St. Ignatius is a small brick church with a frame vestibule at its west end and a brick sacristy at its east. The former was added in 1886 and the latter in 1817; the church itself was constructed in 1785.

In 1641 a Roman Catholic chapel was built at St. Mary's City, succeeding the Indian hut first used as a place of worship. This was closed by the royal governor in 1704 with the enforcement of the religious penal laws of Maryland. The congregation then removed its worship services to St. Inigoes Manor, erected in the same year and containing a chapel. A small frame church was built in a field near the Manor house in 1745.

The present church was constructed in 1785 after the American Revolution had restored freedom of religion to Maryland. Within sight of St. Inigoes Manor house, it is of locally made brick laid in Flemish bond with random glazed headers, a water table and gable banding. The vestibule and pedimented pavilion behind it are covered with round end shingles. The wooden belfry above this entrance is a 1933 replacement of an earlier, larger one.

The interior, altered somewhat in 1817, is very sophisticated. Reeded Doric columns support a balustraded gallery on three sides, the walls and vaulted ceiling are plastered and elaborately frescoed in blue and brown. The three rows of boxed pews are divided by two aisles. A painting of the crucified Christ hangs over the altar and statues of
Joseph and Mary are set above the doors on either side of the altar. Behind the altar is a large arched reredos with fluted pilasters with reeded stops and stylized Ionic capitals supporting a modillioned cornice and broken-arched pediment. The altar itself is supported by tapered Corinthian columns.

This property has been included on the National Register of Historic Places, United States Department of the Interior.
1. NAME

HISTORIC
St. Inigoes Church; The Cove Church
AND/OR COMMON
St. Ignatius Roman Catholic Church (Preferred)

2. LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER At entrance to NESTEF, end of Villa Road—west of Rt. 5 about 2 miles
CITY, TOWN St. Inigoes
STATE Maryland

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY DISTRICT BUILDING(S) STRUCTURE SITE OBJECT
X DISTRICT
X BUILDING(S)
X STRUCTURE
X SITE
X OBJECT

OWNERSHIP PUBLIC PRIVATE– BOTH PUBLIC ACQUISITION

STATUS OCCUPIED UNOCCUPIED WORK IN PROGRESS ACCESSIBLE
X OCCUPIED
X UNOCCUPIED
X WORK IN PROGRESS
X ACCESSIBLE

PRESENT USE AGRICULTURE COMMERCIAL PARK
X EDUCATIONAL PRIVATE RESIDENCE
X ENTERTAINMENT RELIGIOUS
X GOVERNMENT SCIENTIFIC
X INDUSTRIAL TRANSPORTATION
X MILITARY OTHER

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Corporation of Roman Catholic Clergymen
STREET & NUMBER The Provincial's Residence, Maryland Province of the Society of Jesus, 5704 Roland Avenue
CITY, TOWN Baltimore
STATE Maryland

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. St. Mary's County Courthouse
STREET & NUMBER
CITY, TOWN Leonardtown
STATE Maryland

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
DATE
FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS
CITY, TOWN STATE
St. Ignatius Roman Catholic Church is located at the southwest end of Villa Road about one and three quarters miles west of St. Inigoe's, St. Mary's County, Maryland.

St. Ignatius Church and its adjacent cemetery are situated on about two acres of land that are enclosed within a late nineteenth century iron fence. The church is of locally made brick laid in Flemish bond with random glazed headers. The four walls of the main body of the building have walls twenty-one inches thick. The exterior wall surfaces were later painted with a stucco like paint which is now worn very thin.

The church is a rectangular one story structure that is fronted by a one story wood framed vestibule on the west end (front) added in 1886 and, at the rear, a one story brick sacristy dating from 1817. The walls of the vestibule and the two story pedimented pavilion that it fronts are covered with round end, "fish scale" shingles. It has a centered double leafed paneled door flanked by two decorative stained glass windows, one on each side. Over the door, in the area normally occupied by a transom, is a tablet which reads: "I have chosen this place to myself for a house of sacrifice......and have sanctified it, that my name may be there forever, and my eyes and my heart may remain there perpetually." A second smaller tablet is set within the gable and reads:

"THS MAR IGNATIUS"

On the second floor level of the pavillion is a lancet arched stained glass window.

