

D-18

St. Mary's Star-of-the-Sea Catholic Church
and Tubman Chapel
c. 1770, 1872-74
Golden Hill vicinity
Private

The St. Mary's Star-of-the-Sea Catholic Church and its earlier predecessor, the Tubman Chapel, represent two distinct periods of religious architecture for Dorchester County. The eighteenth-century frame chapel is characteristic of the small frame structures erected for various denominations throughout the region during the period between the late 17th and early 19th centuries. Supported on brick, or perhaps wooden piers, these early chapels or meeting houses were often not larger than a single-room lighted by multi-pane windows. The altar in the Tubman chapel is embellished with third quarter of the eighteenth century interior finishes including a turned newel post altar rail with square balusters and a molded handrail. In the south end of the chapel, there is a gallery accessed by a steep staircase.

The St. Mary's Star-of-the-Sea Church, on the other hand, reflects the strong influence of the Gothic Revival, an architectural style that swept America during the second and third quarters of the nineteenth century, and its influence was carried on well into the early to mid twentieth centuries. Built in the early 1870s, the replacement church to the Tubman chapel was several times larger than the eighteenth century structure, and it was fitted with a bell tower, steeple, and narrow pointed arch colored glass windows typical of the Gothic Revival. Even the brick covers to the single flue stove chimneys were accented with a pointed arch. The Victorian frame church and its yard is accented

with a late nineteenth century wrought iron fence shipped to the region from the mid West.

The early history of Dorchester's Catholic congregation on Meekins Neck is associated with Richard Tubman II and the chapel passed down in Tubman family ownership until the mid nineteenth century. In March 1842, Charles and Susan Tubman conveyed "all that part of a tract of land lying in Meekins Neck...on which the Catholic Church now stands" to Samuel Eccleston, Archbishop of Baltimore. The Meekins Neck Catholics used the chapel for another thirty years. During the early 1870s it was decided to erect a new church on the south side of the county road a few hundred yards west of the old chapel. With the construction of a new church in the Gothic Revival style, the old chapel was sold to the Dorchester County Board of School Commissioners for use as a public school, a function it served until the mid 1920s. With more intensive demands for modern educational facilities during the early to mid twentieth century, the old chapel was sold to James E. Phillips in 1926. It was restored during the mid 1970s through the generosity of many, and principally Annita Applegarth France.

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. D-18

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic St. Mary's Star-of-the-Sea Church & Tubman Chapel

other _____

2. Location

street and number Hooper's Island Road not for publication

city, town Golden Hill vicinity

county Dorchester

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

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

street and number P. O. Box 218 telephone _____

city, town Cambridge state MD zip code 21613

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Dorchester County Clerk of Court liber PLC 124 & WHM 2 folio 377 & 44

city, town Cambridge tax map 84 tax parcel 25 & 26 tax ID number 6-094155

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	Ownership	Current Function		Resource Count	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	<u>2</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input type="checkbox"/> domestic	<input type="checkbox"/> social	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> structures
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<u>2</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> unknown		
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use		
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> other:		

Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory

7. Description

Inventory No. D-18

Condition

excellent deteriorated
 good ruins
 fair altered

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

DESCRIPTION SUMMARY

St. Mary's Star-of-the-Sea Catholic Church stands on the south side of Hooper's Island Road (MD 335) approximately a mile south of the crossroads of Golden Hill in Dorchester County, Maryland. St. Mary's Star-of-the-Sea church rests on a low masonry foundation, and the exterior is covered with vinyl siding. The steeply pitched gable roof is covered with asphalt shingles. The rectangular gable-front frame structure has an enclosed gable-roof entrance vestibule, a pyramidal roofed spire rises atop a square belfry. The church extends to the rear (south) with a gable-roofed apse, and a modern church hall addition extends to the southwest. The main body of St. Mary's dates around 1872-74, and it is joined on the lot with a large cemetery with hundreds of stone grave markers. The church and cemetery are accented across the road side with a late nineteenth-century wrought iron fence. Standing northeast of St. Mary's is the Tubman chapel or Catholic chapel, a single-story timber frame structure dating to the third quarter of the eighteenth century. Restored in the mid 1970s, the rectangular, gable-front frame chapel is supported on a brick pier foundation and the exterior is sheathed with plain weatherboards. The steeply pitched roof is covered with wood shingles.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

St. Mary's Star-of-the-Sea Catholic Church is located on the south side of Hooper's Island Road (MD 335) approximately a mile southwest of the crossroads of Golden Hill in the Hooper Island District of Dorchester County, Maryland. The historic site location is defined by the main church, a Gothic Revival frame structure erected around 1872-1874, an associated cemetery, and a wrought iron fence. Standing a short distance east of the main church on the north side of Hooper's Island Road is the Catholic Chapel, also known as Tubman Chapel, built during the third quarter of the eighteenth century. The Victorian church faces northwest with the main gable oriented on northwest/southeast axis. The chapel, a single-story, gable-front frame structure faces southeast with the gable roof oriented on a northwest/southeast axis. The main church is supported on a low masonry foundation and the exterior is clad with vinyl siding. The steeply pitched gable roof is covered with asphalt shingles.

