CH-68

St. Joseph's Catholic Church

Architectural Survey File

This is the architectural survey file for this MIHP record. The survey file is organized reverse-chronological (that is, with the latest material on top). It contains all MIHP inventory forms, National Register nomination forms, determinations of eligibility (DOE) forms, and accompanying documentation such as photographs and maps.

Users should be aware that additional undigitized material about this property may be found in on-site architectural reports, copies of HABS/HAER or other documentation, drawings, and the "vertical files" at the MHT Library in Crownsville. The vertical files may include newspaper clippings, field notes, draft versions of forms and architectural reports, photographs, maps, and drawings. Researchers who need a thorough understanding of this property should plan to visit the MHT Library as part of their research project; look at the MHT web site (mht.maryland.gov) for details about how to make an appointment.

All material is property of the Maryland Historical Trust.

Last Updated: 11-21-2003

Completed in 1849, St. Joseph's Catholic Church at Pomfret consists of a 1-story stuccoed brick building fronted by a 3-1/2-story stuccoed frame bell tower. Erected in several stages, the building reflects the changing needs of this Catholic Congregation over two centuries. The property is located on the north side of Marshall Corner Road adjacent to the Pomfret Post Office. The church compound includes the sanctuary, a substantial cemetery, and several modern-era ancillary buildings, all set on a 19-acre lot.

St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Pomfret was established in 1763 by Father George Hunter. The first chapel to occupy the present site was located approximately 100 yards northeast of the current church and stood until 1835 when it was demolished due to deterioration. The second St. Joseph's Church was dedicated in 1849, and has, since then, served the congregation continuously. The building's original appearance has been significantly altered by the addition of a central frame bell tower in the late 19th century, and the addition of stucco exterior cladding. The interior, however, retains much of its original look, including its floor plan, galleries, shallow barrel-arched ceiling, and portions of its decorative woodwork. Although extensively altered in the 20th century, the church is among the best preserved mid-nineteenth century religious buildings documented in Charles County.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST MD INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES	Inventory N	O. <u>CH-68</u>
1. Name of Property		========
historic name <u>St. Joseph's Catholic Church</u> common/other name <u>Pomfret Chapel</u>	n, Pomfret	
2. Location		
street & number 4585 St. Joseph's Way not city or town Pomfret vicinity X state county Charles code 017 zip code	for public Maryland 20675	ation code <u>MD</u>
3. State/Federal Agency Certification	N/A	:========
4. National Park Service Certification	=== == == N/A ========	:=== = ================================
5. Classification	========	:=======
Ownership of Property (Check all that apply X private public-local public-State public-Federal		:======
Category of Property (Check only one box) X building(s) district X site structure object		
Number of Resources within Property Contributing Noncontributing		
<u>1</u> <u>0</u> sit	ructures jects	
Is this property listed in the National Reg Yes Name of Listing No X		

======================================	on or Use	========
	Functions (Enter categories from instructions) RELIGIOUS FUNERARY Cemetery	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
	unctions (Enter categories from instructions) RELIGIOUS FUNERARY Cemetery	
7. Descrip	ption	
found roof	(Enter categories from instructions) dation solid: not visible front gable: asphalt shingles s brick: stuccoed r	
Narrative of the pro	Description (Describe the historic and current operty.)	condition

See Continuation Sheet No. _7-1

8. Statement of	
Applicable Nat	ional Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more criteria qualifying the property for National
_X A	Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
В	Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
C	Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
D	Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.
Criteria Consid	derations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)
_X A	owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
В	removed from its original location.
C	a birthplace or a grave.
<u>X</u> D	a cemetery.
E	a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
F	a commemorative property.
G	less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions) RELIGION
Period of Significance 1763-1949
Significant Dates <u>1763; 1849</u>
Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)
Cultural Affiliation <u>Undefined</u>
Architect/Builder <u>Unknown</u>
Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property.)
See Continuation Sheet No. 8-1

9. Major Bibliographical References

(Cite the books, articles, legal records, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Brown, Jack D., et al. *Charles County, Maryland, A History*. Charles County Bicentennial Committee, 1976.

Charles County Land Records, Charles County Courthouse, La Plata, Maryland.

