

BA-57  
St. John's Episcopal Church  
3738 Butler Road  
Glyndon vic.  
Private  
1869-73, 1929

St. John's Episcopal Church is located at 3738 Butler Road in northwest Baltimore County, and the church faces southeast toward the road. The church is surrounded by a cemetery enclosed with a stone fence and stone lych-gate, and also has an historic rectory and a modern parish house. The church is constructed of mostly coursed, rough ashlar marble with quoins, and has a granite water table, weatherings, surrounds, label moulds, pinnacles, and sills. It has a gable roof with a northwest-southeast ridge and patterned slate consisting of alternating bands of square and fish scale slates. There is a bell tower on the southeast elevation, and it contains the primary entrance. There is a one-bay chancel on the northwest end of the nave and a one-bay sacristy on the southwest end of the chancel. The chancel is narrower than the nave and has a lower gabled roof with the same pitch. The vestibule has a marble plaque on the southwest elevation that reads "DESTROYED BY FIRE ON CHRISTMAS 1867. REBUILT 1869. BENJ. J. WORTHINGTON, REV. A. J. BERGER, SAML. W. STARR, BUILDING COMMITTEE. SHORB AND LEISTER, ARCHT<sup>S</sup>. W<sup>M</sup>. P. COLE, MASON." There is a steep ladder stairway on the northeast that leads to the organ loft. The nave has a slate floor, the walls are plastered, and the windows have limestone surrounds. There is a center aisle only between the oak pews. There are four Gothic scissor trusses with iron tie rods. The chancel has hexagonal quarry tile on the floor, and oak half-paneling. Southeast of the church tower is a lych-gate set into the stone fence. It is constructed of rubble stone with an entry way on the southeast side and the northwest side, and stone

benches on the northeast and southwest ends. The inner opening has iron gates. There is a gable roof with a northeast-southwest ridge, and it is covered with large, thick slate. There are exposed wood rafter ends that are decoratively cut.

The congregation of St. John's Episcopal Church in Western Run Parish was founded by 1800, and the first church built in 1815. A fire started in a faulty flue on Christmas day, 1867 and the church was destroyed. Joshua Shorb of Westminster was hired to design and construct the building, and the cornerstone was laid on 17 August 1869. Shorb produced perhaps the finest design of his career for the Western Run Parish; a simple English Gothic parish church building that was clearly influenced by the ecclesiological movement of the Anglican and Episcopal churches beginning, in the United States, in the 1840s. William P. Cole executed the masonry work on the church, which was finally consecrated on 6 October 1873. Details on the progress of construction, which seems to have taken several years longer than it should have, are missing, but the church always had a small congregation that could pay its minister little, and was always strapped for cash. A good illustration of the completed building, looking much like it does today, is available from 1881. St. John's Church continued to struggle with membership and money, but in the 1920s seemed to find an influx of both. The latter came primarily from C. Wilbur Miller, who funded a major renovation of the interior of the sanctuary. Miller hired James R. Edmunds of Edmunds and Hyde, architects, assisted by John Ahlers, to design the changes in 1929. Walter Tovell of Reisterstown acted as contractor on the project. Among the work was the installation of six memorial windows from the studio of Charles J. Connick of Boston. The windows apparently had wood sills and frames,

and these were replaced with the limestone seen today. Half paneling was added to the chancel, the altar rail was removed, a new oak pulpit and lectern were added, and new pews installed. The marble altar was apparently added at this time. The organ loft was also remodeled and the organ rebuilt, and new doors installed on the front. In short, about the only part of the original interior that survives are the scissor trusses. Clearly, Edmunds was attempting to make the church an even more authentic example of a medieval English parish church, and in this he generally succeeded. The construction of the lych-gate in the front of the stone fence was also intended to create this atmosphere, and it was apparently added at the same time, and must have also been designed by Edmunds.

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. BA-57

### 1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic St. John's Protestant Episcopal Church  
 other St. John's in the Valley

### 2. Location

street and number 3738 Butler Road      not for publication  
 city, town Glyndon X vicinity  
 county Baltimore County

### 3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Trustees of St. John's Church  
 street and number 3738 Butler Road telephone 410-833-5300  
 city, town Glyndon state MD zip code 21071

### 4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore County Courthouse tax map and parcel: 40-75  
 city, town Towson liber 153 folio 230

### 5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- Contributing Resource in National Register District
- Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
- Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
- Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
- Recorded by HABS/HAER
- Historic Structure Report or Research Report
- Other MIHP, 1976