The northwest elevation of the Victorian church is symmetrical façade with a projecting single-story gable roofed vestibule fitted with double doors and a pointed arch transom. The eaves of the vestibule structure are extending slightly, and the steeply pitched roof is accented with a carved wooden cloverleaf symbol. To each side of the vestibule are narrow pointed arch, colored glass windows. Fixed in the gable end above the vestibule roof is a round, colored glass window that repeats the cloverleaf design in the muntin pattern. A flat wooden cross rises atop the round window above a decorative wood cresting that accents the top curve of the window. Finishing the edge of the steeply pitched gable roof is a slightly extended eave with enclosed soffits. Perched atop the gable roof is a belfry and steeple. The four sides of the belfry are pierced by a pointed arch louvered vent. The belfry is capped by a short pyramidal roofed tower with a flared eave at its base. The tower is surmounted by a small cross.

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The northeast side of the sanctuary is defined by three pointed arch colored glass windows, and a single flue brick stack capped by a Gothic arch flue cover rises through the roof between the first and second bays from the north corner. The southwest side of the sanctuary is defined by the same series of three pointed arch colored glass windows.

The southeast (rear) wall of the main church structure is largely covered by a slightly shorter single story, gable roofed apse that is extended on each lateral side by shed roofed sections. The rear wall of the apse is pierced by a round colored glass window that repeats the cloverleaf, lobed cross muntin pattern found in the front window. The shed roofed section on the northeast side of the apse is defined by six-over-six sash windows on two sides, and a single flue bricks stack with Gothic flue cover rises through the corner of the shed roofed space. The shed roofed section on the northwest side of the apse is incorporated into a colonnaded section that connects the main church with a single-story gable roofed church hall. A single flue brick stack with a pointed arch flue cover rises through the roof of the shed roofed section.

The interior was not open for inspection on the initial field visit.

The Tubman Chapel, or Catholic Chapel as it is commonly known, is a third quarter of the eighteenth century frame structure that was decommissioned by the Catholic diocese in the nineteenth century and used for a period as a schoolhouse. The chapel was reacquired by the diocese in the 1970s and the structure was restored as a museum type building. Supported on a brick pier foundation, the exterior is clad with plain weatherboards, and the steeply pitched roof is covered with wood shingles.

The southeast (main) elevation is a single bay front with a center, double door entrance. Raised-panel double doors are topped by a three-light transom. Fixed in the gable end is a six-over-six sash window that lights a gallery. The edge of the roof is finished with a beaded edge bargeboard. The sides of the chapel are defined by pairs of twelve-over-twelve sash windows framed by beaded edge surrounds and hung with louvered shutters. The base of the roof is finished with a boxed cornice. The rear wall of the chapel is a blind, weatherboarded surface.

The interior survives with a large amount of early fabric including a square baluster altar rail featuring turned newel posts and a molded handrail typical of the third quarter of the eighteenth century. Flush board wainscoting trims the perimeter of the room. Fixed in the south end is a gallery accessed by a narrow staircase.

8. Significance

Inventory No. D-18

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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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	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 history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____

Specific dates

Architect/Builder

Construction dates c. 1770, c. 1870-80

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 projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY

The St. Mary's Star-of-the-Sea Catholic Church and its earlier predecessor, the Tubman Chapel, represents two distinct period of religious architecture for Dorchester County. The eighteenth-century frame chapel is characteristic of small frame structures erected for various denomination throughout the Eastern Shore during the period between the late 17th and early 19th centuries. Supported on brick, or perhaps wooden piers, these early churches were usually not larger than a single room lighted by multi-pane sash. The altar in the Tubman chapel is embellished with third quarter of the eighteenth century railing including turned newel posts, molded handrails and square balusters. The interior was fitted also with a gallery access by a steep narrow staircase. The St. Mary's Star-of-the-Sea Church, on the other hand, reflects the strong influence of the Gothic Revival, an architectural style that swept America during the second and third quarters of the nineteenth century and influenced rural church design well into the twentieth century. Built in the early 1870s, the replacement church to the Catholic Chapel was several times larger than the eighteenth century building, and it was fitted with a bell tower and steeple and narrow pointed arch windows typical of the Gothic style. Even the brick covers to the stove chimneys were accented with a pointed arch. The Victorian frame churchyard is accented with a late nineteenth century wrought iron fence shipped to Dorchester County from the mid-West.

