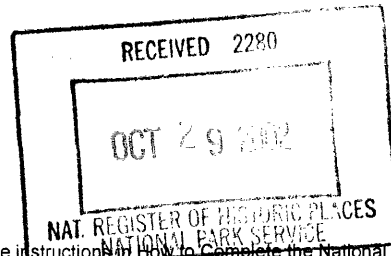


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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in how to complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and sub-categories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

=====

**1. Name of Property**

=====

historic name **St. Joseph's Industrial School**

other names/site number **CRS# K-5054**

=====

**2. Location**

=====

street & number **355 West Duck Creek Road** not for publication city or town **Clayton** vicinity  
state **Delaware** code **DE** county **Kent** code **001** zip code **19938**

=====

**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

=====

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets  does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally.

( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

*Donna R. Hoff* *October 25, 2002*  
Signature of certifying official Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  
( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

=====

#### 4. National Park Service Certification

=====

I, hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register  
See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register  
See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register  
removed from the National Register

National Register

National Register

other (explain):

*Patrick Andrews 12/12/2002*

Signature of Keeper

Date of Action

=====

#### 5. Classification

=====

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
3	1	buildings
0	0	sites
1	0	structures
3	0	objects
7	1	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

Name of related multiple property listing N/A

=====  
**6. Function or Use**  
=====

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: **Religion**  
**Religion**

Sub: **Religious Facility**  
**Church-related Residence**

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: **Religion**  
**Social**

Sub: **Religious Facility**  
**Civic**

=====  
**7. Description**  
=====

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

**Late Victorian- Italianate**

**Late 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Century Revivals- Colonial Revival**

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation **Stone, Brick, Concrete**

roof **Asphalt Shingle**

walls **Composition Shingles, Asphalt**

other **Wood**

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

=====

### 8. Statement of Significance

=====

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- X A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- X C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- X A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

**Ethnic Heritage- Black  
Architecture  
Education**

Period of Significance **1895-1960**

Significant Dates **1895**

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above) **N/A**

Cultural Affiliation **African-American**

Architect/Builder: **1951 Administration and Rectory Building: Gaudreau and Gaudreau, Baltimore, MD**

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

=====

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

- N/A preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- N/A previously listed in the National Register
- N/A previously determined eligible by the National Register
- N/A designated a National Historic Landmark
- N/A recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
- N/A recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

Primary Location of Additional Data

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: **Josephite Father's Archive, 1130 North Calvert Street, Baltimore, Maryland**

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## 10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of Property **Approximately 5.5 acres**

UTM Reference

	Zone	Easting	Northing
1.	<b>18</b>	<b>445061</b>	<b>4349351</b>

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

=====  
**11. Form Prepared By**  
=====

name/title **Robin K. Bodo, Historian and Dawn Melson, Preservation Planner**

organization **Delaware State Historic Preservation Office; Kent County Department of Planning**

date **May 2002; June 2001**

street & number **15 The Green; 414 Federal Street**      telephone **302-739-5685; 302-744-2471**

city or town **Dover ; Dover**                      state **DE; DE**      zip code **19901; 19901**

=====  
**Additional Documentation**  
=====

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

=====  
**Property Owner**  
=====

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name **Jim Gilliland, Executive Director, St. Joseph's Project Foundation**

street & number **355 West Duck Creek Road**                      telephone **302-653-8814**

city or town **Clayton**                      state **DE**      zip code **19938**

=====  
Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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**DESCRIPTION**

