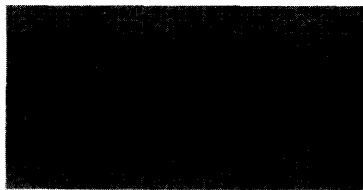


**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**



**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 Arcola Presbyterian Church
~~XXXX~~ common Presently called Amite-Arcola Presbyterian Church

2. Location

street & number Church Street ~~(no specific address)~~ N/A not for publication
 city, town Arcola N/A vicinity of congressional district 6th--Henson Moore
 state LA code 22 county Tangipahoa Parish code 105

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

4. Owner of Property

name Amite-Arcola Presbyterian Church
 street & number 501 Walnut
 city, town Amite N/A vicinity of state LA 70422

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Tangipahoa Parish Courthouse
 street & number Mulberry and Bay Streets (no specific address) P. O. Box 667
 city, town Amite state LA 70422

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 La. 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 type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date N/A
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Arcola Presbyterian Church (1859) is a simple frame Greek Revival church located in a rural setting about one-half mile west of the small community of Arcola. Also included in the nominated acreage is a five acre cemetery located immediately behind the church. Despite several changes, the church retains its architectural identity.

Evidently the church began in 1859 as a 1 story, 3 bay, frame, Greek Revival, basilica style church without pillars or portico. It had a slave gallery (reached by ladder) with a simple paneled front. The gallery floor bisected the front door and 16 over 16 windows. The bottom half of the paneled door opened to reveal an entrance vestibule flanked by small rooms. The massive shoulder molded entrance doorway was bisected by a shingled canopy which surmounted the lower portion of the front door. (Only the bottom half of the massive door opened.) The building was surmounted by a box cornice and a more or less correctly proportioned pediment. Old pictures of the church show it with an octagonal belfry with arched openings and an ogee dome. Whether or not this was a Victorian addition is unknown. In any case, this feature no longer exists.

In the 1920's the following changes were made:

1. A new lower belfry was built.
2. The nave received 4 round head stained glass windows which were about 30 years old at the time of installation. Originally all the windows were 16 over 16 clear glass of the type still visible in the front part of the church.
3. A staircase was installed. However, it was later removed.
4. A parish hall was added at the rear.

In the 1940's the tops of each of the front windows was adjusted slightly to incorporate a pointed arch into the upper sash. In addition, an entrance porch on metal posts was added to replace the old canopy. Although this is the most intrusive addition, it is easily removable. In any case, it does not significantly disturb the lines of the facade fenestration.

Assessment of Integrity:

Despite the changes mentioned above, the church retains enough original features to still convey its architectural identity as a Greek Revival country church. In any case, of the remaining comparable examples in the Florida Parishes, the Arcola Presbyterian Church retains the most integrity. (The Florida Parishes are the context for the church's significance, as discussed in Item 8).

Also included in the nominated area is a five acre cemetery which abuts the church and which has always been a part of the church property. Tombstones in the cemetery date from the time the church was built down through the present. (See Item 10 for further justification.)

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 1859 **Builder/Architect** unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph) Criterion C

The Arcola Presbyterian Church is locally significant in the area of architecture as a rare surviving example of a simple Greek Revival country church within the context of the Florida Parishes.¹ The simple pedimented design is a "watered down" version of a Greek temple. Churches like this were commonly built in the East between 1830 and 1860; however, they are rarely found in Louisiana, where most of the extant old churches date from the late nineteenth or early twentieth centuries.² Of the three examples of churches of this type known to the State Historic Preservation Office in the Florida Parishes, the Arcola Church retains the most integrity. Neither of the other examples retain any Greek Revival flavor. One has been extensively modified in the Queen Anne style and the other has been modernized in an innocuous style. Therefore, despite the modifications, the Arcola Presbyterian Church retains enough integrity to stand as probably the best surviving Greek Revival country church in the Florida Parishes.

