

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Christ Episcopal Church is a late nineteenth century Victorian Gothic frame church located in a residential area of Bastrop. Apart from an adjacent parish hall connected by a breezeway and the replacement of the original windows with stained glass memorials, the building is virtually in its original condition.

The building has a cruciform plan with four corner entrances. The main entrance is set in a square corner tower with a pyramid roof. Each of the four arms of the cruciform plan church terminates in an angular gable. Ancillary corner entrances are set in shed roof extensions to the building mass. Most of the exterior corners of the building are articulated with pairs of false buttresses set at right angles to each other. All of the fenestration is tall and narrow in proportion with triangular tops which are cut to resemble pointed arches. The entire exterior is sheathed in narrow gauge clapboards.

The interior features an auditorium style church plan. The interior space derives its elaborate spatial character from the intersection of the building's two pitched roofs and from the four corner alcoves which contain the corner entrances. Each of these alcoves is set beneath a pair of straight sided pointed arches similar to the window tops. The complex and angular character of the interior is enhanced by the use of dark walnut stained narrow gauge wainscoting nailed at different angles. Other interior features include a rood screen, four panel doors, a pipe organ, and stained glass windows. Apparently the original windows were composed of diamond shaped glass panes. However, they were replaced through the years by stained glass memorials. The original size and shape was not changed.

The only major change since the church was constructed has been the addition of a c.1950 parish hall which is connected to the rear of the church by a covered walkway. This has had little effect upon the appearance of the church.

Minor changes include the addition of a single metal awning and the reworking of the entrance door area at the point where the walkway joins the church. Again, these changes have had a negligible effect upon the building's outward and inward appearance.

Specific dates	1897
Builder/Architect	unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)  
Criterion C

The Christ Episcopal Church is locally significant in the area of architecture as an architectural landmark in the town of Bastrop. Although Bastrop is an old community and the seat of Morehouse Parish, it has only a modest collection of pre-1930 structures, both in terms of numbers and in terms of architectural distinctiveness.\* The architectural heritage of Bastrop consists largely of plain turn-of-the-century cottages, bungalows, and innocuous 1920's commercial buildings. There are three major exceptions to this: (1) the Snyder Museum, a 1920's eclectic house, (2) the 1915 Beaux Arts courthouse, and (3) the Christ Episcopal Church (1897). Of these three, the church is the oldest and the only one which represents the Victorian taste. This can be seen in its highly angular Gothic wood frame design. As far as the State Historic Preservation Office knows, it is the finest example of Victorian architecture remaining in Bastrop.

\*Bastrop was incorporated in 1852 and has been the Morehouse Parish seat since the parish was created in 1844.

Major Bibliographical References

History of Christ Episcopal Church Provided by Mrs. Bert Smith, Church Secretary,

Copy in National Register File, Louisiana State Historic Preservation Office.