History of Saint Joseph's Church, Pomfret, Maryland: 1763-1963, 1963. (Unpublished booklet available at the Southern Maryland Studies Center, Charles County Community College, La Plata, MD).

Klapthor, Margaret Brown. The History of Charles County, Maryland. La Plata, MD: Charles County Tercentenary, Inc., 1958.

Kennedy, Carol & Patricia Riedel. "Saint Joseph's Parish, a Brief History," undated pamphlet.

St. Joseph's Historical Files, Parish Office, Pomfret, Maryland.

10. Geographical Data
Acreage of Property18.798 acres
Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)
The property at 4585 St. Joseph's Way is designated as Parcel 3 on Map 22, Grid 4 on the Charles County Property Map.
Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)
The present church and cemetery at 4585 St. Joseph's Way has been associated with Parcel 3, Map 22 since their completion in 1859.
11. Form Prepared By
name/title Kathryn Gettings Smith, Architectural Historian organization Charles County Planning Dept. date Oct.20,1998 street & number P.O. Box B telephone 301-645-0689 city or town La Plata state MD zip code 20646
12. Property Owner
name St. Joseph's Catholic Church street & number P.O. Box 100 telephone 301-870-3041 city or town Pomfret state MD zip code 20675

Inventory No. CH-68

Section7_	Page 1	St. Joseph's Church
		name of property
		Charles County, Maryland
		county and state

Completed in 1849, St. Joseph's Catholic Church at Pomfret consists of a 1-story stuccoed brick building fronted by a 3-1/2-story stuccoed frame bell tower. Erected in several stages, the building reflects the changing needs of this Catholic Congregation over two centuries. The property is located on the north side of Marshall Corner Road adjacent to the Pomfret Post Office. The church compound includes the sanctuary, a substantial cemetery, and several modern-era ancillary buildings, all set on a 19-acre lot.

The church is sited on approximately 19 open acres on the north side of Marshall Corner Road adjacent to the Pomfret Post Office. It shares the parcel with a sizable cemetery located north and east of the church building. In addition, several modern ancillary buildings occupy the compound, including a rectory and parish office. The site is accessed via a series of paved roads and scattered with several mature cedar trees.

During the earliest stage of construction (1839-1849), a 3-bay-wide, 3-bay deep brick church was erected with an arched center entry on its east gable end. This centered entry was flanked by 6/6 wood sash windows topped by decorative brick lintels. Two similar windows lit the interior gallery from this same east elevation. Three window bays, containing large rectangular apertures, extended along the depth of the church on its north and south flanks. The building originally featured a corbeled brick cornice and one exterior stove flue located near the northeast corner of the building.

The church's interior consisted of a single open sanctuary space with matching balconies extending down the length of the building. Resting on rows of Tuscan-style wood columns, the balconies are adorned with a classically-inspired balustrade. The ceiling was formed in a shallow barrel vault shape. Two aisles approached the altar with box-pews lining the building's flanks and filling the center of the church.

In 1879, the second stage of construction was completed. At that time, the sanctuary was removed and the west end of the building extended by one third the original length. This gable roof extension contained two new round-headed windows located on the flanks in the added bay. In addition, a second stove flue was added near the church's southwest corner. Eight memorial stained-glass windows were also added at this time.

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Section 7 Page 2

St. Joseph's Church
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The third major stage of construction altered the overall design of the structure with the addition of the square bell tower at the front of the church. Completed in 1893, the frame bell tower was built by Ernest Frazier of Washington, D.C. at a cost of \$675.00, exclusive of painting and plastering. Three and a half stories in height, the tower featured a double-leaf entry crowned by semi-circular fanlights, and paired elongated windows at the second story. These paired windows were capped by arched inset decorative panels. Paired rounded-headed vents pierced the third level of the tower, while a two-stage steeple with an open belfry originally crowned the tower (see pre-1929 photo).

Other minor additions and alterations were made to St. Joseph's over the years. These include the addition of the sacristy in 1903, the stuccoing of the building's exterior in 1929, and the installation of electricity around 1939.

