

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received FEB 22 1985

date entered MAR 21 1985

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street & number 212 South Green Street N/A not for publication

city, town Crawfordsville N/A vicinity of

state Indiana code 018 county Montgomery code 107

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

4. Owner of Property

name Rector, Wardens and Vestrymen of St. John's Episcopal Church, Crawfordsville, Inc.

street & number 212 South Green Street

city, town Crawfordsville N/A vicinity of state Indiana 47933

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Recorder's Office

street & number Montgomery County Courthouse

city, town Crawfordsville state Indiana 47933

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N/A has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date federal state county local

depository for survey records N/A

city, town state

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one	
X <u>excellent</u>	<u>deteriorated</u>	<u>unaltered</u>	<u>original site</u>	
<u>good</u>	<u>ruins</u>	X <u>altered</u>	X <u>moved</u>	date <u>March 11, 1873</u>
<u>fair</u>	<u>unexposed</u>			

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

St. John's Episcopal Church is a simple Greek Revival ecclesiastical structure with a belfry. It has a gabled roof, a brick foundation, and a basement. Originally, the frame building measured 30 feet by 50 feet. Presently, the building is covered with aluminum siding and has a 30 foot rear addition made of concrete and faced with brick and wood trim, added in 1960. The rear addition has only affected the appearance of the back end of the church.

Facing west, the front facade (Photo #1) has a large, pedimented gable. Originally, the front facade consisted of a recessed central area framed by corner areas, which are flanked by square wood pilasters. (Photo #1.) The main entry, located in the center of the recessed area, had wood-paneled double doors surmounted by a round wood arch with wood siding in the tympanum. Wide wood steps provided access to the entry. The present appearance of the main facade is somewhat changed. (Photo #2.) The center entry area has been built out and is now flush with the rest of the facade. A concrete porch fronts most of the front facade and has steps at each end which provide access to the main entry. Wrought iron railings border the porch and steps.

The entry has wood double doors with wood panels below and nine lights above. A wide molding with ancons frames the entrance, and is surmounted by a semi-circular wood arch with a keystone and fan-like design in the tympanum. The entrance is framed by pilasters, flanked by sided panels and corner pilasters. The two corner pilasters have caps; the interior two pilasters do not.

Above the doorway a wide wood entablature supported by the pilasters extends across the front facade and around the exterior of the building. The date, "1837," is inscribed on the entablature above the doorway. A large pedimented gable surmounts the entablature.

Sometime between the original and present appearance of the front facade/there was a square tower centered on the front facade. The tower intersected the gable and extended well above it. A number of lancet arched windows were positioned on the tower. The facade was remodeled to more closely resemble its original appearance in about 1950. (c. 1917)

The gabled roof of asphalt shingles was originally surmounted by an open, pedimented belfry, topped by a cross over the front entrance. The belfry was probably removed when the tower was added to the front facade. The present open, domed belfry, made of copper and topped by a cross, was added in about 1950. The original church bell, purchased in 1867, is still in use and is rung before and after all services and for special occasions.

The south side facade (Photo #4), as well as the north side facade, originally contained three paired lancet windows of stained glass. The stained glass came from the Kokomo Glass Company. When the 1960 rear addition was built, a glass window matching the original lancet windows was placed east of the original windows in a small projecting, pedimented, gabled wing on the south exterior. The north exterior has a similar projection without a window. The rest of the rear addition is plain. The basement under the addition provides classroom space. The rear addition has a flat roof, except for the gable roofs over the projecting side wings.

Inside the main entry, there is a vestibule with double doors leading to the sanctuary. Originally, the north end of the vestibule was partitioned off from the rest of the vestibule and open the sanctuary. This area was used as the baptistry and contained

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 1837 **Builder/Architect** John E. Garrison/Peck & Hayden

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

St. John's Episcopal Church is historically significant as the oldest remaining church building in Crawfordsville and Indiana's first Episcopal Church building. It is perhaps the sole remaining Greek Revival structure in Crawfordsville and has been in constant use since its construction in 1837.

Plans for establishing an Episcopal Church in Crawfordsville began in November, 1835, when Bishop Kemper, the first Episcopal bishop of Indiana, visited Crawfordsville and found a need for a church for four of Crawfordsville's leading families, who were Episcopalians.

