

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

RECEIVED

SEP 22 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 Baptist Church  
other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

2. Location

street & number LA Hwy 172 N/A not for publication  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 September 19, 1988  
Signature of certifying official Leslie P. Tassin, LA State Historic Preservation Officer, Dept. of Culture, Recreation and Tourism Date  
State or Federal agency and bureau Tourism

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. Entered in the National Register  
 See continuation sheet. 10/20/88  
 determined eligible for the National Register.  See continuation sheet.  
 determined not eligible for the National Register.  
 removed from the National Register.  
 other, (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_  
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 Baptist Church (c.1880) is a transitional late Greek Revival-Gothic Revival frame structure located in the rural crossroads community of Keachi. The church has received only minimal alterations, and these are confined to the interior and have not had much impact upon the original character.

The c.1880 date used in this nomination is based almost entirely upon architectural evidence. The church history indicates that the land was donated for purposes of erecting a house of worship in 1852, but certain features of the building indicate a date between about 1875 and 1890. These features include some of the moldings, which are not typical of the mid-nineteenth century, and the plate glass weight-hung windows. Although one might wonder if these later nineteenth century features represent a remodeling, this does not seem to be the case because the present building is manifestly all of a piece. Also, there are individuals in Keachi who say they have always heard that the original church was badly damaged in a storm and subsequently rebuilt.

The building consists of a large gabled hall with a small projecting gabled entrance vestibule. Both have a full entablature, corner pilasters with molded capitals, and gable end returns. The rear also features gable end returns and corner pilasters with molded capitals. Openings take the form of two center lancet arches, including the louvered vents in the steeple. The steeple, with its entablature, pilasters, and end returns, echoes the styling of the rest of the church. The front doors feature heavy, intricate bolection moldings reminiscent of the Italianate style.

The fairly plain interior has flushboard walls and ceilings and molded door and window surrounds. The worship space culminates in a low paneled platform with a paneled lectern. The historic auditorium-looking seats appear to have been salvaged from Keachi Female College, originally located across the road. They appear prominently in a photo in a 1901 college handbook.

**Alterations:**

In the mid-twentieth century a small portion of the rear of the worship space was walled off to create two small rooms either side of the vestibule. This was done with plain boards to match the original, so although the worship space is now a bit smaller, it has the same architectural character. And, of course, this change is not visible from the exterior. Also, the floor has been carpeted, but this is a minor reversible cosmetic alteration.

**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  
c.1880

Significant Dates  
c.1880

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 Baptist 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. The seven examples in Louisiana date from the 1850s through c.1880, and two are in the transitional Greek Revival-Gothic Revival style. Of the seven, two 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 Baptist 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 (excluding New Orleans) 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

See continuation sheet

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

DeSoto Parish Conveyance Records.

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**

Acreege of property 3.566 acres

UTM References

A 

1	5
---	---

4	1	4	2	8	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

3	5	6	1	4	8	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Zone      Easting      Northing

B 

--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

Zone      Easting      Northing

C 

--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

D 

--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

Please refer to enclosed property plat map. Boundaries lines follow property lines and are highlighted in yellow.

See continuation sheet

**Boundary Justification**      Boundary lines follow property lines.

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

ASSISTED BY KEACHI HERITAGE FOUNDATION

name/title National Register Staff

organization Division of Historic Preservation      date July 1988

street & number P. O. Box 44247      telephone 504/342-8160

city or town Baton Rouge      state Louisiana      zip code 70804

Current Owner: William H. Abington, Chairman, Board of Deacons  
P. O. Box 217, Keachi, LA 71046      (318) 933-5202

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

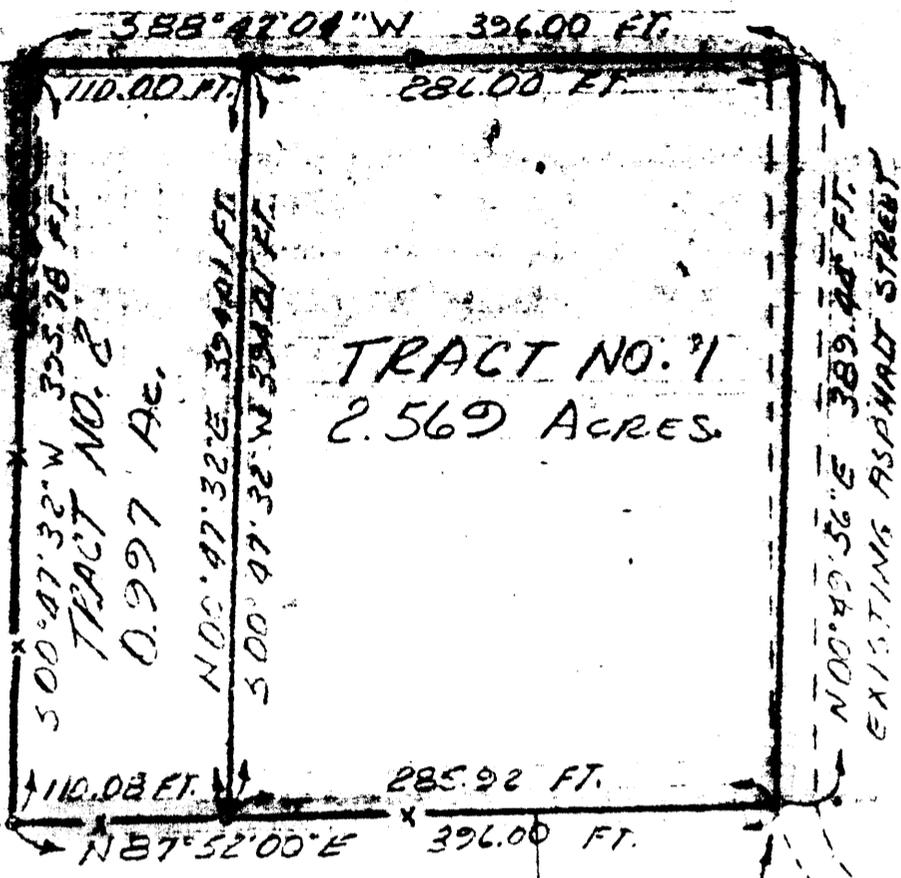
Keachi Baptist Church, Keachi, DeSoto Parish

Section number   8   Page   1  

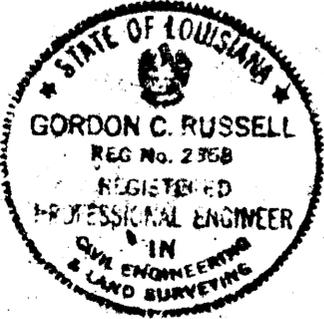
---

the parish's architectural apogee, and any example is an important part of this identity. The Keachi Baptist Church is of particular interest because it represents the persistence of the Greek Revival style well after the Civil War.

LA. HWY. NO. 172



○ - DENOTES IRON PIPE SET FOR COR.  
 □ - DENOTES CONC. RW MON. FOUND.



<b>THE BAPTIST CHURCH</b>		
SURVEY OF 3.566 AC. OF LAND IN TWO (2) TRACTS IN THE S.E. 1/4, N.W. 1/4, SEC. 21, T14N, R15W, DE SOTO PARISH, LA.		
DATE: 12-07-1972	DRAWN: PHELPS	REVISED:
GORDON C. RUSSELL, CIVIL ENGINEER AND LAND SURVEYOR P. O. BOX 218 LA. REG. NO. 2368 LOGANSPORT, LOUISIANA TEX. REG. NO. 1311		
<i>Gordon C. Russell</i>		70/73