

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY

HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey #: P.G. #84-10 Building Date: 1904

Building Name: St. Mary's Church, Piscataway

Location: 13407 Piscataway Road, Piscataway

Private/Religious/Occupied/Good/Restricted

Description

The St. Mary's Church faces Piscataway Road and open fields to its east. It is a one-story, six- by-three bay brick structure with a three-bay gable end entrance facade marked by a projecting tower emerging from the central bay. Gothic in style, the church is rectangular, of American bond brick work with a low watertable. Entrance is through the east two-story tower, which has a plain frieze, a crown molded cornice and a pyramidal roof. The double, twelve-panel entrance door is surmounted by a pointed arch lintel, and flanked by buttresses at the tower corners. A foundation block reads "St. Mary's AD 1906". Above the entrance is a pointed arch stone plaque reading "Come to me all you that labour and are heavy laden and I will refresh you, 1838". At second-story level is a sealed window, having pointed-arch tracery. The tower is flanked by doors on the main block, each six panels with a pointed-arch head, surmounted by a lintel. Buttresses mark the corners of the building. There are overhanging eaves with projecting rafters on the north and south facades. Both facades are six bays, marked by pointed arch stained glass windows. Buttresses mark the intervals between the windows. The north side of the tower has a round rose window. The west (rear) facade is marked by two six-panel doors with pointed arch heads surmounted by pointed-arch brick lintels. A small stone placque centered in the gable reads "IHS". There are graves surrounding the church building and several large cedar trees cluster in the cemetery. Grave dates range from 1841 to 1982. A modern brick building, the St. Mary's Elementary School, is to the west.

Significance

St. Mary's Church in Piscataway is a handsome Gothic Revival building. Important details include its pointed arch brick lintels, white painted weathering on buttresses and pointed-arch and rose stained glass windows. Built in 1904, it is similar to the larger ca. 1899 St. Mary's Church in Upper Marlboro. St. Mary's, Piscataway is significant for its architectural style and for the history of its congregation. A Catholic congregation was meeting in Piscataway in 1778, served by Jesuit fathers from St. Ignatius at Chapel Point. St. Mary's was the second Catholic Church in the County when the original church was built in 1838. The early St. Mary's, on the present church site was smaller, also of brick with a tower. It was removed for construction of the new church, under the rectorship of Father Patrick G. Minnehan. The Rectory for St. Mary's was built in 1956, the convent and school in 1961. The church complex stands on 22 acres.

Acreeage: 22 acres

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic St. Mary's Church, Piscataway

and/or common St. Mary's Church, Piscataway

2. Location

street & number 13407 Piscataway Road (Maryland Route 223) not for publication

city, town Clinton Piscataway
 vicinity of congressional district 4

state MD county Prince George's

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<u> </u> district	<u> </u> public	<u> </u> X occupied	<u> </u> agriculture	<u> </u> museum
<u> </u> X building(s)	<u> </u> X private	<u> </u> unoccupied	<u> </u> commercial	<u> </u> park
<u> </u> structure	<u> </u> both	<u> </u> work in progress	<u> </u> educational	<u> </u> private residence
<u> </u> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<u> </u> entertainment	<u> </u> X religious
<u> </u> object	<u> </u> in process	<u> </u> X yes: restricted	<u> </u> government	<u> </u> scientific
	<u> </u> being considered	<u> </u> yes: unrestricted	<u> </u> industrial	<u> </u> transportation
	<u> </u> X not applicable	<u> </u> no	<u> </u> military	<u> </u> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name St. Mary's Church

street & number 13407 Piscataway Road telephone no.:

city, town Clinton state and zip code MD 20735

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Prince George's County Courthouse liber JB 8

street & number Main Street folio 103

city, town Upper Marlboro state MD

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Historic Sites and Districts Plan

date July 1981 federal state X county local

depository for survey records History Division, M-NCPPC

city, town Riverdale state MD

7. Description

Survey No. 84-10

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The St. Mary's Church is situated facing Piscataway Road and open fields to its east. Designed in the Gothic style, it is a one-story, six-by-three bay brick structure with a three-bay gable end entrance facade marked by a projecting tower emerging from the central bay.

