

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 St. Elizabeth Catholic Church

and/or common Same

2. Location

street & number LA Hwy. 402 N/A not for publication

city, town Paincourtville N/A vicinity of

state LA code 22 parish 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 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 Diocese of Baton Rouge Reverend Monsignor Cage Gordon, Administrator

street & number P. O. Box 2028

city, town Baton Rouge N/A vicinity of state LA 70821

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Assumption Parish Courthouse

street & number Highway 1 (no specific address) P. O. Drawer 249

city, town Napoleonville state LA 70390

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		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

St. Elizabeth Catholic Church (1902) is a large brick basilican plan Gothic style church located near the center of the small bayou town of Paincourtville. Despite a few changes, the church retains enough architectural integrity to merit listing in the National Register.

The twin towers and the bays are set off by ornamental buttresses which have inset lancet shaped panels. The gabled front of the narthex has three lancet openings on the first story, three lancet windows on the second story, and a small rose window inscribed in the gable. An unusual feature of the exterior is the fact that most of the lancet openings are blind in the upper portion. Each blind area has a single inscribed foil motif. The aforementioned rose window has a similar treatment. The facade is enlivened by the fact that much of it is taken up by apertures of various sorts. It is further enlivened by several blind arcade strips and by the lower buttresses which protrude above the gabled tower tops.

The interior features a small transept and three semi-hexagonal apses. Virtually all of the impressive vaults and multishaft piers are executed in wood. Both the aisles and the nave feature ribbed groin vaulting. The second story of the nave features a blind triforium gallery. There is no clerestory. The elaborate pulpit and canopy date from 1906. Most of the stained glass windows date from between 1906 and 1910. The windows are extremely intricate with painted scenes and figures, complete with drapery, facial features, architectural settings, foliage, sky, and elaborate trim.

In 1914 the present decorative paintwork was executed. Much of the painting is stencilled and has a rather Victorian character except for the fact that the colors are more muted than one would expect in nineteenth century ecclesiastical painting. The main effect of the painting is to emphasize architectural members and to fill in panels. The blind triforium gallery features a series of ten painted panels depicting lurid figures which represent heresies such as Lutheranism and naturalism.

Since construction the following losses of integrity have occurred to the building:

1. In 1909 the original spires were blown down in a storm.
2. In about 1955 the original wood altar was replaced by a larger Italian marble altar in the Gothic style.
3. Later a tiny rear wing was added to contain air conditioning equipment.
4. In about 1960 the organ, which had been mounted in the narthex, was taken out.
5. Also about that time the aforementioned shafts of the piers were painted creme color. They previously had exposed wood surfaces.

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

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Continuation sheet St. Elizabeth Catholic Church Item number 7

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7. Description (cont'd)

6. Recently unobtrusive plexiglass sheets were mounted on the outside of the stained glass windows.

Assessment of Integrity

Most of the aforementioned losses of integrity should be regarded as minor. The only exception to this is the loss of the spires. But inasmuch as these were lost in 1909, the church has been without them for most of its existence. Moreover, the church is still a landmark within the parish for the reasons stated in Item 8. Finally, many Gothic churches did not have spires; hence their loss has not decreased St. Elizabeth's quality as an example of the style.

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 type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" 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 1902 **Builder/Architect** Architect: F. B. Dicharry

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph) Criterion C

St. Elizabeth Catholic Church is locally significant in the area of architecture because it is a landmark within the context of Assumption Parish and because it is an important example of late-nineteenth/early-twentieth century church architecture within the context of southern Louisiana.

The state's historic standing structures survey documents a total of 292 fifty plus year old buildings in Assumption Parish. Most of these are small frame residences. Among this group there are about thirty larger monumental structures -- i.e., sugar mills, plantation homes, and churches. The survey reveals that, of the parish's ten 50+ year old churches, St. Elizabeth is one of the four largest and most pretentious. It also features what is undoubtedly the most elaborate interior decorative paintwork in the parish.

In addition, St. Elizabeth is a superior example of a late-nineteenth/early-twentieth century church within the context of southern Louisiana. Many large Roman Catholic churches were built in the region during this period. Most of these can best be described as flamboyant hodgepodes of Gothic, Romanesque, Renaissance and Baroque architectural features.

St. Elizabeth is unusual in this regard because its design is purely Gothic in origin, and its lines are quiet and relatively subdued.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Conveyance Records, Assumption Parish.
Historical sketch of church, based upon church records, provided by Rev. Robert S. Mylie, Pastor, St. Elizabeth Catholic Church.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property — approximately 1/6 of an acre.

