

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC Church of St. Mary of the Assumption  
AND/OR COMMON St. Mary's old Church building

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER St. Mary's Church Road  
CITY, TOWN Pylesville VICINITY OF first  
STATE Maryland COUNTY Harford 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 type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME Archdiocese of Baltimore, Corporation Sole Telephone #:  
STREET & NUMBER Catholic Center, 320 Cathedral Street  
CITY, TOWN Baltimore VICINITY OF STATE, zip code MD

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Harford County Courthouse  
STREET & NUMBER 40 South Main Street  
CITY, TOWN Bel Air STATE Maryland

Liber #: ALJ 8  
Folio #: 153

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE  
DATE  
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS  
CITY, TOWN STATE  
\_FEDERAL \_STATE \_COUNTY \_LOCAL

HA-471

**7 DESCRIPTION**

<b>CONDITION</b>		<b>CHECK ONE</b>	<b>CHECK ONE</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input checked="" 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	Crude Additions	

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

This rectangular Church building is located on the west side of St. Mary's Church Road in Pylesville. Originally, this building's principal entrance was on the south facade but crude frame structures have been added to both the north and south facades and limit this building's visibility.

The old church building is a one story, common bond, brick structure, three bays by one. It is built onto low rubble stone foundations. Its roof runs north-south and has slate shingles. The brick forms a step cornice at the roof line.

There are three windows on both the east and west facades: these have sashes of twelve lights over twelve under a semi-circular arch of eight lights. A semi-circular brick arch surrounds the lighted arch. On the east facade, there appears to have been, at one time, a side entrance, as a flat, brick arch is clearly visible. No details are visible on the north facade as a frame addition blocks its view.

An old photograph, reproduced in Clarence Joerndt's St. Ignatius, Hickory, and Its Missions, shows the details of the principal facade (the south side) before the addition of a frame structure. A frame belfry had been present at the center of roof ridge on the south side. What appears to be the belfry's base is still present. This facade had a center door, probably double hung and of moulded wood panels. A window above the door is sketched on the enclosed page. This church bears a striking resemblance to the original Church of St. Ignatius in Hickory.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

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**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 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)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1855

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

This church, constructed in 1855 and completed in 1856, bears a striking resemblance to the original church of St. Ignatius in Hickory. The church was completed during the tenure of Rev. J.A. Walter, pastor at St. Ignatius, through the work of a very dedicated community.

The land on which this building stands was donated by Ignatius G. and Margaret Macatee in June of 1856. The tract was called Harry's Delight. The Macatee family had long been active in affairs of the Church and prior to the building's construction had offered their home as a place of worship. The stone dwelling built by Henry Macatee on the family Belle Farm (HA-477) often its completion in 1820. This home was used for many years after and Mass was held there regularly. This area, known as the Barrens in the early nineteenth century, was often mentioned on the correspondence of priests serving in northern Maryland.

As the years passed, by around the middle of the nineteenth century, the Catholics residing in the area became increasingly restive about the absence of a Church and the fact that they had to depend on what must have been infrequent visits by the pastor stationed at St. Ignatius. On March 2, 1844, when Capt. Henry Macatee drafted his last Will and testament, one provision sets aside a lot of land for the construction of a church. This lot was never used for the Church's purpose.

In 1872 the church received its first resident pastor, Rev. Joseph A. Gallen, after the completion of the frame rectory still present. Between 1880 and 1883, during the tenure of the Rev. John J. Conway, the sanctuary was enlarged and a sacristy was added.

A new church was started between 1889 and 1890 and was finished in 1895. The old church building is now used as a social room and a crude frame building now butts against it at one end.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

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**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Joerndt, Clarence V.; St. Ignatius, Hickory, and Its Missions, 1972.  
Wright, C. Milton; Our Harford Heritage; 1967.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 2 acres

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The property on which the Church building stands is bordered on the south by additional Church lands; on the east by St. Mary's Church Road.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	COUNTY
STATE	COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE	Susan M. Deeney, Field Historian	January 25, 1977
ORGANIZATION	Historic District Commission	DATE
STREET & NUMBER	45 South Main Street	838-6000 ext. 207
CITY OR TOWN	Bel Air	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

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