The church is rectangular in plan, of American bond brick work with a low watertable. Entrance is through the east two-story tower, which has a plain frieze, a crown molded cornice and a pyramidal roof surmounted by a cross. The double, twelve-panel entrance door is surmounted by a high, pointed arch lintel, and flanked by buttresses at the tower corners. A foundation block on the northeast corner of the tower reads "St. Mary's AD 1906". Centered above the entrance is a pointed arch stone plaque reading "Come to me all you that labour and are heavy laden and I will refresh you, 1838". Above the plaque, at second-story level, is a sealed window, having tracery forming two Gothic arches. The window has a pointed arch lintel and a stone sill.

The tower is flanked by two doors on the main block, each six panels with a panelled, pointed arch head, surmounted by a pointed arch lintel. Brick buttresses mark the corners of the building. There are overhanging eaves with projecting rafters on the north and south facades. Both facades are six bays, marked by pointed arch stained glass double hung sash windows surmounted by pointed arch brick lintels. Buttresses mark the intervals between the windows. There is an interior corbelled brick chimney on the second bay. The north side of the entrance tower has a round rose window with a brick surround and wood tracery. All the arched windows have narrow molded wood surrounds and white painted wide wood sills.

The west (rear) facade is marked by two six-panel doors, one north and one south of the facade center. Each have panelled, pointed arch heads and are surmounted by pointed arch brick lintels. There is a pargeted exterior chimney on the southwest corner of the facade. Buttresses mark the corners of the building. A small stone placque centered in the gable reads "IHS".

A large locust and cedar tree flank the walkway to the church entrance. There are graves to the east, south and north of the church building and several large cedar trees cluster in the cemetery. Grave dates range from 1841 to 1982. A modern brick building housing the St. Mary's Elementary School is to the west. The whole of the church yard is surrounded by a low fence of brick piers joined by lengths of chain.

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 type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		local history

Specific dates: 1904 Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: A B C D
 and/or
 Applicable Exception: A B C D E F G
 Level of Significance: national state local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

St. Mary's Church in Piscataway is a handsome example of Gothic Revival architecture. Important details include its pointed arch brick lintels above doors and windows, white painted weathering on wall buttresses and pointed-arch and rose stained glass windows. Built in 1904, it is similar in detail to the larger ca. 1899 St. Mary's Church in Upper Marlboro. It is possible that St. Mary's, Piscataway was built by the Wyvill Brothers, builders of St. Mary's, Upper Marlboro. St. Mary's, Piscataway is significant for its architectural style and for the history of its congregation.

Piscataway was an important link in the network of Catholicism in Prince George's County during the colonial period.¹ A Catholic congregation was meeting there in 1778, served by the Jesuit fathers from St. Ignatius at Chapel Point.² St. Mary's was the second Catholic Church in the County when the original church was built in 1838.³ Piscataway was listed for the first time in the National Catholic Directory in 1839.⁴ The early St. Mary's, on the site of the present church, was a smaller building, also of brick with a spire or tower. It was in bad repair when it was removed for construction of the new church, under the rectorship of Father Patrick G. Minnehan.⁵ The Rectory for St. Mary's was built in 1956 in a contemporary style. The convent and school were built in 1961.⁶ The present church complex stands on 22 acres.

Notes

- 1 "The Parish of St. Mary," Piscataway, Maryland, 1980. Booklet at History Division, M-NCPPC, Riverdale.
- 2 Ibid.
- 3 Ibid.
- 4 Ibid.
- 5 Ibid.
- 6 Ibid.

1704184.708
P.A. 84-10

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME
 HISTORIC _____
 St. Mary's Church and Rectory
 AND/OR COMMON _____

2 LOCATION
 STREET & NUMBER _____
 Piscataway Road at Floral Park Rd.
 CITY, TOWN _____ CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT _____
 Piscataway _____ VICINITY OF Prince Georges
 STATE Maryland _____ 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 checked="" 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 Washington, D.C. Telephone #: _____
 STREET & NUMBER _____
 CITY, TOWN _____ STATE, zip code _____
 VICINITY OF _____

