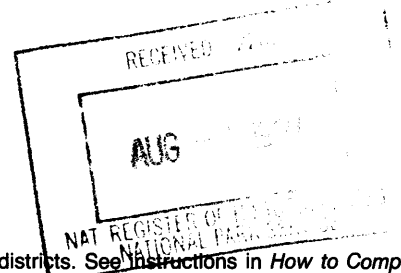


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name St. Maurice Methodist Church

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number LA HWY 477 at U.S. HWY 71 N/A not for publication

city or town St. Maurice N/A vicinity

state Louisiana code LA county Winn code 127 zip code 71457

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Gerri Hobdy 7/23/97
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

LA SHPO, Dept of Culture, Recreation and Tourism
State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:	Signature of the Keeper	Date of Action
<input type="checkbox"/> entered in the National Register. <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined eligible for the National Register <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined not eligible for the National Register.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> removed from the National Register.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> other, (explain:)	_____	_____

St. Maurice Methodist Church
Name of Property

Winn Parish, LA
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Religion/religious facility

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Religion/religious facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

no style

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete
walls weatherboard
roof metal
other

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

St. Maurice Methodist Church, Winn Parish, LA

Section number 7 Page 1

The St. Maurice Methodist Church (1874) is an unstyled frame country church located in the tiny rural hamlet of St. Maurice. The community consists of a handful of buildings scattered along U. S. Highway 71 and Louisiana Highway 477. The well-preserved church is located at the juncture of these two two-lane roads and is a hundred or so feet from both. Integral to the setting is an historically related cemetery located immediately to the rear of the church.

The simple, pitched roof, gable fronted building's dominant exterior feature is a central one-stage entrance tower with a pyramidal roof crowned by a cross. The tower combined with the relatively steep pitch of the main block produces a very vertical building, especially when viewed head on. The tower and main block are sheathed in medium gauge weatherboards held in place by square nails. The building's caretaker, J. E. Jones, the grandson of the builder, indicates that the frame is of pegged construction. The present tin roof replaced what was originally a wood shake roof. The main block and tower feature corner boards, and the side elevations of the main block have an entablature-like band which wraps around the front and rear to form crude gable end returns. Four evenly spaced square head, nine over nine windows pierce the side elevations, while identical windows, one on each side, pierce the rear elevation. The tower, at the first story, has a narrow six over six window on each side (two panes wide). Narrow vented openings accent the front and sides at the second story level. The tower entrance retains its original double doors with a multi-pane transom above. Exterior alterations have been minimal, being confined to the following: the c.1940 replacement of the building's original wood piers with concrete blocks, the c.1940 replacement of wooden steps with concrete steps, the partial closing of two windows for air conditioner units, and the recent installation of a handicap access ramp on the rear elevation. One also suspects that the rear door opening is not original; the door itself is clearly modern.

St. Maurice's simple, stark interior is typical of churches of this type in Louisiana. The interior is very well preserved, including the original pews, altar rail, and lecterns. The walls and vaulted ceiling are sheathed in flush boards. There is no attempt at adornment or decoration. Window surrounds are formed of plain boards. On some windows the frame is two boards wide, and on some one board wide. The handmade rigid-looking pews are held together with square nails. The simple altar rail is formed of vertical boards with a few inches between each (in the manner of a balustrade). The three paneled lecterns are located on a three-stage platform. The only noteworthy interior alteration is the loss of the original doorway from the tower vestibule to the sanctuary. Originally identical to the main entrance, its multi-pane transom has been removed and replaced with boards, and the doors are modern. According to long-time members of the church, the building historically was heated with a pot-bellied stove located in the center aisle. A

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**United States Department of the Interior
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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

St. Maurice Methodist Church, Winn Parish, LA

Section number 7 Page 2

modern ceiling vent marks where its stovepipe was removed. St. Maurice was lit by kerosene lamps until the 1950s when electricity was introduced. One or two of the kerosene lamp hooks remain on the walls.

Immediately to the rear of the church is its small historically associated cemetery surrounded by a chain-link fence. The earliest grave dates to 1879. While a headstone-by-headstone survey was not done, it is clear that the cemetery has a mixed historic/modern character. Per a consultation with the Register staff in Washington, the cemetery is being included as part of the setting but is not being included in the count of resources.