HISTORY AND SUPPORT

The early history of the Catholic church on Meekins Neck is associated with Richard Tubman II, and the chapel passed down in Tubman family ownership until the mid nineteenth century. In March 1842 Charles and Susan Tubman conveyed "all that part of a tract of land lying in Meekins Neck...on which the Catholic Church now stands" to Samuel Eccleston, Archbishop of Baltimore.¹ The Meekins Neck Catholics used the chapel for another thirty years. During the early 1870s it was decided to erect a new church on the south side of the county road a few hundred yards west of the old chapel. With the

¹ Dorchester County Land Record, ER 19/8-9, 15 March 1842, Dorchester County Courthouse, Cambridge.

Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of
Historic Properties Form

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construction of a new church in the Gothic Revival style, the old chapel was sold to the Dorchester County Board of School Commissioners for use as a public school, a function it served until the mid 1920s. With more intensive demands for modern educational facilities during the early to mid twentieth century, the old chapel schoolhouse was sold to James E. Phillips in 1926.² It was restored during the mid 1970s through the efforts of many, and principally Annita Applegarth France who is recognized on the historical marker on the property.

² Dorchester County Land Record, JFD 19/375, 4 January 1926, Dorchester County Courthouse, Cambridge.

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Old Catholic Chapel

Map 84, Parcel 25

PLC 124/377

John Russell Phillips and Mary Audrey Phillips, of
Dorchester County, Joseph F. Belfiore, Dorothy Belfiore,
of Washington, District of Columbia and W. E.
Edgeworth and Lucille Edgeworth of Baltimore County,
Maryland

to

8.1.1961

St. Mary's Star of the Sea Church at Meekins Neck

Whereas the said John Russell Phillips is now the sole fee simple owner of the hereinafter described parcel of land and has heretofore contracted and agreed to sell the same unto Joseph P. Belfiore and W. E. Edgeworth, and Whereas, is the wish and desire of the said Joseph P. Belfiore and W. E. Edgeworth to give, grant, and convey the said land unto the grantee corporation hereinafter named for so long as the said land and property shall be owned by the said grantee corporation for its religious purposes, and is not used as a residence and with the understanding tha the said land and property shall revert to the said Joseph F. Belfiore and W. E. Edgeworth or their heirs should said property cease to be owned for religious purposes and for a residence, wherefore this deed is executed.

All of that lot, piece or parcel or land situate, lying and being in the Meekins Neck section of the Hoopers Island Election District, which was more particularly described in a deed to James E. Phillips from the Board of Education of Dorchester County dated January 4, 1926, and now recorded JFD 19/375; All that lot or parcel of land situate,

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lying and being in Meekins Neck...together with the schoolhouse thereon which said property has been used by the Board of Education for Dorchester County as a schoolhouse.

PLC 122/51

Evelyn Dean and Brady Dean, Edward J. Phillips and Cecelia Phillips, Emerson C. Phillips, Mary Y. Phillips, Vivian Phillips, Florence Allison and Ellis Allison, Helen Spurzem, Mary M.. Phillips, and Helen M. Phillips

to

10.15.1960

John Russell Phillips, son of James E. Phillips

Whereas the Grantors herein are the owners as tenants in common of the said lands of James E. Phillips and desiring to dispose of the said lands presented the same for sale at public auction at the Court House door in Cambridge, Maryland, on Tuesday, September 20, 1960, and which time the Grantee herein was the high bidder and purchaser of the land and property herein more particularly described,All that lot, piece or parcel of land situate lying and being in the Meekins Neck section of the Hooper's Island Election District...which was more particularly described in a deed to James E. Phillips from the Board of Education dated January 4, 1926, JFD 19/375...together with the old schoolhouse thereon which said property has been used by the Board of Education for Dorchester County as a schoolhouse..."

