Capsule Summary
SM-863
Old St. Joseph's Cemetery
Morganza
Private 1700s

The Old St. Joseph's Cemetery, located on the northwest corner of Point Lookout and Busy Corner Roads, represents the final resting place for the parish's founders. Edwin Beitzell has suggested that the parish had at least a mission church near the present site as early as the 1730s. (Beitzell, 62) While the original mission church is no longer standing, the graves that remain are a reminder of the Catholic presence in Morganza since the eighteenth century. While earlier stones were merely pieces of local ironstone with initials and dates engraved in their tops, later markers feature elaborate motifs such as crosses and willow trees. The cemetery is marked by its relative simplicity as very few table tombs, obelisks, and monument stones remain.

In May of 1904, the old burial ground had reached its capacity and a new parcel, situated just north of the present church was purchased for a new cemetery from Mr. John H. Reeder (Beitzell, 267). After several years of neglect, the old cemetery was recently cleared of underbrush and is now a State Highway Authority marked historic site.

Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of
Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. SM-863

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic	Old St. Joseph's Cemetery
other	

2. Location

street and number	NW corner of Point Lookout and Busy Corner Roads, 29119 Pt. Lookout Rd.	__	not for publication
city, town	Morganza	__	vicinity
county	St. Mary's		

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

name	Patrick A. O'Boyle, Archbishop of Washington				
street and number	No address (St. Joseph's Parish)			telephone	N/a
city, town	Morganza	state	Md	zip code	20660

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc.	St. Mary's County Courthouse	tax map and parcel	TM-18, P-154		
city, town	Leonardtown	liber	JMM 2 & JFF 4	folio	279 & 86

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

_____ Contributing Resource in National Register District
_____ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
_____ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
_____ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
_____ Recorded by HABS/HAER
_____ Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
_____ Other:_____

6. Classification

Category
_____district
__x__building(s)
_____structure
_____site
_____object

Ownership
_____public
__x__private
_____both

Current Function
_____agriculture
_____commerce/trade
_____defense
_____domestic
_____education
__x__funerary
_____government
_____health care
_____industry
_____landscape
_____recreation/culture
_____religion
_____social
_____transportation
_____work in progress
_____unknown
_____vacant/not in use
_____other:

Resource Count

Contributing	Noncontributing	
_____	_____	buildings
__1__	_____	sites
_____	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
__1__	_____	Total

Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory
__0__

7. Description

Inventory No. SM-863

Condition

___ excellent ___ deteriorated
___ good ___ ruins
x__ fair ___ altered

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

Old St. Joseph's Cemetery is located on the northwest corner of Bushy Corner and Point Lookout Roads in the rural crossroads community of Morganza, Maryland. Situated on a 2.51 acre parcel, the cemetery has only recently been uncovered and cleared so that the graves of former congregants could be identified. The parcel is marked by its rolling topography and its close proximity to a tributary of St. Clements Creek. The property is bounded to the west by Point Lookout Road, to the north by a wooded parcel, to the east by a residential parcel, and to the south by Busy Corner Road. Most of the graves are oriented on an east/west axis and occur in groups where the ground is flat enough not to be washed by erosion. Graves range in date from the eighteenth century to modern times. Funerary motifs found on some graves include willow trees and crosses. Very few table tombs, obelisks, and large monuments are present.

8. Significance

Inventory No. SM-863

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

Specific dates **Architect/Builder**

Construction dates

Evaluation for:

_____ National Register _____Maryland Register ____x____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 projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

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9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. SM-863

Hammett, Regina Combs. History of St. Mary's County, Maryland: 1634-1990. Ridge, Md: Self-published, 1994.

Beitzell, Edwin Warfield. The Jesuit Missions of St. Mary's County, Maryland. 3rd ed. Leonardtown, Md: St. Mary's County Historical Society, 1998.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property	2.51 acres		
Acreage of historical setting	same		
Quadrangle name	Leonardtown & Mechanicsville	Quadrangle scale:	1:24 000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The property is bounded to the west by Point Lookout Road, to the north by a wooded parcel, to the east by a residential parcel, and to the south by Busy Corner Road. A more specific description of the properties boundaries can be found in St. Mary's County Land Records Liber JMM 2 & JFF 4, Folio 279 & 86.

