

WO-325

1878

St. Mary's Star-of-the-Sea Catholic Church  
Ocean City  
Public worship

The St. Mary's Star-of-the-Sea Catholic congregation was one of the earliest religious groups to organize and build a church in the new ocean-side resort during the late 1870s. The Gothic Revival frame, standing on Lot 55, was erected with its principal gable facing Baltimore Avenue. Connected to the church on the south side is the early twentieth century parsonage.

Reported to have been erected in 1878, the building is one of the oldest structures still standing in the resort town. The single-story frame church, with its three-story bell tower, is not sheathed with wood shingles, but early images of the church indicate the building was covered initially with board and batten siding. Pointed arch colored glass windows illuminate the sanctuary.

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. WO-325

Magi No.

DOE  yes  no

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic ST. MARY'S STAR-OF-THE-SEA CATHOLIC CHURCH

and/or common

## 2. Location

street & number SW corner of Baltimore Ave. and Talbot St.  not for publicationcity, town Ocean City  vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Worcester

## 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	<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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

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

name St. Mary's Star-of-the-Sea Catholic Church

street &amp; number Baltimore Avenue telephone no.:

city, town Ocean City state and zip code Md 21842

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Worcester County Clerk of Court liber 231

street &amp; number Worcester County Courthouse folio 691

city, town Snow Hill state MD 21863

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records

city, town state

# 7. Description

Survey No. WO-325

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" 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.

St. Mary's Star-of-the-Sea Catholic church stands on the southwest corner of the intersection of Baltimore Avenue and Talbot Street in the center of Ocean City, Worcester County, Maryland. The single-story frame church faces east with the principal gable oriented on an east/west axis.

Built around 1878, the single-story, wood shingled frame church is supported by a rusticated block foundation, and the steeply pitched gable roof is covered with asbestos shingles. Rising on the northeast corner of the building is a three-story tower topped by a pyramidal spire.

The east (main) elevation is an asymmetrical facade with a center gabled entrance and flanking colored glass lancet windows. The replacement front doors are incorporated into a projecting gabled vestibule. Fixed above the entrance is a colored glass round window. The eaves to the roof are extended, and rising atop the gable roof is a small cross. The northeast corner tower is marked on the first floor by pointed arch, colored glass windows, while the second level is uniformly covered with wood shingles. An old postcard of the church indicates the middle level was defined by round window. Piercing the belfry are pairs of louvered vents on each face, which were originally open. The pyramidal tower roof has a flared base.

The north side of the church is dominated by a large cross gable, and the wall is pierced by eight colored glass lancet windows. The eaves to the roof are slightly extended.

The back of the church is defined by a pair of colored glass windows on the first floor and a round window in the upper gable.

The interior was not seen.

# 8. Significance

Survey No. WO-325

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 1878 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 Star-of-the-Sea Catholic church is a prominent architectural and historical site in Ocean City. Reported to have been erected in 1878, the building is one of the oldest structures still standing in the resort town. Built to follow the Gothic Revival style the wood shingled frame church was originally covered with board and batten siding. Through the years the church has been modified with various alterations, but despite these changes the gable front church with its three-story tower is an early and distinctive landmark fronting Baltimore Avenue in the old part of town. The early twentieth century parsonage, now connected to the church, stands as well.

### HISTORY AND SUPPORT

The St. Mary's Star-of-the-Sea Catholic congregation was one of the earliest religious groups to organize and build a church in the new ocean-side resort during the late 1870s. The Gothic Revival church, standing on Lot 55, was erected with its principal gable facing Baltimore Avenue.

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle scale \_\_\_\_\_

\* UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

B	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

C	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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D	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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E	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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F	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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G	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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H	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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**Verbal boundary description and justification****List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries**

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title	Paul B. Touart	Architectural Historian
organization	Worcester County	date 3/22/1990
street & number	Worcester County Courthouse	telephone 301-632-1194
city or town	Snow Hill	state MD 21863

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  
Shaw House  
21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 269-2438

HISTORIC CONTEXT INFORMATION

Resource Name: St. Mary's STAR-OFF-SEA CATHOLIC CHURCH

MHT Inventory Number: WU-325

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA:

1) Historic Period Theme(s):

ARCHITECTURE  
RELIGION

2) Geographic Orientation:

EASTERN SHORE

3) Chronological/Developmental Period(s):

INDUSTRIAL / URBAN DOMINANCE  
(1870-1930)

4) Resource Type(s):

STANDING STRUCTURE

1. CHURCH

WO-325  
ST. MARY'S STAR-OF-THE-SEA  
Ocean City, Maryland  
Chain of title

231/691                    Catholic Diocese Foundation  
                             formerly Catholic Foundation of the  
                             Diocese of Wilmington, Delaware

                             to

3/29/1968                 St. Mary's Star-of-the Sea Church  
                             Lots 55, and 74 West side of Baltimore Ave.

Will Book                 Rt. Reverend Edmund J. Fitzmaurice, Wilm.

