

Capsule Summary  
SM-414  
Our Lady of the Wayside Catholic Church  
Chaptico  
Private

1938

Our Lady of the Wayside Catholic Church is highly significant as one of the first Catholic churches designed by architect Philip Frohman, a national figure in American architecture. Both the interior and exterior of the church remain in pristine condition. Well-documented in Frohman's personal papers, Our Lady of the Wayside represents an aspect of Frohman's architectural legacy which has not been previously documented or discussed.

As late as the first quarter of the twentieth century, Catholic residents were celebrating mass in the home of Mrs. Aloysius Welch (SM-413). The first place of worship constructed for Catholics in the Chaptico area was a chapel contained in the rectory "Loretto House." Loretto House was opened as a Jesuit mission center on October 6, 1914. The Loretto House chapel served the Chaptico area's Catholic community until the late 1930s.

Chaptico's Catholic community expanded to the point that by the late 1930s, it had outgrown the Loretto House chapel. In 1937 Archbishop Curley instructed Rev. Hezekiah Greenwell to proceed with plans for "a small, but sturdy, frame church, seating about two hundred" to be designed by Philip Frohman. Confronted with a small budget for construction, Frohman developed a design which was stripped down to express both "honest poverty" and "spiritual wealth." Frohman described his design for Our Lady of the Wayside Catholic Church as a result of the consideration of liturgical and practical requirements, climate and location, and budgetary considerations. He notes that like those churches erected in the Middle Ages, the architectural style of the building resulted from its plan and proportions and method of construction and materials.

SM-414, Our Lady of the Wayside Catholic Church  
St. Mary's County  
Maryland Comprehensive Historic Preservation Plan Data

Historic Context

Geographic Organization: Western Shore

Chronological/Developmental Period: Modern, 1930 - present.

Historic Period Theme: Architecture  
Religion

Resource Type

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Village

Historic Function and Use: Church

Known Design Source: Philip H. Frohman

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF  
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. SM-414  
Magi No.  
DOE  yes  no

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common Our Lady of the Wayside Catholic Church

## 2. Location

street & number Route 238  not for publication

city, town Chaptico  vicinity of congressional district 5

state Maryland county St. Mary's

## 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

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

name % Rev. John P. Stack, Pastor

street & number P.O. Box 97 telephone no.: 301-884-2502

city, town Chaptico state and zip code Md. 20621

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Clerk of Court liber EBA 10

street & number St. Mary's County Courthouse folio 450

city, town Leonardtown, state Md.

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records

city, town state

# 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

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

Contributing Resource Count: 1

Our Lady of the Wayside Catholic Church is located on the south side of Route 238 near the village of Chaptico. The church is located at the southern edge of a wooded, twenty-four acre lot. A stream which runs east to west bisects this lot. To the east of the church stands a one-story, frame house which serves as the parish house. To the north of the church is a large asphalt parking lot. To the west of the church stands a shrine to "Our Lady of the Wayside." This western boundary of the church property is delineated by a white, paling fence. A frame, three-story structure, known as "Loretto House," was located on a hill to the northeast of the church until its demolition in 1993. Two small frame buildings associated with Loretto House still stand near the site. The church faces west, with the principal gable oriented on an east/west axis.

Completed in 1938, the church is capped with a steeply pitched gable roof sheathed with slate tiles. An octagonal steeple rises above the sanctuary and tapers gracefully to a point which is surmounted by a metal finial in the form of a cross. Wide panels with arched, louvered insets alternate with narrow wood panels on each side of the steeple. The exterior of the church is clad with beaded weatherboard and the foundation is cement.

