

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM**

NR Eligible: yes   
no

Property Name: St. Mary's Star of the Sea Catholic Church Inventory Number: WO-325  
 Address: 208 South Baltimore Avenue Historic district:  yes  no  
 City: Ocean City Zip Code: 21842 County: Worcester  
 USGS Quadrangle(s): Ocean City  
 Property Owner: St. Mary Star of the Sea Church Tax Account ID Number: 028191  
 Tax Map Parcel Number(s): 2584 Tax Map Number: 110  
 Project: Bridge 2300700, US 50 over Sinepuxent Bay Agency: SHA  
 Agency Prepared By: KCI Technologies, Inc.  
 Preparer's Name: Sandra Scaffidi Date Prepared: 9/30/2005  
 Documentation is presented in: MIHP No. WO-325, St. Mary's by the Sea; MIHP No. WO-412, Ocean City Survey District  
 Preparer's Eligibility Recommendation:  Eligibility recommended  Eligibility not recommended  
 Criteria:  A  B  C  D Considerations:  A  B  C  D  E  F  G  
*Complete if the property is a contributing or non-contributing resource to a NR district/property:*  
 Name of the District/Property: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Inventory Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Eligible:  yes  no Listed:  yes  no  
 Site visit by MHT Staf  yes  no Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Description of Property and Justification: *(Please attach map and photo)*

Located on the southwest corner of Baltimore Avenue and Talbot Street, St. Mary's Star of the Sea Catholic Church is a single story, frame church built on a rusticated concrete foundation. Constructed circa 1878, the church has a steeply pitched front gable roof which is covered in asbestos shingles. The east (main) façade has a central gabled entrance flanked by stained glass lancet arch windows. A round oculus is centrally located above the vestibule and an enclosed tower is located on the northeast elevation. The building is clad in wood shingles. The north elevation has a central gabled dormer which protrudes from the roof. The north elevation also contains six lancet arch windows. A parsonage is located to the south of the church and a brick half wall surrounds the property.

St. Mary's Star of the Sea Catholic Church appears eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for its association with the development of religion in Ocean City in the late nineteenth century. The building does not appear to be associated with any person of local, state, or national significance (Criterion B). Modern alterations have compromised the architectural integrity of this structure, which does not appear to be the work of a master (Criterion C). Finally, the resource does not appear to possess the potential to yield additional significant historical information (Criterion D).

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW**

Eligibility recommended  Eligibility not recommended   
 Criteria:  A  B  C  D Considerations:  A  B  C  D  E  F  G

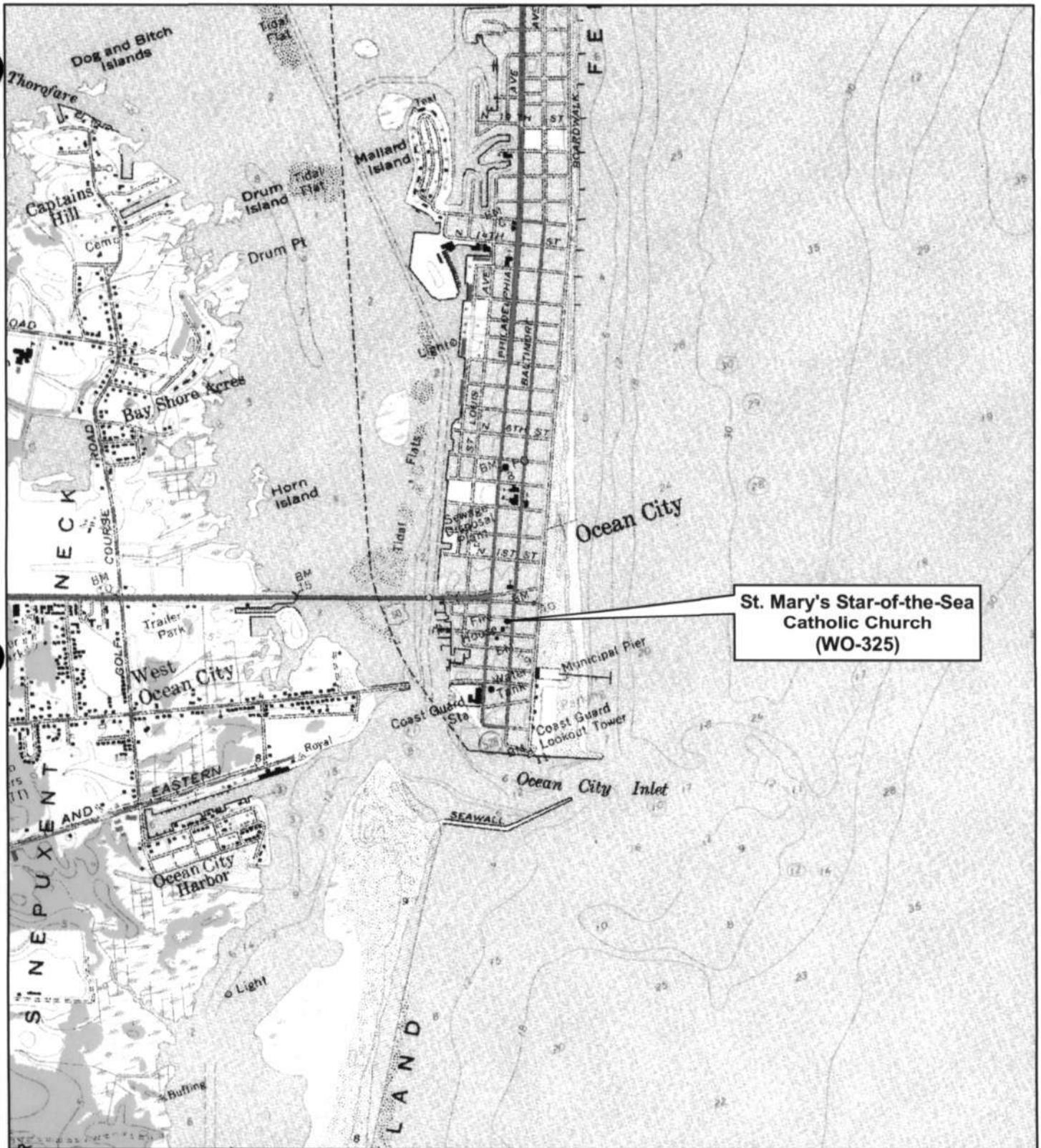
MHT Comments:

John J. [Signature]  
 Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

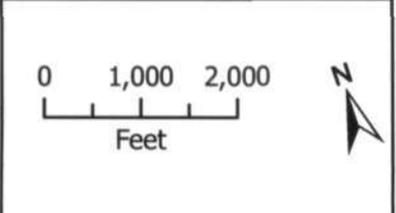
6/28/06  
 Date

[Signature]  
 Reviewer, National Register Program

6/29/06  
 Date



**St. Mary's Star-of-the-Sea  
Catholic Church  
(WO-325)**



**St. Mary's Star-of-the-Sea  
Catholic Church**  
 Bridge No. 2300700  
 US 50 over Sinepuxent Bay  
 Worcester County, MD

Source: Ocean City, MD  
 USGS 7.5 Minute Quadrangle  
 (1964)



ST. MARY  
STAR OF THE SEA  
BUSBY PARISH  
7942 BAYVIEW  
SAT. 5:15PM  
8:00 & 10 AM SUN.

WO-412, WO-325  
St Mary's Star of the Sea Catholic Church, Ocean City Survey District  
Worcester County Maryland

Sandra Scalfidi

9/22/05

MD SHPO

Facing west. East elevation of the St Mary's Star of the Sea Church

1 of 3

5.65 BA010ANX0N NNN 0 7007

004

SuperiorPhoto 0/05 64153



WO-412, WO-325  
St Marys Star of the Sea Catholic Church  
Worcester County, Maryland  
Sandra Scaffidi

9/25/05

MD SHPO

Facing southeast, north elevation visible

2 of 3

5.65 BA010ANX0N NNN- 3 7007

008

SuperiorPhoto 0/05 64157



W10-412, W10-25

Talbot at Baltimore, South Side

Ocean City Survey District

Worcester County, MD

Jenny Gardner

305

MD SHPO

<No. 10 > 012

14-11-11 11:11 11 11 11 11 11 11 11 11

facing SW

~~3 of 3~~

3 of 3

WO-325

1878

St. Mary's Star-of-the-Sea Catholic Church  
Ocean City  
Public worship

The St. Mary's Star-of-the-Sea Catholic congregation was one of the earliest religious groups to organize and build a church in the new ocean-side resort during the late 1870s. The Gothic Revival frame, standing on Lot 55, was erected with its principal gable facing Baltimore Avenue. Connected to the church on the south side is the early twentieth century parsonage.

Reported to have been erected in 1878, the building is one of the oldest structures still standing in the resort town. The single-story frame church, with its three-story bell tower, is not sheathed with wood shingles, but early images of the church indicate the building was covered initially with board and batten siding. Pointed arch colored glass windows illuminate the sanctuary.

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. WO-325

Magi No.

