

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

received **JAN 12 1988**  
date entered

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

**1. Name**

historic Robeline Methodist Church

and or common same

**2. Location**

street & number Texas Street (LA Hwy 6) N/A not for publication

city, town Robeline N/A vicinity of

state LA code 22 parish Natchitoches code 069  
~~county~~

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" 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	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> 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 type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: vacant

**4. Owner of Property**

name Los Adaes Foundation of Robeline, Inc.

street & number P. O. Box 303

city, town Robeline N/A vicinity of state LA 71469

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Natchitoches Parish Courthouse

street & number Church Street (no specific address) P. O. Box 476

city, town Natchitoches state LA 71457

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

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

date 1987  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records LS State Historic Preservation Office

city, town Baton Rouge state LA

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## 7. Description

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<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>	
<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 _____ N/A
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

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### **Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

The Robeline Methodist Church (1883) is a frame Gothic Revival church located on Louisiana Highway 6 in the small rural community of Robeline. The only significant alteration has been the addition of a small rear wing.

The longitudinal plan church has two front doors which correspond to two interior aisles. All pews are original. There is no chancel; the nave culminates in an altar rail. The unusual balustrade features pairs of turned balusters set fairly far apart. The nave is sheathed in two inch beaded board culminating in a faceted false barrel vaulted ceiling. There is also a chair rail dado with vertical beaded board. An interesting feature of the interior is the pair of rare surviving double cone reflector gasoliers, various parts of which are ornamented with bands of sheet metal leaves.

The clapboard exterior culminates in an entablature board and a steeply pitched gable roof. This is surmounted by a belfry with a graceful flared spire and pointed top louvers. Doors are set within two-center arch lancets. Window openings have pointed tops designed to resemble pointed arches. Each window cap has a surmounting hood mold formed of plain boards.

### **Alterations:**

In about 1920 a rear lean-to addition was built containing three rooms. This necessitated cutting two doors in the rear of the nave. At that time a rear oculus above the altar was covered from the outside. (It is visible on the interior.) A similar oculus remains intact in the front of the nave. Finally, an electric fan was inserted in the front wall of the nave. In our view, none of these changes has significantly affected the architectural statement embodied in the Robeline Church.

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

**Specific dates** 1883 **Builder/Architect** Builder: Robeline Methodist Church

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)** Criterion C

The Robeline Methodist Church is of local significance in the area of architecture as the only Victorian Gothic Revival church in Natchitoches Parish.

Natchitoches Parish is well known for its Creole buildings, plantation landscapes, and nineteenth century commercial architecture. It also has a respectable complement of Queen Anne Revival and later residences. But like much of the rest of Louisiana, Natchitoches Parish is largely lacking in resources associated with the ecclesiastical Gothic Revival. This movement, begun by the ecclesiologists of Oxford and Cambridge Universities, had a profound effect upon American church architecture. There are numerous examples of its influence, both direct and indirect, in most sections of the country. Indeed, it is largely as a result of this movement that Victorians and later generations of Americans thought of Gothic as the appropriate style for a church. But despite this, Victorian Gothic churches are not as common in Louisiana as elsewhere. This is particularly true of Natchitoches Parish, which has only one, the Robeline Methodist Church. For this reason, the church is a landmark in the parish's patrimony, being the only example of an important nationwide architectural trend.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Records of the Robeline Methodist Church.  
Louisiana Historic Structures Survey, Natchitoches Parish.  
Conveyance Records, Natchitoches Parish.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property @ 1/4th of an acre

Quadrangle name Many, LA

Quadrangle scale 1:62500

### UTM References

A 

1	5	4	7	1	1	5	0	3	5	0	6	0	0	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 enclosed sketch map. Boundary lines follow property lines.

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

state	N/A	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title National Regiser Staff ASSISTED BY OWNER  
Division of Historic Preservation

organization State of Louisiana date November 1987

street & number P. O. Box 44247 telephone (504) 922-0358

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 date January 6, 1988

### For NPS use only

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

**Entered in the  
National Register**

date 2-11-88

  
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

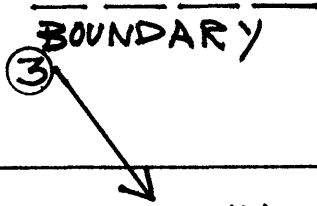
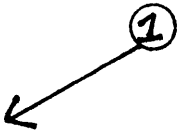
date

Chief of Registration

# ROBELINE METHODIST CHURCH

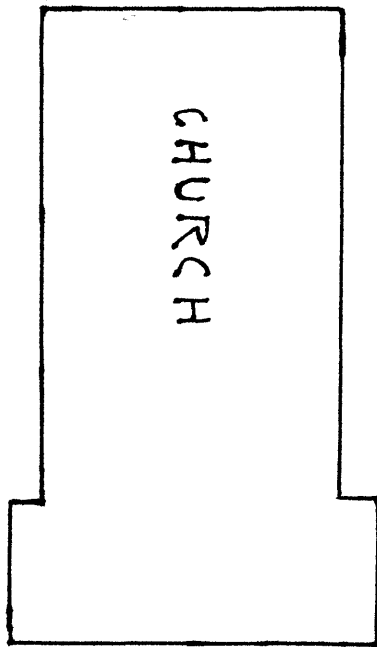
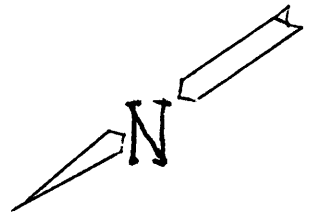
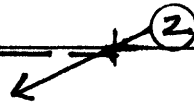
NATCHITOCHEES PARISH, LA.

SCALE 1"=20'



LA RT6 (TEXAS ST.)

PROPERTY LINE



PROPERTY LINE

PROPERTY LINE

PROPERTY LINE