

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

RECEIVED

JUN 14 1988

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

NATIONAL
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Keachi United Methodist Church
other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number LA Hwy 5 N/A not for publication
city, town Keachi N/A vicinity
state Louisiana code LA county DeSoto code 031 zip code 71046

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	_____ buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	_____	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____	_____ structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	_____	_____ objects
		<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Leslie P. Tassin Officer June 8, 1988
Signature of certifying official _____ Date _____
Div of Historic Preservation, Dept of Culture, Recreation and Tourism
State or Federal agency and bureau _____

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official _____ Date _____
State or Federal agency and bureau _____

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register. See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain:)

Alvord Byer 7-14-88
Signature of the Keeper _____ Date of Action _____

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Religion/religious structure

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Religion/religious structure

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Greek Revival

Gothic Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation brick

walls weatherboard

roof asphalt

other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Keachi United Methodist Church (1879) is a frame transitional Greek Revival-Gothic Revival church located on Louisiana Highway 5 in the small rural community of Keachi. It is largely unaltered.

The Keachi Methodist Church is a clapboarded rectangular building with two front doors corresponding to interior aisles. The steeply pitched roof culminates in a slender belfry with a pointed spire. Greek Revival exterior features include the basic temple shape with gable end returns both front and rear, a full entablature, and corner pilasters with molded capitals. The Gothic Revival influence is evident in the lancet arch windows and doors, the pointed top louvers in the belfry, and the pointed arch design formed by the muntins in the door transoms and windows. The lancet arch door frames feature pilasters with molded capitals, while the window frames feature a simpler cornerblock design. The only exterior changes are very minor, specifically the loss of some of the shutters and the replacement of the steps and hand rails.

The flushboard interior remains virtually unaltered, retaining even the original pews, pulpit, and light fixtures. The nave culminates in a raised platform with a Greek Revival paneled treatment. The pulpit features a Greek Revival aedicule motif. The altar rail appears to date from the twentieth century.

The Keachi United Methodist Church is remarkably well-preserved, with only the few minor changes noted above. It has been wired for electricity, but there is still no central air or heat, nor any plumbing.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)
architecture

Period of Significance
1879

Significant Dates
1879

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Significant Person
N/A

Architect/Builder
unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Keachi United Methodist Church is of state significance in the area of architecture because it is one of very few country Greek Revival churches in Louisiana. It is also of local note as part of DeSoto Parish's distinctly Greek Revival architectural heritage.

Churches of this type, either with or without Gothic Revival touches, are a common archetype in the eastern United States and the Midwest and represent a provincial "watered down" version of high style temple form churches. They range in degree from a fully developed portico, to a pediment-shaped front with columns in antis, to a simpler version with gable end returns and corner pilasters. Later examples sometimes have hesitant touches of the Gothic Revival, usually a Greek Revival shape and detailing but with pointed arch fenestration. Despite the popularity of the type elsewhere, there are only seven examples in Louisiana, three of which happen to be in Keachi. Two of these have full-width porticos (although one has been badly aluminum sided), one has a fully developed pediment, and the others feature gable end returns, an entablature, and more often than not corner pilasters. Given the rarity of this archetype in Louisiana, it is reasonable to conclude that any intact example would be eligible for the National Register at the state level of significance.

The Keachi United Methodist Church also should be viewed within its local historic context. DeSoto Parish was settled principally in the two or three decades prior to the Civil War and is one of three parishes considered to be major centers of Greek Revival architecture in the state. Although many examples from this architectural flowering have been lost, including the impressive Keachi Female College, an astounding number survive. DeSoto boasts about twenty residential examples of the style, four churches, a Masonic hall, and a temple fronted country store. This special heritage represents the parish's architectural apogee, and any example is an important part of this identity. The Keachi United Methodist Church is of particular interest because it represents the persistence of the Greek Revival style well after the Civil War.

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Church records in possession of Mrs. Novelle Fisher, Keachi, Louisiana.

DeSoto Parish Historic Structures Survey, Louisiana State Historic Preservation Office.

Previous documentation on file (NPS): N/A

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 1.673 acres

UTM References

A 15 414850 3561550
 Zone Easting Northing

C

B
 Zone Easting Northing

D

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description The nominated property occupies Lot 17 of the Village of Keachi survey map dated May 5, 1957. Please see attached portion of said map for dimensions.

