

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

For NPS use only

received SEP 6 1984

date entered OCT 4 1984

**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 Walnut Creek Baptist Church

and or common same

2. Location

street & number ~~@ 1 1/2 miles nw of Simsboro on Lincoln Parish Rd. #3~~ ^{off I-20} N/A not for publication

city, town Simsboro vicinity of

state LA code 22 county Lincoln Parish code 061

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 type="checkbox"/> government
	N/A being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Walnut Creek Baptist Church Cemetery Association 318-368-2262

C. B. Jones, Chairman

street & number Route 1, Box 256

city, town Farmerville N/A vicinity of state LA 71241

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Lincoln Parish Courthouse

street & number Trenton Street (no specific address) P. O. Box 924

city, town Ruston state LA 71270

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

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

date 1984 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date <u> N/A </u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Walnut Creek Baptist Church (c.1870) is a four-bay, gable roof, wooden meeting hall located in a pastoral setting in western Lincoln Parish. The building has been little altered in the past fifty years and hence easily retains its National Register eligibility.

The church is raised about two feet above grade on small boulders. It features six over six windows and raised panel doors. The building's only exterior decoration is its gable end returns. The interior walls and ceiling feature a board and batten treatment. A polygonal, stepped platform, known as the "pulpit," was moved to its present location at the south side of the church c.1900. (It originally was at the north end.) It features three richly paneled and molded lecterns which appear to be original to the church. In 1918 these lecterns were given a somewhat raw and primitive false marbling treatment with gray and blue the dominant colors. Also in 1918 the old exterior shutters were removed. The only more recent change the building has undergone is the installation of new wood flooring over the original floors.

Assessment of Integrity:

In our opinion the marbleizing of the lecterns is an asset to the church. Other changes such as moving the "pulpit," the removal of the shutters, and the re-flooring should be regarded as minor.

Adjacent to the church is a sizable historically associated cemetery which has been in use since the 1860's. It is listed as a contributing element.

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/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates c.1870, 1918 **Builder/Architect** Builder: Walnut Creek Baptist Church

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph) Criterion C

The Walnut Creek Baptist Church is locally significant in the area of architecture because it is a rare surviving example of an important North Louisiana building type. It is locally significant in the area of art because of its very unusual false marbling.

The Walnut Creek Baptist Church is a well-preserved example of an austere mid to late nineteenth century country frame church. It represents a local North Louisiana unpretentious building tradition. Architecturally speaking, churches of this ilk should be regarded as remote descendants of provincial Greek Revival temple form churches. They are generally associated with the Methodist and Baptist sects and represent a building type which is a vital part of the material culture of the Upland South.

But it is an archetype which is rapidly disappearing. Because these churches are in rural locations, many are no longer actively used and hence face an uncertain future. Many are already gone. Although there is no exact count or survey to indicate how many churches of this type there once were across northern Louisiana, it is reasonable to assume that many rural communities had them. But today, for example, there are probably fewer than ten remaining examples in the nine parishes in the eastern half of North Louisiana.*

The Walnut Creek Baptist Church is also architecturally important within the context of Lincoln Parish because it is one of the parish's two or three oldest structures. Almost all of Lincoln Parish's older buildings date from the post-1890 period.

The church is also locally significant because of the false marbling on the lecterns. It represents a vernacular interpretation of what was then a dying art. Although it lacks the polish of high style marbling, it has a peculiar intensity which can be seen as indicative of the folk mindset. It is certainly a very unusual work of architectural embellishment. The State Historic Preservation Office is not aware of another comparable example in the nine parish area in the eastern half of North Louisiana.

*This figure covers the following parishes: Madison, East & West Carroll, Ouachita, Jackson, Richland, Union, Lincoln and Morehouse. It is based upon a windshield survey of East Carroll and Madison Parishes, comprehensive surveys of Union and Lincoln Parishes, and general knowledge of the remaining areas on the part of the staff of the State Historic Preservation Office.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Louisiana Historic Standing Structures Survey Files, LA State Historic Preservation Office.
Historical information supplied by the applicant. Copy in Register file, LA State Historic Preservation Office.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property @ 30 acres

Quadrangle name Arcadia, LA

Quadrangle scale 1: 62500

UTM References

A

1	5	5	1	7	9	0	0	3	6	0	1	7	5	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

B

1	5	5	1	8	4	2	5	3	6	0	1	7	5	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

C

1	5	5	1	8	4	2	5	3	6	0	1	3	5	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

D

1	5	5	1	7	9	0	0	3	6	0	1	3	5	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

E

Zone	Easting				Northing									

F

Zone	Easting				Northing									

G

Zone	Easting				Northing									

H

Zone	Easting				Northing									

Verbal boundary description and justification

See continuation sheet and map.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
N/A			

state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title	National Register Staff	Assisted by	Vera Jones
organization	State of Louisiana	date	July 1984
street & number	P. O. Box 44247	telephone	504-342-6682
city or town	Baton Rouge	state	LA 70804
			Route 1, Box 270 Simsboro, LA 71275 318-247-3201