                             to

                             Catholic Foundation of the Diocese of  
                             Wilmington  
                             Fitzmaurice died 7/25/1962

BB 4/20                    Rt. Rev. John J. Monaghan, Wilmington

                             to

12/7/1925                 Rt. Rev. Edmund J. Fitzmaurice, Wilmington

ITM 4/538                 Plat of Ocean City

7/28/1876

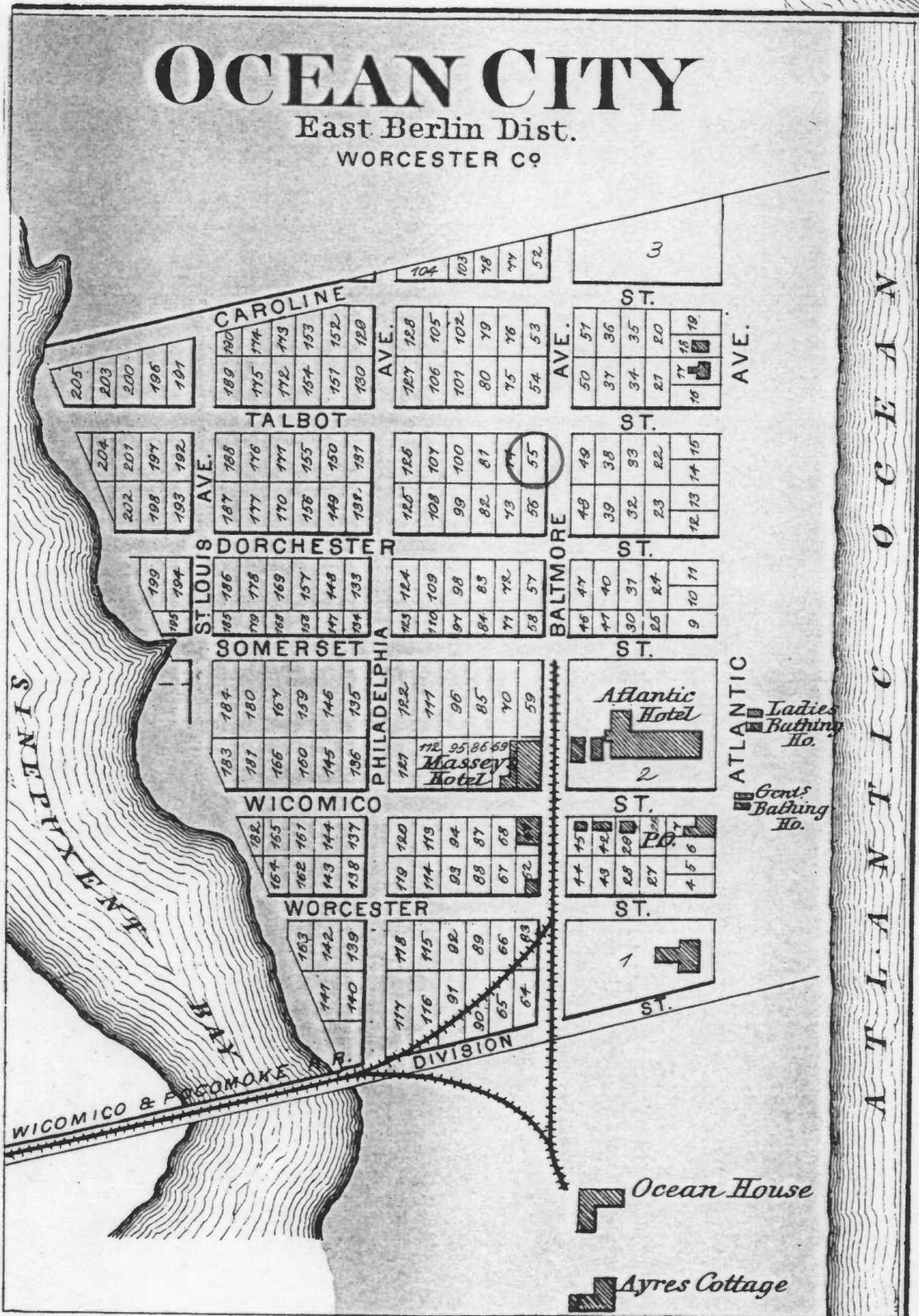


P.C. #1123

Ocean City LIFESAVING STATION MUSEUM  
COLLECTION

W0-325  
St. Mary's STAR-OF-THE-SEA CATHOLIC CHURCH

1877 LANGE, GRAYSON,  
AND STEVENSON ATLAS



### OCEAN CITY BUSINESS REFERENCES.

- J. TRACY**, Proprietor of Atlantic Hotel, Ocean City; also, of Peninsula House, Salisbury.
- SAM'L J. MASSEY**, Proprietor of Seaside House, Ocean City, Md. Terms, two dollars per day; ten dollars per week; meals fifty cents each. Liberal arrangements made with families. First-class Bar, Bowling Alley and Livery Stable attached.
- COFFIN & LYNCH**, Proprietors of the Ocean House, Ocean City.

### WHALEYVILLE BUSINESS REFERENCES.

- JOHN P. R. GILLISS**, Physician and Surgeon.
- P. W. DALE & BRO.**, Dealers in Dry Goods, Notions, Boots, Shoes, &c., &c.
- P. WHALEY**, Merchant and R. R. Agent.
- E. T. WHALEY, & CO.**, Dealers in Dry Goods, Groceries, Hats, Caps, Boots, Shoes, and Notions.
- JAMES WHALEY**, Judge of the Orphans' Court.
- LEANDER CLIFTON**, Blacksmith. All work in his line done to order.
- J. E. WHITAKER**, Proprietor of Whaleyville Steam Saw Mills. Grinding, Sawing and Carding. All work done in good order.

492

5'

493

MARYLAND BEACH 5 MI

528

5960 1 NE (ASSAWOMAN BAY)

495

496

2'30"

North Ocean City

W I G H T

Trailer Park  
Filtration Plant  
Water Tank

I S L A N D  
F E N W I C K

Light

Tidal Flat

Drum Island  
Tidal Flat

Drum Pt

Horn Island

Mallard Island

Light

Sewage Disposal Plant

Ocean City

WO-325  
ST. MARY'S STAR-OF-THE-SEA CATHOLIC CHURCH  
Ocean City, Maryland Quadrangle  
1964

Coast Guard Sta

Water Tank

Municipal Pier

Parking

Coast Guard Lookout Tower

SEAWALL

Ocean City Inlet