### 6. Classification

Category		Ownership	Current Function		Resource Count	
<input type="checkbox"/>	district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/>	structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/>	site		<input type="checkbox"/> domestic	<input type="checkbox"/> social	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> structures
<input type="checkbox"/>	object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> objects
			<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<u>3</u>	<u>1</u> Total
			<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> unknown		
			<input type="checkbox"/> health care	<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use		
			<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> other:		
					<b>Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory</b>	
					<u>3</u>	

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## 7. Description

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### Condition

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

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Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

St. John's Episcopal Church is located at 3738 Butler Road in northwest Baltimore County, Maryland, and the church faces southeast toward the road. The church is surrounded by a cemetery enclosed with a stone fence and stone lych-gate, and also has an historic rectory and a modern parish house. The church is constructed of mostly coursed, rough ashlar marble with quoins, and has a granite water table, weatherings, surrounds, label moulds, pinnacles, and sills. It has a gable roof with a northwest-southeast ridge and patterned slate consisting of alternating bands of square and fish scale slates. There is a bell tower on the southeast elevation, and it contains the primary entrance. There is a one-bay chancel on the northwest end of the nave and a one-bay sacristy on the southwest end of the chancel. The chancel is narrower than the nave and has a lower gabled roof with the same pitch.

The southeast elevation has a projecting bell tower in the center with double doors in the front, each of which contains two flat, sunk panels. Two limestone brackets at the top support a limestone panel infill in a lancet-shaped transom. This panel contains a cross, a band of carved leaves, and "Ano Domini MDCCCXVIII." The doorway has a granite surround that is chamfered and has a hood mould. There is a granite belt course above at the same level as the eave of the nave. Above this is a two-part lancet stained glass window with limestone mullions and frame, and the same granite surround as the doorway below. There are buttresses at the corners of the towers, topped with pinnacles. Above the window is a second belt course in granite, and above that a lancet vent with the same surround. This vent is set partly in a gable that has a granite coping. Above the tower gable is a spire with patterned and colored slate consisting of squares and diamonds with red diamonds in the center and fish scale slates at the top. All four sides of the spire have a short lucarne. There is a copper cross on top of the spire. The northeast and southwest sides of the tower have the two belt courses, and the lancet vent and gable at the top of the tower. There are no openings on the southeast elevation of the nave.

The northeast elevation of the nave is two bays with angled buttresses at the corners and a perpendicular buttress in the center with a short chimney above it. The southeast and northwest walls have parapets, with stone on the top of the southeast parapet and new copper on top of the northwest. Each bay has one lancet window with a typical granite surround and a limestone frame set inside this surround as well as a label mould. The southwest elevation of the nave is identical to the northeast, but the chimneystack here is tall.

The northeast elevation of the chancel is one bay with an angled buttress at the north corner. This elevation has a lancet window with a typical surround but no hood mould. The window has a limestone frame and a large limestone infill panel below the sill. The parapets have two corbelled stones at the edge of the wall.

The northwest elevation of the chancel has a three-part lancet with a typical surround and no label mould. The window has limestone mullions and tall infill panels below the sill. The window projects up into the gable end.

The sacristy is set in the same plane as the chancel but is slightly shorter, with a gable roof of slate that has a northeast-southwest ridge. There is a parapet at the southwest end that is covered with copper flashing, and there are angled buttresses at the corners. The northwest elevation of the sacristy has one lancet with a typical surround, no hood mould, and a limestone frame. The southwest elevation of the sacristy has the same window as the northwest elevation of it. The gable end has a round window with stone voussoirs, and a wood sash in a cloverleaf pattern with clear glass, that is set in a wood frame. The parapet has a break in the stonework in several places suggesting that it was either added or had large repairs made. The southeast elevation of the sacristy has three marble steps up to a door with a typical surround and hood mould. The oak door is in a lancet pattern and has three sunk, flat panels. There is a granite sill that may have been added.

The vestibule walls are plaster on expanded metal lathe that is nailed to vertical wood studs. The ceiling has exposed beams with beaded corners and beaded-board flooring above it. The northeast wall is an old date stone with "St. John's Church AD 1816 CHS WALKER. JON. T. WORTHINGTON. CHS. WORTHINGTON. KEY. JOHNS. MANAGERS. BEN. CROMWELL.

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CAR. SN. FRIEZE & GE. RING. MASONS." There is also a marble plaque on the southwest elevation that reads "DESTROYED BY FIRE ON CHRISTMAS 1867. REBUILT 1869. BENJ. J. WORTHINGTON, REV. A. J. BERGER, SAML. W. STARR, BUILDING COMMITTEE. SHORB AND LEISTER, ARCHTS. WM. P. COLE, MASON." The front double doors have beaded-edge, vertical oak boards and a large cast iron rim lock that could be original. The rest of the iron hardware dates to the 20th century. There is a steep ladder stairway on the northeast that leads to the organ loft. It has a closed stringer and open treads with no risers. There are three oak board balusters with cut outs in the shape of musical notations. There is also a square newel post with chamfers and a moulded handrail. In the organ loft, the floor is 2 1/4" oak. There is a trap door in the floor that leads to the stairs, and the oak railing around it matches the stair balustrade. Taylor and Bordy Organ Builders of Stanton, Virginia built the organ in 1993.

