

CAPSULE SUMMARY
Sacred Heart Catholic Church Parsonage (CH: 552)
St. Mary's Avenue
Charles County, Maryland

The single-family dwelling on St. Mary's Avenue in La Plata was originally erected at the turn of the 20th century in the fashionable Colonial Revival style. The house was purchased by Archbishop Patrick A. Boyle in 1963 and converted to the parsonage for the Sacred Heart Catholic Church that was built directly to the south of the house in 1964. The house exhibits the American Four-square form, which was popular in both the suburban and rural areas of America between the 1890s and the 1920s. The structure is built of rock- and plain-faced concrete blocks, a new and popular building material from 1900 to the 1930s. Nationwide, the Four-square provided the working and middle class with a larger, more stylish form that lacked the traditional ornamentation. Consequently, the form was cheaper to construct and fit well with an egalitarian society's demand for simple building materials that made no false claim to richness.

Built around 1900, this Colonial Revival-style parsonage is two-and-a-half stories in height and five bays wide. It has a square plan, a parged concrete foundation, rock-faced concrete block walls, and lighter-colored concrete block quoins. A hipped asphalt shingle roof covers the building. The roof is marked by hipped dormers on the front and back elevations and a central interior brick chimney. A two-story frame addition has been added to the rear of the parsonage, and a large one-story brick addition with a four-bay garage has also been erected to the back of the building.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
MD INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Inventory No. CH:552

=====

1. Name of Property

=====

historic name _____
common/other name Sacred Heart Catholic Church Parsonage

=====

2. Location

=====

street & number St. Mary's Avenue not for publication _____
city or town La Plata vicinity _____ state Maryland code MD
county Charles County code 17 zip code 20646

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3. State/Federal Agency Certification N/A

=====

4. National Park Service Certification N/A

=====

5. Classification

=====

Ownership of Property (Check all that apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	Total

Is this property listed in the National Register?

Yes _____ Name of Listing _____
No X

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties

Sacred Heart Church Parsonage

Inventory No. CH:552

Saint Mary's Avenue

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Charles County, Maryland

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6. Function or Use
=====

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: DOMESTIC Sub: Single Dwelling

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: RELIGION Sub: Church-Related
Residence

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7. Description
=====

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Colonial Revival

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation Solid: Parged Concrete

Roof Hipped: Asphalt Shingle

Walls Masonry: Rock-faced Concrete

other _____

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property.)

See Continuation Sheet No. 7-1

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8. Statement of Significance
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Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B 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 Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a grave.
- 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.

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties
Sacred Heart Church Parsonage
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Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance 1900-1950

Significant Dates c. 1900

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation Undefined

Architect/Builder Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property.)

See Continuation Sheet No. 8-1

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9. Major Bibliographical References
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(Cite the books, articles, legal records, and other sources used in preparing this form.)
Charles County Land and Will Records. Charles County Courthouse and the Maryland State Archives, Annapolis, Maryland.

Hanchett, Thomas W. "The Four Square House Type in the United States," In *Perspectives in Vernacular Architecture*, edited by Camille Wells, pp. 51-53. Columbia, Missouri: The University of Missouri Press for the Vernacular Architecture Forum, 1987.

Massey, James C. and Shirley Maxwell. "The All-American Family House: A Look at the Four-Square." In *Old-House Journal*, Volume XXIII, Number 6 (November/December 1995): p. 31.

Rivoire, J. Richard. *Homeplaces: Traditional Domestic Architecture of Charles County, Maryland*. Crownsville, MD: Maryland Historical Trust, 1990.

Pamela H. Simpson, *Cheap, Quick, and Easy: Imitative Architectural Materials, 1870-1930*. Knoxville, TN: the University of Tennessee, 1999.

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10. Geographical Data
=====

Acreage of Property 7.140 acres

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The property is on Parcel 67, Grid 18 as indicated on Map 112.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The property at St. Mary's Avenue has historically been associated with Parcel 67 since the building's construction circa 1900.

