SM-79

St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church

Architectural Survey File

This is the architectural survey file for this MIHP record. The survey file is organized reverse-chronological (that is, with the latest material on top). It contains all MIHP inventory forms, National Register nomination forms, determinations of eligibility (DOE) forms, and accompanying documentation such as photographs and maps.

Users should be aware that additional undigitized material about this property may be found in on-site architectural reports, copies of HABS/HAER or other documentation, drawings, and the “vertical files” at the MHT Library in Crownsville. The vertical files may include newspaper clippings, field notes, draft versions of forms and architectural reports, photographs, maps, and drawings. Researchers who need a thorough understanding of this property should plan to visit the MHT Library as part of their research project; look at the MHT web site (mht.maryland.gov) for details about how to make an appointment.

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Last Updated: 01-06-2004

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 until the Hollywood Lions Club cleaned it up as a Bicentennial activity.

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MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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
☐ District ☒ Building ☐ Site ☐ Structure ☐ Object	☐ Public ☒ Private ☐ Both	Public Acquisition: ☐ In Process ☐ Being Considered	☒ Occupied ☐ Unoccupied ☐ Preservation work in progress	Yes: ☒ Restricted ☐ Unrestricted ☐ No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Agricultural	☐ Government	☐ Park	☐ Transportation	☐ Comments
☐ Commercial	☐ Industrial	☐ Private Residence	☐ Other (Specify)	
☐ Educational	☐ Military	☒ Religious		
☐ Entertainment	☐ Museum	☐ 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:

PS – 709

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One) ☐ Excellent ☐ Good ☐ Fair ☐ Deteriorated ☐ Ruins ☐ Unexposed	
	(Check One) ☒ Altered ☐ Unaltered	(Check One) ☐ Moved ☐ 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 ~~were~~ cost appx. $10,000 and the church reopened the same year.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD *(Check One or More as Appropriate)*

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

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

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE *(Check One or More as Appropriate)*

- Aboriginal
  - ☐ Prehistoric
  - ☐ Historic
- ☐ Agriculture
- ☐ Architecture
- ☐ Art
- ☐ Commerce
- ☐ Communications
- ☐ Conservation
- ☐ Education
- ☐ Engineering
- ☐ Industry
- ☐ Invention
- ☐ Landscape Architecture
- ☐ Literature
- ☐ Military
- ☐ Music
- ☐ Political
- ☒ Religion/Philosophy
- ☐ Science
- ☐ Sculpture
- ☐ Social/Humanitarian
- ☐ Theater
- ☐ Transportation
- ☐ Urban Planning
- ☐ Other *(Specify)* _____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

MECHANICSVILLE QUAD

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:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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

8 SIGNIFICANCE

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PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
[illegible]EHISTORIC	__ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	__COMMUNITY PLANNING	__LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	__RELIGION
__[illegible]00-1499	__ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	__CONSERVATION	__LAW	__SCIENCE
__1500-1599	__AGRICULTURE	__ECONOMICS	__LITERATURE	__SCULPTURE
__1600-1699	X ARCHITECTURE	__EDUCATION	__MILITARY	__SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
__1700-1799	__ART	__ENGINEERING	__MUSIC	__THEATER
X 1800-1899	__COMMERCE	__EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	__PHILOSOPHY	__TRANSPORTATION
__1900-	__COMMUNICATIONS	__INDUSTRY	__POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	__OTHER (SPECIFY)
		__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 was 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 asymetrically 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 celing and the alter rises in two tiers of pink marble corinthian columns topped with an elaborate arch with carved cheribs. 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

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

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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. Leonardtown, 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~~ er

ORGANIZATION — DATE

St. Mary's County Committee, Maryland Historical Trust — 11/9/76

STREET & NUMBER — TELEPHONE

c/o David Roberts (Chmn.) 109 Lakeland Dr. — (301) 373-5251

CITY OR TOWN — STATE

Hollywood — 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.