The nave has a slate floor with a large slate in memory of Edith Davison Miller who inspired the restoration of the church in 1927. The walls are plastered and the windows have limestone surrounds. There is a center aisle only. The oak pews have a low back with square ends that have one panel that is sunk and flat and has a beveled panel mould. There is a roll moulding on top of these ends. The nave has four stained glass lancets with four panels of figures in each. There are four Gothic scissor trusses with iron tie rods. They are stained dark. There are also five exposed roof purlins on each side of the gable roof, and a board and batten ceiling above the purlins, all of which are stained dark. Based on old photographs, all of these trusses have been slightly altered. Short oak beams project from the wall below the scissor truss creating pseudo hammer beams. Each beam has a symbol carved on the end, consisting of such images as a goblet, ship, a fish, crossed keys, and a seashell with a sword. These beams support trefoil shaped iron candelabra with electric candles. The doors from the vestibule on the southeast are double oak doors with two panels on each door that are sunk and flat. Above the doorway is a small balcony on cantilevered beams that have symbols carved on the ends, including a scimitar, a saw, and a patera. The balcony balustrade is oak with panels that are sunk and flat and have bevel panel moulds. The panels alternate between being plain and having a cut out in the center of them. There is a lancet arch opening above the balustrade with the modern organ in the tower here. The chancel contains an oak pulpit with carvings of an eagle, a griffin, a lamb, a winged ox, and an angel, each carving being set above one panel. There is a limestone baptismal font dated 1898. The lectern is also oak with carved eagles and shells.

The chancel has hexagonal quarry tile on the floor. There is oak half-paneling in which the top panels are smaller and have symbols carved into them. There is also a carved fascia around the top of the paneling, consisting of thistle, grapes and leaves, oaks and acorns, lilies, and other flowers. The panels are sunk and flat, with bevel panel moulds. There are three benches built into the paneling, with carved flowers at the front of the arms. There is a modern marble altar. The roof matches that of the nave, with one scissor truss. The northwest elevation of the chancel has a three-part lancet window with stone mullions and tracery. The northeast elevation has a small lancet of stained glass with two figural panels. On the southwest elevation is a door to the sacristy. It is square-arched, and has the same limestone trim as the windows. The door is oak, with three sunk, flat panels that have pierced carving of grapes and leaves in the center.

The sacristy side of the door from the chancel to the sacristy has beaded-edge vertical boards and a mortise lock. The sacristy has a slate floor, oak cabinets and drawers, and two stained glass lancet windows with diamond lights. The windows have iron frames and limestone trim identical to those in the nave. On the southeast elevation is a door to the exterior. It has beaded-edge vertical boards of oak.

On the northeast side of the church are numerous tombstones, some enclosed with cast iron fencing. The entire church grounds, including the rectory, are enclosed on the northeast, southeast, and southwest sides with stone fencing. Southeast of the church tower is a lych-gate set into the stone fence. It is constructed of rubblestone with an entry way on the southeast side and the northwest side, and stone benches on the northeast and southwest ends. Above the stone benches are round openings. There is a gable roof with a northeast-southwest ridge, and it is covered with large, thick slate. There is a beam across the top of the

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southeast entryway that has beaded edges and is carved with "ENTER INTO HIS GATES WITH THANKSGIVING." There are exposed wood rafter ends that are decoratively cut. In the center of the floor is set a millstone. There is also a beam across the top of the northwest entryway, and it is carved with "AND INTO HIS COURTS WITH PRAISE." This inner opening has iron gates with a pattern of rings connected by horizontal and vertical bars or links. The stone fence curves in to meet the corners of the gate.

The parish hall is a one-story frame structure with board and batten siding and a low pitch roof. It was constructed in 1973. There is a rectory on the property that is listed separately as BA-596.

## 8. Significance

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Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime industry	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

<b>Specific dates</b>	n/a	<b>Architect/Builder</b>	J. J. Shorb, J. R. Edmunds, J. Ahl
<b>Construction dates</b>	1869, 1929		

Evaluation for:

National Register

Maryland Register

not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance reports, complete evaluation on a DOE Form - see manual.)

