

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For HCRS use only
received
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic St. John of the Cross Episcopal Church, Rectory and Cemetery

and/or common St. John's Episcopal Church, Rectory and Cemetery

2. Location

street & number Church: 601 East Vistula Road
Rectory: 611 East Vistula Road _____ not for publication

city, town Bristol _____ vicinity of congressional district 3rd

state Indiana code 018 county Elkhart code 039

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 type="checkbox"/> museum |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private | <input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied | <input type="checkbox"/> commercial | <input type="checkbox"/> park |
| <input type="checkbox"/> structure | <input type="checkbox"/> both | <input type="checkbox"/> work in progress | <input type="checkbox"/> educational | <input type="checkbox"/> private residence |
| <input type="checkbox"/> site | Public Acquisition | Accessible | <input type="checkbox"/> entertainment | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious |
| <input type="checkbox"/> object | <input type="checkbox"/> in process | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted | <input type="checkbox"/> government | <input type="checkbox"/> scientific |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> being considered | <input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted | <input type="checkbox"/> industrial | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> no | <input type="checkbox"/> military | <input type="checkbox"/> other: |

4. Owner of Property

name The Episcopal Diocese of Northern Indiana

street & number 117 North Lafayette Boulevard

city, town South Bend _____ vicinity of state Indiana

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Elkhart County Courthouse

street & number 101 N. Main Street

city, town Goshen _____ state Indiana

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Indiana Historic Sites & Structures
Inventory: Elkhart County has this property been determined eligible? _____ yes no

date May 1978 _____ federal state _____ county _____ local

depository for survey records Indiana Department of Natural Resources
Division of Historic Preservation

city, town Indianapolis _____ state Indiana

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

St. John of the Cross Episcopal Church, Rectory and Cemetery are located two blocks east of downtown Bristol, on the south side of Vistula Road. The Church stands at the southeast corner of Vistula and Chaptula, the Rectory is located immediately east, and the Cemetery is located to the south. The Church property encompasses the entire city block with the exception of a house located just east of the Cemetery. Vistula Road is lined with large maple trees, and two tall pine trees stand in the front lawn of the Church. A white wooden fence, which originally stood along Vistula, is going to be reconstructed and a new sign will be placed in the front lawn.

The Church is a Gothic Revival structure modeled after the small white clapboard churches of New England. It is rectangular in plan, with a projecting bell tower/entrance on the north and a sacristy wing on the east which was added in 1971. The building is clad with original 5" to the weather clapboard siding and has a gable roof with asphalt shingles. A wide frieze under the eaves returns at the end walls and continues up the gables. The bell tower has a louvered lancet opening on each side, two on the front, and a steeply pitched octagonal roof splayed out at the base and surmounted by a cross.

The side walls of the Church have three tall lancet windows divided in the center by a vertical mullion which forms two smaller lancet frames. The bell tower/entrance on the north wall is flanked on either side by a tall lancet window similar to those on the sides but without the vertical mullion. The south wall has three small lancet windows in a Palladian configuration, with the center window being taller than the flanking two.

In 1968 a renovation project was undertaken to enlarge the original basement, reconstruct the basement walls, and replace the main floor. In 1971 the sacristy was added employing the same materials and style as the original church.

The entrance doors located in the base of the bell tower are placed in a lancet-shaped opening. The stoop in front of the doorway has inscribed on its face "Daughters of the King 1891." The outside face of the doors is vertical board with wide battens while the inside face is diagonal tongue and groove. The bronze hardware is original. A second pair of similar wooden doors separates the narthex from the sanctuary. The ropes for the bell, which was forged in Troy, New York, in 1850 are suspended into the narthex. The bell was installed in 1851 and is the oldest in the diocese.

The sanctuary is a vaulted space, the walls and ceiling of which are plastered. The front of the space, containing the altar, is raised and a small room is located in each corner, the original sacristy on the right and the vesting sacristy on the left. These rooms, as well as the bottom half of the wall behind the altar, are faced with original vertical board and batten wainscotting. The pews, along with the altar, credence table, font and Bishop's chair are original.

The most distinguishing features of the interior are the stained glass lancet windows. The two windows at the rear of the space, flanking the entrance, are the Junior and Senior Warden windows dedicated to St. Luke and St. John. The three windows on

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

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each side of the space contain geometric patterns in rectangular panels. The center window on the east is the clergy window, dedicated to the first and second Rectors of the parish, while the center window on the west is the Salusbury window. The triptic windows over the altar are dedicated to the founder and foundress of the Church, Samuel and Jeanette Judson.