Numerous structural and cosmetic alterations made over the past fifty years have significantly altered the appearance of the church. The most major of these changes include the application of "Celotex" panels¹ to the building's exterior (1942-1950), the shoring up of the bell tower with concrete block and stucco, and the reconstruction of the bell tower (1951). In addition, in 1990, the sacristy was altered and extended by a 1-story cinder block addition that wraps around the northwest corner of the building where it forms additional seating space for worshipers.

In 1977, the church underwent a major remodeling (see 1977 photos). This included the removal of most of the interior fixtures and finishes. The ceiling was refinished and new lighting and heating systems installed. The pews were replaced and the floors carpeted. The chancel was also redesigned at this time. Its recessed arch that framed the chancel was diminished in depth and attenuated Tuscan columns were added at the springing of the arch as supports. Two doors were also cut into the back wall of the church. One exterior door was set south of the altar with a transom above, and a second door cut to the north, accessing the sacristy. Much of the interior wood finishes were also replaced or altered during this renovation, and the light fixtures in the sanctuary replaced. However, the balconies, stairs, and entrance from the vestibule

¹ Celotex is a composition board made of sugar-cane residue used in the insulation of buildings.

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Section <u>7</u> Page <u>3</u>	St. Joseph's Church
	name of property
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remain intact (the original entry doors are stored in the Church's storage space at the northwest corner of the building).

The bell tower has also been remodeled inside, with its second floor (accessed from the gallery) devoted for use as a gift shop. The belfry is still accessible through a pull-down ladder in the gift shop ceiling.

Most recently, in 1987, the stained glass windows were replaced for the second time. The only remaining 1879 stained glass window is located in the fanlight that crowns the original main entrance to the church.

OUTBUILDINGS:

Two non-historic outbuildings are associated with the historic church and cemetery. One is a 1970s, 1-story rambler-style brick and frame rectory located west of the sanctuary. The other is a 1950s frame office with a side gable roof and symmetrically arranged facade. According to church records, the historic rectory was demolished in 1987. This building may appear in an undated photograph of the church before its stuccoing (see pre-1929 photo). It appears that the rectory was once located directly behind the chapel, and consisted of a frame side gable dwelling.

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Section 8 Page 1

St. Joseph's Church
name of property
Charles County, Maryland
county and state

St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Pomfret was established in 1763 by Father George Hunter. The first chapel to occupy the present site was located approximately 100 yards northeast of the current church and stood until 1835 when it was demolished due to deterioration. The second St. Joseph's Church was dedicated in 1849, and has, since then, served the congregation continuously. The building's original appearance has been significantly altered by the addition of a central frame bell tower in the late 19th century, and the addition of stucco cladding. The interior, however, retains much of its original look, including its floor plan, shallow barrelarched ceiling, and portions of its decorative woodwork. Although extensively altered in the 20th century, the church is among the best preserved mid-nineteenth century religious buildings documented in Charles County.

Prior to the mid-18th century when St. Joseph's in Pomfret was founded, area Catholics worshiped at various private residences known as worship "stations." Separate chapels or rooms within the private residence were set aside for services, and traveling priests would visit and say mass. Several of these residence "stations" in Charles County have been identified. They include "Araby" (CH-11 NR), Acquinsicke (CH-53 NR), and Pleasant Hill (CH-78 NR).

St. Joseph's Church, Pomfret was established by Father George Hunter, S.J. in 1763. In that year, Hunter purchased two acres of land from William Clements known as part of "Clements Addition." A small frame chapel was erected on the site, located approximately 100 yards northeast of the present church building. This chapel was used for mass on the first, third and fifth Sundays of the month, and continued to serve the congregation until 1835, when due to the building's deterioration, it was demolished.³

In 1837, Father Thomas Lilly, S.J. established a subscription to raise funds for building a new church. A local resident and parishioner, Francis C. Green, donated additional land for the church in 1848. Construction on the new chapel had begun by 1839, when Father Aloysius Mudd recorded the cost of the bricks being

² History of Saint Joseph's Church, Pomfret, Maryland, 1763-1963, 1963: pp. 38-40.

³ History of Saint Joseph's, pp. 38-41.