Much has been written about the history of St. John's Episcopal Church in Western Run Parish, near Glyndon, with the source of much of the information apparently being the trustees minutes and early-recorded reminiscences. A summary of much of this history is sufficient to understand the significance of the buildings. The congregation was founded by 1800, when services were being held in a schoolhouse that stood across the street from the present church. In 1815 the congregation held a lottery to raise funds for a church building, and the following year the cornerstone was laid. The date stone from this building survives today in the present sanctuary. In 1842 John Johns, a parishioner, paid for the construction of the rectory and the stone fence around the churchyard. Both of these were described in a letter of 1844 to Bishop Whittingham: "St. John's Church is built of white limestone and is sufficiently large to accommodate as many as three hundred worshippers. The church is in good repair and is provided with a vestry room and school room. It is not furnished with a bell nor an organ . . . . The church is fitted with seats, and are free. There are suitable accommodations for coloured people. . . . There is a handsome parsonage attached to the church, and is built of the same material as the church. It was erected during the last season and cost, together with the wall surrounding the church lot, two thousand six hundred and ninety three dollars." In 1857 a bell manufactured by the McShane Foundry in Baltimore was added to the church, and an organ was added the following year. All of that was lost when a fire started in a faulty flue on Christmas day, 1867 and the church was destroyed. (1)

The following April the vestry met to consider rebuilding the church, and "the rector was appointed to see an architect in reference to a design and specifications for an edifice to cost from \$3,000 to \$4,000." The rector did not report back to the vestry until March 1869, when they noted that he "exhibited the design + specifications of a Gothic Church furnished by Mr. Joshua Shorb of Westminster - cost [illegible] fully completed about \$9,000.00." The vestry decided to raise from \$6,000 to \$7,000 "to put the building under roof according to the plan submitted." No doubt, they reasoned that with the building complete they would more easily raise the needed money to furnish it. By late May they had raised \$6,000 and appointed a building committee, which the following month the vestry instructed to proceed with the plan from Shorb & Leister. Benjamin Worthington, a parishioner, agreed to pay all the costs exceeding the \$6,000 that the vestry had raised. The cornerstone was laid on 17 August 1869, and in it was included a description of the building that must have been distributed to the attendees and was copied into the vestry minutes. "This church called St. John's in the Valley in Western Run Parish Balto. Co. Md. is erected on the site + partially on the foundation of a former church . . . . This church was designed by Joshua Shorb of Westminster Md. + is of the plain pointed style of Gothic architecture: and the said Shorb has contracted with the building committee appointed by the vestry to erect it in a workmanlike + substantial manner for the sum of nine thousand six hundred + fifty dollars \$9,650.00. . . . Outer dimensions of the ground plan of the church. Steeple 12' x 14', a nave 30' x 40', a chancel 21' x 16', and a vestry room 12' x 15'. Height of the spire to the top of the cross to be about 106 feet. The church to be built of limestone using as much as possible the stones out of the former building. Water tabling, window weathering and sills, coping, belting, buttresses, pinnacles and front door sill to be of granite - to be roofed with fancy colored slate - windows to be fitted with stained glass, the altar windows

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to have a representation of St. John and his emblem the eagle. Pulpit, lectern, and altar to be of walnut and also tops of pews. Gilded cross on the spire." William P. Cole executed the masonry work on the church, which was finally consecrated on 6 October 1873. Details on the progress of construction, which seems to have taken several years longer than it should have, are missing, but a good illustration of the completed building, looking much like it does today, is available from 1881. (2)

The choice of J. J. Shorb for architect is an interesting one. Shorb was born in Emmittsburg in 1809 and was apprenticed to carpenter James Storm. As a journeyman, Shorb went west, but he returned to work with Storm until the master's death, then partnered with several other carpenters. Following a fire in Emmittsburg that destroyed Shorb's home and store, he moved to Westminster c. 1865 and formed a partnership with J. J. Leister and William Shaeffer. The business included the design and construction of buildings and furniture, as well as the production of architectural woodwork, including brackets, newel posts, and balusters. Shaeffer seems to have left the business in short order, and c. 1871 or 1872 Shorb and Leister was dissolved. Shorb then took his son, Covington, into business, and the firm became known as J. J. Shorb & Son until the retirement of the father c. 1878. J. J. Shorb died in 1884 of typhoid fever. Shorb was the designing partner of the firm, whatever its incarnation, though he was self-taught. One of the first designs by Shorb was Grace Lutheran Church in Westminster, of 1866-67 (burned 1883), and St. Paul's Reformed Church (CARR-1572), also in Westminster, of 1868-69, followed this. Shorb designed the mansard-roofed dwelling of Col. W. W. Dallas (CARR-517) in 1869, and was perhaps single-handedly responsible for bringing that motif to Westminster. The Orendorff Building of 1874, the alterations to the Westminster Hotel of the same year, and the addition to Charles B. Roberts' House (CARR-466) of 1878 all employed a mansard roof. Shorb also designed Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Glyndon shortly after his work on St. John's, and was apparently responsible for the construction of all of these buildings, as well. The full extent of his work is as yet unknown. (3)