JFD 19/375

Board of Education

to

1.4.1926

James E. Phillips

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Continuation Sheet

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FJH 9/488

James Roosevelt Bayley, Archbishop of Baltimore

to

8.10.1874

Board of County School Commissioners for
Dorchester County

\$500....all that Lot or parcel of ground with the improvement thereon
situated in Meekins Neck in Dorchester County...containing thirty six
square perches of land more or less

ER 19/8-9

Charles Tubman and Susan his wife

to

3.15.1842

Samuel Eccleston, Arch Bishop of Baltimore of the State of
Maryland

...all that part of a tract of land lying and being in Meekins Neck in
the County and State aforesaid, on which the Catholic Church now
stands, let the same be called by whatever name it may...

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St. Mary's Star-of-the-Sea Catholic Church
Hooper's Island Road

Map 84, Parcel 26

WHM 2/44

Right Reverend John J. Monaghan, D.D. Bishop of the Catholic
Diocese of Wilmington, City of Wilmington, Delaware

to

3.23.1916

St. Mary's Star-of-the-Sea Church at Meekins Neck, Dorchester Co.

Two acres, one rood, and twenty-one perches, it being the same lot
where the New Catholic Church now stands...

FJH 11/563

Levin T. Dunnock, and wife Nancy Dunnock his wife

to

4.14.1876

Right Reverend Thomas A. Becker, Bishop of the Diocese of
Wilmington

\$5.00 all that lot or parcel of land situated in Hooper's Island
District in a neck called Meekins Neck in Dorchester County,
and contained within the following metes and bounds...
containing two acres, one rood and twenty one perches, more
or less, it being the same lot where the new Catholic Church
now stands together with all the buildings, improvements,
and appurtenances...

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. D-18

Dorchester County Land Records, various volumes, Dorchester County Courthouse.

The Catholic Church of Dorset, 1972.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 10,018 square feet
Acreage of historical setting 36 square perches
Quadrangle name Golden Hill, MD Quadrangle Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The metes and bounds of this property are coincidental with the current boundary of the lot.

11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Paul B. Touart, Architectural Historian		
organization	Chesapeake Country Heritage & Preservation	date	10.2.2012
street & number	Cedar Hill, P. O. Box 5	telephone	410-651-1094
city or town	Westover	state	Maryland 21871

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.

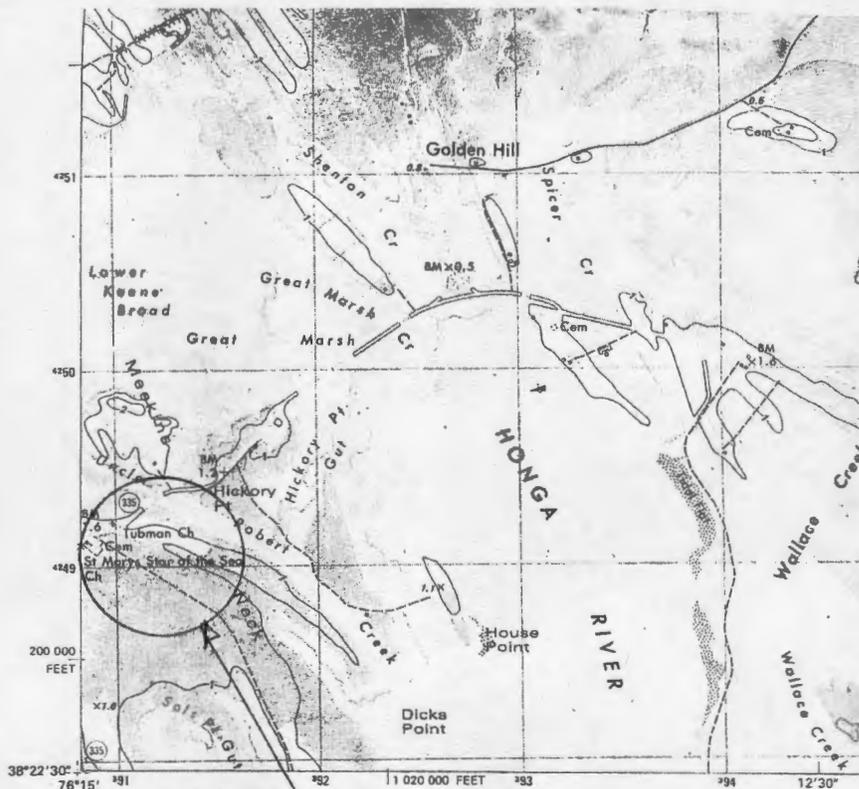
return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600

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1:25000 (24,000)
Scale 1:25000

