

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Maryland	
COUNTY: Talbot	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:  
St. John's Chapel of St. Michael's Parish

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
St. John's Chapel

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Maryland Route 370, at Miles River, on Miles River Neck

CITY OR TOWN:  
Easton

STATE Maryland	CODE 24	COUNTY: Talbot	CODE 041
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3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>abandoned</u>

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:  
Vestry of St. Michael's Parish contact: Rev. Donald F. Etherton

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Talbot Street 104 West Chestnut Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
St. Michaels, Maryland

STATE: Maryland	CODE: 24
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5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Talbot County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Courthouse Square

CITY OR TOWN:  
Easton

STATE: Maryland	CODE: 24
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6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
Maryland Register of Historic Sites and Landmarks

DATE OF SURVEY: 1971  
 Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
Maryland Historical Trust

STREET AND NUMBER:  
2525 Riva Road

CITY OR TOWN:  
Annapolis

STATE: Maryland	CODE: 24
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:  
COUNTY:  
ENTRY NUMBER  
DATE:

FOR NPS USE ONLY

## 7. DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

St. John's Chapel of St. Michael's Parish is a granite Gothic Revival ruin standing on the north bank of the Miles River. The deteriorating walls are partially obscured by ivy. It is in danger of being demolished by the proposed widening of the Miles River Bridge.

Similar to other early Gothic Revival chapels built during the second quarter of the nineteenth century, St. John's is basically a rectangular box with a west tower. It is almost identical to the Episcopal Church at Newark, Delaware, except that the Delaware church is covered with stucco and painted white. This type of church is similar to some New England meeting houses, but here the New England steeples are replaced by a crenelated tower. The windows are pointed and have Gothic sashes.

The building measures thirty-five feet wide and fifty feet deep, not including the square crenelated tower protruding from the west facade. There are the remains of a chancel and sacristy on the east end.

The windows and doors have lancet arches composed of four pieces of dressed granite. Two plaster panels of the same size and shape as the side windows flank the entrance tower. Above the double doors in the tower is a huge lancet opening, formerly a window, but now filled in with boards. Below the top of the tower and above the aforementioned arch is a short arcade, now entwined with ivy. At each corner of the structure is a square buttress which extends above the former "A" roof.

The chapel having been abandoned around 1895 and allowed to deteriorate, few pews, sashes, blinds, etc. have survived. Nevertheless, enough detail remains to effect accurate restoration drawings of the vestibule and nave.

There was originally a wide block of box pews in the center of the church and a narrow tier of pews along each outside wall. The design of the box pews is similar to the earlier Georgian churches of the area, but with lighter detail. In the two west corners were winding staircases leading to the gallery and tower. Traces of plaster cornice remain on the north side of the tower. The plaster was furred out from the granite walls except on the huge brick arch between the chancel and nave.

The Maryland Historical Trust has recommended the ruin to the State Highway Administration and the Historical Society of Talbot County as historically and architecturally important and worthy of preservation.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

3. 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century |                                       |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1835-1839

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi- | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry    | losophy   | <u>local history</u>                                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention   | <input type="checkbox"/> Science                  | _____   |
| <input checked="" 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

St. John's Chapel of St. Michael's Parish was the first Gothic Revival granite church constructed in Talbot County, as well as the first on the Eastern Shore. It has survived to date (1972) as a ruin.

Construction was begun in 1835 on land donated by Charles Lowndes. The Chapel was consecrated in 1839 by the Right Reverend George Washington Doane, Episcopal Bishop of the Diocese of New Jersey (1832). The rector of the parish during the years of construction was the Reverend Joseph Spencer.

St. John's Chapel is apparently the prototype of the granite Gothic Revival church of which there are several in Talbot County, such as Christ Church, St. Peter's Parish (1841); Christ Church, St. Michael's Parish (1878); Trinity Church, Oxford; and the Cathedral in Easton.

The members of the parish during the years of planning and construction were some of the most important and influential people in the state and in the county. Being abreast of the styles of the day, it was logical that they should be responsible for the introduction of the Gothic element into Ecclesiastical building on the Eastern Shore. They constructed a building, which, even in its decay, is a monument to the integrity of taste not only of the Lowndes, Lloyds, Tilghmans, Buchannans, and Goldsboroughs, but also to the workmen who constructed the building and to the black people who were baptized and married there.

Consideration is presently (1972) being given to the stabilization of the walls and possible preservation as a ruin.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Addison, James T. The Episcopal Church in the United States. Arction Books, 1969.

Albright, Raymond W. A History of the Protestant Episcopal Church. MacMillan Company, New York, 1964.

Harper, Anna Ellis. "History of St. Michael's Parish." n.p., 1956.