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Section 8 Page 2 St. Joseph's Church name of property
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used to erect the new church.⁴ William A. Maddox was contracted to build part of Pomfret Church for \$1137, while William G. Brown was retained to paint the building in March 1847. In a receipt of payment, contractor William A. Maddox acknowledged his payment "with the exception of some interest that accrued [sic] on the banister purchased by the Rev. Mr. Kroes of James Gren of Alexandria...." This "banister" may refer to the balustrade that still adorns the gallery.

After ten years of construction, the church was finally completed, and the first mass was said there on January 6, 1849. Thirty years later, the need for additional space in the church motivated the congregation to contract for the removal of the chancel wall and the extension of the church by one third its original length. At the same time, eight memorial stained glass windows were installed in the church, including the only remaining historic panel still located above the main entrance to the sanctuary. The church was again altered in 1893, when the bell tower was erected at the front, and in 1903, when a sacristy was added at the west end. The church has undergone numerous repair and remodeling campaigns over the course of the 20th century (see discussion under Section 7).

Numerous locally prominent Charles County residents have been members or pastors of St. Joseph's congregation during its 236 years of service. These include Francis Xavier Neale, brother of Leonard Neale, the second Archbishop of Baltimore; and Maurice McDonough, an 18th century merchant who donated his fortune for the education of poor children in Charles County, and who is buried at St. Joseph's Church cemetery.

⁴ History of Saint Joseph's, pp. 40-42.

⁵ History of Saint Joseph's, p. 43.

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Section 8 Page 3

St. Joseph's Church
name of property
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LAND/BUILDING CHRONOLOGY

February 22, 1763	George Clements deeds to George Hunter, S.J. two acres of "Clements Addition" (Liber L3, folio 236)
circa 1763	Frame chapel built approx. 100 yards northeast of present church
circa 1835	Chapel demolished due to deterioration
October 10, 1848	Francis C. and Elizabeth T. Green donated two roods, two perches of land on which the recently erected Catholic Church stood, part of "Cedar Grove," to Archbishop of Baltimore (Liber WM 3, folio 217)
circa 1839-1849	Present brick church under construction (opened January 6, 1849) (primary contractor William A. Maddox)
1875	Survey of property around Pomfret Church by James L. Brawner, County Surveyor (November 15, 1875)
March 10, 1876	Deed of 11 acres around Pomfret Chapel from Francis B. Green, et al. (Liber BGS 1, folio 245)
1879	Church enlarged by one third at west end
1893	Bell tower erected by Ernest Frazier, contractor of Washington, D.C. (cost \$675 plus)
1903	Sacristy added on west end
1908	Social hall/pavilion built on site

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Section 8 Page 4	St. Joseph's Church name of property
	<u>Charles County, Maryland</u> county and state
LAND/BUILDING March 18, 1909	CHRONOLOGY (Cont'd.) Bernard E. Green deeded 1.75 acres to Cardinal Gibbons (Liber 20, Folio 121)
1929	Church stuccoed (interior or exterior?) by local contractor A. Clay Willet
1939-1942	Electricity installed in church, social hall, and rectory; termite damage repaired (sleepers replaced, new wainscoting installed, damaged pillars replaced); 1879 stained glass windows replaced
1942-1950 1951	Walls covered in "Celotex" panels to prevent moisture damage; running water installed in rectory Termite damage in bell Tower repaired (concrete block cladding and stucco added)
1960	1908 social hall condemned and rebuilt, Walter Willet contractor and Douglas Lowe architect, cost: \$20,000
1977	Church remodeled (interior woodwork and finishes removed and replaced; new pews?)
1985	Organ installed
December 31, 1985	Baldus Real Estate deeded 3.8 acres to Archbishop James A. Hickey (Liber 1103, folio 90)
1986	New stained glass windows installed
1987	Old rectory demolished
1988	Social hall remodeled and dedicated

as Brady Hall

Inventory No. CH-68

St. Joseph's Church

name of property
Charles County, Maryland

county and state

HISTORIC CONTEXT:

Geographic Organization: Western Shore

Chronological/Development Period (s):