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11. Form Prepared By
=====

name/title R. Weidlich and C. Novelli, Architectural Historians
organization EHT Traceries, Inc. date July 9, 1999
street & number 5420 Western Avenue telephone 301/656-5283
city or town Chevy Chase state MD zip code 20815

=====
12. Property Owner
=====

name Sacred Heart Catholic Church
street & number P. O. Box Z telephone _____
city or town La Plata state MD zip code 20646

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

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Section 7 Page 1

Sacred Heart Church Parsonage
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county and state

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Constructed as a single-family dwelling, the parsonage on St. Mary's Avenue is set on a level, grassy lot on the west side of the road. The property also features mature trees, shrubs, foundation plantings around the house, and a paved parking lot to the rear and north side of the building. To the south of the building is Sacred Heart Catholic Church. Built around 1900, this Colonial Revival-style parsonage is two-and-a-half stories in height and five bays wide. An example of the American foursquare house type, it has a square plan, a parged concrete foundation, rock-faced concrete block walls, and lighter-colored concrete block quoins. A hipped asphalt shingle roof covers the building. The roof is marked by hipped dormers on the front and back elevations and a central interior brick chimney. A two-story frame addition has been added to the rear of the parsonage, and a large one-story brick addition with a four-bay garage has also been erected to the back of the building.

EXTERIOR DESCRIPTION:

The façade, or the east elevation of the building, is five bays wide, and features a one-story now-enclosed porch across the full width of the building. The porch has a solid rock-faced concrete block balustrade, square wood post supports, a projecting center bay and gable, and a half-hipped asphalt shingle roof. The porch has been enclosed with siding, double-hung windows, and a central entry. The entry in the slightly projecting center bay features a single-leaf panel-and light door, a one-light transom, and sidelights. On each side of the entry are three grouped 6/1 metal windows. The second story is marked by a slightly projecting center bay with concrete block quoining and two adjoining 6/1 metal windows. On either side of the center bay are two detached 6/1 metal windows. A hipped dormer is situated directly above the center bay, and appears to have been altered. It features horizontal siding and two adjoining 6/1 windows. The east side of the rear brick addition is also visible from this side. It features four 1/1 metal windows.

The north elevation consists of the one-bay deep porch, the four-bay deep main block, the one-bay deep rear frame addition, and the two-bay deep rear brick addition. This side of the porch has two adjoining 6/6 metal windows. The foundation of the house is pierced by three 2-light sliding aluminum windows. The first floor is marked by a projecting hipped roof box bay on the west side with

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two adjoining 6/1 metal windows. To the right of the box bay are three 6/1 metal windows. The second floor contains five 6/1 metal windows. The two-story rear frame addition has two adjoining jalousie windows on the second story. The one-story brick rear addition has two 1/1 aluminum windows with rowlock sills.

The rear, or west elevation is dominated by the brick rear addition. This features two 1/1 aluminum windows with rowlock sills, a recessed single-leaf panel-and-light door, and four pull-up panel-and-light garage doors. At the second story, the rear frame addition contains four jalousie windows. The projecting center bay of the house is marked by an opening, the left side of which is boarded shut with plywood; the right side has a 1/1 aluminum window. To the right of the center bay is a 6/1 aluminum window and a 1/1 aluminum window. The hipped dormer has been remodeled, and has two 6/6 aluminum windows.

The south elevation is comprised of the brick rear addition, the two-story rear frame addition, the main part of the house, and the enclosed front porch. The rear addition has no features on this side. The two-story frame addition has a single-leaf panel-and-light wood door on the first story, and paired jalousie windows on the second story. On the main part of the house, at the foundation level, there are three sliding 2-light windows. On the first story, there are two 6/6 aluminum windows, and on the second story are four 6/1 aluminum windows. The box bay on the first story has triple casement windows with diamond panes. The enclosed front porch is marked by paired 6/1 aluminum windows.

