

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PH 0687880

FOR NPS USE ONLY

NOV 15 1978

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORMSEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1** NAME

HISTORIC St. John's Cathedral

AND/OR COMMON
Same

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER St. John Street

CITY, TOWN

Lafayette

VICINITY OF

— NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
7th - John Breaux

STATE

Louisiana

CODE
22COUNTY Lafayette Parish CODE
055

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:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Congregation of the Church Parish and Diocese of Lafayette

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Lafayette

VICINITY OF

STATE

Louisiana

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Lafayette Parish Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Courthouse Square

CITY, TOWN

Lafayette

STATE

Louisiana

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Louisiana Sites Inventory

DATE

1978

 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

State Historic Preservation Office

CITY, TOWN

Baton Rouge

STATE

Louisiana

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 type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The nominated property for St. John the Evangelist Cathedral includes the cathedral itself, the adjacent Bishop's residence, the rear cemetery and the landscaped front lawn with its single large oak. The Bishop's house is constructed in style and materials to echo the cathedral. The nominated area excludes the modern rectory, the chancery, the modern school buildings and rear athletic fields. The church tower dominates the surrounding low scale commercial and residential neighborhood.

The cathedral itself has a seven bay basilican plan with vaulted side nave and side aisles and a large semicircular apse. Ancillary spaces (chapels, sacristies, and staircases) are articulated as separate geometric units on the exterior - a distinctly Romanesque characteristic.

The church is constructed of brick with buttresses which support steel roof trusses, from which the plaster groin vaults are hung.

The exterior is articulated in stucco and red brick. Its basic features (the stair towers, the ancillary masses, the buttresses, the square bell tower, the domes, the tripart windows, the round arches and the corbel table) are primarily Romanesque in derivation. But they are assembled in a vertical attenuated way, with many large openings, in a manner more reminiscent of the Gothic style. There is little unity in the design with many contrasting forms juxtaposed.

A number of St. John's features are "carry overs" from the nineteenth century. These include the polychromatic contrasting colors, the column flanked arched portals, and the complicated massing.

The ribbed and vaulted interior was elaborately painted and stencilled by Rudi Compti in the 1920's. Ribs, groins, spandrels, and panels are picked and contrasted by stencilled patterns. There are also a number of portraits of saints on the ceiling and in panels around the apse. The high quality stained glass windows are original. The baldichino is relatively new as is the linoleum floor.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" 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 1913-1916

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Cousin

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

St. John the Evangelist Cathedral is a local architectural landmark which is known throughout the region for its elaborate and imposing design both inside and out. Its striking, bold, and somewhat unromanesque use of Romanesque architecture makes a strong statement of the importance of the cathedral in the town and in the diocese. The design has a high degree of individuality which can be seen in its somewhat retardaire use of polychromy and its unstudied boldness. St. John's makes a significant contribution to the Lafayette townscape, which cannot boast of many noteworthy buildings. The cathedral is also noteworthy for its elaborate painted interior by a local artist.

Father W. J. Teurlings, pastor of St. John's Parish in Lafayette from 1906 to 1929, was the leader of the project to build the new church from the early planning stages to the completion of construction. The main justification for the new edifice was that the congregation had outgrown its old church building, which dated from the mid-nineteenth century.

It was in 1909 that Father Teurlings and his congregation began to plan. "Ah, but I had big plans in my head!" he recalled years later in his autobiography. "A dream of a church, strictly church-style, perfect in its proportions and delineations." Father Teurlings visited his parents in Holland in 1910, and on this visit he met an unemployed architect whose surname was "Cousin," who agreed to draw the plans for the church. Mr. Cousin finished his drawings a few months after he met Father Teurlings and mailed them to Lafayette from his home in Nymegen in the Netherlands. It is sometimes claimed that the design closely follows a church in Holland.

Father Teurlings called on Eugene Guillot of New Iberia to be the contractor. Many of the congregation's farmers dramatized their enthusiasm for the project by using their wagons to haul building materials from the railroad depot to the site. Such volunteer work helped cut costs. According to Father Teurlings, the church cost approximately \$50,000. The cornerstone was laid in November, 1913, and construction was finished in 1916.

Less than two years later, southwestern Louisiana was declared an independent diocese with Lafayette as its seat. St. John's Church became St. John's Cathedral with Father Jules Jeammard as its first Bishop.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Baudier, Roger. The Catholic Church in Louisiana. New Orleans: The Author, 1939. pp. 540-541.

Lafayette Regional Planning Commission. Historical Sites Inventory, Section 2: Structures, Lafayette Parish (1977), pp. 1-2.

