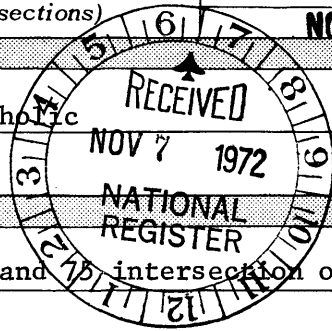


**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

STATE:
COUNTY:
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY NUMBER: DATE:
NOV 27 1972

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)



1. NAME
COMMON: St. Gabriel Church, Roman Catholic
AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION
STREET AND NUMBER: 1/4 mile south of Highway 74 and intersection on Highway 75
CITY OR TOWN: St. Gabriel
STATE: Louisiana CODE: 022 COUNTY: Iberville CODE: 047

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <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 type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>Not in use</u> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Comments <u>Could be used as library or meeting hall</u>

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY
OWNER'S NAME: Congregation of St. Gabriel Catholic Church
STREET AND NUMBER: State Highway 75, River Road
CITY OR TOWN: St. Gabriel STATE: Louisiana CODE: 022

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Courthouse of Iberville Parish
STREET AND NUMBER: Railroad Avenue
CITY OR TOWN: Plaquemine STATE: Louisiana CODE: 022

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS
TITLE OF SURVEY: Department of Interior, General Land Office (see also American State Papers, Public Lands, II, 312-13)
DATE OF SURVEY: August 25, 1847 Federal State County Local
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Registrar of State Lands
STREET AND NUMBER: Louisiana State Capitol
CITY OR TOWN: Baton Rouge STATE: Louisiana CODE: 022

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:
COUNTY:
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY NUMBER: NOV 27 1972
DATE:

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

St. Gabriel Church - Constructed 1772, altered or perhaps rebuilt in the early 19th century.

St. Gabriel Church is typical of the simple type of frame construction that was well known to the Craftsmen of that time, using materials found at the site, notably cypress wood.

The structure is a blend of two types of Architectural styles. The exterior is a simple type of Gothic Architecture that could be executed in frame construction. The Gothic Arch is used for the windows and in the paneling in the entrance doors and transom.

On the interior the influence is Classic as seen in the turned Tuscan columns of solid cypress, the turned spindles in the Altar Rail and the railing around the Choir Loft. The side Altars, made of cypress found on the site, were classical in design.

The construction is simple frame type, typical of that day where cypress was in abundance. Floor joists 8" x 10" on 10" x 12" sills, (rough hewn) all of solid cypress set off the ground on brick piers. The floors are cypress board. Walls are wood frame construction with beveled cypress clapboard siding on the exterior and 1" x 12" cypress planks in the interior covered with burlap which is painted and decorated.

Two rows of solid cypress Classic turned columns support a vaulted ceiling down the center. This ceiling, like the side walls, is covered with burlap. The roof is supported by wooden timbers forming a scissors truss. The roof is metal shingles on wood stripping. The original roof was probably hand-split cypress shingles.

The four corners of the belfry and steeple are supported by 8" x 8" heart pine posts. Pine was probably used in these because of their great length which was not obtainable in cypress.

There is a cypress beaded ceiling wainscot around the interior walls. Doors, windows, frames, pews, altars, cabinets, and other interior trip are all of cypress.

The electrical wiring which was added at a later date, is simple knob and tube system using drop cords for lighting.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

trim?

9. SIGNIFICANCE

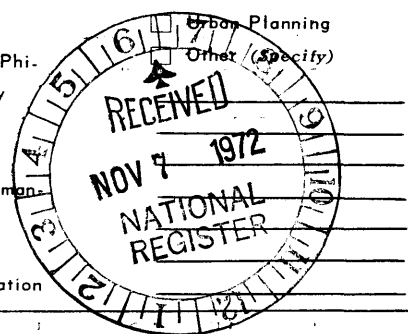
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Military		
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

The old St. Gabriel Church, Roman Catholic, may be the oldest church structure in the Louisiana Purchase Territory, and is probably the oldest original church building in Louisiana. Tradition sets the date of the formation of the parish as 1761, and it further states that the church structure was completed in 1769. It is known that the Capuchin Vicar-General, Father Dagobert, directed that a church be established in this area in 1769. Records show that St. Gabriel Church was dismantled and moved to its present site in 1772.