Rural Agrarian Intensification,

1680-1815

Agricultural-Industrial Transition,

1815-1870

Industrial/Urban Dominance, 1870-

Modern Period, 1930-present

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme (s):

RELIGION

RESOURCE TYPE(S)

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function (s): RELIGIOUS/Church

Known Design Source: Unknown

Inventory No. CH-68

St. Joseph's Church
name of property
Charles County, Maryland
county and state

Chain of Title:

February 22, 1763: George Clements to Father George

Hunter

2 acres, 4 perches

Charles County Land Records

Liber L3 Folio 236

October 10, 1848: Francis G. Green to Archbishop

Samuel Eccleston 2 roods, 2 perches

Charles County Land Records Liber WM 3 Folio 217

March 10, 1876: Francis B. Green to Archbishop

Bailey

11 acres, 20 perches

(cemetery)

Surveyed by James L. Brawner, Surveyor, November 15, 1875

Charles County Land Records Liber BGS 1 Folio 245

March 18, 1909: Bernard E. Green to James Cardinal

Gibbons 1.75 acres

Charles County Land Records

Liber 20 Folio 121

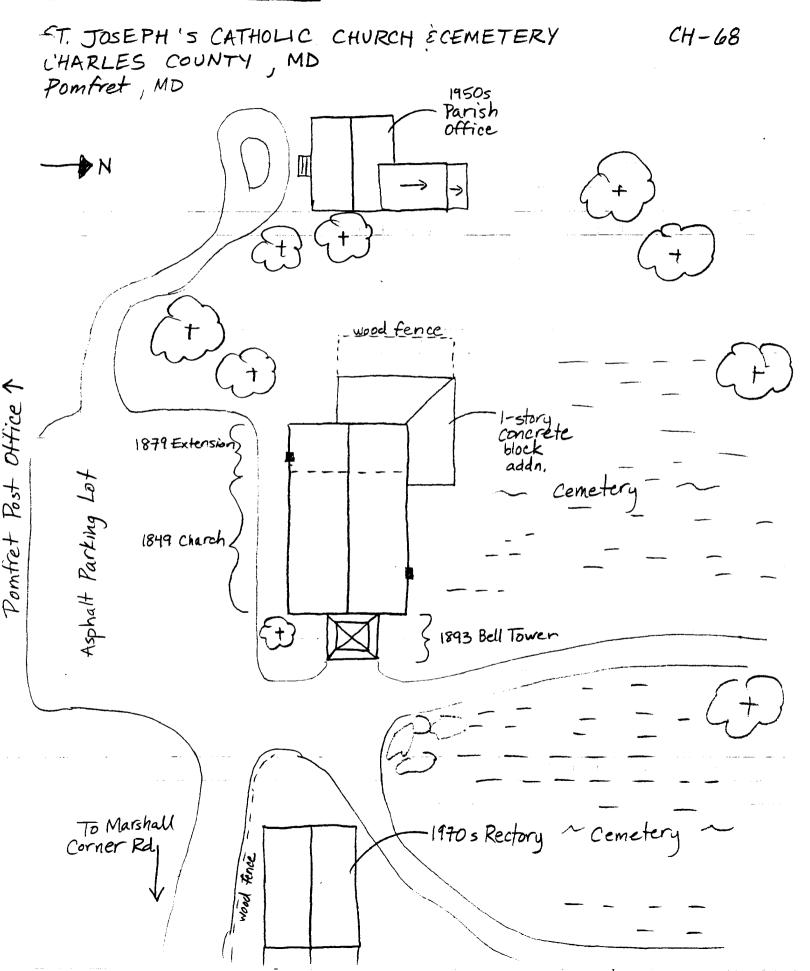
December 31, 1985: Baldus Realty to Archbishop James A.