The main body of the church is three bays in length on both sides. Each bay contains a round arched stained glass window headed by a projecting arch of rubbed gauged brick with brick keystones and impost. Although the presence of undisturbed closure bricks on both sides of each window indicates that the window openings are original, the arches themselves are highly unusual and are the only known regional examples of such a feature. The gabled roof runs east to west and has a modillioned eave cornice with gable returns. At the front (west end) of the roof is a small wooden belfry that in 1933 replaced a larger one in this same location. At the first floor ceiling level of each end is a two course brick band, a detail usually associated with Maryland's Lower Eastern Shore but which has a local precedent at Mill Point Farm, a small, brick mid eighteenth century house that was demolished several decades ago. The church stands on a molded brick watertable with small, regularly spaced vertical vents.

The 1817 sacristy is also of Flemish bond, but without a watertable or gable banding. A single entrance on its south side has a flat arch of rubbed brick and frames a four panel door. On the exposed east end are two first floor windows headed by flat arches and framing.

(See continuation sheet No. 1)
-sash of nine over six panes. Within the gable are two small archless windows of four over two pane sash. The gable roof has a flush chimney the east end and the modillioned eave cornice, matching in detail and possibly contemporary to the cornice of the main block, has pattern end boards rather than gable returns.

The double leafed door of the front entrance vestibule opens into a small room with an open string stair with winders on the north wall that provides access to the "U" shaped gallery of the church. Double leafed two panel doors on the east wall of the vestibule open into the church. The main body of the church has three rows of boxed pews divided by two center aisles. Along both sides are reeded columns of the Doric order supporting the balustraded gallery.

The altar, raised on a three step platform, is surrounded by a "U" shaped communion rail with turned balusters. The altar has a table supported by round tapered columns with Corinthian capitols and tiered shelves behind a columned tabernacle. The altar fronts a large arched reredos with fluted pilasters with reeded stops and stylized Ionic capitols supporting a modillioned cornice and broken arched pediment. Within the former area is hung a framed painting of the crucified Christ. Centered on the pediment is a statue of Christ. Flanking each side of the reredos and altar are two paneled doors, one on each side. Over the left hand door (as you are facing the altar) is a large statue of the Virgin Mary; on the opposite side of the altar is a similar statue of Joseph. Both statues front painted niches and stand on elaborately carved brackets.

The interior walls and vaulted ceiling (the original flat ceiling was removed and the present ceiling introduced during the renovations of 1817) of St. Ignatius Church are plastered and, in 1817, elaborately frescoed in shades of blue cream and a reddish brown, certainly one of the finest and oldest surviving examples of that art form in Marylan
The significance of St. Ignatius Church is that it is a direct descendant of Maryland's first Roman Catholic Chapel at St. Mary's City, who's communicants formed the nucleus of American Catholicism. The name is that of the patron saint of the Maryland venture, St. Ignatius, founder of the Society of Jesus. Further significance is in its dependence and co-existence with historic St. Inigoe's Manor, on which lands it is situated and which lands were acquired by the Jesuit Fathers in 1637 according to the Conditions of Plantation of the Maryland Colony.

In 1641 there was a Roman Catholic Chapel at St. Mary's City which succeeded the Indian hut which Father Andrew White described as a place of worship.

In 1704 the royal Governor Seymour closed the chapel due to the abrogation of the Act of Toleration of 1649 and the enactment of the religious penal laws in Maryland. The Catholic colonists, according to local tradition, took the bricks of their chapel at St. Mary's downriver to St. Inigoe's Manor and used them in the building of the great Manor House which contained a chapel. The law permitted worship in a private home and here the dispossessed congregation of St. Mary's City worshipped.

In 1745, a small frame church was built in a field near the Manor.

In 1785, when the American Revolution has resulted in freedom of religion being re-established in Maryland, the present St. Ignatius brick church was built in sight of the Manor House on Church Cove. Father John Carroll, later the first Archbishop of Baltimore, laid the cornerstone. Graves from the old cemetery were transferred to the new church cemetery, the oldest being dated 1731.

From St. Inigoe's missionaries went forth to serve at Kent Island, the Eastern Shore, Mattapany, Newtown, White's Neck, Port Tobacco, Piscataway and Anacostia. Over 127 Jesuits served here and were intimately concerned with the spiritual and temporal welfare of their congregation. The Superiors named from 1634 to 1946 begin with Father Andrew White, missionary and author of the "Relation" and then list such historic figures as Father Thomas Copley who was entitled to 28,000 acres of

(See continuation sheet No. 2)
land according to the Conditions of Plantation and other noted missionaries, martyrs, teachers, administrators, builders of schools, founders of parishes, chaplains to local prison camps and the moral and practical leaders of the area. The annual letters of the Jesuit Superiors to their Provincials, at first in England and later in Maryland, reflect the history of the colony: the raids on the farms and Manor House in Pirate Ingle's Rebellion; the Revolutionary War; the War of 1812 when the Novitiate was transferred from here to escape the British invasions; the War Between the States when the pastor of St. Ignatius Church ministered to the prisoners at Point Lookout and the many summers Jesuit seminarians spent at the Villa on the Manor. All these accounts give intimate glimpses of the parish of St. Ignatius and its people.

