

St. Catherine's Catholic Church

1911

CH-751

Mc Conchie vic.

Private

St. Catherine's Catholic Church is highly representative of churches built in Charles County during the early 20th century. Erected circa 1910 the church faces northwest and consists of a one-story, front-gable structure with a square belltower attached to the principal elevation.

The church evolved from the St. Ignatius, Hill Top (CH-97) congregation, in order to serve the needs of parishioners in the Mc Conchie area. In 1911, 1 3/4 acres was deeded from Lemuel B. Owen. St. Catherine's has historically been an African-American church that has shared a pastor with St. Ignatius, Hill Top.

7. Description

Inventory No. CH-751

Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

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

St. Catherine's Catholic Church is highly representative of churches built in Charles County during the early 20th century. Erected circa 1910 the church faces northwest and consists of a one-story, front-gable structure with a square belltower attached to the principal elevation. The rectangular wood frame stands on a poured concrete piers infilled with concrete blocks. The frame has been reclad in vinyl siding. Windows are 1/1 vinyl replacements with original square-edged wood surrounds exposed. Shingles are composition. The principal entrance includes wooden double front doors with transom sheltered by a small gable porch supported on simple square wooden posts.

The two-tier belltower serves as the vestibule and includes the buildings primary decorative elements such as rectangular windows and a hipped roof and a cross as a pinnacle. An original lightening rod with glass ball also adorns the pinnacle. The side elevations expose six bays of simple rectangular windows. A rear gable addition is attached to the rear southeast corner and includes a rear entrance on the southwest wall. Two symmetrically placed windows adorn the rear wall of the main block. The interior was not available at the time of the survey.

The church is surrounded on the three sides by graves adorned with a variety of markers and stones. These stones generally range in date from the early 20th century to the present. Grave markers include marble and limestone tablets, wooden and concrete crosses and simple small metal plates. Of note are the locally manufactured concrete crosses which have not been identified elsewhere in Charles County. At least twelve are present and seem to range in date from the 1940's to 1970's. Prominent surnames include Proctor, Keys, Payne and Gray.

8. Significance

Inventory No. CH-751

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime industry	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

Specific dates 1911

Architect/Builder 1911

Construction dates 1911

Evaluation for:

National Register

Maryland Register

not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance reports, complete evaluation on a DOE Form - see manual.)

St. Catherine's Catholic Church is a representative example of early 20th century sacred architecture in Charles County. The church evolved from the St. Ignatius, Hill Top (CH-97) congregation, in order to serve the needs of parishioners in the McConchie area. In 1911, 1 3/4 acres was deeded from Lemuel B. Owen. St. Catherine's has historically been an African-American church that has shared a pastor with St. Ignatius, Hill Top.

Southern Maryland is the cradle of Catholicism in the American Colonies. In 1638, the first land grant in what would become Charles County was issued to Thomas Copley, a Jesuit priest. The Jesuits were eventually granted over 4000 acres on both sides of the Port Tobacco River including a 3500 acre farm containing Cedar Point Neck, and 500 acres on the west side of the Port Tobacco River to serve as the Jesuit Headquarters. In 1642, a Jesuit mission was established nearby at the Indian town of Potopaco where Father Andrew White composed a grammar, dictionary and catechism in the native Potobac dialect.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. CH-751

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 1.5

Acreage of historical setting 1.5

Quadrangle name Port Tobacco

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

St. Catherine's Catholic Church is associated with Charles County Property Tax Map 43, Grid 13, Parcel 180.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Cathy Hardy/Historic Sites Surveyor