Produced by the United States Geological Survey

Control by USGS and NOS/NOAA

Orthophotomap prepared from aerial photograph taken

April 29, 1978. Topography by planimetric surveys

1980. Field checked 1980. Map edited 1981

Supersedes Army Map Service topographic map dated 1942

Selected hydrographic data compiled from NOS chart 12264 (1980)

This information is not intended for navigational purposes

Projection and 1000-meter grid, zone 18: Universal

Transverse Mercator

10,000-foot grid ticks based on Maryland coordinate system

1927 North American Datum

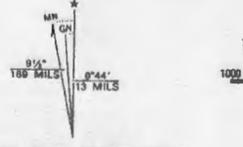
To place on the predicted North American Datum 19

move the projection lines 8 meters south and

29 meters west as shown by dashed corner ticks

There may be private inholdings within the boundary

of the National or State reservations shown on this map



UTM GRID AND 1981 MAGNETIC NORTH DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET

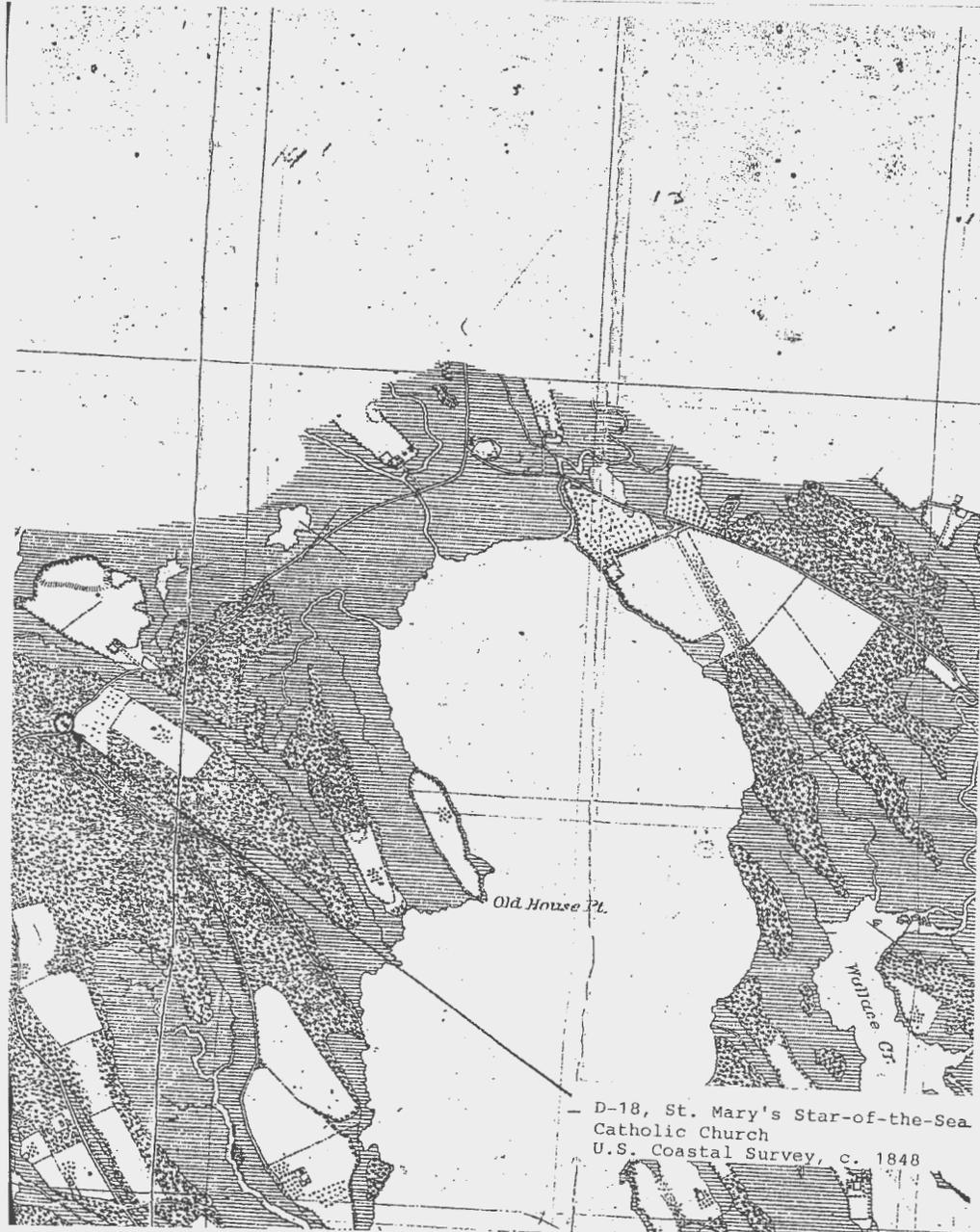
D-18, St. Mary's Star-of-the-Sea
Catholic Church & Chapel
Golden Hill Quadrangle

