

Addendum to Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. SM-56

Page 1 of 7

Name of Property: St. Aloysius Roman Catholic Church Site

Location: Washington Street (MD 5), Leonardtown, St. Mary's County

The property associated with the 1846 St. Aloysius Roman Catholic Church, the first religious structure at this location, was visited in August 1970. The 1970 effort was a windshield survey, with no prepared description or historic context because the 1846 church was no longer extant and the property was determined to be an archeological site. A new church (SM-928) was erected on the property in 1962. In response to a request made by the Maryland State Highway Administration for purposes relating to Maryland Route 5 through Leonardtown, staff from EHT Tracerics, Inc. prepared this addendum describing the current state of the property with regard to the 1846 church.

Section 3: Owner of Property

Archdiocese of Washington (Donald W. Wuerl, Roman Catholic Archbishop of Washington)

PO Box 29260

Washington, D.C. 20017-0260

Section 4: Location of Legal Description

Courthouse, registry of deeds, etc.: Maryland Property Records (SDAT)

City, town: <http://mdlandrec.net>

Liber 03227/Folio 00372

Tax Map 133 Tax Parcel 478 Tax ID Number: 015378

Section 6: Classification

Category: Site

Ownership: Private

Current Function: Vacant/Not In Use

Resource Count: 1 Contributing Site

Section 7: Description

The site where the 1846 church stood is currently vacant.

Section 8: Significance

The second chapel of the St. Aloysius Roman Catholic Church in Leonardtown was constructed in 1846, replacing a 1766 structure located outside the town limits, and demolished upon the construction of the third edifice in 1962.

Prepared by: EHT Tracerics, Inc.

Date: April 11, 2012

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Name of Property: St. Aloysius Roman Catholic Church Site

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Leonardtown, originally known as Sheppard's Old Fields and Seymour Towne, was established in 1708 by the Maryland State Legislature as St. Mary's County's county seat. The town contains historic resources from the mid-1800s to the mid-1950s, the majority of which are located on Washington Street, the main north-south corridor for the community.¹ Leonardtown slowly developed in the 1700s due to the nature of tobacco farming that led to sparse population centers. As a result, there were no churches constructed within the town.²

Saint Aloysius was one of the three Roman Catholic churches operational within Maryland, by the American Revolution. According to historians James D. and Georgiana Kornwolf, "Saint Francis Xavier at Newton Manor and St. Aloysius at Leonardtown, both in St. Mary's County, were built in 1766, no doubt taking advantage of American hostility to the British Stamp Act of 1765."³ Prior to 1766, the land for the first Saint Aloysius Church and Cemetery were donated by Mrs. Ann Thompson, but it was not officially deeded to Father Lewis until 1772.⁴ Historical information regarding the first church's construction is limited to the diary of Father James Walton. In 1766, under "for the payments of St. Aloysius's Chappel's fund," he wrote, "all payed [*sic*] but 5 thousand, which are to make up the payment of the choir and galleries."⁵ In 1818, Archbishop Ambrose Marechal described the chapel as "a wooden building, large and in tolerable order."⁶ Six years later, he noted that the "Church is repaired, large and well disposed. Altar and throne adorned with taste."⁷ Although the first church is no longer extant, the cemetery (SM-57) continues to serve as the resting place for Catholic families from the 1780s to the present. The cemetery is listed in the National Register of Historic Places.⁸

¹ Maryland Historical Trust, "Leonardtown Survey District," State Historic Inventory Form, SM-592, (1997): 7. <http://www.mdihp.net> (accessed February 22, 2012).

² Maryland Historical Trust, "Leonardtown Survey District," 8-8.1.

³ James D. Kornwolf and Georgiana Walls Kornwolf, *Architect and Town Planning in Colonial North America* (Baltimore: The John Hopkins Press, 2002), 2: 768.

⁴ Saint Aloysius Church, *Dedication of St. Aloysius Church, Leonardtown, Maryland, March 18, 1962* (1962), 21. Georgetown University Library, Special Collections Research Center, Maryland Province Collection: Box 7, Folder 7, Published Materials.

