FHD-744

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST CATHOLIC CHURCH

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

E. Second Street

CITY, TOWN

Frederick ___ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Frederick

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
__DISTRICT	__PUBLIC	X OCCUPIED	__AGRICULTURE	__MUSEUM
X BUILDING(S)	X PRIVATE	__UNOCCUPIED	__COMMERCIAL	__PARK
__STRUCTURE	__BOTH	__WORK IN PROGRESS	__EDUCATIONAL	__PRIVATE RESIDENCE
__SITE	**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**	**ACCESSIBLE**	__ENTERTAINMENT	X RELIGIOUS
__OBJECT	__IN PROCESS	X YES: RESTRICTED	__GOVERNMENT	__SCIENTIFIC
	__BEING CONSIDERED	__YES: UNRESTRICTED	__INDUSTRIAL	__TRANSPORTATION
		__NO	__MILITARY	__OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

___ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Frederick County Courthouse

Liber #:

Folio #:

STREET & NUMBER

N. Court Street

CITY, TOWN

Frederick, Maryland

STATE

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

__FEDERAL __STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
X EXCELLENT	__DETERIORATED	X UNALTERED	X ORIGINAL SITE
__GOOD	__RUINS	__ALTERED	__MOVED DATE_____
__FAIR	__UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This church is built on a Latin Crciform plan with a free standing tower projecting from the rear wall. It is walled with stuccoed brick and is detached. The ediface is approximately 3-1/2 stories in height, approximately three large bays wide and six bays in depth with the transepts being one bay wide and two bays in depth. The chancel is intercepted by the one bay square tower and surrounded by one story extensions. The nave is 136' long and 49' wide with a height of 40'. Both the exterior and interior are designed in the Greek Revival style, somewhat resembling a Greek temple and the classic interpretations of Sir Christopher Wren and James Gibb in England, except that the tower is attached to the rear.

The front facade is divided into three bays by four wide masonry pilasters headed by Ionic capitals supporting a moulded cornice, frieze, and a rather steep pediment decorated by mouldings and Roman dentils. The tympanium is adorned by a tall relief sculpture of St. John holding a tablet and pen with an eagle and archangels bearing tablets on either side. The central entranceway has tall, double doors of panels with a paneled enframement, and all enclosed by fluted, Ionic pilasters supporting a segmental arched pediment trimmed by small dentils. Ornamental iron lamps surmounted by crosses are attached on either side. All corners of the building are reinforced by quoins. Side and rear bays are similar in design to the front, being separated by piers, the transepts and chancel topped by pediments and with mouldings and dentil trim. The side and rear bays contain large, round arched, stained glass windows protected by hood moulds. On either side of the tower in the rear pediment are small paned lunette windows. The transepts are entered by the front by double doors of panels. The square tower is approximately five stories high surmounted by three, one story telescoping sections and topped by a gold cross with a total height of 145'. The tower itself is lighted by three round arched, small paned windows in the rear wall. The first top section contains the belfry with bells for summoning the worshippers and for announcing the time from the clock in the section above. This is square in shape with elliptically arched window openings on each side. On each corner are paired Ironic columns with dentiled cornices, supporting the second top section. This section is of an octagon shape with paired Corinthian columns on each corner topped by dentiled cornices. On the four broad sides are large clock faces with Roman numerals for the old Town Clock, and the glass faces are illuminated at night. The third section is also octagonal in plan and consists of Corinthian-style columns supporting an entablature with a drum containing four round arched windows with cornices and a gold leafed dome and cross. This entablature bears the same trim as below. The church roofing is of moderate slope "A" frame construction covered by slate. The building is flood lighted at night.

The church interior is in the same classic styling as the exterior with fluted Ionic pilasters and dentiled cornices. The most commanding feature is the white marble altar with the priceless artistic masterpiece, "The Crucifixion" by Galliarddi. This area is enclosed by Ionic marble columns topped by a broken pediment with kneeling angels at either end. Above each window is a white marble keystone with a relief of the head of "Our Lady." The color scheme is in rich shades of dark red, light blue, and gold. Other decor consists of bands of dentils, chevrons, egg and dart motifs, acanthus leaves, and other floral patterns. The light blue ceiling is ribbed with square sections adorned by gold leafed bosses.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

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PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
__PREHISTORIC	__ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	__COMMUNITY PLANNING	__LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	__RELIGION
__1400-1499	__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
X 1800-1899	__COMMERCE	__EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	__PHILOSOPHY	__TRANSPORTATION
__1900-	__COMMUNICATIONS	__INDUSTRY	__POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	__OTHER (SPECIFY)
		__INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES Cornerstone - 1833
Completed - 1837 - per newspaper article

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The original church consisted of a two story house chapel built in 1763 on the opposite corner on land donated by the founder of Frederick, Daniel Dulany. This was used during the times of religious persecution.

The present edifice was designed by volunteer architects of Georgetown University and built by a local contractor, John Tehan, for $36,964.96, and considered to be one of the most costly Catholic churches in the State at the time of completion in 1837.

The tower clock was added around 1850, being designed and crafted by a local monk, originally from Alsace. It was then declared to be the official "Town Clock" by the City.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

F-3-74

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE COUNTY

STATE COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE *DOUGLAS M. GREENE*
ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

ORGANIZATION *HISTORICAL DISTRICT COMMISSION*
CITY of FREDERICK, MD. 21701

DATE FEBRUARY 1975

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory 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 do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438