

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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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 West Lafayette Baptist Church (1898-1964)

AND/OR COMMON church of the Good Shepherd (1964-1976)

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER  
123 North Chauncey St. (formerly Main Street)

CITY, TOWN  
West Lafayette

NOT FOR PUBLICATION  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
Second

STATE  
Indiana

VICINITY OF  
018

COUNTY  
Tippecanoe

CODE  
157

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE (None)
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED <u>endangered</u>	<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	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME  
West Lafayette Public Library

STREET & NUMBER  
208 West Columbia St.

CITY, TOWN  
West Lafayette

VICINITY OF

STATE  
Indiana 47906

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.  
Tippecanoe County Courthouse  
Wabash Township Assessor

STREET & NUMBER  
20 North 3rd St.

CITY, TOWN  
Lafayette

STATE  
Indiana 47901

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE  
None known

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

The Church of the Good Shepherd (known from 1898-1964 as the West Lafayette Baptist Church) consists of two connected buildings: the main church hall, constructed 1898-1901 at a total cost of \$21,000; and, Cynthia Jones Hall, a recreational and educational building constructed in 1936-1937 for \$23,000. The main church building is located on the site of an earlier wood-frame West Lafayette Baptist Church constructed in 1868. This site is one city lot described as the north half of Kingston lot no. 10 and the north half of Kingston lot no. 11. Cynthia Jones Hall occupies one city lot described as Kingston lot no. 12.

This structure is built in the Gothic Revival architectural style with a predominately English Gothic motif. The main church is cross-shaped with the long axis east-west, and the short axis south-north. The building has two stories with basement, exterior walls of red brick and two tiered mason buttresses at twelve foot intervals, each buttress capped with Bedford limestone. The foundation is of rough-faced Bedford limestone and extends 4 ft. above the street level. The belltower, located on the north-east corner of the church building, has three tiered buttresses on each corner and contains the main entrance. Originally, the belltower was capped with a stepped masonry gable and a finial at each corner similar to those which exist on the main gable ends; however, these have been removed. The black asphalt shingle roof (8 yrs. old) is high pitched with Gothic gables at each end of the cross-shape. Eave and gable outline trim, as well as the window tracery are of wood and painted Aztec gold (all wood trim painted in 1974). One of the finest features of this structure is its 21 multi-colored textured stained glass windows which are highly translucent and make the church interior colorfully luminous in best keeping with the Gothic tradition. Just as significant is the fact that the largest and finest of these windows face the streets of Chauncey St. (formerly Main St.) or Columbia St. and contribute to the design features of the streetscape in a most positive manner. The grand rose window in the main facade is outlined with bar tracery in the form of an eight petalled rose with a large angel in the center and placed above four pointed-arch windows. Similar format rose windows are located in the north gable and above the two main entrances. The remaining windows are pointed-arch windows in the nave and gable lower walls.

The building has been altered at various times: 1936-1937-the Cynthia Jones Hall portion of this structure (built by Kettlehut Construction Co., designed by Walter Scholer) was added, 2) 1951-extensive remodeling of the main church hall interior (C. Heinmiller, designer and Kettlehut, contractor) replastered ceiling vaulting, removed large baptistry tank from chancel, decreased nave area, and added rooms for educational use.

The church is within the original boundaries of the city as platted for the sum of \$10 by Philemen C. Vawter one of the city's founding fathers and the first clerk and charter member of the Baptist Congregation

Continued-See attached continuation sheet.

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that built the West Lafayette Baptist Church (now known as Church of the Good Shepherd). Thus the church is situated in a historic neighborhood of the town, on Chauncey St. in West Lafayette formerly the Main St. of the town when first organized as the town of Chauncey. Numerous buildings make up the surrounding neighborhood, are in good condition, and constitute a major identity of the down town or "Village" area of West Lafayette; these buildings are 1) 117 N. Chauncey adjacent to the church structure, the former pastor's house constructed 1902, 2) 115 N. Chauncey, the former City Hall, Firestation and library, 3) 122 N. Chauncey, the E. B. Vawter house, a large neo-Jacobian residence of the long time West Lafayette water commissioner, city engineer, school board member, member of a founding family of West Lafayette, 4) 200 N. Chauncey, Morton Grammar School, founded 1840.