Prominent Catholic prelates and Archbishops Gibbons, Spalding, Benedict Fenwick, Kenrick, and Roosevelt Bayley visited here and on occasion administered the Sacrament of Confirmation.

The cemetery, dating from 1731, contains the graves of Jesuit priests, brothers, and novices from England, Belgium, and France, as well as native-born sons. The deceased parishioners buried here include most of the ancestral names of the founding fathers of Maryland.

Father John LaFarge, author, editor of America, and founder of the Catholic Inter-racial Council, celebrated Mass here regularly and often slept in the room over the sacristy. Undoubtedly, this St. Inigo's complex was the focal point of religion, culture, and social life in the area and its influence spread well beyond geographic boundaries.

Regular services were held in this present St. Ignatius Church from 1786 to 1930 and at present are held on special occasions. Mass is celebrated yearly on Maryland Day as a part of the official program of the St. Mary's City Commission. The church is opened daily for the convenience of the public and tours are arranged as requested for school children and other tourists.

In addition to its historical significance, St. Ignatius Church is important as one of the oldest surviving Catholic churches in Maryland. Its decorative details, both that remaining from the original structure as well as the improvement of 1817, are among the most sophisticated in Tidewater Maryland.
9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Archives of Maryland VI, 539, 540

Father White's "Relation"


(See continuation sheet No. 3)

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: LESS than 1 acre

UTM REFERENCES

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

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11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE
St. Mary's City Commission/J. Richard Rivoire

ORGANIZATION
Maryland Historical Trust

DATE
May 1975

STREET & NUMBER
21 State Circle

TELEPHONE
(301) 267-1438

CITY OR TOWN
St. Mary's City/Annapolis

STATE
Maryland

12. STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL ____  STATE ____  LOCAL ____

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Historical Papers-Copley-page 21 L. A. B. and H-folio 27

"Sacred Heart Messenger" 1899--June:

St. Mary's "Beacon" 1886.

The Day Star Davis

The Jesuit Missions of St. Mary's County Beitzell

The Woodstock Letters -- Vol. 62

OWNER OF PROPERTY

U.S. Department of the Navy
Webster Field
Patuxent, Maryland
MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

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

1. NAME
   COMMON:
   St. Ignatius Church
   
   AND/OR HISTORIC:
   St. Inigo's Church

2. LOCATION
   STREET AND NUMBER:
   On Webster Field Road at the end of Villa Rd., 2 1/2 miles south of St. Mary's City
   CITY OR TOWN:
   north of St. Inigo's in Beachville
   STATE:
   Maryland
   COUNTY:
   St. Mary's

3. CLASSIFICATION
   CATEGORY (Check One)
   [ ] District [ ] Building [ ] Site [ ] Structure [ ] Object
   [ ] Building [ ] Site [ ] Structure [ ] Object
   [ ] Public [ ] Private [ ] Both
   [ ] Public Acquisition:
   [ ] In Process [ ] Being Considered
   [ ] State [ ] Federal
   [ ] Park [ ] Private Residence [ ] Religious
   [ ] Preservation work in progress
   [ ] Transportation [ ] Other (Specify)
   ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
   [ ] Yes: [ ] Restricted [ ] Unrestricted [ ] No

   PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)
   [ ] Agricultural [ ] Commercial [ ] Educational [ ] Entertainment
   [ ] Government [ ] Industrial [ ] Military [ ] Museum
   [ ] Private Residence [ ] Religious [ ] Scientific
   [ ] Other (Specify)
   [ ] Transportation [ ] Other (Specify)

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY
   OWNER'S NAME:
   Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Washington
   STREET AND NUMBER:
   1711 W St. NW
   CITY OR TOWN:
   Washington
   STATE:
   DC 20036

4. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION
   COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
   St. Mary's County Courthouse
   STREET AND NUMBER:
   CITY OR TOWN:
   Leonardtown
   STATE:
   Md.

