

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

JUL 03 1989

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

NATIONAL
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Kings Highway Christian Church
other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 806 Kings Highway N/A not for publication
city, town Shreveport N/A vicinity
state Louisiana code LA county Caddo code 017 zip code 71104

3. Classification

| | | | |
|---------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------|
| Ownership of Property | Category of Property | Number of Resources within Property | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) | Contributing | Noncontributing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> public-local | <input type="checkbox"/> district | <u>1</u> | _____ buildings |
| <input type="checkbox"/> public-State | <input type="checkbox"/> site | _____ | _____ sites |
| <input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal | <input type="checkbox"/> structure | _____ | _____ structures |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> object | _____ | _____ objects |
| | | <u>1</u> | <u>0</u> Total |

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Leslie P. Tassin June 29, 1989
Signature of certifying official Leslie P. Tassin, State Historic Preservation Date
Officer, Dept of Culture, Recreation and Tourism
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain:)

Leslie P. Tassin 8/7/89
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)
RELIGION/religious structure

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)
RELIGION/religious structure

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

Mixed

Early Christian

Italian Romanesque

Italian Renaissance

Byzantine

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete

walls brick

roof tile

other terra cotta

marble

tile

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Kings Highway Christian Church is a brick basilican plan building with a side wing, tower, and forward projecting pavilion. It is located south of downtown Shreveport at the intersection of two major thoroughfares. The architecture represents a combination of various early Italian styles, and although the complex was designed all of a piece, only the church was completed in 1925. The remainder was built along the lines of the original design in 1951-52, although it is not identical (see enclosed architect's rendering). There is also a rear school wing dating from 1969. The various additions do not pose an integrity problem because the 1951-52 construction complements the original very well and the school wing is to the rear.

The church and its appendages form a "C" shape around a landscaped court open towards the front. This gives an agreeable, picturesque composition which is more in line with the look of a Mediterranean villa than an Italian church complex of the first millennium. The church itself is a cruciform basilica with a six bay nave and an elevated gable roof which provides for extra height over the crossing. The apse is circumscribed by a polygonal ambulatory.

According to older church members who knew the architect, Samuel Wiener, the church design was derived from several genuine Italian Early Christian and Romanesque churches he had visited recently.

Early Christian features of the Kings Highway Church include:

1. The tower-less gabled facade with its five round arch windows in the clerestory.
2. The shape of the nave with its outward projecting aisles under shed roofs and its simple clerestory.
3. The great round arches which define the transept and separate the nave from the apse.
4. The relatively low pitched roof with its open decorative trusswork on the interior.

Italian Romanesque features of the design include:

See continuation sheet

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Continuation Sheet**

Kings Highway Christian Church, Shreveport, Caddo Parish, LA

Section number 7 Page 1

1. The heavy blind arcading which trims the roof and the raised portion of the roof over the transept. Each of these brick arches features a different decorative infill treatment ranging from troweled stucco, to herringbone brick, to tilework.
2. The use of double, round arch windows on the sides of the clerestory.
3. The use of contrasting polychromy voussoirs on major arched openings both inside and out. This effect is created by periodically interrupting brick arch voussoirs with limestone-looking concrete block inserts.
4. The use of a protruding polygonal apse and ambulatory.
5. The front single bay gabled arched entrance which rests upon free-standing columns.
6. The interior walls which feature decorative marble blocks and insignias and numerous polychromatic horizontal brick bands. This treatment may have been inspired by the copious marble banding, paneling, and other ornamentation found on real Italian Romanesque churches.

Other early Italian styles are also found in the Kings Highway Church. These include a touch of the Renaissance, which can be seen in aisle windows which feature a double arch with a single oculus, all of which is enclosed within a larger arched opening. More significantly, the church also features a good measure of provincial Byzantine architecture, which can be seen in the copious horizontal bands of brick corners which enliven the exterior. Other Byzantine inspired features are the lacy block capitals on the front entrance columns and the similarly shaped unornamented pier impost blocks in the nave.

In addition to the previously described elaborate brickwork effects, walls are enriched with diapering, colored tile and pieces of marble. The sum total is a rich, highly textured polychromatic effect. The roof is hung with red pantile, which adds to the church's overall Italian flavor.