HISTORICAL SKETCH OF PROPERTY:

The 1859 construction date for the Arcola Presbyterian Church is based upon a conveyance record dated September 5, 1859 whereby John Corkern and John Leonard deeded a five acre plot with a new church on it to Arcola Church for the purpose of "promoting Christianity, morality and education under the jurisdiction of the Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church South." In addition, one Elisha Andrews of St. Helena Parish noted in his diary on August 8, 1859 that he had that day attended the dedication of the Arcola Church.

When the Arcola Church was first erected it was a Methodist church; however, Presbyterian services were held in the building as early as 1861. In April 1897 the Arcola Church was officially organized as a Presbyterian church, but it was not until June 3, 1964 that the deed to the church property was conveyed to the congregation. Local Congregational and Episcopal churches also held services in the building at various times. The Arcola Union Sunday School, organized in 1892, met every Sunday morning for years and was attended by people from the communities of Arcola and Fluker regardless of their church affiliation. The congregation was strengthened in the 1950's and 1960's by mergers with the Kentwood and Amite Presbyterians.

¹The context for evaluation of architectural significance is an eight parish (county) area known as the Florida Parishes. This region, which lies east of the Mississippi and north of Lakes Maurepas and Pontchartrain, was originally West Florida. It covers an area of 5,117 square miles, making it slightly smaller than Connecticut and Rhode Island combined.

9. Major Bibliographical References

- **Historical Sketch of Arcola Presbyterian Church Prepared by Norma L. Davis. Located in Arcola Presbyterian Church National Register File, State Historic Preservation Office, Baton Rouge, LA.
- **based upon research in such primary sources as conveyance records, church records, etc.

10. Geographical Data

(CONTINUED)

Acreeage of nominated property approx. 5 acres

Quadrangle name Kentwood La. Quad

Quadrangle scale 1" = 62500'

UMT References:

CHURCH:

MIDPOINT OF PROPERTY:

A

1	5	7	3	7	5	5	0	3	4	0	7	2	5	0
Zone				Easting				Northing						

B

1	5	7	3	7	4	5	0	3	4	0	7	2	7	5
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 attached sketch map. Boundaries were drawn to encompass the church and the attached cemetery located immediately to the rear. Because the cemetery abuts the church and is historically a part of the setting, it would have been difficult to exclude it.

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 Mrs. Norma L. Davis

organization Arcola Presbyterian Church date June 1981

street & number Rt. 1, Box 129 telephone 318-748-8647

city or town Roseland state LA 70456

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 7, 1982

For HCERS use only

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

Thomas L. Anderson date 10/22/82
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: Patrick Andrews date 10/19/82
Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service
National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet Arcola Presbyterian Church Item number 8

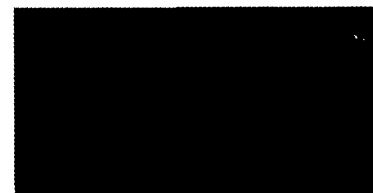
Page 2

8. Significance (Continued)

²Although it is possible to speak of the type within a statewide context, the necessary survey data does not exist to evaluate the Arcola Presbyterian Church on the state level. We do know, however, that it is rare within the context of the Florida Parishes. Hence, the church is being nominated for significance on the local level.