The west (main) elevation is partially obscured by a gable-roofed entrance vestibule pierced by a double door entrance. These vertical board double doors have wide, plain surrounds and a crown molding consisting of a cove molding and a projecting bead. They are hung using decorative metal strap hinges. The vestibule is lit on the north and south sides by narrow, rectangular windows of colored glass. The vestibule is finished with a plain eave board and cornice returns. The west, gable end elevation of the main block is a flush gable finished with a plain eave board and cornice returns. It is pierced by an oriel window of diamond paned colored glass which is centered above the entrance vestibule. A wooden cross projects from the apex of the roof. At the west end of the church, a wing projects to the north which is lit on the west side by a pair of diamond paned casement windows of clear glass. A six-light-over-four-panel door also pierces the west elevation of this wing.

The north elevation of the main block is lit by four banks of three narrow, rectangular, diamond paned windows of colored glass. The central window of these three is immobile, while on either side is a casement window. The window surrounds are wide and plain. The window sill is tilted at a 45 degree angle to the wall of the church. Underneath the sill, the window is finished with a cavetto molding. A one-and-a-half story gable roof wing, slightly shorter than the nave, projects to the north near the west end of the church. This wing is pierced on the north side by one pair

# 8. Significance

Survey No. SM-414

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates** 1939 **Builder/Architect** Philip Frohman

check: Applicable Criteria:  A  B  C  D  
 and/or  
 Applicable Exception:  A  B  C  D  E  F  G  
 Level of Significance:  national  state  local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Our Lady of the Wayside Catholic Church is highly significant as one of the first Catholic churches designed by architect Philip Frohman, a national figure in American architecture. Both the interior and exterior of the church remain in pristine condition. Changes to the site include the demolition of Loretto House, the original rectory dating to 1914, and the construction of a modern, one-story rectory northeast of the church. These changes have little impact on the site.

Historically, Chaptico has always been considered a Protestant stronghold. The site of Christ Epsicopal Church since 1736, it was from Chaptico that John Coode led the Protestant military expedition against St. Mary's City in 1689. By 1774 the closest Catholic church to the village of Chaptico was St. Joseph's Chapel in Morganza. Chaptico Catholics either traveled to Morganza for mass or held mass in private homes. As late as the first quarter of the twentieth century, Catholic residents were celebrating mass in the home of Mrs. Aloysius Welch (SM-413).

The first place of worship constructed for Catholics in the Chaptico area was a chapel contained in the rectory "Loretto House." In the first quarter of the twentieth century, Father Lawrence J. Kelly, pastor of St. Aloysius Church in Leonardtown, led an effort to build a rectory in Chaptico for those priests who served Sacred Heart Church in Bushwood, St. Joseph's Chapel in Morganza, and Immaculate Conception in Mechanicsville. In 1912, Lewis H. and Mary P. Davis transfered a 24 1/5 acre tract just outside the village of Chaptico to Reverend Kelly. Kelly then transfered ownership of that property to Cardinal Gibbons. Here, carpenter John Dean of the Seventh District erected the large frame rectory "Loretto House." Loretto House was opened as a Jesuit mission center on October 6, 1914. The Loretto House chapel served the Chaptico area's Catholic community until the late 1930s.

Chaptico's Catholic community expanded to the point that by the late 1930s, it had outgrown the Loretto House chapel. Reverend Hezekiah Greenwell, S. J., and a building committee consisting of Henry Burroughs, Zach M. Fowler, Edelen Gough, Dr. A.C. Welch, Frank Yowaiski, Charles Bowman, and John F. Briscoe, proceeded to

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. SM-414

See Attached

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 24 1/5 ACRES

Quadrangle name Rock Point

Quadrangle scale 1:24 000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

B	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

C	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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D	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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E	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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F	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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G	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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H	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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### Verbal boundary description and justification

See attached plat.

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Ellizabeth Hughes, Historic Sites Survey

organization St. Mary's County DPZ

date February 1994

street & number

telephone 301-475-4662

city or town Leonardtoun

state Md.