Hickey

3 8/10 acres

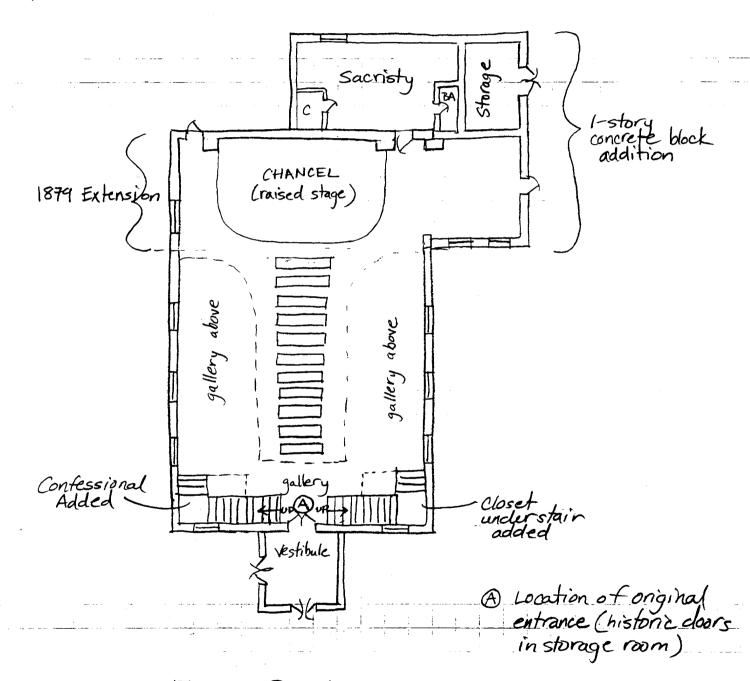
Charles County Land Records Liber 1103 Folio 90

RESOURCE SKETCH MAP



CH-68





FLOOR PLAN [Not to Scale]

K.G. SMITH 10/98 Form 10-300 (Dec. 1968)

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM (Type all and

STATE:	
COUNTY:	
FOR NPS USE O	NLY
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1.	NAME										
	COMMON: St. Joseph's Church										
	AND/OR HISTORIC:						1.				
'n	LOCATION .										
۷.	STREET AND NUMBER: ND 227										
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	CATEGORY (Check One)		OWNE	RSHIP			STATUS			ESSIBLE E PUBL	Same !
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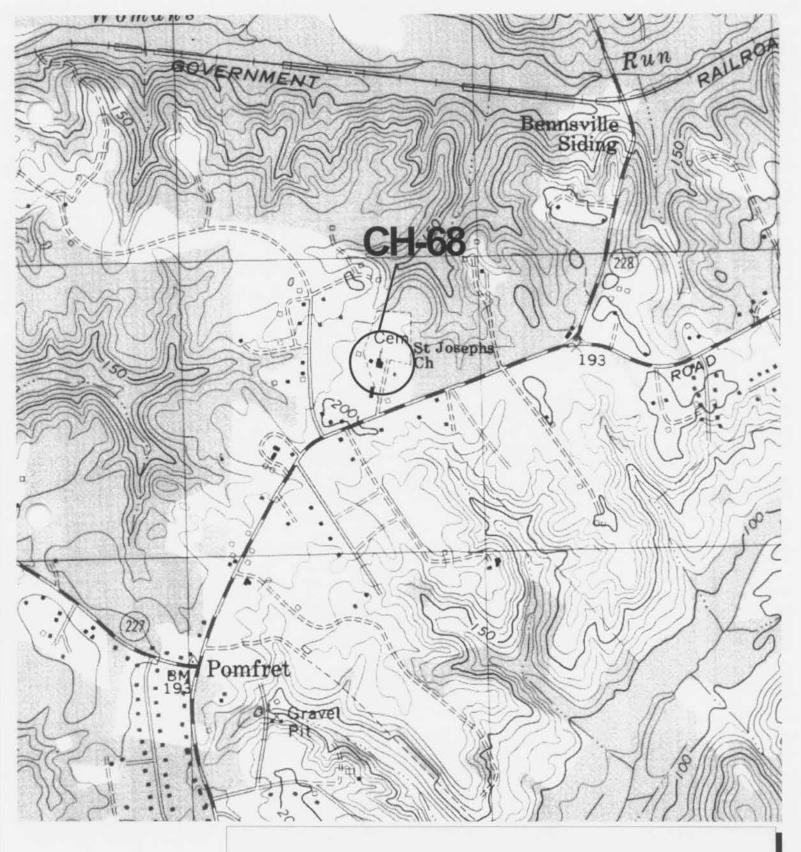
St. Joseph's Church is a brick building with square bellfry at the front. The church was built in the first half of the nineteenth century the latestsof several structures built on the same site since 1760. The original structure has three square stained wingows composed of square panes on each side with the front entrance at the base of the bellfry. The roof is of "A" plan and the brick walls covered by stucco. The interior has a balcony along the front wall and both sides and the seating area on the ground level is divided into thirds through the use of two side aisles. Most of the mouldings on theinterior and exterior are of Victorian vintage.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