organization Charles County Planning

date 9/1/2002

street and number 200 Baltimore Street

telephone 301-396-5815

city or town La Plata

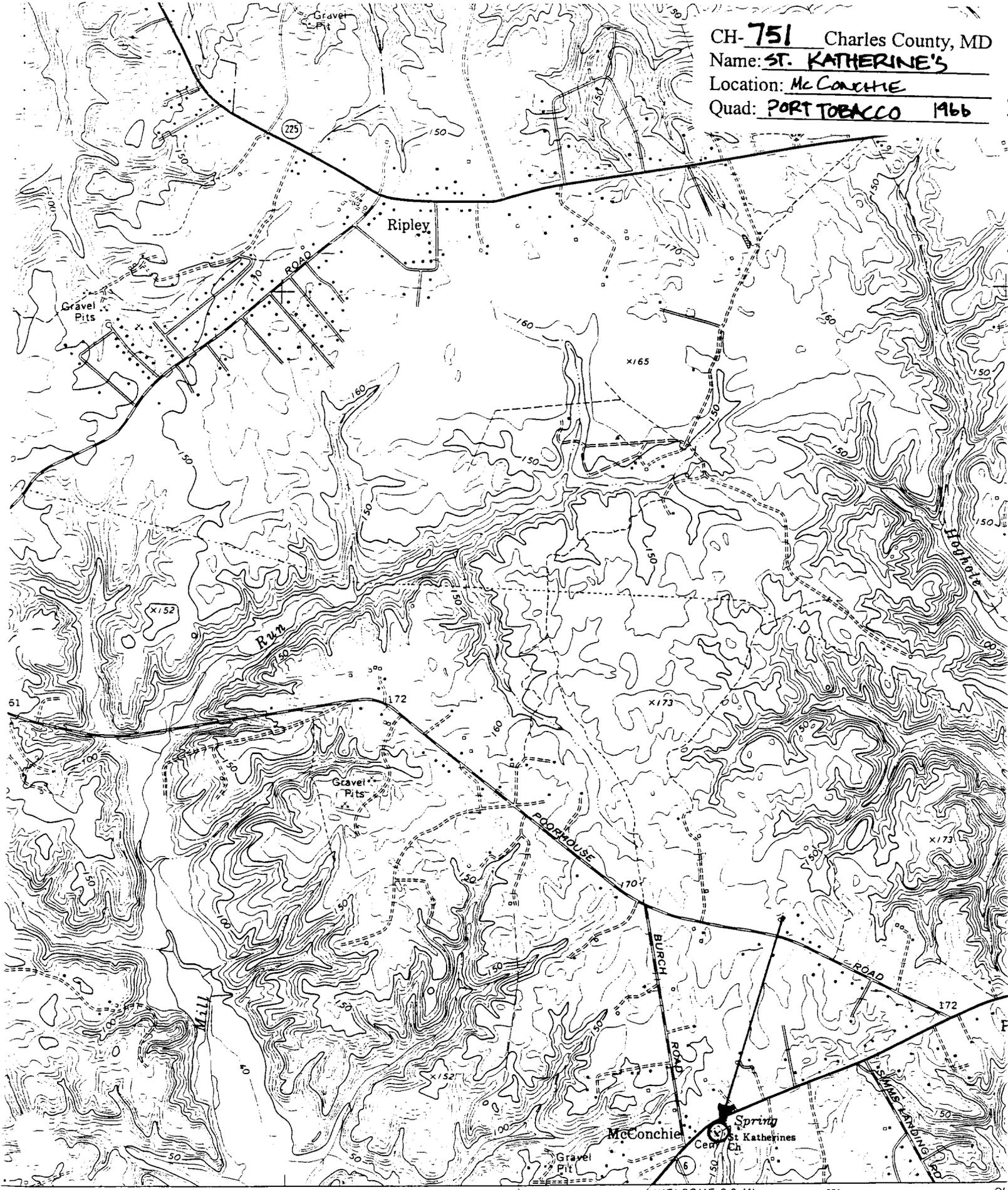
state MD zip code 20646

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties 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.

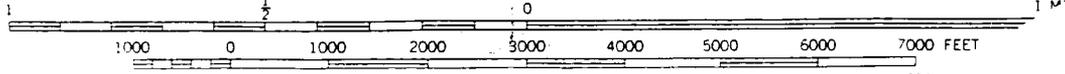
return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville MD 21032
410-514-7600

CH-751 Charles County, MD
 Name: ST. KATHERINE'S
 Location: Mc CONCHIE
 Quad: PORT TOBACCO 1966



(MATHIAS POINT) WELCOME 2.9 MI
 5560' NE NANJEMOY 13 MI.

SCALE 1:24 000





CH-751
ST. CATHERINE'S CATHOLIC CHURCH
CHARLES CO, MD

C. HARDY

6/2002

MD SHPO

LOOKING W

1 of 4



CH-751

ST. CATHERINE'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

CHARLES CO, MD

C. HARDY

6/2002

MD SHPO

LOOKING SW

20F4



CH-751
ST. CATHERINE'S CATHOLIC CHURCH
CHARLES CO. MD

C. HARDY

6/2002

MD SHPO

LOOKING N

3 OF 4



CH-751

ST. CATHERINE'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

CHARLES CO. MD

C. HARDY

6/2002

MD SHPO

LOUPLY-MADE MARKERS, LOOKING N

4 of 4