St. Joseph's Industrial School is located on West Duck Creek Road near the northern Kent County community of Clayton, Delaware. Due to a series of fires throughout the history of the property, what remains is the administrative and religious part of the workings of the school. The school has a historic core of three contributing buildings, three contributing objects, and one contributing structure placed in a designed landscape of specimen trees, bedded plantings, and the pedestrian and vehicular circulation systems generally contained within or adjacent to a semi-circular road that defines the outer limits of the historic property. Although the entire parcel of 225(?) acres remains in tact and under the ownership of the St. Joseph's Project Foundation, the area defined as significant in this nomination includes only the central core of historic properties set upon approximately 5.5 acres. The landscape of the rest of the property, although historically and currently used for agriculture, has changed substantially and no historic buildings that relate to the agricultural significance of the property remain outside this boundary. The only other known potentially eligible National Register property on the larger parcel is the cemetery, but due to its location far from the main collection of buildings, it was not evaluated or considered as part of this project. Resources within the nominated boundary include:

**THE CHAPEL K-5054.001 (Contributing Building)**

Built in 1896, the chapel at the St. Joseph's Industrial School is the historical and architectural focal point of the complex. This frame building is a sophisticated blend of the traditional basilica church form detailed in the Italianate style of architecture. The plan has a two story central nave flanked by single story side aisles. Clerestory windows line both sides of the second level. The central section has a low pitched hipped roof. The side aisles have half-hip roof structures. Originally a bell tower was placed at the northwest corner of the chapel and stood an additional two stories in height. It was detailed to look like a campanile that would be placed on a town square in Italy. The diamond shaped wood shingle siding of the shaft was a distinctive feature along with the ornate woodwork at the top of the tower. Extensive deterioration was evident by the early 1980s and the administration made the decision to cut down the tower to one story capped with a gable roof after 1983. The building rests on a Brandywine granite foundation of dressed, uncoursed stone with grapevine joints.

The façade of the building faces east. The exterior is clad with white asbestos shingle over the original weatherboard siding. An account from the 1950s records the shingles, when first placed, were coral in color. The chapel is approximately 140 feet by 36 feet wide. The central bay projects from the main plane of the façade and is two stories with its arched double entry door flanked by arched sidelights.

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Concrete steps lead to double doors painted to match the trim and are emblazoned with white crosses. The arched transom space over the door is covered and also includes a cross emblem. The trim motif of the three part window and door configuration consists of engaged pilasters from which flat arches spring. The middle arch is broken by a wood keystone detail. A wood belt course makes the distinction between floors. A wooden surround in the three part Palladian form on the second floor, is similarly detailed to the entry below. The central section is filled in with a simple wood board and once was the backdrop for statuary no longer in place. The smaller side arches are filled with stained glass windows. This central section is capped by a low hipped roof with a bracketed cornice. A cross is mounted at the forward roof peak of this hipped roof. The surrounds on the windows of the side bays of the façade are similarly detailed with a single grouping of three stained glass windows on each side. The stained glass windows on this front facade are made up of a grid pattern with a clover figure in the upper portion of the window. A religious element, such as a chalice or cross, is integrated into the patterning of the clover figure.

The south elevation is generally composed of a series of nine regularly spaced paired stained glass windows on the first floor. The exception is the second opening from the north, which has a large square window instead of the double window combination. On these windows, the window surround is plain with a drip molding on the arched portion. These windows include stained glass windows given in memorial from 1938-1949. The stained glass pattern consists of a biblical figure in a grid pattern background. The first window closest to the front facade however, is a different pattern. Here a cartouche with figure is framed by ribbonwork and curvilinear elements. The upper wall of the central section includes nine regularly spaced clerestory windows. The stained glass patterning of the clerestory windows is the grid pattern with clover figure.

The west elevation follows the three part configuration of the façade, plus the bell tower. In the central bay, the five sided chancel is a distinct element flanked by single one over one arched windows in the one story side sections. The chancel, only one story in height, has no window or door openings.

The north elevation is similar to the south elevation and consists of the series of six double windows and one square window with stained glass on the first floor. The upper wall of the central section includes nine clerestory windows. These sets of paired windows follow the same stained glass patterning seen on the south elevation. At the northeast corner, a carved cornerstone is laid into the granite stone foundation. In three lines it reads: ORA ET LABORA 1896 IRA FIT SALUS AETERNA. (Prayer and work will be our eternal salvation.)

