TO BE RESTORED — Restoration of the two-centuries-old St. Gabriel Catholic Church is well under way, financed by private donations and a fair held last summer. Another fair will be Sunday, June 30, on the American Legion Club grounds in St. Gabriel. Beef barbecue, jambalaya, andouille, gumbo and hamburgers will be available, as well as booths with amusements and items for sale. The church, now on the Official Register of Historic Landmarks, is believed to have been built around 1769.
The initial work of restoration of the old church, said to have first been built near the point where Bayou Manchac formerly entered the Mississippi River, was on the foundation at the entrance and the steeple. The steeple has been built, but not yet installed.

Roy Haase is architect for the restoration and Eugene LaBlanc is general chairman of the Old St. Gabriel Church Commission directing activities for the restoration.

St. Gabriel Church, now on the Official Register of Historic Landmarks, is believed to have been first built around 1769 when the Capuchin vicar-general, Father Dagobert, directed that a Catholic church be built in the general area.

There are records in existence pointing to a dismantling of a church at Bayou Manchac in 1772. The site was on the south side of the bayou at or near Fort Manchac. The English Fort Bute was on the north side.

It is possible that the church was moved because more people were living at the present village of St. Gabriel. The old St. Gabriel church stands on a Spanish grant made under the direction of Spanish governor Unzaga. The church was placed under the invocation of St. Gabriel the Archangel.

The first marriage record on file was that of Pierre Landry and Marguerite Allain in 1773. Father Angelus, a Spanish Capuchin, who administered to the needs of Ascension Church at Donaldsonville, was assigned to the new St. Gabriel church in January, 1773.