⁵ Saint Aloysius Church, 21.

⁶ Edward A. Ryan, *Pages from the Story of an Ancient Parish, Sketch of St. Aloysius' Parish Leonardtown, Maryland* (1947), 7. Georgetown University Library, Special Collections Research Center, Maryland Province Collection: Box 7, Folder 7, Published Materials.

⁷ Ryan, 7.

⁸ For State Historic Inventory Form see, Maryland Historical Trust, "St. Aloysius R.C. Church Cemetery," State Historic Inventory Form, SM-57, 1996. For National Register Nomination see, National Register of Historic Places, St. Aloysius Cemetery, Leonardtown, St. Mary's County, Maryland, 1900574208.

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In the late 1820s, religious groups, particularly Methodist and Catholics, recognized the potential of Leonardtown as a center for religious activities.⁹ Church histories indicate that the location of the first church was chosen on the periphery of the city to distance the congregation from British authorities who openly persecuted Catholics; however, such precautions were no longer applicable as religious persecution lessened after the Revolutionary War.¹⁰ On April 23, 1846, Father Joseph Enders permitted the construction of a new church within the limits of Leonardtown.¹¹ The trustees of the church, along with parishioner Vincent Camalier, architect and builder, planned and constructed a one-story, front gable, brick church on the present property. Construction started on June 29, 1846 and was completed by December 15, 1846.¹² The land for the church was officially conveyed and donated by James T. and Ann T. Blakistone to the Trustees of Saint Aloysius Church on October 16, 1849.¹³

In 1861, due to the expansion of the congregation, thirty feet was added to the façade along with a belfry and spire that created a center-steeple church.¹⁴ In the 1880s, the church parged the brick walls due to deterioration.¹⁵ Over its 100-year history, the church underwent further alterations, improvements, and additions. Initial planning for the new church building started in 1946. At that time, the 1846 church was in poor condition as one of the principal beams of the truss system had failed. Although efforts were made to repair the church, other structural deterioration and an overcrowded congregation furthered plans for a new building, albeit over a thirteen-year period.¹⁶ In 1959, the steeple was declared a hazard and removed from the building. Shortly thereafter, another member of the truss system failed and the ceiling sagged, leading to the permanent closing of the church.¹⁷ The Father Andrew White School's auditorium (SM-928) held the church's services for the subsequent three years.¹⁸

⁹ Maryland Historical Trust, "Leonardtown Survey District," SM-592, 8.11.

¹⁰ Ryan, 8.

¹¹ Ryan, 8.

¹² Saint Aloysius Church, 31.

¹³ Saint Aloysius Church, 35.

¹⁴ Saint Aloysius Church, 37.

¹⁵ Saint Aloysius Church, 41.

¹⁶ Saint Aloysius Church, 65.

¹⁷ Saint Aloysius Church, 67.

¹⁸ "Old St. Aloysius Church Leonardtown Landmark May Have to be Torn Down," *Saint Mary's Journal*, December 13, 1959. Georgetown University Library, Special Collections Research Center, Maryland Province Collection: Box 7, Folder 8, Leonardtown: Clippings, 1901-1960.

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On March 3, 1960, Archbishop Patrick A. O'Boyle permitted the construction of a new church building.¹⁹ The building was erected on land donated to the church by the Sisters of Charity. Architect John Walton of Walton & Madden designed the new church building, which was cited directly to the north of the 1846 Saint Aloysius Church. The commemoration booklet stated, "The new church is a very beautiful edifice of colonial style architecture that contains many modern features, such as air-conditioning, acoustical ceilings and glass-enclosed rooms for mothers with young children."²⁰ The new \$250,000 church, capable of holding services for 500 parishioners, was commemorated on March 18, 1962. Soon after the completion of the new church, the 1846 structure was razed.