DOE  yes  no

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic ST. MARY'S STAR-OF-THE-SEA CATHOLIC CHURCH

and/or common

## 2. Location

street & number SW corner of Baltimore Ave. and Talbot St.  not for publication

city, town Ocean City  vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Worcester

## 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

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

name St. Mary's Star-of-the-Sea Catholic Church

street & number Baltimore Avenue telephone no.:

city, town Ocean City state and zip code Md 21842

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Worcester County Clerk of Court liber 231

street & number Worcester County Courthouse folio 691

city, town Snow Hill state MD 21863

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records

city, town state

## 7. Description

Survey No. WO-325

### Condition

excellent  
 good  
 fair

deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

### Check one

unaltered  
 altered

### Check one

original site  
 moved      date of move \_\_\_\_\_

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

St. Mary's Star-of-the-Sea Catholic church stands on the southwest corner of the intersection of Baltimore Avenue and Talbot Street in the center of Ocean City, Worcester County, Maryland. The single-story frame church faces east with the principal gable oriented on an east/west axis.

Built around 1878, the single-story, wood shingled frame church is supported by a rusticated block foundation, and the steeply pitched gable roof is covered with asbestos shingles. Rising on the northeast corner of the building is a three-story tower topped by a pyramidal spire.

The east (main) elevation is an asymmetrical facade with a center gabled entrance and flanking colored glass lancet windows. The replacement front doors are incorporated into a projecting gabled vestibule. Fixed above the entrance is a colored glass round window. The eaves to the roof are extended, and rising atop the gable roof is a small cross. The northeast corner tower is marked on the first floor by pointed arch, colored glass windows, while the second level is uniformly covered with wood shingles. An old postcard of the church indicates the middle level was defined by round window. Piercing the belfry are pairs of louvered vents on each face, which were originally open. The pyramidal tower roof has a flared base.

The north side of the church is dominated by a large cross gable, and the wall is pierced by eight colored glass lancet windows. The eaves to the roof are slightly extended.

The back of the church is defined by a pair of colored glass windows on the first floor and a round window in the upper gable.

The interior was not seen.

# 8. Significance

Survey No. WO-325

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 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** 1878 **Builder/Architect**

check: Applicable Criteria:  A  B  C  D  
and/or  
Applicable Exception:  A  B  C  D  E  F  G

Level of Significance:  national  state  local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

St. Mary's Star-of-the-Sea Catholic church is a prominent architectural and historical site in Ocean City. Reported to have been erected in 1878, the building is one of the oldest structures still standing in the resort town. Built to follow the Gothic Revival style the wood shingled frame church was originally covered with board and batten siding. Through the years the church has been modified with various alterations, but despite these changes the gable front church with its three-story tower is an early and distinctive landmark fronting Baltimore Avenue in the old part of town. The early twentieth century parsonage, now connected to the church, stands as well.

### HISTORY AND SUPPORT

The St. Mary's Star-of-the-Sea Catholic congregation was one of the earliest religious groups to organize and build a church in the new ocean-side resort during the late 1870s. The Gothic Revival church, standing on Lot 55, was erected with its principal gable facing Baltimore Avenue.



HISTORIC CONTEXT INFORMATION

Resource Name: St. Mary's STAR-OF-THE-SEA CATHOLIC CHURCH

MHT Inventory Number: WU-325

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA:

1) Historic Period Theme(s):

ARCHITECTURE  
RELIGION

2) Geographic Orientation:

EASTERN SHORE

3) Chronological/Developmental Period(s):

INDUSTRIAL / URBAN DOMINANCE  
(1870-1930)

4) Resource Type(s):

STANDING STRUCTURE

1. CHURCH

WO-325  
ST. MARY'S STAR-OF-THE-SEA  
Ocean City, Maryland  
Chain of title

231/691                    Catholic Diocese Foundation  
                             formerly Catholic Foundation of the  
                             Diocese of Wilmington, Delaware

                             to

3/29/1968                St. Mary's Star-of-the Sea Church  
                             Lots 55, and 74 West side of Baltimore Ave.

Will Book                Rt. Reverend Edmund J. Fitzmaurice, Wilm.

                             to

                             Catholic Foundation of the Diocese of  
                             Wilmington  
                             Fitzmaurice died 7/25/1962