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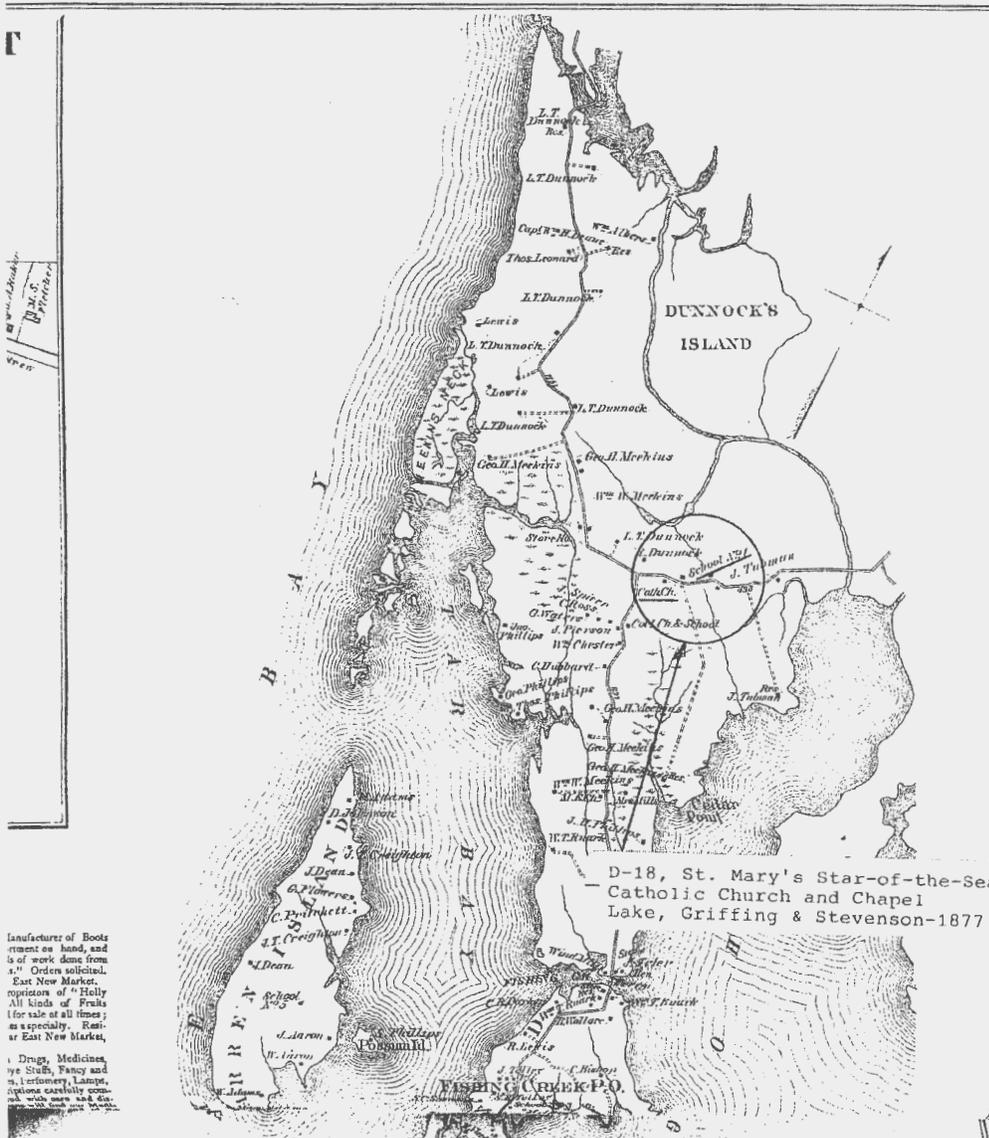


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Continuation Sheet

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D-18

St. Mary's STAR OF THE SEA

CATHOLIC CHURCH

MEEKINS NECK, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

SOUTHWEST ELEV. - TURBIDAN CATHEDRAL

10.2012, PAUL B. TOUANT, PITSDOWN

NET. / INT. INSTRUCTIONS TRUSS

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D-18
St. Mary's STAR-OF-MAR-SEA
CATHOLIC CHURCH
MEEKINS NECK, DOCKHETER CO. MD.
SOUTHEAST ELEVATION - TUBSAND CHURCH
10.2012, Paul B. Touart, PITVTV.
NEZ./MD. HISTORICAL TRUST

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D-18

St. Mary's Shrine of the Sacred
Catholic Church
MEEKINS NEED, DORCHESTER Co., MD
NORTHEAST ELEVATION

10.2012, PAUL B. TOURANT, PITOTV.
NEB./MD. HISTORICAL TRUST

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D-18

St. Mary's Star-of-the-Sea
CATHOLIC CHURCH

MEEKINS NW, DURHESTER Co. MD.