Section 9: Bibliography

Ryan, Edward A. *Pages from the Story of an Ancient Parish, Sketch of St. Aloysius' Parish Leonardtown, Maryland*. Leonardtown, Maryland, 1947. Georgetown University Library, Special Collections Research Center, Maryland Province Collection: Box 7, Folder 7, Published Materials.

Saint Aloysius Church. *Dedication of St. Aloysius Church, Leonardtown, Maryland, March 18, 1962*. Leonardtown, Maryland, 1962. Georgetown University Library, Special Collections Research Center, Maryland Province Collection: Box 7, Folder 7, Published Materials.

¹⁹ Saint Aloysius Church, 69.

²⁰ Saint Aloysius Church, 73.

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Name of Property: St. Aloysius Roman Catholic Church Site

Location: Washington Street (MD 5), Leonardtown, St. Mary's County

Chain of Title

St. Aloysius Catholic Church at 22800 Washington Street, Leonardtown, Maryland

DATE	GRANTOR	GRANTEE	REFERENCE
1836-10-15	Gerard N. Causin and Eleanor S. Causin	John M. S. Causin	Land Records of St. Mary's County Liber JH 10/ Folio 535
1841-5-12	John M. T. Causin	William Thomas and Elizabeth L. Thomas	Land Records of St. Mary's County Liber JH 12/ Folio 160
1847-7-21	William Thomas and Elizabeth L. Thomas	Ann Blakistone	Land Records of St. Mary's County Liber WTM 1/ Folio 279
1884-3-11	T. Wallis Blakistone, et al	B. Harris Camalier, et al	Land Records of St. Mary's County Liber JFF 7/ Folio 192
1886-6-29	B. Harris Camalier, et al	The Board of Trustees of the Nazareth Literary & Benevolent Institution, A Kentucky Corporation	Land Records of St. Mary's County Liber JFF 9/ Folio 161
1887-3-14	B. Harris Camalier, et al	The Board of Trustees of the Nazareth Literary &	Land Records of St. Mary's

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Location: Washington Street (MD 5), Leonardtown, St. Mary's County

DATE	GRANTOR	GRANTEE	REFERENCE
		Benevolent Institution, A Kentucky Corporation	County Liber JFF 9/ Folio 454
1949-3-6	The Board of Trustees of the Nazareth Literary & Benevolent Institution, A Kentucky Corporation	Patrick A. O'Boyle, Roman Catholic Archbishop of Washington	Land Records of St. Mary's County Liber CBG 22/ Folio 506
1956-8-10	The Board of Trustees of the Nazareth Literary & Benevolent Institution, A Kentucky Corporation	Patrick A. O'Boyle, Roman Catholic Archbishop of Washington	Land Records of St. Mary's County Liber 65/ Folio 126
2008-6-30	Donald Wuerl, Roman Catholic Archbishop of Washington	Donald Wuerl, Roman Catholic Archbishop of Washington For consolidation of property	Land Records of St. Mary's County Liber 3227/ Folio 372