# 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 1898-1901 construction BUILDER/ARCHITECT Herzog & Chow, builders  
altered:1937, 1951 J. F. Alexander, architect

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The village of Kingston was platted in 1855 and consisted of a four block area bounded by South St., North St., Salisbury St. to the east, Vine St. to the west, with Columbia St. as the central east-west street and Main St. (now Chauncey St.) as the central north-south street. During the next decade the town grew rapidly until, on January 2, 1866, the citizens of Kingston and surrounding area met to incorporate their town under the name Chauncey. This event marked the official origin of the city which is now called West Lafayette. Numerous public buildings were constructed as the citizens sought to establish their identity as a town and provide vital institutions. Among the buildings of this period were: the Methodist and Baptist churches of 1868, a city hall of 1870, Morton Grammar School of 1871, all located on Chauncey Street, formerly Main St. The present Church of the Good Shepherd is built on the site of the original West Lafayette Baptist Church (1868-1898). The original church was a frame structure built on land donated by E. C. Pierce, one of the city founding fathers and a member of the Baptist congregation. In 1888 the Baptist church purchased an additional lot from E. C. Pierce for further expansion, and in this same year the town name of Chauncey was changed to West Lafayette. The 1868 organizers of the Baptist Church constitute about half of the organizers of the town of Chauncey, the other town organizers being members of the Methodist church across the street. In the thirty years following its incorporation, the town grew in population until new facilities were required to meet the needs of community members. Thus, around 1900 a second generation of buildings, larger in scale and grander in conception, replaced the original ones. Among these were: a new Methodist church of 1898, a new high school of 1898, a new city hall and library of 1901, the Murphy building of 1901, and a new West Lafayette Baptist Church of 1901. The West Lafayette Baptist Church was designed by architect James F. Alexander. Alexander was a prominent local architect of the time and he designed a number of public buildings including Centennial School (1876), Columbian School (1893), Oakland School (1895), Lafayette High School (1890), and Washington School (1900), as well as many private residences. In addition, Alexander designed the Tippecanoe County Courthouse, a structure now on the National Register of Historic Places, and he also was chief architect for the design of the Indiana State Soldiers Home located just north of West Lafayette. Three buildings within the Soldiers Home complex, the Commandant's Home, the Laurie Library, and the Administration Building are also listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Continued-See attached continuation sheet,

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A significant factor in the construction of the building was that the needed funds, certainly a great sum in that day and age, were raised by 23 men—the only heads of families in the congregation. Less than one half a dozen could be called "well to do" and they gave not a tenth of their yearly income but more nearly a tenth of all that they possessed. Of the \$21,000 needed to cover the expenses of the church building and lot, \$12,000 was pledged prior to dedication day, \$5,300 was raised in the morning of dedication day and \$2,600 was raised in the evening. The Rev. E. S. Graham of Hannibal, Missouri conducted the dedicatory exercise of the church on June 15, 1902, the 167th church he dedicated.

A large proportion of the West Lafayette Baptist congregation were prominent in the development of West Lafayette. Martin L. Pierce was a businessman and politician in the City of Lafayette from 1836 to the time of his death on December 28, 1889. Philemon C. Vawter was an engineer and county surveyor who helped lay out West Lafayette. Everett B. Vawter, civil engineer and contractor, was the son of Philemon; he was the originator of the West Lafayette Waterworks Company, and in 1893 took an active interest in its organization and the construction of the plant.

Albert R. Jamison, who helped establish the local mercantile firm of Jamison Brothers, was a charter organizing member of the West Lafayette Baptist congregation and served on the committee to solicit funds to construct the church building.

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

1. W. M. Floyd A Vision of the Past (limited edition) available at 920 North Grant St., West Lafayette, IN 47906
2. E. B. Vawter et al., A Descriptive History of the W.L. Baptist Church (unpublished, ca. 1947) available from C. G. Irion, III, Lindburg Road, W. Lafayette, IN
3. Lafayette Journal and Courier: newspaper file
4. Past & Present of Tippecanoe County, Ind.

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 0.35

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,6	5,079,00	4,417,416,8,0	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

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

Richard A. Frey, Executive Director

June 14, 1978

ORGANIZATION

WABASH VALLEY TRUST FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

TELEPHONE

STREET & NUMBER

P. O. Box 1354-619 Laf. Life Bldg.

742-7110

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.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE Indiana State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

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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

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These aforementioned individuals, all devoted members of the Baptist church, have individually and as a group made significant contributions to the growth and development of West Lafayette and Lafayette. Though these few individuals are but a small sector of the Baptist congregation, the contributions they have made have had positive effects on the business and professional community of their day, on local government and municipal development and on the educational systems of West Lafayette and the surrounding area. Many other members of the congregation have had a positive effect on community development, but in the interests of time and space, the above mentioned have been documented to provide a cross-section of the significance of their contributions.



West Lafayette  
 Baptist Church,  
 West Lafayette,  
 Indiana  
 U.T. M. References  
 16/507900/4474680

(LAFAYETTE EAST) 3664 IV NE  
 AMERICUS 9 MI. MONROE (VIA U.S. DELPHI 16 MI. LEBANON 35 MI.

MONITOR 6 MI. ROSSVILLE 15 MI. MONROE 11 MI. TO U.S. 52  
 4475 4473