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory 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  
Shaw House  
21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 269-2438~~

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
DHCP/DHCD  
100 COMMUNITY PLACE  
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023  
514-7600

SM-414, Our Lady of the Wayside Catholic Church  
St. Mary's County  
7.2 Description

and one single diamond paned window of clear glass and by a nine-light-over-one-panel door on the first floor. A basement is located under this wing which is lit by a three-light window at ground level. The upper half story of this flush gable end is lit by two smaller, rectangular casement windows of clear, diamond paned glass. An interior brick chimney located at the north end of the wing, pierces the ridgeline of the roof. To the east of the wing, the church's main block is lit by one diamond paned window of colored glass located higher on this section of the elevation in order to accomodate the raised interior sanctuary.

The east elevation of the main block is a blind, flush gable end with a plain eave board and cornice returns. The northern wing is lit by a bank of three windows of clear, diamond paned glass like those which light the nave of the church. A nine-light-over-one-panel door pierces this elevation at the ground level, providing access to the basement. A three-light window lights the basement level.

The south elevation is lit by five banks of three narrow, rectangular diamond paned windows of colored glass like those on the north elevation of the nave. The east end of this elevation, which comprises the interior sanctuary area, is stepped back about four feet north of the main block. The sanctuary is lit by two rectangular windows of diamond paned, colored glass.

The interior of the church vestibule is separated from the nave by a pair of double doors. The nave consists of a center aisle flanked by forty pews on the north and thirty-six pews on the south side. The walls are a plain, cream colored plaster which contrasts against the dark and decorative framing exposed in the open timber ceiling. Exposed chamfered studs which extend from the floor to the ceiling are located at fourteen foot intervals along the north and south walls. The ceiling consists of roof trusses which form pointed arches. The sanctuary is raised four steps above the floor level. Dark wood wainscoating partially sheathes the sanctuary walls. To the north of the sanctuary, on the nave level, are three small alcoves used as confessionals which are separated from the main block of the church by heavy curtains. A choir loft is located at the west end of the church, accessible by means of a paneled winder stair in the southwest corner of the building. In the church's northern wing is the vestment room, a restroom, and a storage area. The furniture in the vestment room was especially designed by Philip Frohman for the church.

To the west of the church stands a shrine to "Our Lady of the Wayside" which reads "Pray for us and for our farms. In memory of Hugh and Catharine McGroarty, Anthony J. Linehan, The Yowaiski Family, the Fowlers."

SM-414, Our Lady of the Wayside Catholic Church  
St. Mary's County  
8.12 Significance

make plans for the construction of a new church. Around the same time, Philip Frohman, who had converted to Catholicism in 1934, wrote to Archbishop Curley after reading about the fire which burned St. Peter Claver Church in Ridge in the Catholic Review. Frohman, who saw as his life's work the attempt to "improve the architecture and arts of the Catholic Church," asked the Archbishop if he might "have the privilege of building a Negro church as my first work for the Catholic Church." Frohman began work on St. Peter Claver and was referred to Father Greenwell in Chaptico. In 1937 Archbishop Curley instructed Greenwell to proceed with plans for "a small, but sturdy, frame church, seating about two hundred" to be designed by Frohman. The builder of the church was Albert Elder of Elder and Wils from Bel Alton, Maryland.

On May 24, 1938, Bishop McNamara dedicated the church at Chaptico as "Our Lady of the Wayside Catholic Church." Present at the dedication were the architect, members of the firm of builders, and members of the building committee. The explanation for the name change as outlined in a May 20th issue of the Catholic Review stated "The original name of the little chapel in the rectory, where the parish attended mass was Our Lady of Loretto. It has been changed to Our Lady of the Wayside, a title of Our Lady dear to the Society of Jesus since the time of its founder, Saint Ignatius."

In 1940, Father Greenwell requested from Philip Frohman a "brief description of the style, architecture, and design of the church -- so many people have asked questions of this nature, and I am unable to answer them to my satisfaction." In response, Philip Frohman drafted a six page essay which is included on attached pages.

