

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

ST. CHARLES CHURCH (SITE)

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

North side of Old Indian Head Road, 1/4-mile west of Md. Rte. 225.

CITY, TOWN

Glymont

VICINITY OF

Indian Head

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Charles

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

| CATEGORY                                 | OWNERSHIP                                   | STATUS                                                | PRESENT USE                                     |
|------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT        | <input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC             | <input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED                     | <input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE | <input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED                   | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE       | <input type="checkbox"/> BOTH               | <input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS             | <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL            |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SITE | <b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>                   | <b>ACCESSIBLE</b>                                     | <input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT          | <input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS         | <input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED              | <input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT             |
|                                          | <input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL             |
|                                          |                                             | <input type="checkbox"/> NO                           | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY               |
|                                          |                                             |                                                       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS   |
|                                          |                                             |                                                       | <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM                 |
|                                          |                                             |                                                       | <input type="checkbox"/> PARK                   |
|                                          |                                             |                                                       | <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE      |
|                                          |                                             |                                                       | <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC             |
|                                          |                                             |                                                       | <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION         |
|                                          |                                             |                                                       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: Cem. |

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

For information contact:

St. Mary's Star of the Sea Church

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

Md. Route 210

CITY, TOWN

Bryan's Road

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code  
Maryland

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Liber #:

Folio #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE



# DESCRIPTION

CH 25

## CONDITION

EXCELLENT  
 GOOD  
 FAIR

DETERIORATED  
 RUINS  
 UNEXPOSED

## CHECK ONE

UNALTERED  
 ALTERED

## CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE  
 MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

SEE ATTACHED

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

#7: Description:

The site of St. Charles Church is in the midst of a small, Roman Catholic cemetery maintained by the Church of Our Lady, Star of the Sea (Church of St. Mary's Star of the Sea), Bryan's Road. The cemetery is located on the north side of Old Indian Head Road (Strauss Avenue), approximately one-quarter mile west of the junction of Old Indian Head Road and Maryland Route 225, and less than one-quarter mile southwest of Maryland Routes 210 and 225, at Glymont.

Two buildings have occupied this site since its acquisition by the Roman Catholic church. The first, referred to as Pye Chapel, is said to have been a small frame building constructed shortly after 1800. This structure was torn down and replaced by a stuccoed (masonry?) building in 1913. The 1913 church measured approximately thirty by sixty feet in the main, and was about four bays in length, with a square entrance vestibule and apse at the ends. When a new church and school was built at Bryan's Road in the 1960's, St. Charles Church at Glymont was abandoned and subsequently demolished. The surrounding cemetery was then extended to include the area formerly occupied by the 1913 church. Unfortunately, no photographs of either building--the circa 1800 Pye Chapel or the 1913 church--have been located; however, since the Catholic population in the area is large, it is likely that photographs of both building survive in private collections.

**8 SIGNIFICANCE**

CH-25

| 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 checked="" 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-     | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS                 | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY               | <input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT    | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)     |
|                                               |                                                         | <input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION              |                                                 |                                              |

SPECIFIC DATES *circa 1800 & 1913* BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SEE ATTACHED

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

#8: Statement of Significance:

The first church to have stood in this location is believed to have been a small frame structure built shortly after 1800. This building fell into disrepair and in 1913 was torn down and replaced by a larger stuccoed church. Of simple architectural styling, the 1913 church stood until the early 1960's when it too was demolished and the site utilized for the expansion of the surrounding cemetery.

The first church, referred to locally as Pye Chapel, was built on one and one-half acres of land purchased for five shillings by John Mondesir, Pastor of the "Roman Catholic Congregation in Cornwallis Neck" from Charles and Sarah Pye in 1800.<sup>1</sup> The Pyes, a very wealthy and influential English Catholic family, had owned this land, as well as most of what is known today as Indian Head and Glymont, since the early eighteenth century. Known as Cornwallis Neck, but also sometimes referred to as Mattawoman Neck, the property included 5,000 acres initially patented by Thomas Cornwallis, a prominent colonial figure, in 1665.<sup>2</sup> Both Sarah and Charles Pye, as well as other members of the Pye family, are buried here, many of them in an area about fifty feet east from the former church site. (For further information on the Pye family see: Edward Pye Grave-stone, CHAS-175.)

