United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received AUG 2 8 1984

date entered SEP 27 1984

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Holy Trinity Catholic Church

and or common Same

2. Location

street & number 315 Marshall Street   N/A not for publication

city, town Shreveport   N/A vicinity of

state LA   code 22   xparish   Caddo   code 017

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Congregation of the Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church of the Parish of Caddo, LA

street & number P. O. Box 144   (Father O'Hanlon)   (318) 221-5990

city, town Shreveport   N/A vicinity of   state LA 71161-0144

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc.   Caddo Parish Courthouse

street & number 500 Texas Street

city, town Shreveport   state LA 71101

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

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

date 1984   ___ federal _X_ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records   LA State Historic Preservation Office

city, town Baton Rouge   state LA

7. Description

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church (1896) is a four-bay Romanesque Revival basilica constructed of brick with terra-cotta and concrete trim. It is located in downtown Shreveport. Alterations to the building since construction have been relatively minimal.

Although the Romanesque style predominates in the church, there are also some Gothic elements.

Romanesque features include:

1. The clear articulation of interior spaces on the exterior. This is particularly evident in the three apses and the two round frontal towers which are almost free-standing.

2. The massive and somewhat horizontal character of the building.

3. The extensive use of round arches.

4. The use of short columns and colonnettes with foliated capitals.

5. The conical tower tops.

6. The blind arcades around the towers which rest upon free-standing columns.

7. The corbel tables.

8. The use of gable parapets.

9. The nave with its round, ribbed, plaster vaults.

Gothic features include:

1. The four large rose windows.

2. The use of buttresses; the frontal towers are connected to the nave by flying buttresses.

3. The use of rooftop pinnacles.

4. The use of quatrefoil panels around the frontal towers.

5. The roof vents with their foil-shaped openings.

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7. Description (cont'd)

     The richly carved Byzantine-Romanesque marble main altar dates from 1912. The salvaged Victorian Gothic side altars were installed c.1960. There are a few 1896 stained glass windows in the front of the church, but most of the stained glass dates from the teens and '20's. The previously mentioned rose windows, whose modern style glass dates from the 1950's, are the only major exception to this. Most of the decorative interior paintwork dates from the 1940's. The present three sets of entrance doors also date from the 1940's. Other changes include the installation of small screens in the main apse and the walling in of a single bay in each of the side aisles. These two alterations are hardly noticeable. In 1984 the interior pillars were marbleized and the decorative paintwork was re-done.

8. Significance

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)   Criterion C

    Holy Trinity Church is of statewide significance in the area of architecture because it is one of Louisiana's most elaborate and most consistently styled examples of Romanesque Revival ecclesiastical architecture. There are numerous large older churches in the state which have some Romanesque elements. But in most cases these are limited to round arches and shallow blind arcading along the roofline. More often than not these elements are mixed with Renaissance, Baroque, and Gothic features so as to defy stylistic categorization. Holy Trinity is one of very few churches in the state where Romanesque features overwhelmingly predominate. Also, as far as the State Historic Preservation Office can determine, it is one of the two most elaborate examples in the state. Unusual features in this regard include its three distinct apses and its use of free-standing frontal towers with conical tops. Moreover, Holy Trinity is thought to be the only Romanesque Revival church with blind arcading which rests upon free-standing columns.

Historical Note: (excerpted from historical sketch prepared by applicant)

    In 1857 Father John Pierre oversaw construction of the first Holy Trinity Church. This frame structure on Milam Street was superceded in 1858 by a new brick church located on the present site.

    Father Pierre's work in Shreveport continued until his untimely death during the yellow fever epidemic of 1873. This period of crisis presented the greatest challenge to the fledgling Catholic community. In the course of less than four weeks in September and October of 1873 five Catholic priests and two nuns died during their efforts to aid the stricken Shreveport populace.

    The second pastor of the Holy Trinity Catholic Church was Father Joseph Gentille. He came to Shreveport at the conclusion of the yellow fever epidemic in December of 1873. Father Gentille was not only pastor of Holy Trinity, but all of Caddo, Webster and Claiborne parishes as well. Father Gentille also began the initial preparations for a new church building by raising funds and consulting with architects. Unfortunately he died on October 15, 1895 before he could see his goal come to fruition.

    Father Gentille's successor was Father Sebastian B. Scharl, who previously had been pastor in Pineville. It was during his tenure, on September 28, 1896, that the cornerstone of the present structure was laid. The church was dedicated on October 1, 1899. It was designed by Galveston architect J. M. Clayton, whose other Louisiana works include Holy Cross Episcopal Church in Shreveport and St. Francis Xavier Cathedral in Alexandria.

9. Major Bibliographical References

*Plauche, J. V. A Brief History of Holy Trinity Church, Shreveport, La, and of the Catholic Church in Northwest Louisiana. All Saints Day, 1946.

*This history is based upon research in such primary sources as church records, pastor's diaries, etc.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property ___@3/4ths of an acre___
Quadrangle name _North Highlands_, LA   Quadrangle scale _1:24000_

UTM References

A |1|5| |4|2|9|4|8|0| |3|5|9|7|5|0|0| B |__| |__|__|__|__| |__|__|__|__|
  Zone Easting   Northing   Zone Easting   Northing

C |__| |__|__|__|__| |__|__|__|__| D |__| |__|__|__|__| |__|__|__|__|

E |__| |__|__|__|__| |__|__|__|__| F |__| |__|__|__|__| |__|__|__|__|

G |__| |__|__|__|__| |__|__|__|__| H |__| |__|__|__|__| |__|__|__|__|

Verbal boundary description and justification For precise boundaries, see attached scale plat map. Boundaries were chosen to take in the church and most of the lot on which it stands. The southern corner of the lot was left out in order to exclude the much altered, nondescript c.1930 parsonage. In our opinion, the parsonage does not contribute to the architectural significance of the church in any way.

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	National Register Staff Division of Historic Preservation	ASSISTED BY FATHER WILLIAM O'HANLON, PASTOR, HOLY TRINITY AND
organization	State of Louisiana	date July 1984 LAWRENCE W. PETTIETTE, JR. P. O. Drawer 1126 Shreveport, LA 71163
street & number	P. O. Box 44247	telephone (504)342-6682 (318) 221-6858
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   _X_ 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 Aug. 21. 84

For NPS use only

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

Keeper of the National Register   Entered in the National Register date 9-27-84

Attest: date

Chief of Registration