The Rectory is a small Greek Revival style house, 1½ stories high, rectangular in plan, with its long axis parallel to Vistula Road. Four 6/6 double hung windows are located in the north facade, and the front door, with narrow sidelights, is recessed in the center. An original wood framed porch has been replaced by a simple metal and wood canopy. The east and west ends of the house have two 6/6 double hung windows and a small 3/3 double hung attic window. The eaves return at the ends and corner boards frame the 5" to the weather clapboard siding. A kitchen wing at the rear of the house is not original but is similar in style and use of materials.

The Cemetery behind the Church and Rectory is characterized by small white slender marble slabs punctuated by larger pylon monuments and later marble stones.

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 checked="" 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/ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799 | <input type="checkbox"/> art | <input type="checkbox"/> engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> music | <input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement | <input type="checkbox"/> philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> theater |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1900– | <input type="checkbox"/> communications | <input type="checkbox"/> industry | <input type="checkbox"/> politics/government | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> invention | | <input type="checkbox"/> other (specify) |

Specific dates Church: 1843-47
 Rectory: 1830 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

St. John of the Cross Episcopal Church, Rectory and Cemetery are significant for three reasons: first, because they are the oldest church, rectory and cemetery in Bristol; second, the construction of the Church and the procurement of the Rectory was made possible by one of the town's founding families; and third, because the Church and Rectory are important early examples of the Gothic Revival and Greek Revival styles of architecture in northern Indiana.

St. John's parish was organized in Bristol in 1843 by Rev. Solon W. Manny. Construction of the Church was begun in the same year with the laying of the cornerstone by Rev. Jackson Kemper, the Bishop in charge of the Diocese of Northern Indiana and the Missionary Bishop of the Northwest. Because the congregation at first lacked sufficient funds to carry out the construction it was not until 1847 that the frame was erected and the roof completed. Later in that year the structure was enclosed. By 1851 the bell was installed, and the Church was finished and consecrated. St. John's is the oldest church building in Elkhart County still used for religious services.

The Rectory was built in 1830, thirteen years before construction began on the Church. The original owner is not known; however, it was purchased in 1834 by Samuel and Jeanette Judson, who came to Bristol from Buffalo, New York. Judson, along with L.M. Alverson and Hiram Doolittle, laid out and platted the town the same year. The Judson family donated the house to the Church in 1867 for use as its Rectory. It was occupied intermittently, and had been left vacant from 1917 to 1966, at which time it was refurbished for its new occupant, Rev. Donald D. Dunn. It is currently occupied by the parish priest, Father and Mrs. John Morgan.

The Cemetery is the oldest in Bristol, having again been donated by the Judson family in 1843. It is also the oldest anglican cemetery in northern Indiana. The earliest stone marker dates from August of 1843. Both Samuel and Jeanette Judson are buried there, as well as many of the earliest residents of Bristol.

Besides donating the land for the Church, Rectory and Cemetery, the Judson family was responsible for raising the majority of the money needed to construct the Church. Mrs. Judson made two trips to the east coast, first in 1847 and again in 1850, to solicit construction funds from Episcopal parishes from Utica and New York City to Boston and Philadelphia. In all, she raised \$2,200. Also, the Judson family, along with other members of the congregation, liberally donated their own money to the construction effort. The family was memorialized in the triptic windows in the south wall of the Church.

St. John's is the only remaining example of a clapboard sided Gothic Revival style church in the Northern Indiana Episcopal Diocese dating from before 1850. Its style is based on the Gothic Revival style churches of New England. The Rectory is one of the few remaining Greek Revival style houses in northern Indiana dating from the 1830's.

9. Major Bibliographical References

H.S.K. Bartholomew, Stories and Sketches of Elkhart County, (Nappanee: 1936; Father D.D. Dunn, "History of St. John's Episcopal Church, Bristol, Indiana," (1968); History of Elkhart County, Indiana, (Chicago: 1881); Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory Elkhart County, (Indianapolis: 1978); Parish Register No.1, (1850); Parish Register No.2, (1968); A.E. Weaver, A Standard History of Elkhart County, Indiana, (Chicago: 1916.)

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 1.95 acres

Quadrangle name Bristol, Indiana

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Beginning at the southwest corner of Vistula and Chaptula, thence east 363', thence south 264' to Middlebury Road, thence west 82', thence north 132', thence west 82.5', thence south 132', thence west 198' to Chaptula, thence north 264' to Vistula.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

| state | code | county | code |
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title John W. Stamper Historic Preservation Planner

organization date April 1, 1980

street & number 307 N. Victoria Street telephone 219-255-0359

city or town Mishawaka, state Indiana 46544

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature 

title State Historic Preservation Officer date June 11, 1980

For HCRS use only
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register date

Keeper of the National Register date

Attest: date

Chief of Registration