F-2-13
Saint Mary's Catholic Church of Petersville
Petersville
Private

1826

St. Mary's Catholic Church is a local landmark of Petersville and is particularly significant as an early Roman Catholic Parish outside of Frederick having been established like its Episcopal counterpart St. Mark's Church by the first quarter of the nineteenth century.

According to local tradition the original founders of the church were Thomas Sim Lee, Governor of Maryland 1779-1782, 1792-94 and his wife, Mary Digges, who lived at the nearby estate of Needwood.

The building which was constructed in 1826 had substantial changes made to the building in the late nineteenth century. One of the most radical changes was the movement of the main entrance from the northwest side of the building to the southeast side. An overhanging porch was also constructed at the time to shelter the main entrance.

Centered at the base of the tower is the original deep paneled entrance with five molded cornice, original wide pegged inset six panel door with transom which has been boarded shut covered by an eight light storm window. Ghostings on the face of the belfry tower wall indicate that there once existed a simple large segmented circular window surrounded by brick headers. Set on top of the brick tower is boxed framing supporting an octagonal frame belfry with eight arched openings and plain three sided wood columns separated by inset panels. An octagonal spire covered with plain wood shingles is kicked out at the base with a beaded boxed column.

F-2-13
1102594508

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC Saint Mary's Catholic Church of Petersville

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
East Side Catholic Church Road

CITY, TOWN
Petersville

__ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
M 83

STATE
Maryland

COUNTY
Frederick

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
__DISTRICT	__PUBLIC	X OCCUPIED	__AGRICULTURE	__MUSEUM
X BUILDING(S)	X PRIVATE	__UNOCCUPIED	__COMMERCIAL	__PARK
__STRUCTURE	__BOTH	__WORK IN PROGRESS	__EDUCATIONAL	__PRIVATE RESIDENCE
__SITE	**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**	**ACCESSIBLE**	__ENTERTAINMENT	X RELIGIOUS
__OBJECT	__IN PROCESS	__YES: RESTRICTED	__GOVERNMENT	__SCIENTIFIC
	__BEING CONSIDERED	__YES: UNRESTRICTED	__INDUSTRIAL	__TRANSPORTATION
		__NO	__MILITARY	__OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME St. Mary's Catholic Church

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER
113 First Avenue

CITY, TOWN
Brunswick

__ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code
Maryland 21716

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Frederick County Courthouse

Liber #: CM 8
Folio #: 506

STREET & NUMBER
North Court St.

CITY, TOWN
Frederick

STATE
Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

__FEDERAL __STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
__PREHISTORIC	__ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	__COMMUNITY PLANNING	__LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	X RELIGION
__1400-1499	__ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	__CONSERVATION	__LAW	__SCIENCE
__1500-1599	__AGRICULTURE	__ECONOMICS	__LITERATURE	__SCULPTURE
__1600-1699	X ARCHITECTURE	__EDUCATION	__MILITARY	__SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
__1700-1799	__ART	__ENGINEERING	__MUSIC	__THEATER
X 1800-1899	__COMMERCE	__EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	__PHILOSOPHY	__TRANSPORTATION
__1900-	__COMMUNICATIONS	__INDUSTRY	__POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	__OTHER (SPECIFY)
		__INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1826 BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

St. Mary's Catholic Church is a local landmark of Petersville and is particularly significant as an early Roman Catholic Parish outside of Frederick having been established like its Episcopal counterpart St. Mark's Church by the first quarter of the nineteenth century.

According to local tradition the original founders of the church were Thomas Sim Lee, Governor of Maryland 1779-1782, 1792-94 and his wife, Mary Digges, who lived at the nearby estate of Needwood.

According to Bevans, A History of the Catholic Community of the Frederick Valley, the existing building was built in 1826 under the direction of Father McElroy, Rector at St. John's Church in Frederick.[1] It was built on land donated by a "Mr. West" who was probably Thomas H. West, who in 1847 platted part of the town of Petersville.[2]

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[1]Bevans, A History of the Catholic Community of the Frederick Valley, p. 27.

[2]Frederick County Land Records, Liber JS 38; Folio 535.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

7. DESCRIPTION

F-2-13
Saint Mary's Catholic Church of Petersville

Centered at the base of the tower is the original deep paneled entrance with five molded cornice, original wide pegged inset six panel door with transom which has been boarded shut covered by an eight light storm window. Ghostings on the face of the belfry tower wall indicate that there once existed a simple entrance porch over this door. Set into the tower at the second level is a large segmented circular window surrounded by brick headers. Set on top of the brick tower is boxed framing supporting an octagonal frame belfry with eight arched openings and plain three sided wood columns separated by inset panels. An octagonal spire covered with plain wood shingles is kicked out at the base with a beaded boxed column. A copper (?) cross stands on top of the spires.

A modern vertical panel frame shed stands at the base of the tower in the northwest corner of the building.