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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 # _____

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

architecture

Period of Significance

1874

Significant Dates

1874

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Builder: John E. Jones

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

St. Maurice Methodist Church
Name of Property

Winn Parish, LA
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property approx 7.5 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1 5	5 0 3 9 8 0	3 5 1 3 6 0 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing
2			

3			
	Zone	Easting	Northing
4			

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title National Register Staff

organization Division of Historic Preservation date May 1997

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

city or town Baton Rouge state LA zip code 70804

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name St. Maurice Methodist Church

c/o J. E. Jones

street & number 8538 Highway 71 telephone 318-356-9325

city or town Natchitoches state LA zip code 71457

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

St. Maurice Methodist Church, Winn Parish, LA

Section number 8 Page 1

The St. Maurice Methodist Church is locally significant in the area of architecture because it is a rare surviving example of an important North Louisiana building type.

The building is a well preserved example of a simple frame country church. As such, it represents a local North Louisiana unpretentious building tradition associated with the settlement patterns of the region. Distinctively different from the older French Catholic southern part of the state, the parishes in northern Louisiana were settled in the 1840s and '50s by Anglo-Saxon Baptists and Methodists migrating westward from the Upland South. The man who built St. Maurice Methodist Church, John E. Jones, was from Georgia. According to family tradition, he was on his way west when he was asked to stay a while at St. Maurice and build a church. The church he built was for the first few years known as the Independence Church because it was interdenominational. In 1887 the church joined the Methodist Conference. As an aside, Jones decided to stay; he is buried in the church's cemetery.

The region he chose to call home was characterized by small farms and disbursed settlement patterns. Churches typically were located in remote rural settings or small hamlets. In 1874, when St. Maurice was built, the nearest town of any size was Natchitoches, located about 10 miles to the west. From an architectural standpoint, North Louisiana's rural churches are known for their simple, unadorned, often quite stark character, whether they be from the 1870s (the date of the earliest surviving examples) or the very early years of this century. The typical surviving example is a rectangular, pitched roof, gable end building of frame construction with little in the way of decorative detailing (i.e., St. Maurice Methodist but without the tower).

While they were scattered across North Louisiana historically, churches of the type described above are now rare survivors. Although the region has not been surveyed in its entirety, several parishes have been surveyed under contract to the State Historic Preservation Office. These surveys combined with staff knowledge reveal that there are most likely only 15 to 20 examples remaining in the several parish region.

For the most part, churches of this type have been the victim of population shifts. In rural, often remote locations, they no longer had congregations large enough to support them by the 1950s and '60s. And, of course, once vacant, a building's future is very insecure. Those that have managed to survive are generally not in full-time use, but have an active and dedicated support group and are used occasionally, with the most popular event being an annual homecoming with dinner on the grounds.

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**United States Department of the Interior
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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

St. Maurice Methodist Church, Winn Parish, LA
Section number 8 Page 2

St. Maurice Methodist is fortunate because services are still held there every Sunday, although the congregation is small. Many of the seventeen members of this well-preserved church, the only one the congregation has ever known, are descendants of the builder.

POSSIBLE ADDITIONAL AREA OF SIGNIFICANCE

St. Maurice Methodist Church served as a public school early in its history (according to oral tradition from 1874 to 1923). Such public-private partnerships in education were common in Louisiana. While it is known that a school existed at the church, there is insufficient information at the present time to claim significance in the area of education.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

St. Maurice Methodist Church, Winn Parish, LA
Section number 9 Page 1

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Interview with J. E. Jones, grandson of the builder. Mr. Jones, age 70, has been a member of St. Maurice Church since he was 13.

Deed recorded August 27, 1887 wherein Mrs. N. M. Strong donated to St. Maurice Church the land upon which the building was located. Refers to "that portion of property now occupied by the church building and graveyard." Copy in National Register file, Louisiana Division of Historic Preservation.