The area served by this church is one which was heavily settled by French Acadians who came to this area from Maryland as early as 1758. They had brought their church records with them from their parish of Minas in Nova Scotia, records dating from 1707 to about 1755. These records were later turned over to the parish priest of St. Gabriel. The records are now at St. Louis Cathedral in New Orleans. The new home of the Acadians was under French control when they began to arrive, and so it is probable that other Frenchmen lived in this area. However, records show that the original site of the church structure was upriver from the present site. This would place it nearer Bayou Manchac and thus also serving the Spanish at Fort Manchac and the English at Fort Bute.

The church was dismantled in 1772 and moved to its present location, a Spanish land grant that dates from 1772-1773 and the administration of Governor Unzaga. This places it in Township 9, South Range I East, Southeastern District of Louisiana, East of Mississippi River Section 30, and some fourteen miles southeast of Baton Rouge. The old St. Gabriel Church has been moved back from the Mississippi River four times. Small pieces of the original grant have been sold on at least three different occasions.

By 1773 the Church had been dedicated and placed under the invocation of St. Gabriel the Archangel. The silver bell in the church--which has since been moved to the new 1953 church structure--was a gift of Queen Maria Louisa of Spain and bears the inscription Santa Maria de la Merced, opora pro nobis Se Hiso Commendados MRPI--Ygnacio de Jesus Maria ano de 1768.

The early church parish was known as the Parish of St. Gabriel and St. Bernard of Manchak, the Church of St. Bernard having been at Galveztown. The civil district had already been designated, and the name of the explorer Iberville assigned to it--this Manchac area had also been

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- (1) Archives, Catholic Life Center, Baton Rouge, La.
- (2) Roger Boudier, "The Catholic Church in Louisiana"
- (3) Roger Boudier, "St. Gabriel in Iberville 1773-1953" pamphlet written for dedication of new St. Gabriel Church, 1953.
- (4) Guide to Vital Statistics of Church Arvhives in La. Vol. 2 WPA project 1940.
- (5) Albert Grace "Heart of the Sugar Bowl" 1928
- (6) Greek Revival Architrcture' by Talbot Hamlin 1944
- (7) A Thesis by V. M Scramuzza, 1924 Louisiana State University

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES				
CORNER	LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	30°	15'	18"	91°	06'	17"			
NE	30°	15'	12"	91°	05'	47"			
SE	30°	15'	10"	91°	05'	45"			
SW	30°	06'	16"	91°	06'	16"			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **37.65 acres**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Mrs. Oscar Richard and Mr. Eugene J. LeBlanc, Co-Chairmen

ORGANIZATION: **Restoration Committee Old St. Gabriel Church** DATE: **May 23, 1972**

STREET AND NUMBER:
Route #1

CITY OR TOWN: **Sunshine** STATE: **Louisiana (70780)** CODE: **022**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name: George M. Leake
 Title: Chairman, Louisiana Historical Preservation and Cultural Commission

Date: June 12, 1972

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

Robert Van Ytter
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 11/27/72

ATTEST:
William H. Hunt
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: 11-21-72

N 15 / 683030 / 3348320
 N 15 / 683100 / 3348370
 N 15 / 683100 / 3348370
 N 15 / 683100 / 3348370
 SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation of *Sheet*)

NOV 7 1972



STATE	
COUNTY	
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ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
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(Number all entries)

8. Significance (cont'd)

called the Iberville Coast--so that this was one of the few early government districts which did not take the name of the Church parish. This Iberville coast, stretching six leagues on each bank of the Mississippi River, eventually became Iberville Parish.

The first baptism record available for the St. Gabriel Church is dated April 22, 1773, and the first marriage record is from January 1, 1773. They were recorded by Father Angel (Angelus) de Revillagodas, a Spanish Capuchin who was at the church at Donaldsonville, a few miles down the Mississippi River. While Father Angel visited St. Gabriel sporadically for several years, it was not until August, 1779, that the French Capuchin, Father Valentin, became the first resident pastor. During the period 1859-1865, Father Cyril De la Croix was the pastor. While at St. Patrick's in New Orleans, De la Croix had founded the first Conference of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul in the south (1852-1853).

Another prominent pastor was Bishop Jean Marius Laval. A native of France, Bishop Laval studied in New Orleans and assisted at St. Joseph's Church in Baton Rouge before assuming his first pastorate, that of St. Gabriel. Bishop Laval was at St. Gabriel from 1884 to 1890. He was Vicar-General for 39 years under four Archbishops, the longest period on record in the history of the See of New Orleans, and was the first Bishop from the Diocese of New Orleans to celebrate the 25th anniversary of his consecration as a Bishop.