	IGNIFICANCE				N. F	11	SHEET CH-68		
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ORGANI	ORGANIZATION Maryland Historical Tr						711	st	DATE		
STREET	AND NUMB	ER:					Ī			76	
CITY OR	CITY OR TOWN: Annapolis						s	Maryland Maryland		CODE	
	2. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION						NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION				
tional 89-66: in the evalu- forth level	Historic I 5), I hereb National ated accor- by the Nat of signific lational	Preserva y nomina Register ding to t ional Pa cance of	tion A ate this and c he cri rk Ser this n State	on Officer for ct of 1966 (It is property for ertify that it teris and provice. The recomination is	Publi r inc has cedu	c Law lusion been res set mended		I hereby certify that this provided in the pro	and Historic Pres		
						Keeper of The National Register					

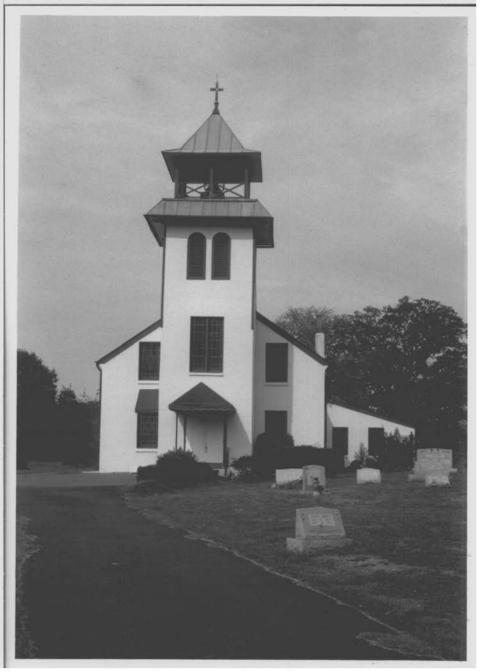
SEE INSTRUCTION





St. Joseph's Catholic Church & Cemetery CH-68 Charles County, MD

PORT TOBACCO, MD QUAD



CH-68
ST. JOSE PH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH, POMFRET
CHARLES COUNTY, MD
K.G. SMITH
10/98
MARYLAND SHPO

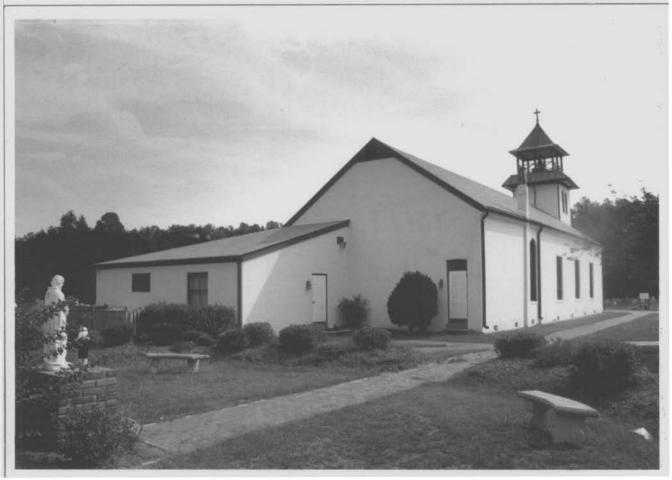
FACADE, LOOKING WEST

1 OF 15



CH-68
ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH, POMFRET
CHARLES COUNTY, MD
K.G. SMITH
10/98
MARYLAND SHPO
SOUTH ELEVATION

2 OF 15



CH-G8
ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH, POMFRET
CHARLES COUNTY, MD
K.G. SMITH
10/98
MARYLAND SHPO
LOOKING NE
3 OF 15