SOUTHEAST ELEVATION

16. 2012 Paul B. Touart, PHOTO.

NW. ~~LAND~~ HISTORICAL TRUSS

#4 OF 4

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

NOMINATION FORM
for the
~~NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE~~

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON:
St. Mary's, Star of the Sea, Catholic Chapel

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Rt. 335, .1 mile east of Meekings Neck Rd., (north)

CITY OR TOWN:
Fishing Creek

STATE: Maryland COUNTY: Dorchester

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure 	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
St. Mary's, Star of the Sea

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Cambridge STATE: Maryland 1613

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Dorchester County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:
High Street

CITY OR TOWN: Cambridge STATE: Maryland 21613

Title Reference of Current Deed (Book & Pg. #):

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE:

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)				
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins
	(Check One)		(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The parish of St. Mary's Star of the Sea Catholic Church, Hooper's Island, has two buildings of the nineteenth century. On the north side of the road stands the early nineteenth century Chapel, 29' x 23'. The exterior of the small 'A' roof structure has been restored with beaded clap-board, 12/12 sash and a paneled double door with transom. Possibly the building was moved from the other church as the piers are new and there are no traces of graves nearby. H. D. Forman mentions the structure in "Old Buildings, Gardens & Furniture In Tidewater Maryland", (Cambridge, Md. 1967). It might be pointed out that this structure greatly resembles the earlier chapel of Grace P.E. Church, Taylor's Island, although neither building retains original pews. Both have a simple sloping balcony with plain balustrade, supported on round columns. They both also possess quasi-inverted tray ceilings.

The late nineteenth century church, still in use, is a larger structure built in the late Gothic Revival style. It is three bays deep, with lancet windows having stained glass in the moveable sash and in both gables is a large rose window with quatrefoil design. In the facade, flanking the two lancet windows is a small vestibule. At the apex of the roof is a small square bell tower. On the rear of the chapel is an apse or sanctuary from which are leanto additions on both sides. Like its earlier predecessor, St. Mary's is a simple country chapel with a hint of architectural sophistication.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

B. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

St. Mary's Church is the earliest Catholic church standing in Dorchester County. Although 1769 is the date given for the construction of the building, it appears to be about the same date as Grace P.E. church on Taylor's Island (1819). The newer church is also a significant building for a turn-of-the-century chapel.

"It was Richard Tubman II who built, on a corner of his plantation, the first Catholic Church in Dorchester County. He gave the land in 1769 and the church was named St. Mary, Star of the Sea and also called St. Mary's Chapel. This tiny wooden structure is still standing a short distance from the present St. Mary, Star of the Sea structure and is presently in the process of restoration. It is one of the oldest church structures in Maryland and was used as a church for 103 years until 1872."

The structure of the first St. Mary, Star of the Sea (also referred to as The Tubman Chapel and St. Mary's Chapel) was sold to the county of Dorchester in 1872 and thereafter used as a schoolhouse for the next 52 years until 1925 when it was apparently abandoned and gradual deterioration set in. However, on August 1, 1961, Father Eugene Biggins, Pastor, wrote to the people of St. Mary, Star of Sea:

"We have acquired the old church property. Our Bishop thought it fitting for us to have it. I take this occasion, therefore to thank Mr. & Mrs. John Russell Phillips, who wanted the church to have the property, and Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Belfiore and Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Edgeworth (Washington & Baltimore Co.) who so generously and graciously donated the old church property to St. Mary, Star of the Sea."

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

The Catholic Church of Dorset, 1972.

Forman, H. C., Old Buildings Gardens and Furniture, Tide-water Publishers, Cambridge, 1967, p. 142-45.