The bell tower is located at the northwest corner of the building. The upper portions of the bell tower



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above the first floor were removed after 1983. Entry into the bell tower is a set of double doors with crosses on the east elevation of this element. The wood door surround consists of engaged pilasters topped with a pediment whose peak is broken by a round medallion supported by carved scrollwork. The current roof on the bell tower section is a gable roof of asphalt shingles.

The interior follows the three part plan of a nave with side aisles. A series of Doric columns with arched openings mark the transition from the two story height of the nave to the one story side aisles. The historic pews have been removed. Currently, chairs are arranged in lieu of pews, recreating the center aisle leading back to the altar space. The series of arched windows shed light from second story clerestory windows into the nave. In the side aisles, exposed roof trusses connect the exterior wall to the column transition following the rhythm established by the columns. The ceiling of the building is covered with decorative pressed tin. The altar space no longer contains the original marble fixtures. They were relocated to the cemetery remotely located on the western portion of the property. In the nave, the following inscription is repeated: "What doth it profit a man to gain the whole world, if he suffer the loss of his own soul." Contributing building.

**THE ENTRY ARCH K-5054.002 (Contributing Structure)**

Placed at the entry to the property is a formal tri-partite barrel vaulted, semi-circular arch constructed of Brandywine Granite. Built in 1896, the arch survives from the first period of construction on the site from the St. Joseph's Industrial School. The stone is laid with grapevine joints and sandstone is utilized as an accent material. The tall central bay is wide enough for vehicular traffic with the smaller flanking arches at pedestrian scale. Historic photographs show the wrought iron gates that once graced each opening but now only the hinges remain. The intrados of the central arch is of sandstone carved with "St. Joseph's Industrial School." The spandrel of the arch contains a sandstone band carved with a bible verse from the New Testament. In capital letters and centered on two lines, it reads, "What doth it profit a man to gain the world and suffer the loss of his own soul. Mt. 16:26." Sandstone medallions carved with the date "1896" are placed in the spandrel between the arches. The structure is capped with a gable roof with asphalt shingles surmounted by a metal cross. The rear elevation of the archway, the section facing the interior of the school, has no sandstone decoration.

**ADMINISTRATION BUILDING AND RECTORY K-5054.003 (Contributing Building)**

The Administration Building and Rectory was built in 1951 by the Baltimore architectural firm of Gadreau and Gadreau in the Colonial Revival style. Built in the shape of a cross, the two and one half story brick

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building displays the typically restrained Colonial Revival detailing of the period including: brick laid in Flemish bond; five course quoins and water table; regularly arranged fenestration composed of 8/8 double hung sash wood windows with flat brick stretcher lintels, stone sills and simple wood surrounds. The fenestration on the first floor is placed in full sized door openings with the lower third filled by a decorative wood panel. The building displays this level of detailing on each of the four elevations. Set on a concrete block foundation with brick facing, the basement is lit by a series of regularly spaced 4 lite wood windows. The overall roof shape is hip with the entrance displaying a cross gable. A cupola surmounted by a cross is placed the intersection of the two rooflines. Copper gutters and downspouts are used to manage rain water.

The façade of the Administration Building and Rectory faces east toward Duck Creek Road and the historic core of the town of Clayton. This elevation is nine bays long, with the entrance placed off center, reinforcing the cross shape of the building. The entrance is placed in the central bay of a three bay projecting section. The single leaf entrance door is placed within a classically detailed wood frontispiece that is composed of flat pilasters that support a small pediment with full entablature. It is accessed by a single run of concrete steps the width of the doorway and is detailed with a simple wrought iron railing, brick facing on the cheek walls, and granite steps. A semicircular louvered attic vent occurs in the tympanum of the pediment formed by the cross gable above the frontispiece.