Why the rector of St. John's was drawn to Westminster and Shorb rather than to the many talented architects in Baltimore is unclear? Nonetheless, Shorb produced perhaps the finest design of his career for the Western Run Parish, a simple English Gothic parish church building that was clearly influenced by the ecclesiological movement of the Anglican and Episcopal churches beginning, in the United States, in the 1840s. One of the best examples of this type in Maryland is the Ascension Episcopal Church in Westminster, of c. 1845, which Shorb would have known well. The hallmarks of this type included the shorter and narrower, but deep chancel, the stone porch, in this case on the west side of the chancel, and the tall tower and spire, relative to the size of the church. The use of stone, of course, was preferred, in keeping with the surviving medieval examples, and Shorb handled this beautifully. He employed a rough ashlar that gives a feeling of great antiquity and contrasts well with the simple decorative details executed in granite. The description of St. John's that was distributed at the laying of the cornerstone, and included in it, one suspects was the work of Shorb, who would have known the church best. Calling it the pointed style of Gothic architecture probably reflects the influence of A. W. Pugin and his book *The True Principles of Pointed or Christian Architecture*, of 1841. Pugin was a major influence on the ecclesiological movement and on Gothic Revival architecture in general, and St. John's has strong affinities with his design for St. Oswald's, Liverpool, 1839-42. (4)

The church always had a small congregation that could pay its minister little, and was always strapped for cash. Not surprisingly, the cost of building the new structure put the church into deeper financial trouble, even though the arrangements made should have prevented that. Due to incomplete records, the story is not entirely clear. Church historian Margaret Worrall states that Benjamin Worthington "secured the release of the lien on the Church" in 1874, as promised, but that the Carroll County court ordered the church be sold unless the debt was paid by 15 December 1878. The vestry minutes claim that Shorb & Leister obtained a decree in the circuit court of Baltimore County that the church be sold on 11 January 1879 unless the debt were paid. A report of the local paper verifies this record, stating that it was a trustee's sale ordered by the Circuit Court, but an advertisement for the impending sale was not located, and no record of the case could be found in the docket books for Baltimore County. The minutes also state that the sum, \$223.55, was paid on 10 January 1879. In any case, the church was not sold, and

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periodic improvements were made. A change in policy was made concerning the graveyard surrounding the church around this time. One of the resolutions of 1881 stated "that hereafter no lots shall be enclosed by iron railing or fence: but that parties wishing to enclose may pass a chain around it, from one stone pillar to another." Assuming that this decree was enforced, the existing cast-iron fences must have been erected before this time. Whether they were making care of the grounds more difficult, or were seen as cluttering the graveyard and detracting from the appearance of an English parish church is not clear. In any case, there are no twentieth century fences within the stone fence. (5)

St. John's Church continued to struggle with membership and money, but in the 1920s seemed to find an influx of both. The latter came primarily from C. Wilbur Miller, who funded a major renovation of the interior of the sanctuary at a cost of almost \$160,000. Miller hired James R. Edmunds of Edmunds and Hyde, architects, assisted by John Ahlers, to design the changes in 1929. Edmunds had been the architect of Miller's house, Pleasant Hill. Walter Tovell of Reisterstown acted as contractor on the project. Among the work was the installation of six memorial windows from the studio of Charles J. Connick of Boston and a pair of Old English alms basins. Connick had learned his business from William Willet in Philadelphia and established his studio in Boston in 1912 with the support of architect Ralph Adams Cram. Connick used hand-blown glass to help preserve the look and feel, as well as the craft, of medieval glass making. At the time the church reopened it was noted, "The work of remodeling and re-decorating has been done in such a manner as to retain the simplicity of the old structures." In some ways, it actually simplified what was there. Based on a photograph of the church before the changes, the interior walls were frescoed, like most nineteenth century churches. All of this considerable paint, which provided color, disappeared in place of white walls. The plaster was probably originally applied to the masonry, but judging from a deteriorated wall in the tower, the walls were apparently studded out and lathed and plastered. As a result, traces of the original finishes could be entombed in the walls. The arch at the opening of the chancel had engaged Gothic cluster columns that were also removed. (6)

