

1059

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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 First United Methodist Church

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number Pine and North Port Sts.

N/A not for publication

city, town DeRidder

N/A vicinity

state Louisiana

code LA

county Beauregard

code 011

zip code 70634

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> buildings
_____	_____ sites
_____	_____ structures
_____	_____ 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 Oct. 2, 1991

Signature of certifying official Leslie P. Tassin, LA State Historic Preservation Date

Officer, 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

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:) _____

Melrose Byrum

11/21/91

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)

RECREATION AND CULTURE/sports facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

Classical Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation concretewalls brickroof tarother

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The First Methodist Church of DeRidder (1915) is a two story Classical Revival tan brick building located on a busy four-lane thoroughfare. It is part of a large modern church complex occupying a city block. Alterations on the interior have been severe; however, the exterior is virtually unchanged.

The facade is dominated by a projecting, colossal order, pedimented portico. The three bay portico features Ionic columns resting on bases, matching pilasters, a denticular cornice outlining the tympanum, and an entablature with a denticular cornice, a wide frieze and no architrave. The entablature on the building itself has an architrave. It wraps around the building and is crowned by a parapet wall. (There is no cornice or parapet wall on the rear elevation.) Various doors and windows are surmounted by round arches featuring decorative stucco infill highlighted by a bas relief wreath and garland motif. The side elevations are enlivened by two projecting sections, one of which has a shaped parapet and a large expanse of stained glass windows crowned by an elaborate decorative band. The church retains its numerous square head opalescent stained glass windows. Their geometric design is reminiscent of the Prairie School.

While the exterior of the church is very well preserved, the interior has not fared as well. A new church was built elsewhere on the property in the 1960s, and the old church's worship space eventually was converted into a basketball court. Nothing remains but the shape and the stained glass windows. (The windows are protected with metal grilles.) Opening onto the former worship area is a large two story multi-purpose space which retains its original character. It, too, reminds one of the Prairie Style. The upper level is reached via two corner staircases which lead to a mezzanine balcony encompassing three sides of the space. The balcony provides access to Sunday School rooms which are set off by bands of opaque glass screens with geometric patterns formed by the glazing bars. Similar screens are found on the lower story as well.

While the alterations on the interior have been drastic, the church's exterior, the source of its architectural significance, survives virtually intact. There have been only two minor changes. A breezeway has been attached at the rear to provide covered access to an education building constructed in 1951. Also, it appears that there has been some modification of the central front opening. The section beneath the round arch presently has a blank stucco surface. One suspects that there might have been a decorative tablet of some kind at one time.

 See continuation sheet

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

1915

Significant Dates

1915

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

William Drago, Architect

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

The First Methodist Church is locally significant in the area of architecture because it is one of very few high style buildings in the parish seat of DeRidder. Its chief distinction is the previously described colossal order pedimented portico.

Founded at the turn of the century and incorporated in 1914, DeRidder does not have very many buildings that are highly styled. The historic building stock consists largely of vernacular commercial buildings and fairly plain residences (mostly bungalows) from the 1910-1940 period. Notable exceptions include the Beaux Arts courthouse, the Gothic Revival Beaugard Parish Jail, and two or three buildings in the downtown. It is against the background of this fairly humble patrimony that the architectural significance of the First Methodist Church emerges. In comparison to other buildings, it is a grand architectural statement, having one of only two colossal order porticoes in town.

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Church cornerstone bearing date and architect.

Historical sketch on church submitted by applicant, copy in National Register file.

Division of Historic Preservation staff knowledge of DeRidder's historic building stock.

See continuation sheet

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 # _____

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 less than one acre

UTM References

A

1	5	4	7	2	3	6	0	3	4	1	2	6	6	0
Zone				Easting				Northing						

B

Zone				Easting				Northing						

C

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D

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Please refer to sketch map.

