

F-8-66

Ca. 1822

St. John's Reformed Church

Woodsboro, Maryland

Private

St. John's Reformed Church is a rectangular stone building with a standing seam metal gable roof and a domed open belfry. Constructed by 1822 with the cornerstone having been laid in 1802, it can be linked to an early period in Woodsboro's history. The building represents the early history of German religious sects in Frederick County. Architecturally, the church demonstrates vernacular attempts at style in a religious building through a series of alterations.

F-8-66  
St. John's Reformed Church  
Woodsboro  
Frederick County

HISTORIC CONTEXT:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Piedmont  
(Harford, Baltimore, Carroll, Frederick, Howard, Montgomery  
Counties, and Baltimore City)

Chronological/Development Period:  
Agricultural-Industrial Transition 1815-1870

Prehistoric/Historic Period Themes:  
Architecture, Landscape Architecture and Community Planning  
Religion

Resource Type:

Category: Buildings

Historic Environment: Village

Historic Function and Use:  
Religion/Religious Structure/church

Known Design Source: None

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic St. John's Reformed Church

and/or common

## 2. Location

street & number Second Street  not for publication

city, town Woodsboro  vicinity of congressional district 6th

state Maryland county Frederick

## 3. 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

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

name St. John's United Church of Christ

street & number telephone no.:

city, town Woodsboro state and zip code Maryland 21798

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. No deed reference available liber

street & number folio

city, town state

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records

city, town state

# 7. Description

Survey No. F-8-66

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved    date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

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

Contributing Resource Count: 1

### Description:

St. John's Reformed Church, a rectangular stone building with a standing seam metal gable roof and a domed open belfry, is located on the east side of North Second Street in Woodsboro, Maryland. Built in 1822, the principal elevation is the west gable end with a mid-twentieth century concrete block addition adjoining the east end.

The principal facade contains ashlar cut stone in regular courses with a roughly tooled finish in a vernacular attempt at high style. The first level of the building has two door openings of symmetrical placement. Each door has 2 parts with panelling in a bible cross design. The doors are recessed with panels in the recesses. Each also has a 2 light transom with leaded glass. The heavy lintels above the entries are carved in a diamond pattern and have molded entablatures at each end. In the center of the facade, a large rounded arched window with hood molding has 2 lights (1/1): a leaded, stained glass design in the lights shows the name of the church and a cross in a circle. The large wooden sill is also molded. An open belfry is located at the ridge line near the gable peak resting on a 7-sided base. Classical columns rise from the base forming rounded arched openings. A bracketed cornice lies underneath a domed roof of standing seam metal; a bulbous pendant rests on the center of the dome.

The south and north elevations are comprised of three symmetrical bays: each contains a large Gothic window with a pointed brick arch, a stained glass design and heavy wood surrounds. Molded brick corbeling steps up to the cornice. Heavy vertical lines of mortar have been infilled between the stone above each window arch at the corners, possibly indicating that the arches were fit into existing stonework. On the south elevation, the stone masonry is ashlar and regular but not as smoothly finished as the treatment on the facade; on the north, the masonry is coursed rubblestone. The north elevation also has a stone watertable. The south elevation has a brick exterior chimney corbeled near the cap and a 1 story small vinyl-sided addition in the center with an original door facing west and a 4 light fixed window on the south wall.

A 2 story concrete block addition abuts the church on the east wall, extending beyond the length of the church on each side. It is vinyl sided on the second floor. The upper stories of the church rise above the addition showing a coursed rubblestone elevation with no openings.

The interior of the building was not accessible for this survey.

Remnants of a cemetery exist in the rear yard with three gravestones dating from the late nineteenth century.

# 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 checked="" 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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates	Builder/Architect
check: Applicable Criteria: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D and/or	
Applicable Exception: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> G	
Level of Significance: <input type="checkbox"/> national <input type="checkbox"/> state <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> local	

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

### Significance Summary

St. John's Reformed Church was constructed by 1822 with the cornerstone having been laid in 1802 which links it to an early period in Woodsboro's history. Historically, St. John's Reformed Church functioned jointly as both a Lutheran Church and a Reformed Church. The building represents the early history of German religious sects in Frederick County. These sects experienced conflicting periods of unification and division into the twentieth century. Architecturally, the church demonstrates vernacular attempts at style in a religious building through a series of alterations.

### Historic Context

St. John's Reformed Church, an early nineteenth century stone religious building in Frederick County, retains a high degree of integrity. It is an extant survivor of German stone religious architecture of its period in the county. Its modifications seem typical of a building of its type with changing functions to accommodate a growing congregation.