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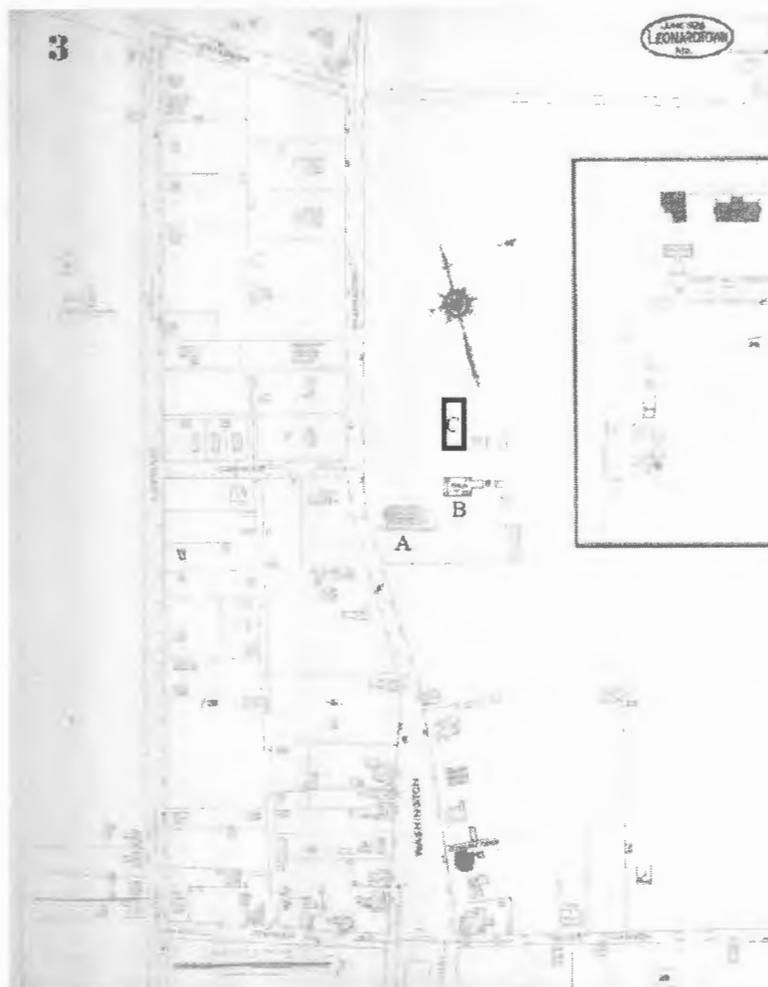
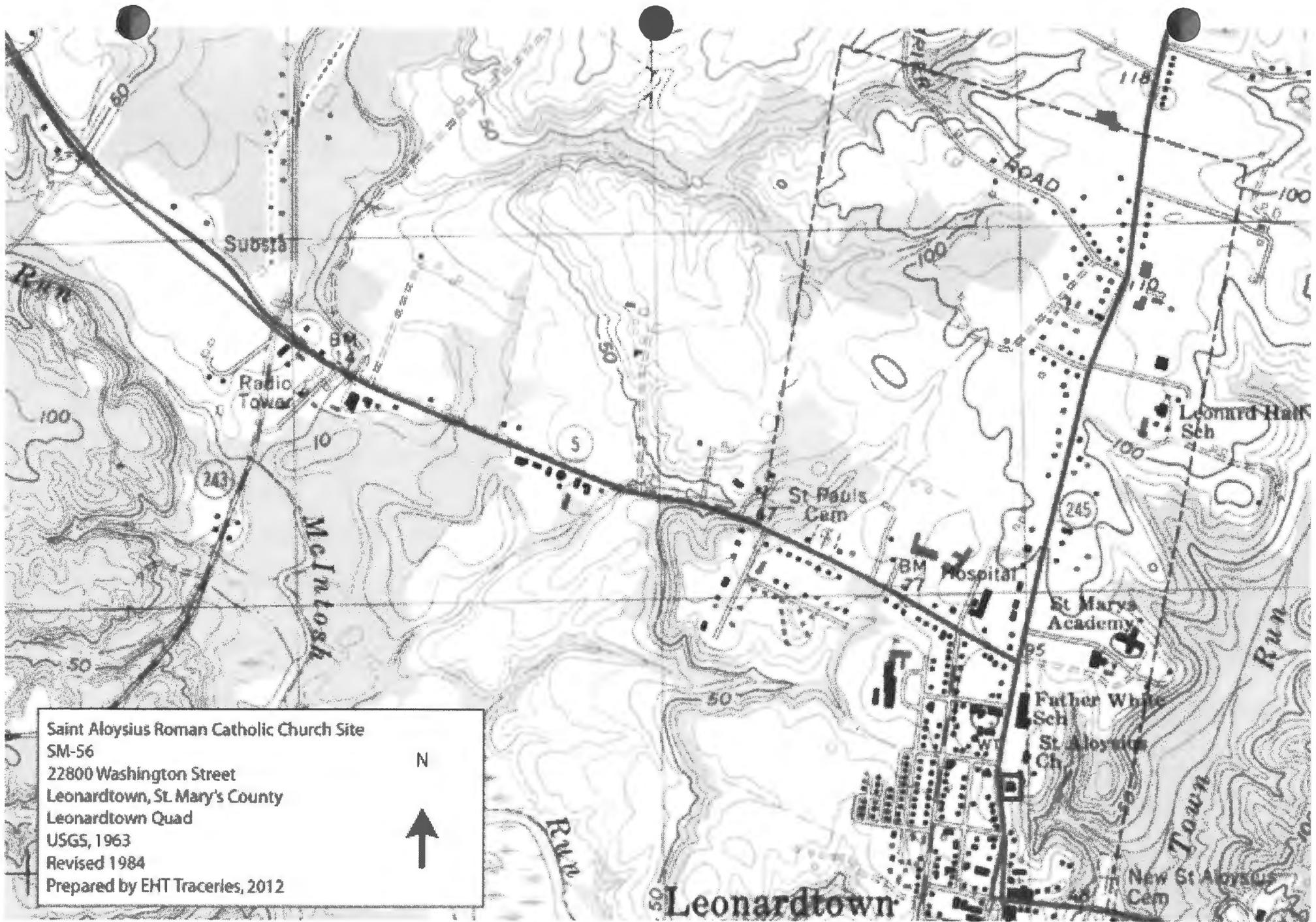


