

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

MAGI #0427845408

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY B-3731

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

St. John's Church, Huntingdon

AND/OR COMMON

St. John's Protestant Episcopal Church

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

3009 Greenmount Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Baltimore VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

**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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER:
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

The Vestry of St. John's P.E. Church, Huntingdon Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

3009 Greenmount Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Baltimore VICINITY OF Maryland

STATE, zip code

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Hall of Records

Liber #: WK 1253-54,

Folio #: 45-47

STREET & NUMBER

St. John's College Campus

CITY, TOWN

Annapolis

STATE

Maryland

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

City of Baltimore Neighborhood Survey

DATE

1977

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

Commission for Historic and Architectural Preservation

CITY, TOWN

Baltimore

STATE

Maryland 21202

## 7 DESCRIPTION

B-3731

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

"St. John's was the first in a series of American churches inspired by the plans of St. Michael's, Long Stanton, (England) and St. James the Less (Philadelphia)." (1) Erected in 1847, this church was representative of the Ecclesiological movement in church architecture, for "in the 1840's mature Gothic revivalism appeared in American architecture largely because the Cambridge Camden Society (later the Ecclesiological Society), an English and eminently Anglican group, had resolved to do what it could to influence the design of churches outside the British Isles." (2) Bishop William R. Whittingham of Maryland became an early member and patron of the society and through his influence St. John's was built in the Gothic style recommended for American country churches and exemplified by the above mentioned models. No architect can be assigned; however, parish records name Abraham Bucher as "in charge of building the church."

The appearance of St. John's as it was built in 1847 will never be known, for it was burned in 1858 and rebuilt on the remains of the original walls and foundations. The characteristic arrangement of chimney and south porch have survived. The tower was added in 1849 according to plans suggested by Frank Wills. The transepts and chancel were later additions (1878).

The present structure is of stone with granite and wood trim and Early English in style. The nave consists of four bays each with lancet window and stone buttresses. On the south is the porch and chimney already mentioned. The south transept also contains a double door with stained glass lights and transom, flanked by lancet windows. Above this door is a large cinquefoil window. The north transept is similar, although there has been a shallow addition along the north side of the nave which does not interfere with the integrity of the whole.

The chancel and choir are on the east as dictated by tradition. Above the altar is a tripartite window with the figure of Christ flanked by St. Matthew and St. Luke.

The bell tower on the northwest corner contains an arched doorway surmounted by double lancet windows with a large pointed louvered aperture above, which is repeated on all four sides. The spire is of the broach type, broken at intervals by small triangular windows. The remainder of the west facade contains a large pointed stained glass window.

Inside, the walls are finished in plaster with exposed ceiling ribs. The carved pews and richly carved reredos are stained oak. Several of the original stained glass windows have survived.

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- (1) Phoebe B. Stanton, The Gothic Revival and American Church Architecture, (Baltimore, 1968) p. 274.
- (2) Ibid., p.3.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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 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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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)
19th century		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1847-1858

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Include Personages, Dates, Events, Etc.)

St. John's Protestant Episcopal Church of Huntingdon, situated at the corner of York Road and Old York Road in Waverly was founded in 1843. The name Huntingdon derives from the early community laid out on land originally granted to Tobias Starnboro in 1688 and known as "Huntingdon". This name was changed to Waverly in 1881 as a result of its rapid growth in the 19th century and the establishment of a Post Office there.

The first regular services were held in a stone building located thirty yards southwest of the present church and known as The Barracks, a powder magazine and post for Federal troops. The Reverend W.A. Hewitt was sent to the village by Bishop William R. Whittingham at the request of Thomas A. Hart who wished to have some of his grandchildren baptized. As a result, a vestry was incorporated on July 10, 1844, and in the succeeding August, The Barracks property was purchased by the Charles C. Gibson family from the Federal Government for \$12,000 and presented to the congregation. In 1845, Mr. Hewitt became the rector and on April 22, 1847, the cornerstone of the church was laid.

In January, 1849, Doctor W.T. Wilson purchased a lot adjoining the churchyard on the south and erected a parish school building at his own expense. This school was well attended until the public school system became popular and it was finally closed in 1902. The building is still standing and in use for offices and a parish hall.

On May 15, 1858, the church was set on fire by an arsonist who first burglarized it. It was virtually destroyed. A new structure was begun almost immediately, using the remains of the foundations and walls. This church building was consecrated in 1860 and is the present church. A rectory was built to the north in 1868 and an orphanage for boys was established in 1885. (The latter was closed in 1912 and has been demolished). The cemetery which was begun in the 1850's, completes the complex - a charming bit of Victoriana surviving amidst the hustle of commerce and traffic which is the Waverly of today.

Prominent among the parishoners of St. John's were Jacob Aull, a builder, who constructed many of the fine homes in the original Huntingdon community. Mr. Aull published a book, Baltimore Landmarks, in 1843 in which were pictured many of the nearby structures, including The Barracks.

