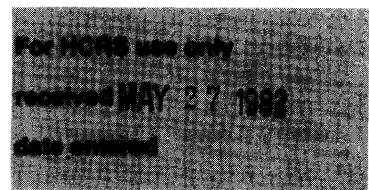


**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**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street & number	Off LA Hwy 456	N/A not for publication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 <i>McC</i> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> vicinity of Rapides Parish District	
state	LA code 22	parish X Rapides Rapides code 079

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" 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		<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> military
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	
			<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	St. John Baptist Church
street & number	P. O. Box 122
city, town	Lecompte <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 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? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no
date 1982	<input type="checkbox"/> federal <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> state <input type="checkbox"/> county <input type="checkbox"/> local
depository for survey records Louisiana State Historic Preservation Office	
city, town Baton Rouge	state LA

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
X good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		N/A

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 wainscotting. 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/				
<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	1888	Builder/Architect	Unknown
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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

NOT INDEXED

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

Acreage of nominated property approx. .2 acre

Quadrangle name Woodworth East, La.

Quadrangle scale 1=24000

UMT References

A	<u>1</u> <u>5</u>	<u>5</u> <u>5</u> <u>6</u>	<u>2</u> <u>3</u> <u>0</u>	<u>3</u> <u>4</u> <u>4</u> <u>4</u>	<u>0</u> <u>6</u> <u>0</u>
Zone	Easting		Northing		
C					
E					
G					

B	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u> <u>1</u> <u>1</u>	<u>1</u> <u>1</u> <u>1</u>	<u>1</u> <u>1</u> <u>1</u>
Zone	Easting		Northing	
D				
F				
H				

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
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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 telephone Office - (318) 445-3672 Ext. 70

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

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

date

keeper of the National Register

date

Attest:

Chief of Registration

ST. JOHN BAPTIST CHURCH
LECOMPTE, LOUISIANA