According to at least one published source, the local Roman Catholic population was initially ministered to by the Jesuits of St. Thomas Manor at Chapel Point, usually through the use of private homes such as nearby Araby and Acquinsicke.<sup>3</sup> In 1763 St. Joseph's Church at Pomfret was established to serve this section of the county, which at that time was fairly sparsely inhabited. However, as a result of the sale of large parts of Cornwallis Neck and the subdivision of other large land grants in the vicinity, the population began to increase. By 1800 it became necessary to establish a second church to serve this immediate area.

By the late nineteenth century, when the U. S. Navy began acquiring and developing lands at what is now Indian Head, a sharp increase in population occurred, necessitating the building of a third church at Indian Head. Although it continued to be used, the old Pye Chapel was allowed to fall into disrepair and in 1913 was torn down and replaced by a larger building. The rapid growth of the Bryan's Road area in the mid-twentieth century, and an expanding Catholic population, resulted in the building of yet another church. It was at this time that the 1913 St. Charles Church was abandoned and then finally demolished.

Footnotes

1. Land Records, Charles County Courthouse, La Plata, Maryland. Liber IB#3, folio 153.
2. Newman, Harry Wright. Charles County Gentry. (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Company.) 1971. pp. 179, 180.
3. Brown, Jack, et al. Charles County, Maryland: A History. (Charles County Bicentennial Commission, La Plata, Maryland) 1976. pp. 120-121.

**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 J. Richard Rivoire, Consultant

ORGANIZATION Charles County Planning Department

DATE July, 1980

STREET & NUMBER Charles County Courthouse

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN La Plata

STATE Maryland

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

1. STATE *MD.*  
 COUNTY *CHARLES*  
 TOWN *Elymont* VICINITY *INDIAN HEAD*  
 STREET NO.  
 ORIGINAL OWNER  
 ORIGINAL USE *church*  
 PRESENT OWNER  
 PRESENT USE *chapel*  
 WALL CONSTRUCTION  
 NO. OF STORIES *1*

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY  
 INVENTORY  
 2. NAME *St. CHARLES CHURCH*  
*(CATHOLIC)*  
 DATE OR PERIOD *c. 1830*  
 STYLE  
 ARCHITECT  
 BUILDER

3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE

4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION OPEN TO PUBLIC

*Exterior stuccoed - (over brick?)  
 demolished and foundations removed.  
 10/8/70*

5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE    Endangered                      Interior                      Exterior

6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional)

8. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Pages)  
 INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC.

7. PHOTOGRAPH

9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER  
*J. Richard Rivers*  
*M.H.T.*

DATE OF RECORD

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION AND PHOTOGRAPHS MAY BE ADDED ON SHEET OF SAME SIZE

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. STATE <i>Ind.</i><br>COUNTY <i>Charles</i><br>TOWN <i>Indian Hd.</i> - VICINITY <i>Glymont</i><br>STREET NO.<br><br>ORIGINAL OWNER<br>ORIGINAL USE <i>Church</i><br>PRESENT OWNER ( <i>see: St. Mary Star of the Sea Indian Hd., Ind.</i> )<br>PRESENT USE ?<br>WALL CONSTRUCTION <i>Stucco (ov. Br.?)</i><br>NO. OF STORIES <i>1 1/2</i> | HISTORIC A. CAN BUILDINGS SURVEY INVENTORY<br><br>2. NAME <i>St. Charles Church (Catholic)</i><br>DATE OR PERIOD <i>c. 1830</i><br>STYLE<br>ARCHITECT<br>BUILDER<br><br>3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION <span style="float: right;">OPEN TO PUBLIC</span><br><br><p style="text-align: center;"> <i>"A" roof N-S</i><br/> <i>N side Old Ind. Hd. Rd. bet. that + pres. dual Highway - Ind. Hd -</i><br/> <i>Bell Tower front</i><br/> <i>Stained windows -</i><br/> <i>No longer used as church</i><br/> <i>Cemetery</i><br/><br/> <i>more later + photos</i> </p> |
| 5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE <i>Endangered</i> <i>Interior</i> <i>Exterior</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |

|                                 |               |
|---------------------------------|---------------|
| 6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional) | 7. PHOTOGRAPH |
|---------------------------------|---------------|

8. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Pages)  
 INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC.

9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER

DATE OF RECORD

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION AND PHOTOS MAY BE ADDED ON SHEET OF SAME SIZE

INDIAN HEAD QUADRANGLE  
MARYLAND-VIRGINIA  
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)  
SW/4 INDIAN HEAD 15 QUADRANGLE

INDIAN HEAD QUADRANGLE  
(MOUNT VERNON)  
CN 25

10' 312 313 176000 FEET (MD.) 77°07'30" 38°37'30"