(continued)

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Scharf, Thomas J., History of Baltimore City and County, 1881.

Stanton, Phoebe B., The Gothic Revival and American Church Architecture, Baltimore (1968).

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

Michelle Belco, Planning Assistant

ORGANIZATION

Commission for Hist. &amp; Arch. Pres.

DATE

1977

STREET &amp; NUMBER

100 N. Holliday Street

TELEPHONE

396-4866

CITY OR TOWN

Baltimore

STATE

Maryland 21202

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

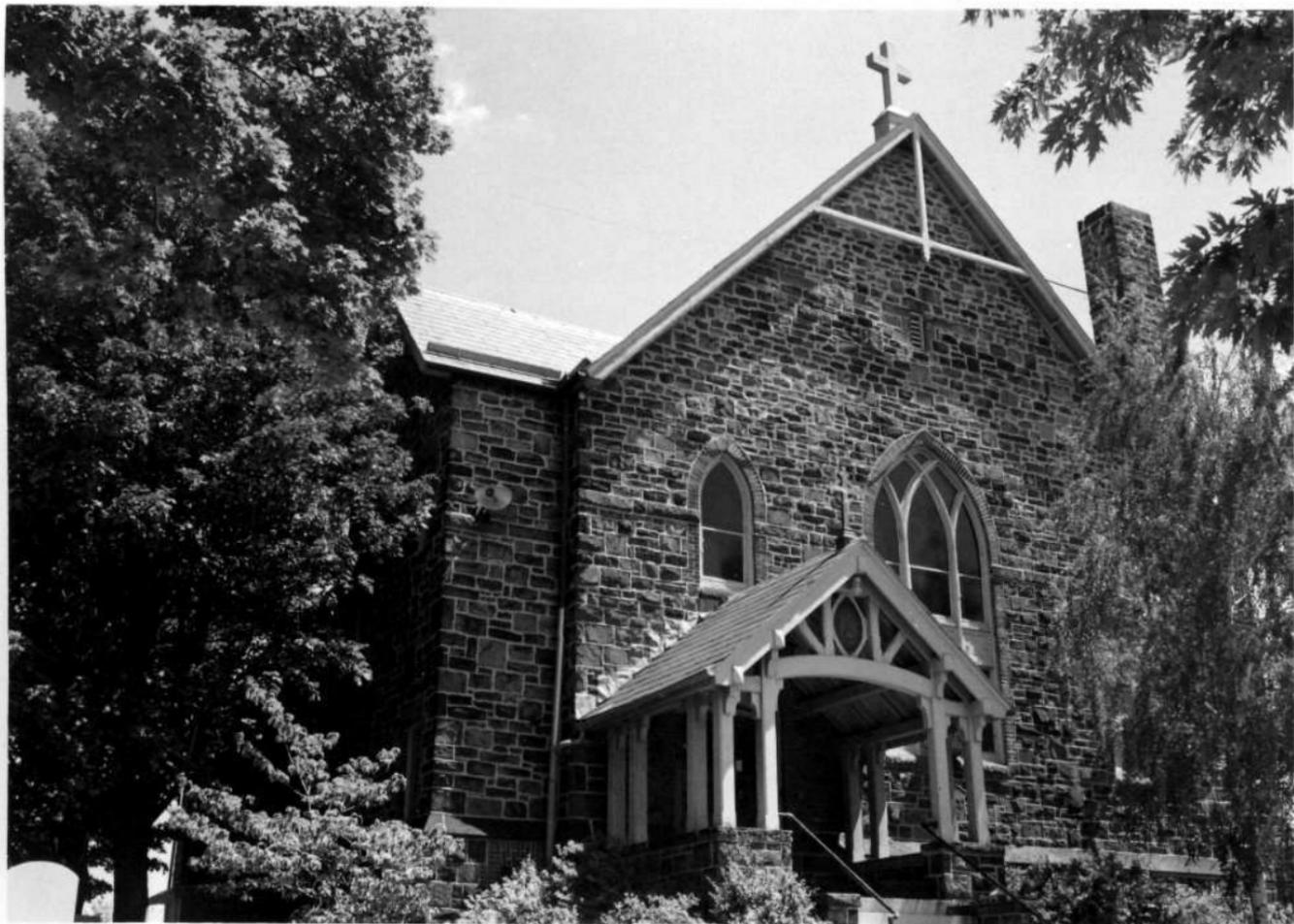
Question 8, Continued

Samuel Wyman, a wealthy merchant and philanthropist, was responsible for many of the improvements to the church and gave an anonymous gift of nearly one half of the cost of rebuilding following the fire. Charles H. Dickey, another member of the parish, was President of the Consolidated Gas Company of Baltimore, and Talbot Denmead, President of the Maryland State Game and Fish Protective Association, donated land beyond the city limits for the establishment of a mission, St. Michael's Chapel. Perhaps the most beloved and best known of the many prominent parishoners was a woman, Lizette Woodworth Reese, a teacher and writer who immortalized St. John's in two of her books, A Victorian Village and The York Road. She taught at the parish school from 1873 to 1875 and following a long career as a teacher in the Eastern High School, was buried in St. John's Cemetery. The church is also on the National Register of Historic Places.