The Church parish was incorporated by an act of the State Legislature on March 13, 1818, as the Congregation of the Roman Catholic Church in the Parish of St. Gabriel at Iberville. In 1828 Rev. Eugent Michaud, then pastor of the Church, founded St. Gabriel's College for Boys. When the Jesuits came into that section of the state in 1837, they were asked to take over the college, but because of some defect in the title, they decided instead to establish St. Charles College in Grand Coteau. The College was a drain on St. Gabriel for several years, and was finally abandoned and the building used as the rectory after 1848. In 1894 Father Raymond bought a house with his own funds to be used as the rectory, and that was replaced in 1958 when a new house was built.

For many years the Catholic churches in Louisiana had been under a system of ownership by the parish with a Board of Wardens known as the Fabrique. It was not until the middle of the 19th century that many parish priests were able to persuade their churches to turn their property over to the archdiocese. Thus it was on January 3, 1852, that the corporation of St. Gabriel Church sold its property to the archbishop. The Church property was apparently sold again on May 23, 1881, this time for taxes, and was bought back by the Archbishop. The congregation was rechartered by the State in August, 1894, and two years later the diocese sold the property back to that corporation.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
COUNTY	
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(Number all entries)

8. Significance (cont'd) No. 2

At least four chapels were established under the direction of St. Gabriel Church: St. Raphael and St. Paul's in the Bayou Goula area, a St. Rose, and the St. John the Evangelist Church in Plaquemine.

Many famous people were parishioners in this historic Church. Paul Hebert, Governor of Louisiana 1853-1856, was a member of the parish of St. Raphael, a chapel of St. Gabriel until 1888.

Pierre Joseph Landry's headstone in the St. Gabriel cemetery bears the inscription "Born at St. Malo Jan. 9, 1770, died at St. Gabriel March 1843--A good Republican, who is missed by his friends, his wife and nine children. Whose good morals were necessary." Mr. Landry began to carve or sculpt in wood after an accident kept him from his active duties on his plantation. One of his famous carvings, "The Wheel of Life," is displayed in the Presbytere, Louisiana State Museum, in New Orleans. A bust of Andrew Jackson is at the Hermitage in Nashville, Tennessee, and a carving of the Holy Family is owned by one of his descendants, Mrs. Josie Landry Stirling of Wakefield, Louisiana. Many other carvings are believed to exist.

Another famous person who was buried in St. Gabriel was Charles B. Dakin, a famous architect from New York. He and his brother, James Harrison Dakin, are mentioned in Greek Revival Architecture in America by Talbot Hamlin. Charles came to New Orleans with James Gallier as his partner in 1834. They were joined by Charles' brother, James, in 1835. Many buildings in New Orleans were designed by this firm. Charles left the firm and went to Mobile where he designed many structures. He died at the age of 28 and was buried in St. Gabriel's cemetery in June, 1839. His tombstone reads:

Husband,
 I needs must mourn for thee
 Tis ever thus, with all thats best below
 The dearest, noblest, lovliest are
 always first to go.
 He went amid these glorious things of earth,
 transient as glorious.

This inscription is in English, which contrasts with the French inscriptions on most of the other tombstones of that time.



Form 10-301
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE	
COUNTY	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
NOV 27 1972	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: St. Gabriel Church
AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

$\frac{1}{2}$ mile south of Highway 74 and 75 intersection on Highway 75

CITY OR TOWN:

St. Gabriel

STATE:

Louisiana

CODE

022

COUNTY:

Iberville

CODE

047

3. MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE:

SCALE:

DATE:

4. REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. Property boundaries where required.
2. North arrow.
3. Latitude and longitude reference.

LOCATION MAP - ST. GABRIEL CHURCH

OLD
NEW

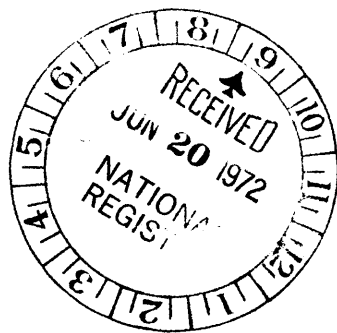


HIGHWAY 30
INDIAN CENTRAL RAILROAD

HIGHWAY 75

ST. GABRIEL

29



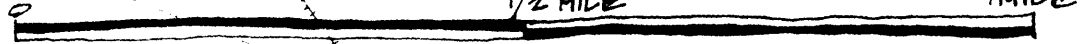
30

90

31



SCALE



Latitude 30° 15'
Longitude ~~90~~ 91° 06'

MISSISSIPPI RIVER

LEVEE