The wood floors were taken up and replaced with flagstone in the nave and hexagonal tile in the chancel. The stoves used to heat the church were removed and replaced with a furnace, placed in a basement that was apparently excavated at this time. The windows apparently had wood sills and frames, and these were replaced with the limestone seen today. What became of the old windows is not known. Half paneling was added to the chancel, the altar rail was removed, a new oak pulpit and lectern were added, and new pews installed. The marble altar was apparently added at this time. The organ loft was also remodeled and the organ rebuilt, and new doors installed on the front. In short, about the only part of the original interior that survives are the scissor trusses. Clearly, Edmunds was attempting to make the church an even more authentic example of a medieval English parish church, and in this he generally succeeded. The construction of the lych-gate in the front of the stone fence was also intended to create this atmosphere, and it was apparently added at the same time, and must have also been designed by Edmunds. The iron gate was reportedly "designed after bits from the bridles of hunters." The Parish Hall was constructed in 1973. (7)

### Notes:

(1) Margaret Worrall, *The History of St. John's Church, Western Run Parish, 1800-2000*. (Glyndon, Md.: The Vestry of St. John's Church, 2000), pp. 10-13, 29-30, 32, 34, 40. There were earlier histories, but Worrall's is the most complete, and covers the earlier material. Unfortunately, she does not note her sources. E. P. Philpott to Bishop William R. Whittingham, 1 April 1844, Maryland Diocesan Archives.

(2) Worrall, *The History of St. John's Church*, pp. 41-42, 45. St. John's Church, "Proceedings of the Vestry, 1820-1891," pp. 226-34. Photostat copy, Maryland Diocesan Archives. The Baltimore Sun clearly copied from this text in its coverage of the

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ceremonies. Sun (Baltimore), 18 August 1869, p. 1. J. Thomas Scharf. History of Baltimore City and County. (Philadelphia: J. Everts & Co., 1881), p. 866.

(3) Files of the author. See also, Christopher Weeks, The Building of Westminster in Maryland (Annapolis, Md.: Fishergate Publishing Co., 1978).

(4) Phoebe B. Stanton, The Gothic Revival and American Church Architecture: An Episode in Taste, 1840-1856 (Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins Press, 1968).

(5) Worrall, The History of St. John's Church, p. 47. St. John's Church. "Proceedings of the Vestry, 1820-1891," p. 264. Baltimore County Union, 28 December 1878, p. 3.

(6) "County Church in Worthington Valley to Reopen." Union News (Towson), 28 June 1929. Maryland Historical Society VF. "Remodelling Worthington Valley Church Completed." Jeffersonian (Towson), 29 June 1929, p. 1. Worrall, The History of St. John's Church, pp. 57-62.

(7) Worrall, The History of St. John's Church, pp. 57-62. "Worthington Valley Church is Scene of Picturesque and Colorful Gathering." Jeffersonian (Towson), 30 November 1934, p. 8. Maryland Historical Society VF.

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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Inventory No. BA-57

See continuation sheet.

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## 10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of surveyed property 4 A.Acreage of historical setting 4 A.Quadrangle name HampsteadQuadrangle scale 1:24000

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundaries consist of the entirety of parcel 75.

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## 11. Form Prepared By

---

name/title Kenneth M. Short

organization \_\_\_\_\_

date 01/17/2003street and number 610 Regester Ave.telephone 410-377-4953city or town Baltimorestate MDzip code 21212-1915

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
DHCD/DHCP  
100 Community Place  
Crownsville MD 21032  
410-514-7600

# Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. BA-57

Name St. John's Protestant Episcopal Church

Continuation Sheet

Number 9 Page 1

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See endnotes

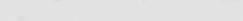


32'30"  
478  
477  
476  
475  
474000 N  
39'30"  
76'15'

(COCKEYSVILLE)  
5621 NW

BA-57  
St. John's P.E. Church  
3738 Butler Rd

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

- Heavy duty  1-4th class
- medium duty  5-6th class
- U.S. Route 

HAMPSTEAD, MD.