Alterations:

The 1951-52 additions complement the original building because they were built along similar lines to the original design for the complex. Although quite good, the bricklaying is not as intricate as the original. The complex also has a 1969 wing in a more modern style, but this is set to the rear and is not visible from any of the principal views.

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Continuation Sheet

Kings Highway Christian Church, Shreveport, Caddo Parish, LA
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RENDERED PERSPECTIVE SHOWING FINAL DEVELOPMENT
KINGS HIGHWAY CHRISTIAN CHURCH, SHREVEPORT, LA.
JONES, ROSSILE, OLSCHNER & WIENER, ARCHITECTS
(See plan on back)

The American Architect
April 20, 1927

Rendering showing proposed development for Kings Highway Christian Church

337 638

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)
architecture

Period of Significance
1925

Significant Dates
1925

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Significant Person
N/A

Architect/Builder
1925 church: Jones, Roessle, Olschner, & Wiener, architects
1951-52 additions: Julian Sokoloski, architect

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

Kings Highway Christian Church is locally significant as an outstanding example of the eclectic architectural tendencies of the early twentieth century within the context of the City of Shreveport. It is also locally noteworthy for its superb brickwork.

Early twentieth century eclectic architecture has its roots in the French Beaux Arts system. In the nineteenth century, students at the Ecole des Beaux Arts were taught to work in a variety of historical styles with a fair degree of accuracy. Quotation from well known monuments of the past in new designs was taken as a sign of cultivation rather than poverty of invention. This spirit of learnedly imitating the past came to America in the later nineteenth century in the form of academic schools of architecture, professional publications, and a more discriminating clientele. Increasingly, clients were demanding designs in this or that particular historical style. Of course, some of this was a natural desire for more order in architecture after the chaotic excesses of the Queen Anne Revival.

Early twentieth century eclectic architecture predominates in Shreveport. Historically the state's second largest city, Shreveport grew significantly during the early decades of this century as the focus of a regional oil boom. Its urban flowering coincided with the vogue for academic eclectic architecture.

The Kings Highway Church is conspicuous among Shreveport's vast collection of early twentieth century eclectic buildings due to the following factors:

1. It is a very unusual choice of inspiration, being derived almost entirely from Italian architecture of the period c.400 to c.1200. Virtually all other eclectic buildings in Shreveport feature some form of neo-classical, Gothic, Mission, "Tudor," or other more conventional styling. As far as the State Historic Preservation Office is aware, the Kings Highway Church is the only early Italian style building in the city.

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Cornerstones

Communication with Charles A. Ravenna, Jr., Church Historian. The church has various records, including the architect's specifications and drawings.

The American Architect, April 20, 1927. Contains photos of the church as well as a rendering showing the projected final development of the complex.

See continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS): N/A

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository:

Kings Highway Christian Church

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property @ 1 1/2 acres

UTM References

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Zone Easting Northing

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description Please refer to enclosed tax assessor's map. The parcel of land owned by the church is comprised of lots 10-22, Block A, Colonial Hill, Shreveport.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification Boundary lines follow property lines.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title National Register staff

organization Division of Historic Preservation date May 1989

street & number P. O. Box 44247 telephone (504) 342-8160

city or town Baton Rouge state Louisiana zip code 70804

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Kings Highway Christian Church, Shreveport, Caddo Parish, LA