[see continuation sheet]

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

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
NW	° ' "	° ' "		38°	47'	46"
NE	° ' "	° ' "		76°	07'	44"
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 4 acres

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:  
Michael Bourne, Cary Carson, and William Morgan

ORGANIZATION: Maryland Historical Trust      DATE: July 19, 1972

STREET AND NUMBER:  
2525 Riva Road

CITY OR TOWN: Annapolis      STATE: Maryland 21401      CODE: 24

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name Orlando Ridout IV  
Orlando Ridout IV

Title State Liaison Officer for Maryland

Date July 21, 1972

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date \_\_\_\_\_

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Form 10-300a  
(July 1939)UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE		Maryland	
COUNTY		' Talbot	
FOR NPS USE ONLY			
ENTRY NUMBER		DATE	

(Number all entries)

St. John's Chapel of St. Michael's Parish

## 9. BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES, continued

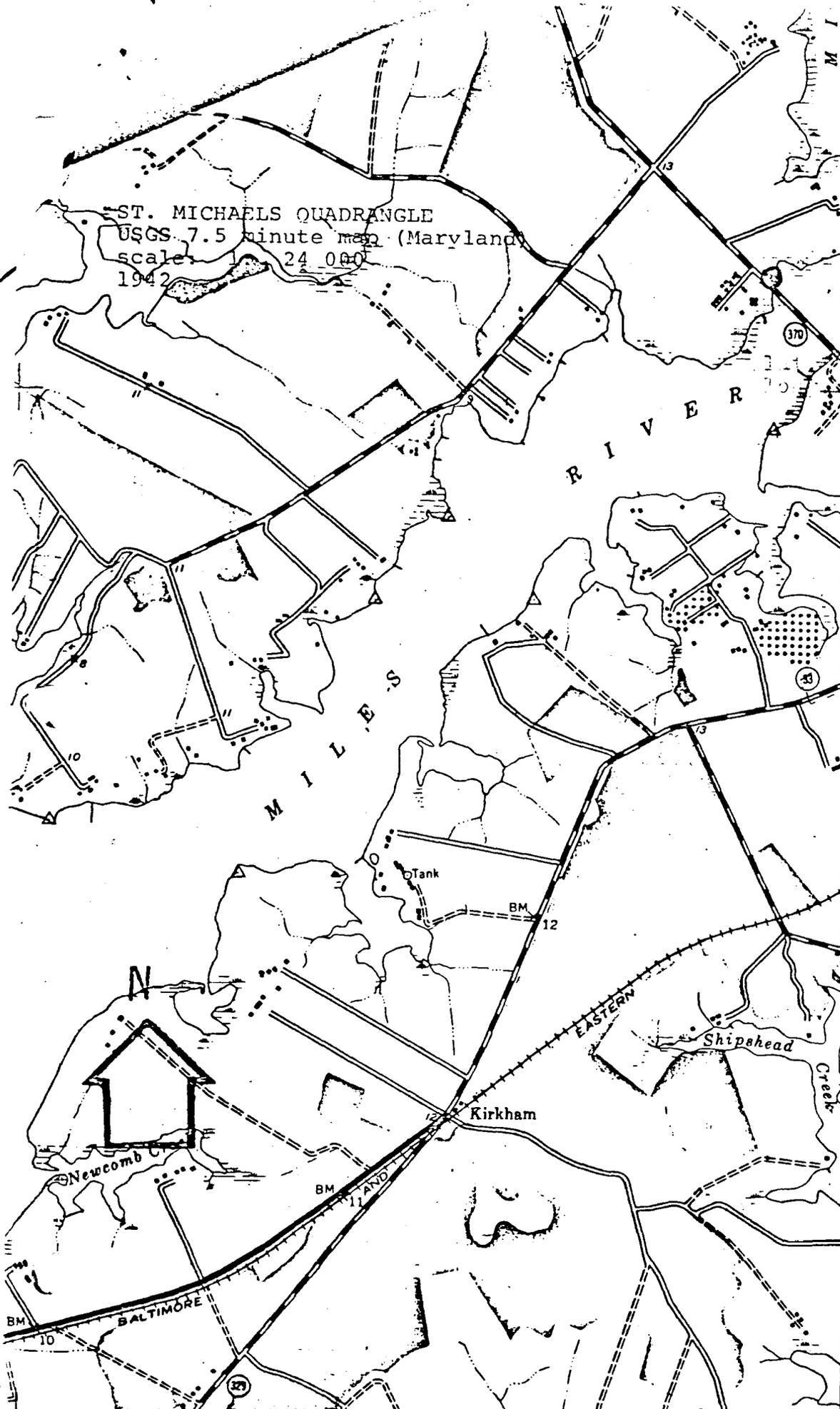
St. Michael's Parish. Parish Register. Hall of Records,  
Annapolis, Maryland.

St. Michael's Parish. Vestry Minutes. Hall of Records, Anna-  
polis, Maryland.

Talbot County Land Records. Talbot County Courthouse, Easton,  
Maryland.

Talbot County Library, Easton, Maryland. Vertical file.

Upjohn, Everard. Richard Upjohn Architect and Churchman. New  
York: Columbia University Press, 1934.