SUPPORTING BUILDINGS:

The Sacred Heart Catholic Church is directly south of the parsonage. Cruciform in plan, it dwarfs the parsonage in scale. The church features masonry construction with stretcher bond brickwork, three fixed metal stained glass windows, two double-leaf wood doors with stained glass lights, and a very large and steeply pitched front gable roof with asphalt shingle cladding and wide eave overhangs. There are two steeply-pitched transept wings. A cupola with a spire marks the crossing. The building was constructed in the latter part of the 20th century.

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The single-family dwelling on St. Mary's Avenue in La Plata was originally erected at the turn of the 20th century in the fashionable Colonial Revival style. The structure is built of rock- and plain-faced concrete blocks, a new and popular building material from 1900 to the 1930s. The house was purchased by Archbishop Patrick A. Boyle in 1963 and converted to the parsonage for the Sacred Heart Catholic Church that was built directly to the south of the house in 1964.

The house exhibits the American Four-square form, which was popular in both the suburban and rural areas of America between the 1890s and the 1920s. Nationwide, the Four-square provided the working and middle class with a larger, more stylish form that lacked the traditional ornamentation. Consequently, the form was cheaper to construct and fit well with an egalitarian society's demand for simple building materials that made no false claim to richness.¹ Additionally, the Four-square suited the modern building techniques and materials that ranged from conventional frames covered in weatherboard siding, shingles, or brick veneer to solid brick, cast-cement block, or poured concrete. Built above a raised basement, Four-squares were generally two or three bays wide, two- or two-and-a-half-stories high with a hipped or pyramidal roof pierced by dormers. Basically open in plan, the interior has four equally sized rooms on each floor with a side stair. The corner reception hall, parlor and dining room were all connected by open archways or large sliding doors, and only the kitchen was fully partitioned off.² Although the Four-square developed as an independent house form, these houses often contain features of the Colonial Revival or Prairie styles. Like those of the Colonial Revival style, they emphasized geometric forms, however, Four-squares do not generally feature historical elements such as Palladian windows or fanlights.

Patented in 1900, rock-faced concrete block instantly became one of the leading building materials in the United States. The concrete blocks were a cheap, quick, and easy alternative to more traditional materials, with a block costing between thirteen and twenty cents to make in 1910. Advertisers also pointed out that it

¹ James C. Massey and Shirley Maxwell, "The All-American Family House: A Look at the Four-Square," *Old-House Journal*, Volume XXIII, Number 6, November/December 1995, p. 31.

² Thomas W. Hanchett, "The Four Square House Type in the United States," *Perspectives in Vernacular Architecture*, edited by Camille Wells, (Columbia, Missouri: The University of Missouri Press for the Vernacular Architecture Forum, 1987), p. 51-53.

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was fireproof, required no paint, and needed little care. Notwithstanding all these advantages, one of the most important reasons for the popularity of concrete block was its ornamental possibilities. Any number of wreaths, scrolls, or cobblestone faces could be produced in concrete block.³ A combination of changes in both taste and technology in the 1930s led the industry to shift production to the more utilitarian and less decorative plainface block.⁴

Following the Civil War, southern Maryland adjusted to shifts in economic activity and population centers. The end of slavery meant an overall reduction in farm size and greater diversification of agricultural products. Railroads made the greatest impact upon community development in this period, particularly the completion of the Baltimore and Potomac Railroad's (B & P) main line from Bowie in Prince George's County to Pope's Creek in Charles County in 1872. Small towns in southern Maryland grew when they became regular stops on the B & P line, and developed as service centers for the surrounding rural areas. Some stations, however, like La Plata, developed into new communities. The town's first dwelling and store were erected in 1872 by local land owner Robert Chapman. La Plata averaged 150 hogshead of tobacco shipped per day during the railroad's first year. Groceries, fertilizer, hardware and agricultural implements were imported and focused trade at the new town. A cannery opened in 1883 and a grist mill began operations in 1888. The town was incorporated the same year. In 1887, La Plata contained 120 residents, two churches, five stores, a blacksmith's shop, a millinery shop, a dressmaker's shop, a shoe shop, and one hotel, in addition to the grist mill. After the county courthouse in Port Tobacco burned in 1892, La Plata was made the seat of Charles County's government in 1895. Constructed shortly after this, the house is located on St. Mary's Avenue, a few blocks from the new courthouse in La Plata.