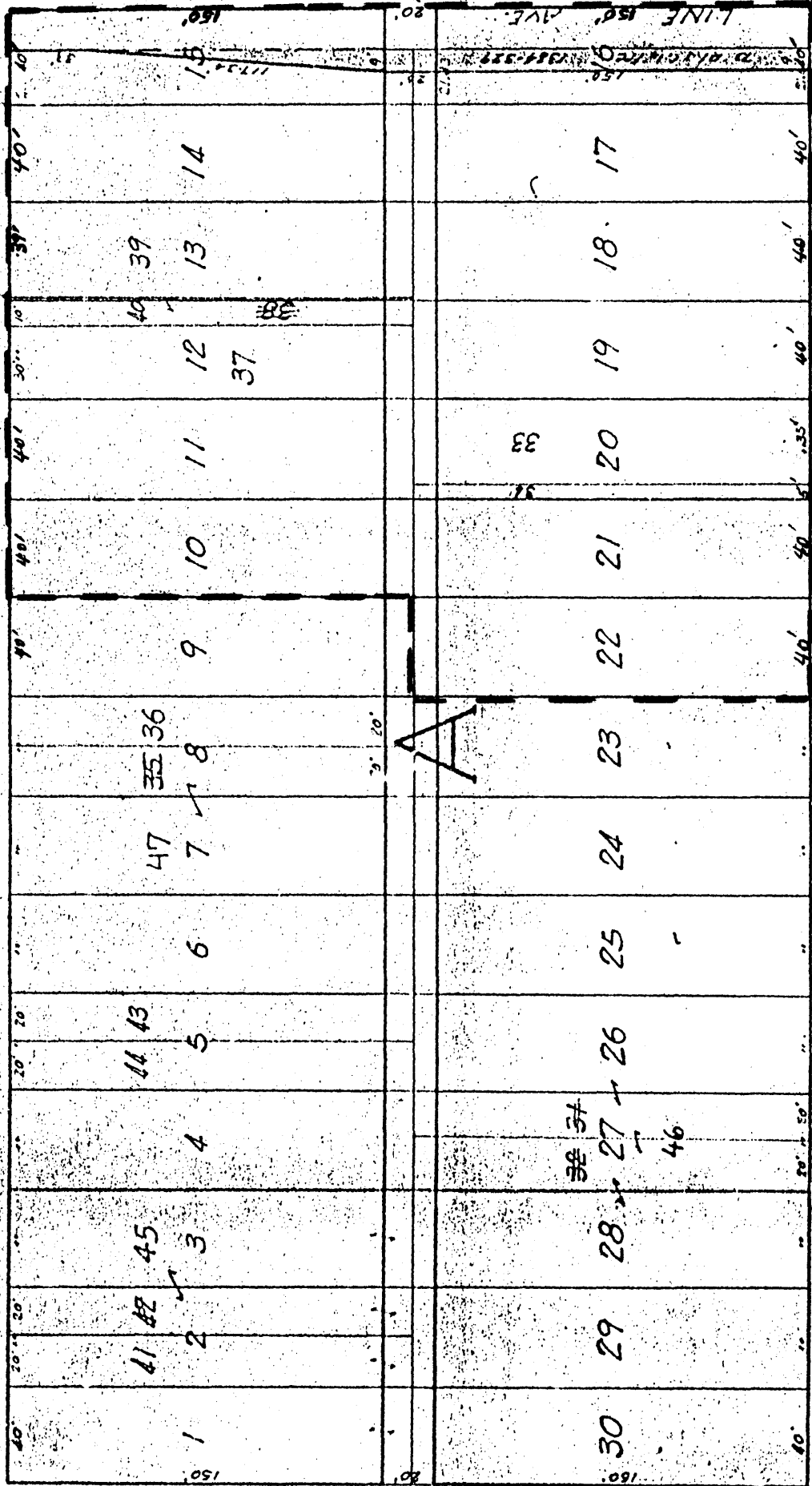
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2. The church design is very sophisticated in that it combines four somewhat different architectural traditions into a cohesive convincing whole with a strong architectural character of its own.

Besides being a landmark in Shreveport's twentieth century eclectic architectural heritage, Kings Highway Christian Church has outstanding brickwork. With its copious use of diapering, brick corner courses, inserted tiles, and polychromatic voussoirs, the church is one of the two or three most elaborately crafted brick structures in Shreveport.

RUTHERFORD
~~RICHARDSON~~

ST.



AVE.

THORNHILL
WASHINGTON

KINGS

HIGHWAY

Kings Highway Christian Church
Shreveport, Caddo Parish, LA

Lots 10, 11, 12, 13, 14 + 15 + 16, 17, 18,
19, 20, 21, 22

Block "A"

Caddo Parish, LA

1" = 60'