BB 4/20                    Rt. Rev. John J. Monaghan, Wilmington

                             to

12/7/1925                Rt. Rev. Edmund J. Fitzmaurice, Wilmington

ITM 4/538                Plat of Ocean City

7/28/1876

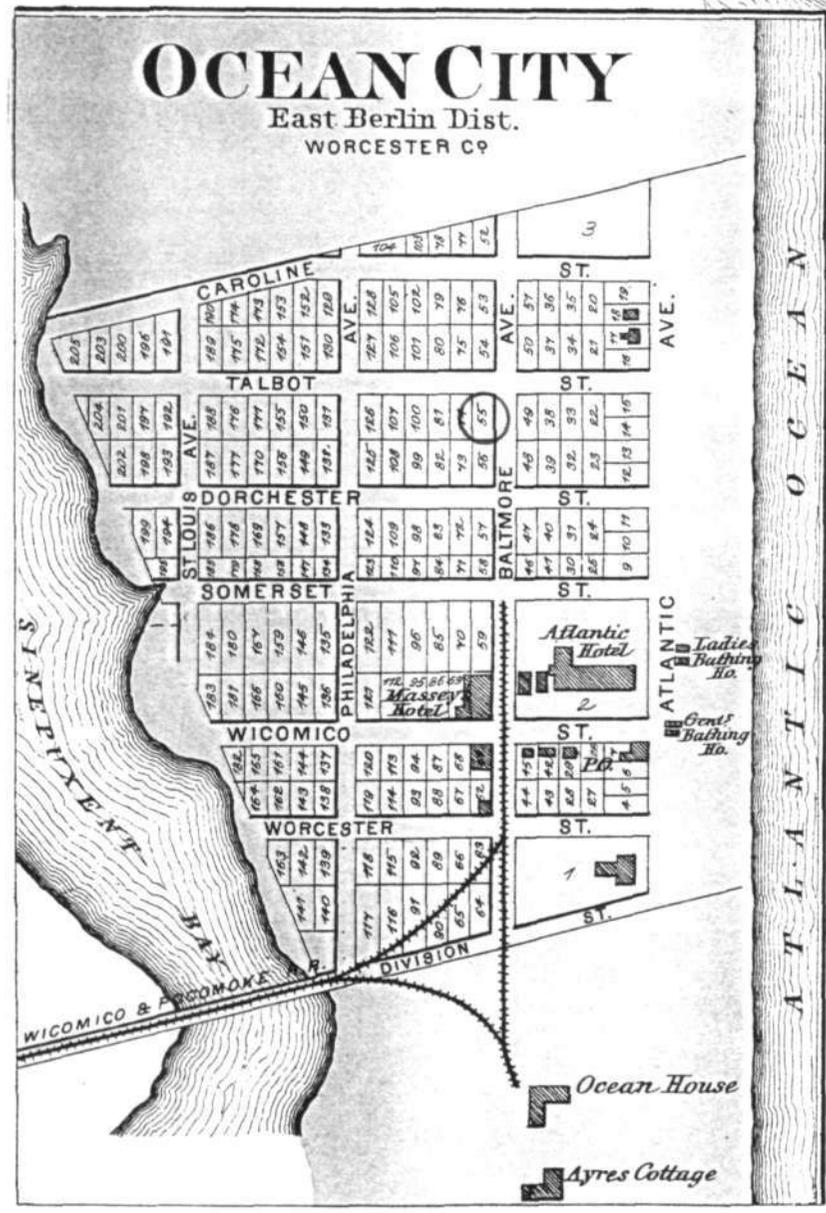


P.C. #1123

Ocean City LIFESAVING STATION MUSEUM  
COLLECTION

W0-325  
St. Mary's STAR-OF-THE-SEA CATHOLIC CHURCH

1877 LACE, GRIPKING,  
AND STEVENSON ATLAS



**OCEAN CITY BUSINESS REFERENCES.**

- J. TRACY**, Proprietor of Atlantic Hotel, Ocean City; also, of Peninsula House, Salisbury.
- SAM'L J. MASSEY**, Proprietor of Seaside House, Ocean City, Md. Terms, two dollars per day; ten dollars per week; meals fifty cents each. Liberal arrangements made with families. First-class Bar, Bowling Alley and Livery Stable attached.
- COPPIN & LYNCH**, Proprietors of the Ocean House, Ocean City.

**WHALEYVILLE BUSINESS REFERENCES.**

- JOHN P. R. GILLISS**, Physician and Surgeon.
- P. W. DALE & BRO.**, Dealers in Dry Goods, Notions, Boots, Shoes, &c., &c.
- P. WHALEY**, Merchant and R. R. Agent.
- H. T. WHALEY, & CO.**, Dealers in Dry Goods, Groceries, Hats, Caps, Boots, Shoes, and Notions.
- JAMES WHALEY**, Judge of the Orphans' Court.
- LEANDER CLIFTON**, Blacksmith. All work in his line done to order.
- J. E. WHITAKER**, Proprietor of Whaleyville Steam Saw Mills, Grinding, Sawing and Carding. All work done in good order.

492

5'

493

MARYLAND BEACH 5 MI

528

5960 1 NE (ASSAWOMAN BAY)

495

496

2'30"

North Ocean City

W I G H T

Trailer Park  
Filtration Plant  
Water Tank

FENWICK ISLAND

FENWICK ISLAND

Ocean City

WO-325  
ST. MARY'S STAR-OF-THE-SEA CATHOLIC CHURCH  
Ocean City, Maryland Quadrangle  
1964