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION
 COURTHOUSE, _____ Liber #: _____
 REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Prince George's County Courthouse Folio #: _____
 STREET & NUMBER Main Street Maryland
 CITY, TOWN Upper Marlboro STATE _____

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS
 TITLE None
 DATE _____
 _____ FEDERAL _____ STATE _____ COUNTY _____ LOCAL _____
 DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS _____
 CITY, TOWN _____ STATE _____

7 DESCRIPTION**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

St. Mary's is a rectangular gable-roofed brick church with a three story brick tower at its main entrance, Architecturally it is of victorian gothic style and has cornerstone date of 1902. However, the bricks used in the present structure appear to be handmade bricks and probably have been re-used from an earlier building, There has been a church on the same site since before the Civil War.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

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 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 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	BUILDER/ARCHITECT
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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

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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

Christopher Owens, Park Historian

4/3/73

ORGANIZATION

M-NCPPC

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

8787 Georgia Ave.

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Silver Spring

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

Chain of Title

St. Mary's Church & Cemetery
P.G. #84-10

JB 8:103
5 Dec. 1899
Indenture

George W. Wilson and Anna E. Wilson, his wife, to James Cardinal Gibbins, Bishop of the Roman Catholic Church, Diocese of Baltimore, a certain house and lot in the Village of Piscataway, in trust for St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church, to accept and receive all recents and profits accruing from said house and lot for the use and benefit of St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church. At one time occupied by a certain person name J.T. Johnson, as a tenant of one Ignatius S. Wilson, from whom the said George W. Wilson purchased by HB #13:72.

WAJ 2:406
1 March 1881
Registered

St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church, in the village of Piscataway, was dedicated in the year of Our Lord One thousand eight hundred and thirty-eight, by the Reverend Archbishop of Kendrick, Reverend Father Edward McCotgan, then Pastor. The Clerk of the Circuit Court for Prince George's County, Maryland, will please record the foregoing in one of the Land Record Books for said County as evidence of the aforesaid St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church in the Village of Piscataway in the County and State aforesaid, being a registered Church among the said Land Records of said county. S.J. Clarke, Pastor, Enrooled March 1, 1881.

O-S 223

PATRICK A. O'BOYLE
1987-573
1625 A
P. 27

1978-159
322A P. 30

ST MARY'S
CHURCH
P. 31

2442-122
2.37A
P. 29

PG 84-10

R-A

C. CHAPMAN
4161, 255
9.71 A
P. 132

WILLIAM P
DAVIS
2442, 175
4.41 A
P. 30

0.29 A
P. 31
1.47 A
P. 15

MICHEL S MALOUF
3473, 689
3.38 A
P. 32

PARK RD.