4. REPRESENTATION OF CURRENT DEED (BOOK & PG. #):

4. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS
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   DATE OF SURVEY:
   [ ] Federal [ ] State [ ] County [ ] Local
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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE.
The cornerstone of the present St. Inigoes Church was laid on July 13, 1785 by Father John Carroll, then Superior of the Maryland Roman Catholic clergy. It was completed in 1788 and Father Francis Neale, S.J., who had recently returned to his native land after being educated at St. Omers in the lowlands, preached the dedication sermon. St. Inigoes is the only all brick Roman Catholic Church surviving in St. Mary's County. It survived two British raids on St. Inigoes Manor during the War of 1812. The Manor land dates back to 1637 and the ancient Manor House of 1705 (burned 1872) with the predecessor church or churches cover a span of over 300 years of religious activity of the Jesuits. It was here that Father Joseph Carberry (1816-49) recovered the cannon from the Ark and the Dove which now grace the lawn of the State House in Annapolis, St. Mary's City, Georgetown University, and other locations.
### 9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES


### 10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

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**Approximate Acreage of Nominated Property:**

Acreage Justification:


### 11. FORM PREPARED BY

**Name and Title:** Edwin W. Beitzell

**Organization:** St. Mary's Co. Historical Society

**Date:** Jan. 5, 1970

**Significance of this property is:**

- National
- State
- Local

Signature


---

Rev. 8/74 by R. B. White, summer intern, Md. Historical Trust

State Liaison Officer Review: (Office Use Only)
17 August 1983:

Mrs. Beth McCoy requested that I visit the church to see if the removal of plaster had revealed concealed architectural evidence. In particular, she wondered if horizontal oak sleepers let into the brickwork were evidence of former panelling.

**Oak Sleepers**

At least six levels of 3" X 5" oak horizontals are let into the interior of the walls. Their primary function seems to have been to stiffen the brickwork. Only the top sleeper had a significant number of nail holes (for a deeper cornice?). Except at the window trim, most have no nail holes.

**Nailing Blocks**

Two generations of nailing blocks were visible on the interior of the walls. On the entrance end ("west"), original, ½" X 3" blocks were let into the mortar joints. (For the original confessinals?) Later, ½" X ½" square wood plugs had been driven into holes bored into the brickwork. Identical ½" X ½" plugs had been driven into the north and south sidewalls in reasonably regular rows, 6 to 7 feet above the floor. Each bore bare the remains of a broken nail. The member fastened to these plugs is unknown.

**Plaster Lath**

Almost all the plaster lath is hand river oak. The lath of the nave is secured to the ceiling frame with early machine cut, hand-headed lath nails.

**West Window**

The width of the original window is preserved by the width of the present opening cut thru the brickwork. (For an 1883 photograph showing the window, see Beitzell, 1976, p. 73.)

**East Window**

The sacristy at the east end of the church is an addition. Stripping the plaster from its west interior wall (the original east exterior wall of the church) revealed an original small window slightly north of the altar.

- Garry Wheeler Stone
  20 August 1983

GWS:cvj

cc: Mrs. McCoy(2)

St. Maries City, P.O. Box 39, St. Mary's City, Md. 20686 (301) 994-0779 (301) 862-1634
An Agency of the Maryland Department of Economic & Community Development
West wall of Sacristy from

original Flemish bond w/scored joints

Evidence of small window to one side of altar
East & west walls have 1/2 x 1/2" nailers (with nails) driven into brickwork 6' to 7' above floor. They were for previous finish now removed.
S. E. f. 1934
SM-13
St. Ignatius Church, Shinjuku

[Handwritten note]
St. Ignatius (St. Imigave) Church
5/14/15
SM-15 St. Ignatius R.C. Church
S.M. - 15 St. Ignatius R.C. Church.
SM-15 St. Ignatius R.C. Church
S.M.-15 St. Ignatius R.C. Church
S.M. - 15 St. Ignatius RC Church
S.M. -15 St. Ignatius R.C. Church
SM-15  St. Ignatius R.C. Church
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Ignatius
SM-15  St. Ignatius R.C. Church
SM-15
St. Ignatius Church
St. Mary's County
Kirk Ranetto
Nov 1999
Md #60
S+W elevations
1 of 3
SM 15
St. Ignatius Church
St. Mary's County, Md
Kirk Ranzetta
Nov. 1999
Md SHPO
N+1 Elevations
2 of 3
SM-15
St. Ignatius Church
St. Charles's County, Md
Kirk Ranzetta
Nov. 1997
Md. SHPO
Interior - Looking E
3 of 3