³ Pamela H. Simpson, *Cheap, Quick, and Easy: Imitative Architectural Materials, 1870-1930*. (Knoxville, TN: the University of Tennessee, 1999), p. 23.

⁴ Simpson, p. 27.

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National Register Evaluation:

The Sacred Heart Church Parsonage is not eligible due to the fact that it does not meet National Register Criteria A, B, C, or D. Preliminary research has not revealed any association between the dwelling and events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history (Criterion A) or the lives of persons significant in our past (Criterion B). Although the building provides an example of vernacular rural architecture, it is neither unusual nor distinguished; it does not represent the work of a master or display high artistic merit (Criterion C). There is no evidence that the property is likely to yield information important in history or prehistory (Criterion D). Thus, the property is not National Register-eligible.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST	
Eligibility recommended _____	Not Recommended <u>X</u>
Comments: _____ _____ _____	
Review, OPS: <u>[Signature]</u>	Date: <u>11/13/93</u>
Reviewer, NR Program: <u>[Signature]</u>	Date: <u>1/2/94</u>

[Handwritten mark]

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Chain of Title:

-----deed research indicates the property was held by Stonestreet at the turn of the 20th century.

Amelia Stonestreet bequeathed to Charles H. Stonestreet
Will Records of Charles County

Philemona F. Stonestreet bequeathed to Charles H. Stonestreet
Will Records of Charles County

Parcel 1

January 2, 1929: Charles H. Stonestreet to Jessie D. Jorboe
Land Records of Charles County
Liber 49 Folio 536

January 26, 1931: Jessie D. and Joseph B. Jarboe to Olivia B. Martin
Land Records of Charles County
Liber 53 Folio 34

Parcel 2

February 6, 1931: Charles H. Stonestreet to Olivia B. Martin
Land Records of Charles County
Liber 53 Folio 67

Parcels 1 and 2

February 19, 1931: Olivia B. and Frank A. Martin to Mathilde Owen
Land Records of Charles County
Liber 53 Folio 88

February 19, 1931: Mathilde Owen to Olivia B. and Frank A. Martin
Land Records of Charles County
Liber 53 Folio 90