Survey data on various North Louisiana parishes on file in Louisiana Division of Historic Preservation.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

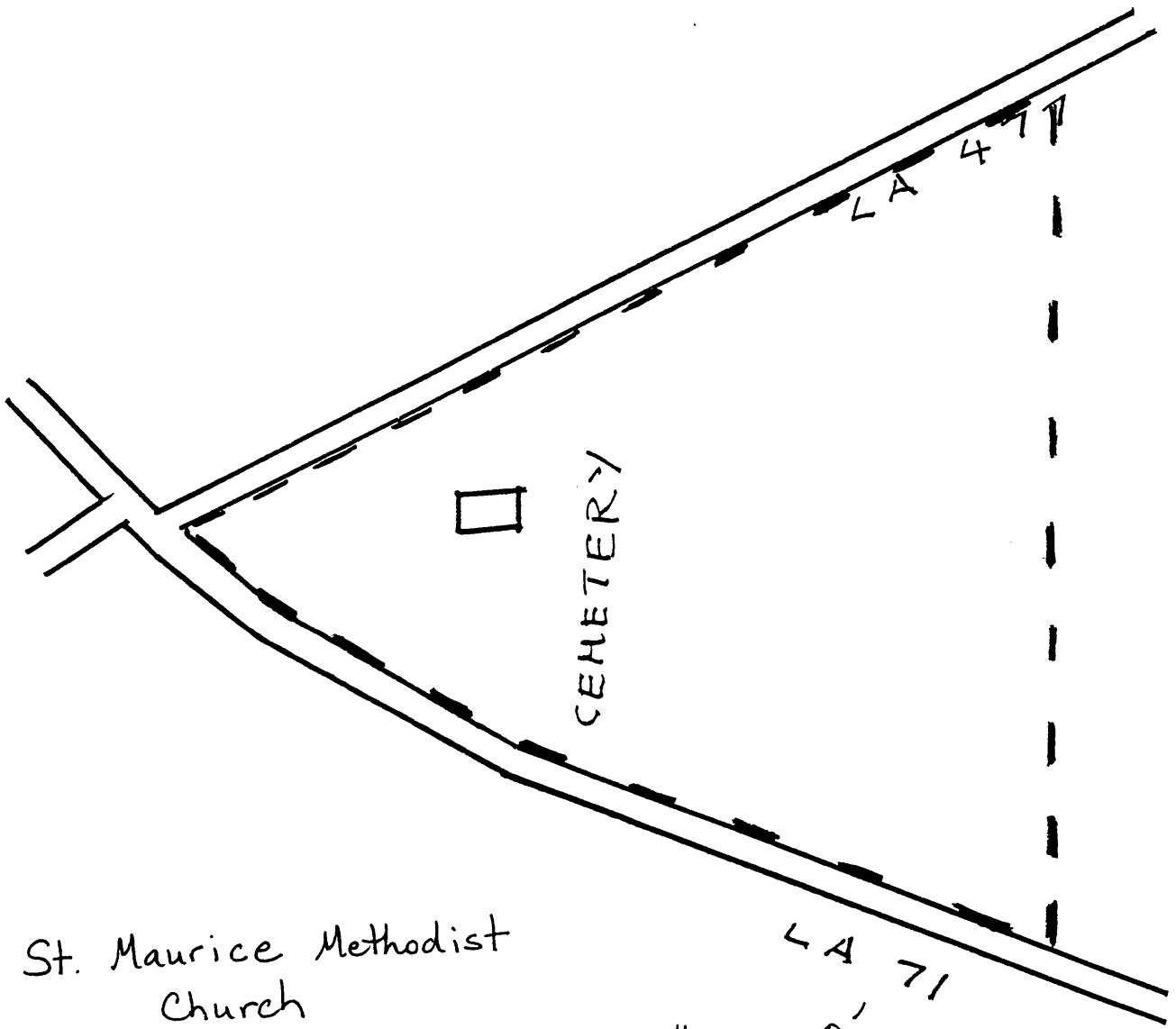
St. Maurice Methodist Church, Winn Parish, LA

Section number 10 Page 1

Boundary Description: See attached sketch map.

Justification: Boundaries were chosen to encompass the church and its historically associated cemetery. The nominated area is approximately 7.5 acres of the 15 acre parcel owned by the church. The remainder of the acreage is timberland to the rear of the cemetery.

1M



St. Maurice Methodist
Church
Winn Parish, LA

1" = 180'

--- BOUNDARY