(continued)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Approx. 7

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,5	5,9,3,9,7,0	3,3,4,3,7,4,0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Begin at the intersection of St. John Street and the main church driveway. Thence proceed north along St. John St. 200 ft., thence generally west to the perimeter of the cemetery. Thence proceed around the perimeter of the cemetery in a counter clockwise direction terminating where the driveway dead ends at the cemetery gate. Thence proceed east along the driveway 160 ft. Thence south to the rear wall of the Bishop's residence. Thence east to St. John St. Thence north to the intersection of St. John and the driveway.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Ms. Beverly Latimer

ORGANIZATION

Lafayette Natural History Museum

DATE

September 1978

STREET & NUMBER

637 Girard Park Boulevard

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Lafayette

STATE

Louisiana

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.

SIGNATURE

Bernard Lamar

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

11 Oct 1978

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST: *Charles H. ...*
 DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION
 DATE: *7/27/79*
 KEPPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE: *7/27/79*
 KEPPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER
 DATE: *7/26/79*

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

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RECEIVED	MAY 24 1979
DATE ENTERED	JUL 27 1979

St. John's Cathedral

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE

The Bishop's Residence

The Bishop's residence is a two-story, brick, hip roof structure with a two-story porch on one side, and a two-story wing on the other. Appended to this wing is a modern one-story concrete chancery which has been excluded from the nomination. Like the Cathedral, the Bishop's residence derives much of its character from the interplay of red brick, white stucco, and terra cotta. Design elements are borrowed chiefly from the Romanesque style, but other elements, notably the forward lunette and the side porch arcade are inspired by the Italian Renaissance.

The Cemetery

The cemetery is large and provides the historic setting for the rear of the church. It consists of approximately eighty percent below ground burials and twenty percent above ground mausolea. About half of the mausolea are substantial structures, with simple classical ornamentation.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