ST. MICHAELS QUADRANGLE  
 USGS 7.5 minute map (Maryland)  
 scale 1:24,000  
 1942

ST. JOHN'S CHAPEL

38° 47' 46"  
 76° 30' 07' 44"

EASTON 2.8 MI.

4290000m.N.

38°45'

10'

ROYAL OAK 1.4 MI.

INTERIOR-GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON D C-1981

76°07'30"



.12 x 1.64

25 1/10

7.9

85%

~~Ch. 8~~

~~Illus 1~~

Ruins of

ST. Johns Chapel-of-Ease

7.9

T-49

Fig. 7.9



St. Michael's Parish - Chapel of Ease

T-49



606 = 2



St. Johns Chapel

T-49

49%



T-49

West - old photo - T. Co Hist. Soc.

MICHAEL BOURNE

Sept 1976



St. Michael's Parish - Chapel of Ease

T-49

606-6



St. Michael's Parish - Chapel of Ease -

7-49

606

— 3



St. Michael's Parish - Chapel of Ease -

T-49

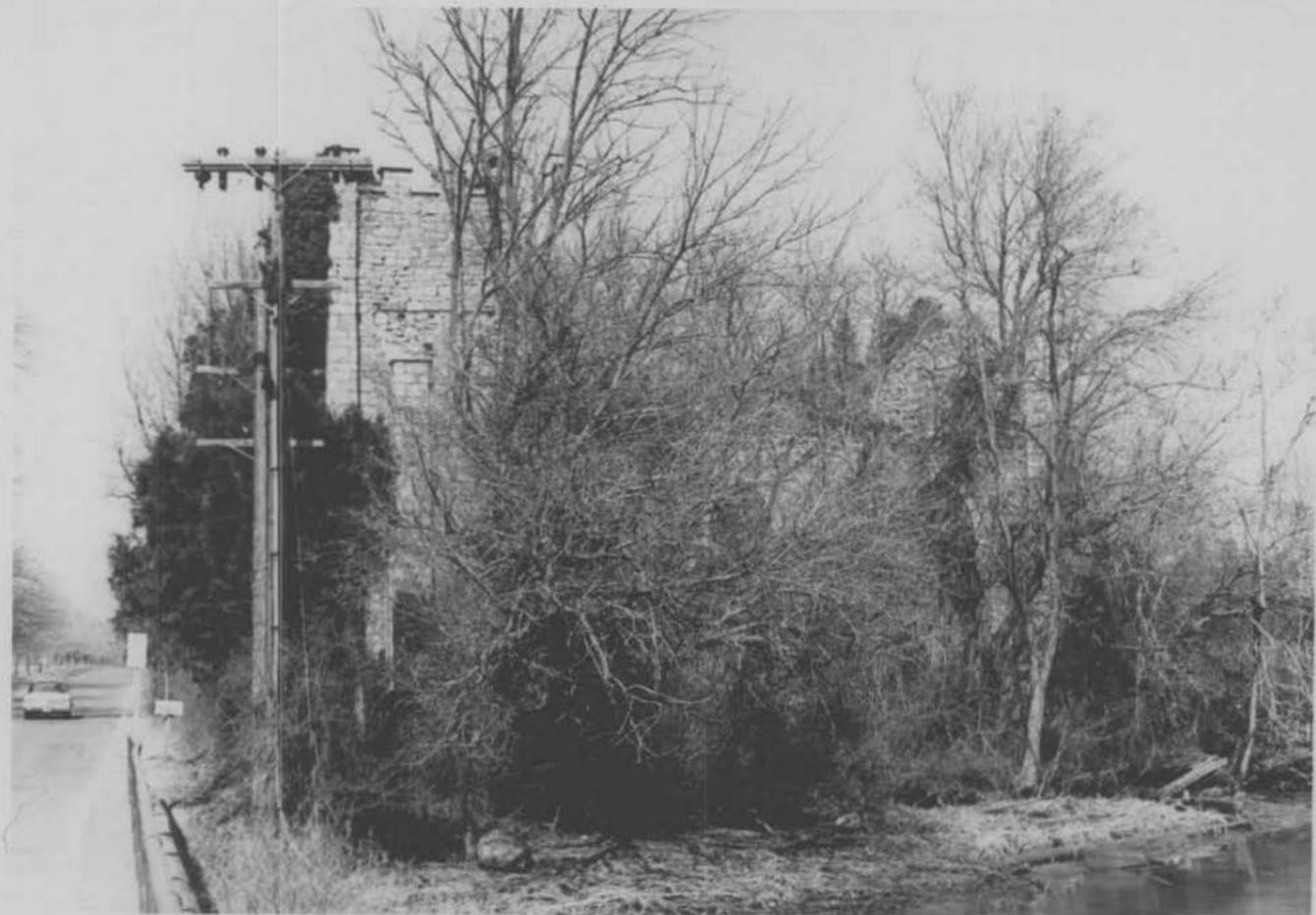
606 - 9



St. Michael's Parish - Chapel y Ease

7-49

606 - 6



St. Michael's Parish - Chapel of Ease

T-49

606-5