Philip Frohman was a prolific writer, and his many files of correspondence are kept at the National Cathedral Archives in Washington, D.C. Although best known for his work on the National Cathedral in Washington D.C., Our Lady of the Wayside Church and St. Peter Claver Church are especially significant as the first Catholic churches designed by Frohman following his conversion to Catholicism. Confronted in both cases with a small budget for construction, Frohman developed designs which were stripped down to express both "honest poverty" and "spiritual wealth." He described the result as an example of the "Church Militant" in architecture.

Frohman's roots in the Arts and Crafts movement is apparent when he discusses his design philosophy. Frohman is concerned with solidity and quality of craftsmanship and is critical of those churches in which "cheap, weak construction is concealed by a wealth of superficial ornament." Frohman explains that his design for Our Lady of the Wayside Catholic Church resulted from a consideration of liturgical and practical requirements, climate and location, and budgetary considerations. He notes that like those churches erected in the Middle Ages, the architectural style of the

SM-414, Our Lady of the Wayside Catholic Church  
St. Mary's County  
8.13 Significance

building resulted from its plan and proportions and method of construction and materials.

Frohman's activity in St. Mary's County was not confined to Chaptico. At the same time that Frohman was working on Our Lady of the Wayside Church, he was corresponding with Father Horace McKenna regarding the design of St. Peter Claver Church in Ridge. He also advised Father Joseph T. Murphy regarding repairs to the ceiling and roof of St. Joseph's Chapel in Morganza and corresponded with Father Parker regarding working drawings for Holy Face Church.

Our Lady of the Wayside Catholic Church is an outstanding example of Philip Frohman's work. It is important as one of the first Catholic churches designed by the recently converted architect and it is well-documented in Frohman's papers. Both Our Lady of the Wayside Church and St. Peter Claver Church represent an aspect of Frohman's architectural legacy which has not been previously documented or discussed.

SM-414, Our Lady of the Wayside Catholic Church  
St. Mary's County  
8.1 Significance

Chain of Title

TO: James Cardinal Gibbons, Archbishop of Baltimore and his successors in the  
Archbishops See of Baltimore.

FROM: Lawrence J. Kelly

RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber EBA 10, folio 450.

DATE: December 30, 1912.

NOTES: Transfer of lot being a part of "Lot No. 2" in the Partition Proceedings of the  
Real Estate of the late Henry G. Garner No. 18 N.E. in the Circuit Court, also a part of  
the same land described in a deed from Joseph F. Thomas and Elizabeth R. Thomas  
to Lewis H. Davis in EBA 7/521. ..being 24 1/5 acres. This land was surveyed by  
Charles E. Heard for Rev. L.J. Kelly, S.J., on June 10, 1912 in EBA10/217.

TO: Rev. Lawrence J. Kelly, Pastor of St. Aloysius Church, Leonardtown.

FROM: Lewis H. Davis and Mary P. Davis.

RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber EBA 10, folio 217.

DATE: June 22, 1912

NOTES: Transfer of part of Lot No. 2 in Partition Proceedings of real estate of the late  
Henry G. Garner being No. 18 NE in Circuit Court. Also a part of land in EBA 7/521.  
Total acreage being 24 1/5 acres. Price: \$900

SM-414, Our Lady of the Wayside Catholic Church  
St. Mary's County  
8.2 Significance

Source: National Cathedral Archives

Source: Edwin W. Beitzell, Jesuit Missions of St. Mary's County (N.p.: n.p., 1960):  
305.



Our Lady of the Wayside Church, 1959  
Chaptico, Md.  
Photo by Richard E. Felix

SM-414, Our Lady of the Wayside Catholic Church  
St. Mary's County  
8.3 Significance

Photo immediately following completion of church in 1938.

Source: National Cathedral Archives, Philip Frohman Records.  
Church of Our Lady of Loretto File.



SM-414, Our Lady of the Wayside Catholic Church  
St. Mary's County  
8.4 Significance

Photo immediately following completion of church in 1938.

Source: National Cathedral Archives, Philip Frohman Records.  
Church of Our Lady of Loretto File.



