9	2	2	5	3	5	9	6	3	2	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

Please refer to sketch map.

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

state	N/A	code	county	code
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state		code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Daniel J. Thomas

organization Urban Design Planner, Shreveport Metropolitan Planning Commission of Caddo Parish date October 1981

street & number P. O. Box 1109 telephone (318) 226-6430

city or town Shreveport state LA 71130

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

title State Historic Preservation Officer date September 9, 1982

For HCRS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	
<u>Thomas J. Thomas</u>	date <u>11/1/82</u>
Keeper of the National Register	
Attest: <u>Patrick Andrews</u>	date <u>11/1/82</u>
Chief of Registration	

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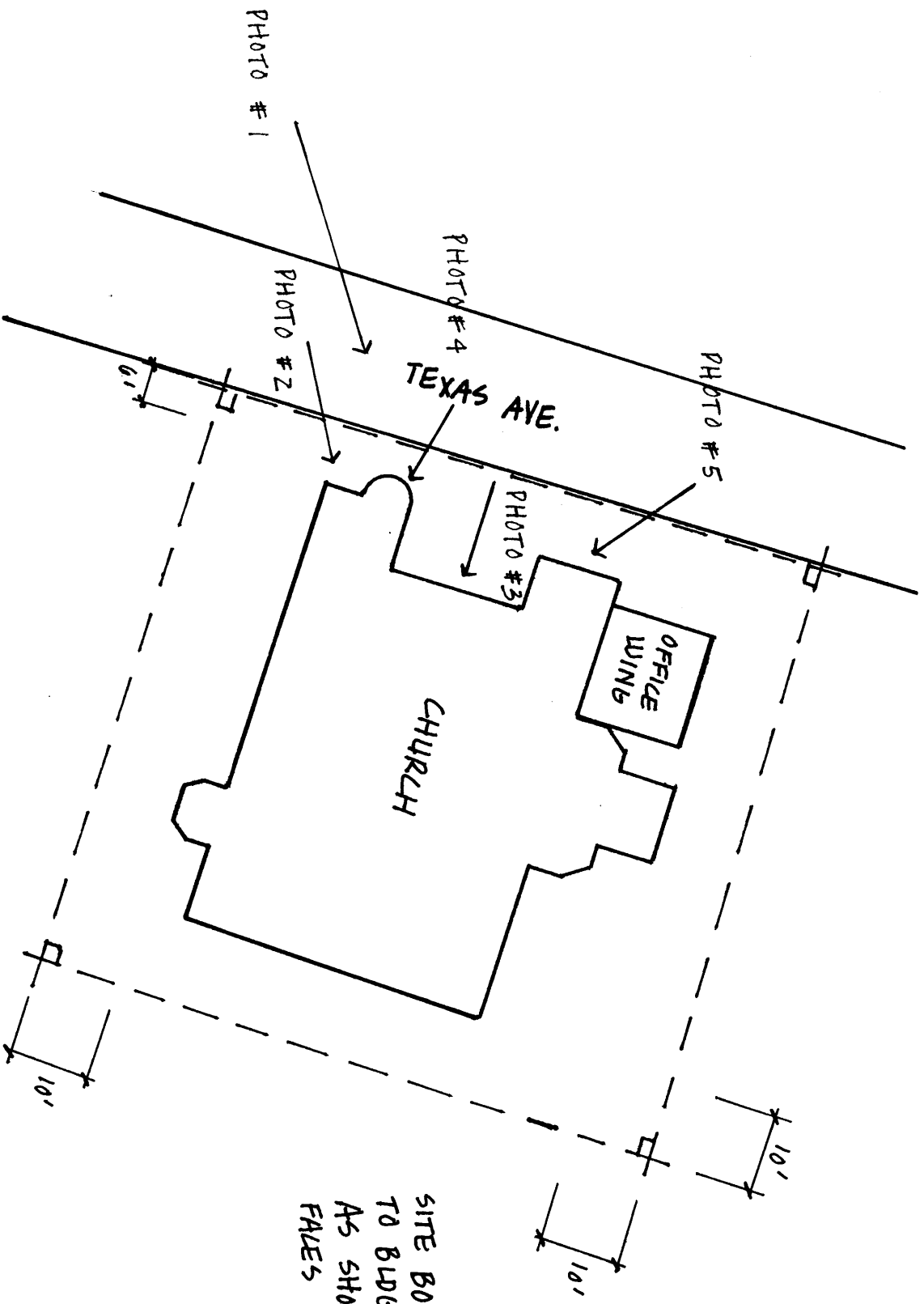
Continuation sheet *Antioch Baptist Church* Item number 9

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9. Bibliography (cont'd)

- Matthews, David. "The History of Antioch Baptist Church: A Century of Progress." Copy located in Antioch Baptist Church National Register File, Louisiana State Historic Preservation Office.
- Allen, N. S. Drawings for Antioch Baptist Church. Copies of originals provided by Bill Wiener, Jr.
- Thomson, Bailey, ed. A Guide, Historic Shreveport. A Shreveport Journal Book, 1980.
- Pitkin, Stephen H. Antioch Baptist Church National Register Nomination Form. Copy located in Antioch Baptist Church National Register File. Louisiana State Historic Preservation Office.
- "115th Anniversary of Antioch Baptist Church." Program. April 25, 1981.

ANTIOCH BAPTIST CHURCH
SHREVEPORT, LOUISIANA



SITE BOUNDARIES ARE PARALLEL
TO BLDG. FACADES, DISTANCES
AS SHOWN. THE CHURCH
FACES TEXAS AVE.

SCALE 1" = 25' APPROX