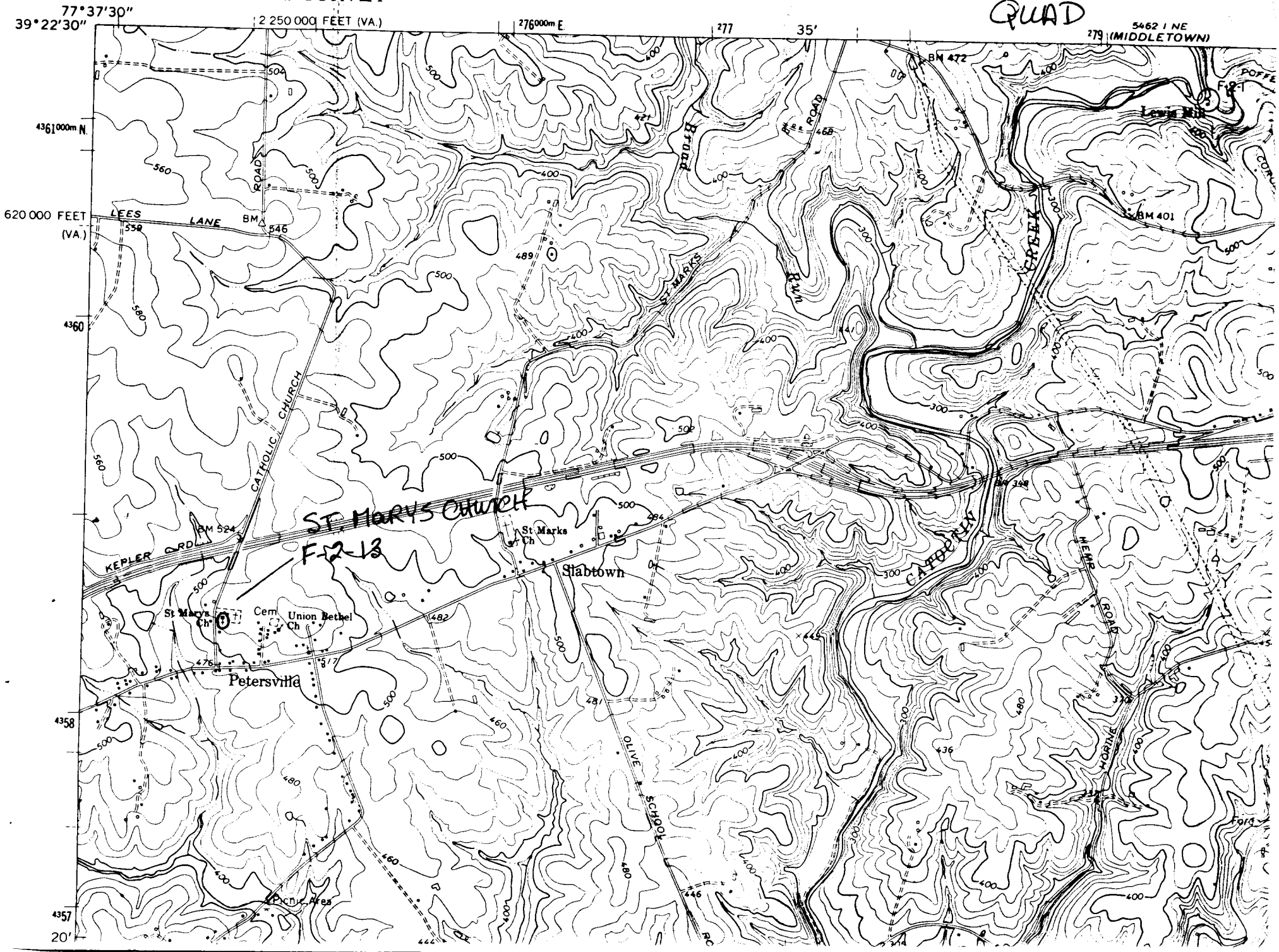
Four bracing rods are located on either side of the tower supporting the northwest gable end. Three bracing rods run through the belfry tower, north to south.

The entire building is slightly banked with a random stone foundation covered by concrete. The roof is covered by a front gable replaced asphalt roof with two stepped brick cornice. A single brick chimney rises from the northwest corner of the building.

The church is surrounded on the north side by a small graveyard.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

POINT OF ROCKS QUAD



IHS

F-2-13 ST MARYS
CATHOLIC CHURCH

R/S CATHOLIC CHURCH

RD
SOUTH FIELD
Petersville
OEW 6/80

F-2-13 ST MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

E/S CATHOLIC CHURCH RD

PETTERSVILLE

CEW 6/80

EAST ELEV

IHS

F-2-13 ST MARYS
CATHOLIC CHURCH
E/S CATHOLIC CHURCH
RD
SOUTH ELEV
Petersville
CEW 6/80