Quadrangle name Napoleonville, LA

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A	<u>115</u>	<u>6181721410</u>	<u>31311961010</u>	B	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	D	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
E	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	F	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
G	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	H	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

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
<u>N/A</u>			

state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

Assisted by: Rev. Robert S. Mylie
Pastor, St. Elizabeth Catholic
Church, P. O. Box 1, Paincourt-
ville, LA 70391; (504) 369-7398

name/title National Register Staff
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

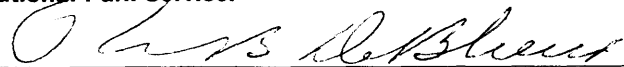
12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

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

date

title LA State Historic Preservation Officer

February 14, 1983

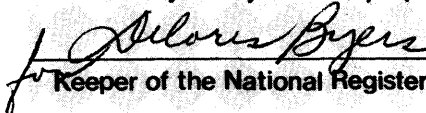
For NPS use only

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

Entered in the
National Register

date

3/24/83

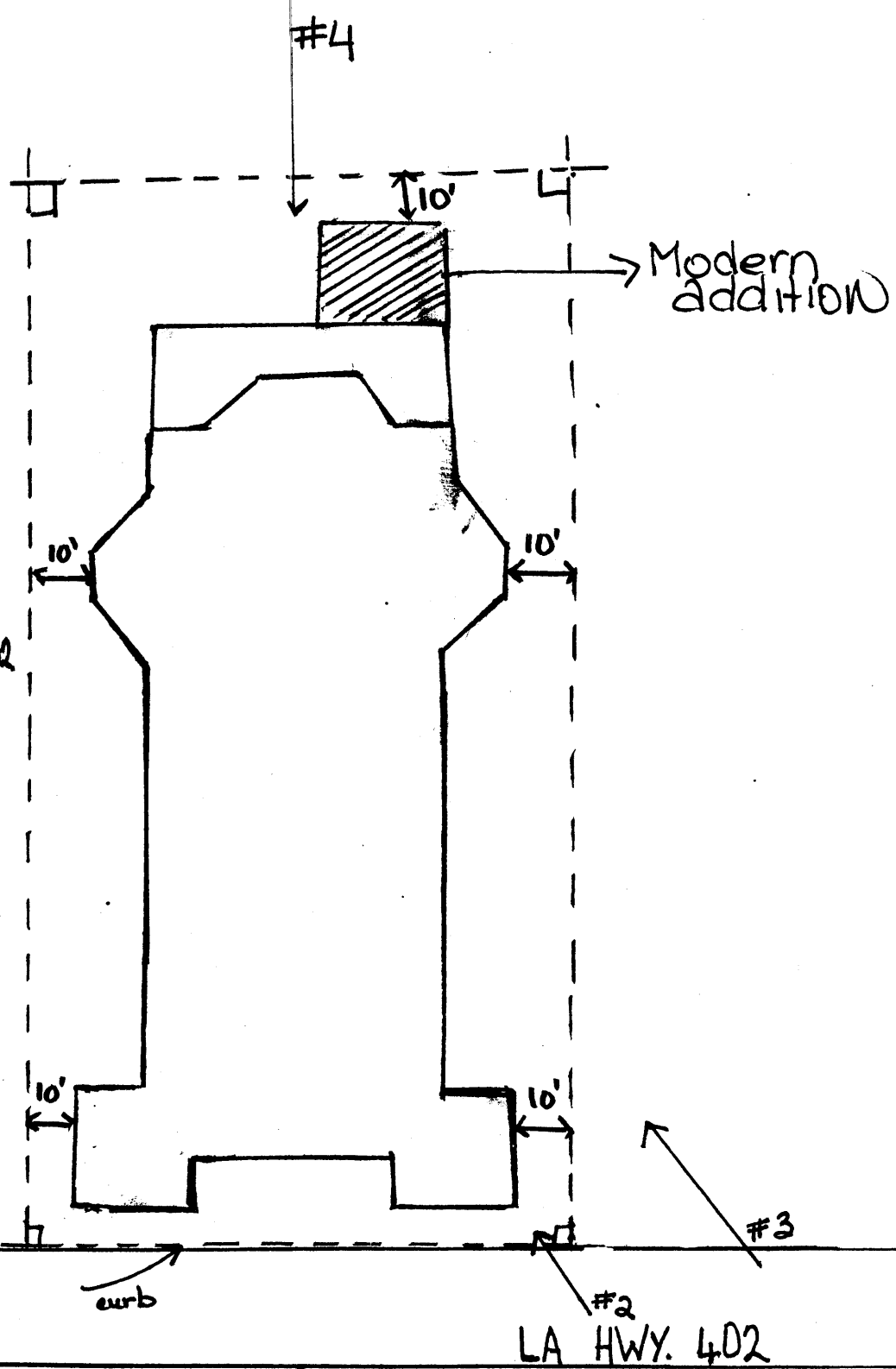

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

Site Boundaries ARE PARALLEL TO BLDG. FACADES, DISTANCE AS SHOWN. THE CHURCH FACES LA HWY 402



St. Elizabeth Catholic Church
RAINCOURTYVILLE, LOUISIANA.
ASSUMPTION PARISH