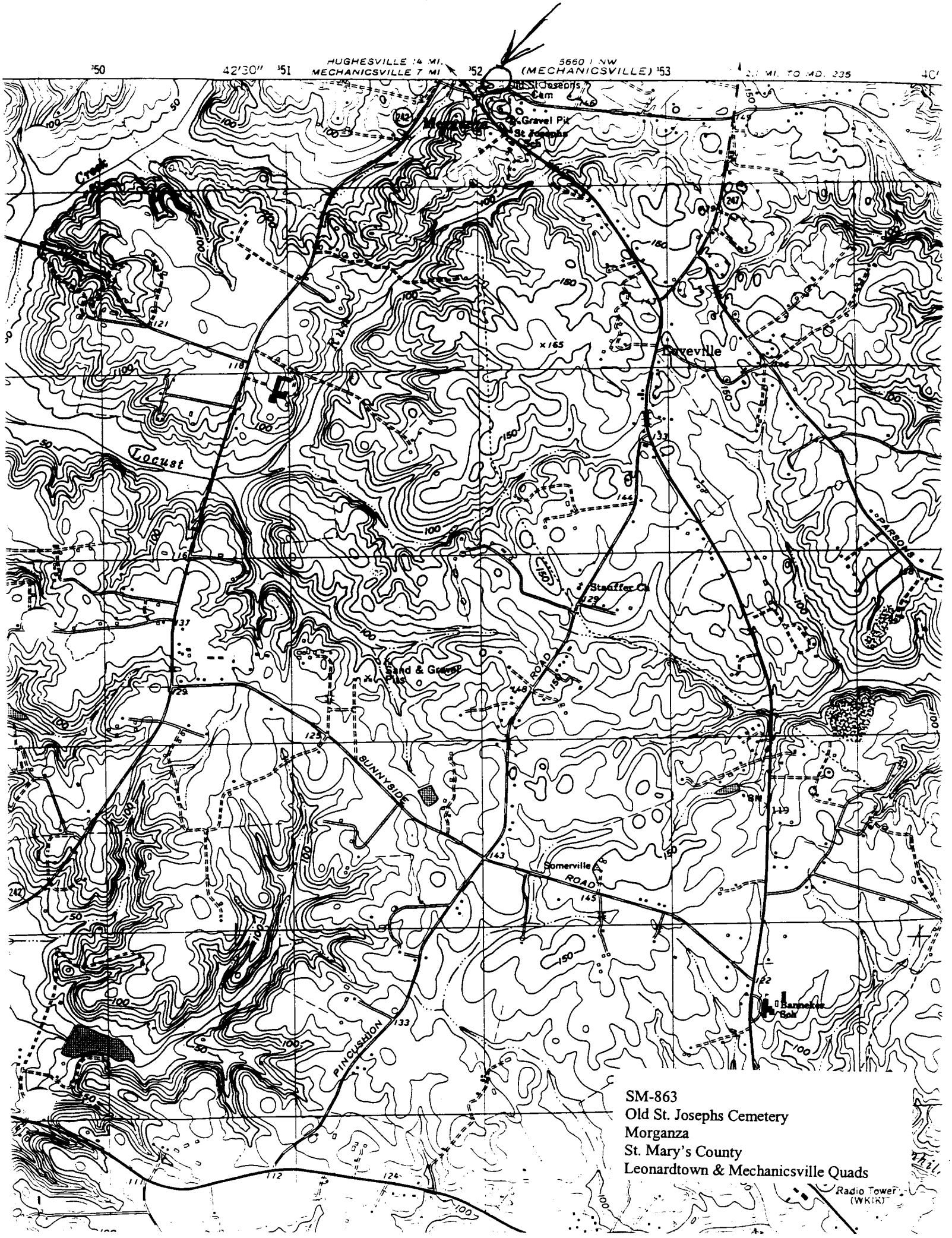
11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Kirk E. Ranzetta, Historic Sites Surveyor		
organization	St. Mary's County Department of Planning & Zoning	date	August, 2000
street & number	22740 Washington Street	telephone	301-475-4662
city or town	Leonardtown	state	Maryland

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 21032-2023
410-514-7600



SM-863
Old St. Josephs Cemetery
Morganza
St. Mary's County
Leonardtown & Mechanicsville Quads

Old St. Joseph's Cemetery

St. Mary's County

Kirk Ranzetta

Sept 100

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