

HA-1312

St. Francis de Sales Church
1450 Abingdon Road
Abingdon, Maryland 21009

This Romanesque church, while not of exceptional style in Harford County, is exceptionally picturesque. The pastoral site on the crest of the hill above Abingdon, the blond stone and striking silhouette, the fine detailing like the round sandstone arches, have inspired more than one passing photographer and painter. The two towers - the rounded one with its two wings on the west and the square bell tower on the southeast - are particularly handsome.

The distinctive collection of shapes that have accrued to form the present structure reflects the expansion of St. Francis de Sales Church from a mission church to a parish. The church was built in 1866 on land given by William Pannell, owner of the Harford Furnace Ironworks and a non - Catholic. The bell tower was added in 1887 and the confessional in 1938. In 1964, after 98 years as a mission church, first to St. Ignatius and then to St. Stephen, St. Francis was raised to the status of a parish.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC St. Francis de Sales Church
 AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER west side of Abingdon Road north of Md. Rte. 7, near Abingdon.
 CITY, TOWN CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
 VICINITY OF
 STATE 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<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 checked="" 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 Contact: Father Maurice Wolfe Telephone #: 676-5119
 STREET & NUMBER 1450 Abingdon Rd.
 CITY, TOWN Abingdon, VICINITY OF Maryland STATE, zip code 21009

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Harford County Courthouse Liber #: Folio #:
 STREET & NUMBER 40 S. Main St.
 CITY, TOWN Bel Air, STATE Maryland 21014

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
 DATE
 DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS
 CITY, TOWN STATE
 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

7 DESCRIPTION

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

This stone church laid in coursed fieldstone and constructed in at least three phases is located on the west side of Abingdon Road, north of the Old Post Road (Md. Rte. 7).

The church of essentially cruciform plan faces east: the original gable-roofed portion, constructed in 1866, is three bays long, with a square tower added in 1887 at its southeast corner, flanked on the north by a projecting entrance vestibule and confessional. of the gable-roofed section is a rounded tower with flanking wings.

The main-or oldest-portion of the church (i.e. the nave) has three round-arched stained glass windows with stone arches and projecting sills on each side. An exterior stone chimney is on the north side, and windows to light the balcony are in the east end. This end has a false pediment with a flared eave on the north; the gable roof itself has a wide overhand.

On the east end, the entrance porch has flared eaves, paralleling the roof line, and contains a round-arched, double-leaf door with four panels in each leaf. The one-room confessional to the north and set back slightly contains two windows.

The tower is four stories with stone string courses marking off the unevenly-spaced levels. There are windows in the second story west side and the third story south side. An arcade of arches-two on each side-marks where the bell is hung, and the tower has a crenellated cap, from which rises a peaked roof surmounted by a cross.

On the west, the central round tower has a hexagonal roof and a single window in the ground story. Each of the flanking wings has a gable roof and one window in both stories of each side. End windows in the first story have 12/12 sash and round stone arches. Those on the west side have 2/2 sash and flat stone lintels. In the ground story of the south end is an entrance.

On the interior, the balcony is in the east end, and the chancel with a round ceiling window is in the west end. The nave has a vertical board wainscot.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

47-100

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

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

There is almost no information about Catholic activity in Abingdon until the latter part of the 19th century. In 1865, William Pannell, who was owner of the Harford Furnace Ironworks near Creswell and a non-Catholic, gave four acres in Abingdon for the site of St. Francis Church. The cornerstone of the present church was laid on July 9, 1866.

Prior to that, in 1864 and 1865, Mass had been offered in the private residence of the Delmas family in Abingdon township.

Rev. Patrick Francis O'Connor, also a pastor at St. Ignatius Church in Hickory, initiated the construction of this church, and Mr. George Lochary, a parishioner of St. Ignatius supervised it. In 1873, St. Francis' Church was transferred from the custody of the Pastor at St. Ignatius to the pastor of St. Stephens, Bradshaw, and Father Gerard Myssen became its pastor. It wasn't until March 27, 1887, 21 years after the first Mass, that the church was dedicated by the Rev. Luigi Sartori of St. Stephens Church.

At that time, a bell tower was added to the church using stone quarried from Harford Furnace. The confessional was added by Father Fitzgerald in 1938.

In 1964, after 98 years as a mission church, first to St. Ignatius and then to St. Stephen, St. Francis was raised to the status of a parish, and the Rev. Maurice J. Wolfe was appointed the first pastor.

This Romanesque church, while not of exceptional style ^{for} the area, is exceptionally picturesque. The pastoral site on the crest of the hill, the blond stone and striking silhouette, the fine detailing like the round sandstone arches, have inspired more than one passing photographer and painter. The two towers-the rounded one with its two wings on the west, and the square bell tower on the southeast-are particularly handsome. The distinctive collection of shapes that have accrued to form the present structure reflects the expansion of St. Francis de Sales Church from a mission church to a parish.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Centennial Program of St. Francis de Sales Church 1966.
Interview with Father Maurice Wolfe, May, 1979.

