




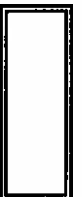
Internal Rating: _____

WEST VIRGINIA HISTORIC PROPERTY INVENTORY FORM

Street Address Leetown Road, E side	Common/Historic Property Name/ Both St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church	Field Survey # Jefferson County 2005-2006 Survey No. 331	Site # (SHPO Only) JF-0805
Town or Community Leetown	County Jefferson	Negative No. Jefferson County 2005-2006 Survey Roll 26, Negative 28, 29	NR Listed Date n/a
Architect/Builder unidentified	Date of Construction 1849	Style Gothic Revival	
Exterior Siding/Materials board-and-batten	Roofing Material standing-seam metal	Foundation stone	
Property Use or Function Residence Commercial Other <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> [church]	UTM # 18/247781/4360051		
Survey Organization & Date Taylor & Taylor Associates, for the Jefferson County Historic Landmarks Commission, 2005-2006	Quadrangle Name Middleway, WV		
	Part of What Survey/FR# Jefferson County 2005-2006 Survey		

Sketch Map of Property
or Attach Copy of USGS Map

See Survey Report



Present Owners	Owner's Mailing Address
Phone #	
Describe Setting	_____ Acres
<p>This property is located in rural Jefferson County, in the unincorporated village of Leetown. An outdoor shrine on the property was dedicated in 1938 by the Rev. Robert E. L. Strider.</p>	
	_____ Archaeological Artifacts Present
Description of Buildings or Site (Original and Present)	_____ 2 _____ Stories _____ Front Bays
<p>Gable-end-oriented Gothic Revival-style church clad in board-and-batten siding with a "doghouse" entry vestibule centered on the facade and 5-bay side elevations punctuated by pointed-arched windows with multi-light clear glass sash. Gable-end apse on south gable end, flanked by shed-roofed sections on each side.</p>	
<i>(Use Continuation Sheets)</i>	
Alterations	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No If yes, describe
Additions	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No If yes, describe
Describe All Outbuildings	
None	
<i>(Use Continuation Sheets)</i>	
Statement of Significance	
<p>Leetown is part of the former holdings of Jacob Hite who in the mid-eighteenth century acquired 2,668 acres along Hopewell Run. the settlement which grew up in this area became known as Hite's Town. Several years later he sold his holdings to General Charles Lee, a British soldier who fought on the side of the colonists in the American Revolution. Leetown Road was the Philadelphia Wagon Road, an early north-south overland route. The village name was eventually changed to Leetown. One of several churches in the Leetown vicinity, St. Bart's was built by the Rev. Lewis P. Balch, on land given by him which adjoined his family's home known as "The Cottage." Funds were donated for the building by members of St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church in New York City, hence the name. This property appears to meet National Register Criterion A for its association with the Civil War and C for <i>architecture</i>, as a locally-distinctive Gothic Revival-style antebellum church. An inspection of the interior would be required to confirm this determination.</p>	
<i>(Use Continuation Sheets)</i>	
Bibliographical References	
<p>Chambers, S. Allen, Jr. Buildings of West Virginia. New York: Oxford University Press, 2004. Brown, S. Howell. "Map of Jefferson County, Virginia." Charles Town, Virginia, S. Howell Brown, 1852. _____ "Map of Jefferson County, West Virginia." Charles Town, West Virginia: S. Howell Brown, 1883. Jefferson County Bicentennial Committee. A Bicentennial History of Jefferson County, West Virginia. Charles Town, West Virginia: Jefferson County Bicentennial Committee, 2001. Jefferson County Historical Society. Between the Shenandoah and the Potomac: Historic Homes of Jefferson County, West Virginia. Winchester, Virginia: Winchester Prigters, 1990. Jefferson County Land Records, Court House, Charles Town, West Virginia.</p>	
<i>(Use Continuation Sheets)</i>	
Form Prepared By:	Date: December, 2006
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West Virginia Division of Culture and History
State Historic Preservation Office

WEST VIRGINIA HISTORIC PROPERTY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

NAME St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church SITE # Jefferson County 2005-2006 Survey No.

Church History [taken from website stbartsleectown.org]

St. Bart's has been a part of the physical and cultural landscape of Leectown, WV since 1849, sharing in the lives and fortunes of the surrounding community. It is the oldest Episcopal church in West Virginia currently still holding weekly services. Today, it continues to provide comfort and outreach to local, regional, and international communities in need. As we have been throughout our history, we are small in size and few in number, but great in faith.

Leectown is named for Charles Lee, an English officer during the Colonial Period who cast his fortunes with the American Revolutionaries. Lee became one of George Washington's Major Generals along with his friend Horatio Gates. It was Gates who introduced Charles Lee to his future home along Hopewell Run. After the Revolution, the Anglican Church, as symbolic of the former English dominion, was reformed as the Episcopal Church. In spite of this, the Church lost support, especially in Virginia, where the 250 Anglican churches before the Revolution dwindled to 107 Episcopal churches by the end of the conflict. At its low ebb, only 35 Episcopal Churches remained open in Virginia.

St. Bart's was part of the Episcopal Church's recovery in Virginia. In 1811, James Madison, then Bishop in Virginia, ordained William Meade in a Bruton Parish Church in Williamsburg. Meade set in motion a campaign to renew the Episcopal Church in Virginia.

As part of that campaign, the Reverend Lewis P. Balch, Rector of St. Bartholomew's Church in Manhattan at the time, built St. Bartholomew's church in 1845 on a plot of ground he provided next to his Leectown home. The Neo-Gothic structure with its vertical batten-and-board siding remains today almost unchanged from its earliest appearance.

The funds to build the church were contributed by congregants at St. Bartholomew's, Manhattan. William Meade, by this time Bishop of Virginia, consecrated St. Bartholomew's, Leectown November 6, 1849.

As in the rest of the community, the Civil War split St. Bart's congregation along political lines. During the four years of conflict, military action took place in every compass point about the town and in the town itself. The church was used as a field hospital and was badly damaged.

An interesting feature of St. Bart's is an "outdoor chapel" of native limestone. It was constructed in the 1930s by the youth group of Church of the Holy Spirit in Summit Point, WV. It was also in the 1930s that one of St. Bart's Rectors, Robert Strider became Bishop of the Diocese of West Virginia.

Throughout its history, St. Bart's, Leectown, was repeatedly closed only to be re-opened most recently in 1984. It was then that a local group of Episcopalians, with the help of kind people from nearby churches, brought the old church back to life. St. Bart's is distinctive in being one of the few Episcopal churches in the state and nation still practicing Liturgical Rite One services.

**WEST VIRGINIA HISTORIC PROPERTY FORM
CONTINUATION SHEET**

NAME St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church

SITE # Jefferson County 2005-2006 Survey No. 331

