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

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE **NATIONAL PARK SERVICE**

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

APR 3 1978

RECEIVED

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INVENTORY	NOMINATION	FORM DATE	ENTERED SEP 2	, U 1970	
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1 NAME	THE ALL LIVING	OOMIT ELTE ATTEIOAD	LE GEOTIONS		
HISTORIC					
, married	nt.John's Episcopal Ch	nurch			
AND/OR COMMON)	.02 0.1			
LOCATION	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·				
STREET & NUMBER					
	North Sixth Street		NOT FOR PUBLICATION		
CITY, TOWN	NOITH SIXTH STIECT		CONGRESSIONAL DISTR	ICT	
Lafa	ayette	VICINITY OF	2nd		
STATE		CODE	COUNTY	CODE	
Ind:	iana	0]8	Tippecanoe	157	
CLASSIFIC	ATION				
CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE		
DISTRICT	PUBLIC	X_OCCUPIED	AGRICULTURE	MUSEUM	
XBUILDING(S)	X_PRIVATE	UNOCCUPIED	COMMERCIAL	PARK	
STRUCTURE	ВОТН	WORK IN PROGRESS	EDUCATIONAL	PRIVATE RESIDENC	
SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	ENTERTAINMENT	XRELIGIOUS	
OBJECT	IN PROCESS	YES: RESTRICTED	GOVERNMENT	SCIENTIFIC	
	BEING CONSIDERED	X_YES: UNRESTRICTEDNO	INDUSTRIAL MILITARY	TRANSPORTATION	
OWNER OF	PROPERTY				
NAME S.o.i.n.e	. John to Endocomo 1 Che	ah		,	
SAINT	John's Episcopal Chu	iren			
•	North Sixth Street				
CITY, TOWN	TOTAL BEACH BELEET		STATE		
Lafay	vette	VICINITY OF	Indiana		
LOCATION	OF LEGAL DESCR	IPTION			
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS,	ETC. Tippecance County	Courthouse - Record	ders Office		
STREET & NUMBER	rippeeditoe oddirey	Odd on odd o	delb office		
	Courthouse Square				
CITY, TOWN			STATE		
	Lafavette		Indiana		
6 REPRESEN	TATION IN EXIST	ING SURVEYS			
TITLE					
None					
DATE					
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DEPOSITORY FOR				*************** *	
SURVEY RECORDS					
CITY, TOWN			STATE		

CONDITION

CHECK ONE

CHECK ONE

 $\underline{\underline{X}}_{GOOD}$

__FAIR

__DETERIORATED
__RUINS

__UNEXPOSED

__UNALTERED X_ALTERED

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	ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	COMMUNITY PLANNING	LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	RELIGION		
<u>1400-1499</u>	_ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	CONSERVATION	LAW	SCIENCE		
1500-1599	AGRICULTURE	ECONOMICS	LITERATURE	SCULPTURE		
1600-1699	X ARCHITECTURE	EDUCATION	MILITARY	SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN		
1700-1799	ART	ENGINEERING	MUSIC	THEATER		
_X1800-1899	COMMERCE	EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	PHILOSOPHY	TRANSPORTATION		
1900-	COMMUNICATIONS	INDUSTRYINVENTION	POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	OTHER (SPECIFY)		
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

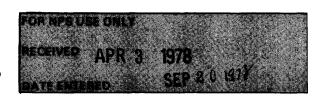
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hereby nominate this criteria and procedures		the National Real Park Service.			6 (Public Law 89-665), I aluated according to the
TITLE Indiana S	State Historic P	reservation	Officer	DATE	1-30-78
FOR NPS USE ONLY	THAT THIS PROPERTY		N THE NATION	AL REGISTER DATE RECEPTOR DATE	7/20/78
	TIONAL REGISTER	WA			~110

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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.

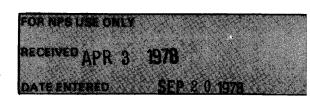
Changes in the furnishings of the church reflected the dynamics of parish life and problems that were common to almost all congregations. Financing activities were especially troublesome. A new organ was installed in 1891, but the cost--\$2,000 plus the old organ--divided the parishioners. The financial 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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- R.P. DeHart (ed.), Past and Present of Tippecanoe County, Indiana (Indianapolis, 1909), 253,254.
- J.D. Forbes, <u>Victorian Architect: Life and Work of William Tinsley</u> (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.