FLORAL

150A
P. 28

1A
P. 134

84-9

ST MARY'S
CH. HALL
P. 133

1.24A
P. 34

1A
P. 33

84-6

84-7

BRYAN F
VORGAN

84-4

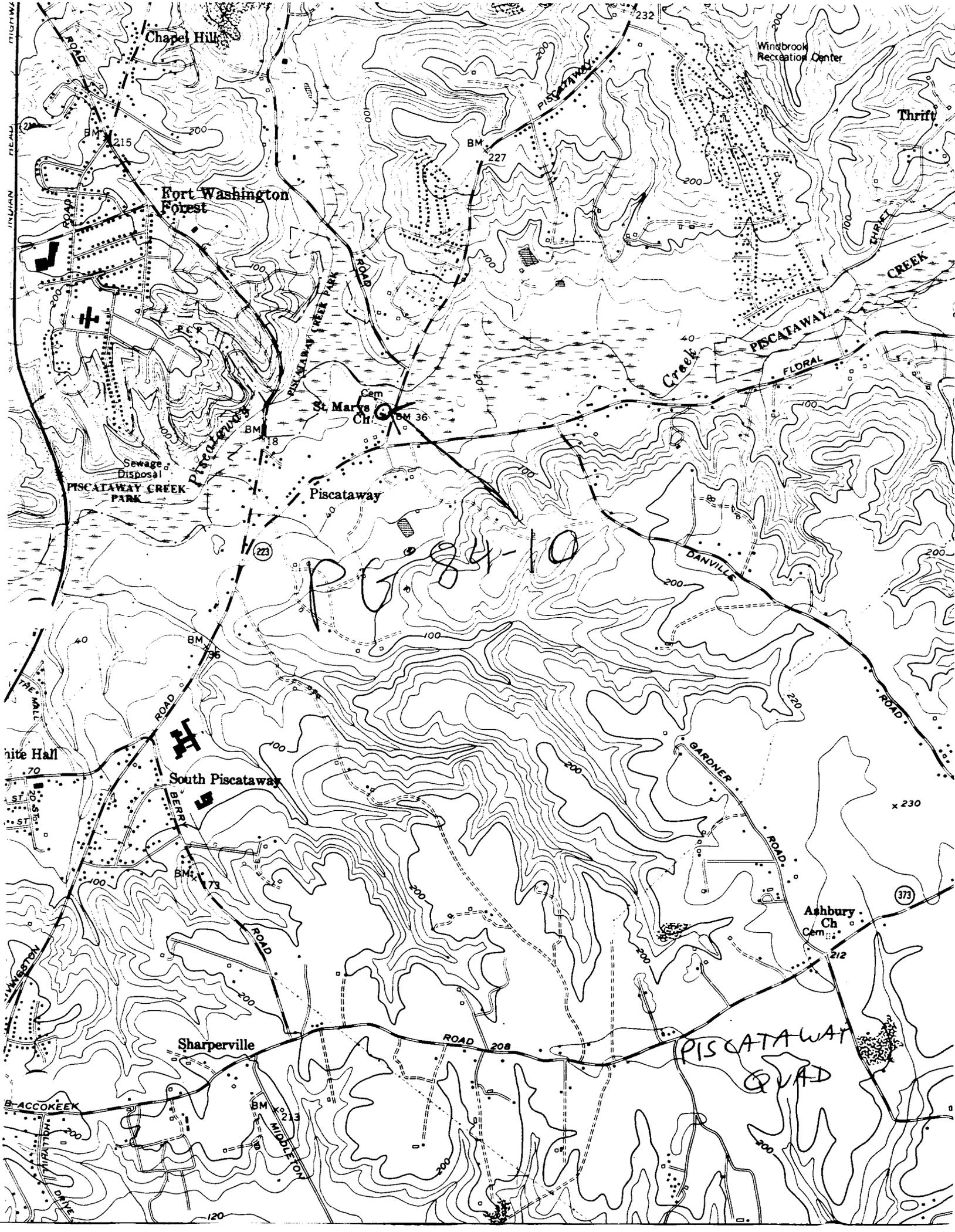
HENRY B
SEAKS
4219, 844
5.5A
P. 46
1505-570
3.31A
P. 45

WENDELL E. BAILEY, ET AL
5493, 161
891.33 A
P. 44

JOHN H. WOOD
1953-14
3.04 A
P. 42

ANTATION
0305

R-A



INDIAN HEAD ROAD

ROAD

PISCATAWAY CREEK PARK

THE WATTLE ROAD

White Hall

WEBSTER ROAD

ACCOKEEK ROAD

MIDDLE OF ROAD

Chapel Hill

Fort Washington Forest

Sewage Disposal

South Piscataway

Sharpville

Cem St. Mary's Ch.

Piscataway

ROAD 208

MIDDLE OF ROAD

PISCATAWAY CREEK

DANVILLE

GARDNER ROAD

PISCATAWAY QUAD

Windbrook Recreation Center

Thrifty

CREEK

FLORAL CREEK

x 230

373

Ashbury Ch. Cem.

