

Describe the present and original (if known; physical appearance

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church (1871) is a five bay, basilican plan, board and batten, Gothic Revival chapel located in the residential area of Clinton. Despite a few alterations, the building retains its National Register eligibility.

Despite its suburban location, St. Andrew's enjoys an isolated hilltop setting which contributes to its identity as a Victorian country Gothic church. Both the entrance vestibule and the nave have steeply pitched roofs which are trimmed in blind arcaded vergeboards. All openings are cut in the form of two center arched lancets except for the rear chancel window which employs a four center arch. All windows feature simple bar tracery and board and batten shutters. The roof is surmounted by a small tower with a gabled spire. Most of the stained glass is original. The interior features a false pointed vault which is accented with wooden ribs. The chancel also has a false vaulted ceiling.

The church itself has been little changed since construction; however, in about 1955 two rear additions were built. One is a simple lean-to; the other is a pitched roof structure almost as large as the church itself. Both, however, were executed in board and batten construction and blend well with the original building. In addition, they are both set to the rear and do not dominate the original facade. The 1871 church stands forth from the additions with its composition and styling readily recognizable.

Specific dates	1871
Builder/Architect	unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)  
Criterion C

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church is of state significance in the area of architecture as a rare Louisiana example of a nationally recognized archetype.

St. Andrew's is a good typical example of an American "Carpenter Gothic" church. It has traditional Gothic features such as lances windows and doors and blind arcaded vergeboards. Moreover, it exemplifies the "romantic rationalism" of A. J. Downing and A. J. Davis. Its board and batten construction was specifically recommended by Downing and Davis as an appropriate expression of building in wood. Its light members and vertical proportions, in addition to being Gothic, were also considered to be in keeping with wood construction. As Downing put it: "It is false taste to erect a wooden building in a massive and heavy style."

"Carpenter Gothic" was popular, especially for rural churches, throughout the country during the middle decades of the nineteenth century. As far as the State Historic Preservation Office is aware, there are only about half a dozen "Carpenter Gothic" churches in Louisiana. There were probably never very many, but those which remain represent a well known and important manifestation of Victorian American taste.

Historical Note:

The first Episcopal services in Clinton were conducted in 1842 by Reverend William B. Lacey, president of the College of Louisiana at Jackson. The parish was organized in 1852 and the present church dates from 1871.

Major Bibliographical References  
St. Andrew's Episcopal Church Cornerstone

Witcher, Robert Campbell. "The Episcopal Church in Louisiana, 1805-1861." 1969 dissertation, Louisiana State University.

Duncan, Herman Cope. The Diocese of Louisiana: Some of its History, 1838-1888. Also Some of the History of its Parishes, 1805-1888. New Orleans, 1888.