

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received FEB 23 1983
date entered

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

1. Name

historic White's Chapel United Methodist Church

and/or common same

2. Location

street & number off LA HWY 29, about nine miles south of Bunkie N/A not for publication

city, town Bunkie *vic.* vicinity of

state LA code 22 county St. Landry Parish code 097

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 White's Chapel United Methodist Church Larry O'Dell, Pastor (318-346-2764)

street & number P. O. Box 680

city, town Bunkie N/A vicinity of state LA 71322

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. St. Landry Parish Courthouse

street & number corner of Court and Landry Sts. P. O. Box 750

city, town Opelousas state LA 70570

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

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

date 1982 federal state county local

depository for survey records LA State Historic Preservation Office

city, town Baton Rouge state LA

7. Description

Condition excellent good fair deteriorated ruins unexposed**Check one** unaltered altered**Check one** original site moved

date

N/A

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

White's Chapel (1894) is a small wood frame Gothic Revival church located in an open rural setting on Bayou Boeuf approximately nine miles south of the town of Bunkie. Since construction the church has apparently undergone only one major alteration. This has not adversely affected its architectural integrity.

The four bay basilican plan chapel has a large front gable, a single square corner tower, and a rectangular apse. The bays and the tower are set off by multiple tier, paneled buttresses. The clapboard surface is broken by lancet arches with inset, square head, two over two plate glass windows. The front of the nave is lit by a set of three such windows. The clapboard surface is also broken in the upper portion of the front gable by an area of vertical boards superimposed with wood members which are designed to suggest a king post and struts. The tower is surmounted by a squat pyramid roof. The church is entered through the base of the tower. The double doors are original.

There is nothing Gothic about the interior. It is large and plain, with more or less standard late-nineteenth century woodwork.

Assessment of Integrity:

It appears that sometime in the twentieth century the nave ceiling was lowered. This change, however, has not adversely affected the building's architectural integrity because the church's significance is based entirely upon its exterior Gothic styling.

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 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 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 1894

Builder/Architect Hugh and Lee Evans, Builders

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph) Criterion C

White's Chapel is locally significant in the area of architecture because it is the finest of a limited number of Gothic Revival style ecclesiastical buildings in St. Landry Parish.

St. Landry, a large rural parish, is mainly noted for its historic residences. However, the state's Historic Standing Structures Survey reveals that the parish also has approximately twenty major ecclesiastical structures, five of which are in the Gothic Revival style. Of these five, White's Chapel is undoubtedly the finest because:

- (1) It features fairly elaborate buttressing and, in fact, is the only example to feature buttressing at all.
- (2) It is one of only two which feature lancet windows.
- (3) It is one of only two examples which have a tower. Of the two towers, the one at White's Chapel is the more elaborate. The other tower is relatively plain with no buttresses or arches.
- (4) It is the only one with a distinctive architectural reference to a medieval king post roof.

The Gothic Revival was a prevalent style for ecclesiastical architecture throughout the United States during the nineteenth century. White's Chapel represents the high water mark of its achievement in St. Landry Parish.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Church Records, White's Chapel United Methodist Church

Historic Standing Structures Survey, St. Landry Parish, LA State Historic Preservation Office

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property Approximately 1/8 of an acre

Quadrangle name Whiteville, LA.

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A

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

B

Zone			Easting				Northing							

C

Zone			Easting				Northing							

D

Zone			Easting				Northing							

E

Zone			Easting				Northing							

F

Zone			Easting				Northing							

G

Zone			Easting				Northing							

H

Zone			Easting				Northing							

Verbal boundary description and justification

Please refer to sketch map.