SM-414, Our Lady of the Wayside Catholic Church  
St. Mary's County  
8.5 Significance

Photo immediately following completion of church in 1938.

Source: National Cathedral Archives, Philip Frohman Records.  
Church of Our Lady of Loretto File.



SM-414, Our Lady of the Wayside Catholic Church  
St. Mary's County  
8.6 Significance

Essay by architect Philip Frohman regarding the design of Our Lady of the Wayside Catholic Church in Chaptico, MD.

Source: Frohman Files at the National Cathedral Archives in Washington D.C.

#### THE CHURCH OF OUR LADY OF THE WAYSIDE

This little church was built for the same purpose as were the Early Christian Basilicas, the great Cathedrals and the smallest village chapels which were built during the Middle Ages.

It was designed with the conviction that the basic requirements of a parish church have not changed during the past six hundred years and that very few of the country churches built in modern times fulfill these requirements as well as did the smaller parish churches which were built in England and Europe during the Middle Ages.

The Colonial meeting houses were the expression of the requirements of certain Protestant denominations whose forms of worship differed from those of the Catholic Church. Their requirements called for buildings which were more in the nature of assembly halls for religious instruction. The sermon was the most important part of the service. In order to serve the purpose of bringing the greatest number of people close to the preacher, the auditorium was made wide and short and galleries were frequently used.

The degree to which architecture reflects an attitude of mind, rather than actual requirements, is shown by the early Catholic churches erected in this country. Most of these early Catholic churches are merely auditoriums or meeting houses with an altar at one end; or perhaps the usual modern scheme of three altars. By means of an ugly reredos and some inferior statues and Stations of the Cross an attempt was made to achieve a "churchly"

SM-414, Our Lady of the Wayside Catholic Church  
St. Mary's County  
8.7 Significance

Essay by architect Philip Frohman regarding the design of Our Lady of the Wayside Catholic Church in Chaptico, MD.

Source: Frohman Files at the National Cathedral Archives in Washington D.C.

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THE CHURCH OF OUR LADY OF THE WAYSIDE

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effect. If, as time went by, the congregation could afford it, the walls were "decorated" and the windows were filled with colored glass. I will admit that this dressing up the interior did produce an effect that was different from that of an austere Protestant Meeting House. It looked less like an auditorium for secular purposes and it may therefore have been more churchly. Also the prominence of the altar indicated a form of worship differing from those of the Protestant bodies. However, no attempts at adornment could produce the dignity and reverent beauty of the most simple Medieval parish church for the simple reason that the proportions of the Colonial Meeting House are fundamentally wrong for a Catholic Church. In the meeting house type of church and in many modern churches the nave is too short and broad and the sanctuary is too shallow.

In designing the church at Chaptico we decided not to be influenced by the traditions of Colonial architecture, nor by the errors of modern church architecture, but to let the architectural style of the building result from its plan and proportions and methods of construction and materials. These were the factors that determined architectural style during the centuries before the logical development of Christian architecture came to an end in the 15th century.

Not only is a church a place of worship and of religious instruction, it is a temple erected to the glory of God. It is a shelter for the altar and a place wherein the Sacraments of the Church are celebrated. As such, it should be built in as substantial and permanent a manner as funds will permit. Anything cheap or flimsy or any sham in the building of a church should be regarded as a sacrilege.

SM-414, Our Lady of the Wayside Catholic Church  
St. Mary's County  
8.8 Significance

Essay by architect Philip Frohman regarding the design of Our Lady of the Wayside Catholic Church in Chaptico, MD.

Source: Frohman Files at the National Cathedral Archives in Washington D.C.

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THE CHURCH OF OUR LADY OF THE WAYSIDE

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If funds had been available we would have built of brick or stone. As masonry was out of the question, the church was built of frame. However, there is no disgrace in honest poverty and it is possible to use frame construction in an honorable and dignified manner.

For reasons of economy, the walls were kept low, but the roofs were made steep in order to provide enough height to make an impressive interior and a sanctuary of such proportions as to give dignity to the altar.

