

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
 NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
PHO 678716  
FOR NPS USE ONLY
 RECEIVED MAR 6 1979  
 DATE ENTERED MAY 8 1979

 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 Church of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

AND/OR COMMON

Assumption Church

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

LA 308

CITY, TOWN

Plattenville

VICINITY OF

8th Gillis Long

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Louisiana

CODE

22

COUNTY

Assumption

CODE

007

**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 type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME Congregation of the Church and Diocese of Baton Rouge ✓

STREET &amp; NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Plattenville

VICINITY OF

STATE

Louisiana

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Assumption Parish Courthouse

STREET &amp; NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Napoleonville

STATE

Louisiana

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE Historic Sites Survey

DATE

 FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

 DEPOSITORY FOR  
 SURVEY RECORDS

State Historic Preservation Office

CITY, TOWN

Baton Rouge

STATE

Louisiana

# 7 DESCRIPTION

## CONDITION

## CHECK ONE

## CHECK ONE

EXCELLENT  
 GOOD  
 FAIR

DETERIORATED  
 RUINS  
 UNEXPOSED

UNALTERED  
 ALTERED

ORIGINAL SITE  
 MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Assumption Church is approached via a gravel road which terminates in a set of nineteenth century cast iron gates in front of the main entrance. The boundaries of the nominated area were chosen to include the church, its setting, and the cemetery, and to exclude the adjacent modern Parish Hall and the nearby modern ranch houses. The surrounding land, near Bayou Lafourche, is open and flat with several large oaks flanking the church.

The church has a pitched roof-basilican plan with a central square tower at the narthex. Adjacent to the tower is a stair leading to a small second-floor gallery. The five bay nave terminates in an apsidal chancel with one-story ancillary spaces.

The exterior bearing walls are of brick with a timber roof and interior wood columns which were inspired by gothic compound colonets. The exterior buttresses do not appear to be structural.

The exterior resembles a small English medieval Parish Church having a square frontal tower, buttresses, 4-centered arch fenestration and battlements. The interior features the aforementioned columns supporting a bracketed cornice, and a paneled ceiling which has tracery shaped motifs cut into each panel. The present altar area is modern but does not represent a major intrusion into the historic character of the interior. The front doors are not original, but most of the 19th century leaded stained glass windows remain. Although the exterior has been lightly sandblasted, it has not noticeably affected the exterior appearance of the building.

# 3 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
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

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

There are relatively few mid-19th century Gothic Revival churches in Louisiana, probably no more than a dozen. Although the Assumption Church is not an outstanding example, it has the overall form of a medieval English Parish Church and it has all the essential visual elements of the mid-century Gothic Revival, i.e., the battlements, the tower, the 4-centered arch fenestration and the buttresses. In addition to being an example of a rare type, the Assumption Church is a handsome, well-proportioned building and a local landmark in the village of Plattenville.

Assumption Parish was formed in April of 1793 at the request of the Canary Islanders and Acadians who had been settling the area since 1779.<sup>1</sup> The first church was "little more than a shack"<sup>2</sup> and was replaced in 1819 by a larger, more permanent structure on another site. This, in turn, was replaced by the extant church in 1856, which was located "a little to the front of the site of the first church of 1793."<sup>3</sup> Once the parish "Fabrique", or council of wardens, had determined in the early 1850's the need for a larger church building, a committee was appointed to travel to Thibodaux, some twenty miles to the south, to measure the Catholic church there and to report on its dimensions.<sup>4</sup> The Fabrique then contracted with one Wilson Grisamore "to build a Church of Assumption for the amount of \$13,500 after the plan of the Catholic church of Thibodeaux (sic) using the same dimensions, with the bell tower being fifteen feet higher than the one at Thibodeaux."<sup>5</sup> This mid-century example of one-upmanship produced a competent English Gothic church which was rendered even more unique in its area by the burning of its model, St. Joseph's Church in Thibodaux, in 1916. The contracted cost of the new church was paid to Mr. Grisamore across a four year period, with an additional sum of \$1129.48 being paid him for "extra work" in 1855, and the church seems to have been essentially complete by 1856.<sup>7</sup>

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See continuation sheet.

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 6.4 acres *BF per S. Edwards Co staff*

QUADRANGLE NAME \_\_\_\_\_ QUADRANGLE SCALE \_\_\_\_\_

UTM REFERENCES

A | 15 | 690700 | 3319150 |

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C | | | | |

E | | | | |

G | | | | |

B | | | | |

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

D | | | | |

F | | | | |

H | | | | |

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Boundaries encompass the front green, the cemetery and the church but exclude the modern rectory.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME/TITLE

Msgr. Lohrman

SHPO staff -

Jonathan Fricker and

Kirk Cordell

ORGANIZATION

Church of the Assumption

DATE

December 1978

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Plattenville

STATE

Louisiana

## 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

*D. Bernard Carter*

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

2/26/79

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

5-8-78

ATTEST:

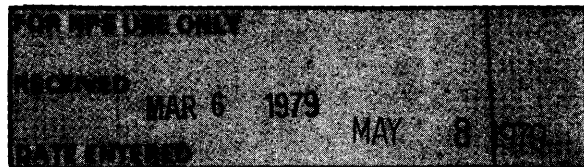
CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE

May 7, 1979

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM



CONTINUATION SHEET

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Bibliography

Baudier, Roger. The Catholic Church in Louisiana.  
New Orleans: Louisiana Library Association, 1972

Contract between the Fabrique of the Church of the Assumption and Wilson Grisamore,  
contractor. MSS. dated July 25, 1853.  
Assumption Courthouse, Napoleonville.