N3930 -W 7615/7.5



BA-57

St. John's Ep. Church

3738 Butler Rd

Balto. Co., MD

Ken Short

Feb 2002

MD SHPO

Southeast eka

1/7

PRT 346 69\*\* \*  
<No. 6 >112  
N N N N-02 <043>@



BA-57

St. John's Epis. Church

3738 Butler Rd

Ba Ho. Co, MD

Ken Stort

Feb. 2002

MD SHPO

Lychgate - Southeast elev

2/7

ART 346 69\*\* \*  
<NO. 2 >114  
N N N+1-08 (043)@



BA-57

St. John's Epis Church

3738 Butler Rd

Balto. Co, MD

Ken Short

Feb. 2002

MO SHPO

Northeast & Northwest

3/7

ART 346 69\*\* <No. 8 >042 N N N-5-25 (043)@



BA-57

St. John's Epis. Church

3738 Butler Rd

Balto. Co, MO

Ken Skort

Jan 2002

MO SHPO

Southwest Hwy

4/7



BA-57

St. John's Epis. Church

3738 Butler Rd

Balto. Co., MD

Ken Short

Jan. 2002

MD SHPO

Nave - w. North

5/7



BA-57

St. John's Epis. Church

3738 Butler Rd

Balto. Co., MD

Ken Short

Jan. 2002

MD SHPO

Chancel roof truss

6/7



BA-57

St. John's Epis Church

3738 Butler Rd

Balto. Co, MD

Ken Short

Jan. 2002

MD SHPO

Pulpit

7/7

Walter Washington, III, (R. S. 10/20/76)

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

NOMINATION FORM for the NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
**St. John's Protestant Episcopal Church, Worthington Valley**

AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Butler Road**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Glyndon**

STATE: **Maryland** COUNTY: **Baltimore**

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	_____	_____

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
**Vestry of St. John's Church, Worthington**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**St. John's Church, Worthington**

CITY OR TOWN: **Glyndon** STATE: **Maryland**

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
**Baltimore City Courthouse**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Calvert and Lexington Streets**

CITY OR TOWN: **Baltimore** STATE: **Maryland**

Title Reference of Current Deed (Book & Pg. #): **WG 158/230**

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
**Baltimore County Landmarks**

DATE OF SURVEY: **1971**  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
**Baltimore County Historical Society**

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: **Cockeysville** STATE: **Maryland**

7. DESCRIPTION	
CONDITION	<div style="text-align: right; font-size: small;">(Check One)</div> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/> Ruins <input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">(Check One)</div> <div style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">(Check One)</div> </div> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered <input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered <input type="checkbox"/> Moved <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE	
<p>ST. JOHN'S CHURCH is a rubble stone church carefully and authentically rendered in (English) Gothic Revival style, consisting of a tower and spire at the southeast end (containing the entrance, facing the road, hereinafter called the east end), a two bay nave, a one bay chancel, south of which projects a one bay sacristy.</p> <p>The square tower rises three storeys, a full storey above the steeply peaked nave roof; each storey is marked by a cut stone belt course. Its first storey shelters the principal entrance; the second storey houses the organ and choir gallery, and is lighted by a tall Gothic window divided into two lancets and a roundel by limestone tracery; the third or top storey houses the belfry, and a Gothic arch of wood louvres pierces each of its four walls, which terminate above in four sharp parapet gables, separated by square pinnacles set diagonally above the pairs of buttresses at each corner of the tower. A tall, four-sided slated spire rises above the tower, topped by a cross. Several courses of slates are semi-hexagonal in shape, and some red slates are introduced as additional ornamentation.</p> <p>Stepped buttresses, set diagonally at each corner, support the nave walls; those at the east end terminate in square pinnacles, like the buttresses, set diagonally. Stone chimneys rise flush with the walls between the two bays, and smaller buttresses provide further support to the nave walls beneath the chimneys. Gable ends extend above the slate roofing, finished with stone coping (the westerly gables have been covered with copper flashing). Windows are single tall lancets and are topped with a label lintel like all other openings of this structure.</p> <p>The chancel, slightly narrower and lower than the nave, but with roof</p>	
(continued)	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SIGNIFICANCE			
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	
SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) <u>1869, 1927</u>			
AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE			
<p>This Protestant Episcopal Church is located northwest of the intersection of Butler and Piney Grove Roads. It is an excellently rendered example of the Gothic Revival style, based on rural medieval English precedent. Unusually ornamental for its size, it has been further enhanced by extensive rebuilding in 1927 which gave it a very correct English interior, stone tracery and window jambs, added the well-designed lych gate and the tasteful landscaping.</p> <p>The congregation was formed as an independent church within St. Thomas Parish to accommodate the growing community of the Werthington Valley. The first church, constructed in 1816, was located on property donated by Charles Walker of Woodburn. Among the vestrymen were Hickman Johnson, John Tolley Werthington, Charles Worthington and Walter Werthington, Edward Gill, John Johns and Kinsey Johns and John George Walker, all men of prominence and land-owners in the near vicinity.</p> <p>For a number of years the church was served on a part-time basis by clergy; it was not until 1846 that the first full-time rector was obtained. During the ministry of the Rev. Ethan Allen, St. John's became an independent parish.</p> <p>At Christmas in 1867, this church building was destroyed by fire. It was immediately rebuilt, the new cornerstone being laid in August 1869. The</p>			

(continued)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

"St. Jehn's Church in the Valley, Western Run Parish, Record Book 1810-92".  
Bound manuscript with family notes by Rev. Ethan Allen.  
Maryland Historical Society.

