

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.

Significant dates	1879
Architect/Builder	Unknown
Criterion C	

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.

#### Major Bibliographical References

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

DeSoto Parish Historic Structures Survey, Louisiana State Historic Preservation Office