

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FINAL

FOR N.P.S. USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Saint John's Episcopal Church

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

315 North Sixth Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Lafayette

VICINITY OF

2nd

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Indiana

018

Tippecanoe

157

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
			<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Saint John's Episcopal Church

STREET & NUMBER

315 North Sixth Street

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Lafayette

VICINITY OF

Indiana

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Tippecanoe County Courthouse - Records Office

STREET & NUMBER

Courthouse Square

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Lafayette

Indiana

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

None

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Saint John's Episcopal Church is located at the northeast corner of Sixth and Ferry Streets in Lafayette, Indiana. Built from 1857 to 1858, this Gothic Revival structure was constructed as a simple rectangle block embellished with a contrasting single tower and spire. The brick walls rest on a limestone foundation.

The Gothic influence is apparent in the pointed arched lancet windows and entrances, the buttressed walls, the trefoil window in the south gable, and steep roof with falsely raised gables. The style is continued on the interior with four walnut trusses which are a variation of English hammer beam trusses.

The four story tower has buttresses at three of its covers and string courses between the stories. Buttresses along the east and west sides separate four lancet windows. The major entrances are through a one-story gabled vestibule at the southeast corner and through the tower on the southwest corner. These entrances were constructed in 1887 to replace an entrance to the central arcade.

In 1903 a new parish house was built and connected to the church through the vestry which was located at the north end of the structure. In 1953 the parish house was enlarged so that the original north facade is now covered by this addition, which is one story structure resting on a raised basement and topped by gable roofs. Another major change in the exterior was the application of stucco in 1929 over the limestone foundation and brick bearing walls. The stain glass in the side windows were added through the years as memorials. In 1966 asphalt shingles replaced the original wood shingle roof. Interior changes include the addition of accoustical fiberboard over plaster; a terrazzo floor (in 1966); a new pipe organ; carillon bells; and electrical, heating, and plumbing improvements.

To be used as a record of the building's history and condition.

[Faint, illegible text and markings at the bottom of the page, possibly bleed-through or a second page.]

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)		
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION				

SPECIFIC DATES 1857-58

BUILDER/ARCHITECT William Tinsley

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

St. John's Church is significant for its architecture. William Tinsley, the architect, became well known for the many religious and academic buildings that he designed in the Midwest, especially in Cincinnati and Indianapolis. St. John's was important for its use of the Gothic Revival style, which had not gained general acceptance at the time.

The church was important for its early and prominent place in the organization of Presbyterians in Indiana. The parish was organized in 1837 under the Reverend Samuel Roosevelt Johnson, a graduate of Columbia College and General Theological Seminary. Since 1829 Presbyterians and Methodists had held services in Lafayette, which was regarded as the roughest town on the Wabash River; but Johnson was the first permanent pastor. Johnson held services in the courthouse, other churches, and a school until 1838, when a frame building, 28 feet by 45 feet on the site of the present building, was completed.

The congregation grew slowly. By 1850, when St. John's became the see of Bishop George Upfold, the report to the annual convention reported only 55 families and 90 "scholars" (Sunday school members). Even so, the church had expanded its original building to a length of 60 feet in 1848 and by 1851 was considering a new building.

The present structure was designed by William Tinsley who had come from England and settled in Cincinnati. He came to Indianapolis to design the structures on the old Butler University Campus and Christ Church Cathedral, which is listed on the National Register. Tinsley's English background no doubt influenced his Gothic designs for Christ Church and St. John's; both structures feature buttresses, an offset square tower, and a trefoil window.

The second St. John's structure was constructed on the site of the first wooden building which was moved to the rear of the lot so that it could be used as a parish house. This original frame structure was probably demolished in 1903 when the new parish house was built. Stained glass windows from the original building were transferred to the wall above the altar, and the new structure was consecrated on July 29, 1858.

From the beginning, St. John's Church was intimately associated with the arts. Reverend Johnson brought the first piano to Lafayette and organized a choir by 1842. The new church in 1858 contained the first pipe organ in the city.

The parish was also closely associated with education. Besides conducting the Sunday School, Reverend Johnson was a member of a committee of five, appointed by the first annual convention of the diocese in 1838, to consider establishing a college. Elizur Deming, a layman from the parish, was another member of that committee. The educational program took strong root in the parish; and the peak of participation was 1879-80, despite the

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lack of a pastor. By the 1880's, education and the Social Gospel movement intertwined. St. John's established a children's guild, also known as the Industrial School, that taught trade skills and earned money for the church in 1884. The next year the church established a young ladies' guild and in 1887 an industrial exchange. That same year, the opening of Purdue University brought a new missionary concern to the parish.

Changes in the furnishings of the church reflected the dynamics of parish life and problems that were common to almost all congregations. Financing activities were especially troublesome. A new organ was installed in 1891, but the cost--\$2,000 plus the organ--divided the parishioners. The financial needs of the congregation posed a dilemma in combination with an increasingly democratic view of the laity. Pew rentals were set at \$20 per year in 1838, soon fell to \$2, and then disappeared. By 1876, the national depression and deaths of two generous patrons made revenues hard to raise. In 1888, the envelope system was introduced, and persons who used envelopes could occupy any pew. After parish needs demanded the use of the entire parish house and displaced renters, the revenue problem again became acute. An appeal for funds divided the church again, in 190

St. John's displayed the characteristic localism that has plagued denominations that have hierarchical structures in the United States. Appeals for funds to support local endeavors sometimes divided the parishioners, but funds were usually forthcoming. Diocesan dues, on the other hand, were frequently in arrears--as much as \$1,081 by 1929.

Although St. John's has been altered through the years, it is important as a local surviving example of the Gothic Revival style of architecture which developed in mid-nineteenth century America.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See attached

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than 1 acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	1, 6	5 0, 9 3, 1, 0	4, 4 7, 4 1, 9, 0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Michael Warden, City Conservator

December 15, 1975

ORGANIZATION

Redevelopment Commission, City of Lafayette

STREET & NUMBER

20 North Sixth Street

TELEPHONE

317-742-1011

CITY OR TOWN

Lafayette

STATE

Indiana

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Joseph Cloud

TITLE Indiana State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE 1-30-78

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION
ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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R.P. DeHart (ed.), Past and Present of Tippecanoe County, Indiana (Indianapolis, 1909), 253, 254.

J.D. Forbes, Victorian Architect: Life and Work of William Tinsley (Bloomington; Indiana University Press, 1953).

Jane C. Harvey, "History of Saint John's Church, 1837-1857" (Unpublished manuscript, Wells Memorial Library, Lafayette, Indiana).

Journals of the Proceedings of the Annual Conventions of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the State of Indiana (various places and publishers, 1838 and subsequent years, in the Indiana Division, Indiana State Library).

Louis Martin Sears, The Second Fifty Years: the History of St. John's Parish from 1887 to 1937 (no place, no publisher, no date; in the Indiana Division, Indiana State Library).

Interview with E.L. VanBuskirk, M.D., 1301 Ravinia Drive, West Lafayette, Indiana 47906, on 3 October 1975.