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 Assisted by Owner/Applicant (Item 4)
Division of Historic Preservation

organization State of Louisiana date January 1983

street & number P. O. Box 44247 telephone 504-342-6682

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 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

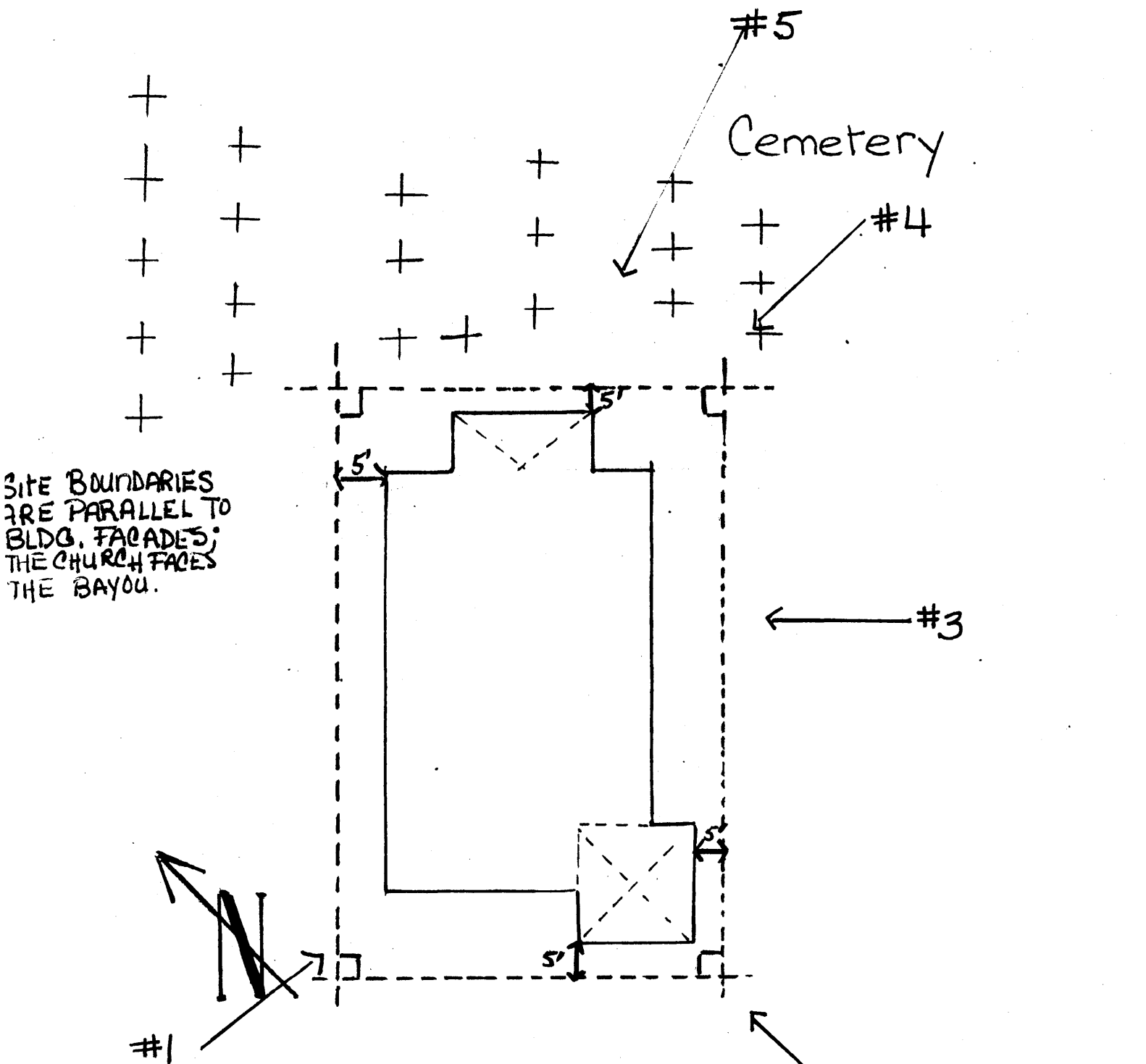
title State Historic Preservation Officer Robert B. DeBlieux date February 17, 1983

For NPS use only

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

Linda McClelland date 4/5/83
Keeper of the National Register

Patricia Andrews date 4/4/83
Chief of Registration



WHITE'S CHAPEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
 Vicinity of Bunkie, St. LANDRY PARISH, LA.