Form No. 10-300 (Rev. 10-74)

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF TH NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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DATE ENTERED

SEP 2 0 1978

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

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER				
3]5	North Sixth Street		NOT FOR PUBLICATION	
CITY, TOWN			CONGRESSIONAL DISTR	ІСТ
Laf	ayette	VICINITY OF	2nd	
STATE	iana	CODE 0]8	county Tippecanoe	CODE 157
CLASSIFIC	CATION			
CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRES	ENTUSE
DISTRICT	PUBLIC		AGRICULTURE	MUSEUM
<u>X</u> BUILDING(S)			COMMERCIAL	PARK
STRUCTURE	ВОТН		EDUCATIONAL	PRIVATE RESIDENCE
SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	ENTERTAINMENT	<u>X</u> religious
OBJECT	IN PROCESS	YES: RESTRICTED	GOVERNMENT	SCIENTIFIC
	BEING CONSIDERED	X_YES: UNRESTRICTED	INDUSTRIAL	TRANSPORTATION
		NO	MILITARY	OTHER:
OWNER O	F PROPERTY			
NAME				J

	Saint Jo	ohn's Episcopal	Church		
•	STREET & NUMBER				·····
	315 Nor	th Sixth Street			
	CITY, TOWN			STAT	E
	Lafayet	te	VICINITY OF	Ind	iana
•	LOCATION O	F LEGAL DES	SCRIPTION		
	COURTHOUSE. REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.	Tippecanoe Cou	nty Courthouse	- Recorders Office	
	STREET & NUMBER				
		Courthouse Squ	are		
	CITY, TOWN			STATI	E
		Lafavette		India	ana
6	REPRESENTA	TION IN EXI	STING SUR	VEYS	
	TITLE				
	None				······································
	DATE				
				FEDERALSTATECOUNTY	LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

7' DESCRIPTION

CON	DITION	CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE	
excellent X_good fair	DETERIORATED RUINS UNEXPOSED	UNALTERED	X_ORIGINAL SITE MOVED DATE	

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 throug 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.

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8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
PREHISTORIC 1400-1499 1500-1599 1600-1699 1700-1799 X1800-1899	ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC AGRICULTURE X-ARCHITECTURE ART COMMERCE	COMMUNITY PLANNING CONSERVATION ECONOMICS EDUCATION ENGINEERING EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE LAW LITERATURE MILITARY MUSIC	RELIGION SCIENCE SCULPTURE SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN THEATER TRANSPORTATION	
1900-					
SPECIFIC DAT	ES 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

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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VERBAL BOUND	ARY DESCRIPTION	<u> </u>			
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LIST ALL S	TATES AND COUNTIES	FOR PROPERTI	ES OVERLAPPI	NG STATE OR COUNTY E	OUNDARIES
STATE		CODE	COUNTY		CODE
STATE		CODE	COUNTY		CODE
Redevelopmen STREET & NUMBER 20 North Six CITY OR TOWN Lafayette		ty of Lafay		December 15, DATE TELEPHONE 317-742-103 STATE Indiana R CERTIFICAT	
	THE EVALUATED SIG	NIFICANCE OF 1	THIS PROPERTY	WITHIN THE STATE IS:	
NATIO	NAL	STATE		LOCAL X	
hereby nominate this criteria and procedure		n the National Re al Park Service.		Preservation Act of 1966 (ify that it has been evaluated by the second	
TITLE Indiana	State Historic H	reservation	Officer	DATE /	- 30-78
FOR NPS USE ONLY I HEREBY CERTIFY R.B. DIRECTOR OFFICE ATTEST: WWW	THAT THIS PROPERTY Retty DE ABCHENDEY AN M Lever		N THE NATION	AL REGISTER	20/78 HNATIONAL RECISTER
KEEPER OF THE N	ATIONAL REGISTER-			•	

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CONTINUATION SHEET

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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 old 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 thy 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 1904.

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.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

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