See continuation sheet

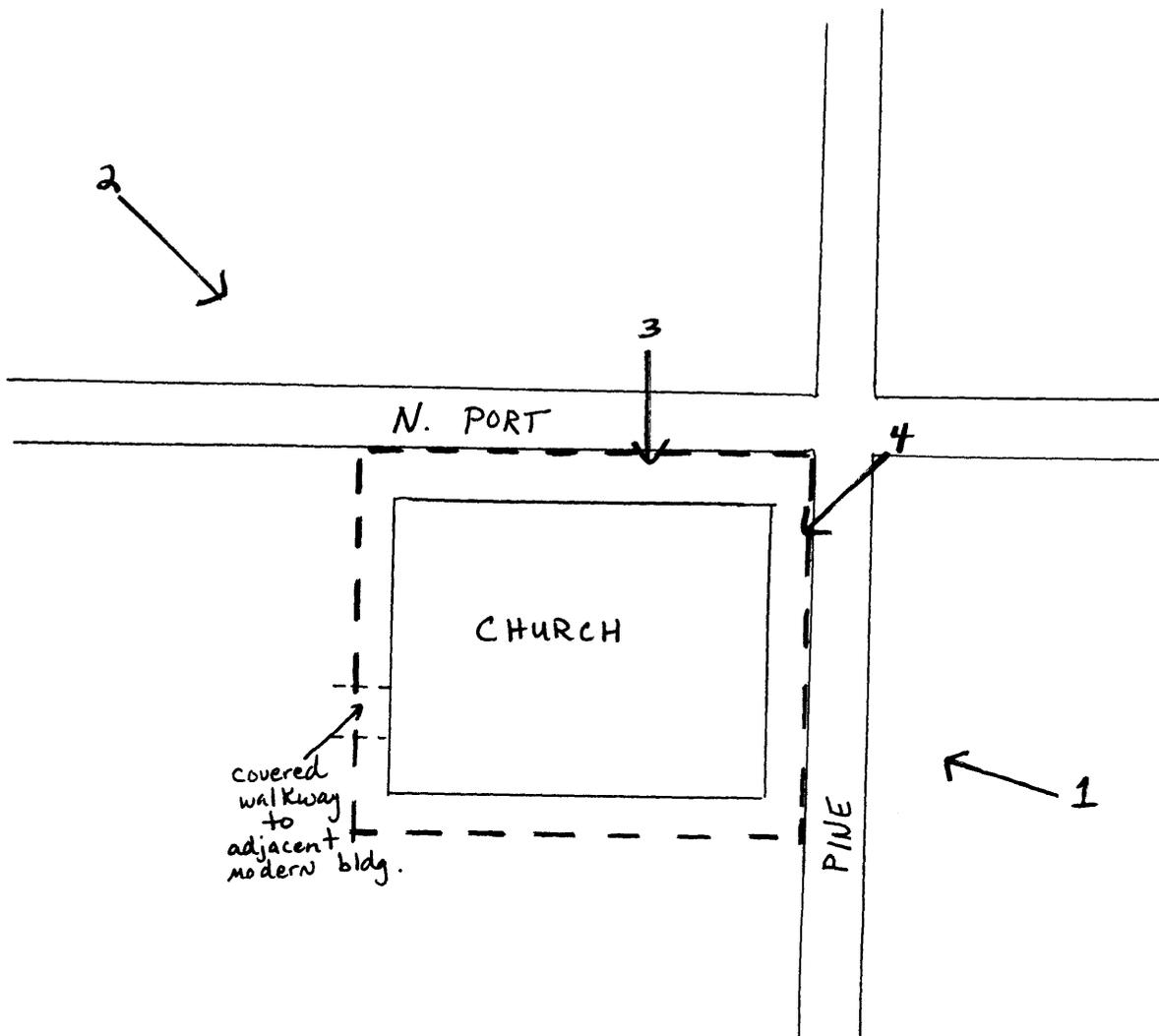
Boundary Justification

Boundary lines follow curb lines to the north and east. They cut close to the church on the west and south to exclude modern buildings on the church property.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title National Register staff
organization Division of Historic Preservation date September 1991
street & number P. O. Box 44247 telephone 504-342-8160
city or town Baton Rouge state LA zip code 70804



First United Methodist Church
 DeRidder
 Beauregard Parish, LA