CH-68
ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH, POMFRET
CHARLES COUNTY, MD
K.G. SMITH
10/98

MARYLAND SHPO

4 OF 15

NORTH ELEVATION



CH-68 ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH, POMFRET CHARLES COUNTY MD K.G. SMITH 10/98 MARYLAND SHPO INTERIOR, DETAIL OF MAIN ENTRANCE, LOOKING 9 OF 15



CH-68 ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH, POMFRET CHARLES COUNTY MD K.G. SMITH 10/98 MARYLAND SHPO HISTORIC PHOTO OF INTERIOR circa 1930

LOOKING WEST AT CHANCEL

10 OF 15

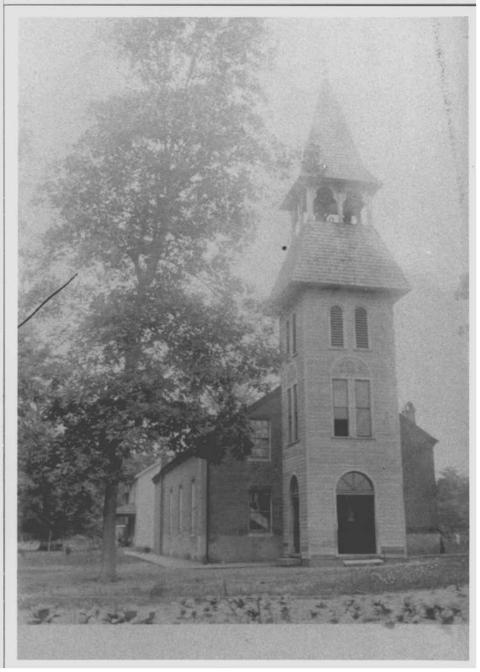


CH-68 ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH, POMFRET CHARLES COUNTY, MD K.G. SMITH MARYLAND SHPO INTERIOR OF CHURCH LOOKING SW 8 OF 15



CH-68
ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH, POMFRET
CHARLES COUNTY, MD
K.G. SMITH
10/98
MARYLAND SHPO

INTERIOR OF CHURCH, LOOKING SE



CH-68 ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH POMFRET CHARLES COUNTY, MD K.G. SMITH 10/98 MARYLAND SHPO HISTORIC PHOTO OF CHURCH, TAKEN BETWEEN 1893 : 1929 LOOKING NW 5 OF 15



CH-68

ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH, POMFRET

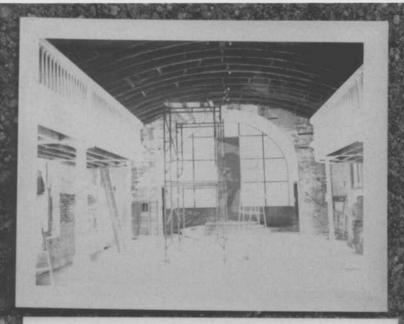
CHARLES COUNTY, MD

K.G. SMITH

10/98

MARYLAND SHPO

INTERIOR OF CHURCH, LOOKING EAST TO ENTRANCE
6 OF 15





ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH, FOMFRET CHARLES COUNTY, MD K.G. SMITH 10/98 MARYLAND SHPO TWO HISTORIC PHOTOS during 1977 REMODELING 11 OF 15

CH-68



CH-68 ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH, POMFRET CHARLES COUNTY, MD K.G. SMITH 10/98 MARYLAND SHPO CEMETERY, LOOKING NW



CH-68 ST. JOSE PH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH, POMFRET CHARLES COUNTY, MD K.G. SMITH 10/98 MARYLAND SHPO CEMETERY, GRAVESTONE OF EDWARD J. HAMILTON d. Dec. 13, 1841 13 OF 15



CH-68
ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH, POMFRET
CHARLES COUNTY, MD
K.G. SMITH
10/98
MARYLAND SHPO
RECTORY, LOOKING NE



CH-68
ST. JOSE PH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH, POMFRET
CHARLES COUNTY, MD
K.G. SMITH
10/98
MARYLAND SHPO

PARISH OFFICE, LOOKING NW