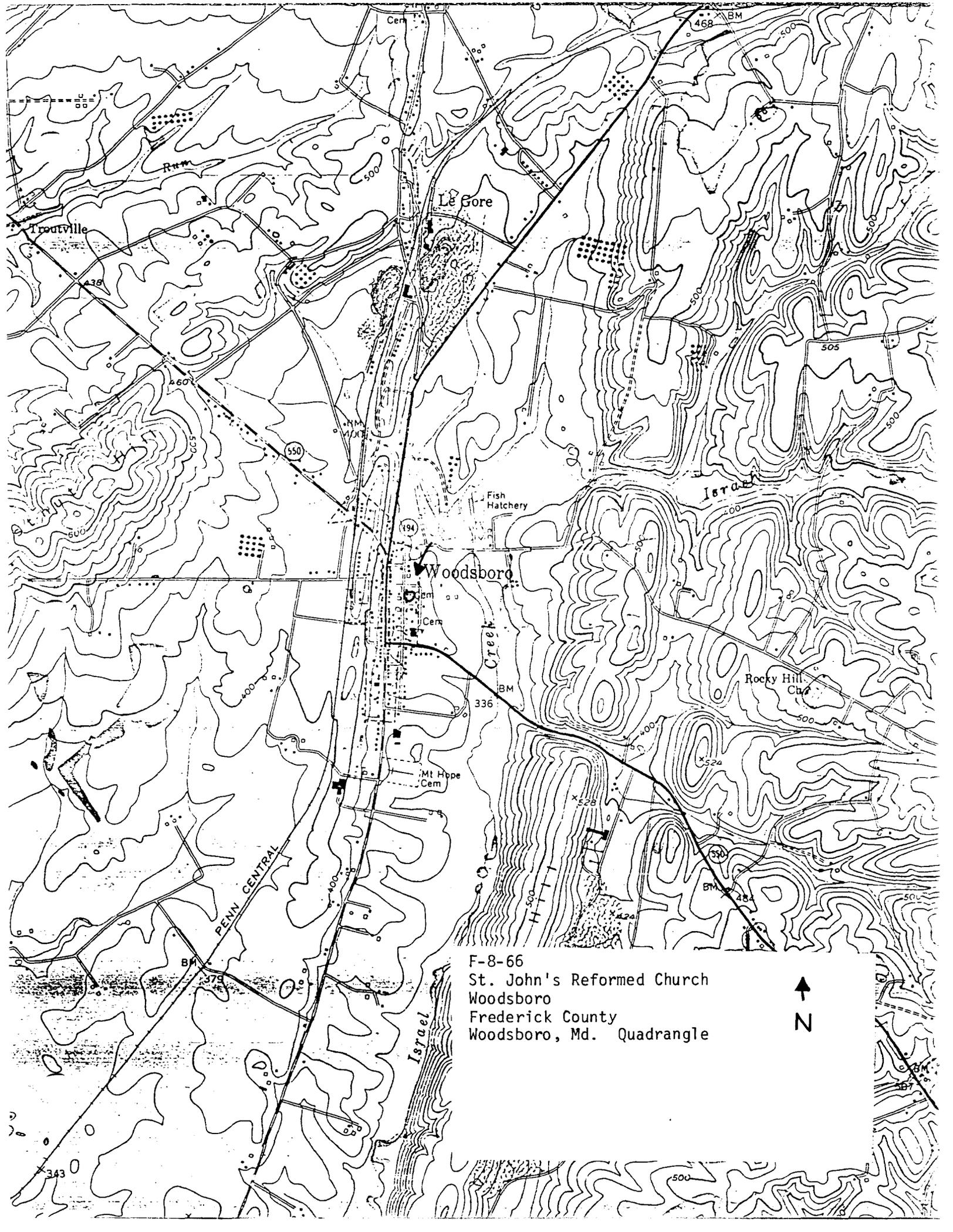
### History and Support

The congregation of St. John's Reformed Church was initially a joint congregation of Lutheran and Reformed (also referred to as Presbyterian). The building for this congregation was completed in 1822 and then rebuilt in 1940 for \$1200. In 1860, the church divided and became exclusively Reformed. After being struck by lightning, the building was altered again in 1889. A new addition was constructed to the rear of the building in 1957.

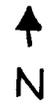
In the first half of the twentieth century, religious politics dictated that the German Reformed Church merge with the Evangelical Church to become the Evangelical and Reformed Church. Following that change, the Evangelical and Reformed Church joined the Congregational Church of America in forming the United Church of Christ. Today, St. John's Reformed Church houses the congregation of the Woodsboro United Church of Christ. Into the early twentieth century, the strong German origins of the church were demonstrated in the surnames of both the brethren and the pastors with names like Feiser, Houck, Schwarber, Etzler and Hoffman.







F-8-66  
St. John's Reformed Church  
Woodsboro  
Frederick County  
Woodsboro, Md. Quadrangle





F-8-66

St. John's Reformed Church

N. Second St.

Woodsboro

Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

February 1991

Neg. loc.: Maryland Historical Trust  
Annapolis, Md.

West elevation

1/2



F-8-66

St. John's Reformed Church

Second Street

Woodsboro

Frederick County

photo: Janet Davis

February 1991

Neg. loc: Maryland Historical Trust  
Annapolis MD

East elevation

2/2