See continuation sheet

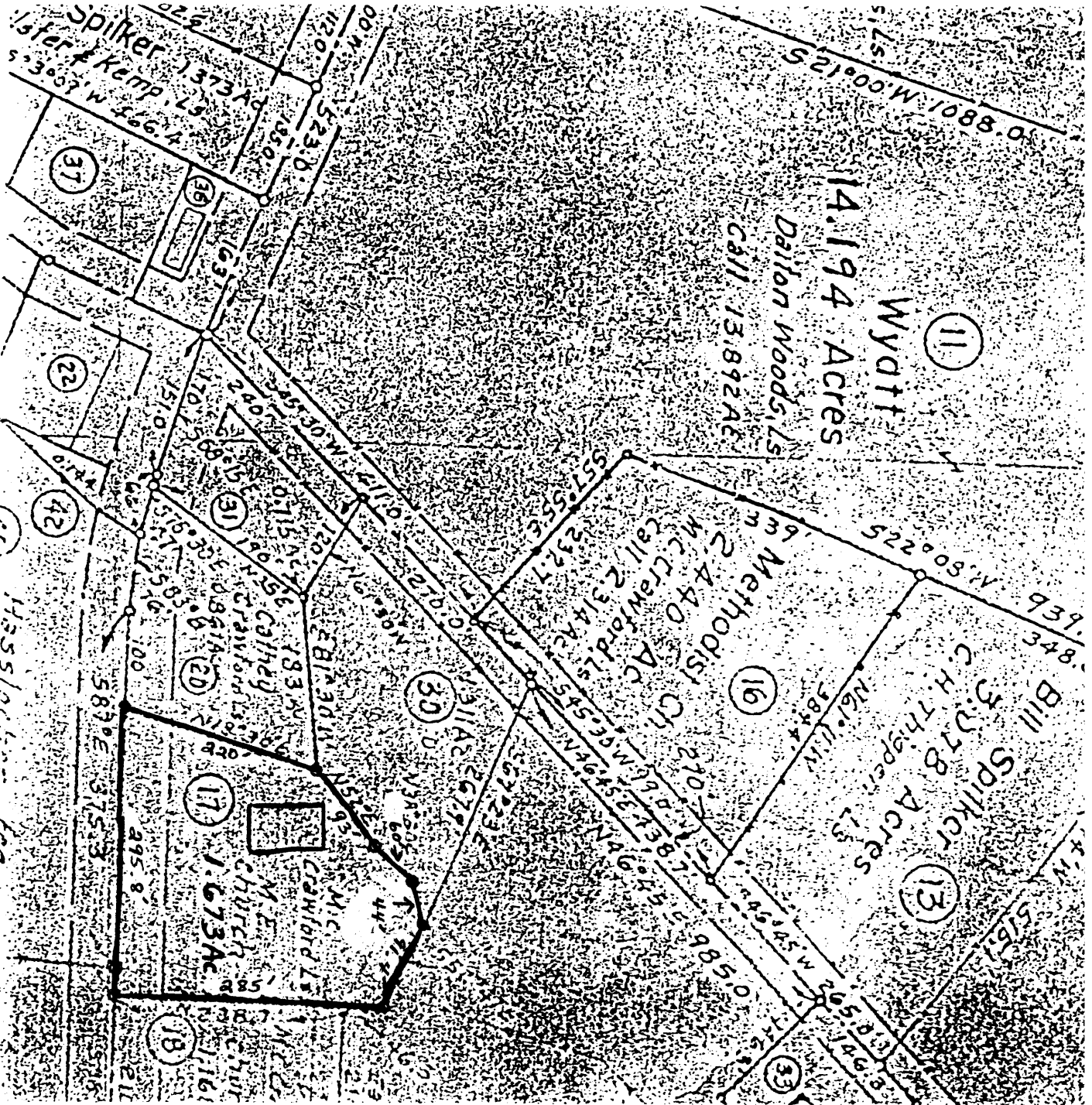
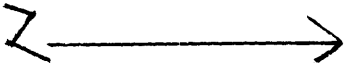
Boundary Justification Boundary lines follow the legal property lines.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title National Register Staff
 organization Division of Historic Preservation date April 1988
 street & number P. O. Box 44247 telephone 504-342-8160
 city or town Baton Rouge state LA zip code 70804

Reachi Methodist Church
 DeSoto Parish, LA



Portion of 1957 survey map of
 Reachi Methodist Church
 showing property lines for
 Church — dimensions shown.

1" = 160'