Rightmyer, Rev. Nelson Waite, Ed.D. A Short History of Saint Jehn's Church,  
Worthington Valley, Western Run Parish. Privately printed. 1963.

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES				
CORNER	LATITUDE				LONGITUDE				
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"			
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"			
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"			
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NDMINATED PROPERTY: **11.4 acres**

**Acreage Justification:**

The 11.4 acres around St. Jehn's Church represent a total of  
five lots owned by the Church at this site.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE: <b>Catherine F. Black and James T. Wollen, Jr. AIA</b>		DATE <b>Jan. 1, 1976</b>
ORGANIZATION <b>Worthington Valley Historical District Project</b>		
STREET AND NUMBER: <b>1114 Bellemore Road</b>		
CITY OR TOWN: <b>Baltimore</b>	STATE <b>Maryland</b>	

**12. State Liaison Officer Review: (Office Use Only)**

Significance of this property is:

National  State  Local

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

Continuation Sheet

Question 7

slopes parallel, is similarly constructed with diagonal corner buttresses and a parapet gable. A single lancet window pierces the north wall, and the west window, above the altar, contains limestone tracery describing three principal lancets below several smaller areas of glass, in the "Decorated" style of English Gothic architecture.

The sacristy, similar to the other areas in form and shape, but smaller, projects from the south side of the chancel; its entrance is through a door which faces the east. A single lancet window through the south and west walls lights the space within, and in its parapeted gable is a round window which lights the (inaccessible) attic storey; this window contains wooden tracery describing a quatrafoil, the only wooden tracery or window frame in the building, probably the last remaining of the original sash.

The water table, consisting of a stone course, worked to a Gothic drip profile, the stepped shoulders of the buttresses, window sills and label lintels, pinnacles, copings, and other decorative stone elements, are all of cut granite, original to the structure. Walls are of rubble marble, native to the region. The jambs of the single lancets, and tracery of the east and west windows, are of Indiana limestone, installed in the 1927 alterations. Roofing is of slate, some courses of which are shaped as half-hexagons, providing areas of contrasting textures.

A marble tablet with mid-nineteenth century lettering, mounted on the wall in the entrance narthex states that Short & Leister were the architects of this church, 1869. James R. Edmunds of Baltimore was the architect for the extensive interior alterations of 1927.

Continuation Sheet - 2

Internally, a center aisle, paved in rectangular flagstone, leads to a large pointed arch, marking the separation between the nave and the chancel. The former contains two banks of oak pews, in late Gothic style. Chancel furnishings include a carved oak pulpit and lectern flanking the chancel arch, a stone altar, and oak paneled wainscoting topped with a band of carving in a grapevine motif; built into the wainscoting are seats for clergy and acolytes, and a credence table. The chancel floor is of hexagonal tiles, and it is divided into three levels, with treads of travertine. All windows are predominately rich blue in color, consisting of many small pieces of leaded stained glass, illustrating the Gospel of St. John. These interior elements all date from 1927 and only the scissors-truss roof is original to the structure.

Surrounding the large churchyard, which contains a cemetery, is a rubble stone wall, laid dry, mostly dating from the nineteenth century. A stone, slate roofed lych gate shelters a pedestrian entrance along the road, opposite the principal entrance of the church; it dates from 1927.

The cemetery contains graves from the early nineteenth century to the present.

The RECTORY (q.v.) stands south of the church, and a contemporary PARISH HALL stands west of it. The PARISH HALL is a low one story structure of frame, its walls covered in gray stained board and batten. Its low-pitched roof, subdued color and profile, and interesting shape, allow this completely contemporary structure to co-exist in its period surroundings in perfect harmony.

Continuation Sheet - 3

Question 8

architects were Short and Leister and the total cost was \$9,650.

Some years later, about 1891, there began a period of deterioration of the physical plant due to a decrease in communicants and consequent financial strain. However, in 1927, Mr. Wilbur Miller of Shawan and others built the church and rectory and Charles J. Connick of Boston was commissioned to install the memorial stained glass windows. The architect for this restoration was James R. Edmunds of Baltimore. The new parish hall was built in 1973. Its architect was Hans-Ullrich Scharnberg of Washington, D.C.

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BA-57

St John's Church, Worth, Yorks.  
from SE & NE



St. Johns, Worthington

Lych gate from S. street

1975

BA-57

JTW:le



St John's  
Rectory Meathouse  
from east

1975 BA-57

STW Jr



St. Johns Parish house  
from northeast

BA-57  
1975

JTW JR