Figure 1: The 1928 Sanborn Map shows the demolished Saint Aloysius Church (A) constructed in 1846 and the extant rectory (B). The 1962 Saint Aloysius Church (C), drawn onto the map, is located to the northeast of the 1846 building.

Source: Sanborn Map Company, "Leonardtown, St. Mary's County, Maryland," (June 1928): 3. <http://www.mdhistory.net> (accessed April 10, 2012).



Saint Aloysius Roman Catholic Church Site
SM-56
22800 Washington Street
Leonardtown, St. Mary's County
Leonardtown Quad
USGS, 1963
Revised 1984
Prepared by EHT Tracerles, 2012



Leonardtown

ARCHEOLOGICAL SITE

SM-56 and 57ST. ALOYSIUS ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH AND CEMETERY
Leonardtwn

1766

Father James Walton, an English Jesuit, built the first St. Aloysius Church on a site one mile north of Leonardtown in 1766. The cemetery there of the same date is still in use *and* surrounded by an elaborate Victorian cast-iron fence and gate.

In 1846 a new church of St. Aloysius was erected in the village of Leonardtown and the old church gradually fell into ruins. In 1962 a church was built a short distance north of the 1846 structure, replacing it.

SIM-56
ST. ALOYSIUS ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
Leonardtwn

See archeological listing.

S.M-57
ST. ALOYSIUS ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH CEMETERY
Leonardtwn

See archeological listing.

19 00564227

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

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

1. NAME				
COMMON: St. Aloysius Church				
AND/OR HISTORIC:				
2. LOCATION				
STREET AND NUMBER: Washington Street (MD 5)				
CITY OR TOWN: Leonardtown				
STATE Maryland			COUNTY: St. Mary's	
3. CLASSIFICATION				
CATEGORY (Check One)		OWNERSHIP		STATUS
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object		<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both		<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
		Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered		Yes: <input 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"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	_____	_____
4. OWNER OF PROPERTY				
OWNER'S NAME: St. Aloysius Church				
STREET AND NUMBER: Washington Street (MD 5)				
CITY OR TOWN: Leonardtown			STATE: Maryland	
5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION				
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: St. Mary's County Courthouse				
STREET AND NUMBER: Washington Street & Courthouse Drive				
CITY OR TOWN: Leonardtown			STATE: Maryland	
Title Reference of Current Deed (Book & Pg. #):				
6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS				
TITLE OF SURVEY:				
DATE OF SURVEY: <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local				
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:				
STREET AND NUMBER:				
CITY OR TOWN:			STATE:	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

B. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input 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 type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi-	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	osophy	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human-	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	itarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> Music	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The parish was established c. 1710.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	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:

Acreage Justification:

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Michael O. Bourne

ORGANIZATION: _____ DATE: 8/70

STREET AND NUMBER: _____

CITY OR TOWN: _____ STATE: _____

**12. Rev. 8/74 by R. B. White, summer intern, Md. Hist. Trust
State Liaison Officer Review: (Office Use Only)**

Significance of this property is:

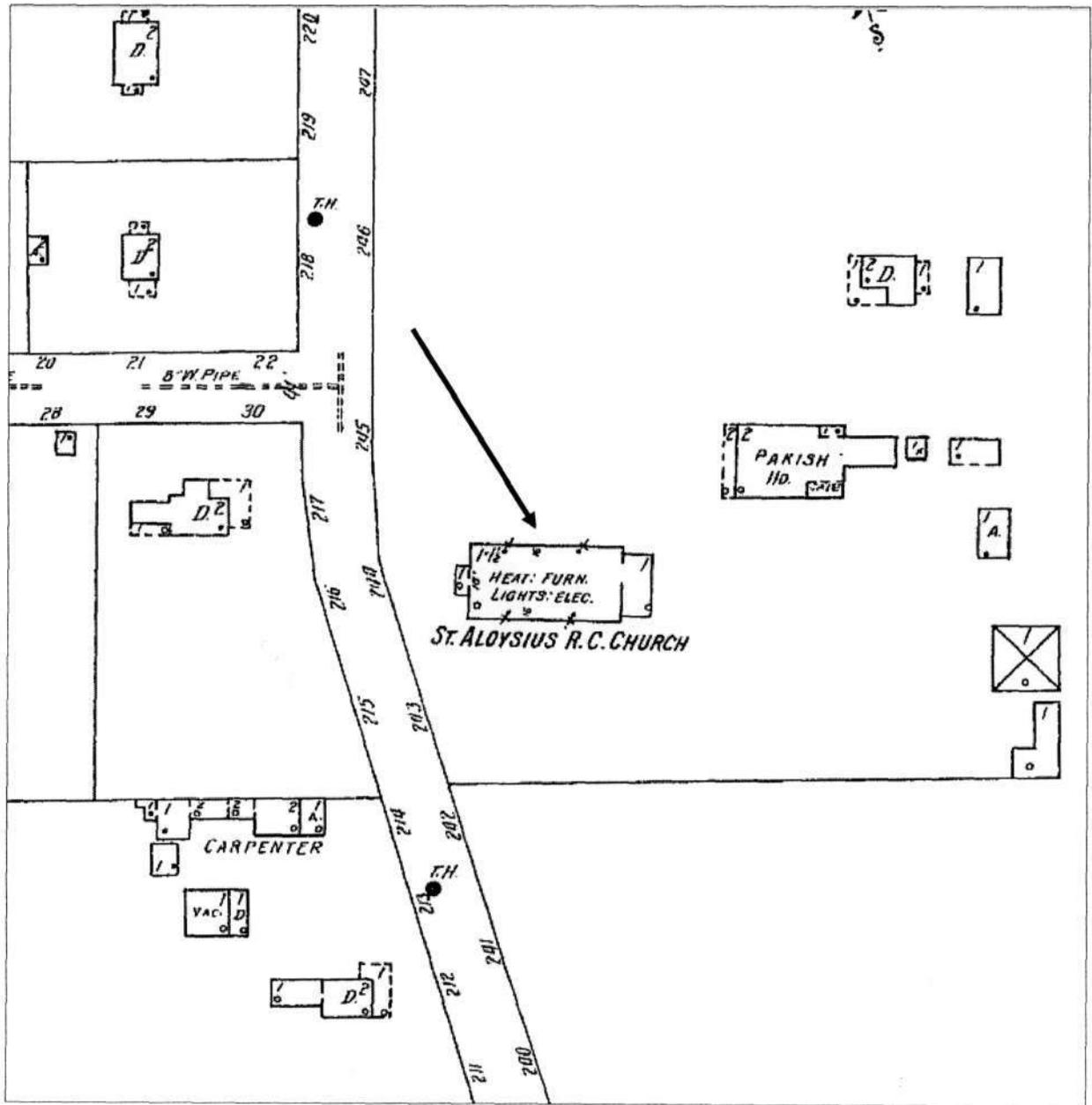
National State Local

Signature

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SM-56

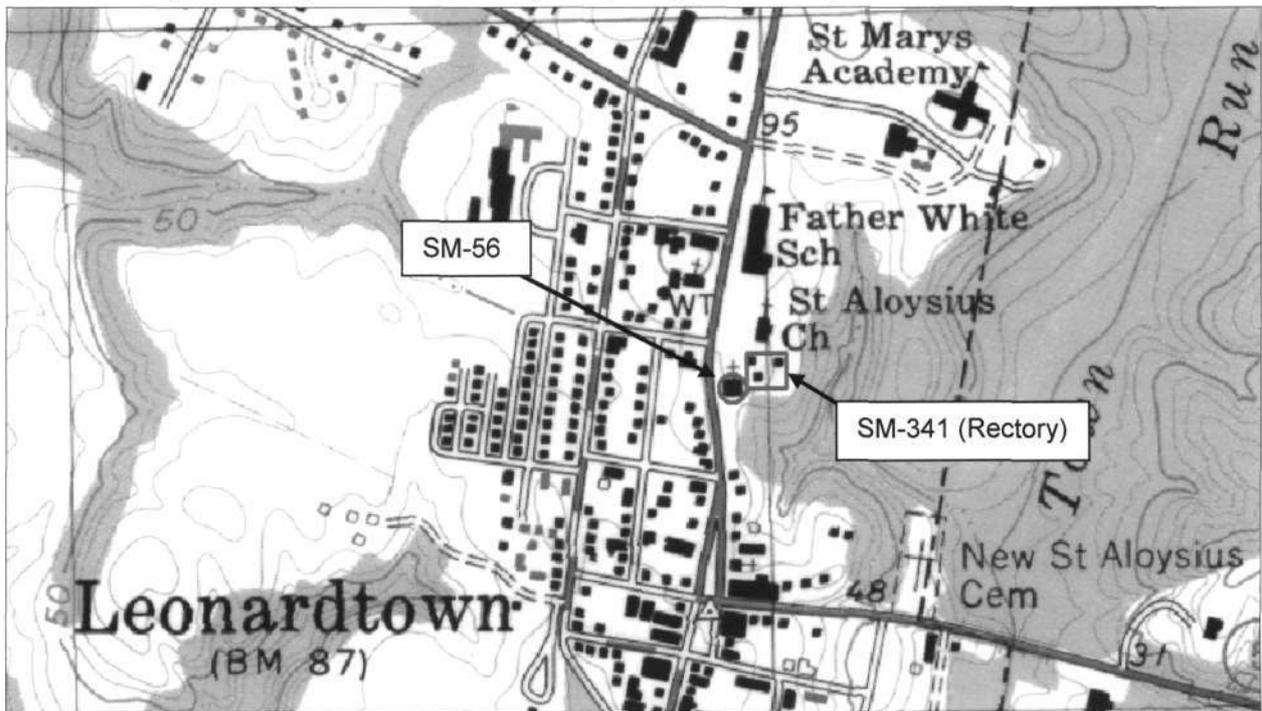
St. Aloysius Roman Catholic Church, site
Sanborn Map 1928, Sheet 3



SM-56

St. Aloysius Roman Catholic Church, site

Leonardtwn quad 1963 (Photorevised 1984, Bathymetry added 1982)



National Web Map Service 6" Orthophoto Map, c. 2007-08

