

S M -79  
ST. JOSEPH'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH  
Morganza

1858-1864

St. Joseph's is the only example in St. Mary's County of the High Victorian Italianate style popular in the 1850's. It was built by John Parsons between 1858 and 1864 on land donated by George H. and Mary S. Morgan. The red brick church has a square bell tower at the east end (entrance facade) and blind panels along all four exterior walls. The church contains several large 19th century paintings as well as twelve stained glass windows depicting the life of Christ.

Also see archeological listing.

ARCHEOLOGICAL SITE

S M -79  
ST. JOSEPH'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH  
Morganza

circa 1759

The first St. Joseph's Church and its cemetery were established across the road from the present church and east of the present cemetery in about 1759. The church has been described as a brick building about 25 by 45 feet with a steep roof and square windows. It was in use until 1864 when the present church was completed. The cemetery was abandoned and overgrown with underbrush and trees <sup>until</sup> the Hollywood Lions Club <sup>cleaned</sup> it up as a Bicentennial activity.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

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

**1. NAME**

COMMON: St. Joseph's Church

AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER: Waldorf Leonardtown Road (MD 5)

CITY OR TOWN: Morganza

STATE: Maryland COUNTY: St. Mary's

**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"/> 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:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE:

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: St. Mary's County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER: Washington Street and 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:  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

7. DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

St. Joseph's Church was begun in 1858 and constructed in the Renaissance Revival style. Because of the Civil War and/or lack of funds it was not completed until 1864. Stained glass windows were installed in 1911. During a 1915 storm the church was severely damaged, with four feet of roof uncovered and a portion of a side wall blown in. Repairs cost approx. \$10,000 and the church reopened the same year.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian       16th Century       18th Century       20th Century
- 15th Century       17th Century       19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1858-1864

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |   |  |  |   |
|---|--|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aboriginal</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Historic</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Architecture</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Art</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Commerce</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Communications</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Conservation</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Education</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Engineering</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Industry</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Invention</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Literature</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Military</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Music</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Political</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Science</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Theater</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Transportation</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)</li> <li>_____</li> <li>_____</li> <li>_____</li> <li>_____</li> <li>_____</li> <li>_____</li> </ul> |
|---|--|--|---|

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Blank area for the Statement of Significance.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Beitzell, Edwin W. The Jesuit Missions of St. Mary's Co., Md. publ. privately, 1960.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

MECHANICVILLE QUAD

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:

Acreage Justification:

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:

ORGANIZATION: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Significance of this property is:

National  State  Local

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
1500-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
X 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

## SPECIFIC DATES

1858

## BUILDER/ARCHITECT

John Parsons (builder)

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

St. Joseph's Church in Morganza, Maryland was built by the St. Joseph's Parish between 1858 and 1864 on land donated by George H. Morgan and Mary S. Morgan, his wife. On June 10, 1858 the cornerstone was laid and on July 3, 1864 the church formally opened.

The primary importance of St. Joseph's Church lies in its architecture which is High Victorian Italianate and Italian Villa. This form of architecture had some popularity during the 1850's and a number of good examples may be found in Baltimore, Md. These forms of architecture are quite unusual for Southern Maryland and St. Joseph's Church is the only example found in St. Mary's County.

The Villa style may be seen in the E entrance tower which in exception to the practice of placing it asymmetrically upon the structure is centered in the front of the facade. The Victorian Italianate is reflected in the interior especially the domed chancel. This chancel has a frescoed ceiling and the altar rises in two tiers of pink marble corinthian columns topped with an elaborate arch with carved cherubs. Other High Victorian styling may be found in the use of a corbeled brick design throughout the exterior of the building framing each bay of the main hall and all four faces of the tower. This design has been called a "Herringbone" design by Dr. Chandlee Forman\*.

see CONTINUATION SHEET

\* Maryland Architecture, A Short History from 1634 through the Civil War p.86

do properly please

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

1. Edwin W. Beitzell, The Jesuit Missions of St. Mary's County, Maryland, St. Mary's County, Maryland, 1960.
2. St. Mary's Beacon,  
Leonardtwn, Maryland. July 16, 1864, } all on one line

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 5**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION****LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES**

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

John K. Bruton, Research Analyst I

ORGANIZATION

St. Mary's County Committee, Maryland Historical Trust

STREET &amp; NUMBER

c/o David Roberts (Chmn.) 109 Lakeland Dr.