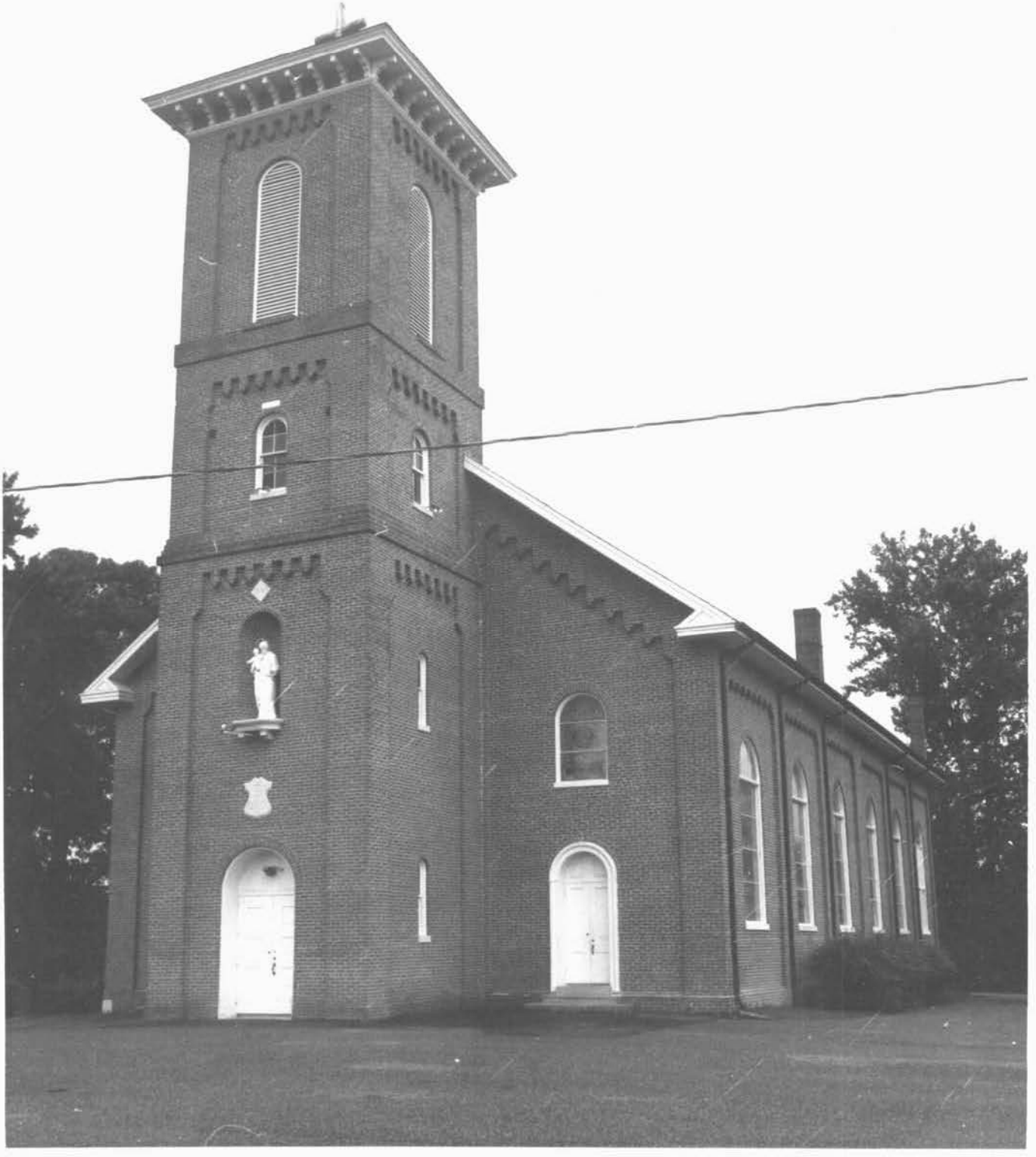
RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

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



St. Joseph's Church, Morgantown Ind.
1976

J. Brock
SM-79

Tower entrance only E facade

SM-79

SAINT
JOSEPH'S
CHURCH

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

J. Fenton
SM-79

Tower detail

St. Joseph's Church, Mungeon Md.

J. Brunton

SM-79

MT 6

W-elevation of S side

St. Joseph's Church, Morgantown, W.Va.
1906

J. Burton
SM-79

84% SM-79 P. 132

St. Joseph's Church, Mangalore

J. Cochin

1876

SM-79

altar

St. Joseph's Church, Montgomery, Md.