At this time, Crawfordsville, which was laid out in 1823, was a prospering town with a sizeable number of businesses, and between 150 and 200 houses of varying size. It had been incorporated in 1834 and Wabash College, a well-known, all-male school, was already established there. A Baptist, Methodist and Presbyterian Church already existed in Crawfordsville.

On March 7, 1836, St. John's was established as a mission church with Rev. Melancthon Hoyt, a missionary from Indianapolis, as vicar. The first service was held in the old log Montgomery County Courthouse in early 1837. A Building Committee was organized and about \$1,300 subscribed for the erection of a church building. A notice to builders was published in the Crawfordsville Record of March 4, 1837, asking for sealed bids for the building of a 30 foot by 50 foot, one-story structure with a stone foundation.

The church was built in 1837 on the northwest corner of Market and Water Streets on land given by Major Ambrose Whitlock, an Episcopalian who was the government land officer and platter of Crawfordsville. Major Whitlock had assisted in the building of Fort Washington, present-day Cincinnati, and had served as Paymaster for the U.S. Army for the Western and Southwestern departments. He also provided much of the money for the erection of the church structure and served as senior Warden for a number of years. The architects for the building were Peck and Hayden, of Crawfordsville, and the builder was John E. Garrison. The cornerstone was laid on June 7, 1837, by Bishop Kemper. A church bell was purchased in 1867 from the West Troy Bell Foundry of New Jersey.

On December 10, 1872, the church was moved to a more desirable location due to unfavorable changes in its surroundings. The Logansport, Crawfordsville and Southwestern Railroad had been built 150 feet from St. John's front door. In addition, the Red Wing Saloon was moved across the street from the church and a brewery built nearby. During the move, the church became bogged down in the snow and mud in the middle of Water Street, where it remained until March, 1873. Traffic was detoured around the church and planks were placed across the street to provide access to the church.

Subsequent to the building's construction, various alterations were made to the church. By 1917, the congregation had grown to the extent that more space was needed for church activities. A basement was excavated beneath the building, thus providing space for a kitchen and six classrooms, while not changing the exterior appearance of the building. A small rear addition was also constructed.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property Less than one acre

Quadrangle name Crawfordsville

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	6	5	0	8	5	7	0	4	4	3	2	0	2	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D

Zone		Easting				Northing								

E

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H

Zone		Easting				Northing								

Verbal boundary description and justification

See continuation sheet

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

state N/A code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Fern W. Brill, Historian

organization St. John's Episcopal Church date June 15, 1984

street & number 110 Marshall Street telephone 317/362-8057

city or town Crawfordsville state Indiana 47933

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 

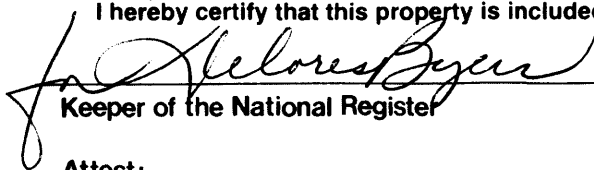
title Indiana State Historic Preservation Officer date 2-6-85

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Entered in the National Register

date 3-21-85

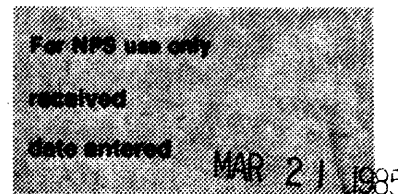

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: _____ date _____

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

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



Continuation sheet St. John's Episcopal Church Item number 7

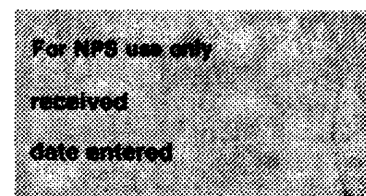
Page 1

and contained the marble font. At the south end of the vestibule were steps leading to a small balcony. The interior of the sanctuary was rectangular in shape and of a simple design. It had two rows of ten wooden pews with a center aisle leading to the slightly raised altar. The altar was recessed in a large lancet arch with a small enclosed room off each side; the north enclosure was the sacristy, and the south enclosure was the priest's study. A wood altar rail separated the altar from the congregation. Sometime after 1870, a distinctive 20 foot by four foot stained glass window with a lancet arch was positioned above the altar in the rear wall. Originally, the plaster sanctuary ceiling was 17 feet high. In 1917, the plaster ceiling was removed and the walnut ceiling beams exposed. Walnut also frames the interior of the windows.