Fabrique de l'eglise Paroissiale de l'assumption. Mss.  
ASM 27, Archives of Catholic Life Center, Baton Rouge.

Rapport du comité de Surveillance pour les travaux de la N<sup>lle</sup> églis. Looseleaf  
MSS in ASM 24, Archives of Catholic Life Center, Baton Rouge.

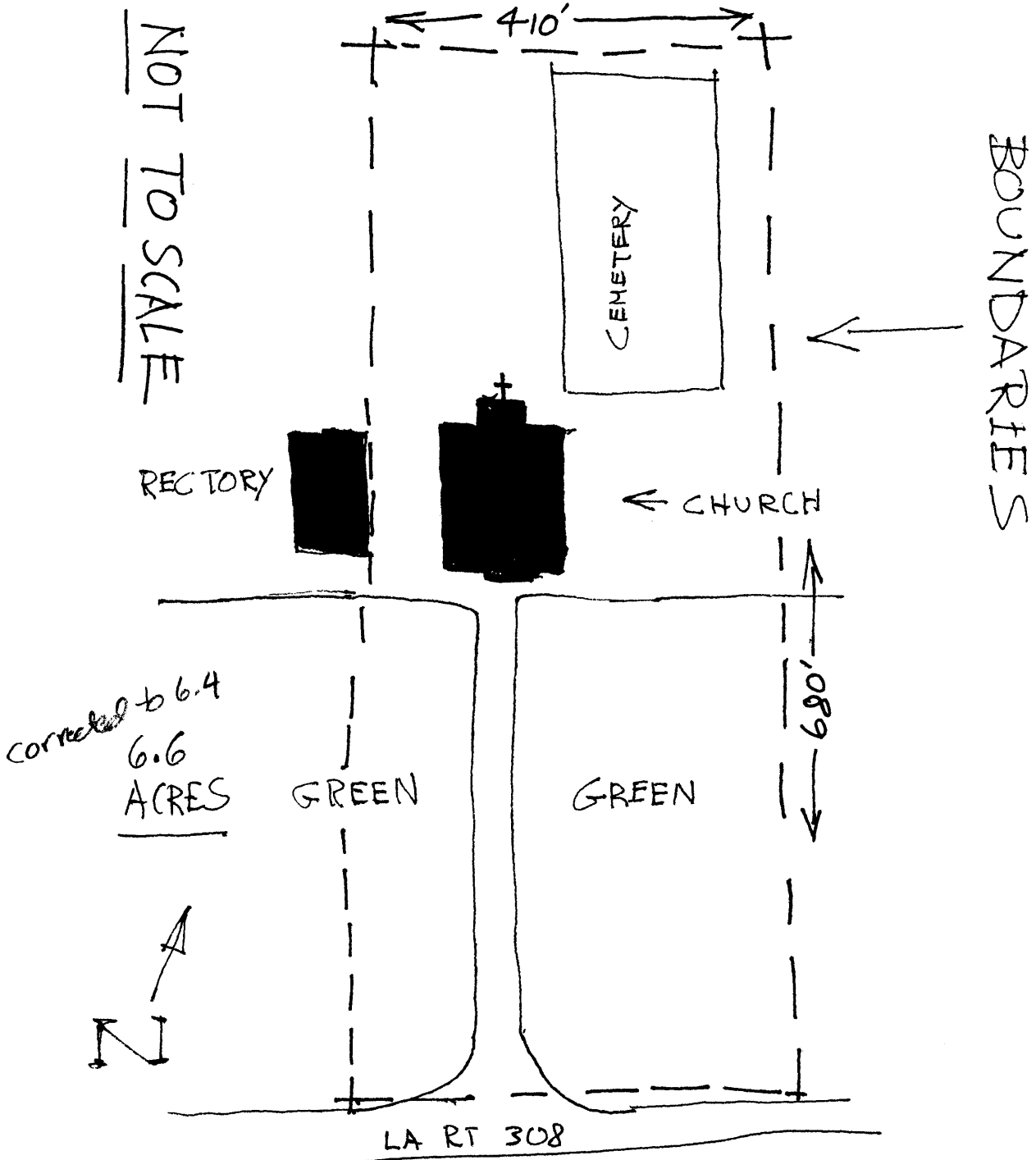
Footnotes

1. Baudier, Roger, The Catholic Church in Louisiana, p. 220.
2. Ibid, p. 221.
3. Ibid, p. 353
4. This committee's report, entitled Rapport du comité de Surveillance pour les travaux de la N<sup>lle</sup> églis, is a looseleaf insert into the Fabrique's meeting records, filed at ASM 24 in the archives of the Catholic Life Center, Baton Rouge.
5. Contract dated July 25, 1853, on file at the Assumption Courthouse, Napoleonville.
6. Entry for 24 May, 1855, in the Fabrique de l'eglise Paroissiale de l'assumption, ASM 27 in the archives of the Catholic Life Center, Baton Rouge.
7. Baudier, p. 353.

MAR 6 1970

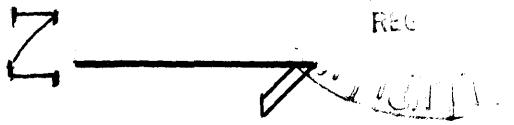
RECORDED  
INDEXED

# ASSUMPTION R.C. CHURCH



MAR 6 1874

M  
Rec



ASSUMPTION R.C. CHURCH

(NOT TO SCALE)

