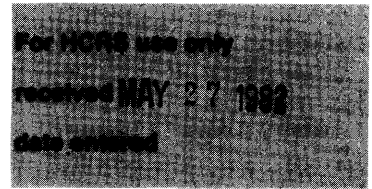


**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**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 St. John Baptist Church

and/or common Same

2. Location

street & number Off LA Hwy 456 N/A not for publication

city, town Lecompte Mc X vicinity of ~~congressional district~~

state LA code 22 parish Rapides code 079

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input 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	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>N/A</u> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<u>N/A</u> being considered	<input 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 St. John Baptist Church

street & number P. O. Box 122

city, town Lecompte X vicinity of state LA 71346

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Rapides Parish Courthouse

street & number 701 Murray Street

city, town Alexandria state LA 71301

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 Louisiana 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 St. John Baptist Church, a small clapboard building with elaborate Eastlake/Queen Anne ornamentation, is located in rural Rapides Parish between Alexandria and Lecompte. It faces northeast toward Bayou Lamourie and is set in a clearing surrounded by scattered trees. To the northwest is a frame school building and to the rear is a cemetery (neither of which is included in nominated acreage). The church is virtually unaltered except for some interior modernization.

The basilican plan building has a square tower at the northeast corner of the facade and an apse that is formed by a bay window. The flared eaves of the tower's pyramidal roof are bracketed, and heavy Eastlake aprons are found at the peaks of the gables. The wall surfaces of the church are treated with clapboarding, shingling, half-timbering, and panelling simulating wainscoting. The two entrances, one of which is at the base of the tower, are particularly ornate with their half-timbered gabled porticos with bargeboard trim and turned columns and balusters. The front gable has a Palladian window with stained glass, but the other windows on the main block of the building are long double hung ones topped by round arched fanlights with stained glass.

The interior of the building is very plain and was modernized between 1956 and 1980 with plywood panelling and carpeting.

Loss of integrity to the exterior of the building has been minimal. The steps to the facade's two entrances have been replaced with cement ones, and the apron on the southern gable end is missing. Changes to both of these elements were due to normal wear and tear, and, in the case of the stairs, the need for an economical replacement. Inside the loss of integrity is greater, but the interior never contributed substantially to the architectural significance of the structure.

Adjacent to the church is a small frame building that resembles a "Rosenwald School." According to local sources, including the staff of the Rapides Parish School Board, this is the original "Lamourie Colored School" building. This school operated from c.1893 to 1954, at which time it was moved a short distance to its present site. The building, which is now used as a social hall, is not included in the nomination for the following reasons:

1. It does not contribute to the architectural significance of the church.
2. Its direct association with the church is relatively recent.

The cemetery is not included in the nomination because of its distance from the church, its lack of architectural significance and its relatively recent age.

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 1888 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph) Criterion C

The St. John Baptist Church is locally significant in the area of architecture because it is an outstanding local example of Eastlake/Queen Anne architecture. It features a variety of elements not found on other buildings of its style in the vicinity. The context for evaluation is the Lecompte/Lamourie area, which is south of Alexandria in Rapides Parish.

St. John Baptist Church is being nominated for significance on the local level because it is the most ornate building of its style in the Lecompte/Lamourie vicinity. Of the approximately 20 Queen Anne buildings that were located during a comprehensive survey of the area, 75% of them were very simple and featured only a few elements that are generally associated with the style. St. John Baptist Church is one of the three most fully developed Queen Anne structures in the area and is further distinguished among these buildings by the following factors:

1. One of the major characteristics of the style is the use of a variety of textures on the surface of the building. With its clapboards, shingles, half-timbering, and panels of "wainscotting," St. John Baptist Church has a wider variety than any of the other buildings of its style in the area.
2. It is the only one with half-timbering.
3. It is the only one with a flared second story.
4. It is the only one with such elaborate Eastlake aprons in the gable peaks.
5. It makes the most profuse use of shingles.

As stated in the description, the exterior of the building is almost completely intact. For buildings of any type of this style, this is becoming increasingly unusual as renovations are made to "economize" on upkeep.

HISTORICAL SKETCH:

St. John Baptist Church was organized in 1869 as a church for the black residents of Ashton Plantation. The present church building was dedicated on November 11, 1888.

Relationship of Integrity to Significance: See Item 7

9. Major Bibliographical References

Louisiana Comprehensive Standing Structures Survey.--Louisiana State Historic Preservation Office, Baton Rouge.
History of St. John Baptist Church Submitted by Applicants, Copy in National Register File, Louisiana State Historic Preservation Office, Baton Rouge.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property approx. .2 acre
Quadrangle name Woodworth East, La.