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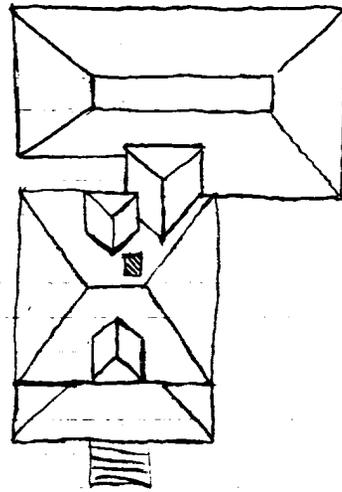
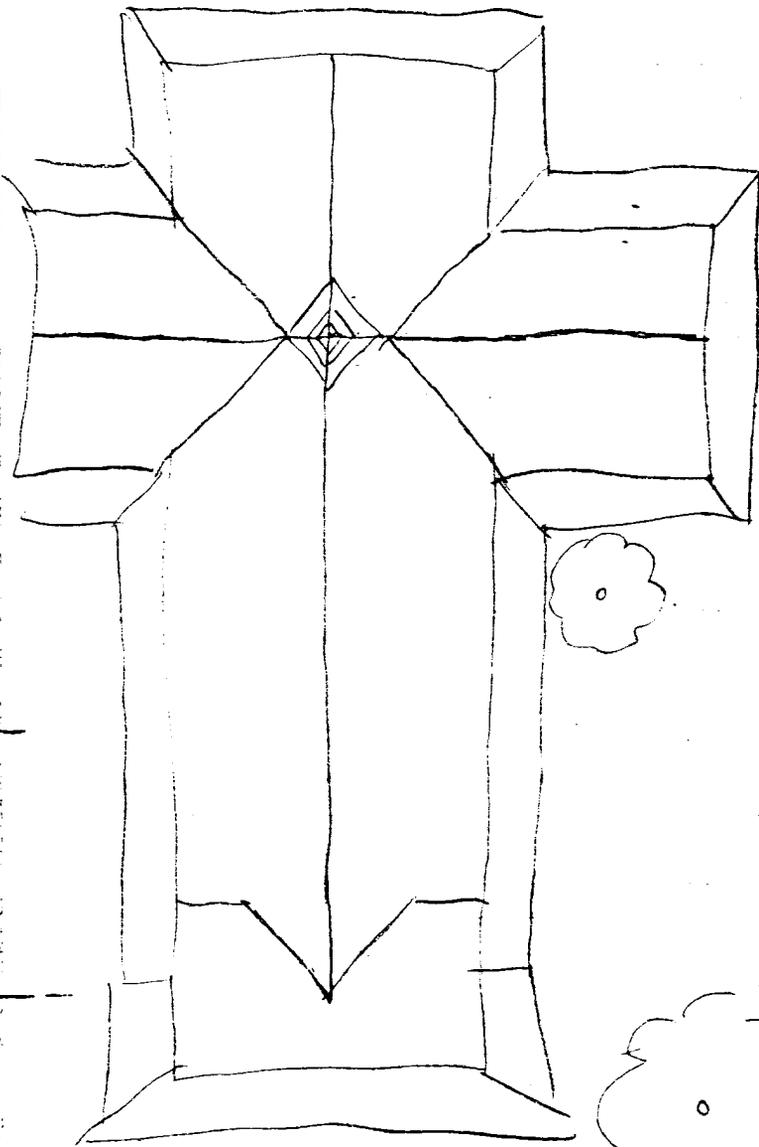
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- June 24, 1954: Olivia B. and Frank A. Martin and the Southern Maryland National Bank of La Plata, Maryland to Irving Knight Jones and Ercell S. Jones
Land Records of Charles County
Liber 112 Folio 179
- June 3, 1958: Irving Knight Jones and Ercell S. Jones to Edward J. and Mary K. Edelen
Land Records of Charles County
Liber 136 Folio 81
- September, 1963: Edward J. and Mary K. Edelen to Archbishop Patrick A. O'Boyle
Land Records of Charles County
Liber 167 Folio 87

church



paved
parking

St. Mary's Avenue

Sacred Heart Church CH: 552
St. Mary's Avenue

Charles County
Maryland

Resource Sketch Map 1999
Not Drawn to Scale

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HISTORIC CONTEXT:

Geographic Organization: Western Shore

Chronological/Development Period (s):

Industrial/Urban Dominance (1870-1930)
Modern Period (1930-present)

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme (s):

Architecture, Landscape, and
Community Planning
Religion

RESOURCE TYPE(S)

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function (s): DOMESTIC/Single Dwelling
RELIGION/Church-related Residence

Known Design Source: Unknown



CH:552

SACRED HEART CHURCH

ST. MARY'S AVENUE

CHARLES COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES

JUNE 1999

MD SHPO

EAST ELEVATION, LOOKING WEST

1 of 5



CH: 552

SACRED HEART CHURCH

ST. MARY'S AVENUE

CHARLES COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES

JUNE 1999

MD SHPO

NORTH ELEVATION, LOOKING SOUTH

2 of 5



CH:552

SACRED HEART CHURCH

ST. MARY'S AVENUE

CHARLES COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES

JUNE 1999

MD SHPO

WEST ELEVATION, LOOKING EAST

3 of 5



CH: 552

SACRED HEART CHURCH

ST. MARY'S AVENUE

CHARLES COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES

JUNE 1999

MD SHPO

SOUTHWEST CORNER, LOOKING NORTHEAST

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CH:552

SACRED HEART CHURCH

ST. MARY'S AVENUE

CHARLES COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES

JUNE 1999

MD SHPO

CHURCH AND PARSONAGE, VIEW LOOKING SOUTHWEST

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