While some might classify the exterior as being "Early American Colonial", yet the proportions are not like those of a typical Colonial church and the architectural style of the exterior was determined by the internal proportions and by a simplicity of detail which is appropriate for economical frame construction.

Some might call the interior "Gothic" because of the fact that the curved members of the roof trusses in the Nave and Sanctuary form pointed arches. While it is true that trusses of this type may be found in some old parish churches built in England and France from the 13th to the 15th centuries, yet these trusses were not used for any reasons of architectural style. The braced arch type of truss gives the maximum effect of internal height and at the same time provides substantial wind bracing for a timber structure. In trusses of this form, pointed arches not only give more height but are easier to build in timber than are semicircular arches. The design of these trusses was determined by considerations of structural logic and good proportions.

SM-414, Our Lady of the Wayside Catholic Church  
St. Mary's County  
8.9 Significance

Essay by architect Philip Frohman regarding the design of Our Lady of the Wayside Catholic Church in Chaptico, MD.

Source: Frohman Files at the National Cathedral Archives in Washington D.C.

THE CHURCH OF OUR LADY OF THE WAYSIDE

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For reasons of economy and logic we did not use arched windows but have groups of square headed casements filled with diamond paned leaded glass.

In a time of transition and change it is important that the church should stand to us for all that is unchanging. The church buildings should be the most enduring structures in any community. The strong and unchanging nature of the Catholic faith should be symbolized by a building which is evidently of unusual strength. For this reason we have built this little church in a manner which is much like some of the timber framed churches and barns of the Middle Ages and have exposed all the framing of its open timbered roof and the big posts which support the trusses and brace the walls. There is nothing about the simple boarded exterior to suggest the substantial nature of its construction, but as soon as one enters he is aware of its honesty and strength.

Externally this simple little white church is a symbol of simplicity and purity and internally it reminds us of the virtues of honesty and truth and of that spiritual strength which we may gain through the Sacraments of the Church.

Although the exterior is almost as plain as a barn, yet it can not be mistaken for anything but a church. During recent years a singular attitude of mind is shown by some modernistic architects who have designed churches, both Catholic and Protestant, which look like factories or garages or almost anything but a place for Christian worship. In a recent competition of designs for a small Catholic Church, one of the favorite schemes submitted by sev-

SM-414, Our Lady of the Wayside Catholic Church  
St. Mary's County  
8.10 Significance

Essay by architect Philip Frohman regarding the design of Our Lady of the Wayside Catholic Church in Chaptico, MD.

Source: Frohman Files at the National Cathedral Archives in Washington D.C.

THE CHURCH ON OUR LADY OF THE WAYSIDE

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eral designers was a lopsided structure in shape like the lean-to of a barn. The idea seemed to be that this scheme demonstrated cleverness and originality as (very fortunately) nothing like it had been attempted for a church at any time in the past. We believe that the same originality might be claimed for such an unusual and undignified scheme as locating the high altar off to one side of the sanctuary or placing the tabernacle or the Crucifix or the candles in unsymmetrical positions. For most of the modernistic attempts there is no justification either from a liturgical standpoint or on grounds of structural logic.

Most modernistic church architecture reminds us of a statement of Emile Chartier, the French philosopher when he said, "Only fools think they are being original by neglecting the ideas of generations who have preceded them. True originality consists of phrasing commonplaces well."

Now in this little church there have been no attempts at originality. Its plan and general scheme follows the ideas of generations which have preceded us for over a thousand years. Like the Liturgy of the Church, it follows traditions which are old and yet it is of the present and of the future. It suggests continuity with the Faith of the past and the fact that the same Faith will be with us into eternity. In its simple fabric we have sought to use the most commonplace materials well. We have used wood from the forest and sand from the river bed and clay and iron from the earth. We have used them in the same straightforward and reasonable manner that men did centuries ago. These commonplace objects have been brought together for a sublime purpose.