CITY OR TOWN

Hollywood

DATE

11/9/76

TELEPHONE

(301) 373-5251

STATE

Maryland

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  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438

CONTINUATION SHEET

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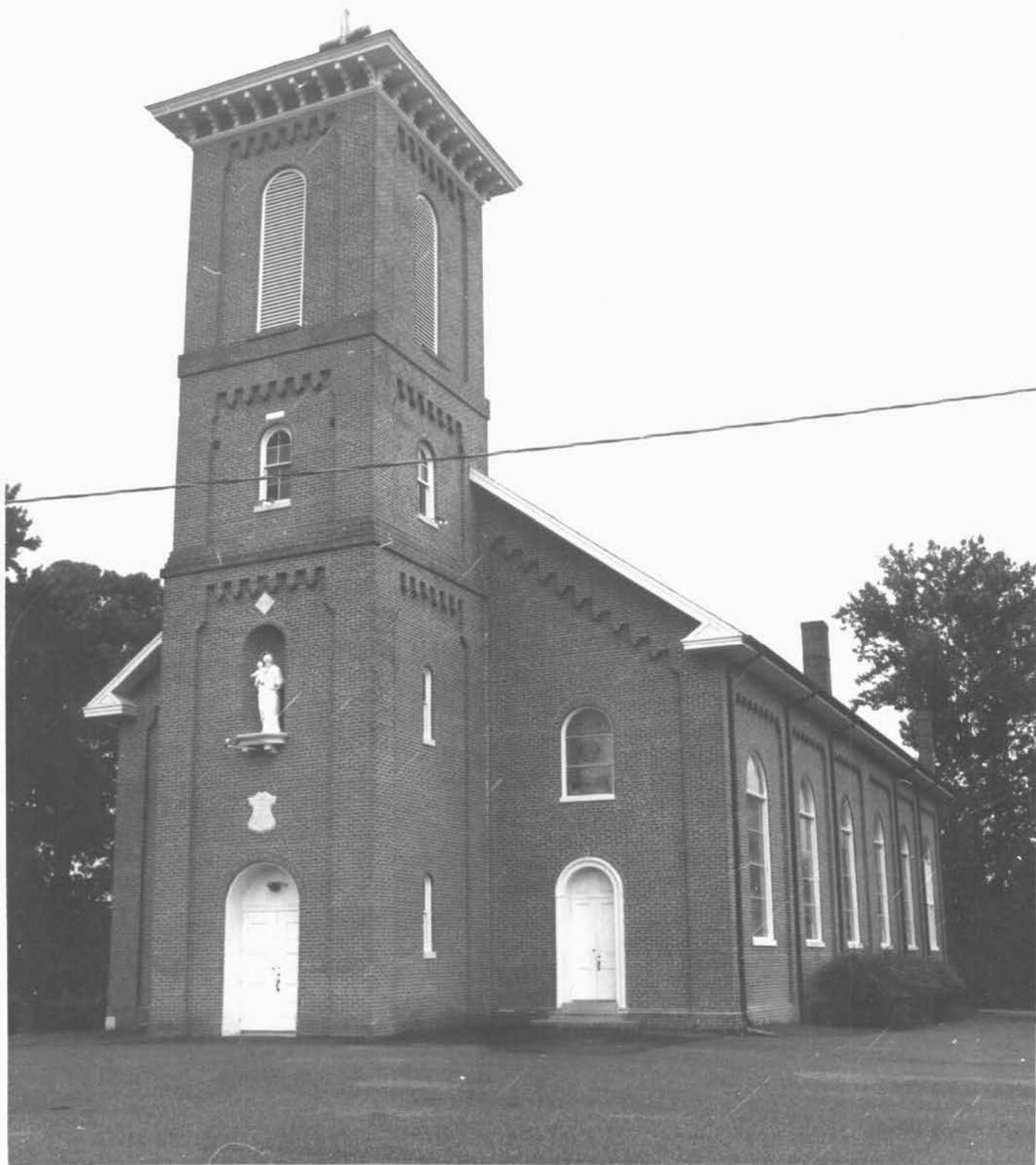
St. Joseph's Church

#9 Major Bibliographical References

3. H. Chandlee Forman, Maryland Architecture, A Short History from 1634 Through the Civil War, Tidewater Publishers, Cambridge Md. 1968

~~4. Elisabeth Hoff, Hope Swann, "Miracles at~~

Forman, H. (Chandlee). Maryland Architecture, A Short ... (Copy from above). Cambridge, Md.: Tidewater Publishers, 1968.



St. Joseph's Church, Marygrove, Md.  
1976

J. Bracke  
SM-79

Tower entranceway E facade

SM-79



St. Joseph's Church, Marygrove Mich.  
1976

J. Gordon  
SM-79

Tracer detail



St. Joseph's Church, Morganza Md.  
1976

J. Bowler  
SM-79

W-external & S side



St. Joseph's Church, Morganza, La.

1976

J. Benton

SM-79

Chancel



84%

SM-79

P. 132

St. Joseph's Church, Maryland

1876

J. E. Foster

SM-79

Order with [unclear] [unclear] & alter

1876







St. Joseph's Church, Maryland, Md. J. P. Smith  
1976

Chancel & Alter







SM-79