The present interior has undergone a number of changes from the original appearance. The vestibule is a continuous area and is no longer open to the sanctuary. A stairway to the choir loft of black walnut is located at the north end of the vestibule where the baptistry was originally located, and steps at the south end of the vestibule lead to the Undercroft, which was built in 1917. The 1960 rear addition, which extended the church 30 feet, enlarged the sanctuary and provided more space for the priest's study and a sacristy (Photo #6). The altar is located in an open area framed by projecting areas which house the sacristy, study, and stairs to the basement. The black walnut enclosures containing the organ pipes are above the doorway leading to the sacristy and basement stairs. Wood paneling covered the wall beneath the 20 foot by four foot stained glass window until 1974, when the paneling was damaged in a fire and was removed. The marble baptismal font is located in the recessed area on the south side, west of the wood altar rail, which is a replacement of the original. A similar recessed area on the north side contains two rows of wood pews.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

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



Continuation sheet St. John's Episcopal Church Item number 8

Page 2

Based on a letter written by Fr. Donald Foster, who was rector during 1959-60, in 1917 a three-story square tower was centered on the main facade. About 1950 it was decided to return the building to its original appearance; the tower was removed and a belfry was again placed on the roof. The concrete porch was built on the front facade. By 1960 the congregation had again grown to the extent that more room was needed. A rear addition was planned in order to minimize changes to the appearance of the exterior. The small, 1917 rear addition was removed and a 30 foot rear addition, which included a basement, was built. The addition only affected the back end of the church.

Prior to 1913, St. John's was the only Episcopal Church in Montgomery County; the Episcopal denomination in Indiana was rather small. From 1920 to 1950, there was no regular vicar at St. John's and preaching was often supplied from Indianapolis.

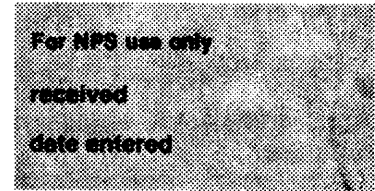
As early as 1836, Negroes were listed on the parish record books as members of St. John's. This was at a time when Indiana law forbade any Negro to remain in Indiana unless he was registered and sponsored. The baptism of a number of Negro babies is recorded in the church book, and in 1860 a Negro woman was confirmed in rites conducted by Bishop Ufold, of Indianapolis. It is believed that the balcony was originally built as seating for Negro members. St. John's has recently been involved in sponsoring families from Poland and Vietnam, and was active in Civil Rights movements in the 1960s.

St. John's also took its place in the educational and social development of Crawfordsville. A church school was organized by the Whitlock family and classes were held in their home because of the lack of space in the church. Later, classes were held in the church basement. Today St. John's Calico Cat Nursery School for Pre-school and Kindergarten has an enrollment of 80, with a waiting list. Choral and instrumental programs, open to the public, are given by St. John's. In 1859, St. John's introduced to Crawfordsville the first instrumental music in a church service, with a borrowed melodeon.

The facilities at St. John's are available to any civic organization and are used regularly by the Crawfordsville Music Club, TOPS, Tri Kappa Sorority, Youth Service Bureau, Sugar Creek Players, United Singles, Animal Welfare League, Married Couples, Battered Women, etc. The church regularly participates in the Montgomery County Candlelight Tour of Historical Places, and the Annual Strawberry Festival.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