SM-414, Our Lady of the Wayside Catholic Church  
St. Mary's County  
8.11 Significance

Essay by architect Philip Frohman regarding the design of Our Lady of the Wayside Catholic Church in Chaptico, MD.

Source: Frohman Files at the National Cathedral Archives in Washington D.C.

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THE CHURCH OF OUR LADY OF THE WAYSIDE

Page 6

A purpose greater than that for which the temples of Egypt and Greece and Rome were erected. This purpose was to build a Temple in which that most wonderful of all miracles takes place when we receive the Body and Blood of the same Christ who was born in Bethlehem and who also shall come again in glory to judge the living and the dead. Yet Our Lord was born in a stable and chose human beings of humble station as His most trusted friends and helpers when He founded His Church upon the "rock" of the repentant Peter. We therefore hope that this humble structure, which was conceived of and built as an offering to Our Lord may be a temple in the true sense of the word and may be the means of bringing many souls to Him.

Philip Hubert Frohman

SM-414, Our Lady of the Wayside Catholic Church  
St. Mary's County

9.1 Major Bibliographical References

Beitzell, Edwin W. Jesuit Missions of St. Mary's County. N.p.: n.p., 1960.

Frohman, Philip. Letters, ts. Curley Correspondence. Archdiocese of Baltimore Archives, Baltimore, Maryland.

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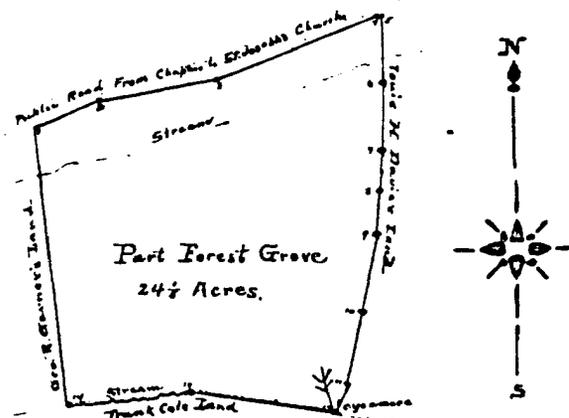
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SM-414, Our Lady of the Wayside Catholic Church  
 St. Mary's County  
 10.1 Geographical Data

Source: St. Mary's County Land Records, Liber EBA 10/218.

