

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

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- MUSEUM
- COMMERCIAL
- PARK
- EDUCATIONAL
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ENTERTAINMENT
- RELIGIOUS
- GOVERNMENT
- SCIENTIFIC
- INDUSTRIAL
- TRANSPORTATION
- 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
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This church is built on a Latin Crcoiform 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 key-stone 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

FD-724

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 type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
Cornerstone - 1833		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		
Completed - 1837 - per newspaper article				

SPECIFIC DATES

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

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	<i>DOUGLAS M. GREENE ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN</i>	
ORGANIZATION	<i>HISTORICAL DISTRICT COMMISSION CITY of FREDERICK, MD. 21701</i>	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