Maryland, A Guide to the Old Line State, Oxford University Press, New York, 1941, p. 408

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

Acreege Justification:

District 6, Map 84, p. 25 (old), Ref, 003/070, 124/377
 p. 26 (new), Ref, 003/070, 002/044

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
 Michael Bourne, Architectural Consultant

ORGANIZATION: Maryland Historical Trust

DATE: Nov., 1975

STREET AND NUMBER:
 Shaw House, 21 State Circle

CITY OR TOWN: Annapolis

STATE: Maryland 21401

12. State Liaison Officer Review: (Office Use Only)

Significance of this property is:

National State Local

 Signature

. 28 x 1.27

15%

D-18

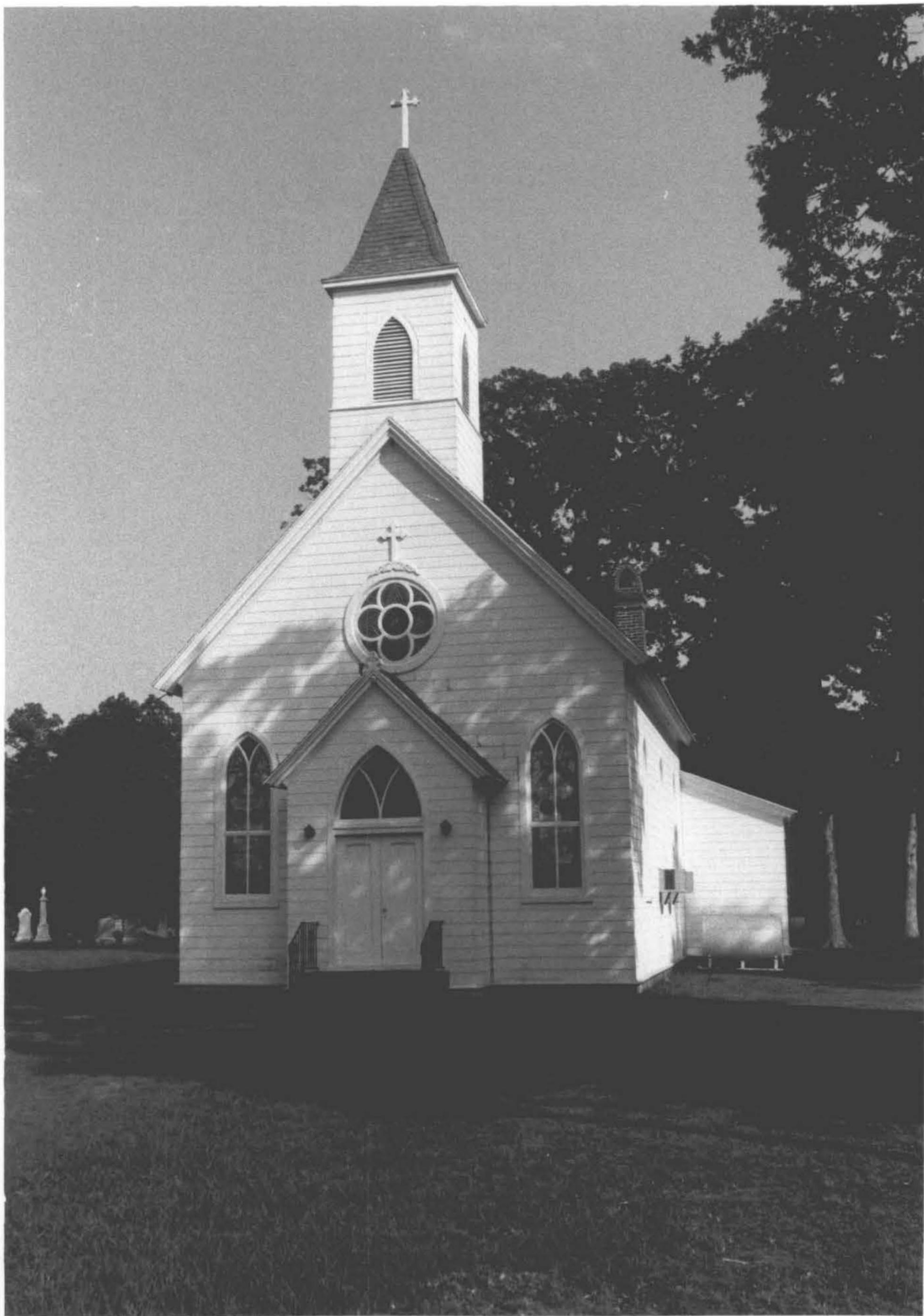


St. Mary's Church, N. W. Church

D-18

M. Bowler

Nov 1975



.19 X L.97

(D-18A)

53%

D-18

New

St Mary's Star of the Sea