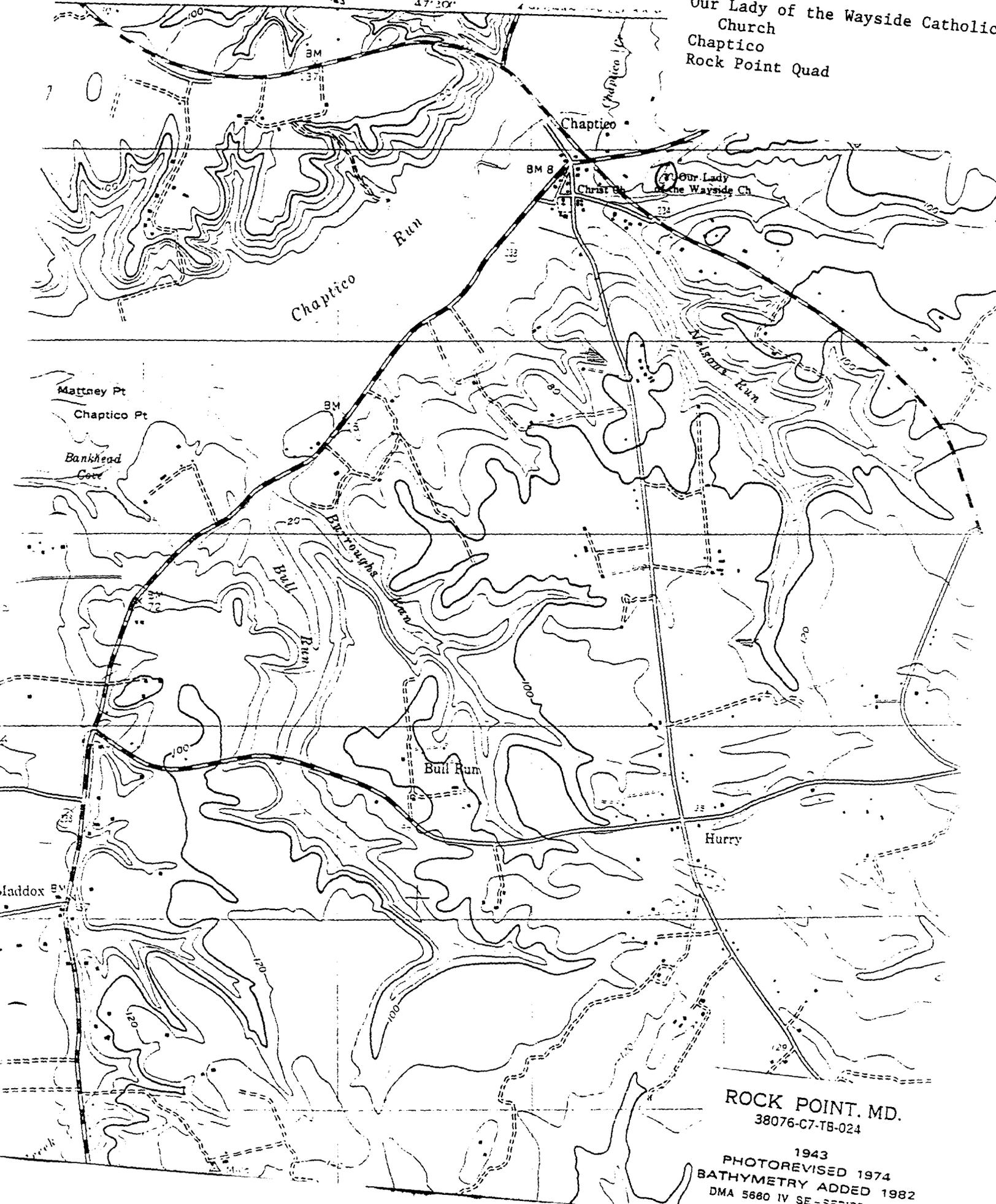


At the request of Rev. J. Kelly, S. J. of St. Luke Parish, certify that I have carefully examined and surveyed a tract or parcels of land situated in the Fourth Electoral District of St. Francis County in the State of Maryland.

Beginning at a corner post set on the south side of the public road leading from Chapin's to St. Joseph's Church, in boundary of Geo. R. Gannett's land, thence running with said road four courses and distances to wit: 1. N. 64 3/4° E 252 feet, 2. N. 80 3/4° E 385.1 feet, 3. N. 66 3/4° E 549.3 ft., 4. S. 80 3/4° E 187 ft. to a corner post set on the south side of said road, a boundary of Louis H. Davis' land; thence running with said land seven courses and distances to wit: 5. S. 8 3/4° E 200 ft., 6. S. 7 3/4° E 207.24 ft., 7. S. 4 3/4° E 105.2 ft., 8. 7 3/4° E 140.5 ft., 9. S. 15 3/4° E 205.3 ft., 10. S. 14 3/4° E 353.3 ft., 11. S. 20 3/4° E 121.1 ft. to a lycamore marked with three notched, standing on the south side of a stream, a boundary of Frank Cole's land, thence running with said land two courses and distances:

5660 IV NE CHARLOTTE HALL

SM-414  
Our Lady of the Wayside Catholic  
Church  
Chaptico  
Rock Point Quad



ROCK POINT, MD.  
38076-C7-TB-024

1943  
PHOTOREVISED 1974  
BATHYMETRY ADDED 1982  
DMA 5660 IV SE-SERIES V833











10-11-14 Our Lady of L. A. ...

11-12-14 ...

12-13-14 ...

January 1914

1-2-14

Interior - ...

3/4