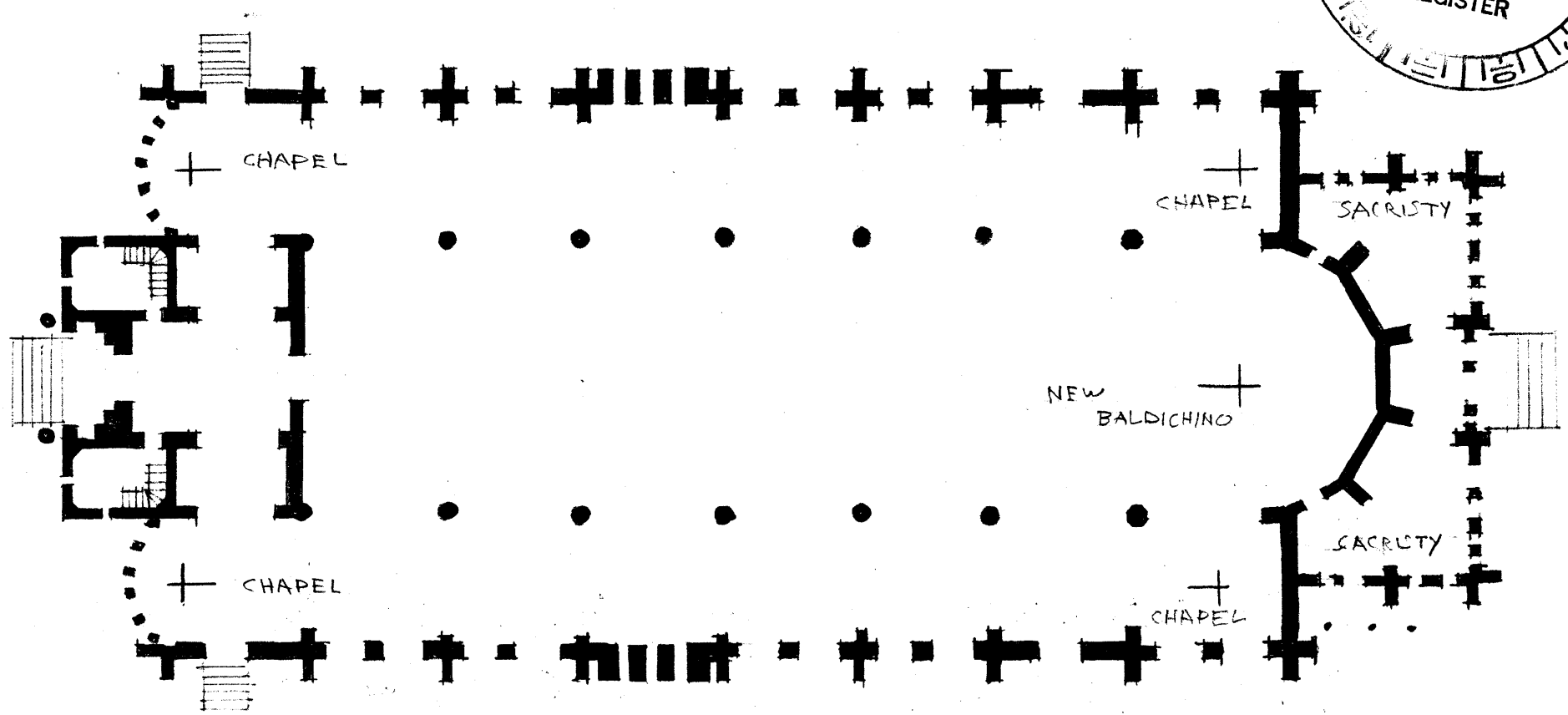
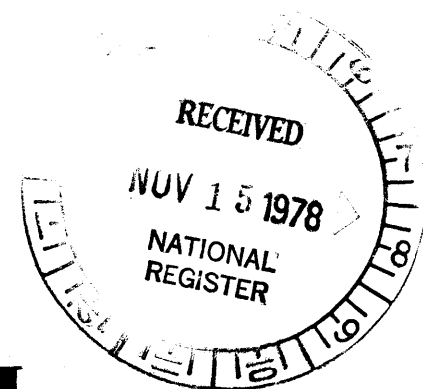
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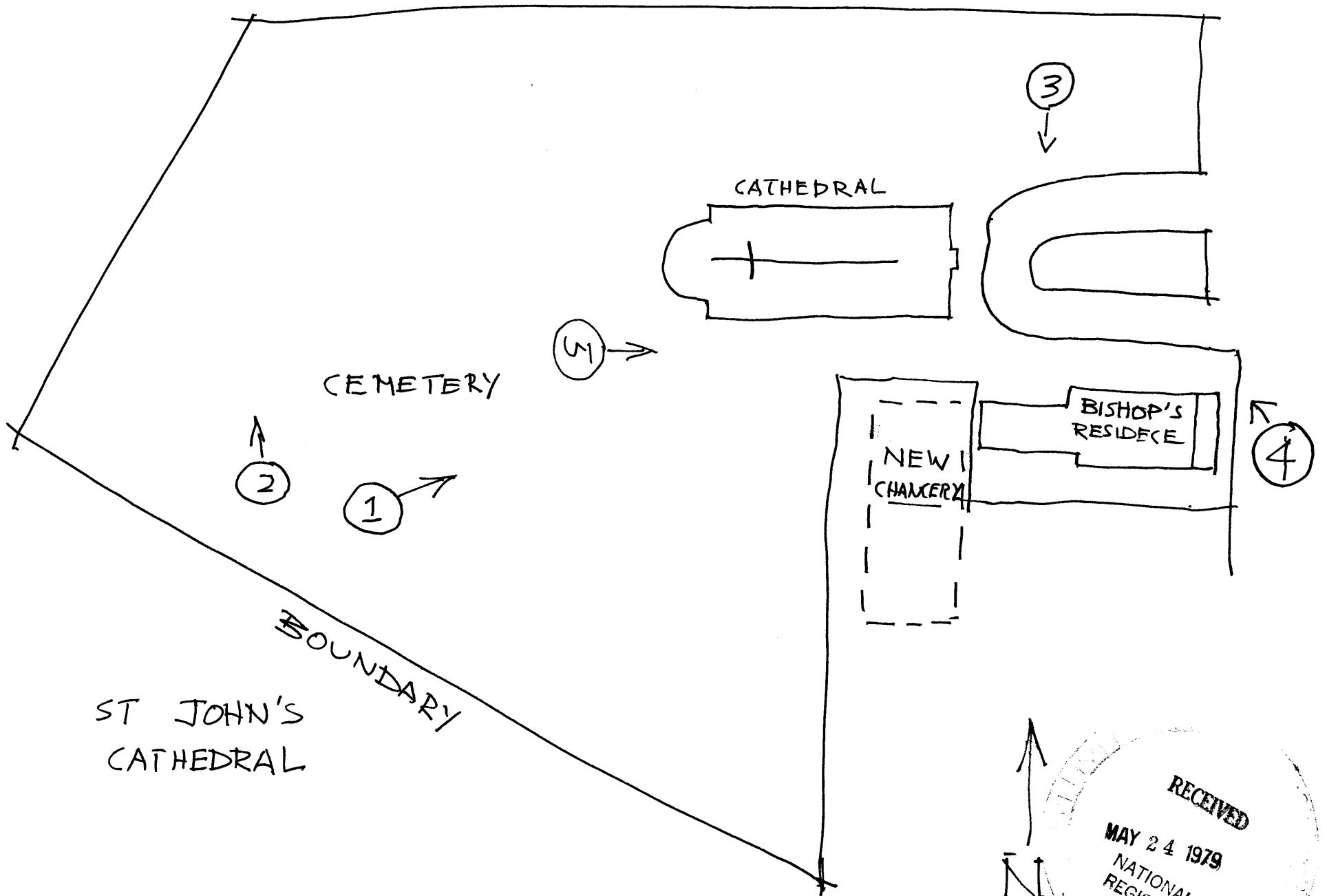
CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 2

Teurlings, William J. One Mile an Hour. Adapted by Rosalind Foley (New York:
Exposition Press, 1959), pp. 69 -76.



ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST CATHEDRAL



ST JOHN'S
CATHEDRAL