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

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



Continuation sheet Arcola Presbyterian Church Item number 9

Page 2

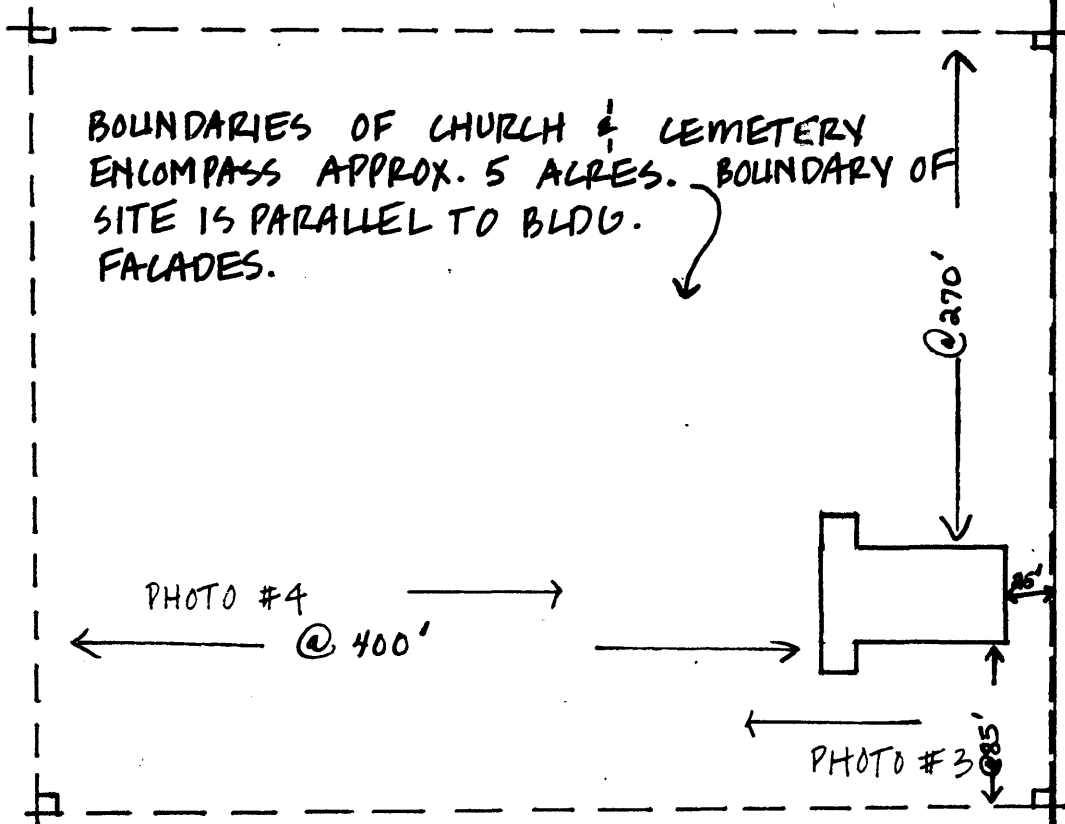
9. Bibliography (Continued)

History of Amite-Arcola Presbyterian Church, Compiled by the Church History Committee (Mrs. P. A. Bahm, Mrs. Eleanor Voss, and Mrs. Marjorie Crowson).

LIVE OAK AVE.

ARCOLA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
ARCOLA, LOUISIANA

TO HDY. 51 →



BOUNDARIES OF CHURCH & CEMETERY
ENCOMPASS APPROX. 5 ACRES. BOUNDARY OF
SITE IS PARALLEL TO BLDG.
FACADES.