Quadrangle scale 1=24000

UMT References

A

1	5	5	5	6	2	3	0	3	4	4	4	0	6	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	code	county	code
N/A			

state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Sue Eakin, History Professor

organization LSU, Alexandria

date March 1982

street & number P. O. Box 704

Office - (318) 445-3672 Ext. 70
Home - (318) 346-2161

city or town Bunkie

state LA 71322

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Robert B. DeBlieux
Robert B. DeBlieux

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date May 17, 1982

For HCRS use only

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

Beth Groover

date 6/25/82

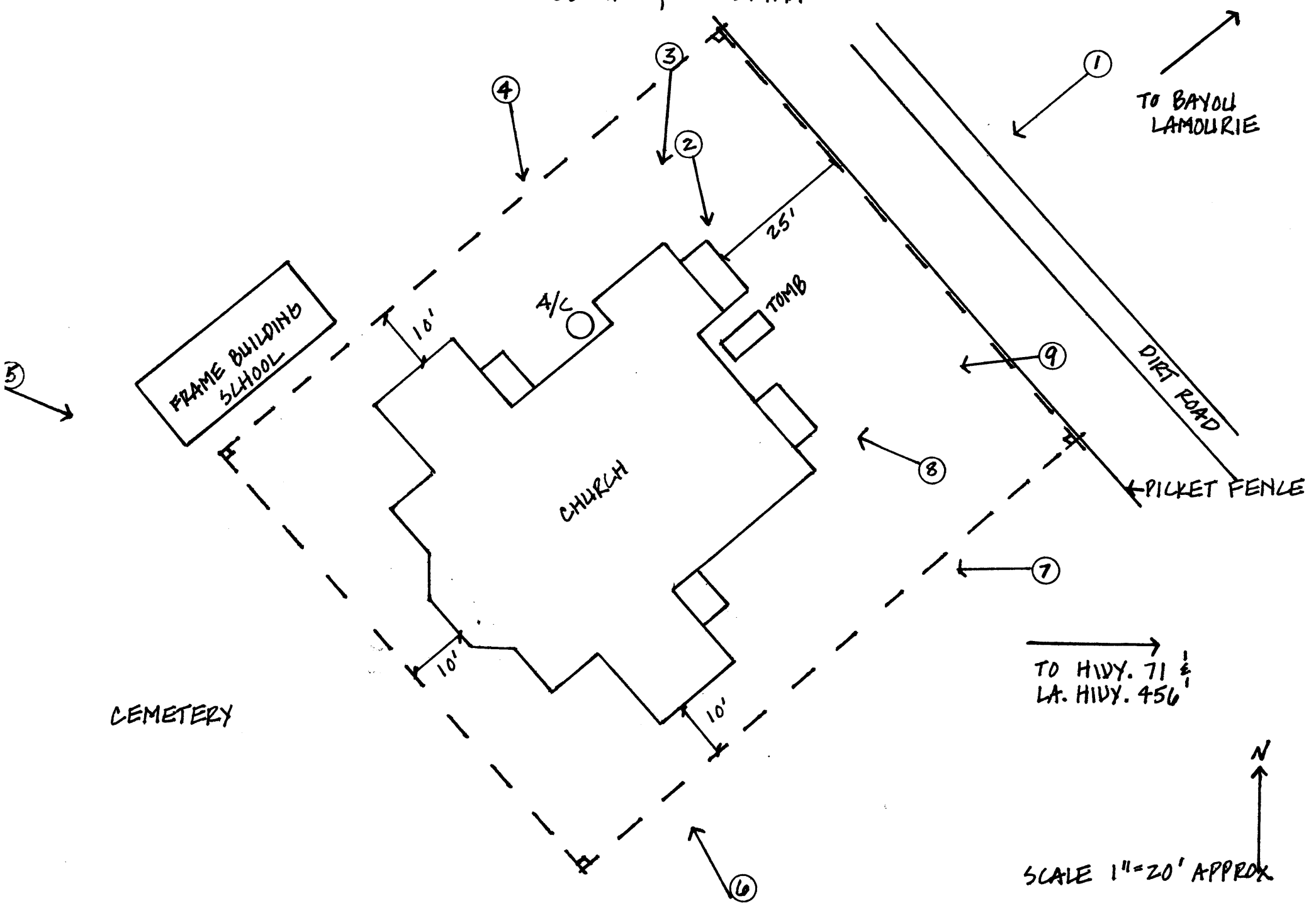
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date.

Chief of Registration

ST. JOHN BAPTIST CHURCH
LECOMPTE, LOUISIANA



TO BAYOU
LAMOURIE

DIET ROAD

PICKET FENCE

TO HWY. 71 1/2
LA. HWY. 456

SCALE 1" = 20' APPROX

N

FRAME BUILDING
SCHOOL

CEMETERY

A/C

TOMB

CHURCH

F

F