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 National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature



Robert B. DeBlieux

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date August 30, 1984

For NPS use only

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

Entered in the
National Register

date 10-4-84

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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Continuation sheet Walnut Creek Baptist Church Item number

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Item 10: Boundary Description and Justification

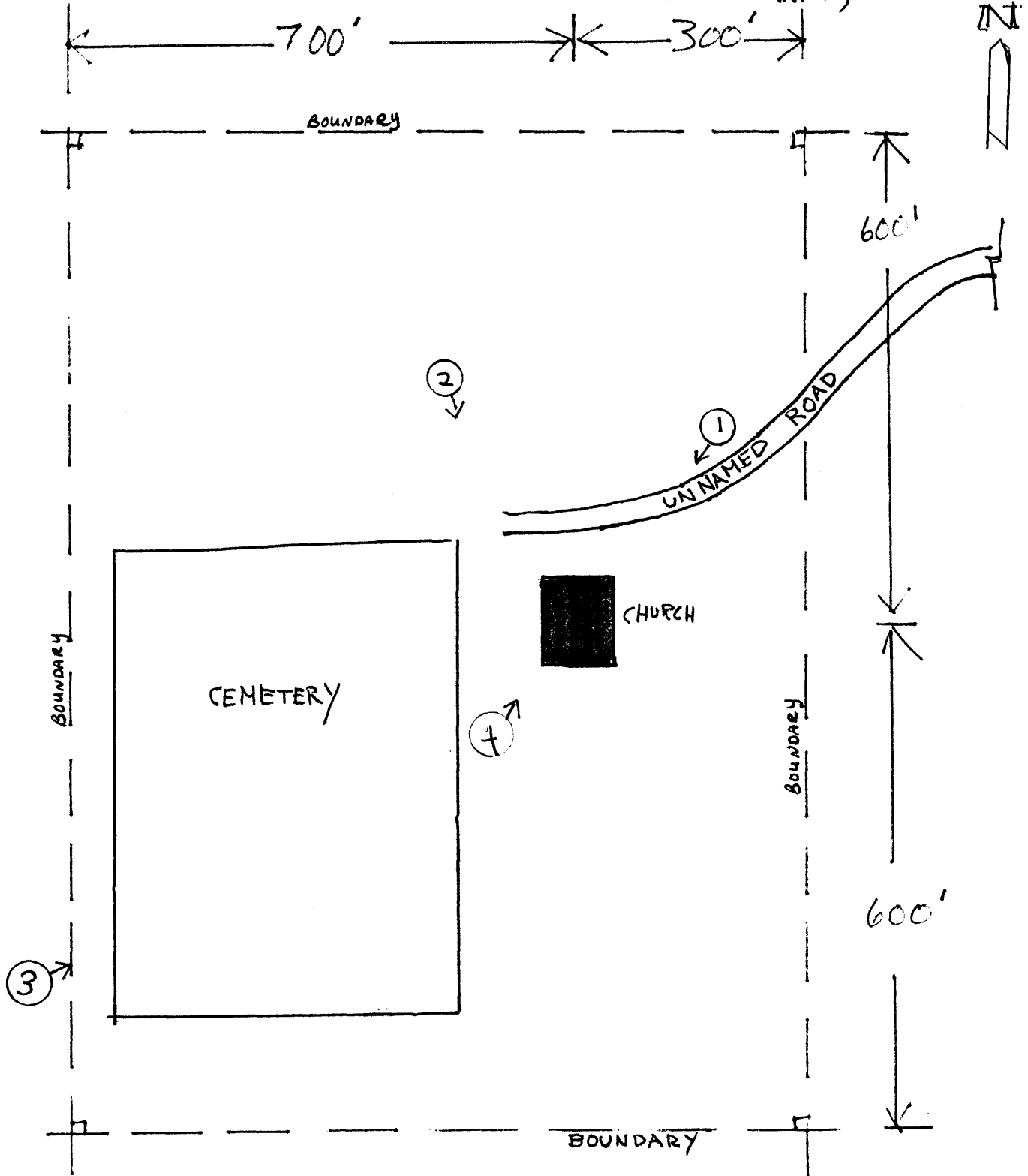
Boundaries are shown on the enclosed map. They consist of a 1000' by 1200' rectangle which is fixed by the center point of the church building.

The large acreage was chosen for two reasons:

- (1) To include a very large historically related cemetery.
- (2) To encompass the setting. The Walnut Creek Church is a building type and a historical type with decidedly rural, pioneer associations. Despite the fact that it is only about 2000 feet from Interstate 20, it has a perfectly preserved rural setting. We feel that this contributes to one's appreciation of the church as an architectural type.

WALNUT CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

APPROX. 30 ACRES LINCOLN PARISH, LA.



(NOT TO SCALE)

Boundaries consist of a 1000' by 1200' rectangle which is fixed by the center point of the church. Boundary lines follow the cardinal directions.