PHOTO #4 →

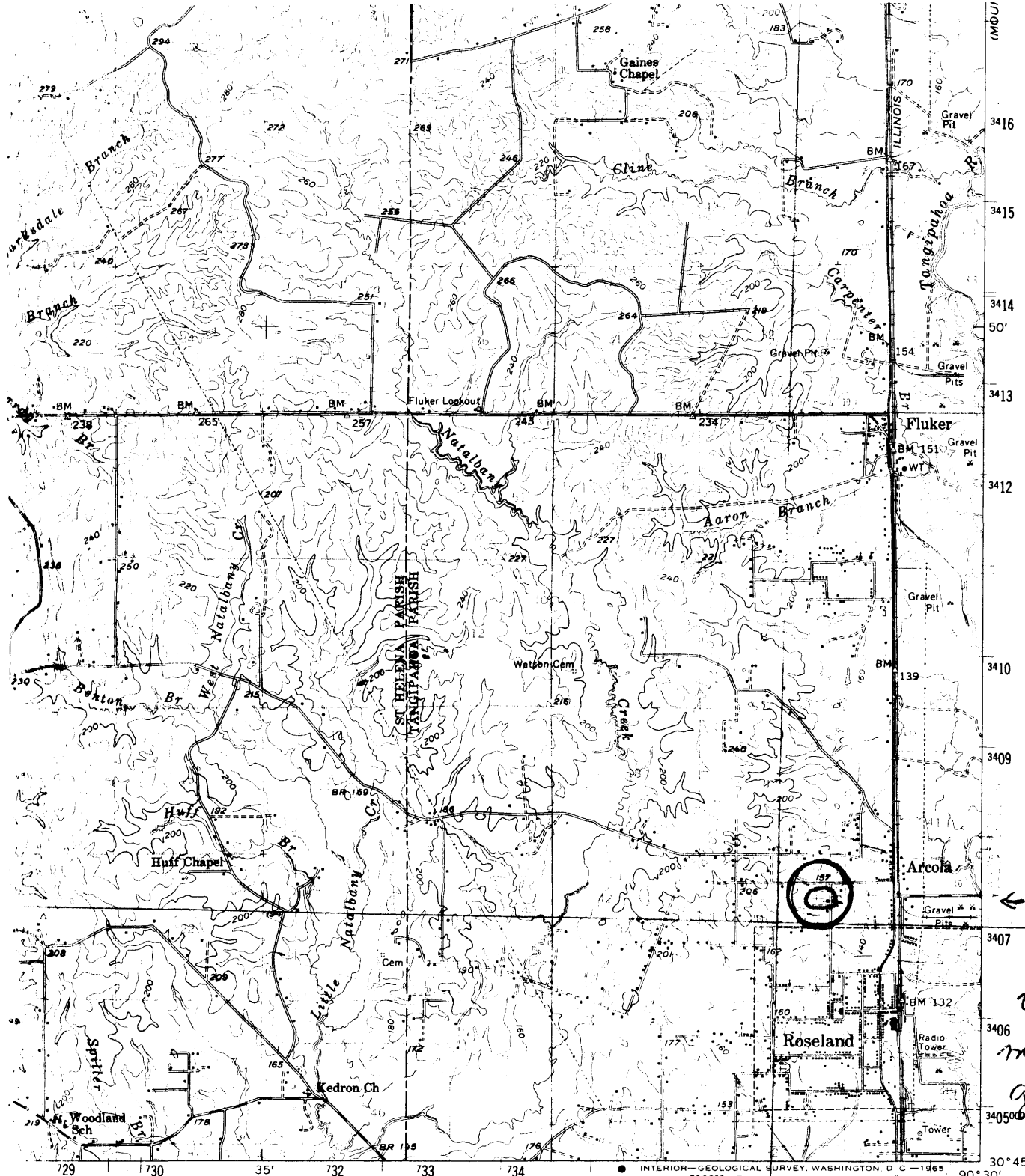
PHOTO #1

PHOTO #3

PHOTO #2

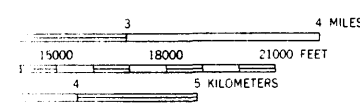
NOTE:
CHURCH FRONT PARALLELS CHURCH ST.

SCALE 1" = 100' APPROX.



← ARCOLA
Presbyterian
Church

Use a
magnifying
glass



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy-duty	—————	Light-duty	—————
Medium-duty	—————	Unimproved dirt	-----
U. S. Route	—————	State Route	—————

STANDARDS
0225 OR WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242
WORKS, BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA
IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

KENTWOOD, LA. — MISS.
N3045 — W9030/15

1958

AMS 7845 I—SERIES V785

Arcola Presbyterian Church
Church: 15/737550/3407250
Midpoint of Property: 15/737450/3407275