B-3731

St. John's Church, Huntingdon

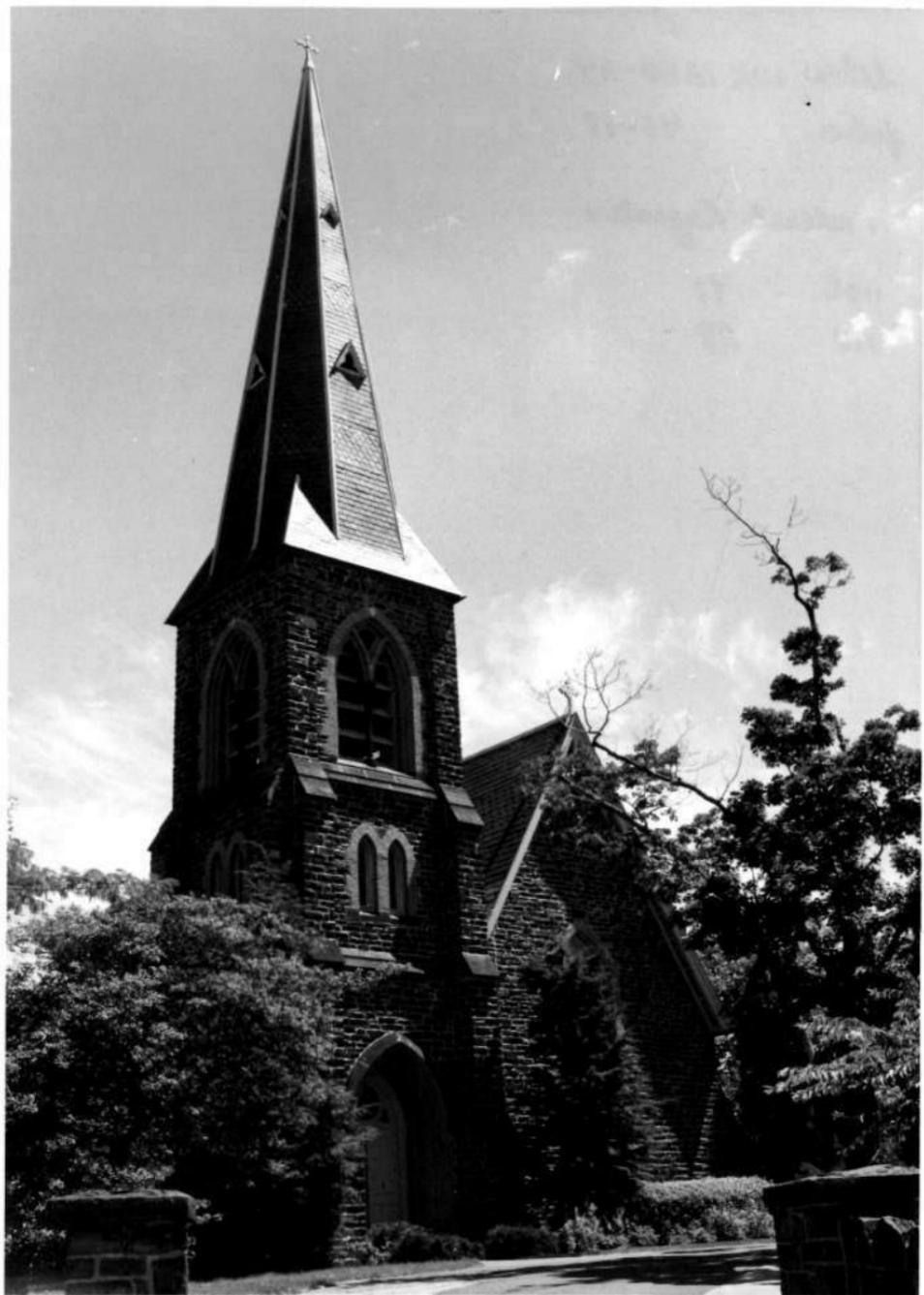


B-3731

J.P.

Neg. File No. I-  
Neg. # 24-24A.

St. John's School Greenmount



National Register

0-3731

liber WK 1253-54

folio 45-47

Federal Register

vol. 41

no 28

JB

Neg File No. I- Neg. # 25-25A

3009  
St. John's - Greenmount Ave.



B-3731

J.P.

Neg. # 22-22A

Neg. File No Igh. John's Rectory