J. Bradley

1976

SM-79

Reader Aisle Name & Class Left

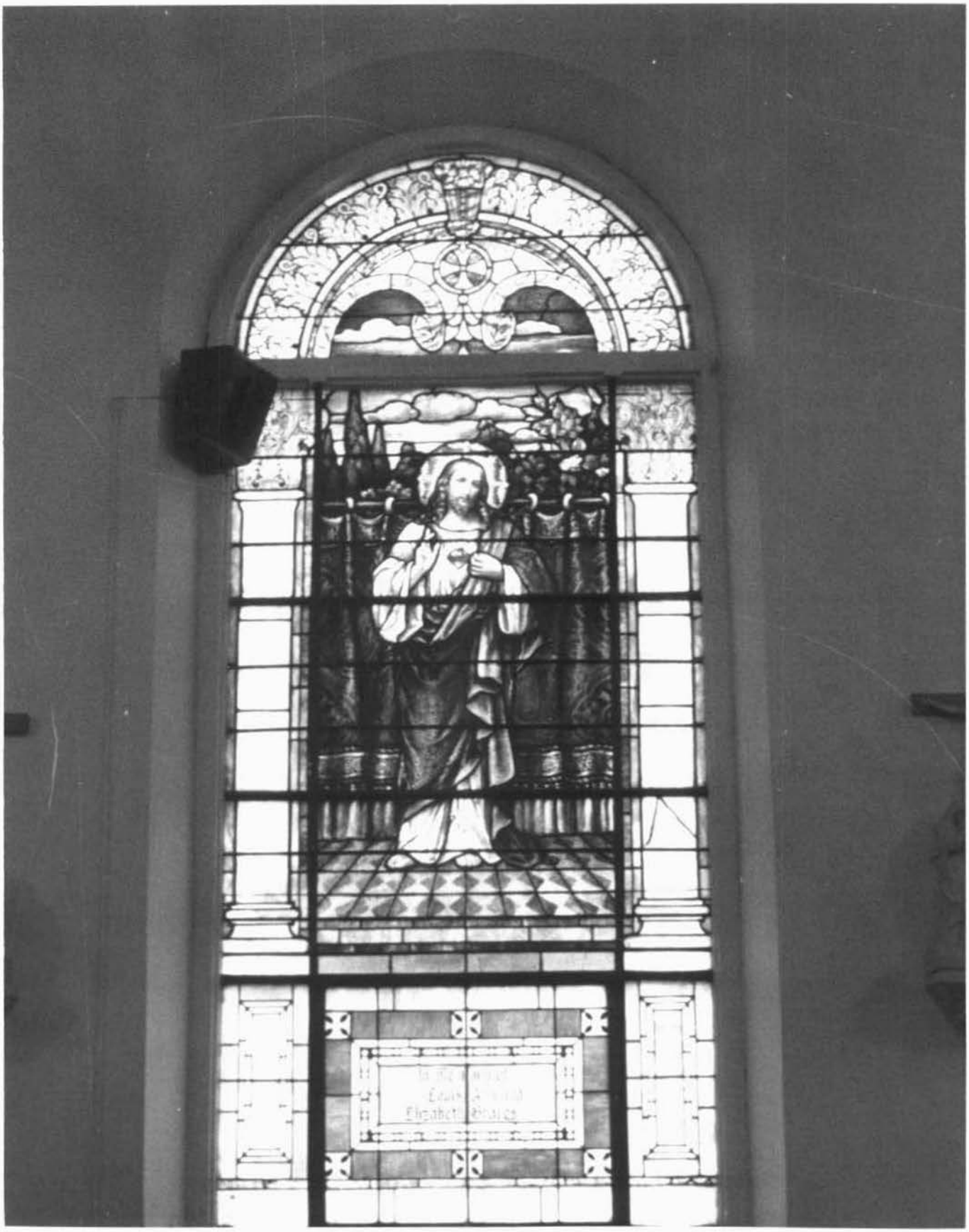
St. Joseph's Church, Mangaweka, N.Z. J. Brooke
1976
Chancel & Alter

St. Joseph's Church, Mount Vernon, Ind.

J. Bierbaum
SM-79

1976

Chancel Stairs



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