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

Natalie Shivers, Historic Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Harford County Historic District Commission

DATE

July, 1979

STREET & NUMBER

45 S. Main St.

TELEPHONE

301-879-2000 ext. 207

CITY OR TOWN

Bel Air,

STATE

Maryland 21014

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

HA-1312

2.3 MI. TO U.S. 40
ABERDEEN 5.6 MI.

600 000
FEET

4370

1 MI.
BELCAMP 1 MI.
ABERDEEN 5.6 MI.

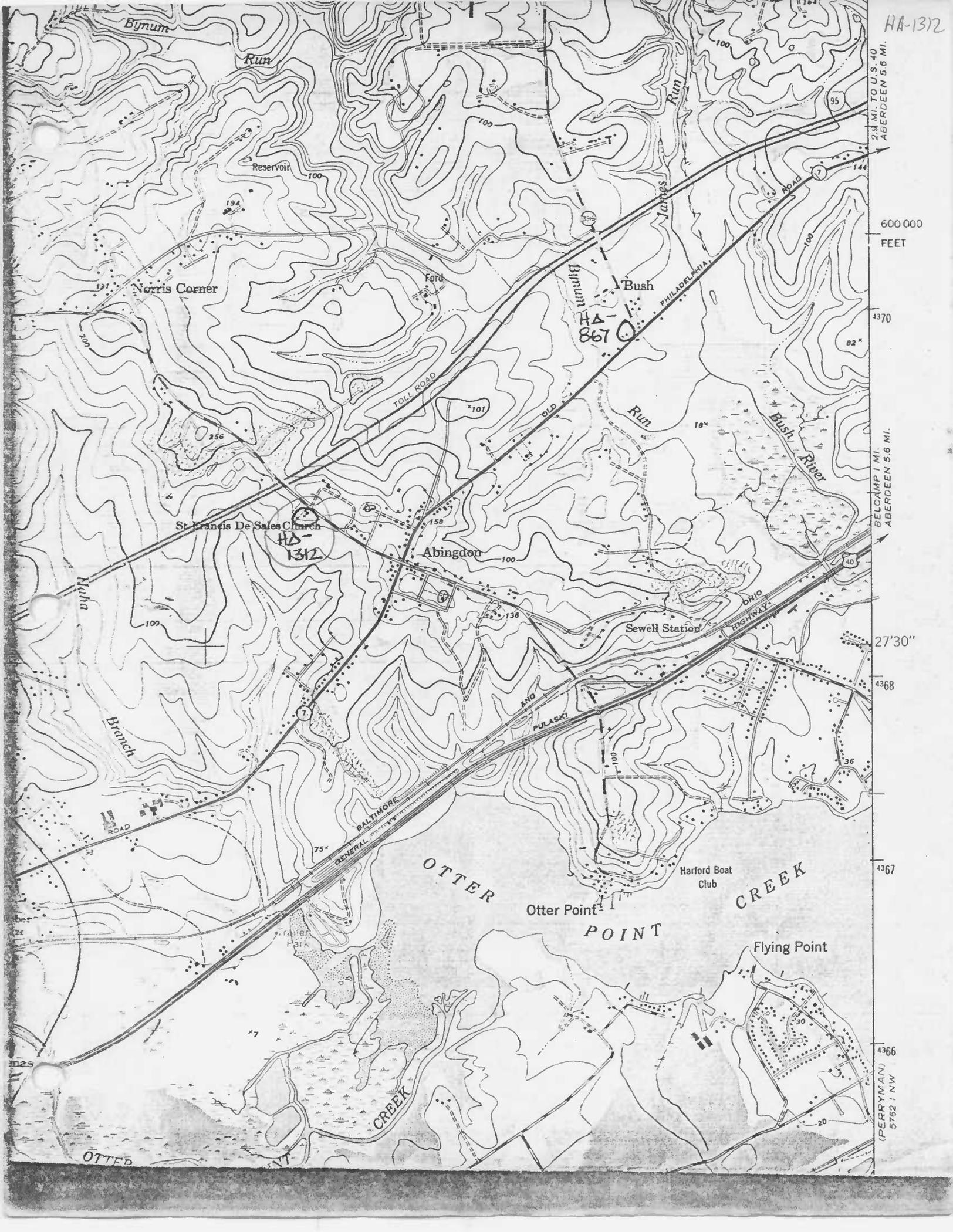
27'30"

4368

4367

4366

(PERRYMAN)
5752 1 NW





St. Francis de Sales Church
Abingdon, Md. 21009
Natalie Shivers
June, 1979
Northwest

HA-1312



St. Francis de Sales Church
Abingdon, Md.

Natalie Shivers

June, 1979
Southeast

HA-132