

Capsule Summary
SM-863
Old St. Joseph's Cemetery
Morganza
Private

1700s

The Old St. Joseph's Cemetery, located on the northwest corner of Point Lookout and Busy Corner Roads, represents the final resting place for the parish's founders. Edwin Beitzell has suggested that the parish had at least a mission church near the present site as early as the 1730s. (Beitzell, 62) While the original mission church is no longer standing, the graves that remain are a reminder of the Catholic presence in Morganza since the eighteenth century. While earlier stones were merely pieces of local ironstone with initials and dates engraved in their tops, later markers feature elaborate motifs such as crosses and willow trees. The cemetery is marked by its relative simplicity as very few table tombs, obelisks, and monument stones remain.

In May of 1904, the old burial ground had reached its capacity and a new parcel, situated just north of the present church was purchased for a new cemetery from Mr. John H. Reeder (Beitzell, 267). After several years of neglect, the old cemetery was recently cleared of underbrush and is now a State Highway Authority marked historic site.

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. SM-863

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Old St. Joseph's Cemetery

other

2. Location

street and number NW corner of Point Lookout and Busy Corner Roads, 29119 Pt. Lookout Rd. not for publication

city, town Morganza vicinity

county St. Mary's

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

name Patrick A. O'Boyle, Archbishop of Washington

street and number No address (St. Joseph's Parish) telephone N/a

city, town Morganza state Md zip code 20660

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. St. Mary's County Courthouse tax map and parcel TM-18, P-154

city, town Leonardtown liber JMM 2 & JFF 4 folio 279 & 86

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	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input type="checkbox"/> domestic	<input type="checkbox"/> social	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> structures
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> objects
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> funerary	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<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	
				<u>0</u>	

7. Description

Inventory No. SM-863

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.

Old St. Joseph's Cemetery is located on the northwest corner of Bushy Corner and Point Lookout Roads in the rural crossroads community of Morganza, Maryland. Situated on a 2.51 acre parcel, the cemetery has only recently been uncovered and cleared so that the graves of former congregants could be identified. The parcel is marked by its rolling topography and its close proximity to a tributary of St. Clements Creek. The property is bounded to the west by Point Lookout Road, to the north by a wooded parcel, to the east by a residential parcel, and to the south by Busy Corner Road. Most of the graves are oriented on an east/west axis and occur in groups where the ground is flat enough not to be washed by erosion. Graves range in date from the eighteenth century to modern times. Funerary motifs found on some graves include willow trees and crosses. Very few table tombs, obelisks, and large monuments are present.

8. Significance

Inventory No. SM-863

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input 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	<input type="checkbox"/> 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

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.)

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9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. SM-863

Hammett, Regina Combs. History of St. Mary's County, Maryland: 1634-1990. Ridge, Md: Self-published, 1994.

Beitzell, Edwin Warfield. The Jesuit Missions of St. Mary's County, Maryland. 3rd ed. Leonardtown, Md: St. Mary's County Historical Society, 1998.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 2.51 acres
Acreage of historical setting same
Quadrangle name Leonardtown & Mechanicsville Quadrangle scale: 1:24 000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The property is bounded to the west by Point Lookout Road, to the north by a wooded parcel, to the east by a residential parcel, and to the south by Busy Corner Road. A more specific description of the properties boundaries can be found in St. Mary's County Land Records Liber JMM 2 & JFF 4, Folio 279 & 86.

11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Kirk E. Ranzetta, Historic Sites Surveyor		
organization	St. Mary's County Department of Planning & Zoning	date	August, 2000
street & number	22740 Washington Street	telephone	301-475-4662
city or town	Leonardtown	state	Maryland

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



50

42°30' 51

HUGHESVILLE 4 MI.
MECHANICSVILLE 7 MI

52

5660 NW
(MECHANICSVILLE) 53

MI. TO MD. 235

40'

x165

Soreville

Staffer Ca

Sand & Gravel Pit

Somerville

ROAD

PINOLISHION

Banquet Road

SM-863
Old St. Josephs Cemetery
Morganza
St. Mary's County
Leonardtwn & Mechanicsville Quads

Radio Tower
(WKIK)



SP-153

Old St. Joseph's Cemetery

St. Mary's County

Kirk Ranze Ha

Sept/00

M 545

Lee Ranze St

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