212

120



P. G. #84-10

St. Mary's Church

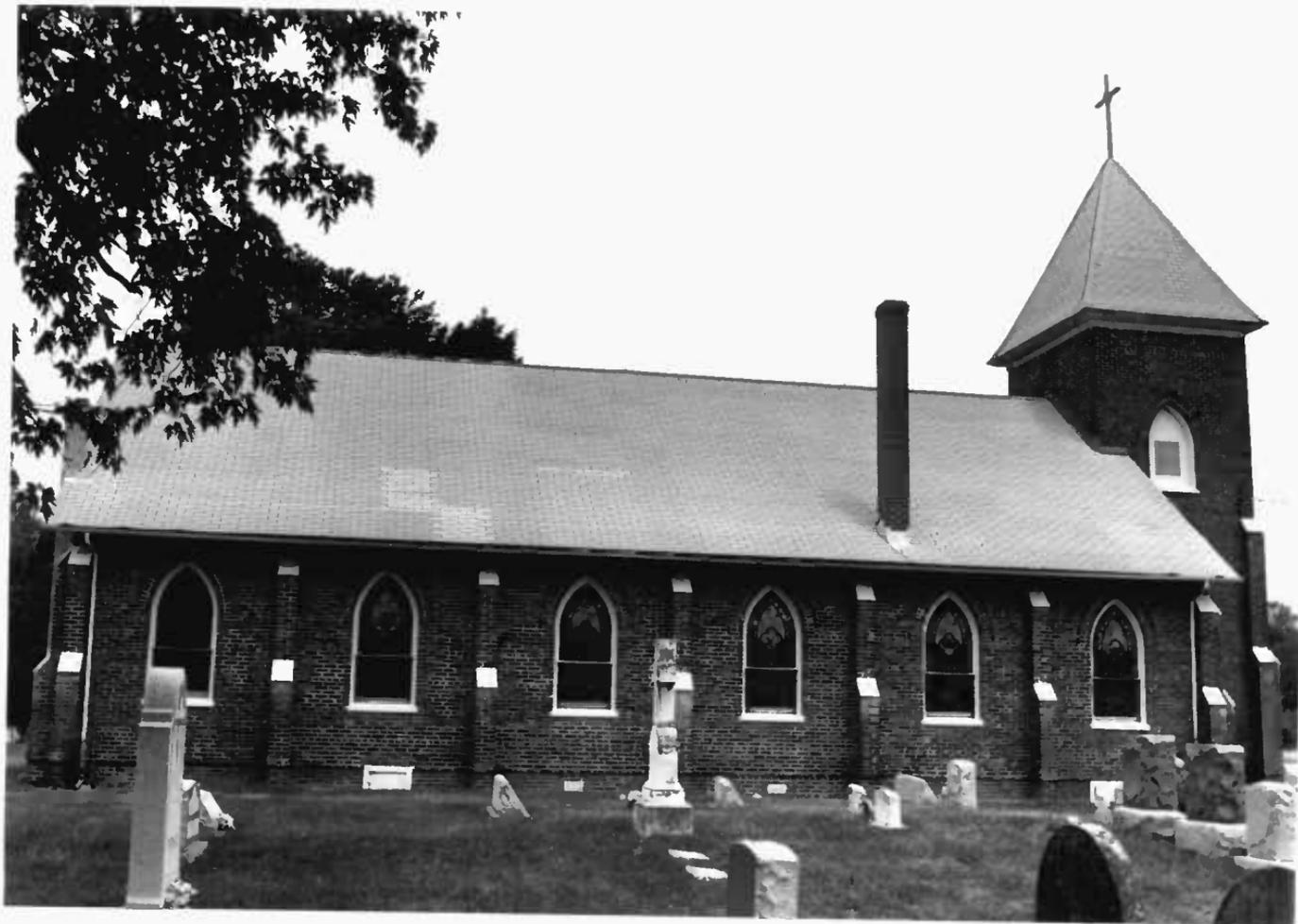
Prince George's County, Maryland

Marina King

May 1985

West elevation

Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD.



P. G. #84-10

St. Mary's Church

Prince George's County, Maryland

Marina King

May 1985

South elevation

Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD.



P. G. #84-10

St. Mary's Church

Prince George's County, Maryland

Marina King

May 1985

East elevation

Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD.



P. G. #84-10

St. Mary's Church

Prince George's County, Maryland

Marina King

May 1985

North elevation

Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD.



P.G. #84-10

Piscataway Village Historic District

St. Mary's Church

Susan G. Pearl

October 1984

From southeast

Neg: Md. Historical Trust, Annapolis, MD.



NAME # 84-10 ST. MARY'S CHURCH

LOCATION FLORAL PARK + DISCATAWAY Pkds DISCATAWAY, Md

FACADE SE

PHOTO TAKEN 4/3/73 COWENS