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



Continuation sheet St. John's Episcopal Church Item number 9 and 10 Page 3

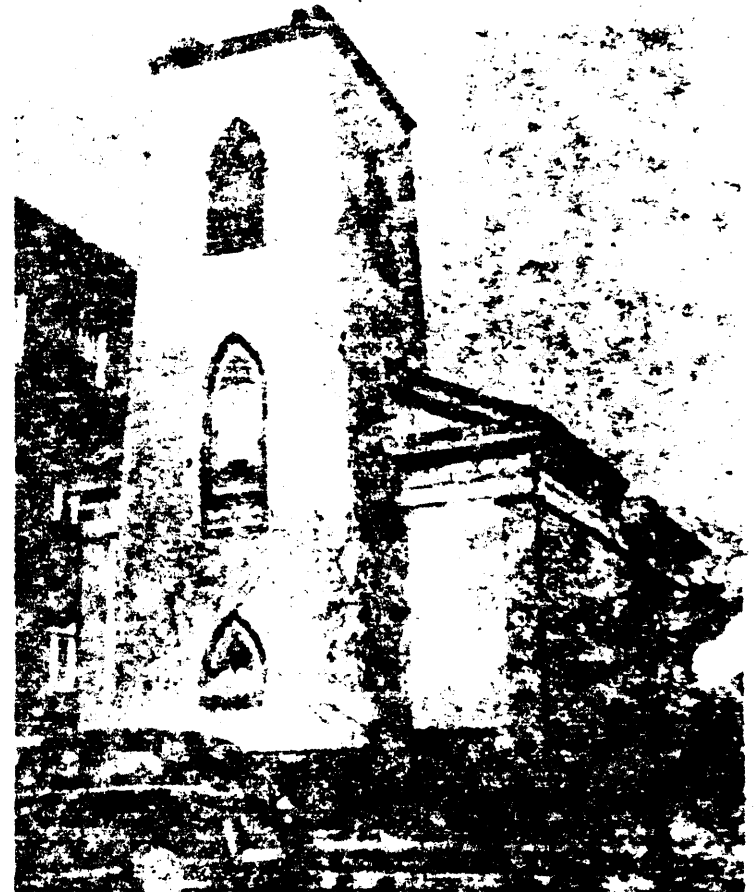
- The Kraut Diaries - 1870 - Mary Hanna and Carolyn Kraut.
- Memories, 1816-1916 - Bina Sarver.
- Crawfordsville 143 Years - Richard Banta.
- Quilt Chronicles - 1976 - Martha Cantrell.
- Quilt Chronicles - 1979 - Martha Cantrell. Montgomery County Historical Society and Crawfordsville Art League.
- The Wabash College Library
- The Crawfordsville Public Library
- Spirit of Missions for 1836 by Historiographer of the Protestant and Episcopal Church, 1836-1984.
- Bell Telephone News. April, 1926.
- Civil Rights Papers, 1960. St. John's Episcopal Church, Crawfordsville, Indiana.
- The Crawfordsville Record. March 4, 1837.
- The Crawfordsville Star. December 10, 1872.
- The Crawfordsville Star. March 11, 1873.
- The Crawfordsville Weekly Journal. July 26, 1863.
- The Indianapolis News. June 5, 1961.
- The Indianapolis News. December 13, 1969.
- The Indianapolis Star Magazine. June 4, 1950.
- Parish Baptismal Record Book, 1966-1984. St. John's Episcopal Church, Crawfordsville, Indiana.
- Parish Record Book, 1837-1877. St. John's Episcopal Church, Crawfordsville, Indiana.
- St. John's Church, 1837-1927. Mrs. W. H. Linn. R. R. Donnelley and Sons, Crawfordsville, Indiana.
- The Spirit of Mission. Rev. E. Clowes. Garrison, New York, 1835.

Item 10

52.20 feet off the south end of lot #123, in original plat of the town (now city) of Crawfordsville, Montgomery County, Indiana, and more particularly described as follows: Beginning at the Southwest corner of said lot; running thence East along the North side of a 10 foot alley a distance of 85.35 feet, more or less, to the Southeast corner of said lot; thence North with the East line of said lot a distance of 52.20 feet; thence West running parallel to the South lot line and intersecting with the East line of South Green Street; thence South following said East street line a distance of 52.20 feet, to the place of beginning.



Looking about the same as it did when it was constructed 113 years ago is Indiana's first Episcopal church building, the white home of St. John's Episcopal Church, Crawfordsville.



This building appeared much different before it was restored recently to its original architectural lines.



Church With The 1837 Look