The north elevation is three bays wide with a central entry composed of a wood surround of flat Doric classical design. Concrete steps lead up to the single leaf entry door. The door is composed of nine panels arranged in cross and bible format with glass in the central panels instead of wood and it is surmounted by a four lite fixed transom. The windows placed in regular arrangement and detailed identically to the windows on the façade.

The rear or west elevation continues the Colonial Revival motifs of the façade with the addition of a centrally located three bay, two story structure that contains two sun rooms on the second floor and is a single screened in porch on the first floor. A three bay wood deck, raised to the level of the deck of the three projecting bays is accessed with a single run of wood steps and the underside is screened with diagonal lattice skirting. The brick chimney with a corbelled cap is located between the second and third bays from the northern end of the elevation and displays the same Flemish bonding as the rest of the wall surfaces on the building. More recently, access to the basement was made from the exterior. The below ground entrance is covered with a shed roof covered with tar paper.

The south elevation faces the chapel and is similarly detailed as the north elevation, with the exception

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that the door is solid paneled wood.

The interior of the building consists of two double loaded corridors set at right angles, reinforcing the cross shape of the building. The first floor is divided into two sections by a pair of wooden double doors that separated the administrative from the residential functions of the building. A large office located at the northeast corner of the first floor served as the main administrative office for the school. The headmaster's rooms are located along the south corridor, including an office, a kitchen and dining room. The second floor is accessed by two metal staircases with Colonial Revival newel posts, one placed in the west corridor and the other in the north corridor. The second floor is entirely composed of modest single room living quarters with private or semi-private bathrooms and a closet. There is a linen closet accessed from the hall way and two sunrooms, outfitted with a desk and a chair, are located in the rooms above the porch at the end of the west corridor. The building has a full basement that contains rooms for community use, laundry, and boiler.

**ST. MICHAEL'S HALL K-5054.004- (Contributing Building)**

Opened in 1960, St. Michael's Hall was a dwelling for Brothers and other male staff at the school. Designed in a more modest Colonial Revival style than the Administration Building and Rectory, the building contains its own chapel and formal entry hall. The building is two stories tall with brick walls, a concrete block foundation, and is laid out in a cross plan with the chapel wing and the pedimented portico forming the horizontal arms of the cross shape and the residential wings forming the longer north and south arms. The overall roof structure is cross gable with semicircular louvered attic vents placed in the tympanum of the pediments on the east, south and north elevations. The two story portico has a gable roof that is supported by two story square columns is set on a brick base.

The façade faces east and is eleven bays long with regular fenestration composed of 8/8 double hung sash wood windows. The entrance is composed of a wood door with panels arranged in cross and bible fashion with five side lites and a surround that is composed of a pediment and flat pilasters.

The elevations on the north and south sides are similarly detailed. Each is three bays wide with 8/8 wood windows regularly arranged. The entrance is centered on the first level and is covered by a single bay, pedimented portico and is composed of a single leaf wood door with sidelights in a flat wood surround.

The rear elevation displays the projecting St. Michael's Chapel as the central three bays of the elevation.

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This projecting section displays figural stained glass windows on the second story of the north and south elevations. The three windows on the rear section are placed on the first floor and light a robbing room for the clergy placed behind the rear wall of the chapel. The windows are similar throughout the building. An accessway to the basement is placed along the south arm of the rear elevation and is accessed by a dog-legged concrete stairway. A square, exterior, brick chimney rises above the roofline from the southeast corner of the chapel.

The interior of St. Michael's Hall continues the restrained Colonial Revival detailing present on the exterior of the building. The entrance opens onto a formal entry hall with an open, three run staircase that encircles the hall, leading to the second floor. An office located off the north side of the entry hall is accessed by a set of paired French doors. The chapel opens off the entry hall on the west side. Dormitory wings are separated from this space by French doors on the north and south sides of the entry hall. Original flooring in the building was linoleum squares with a dark border around a lighter center. The floors were carpeted at one time and the padding disintegrated, leaving a thick black powder when the carpet was removed.

The chapel is the most highly decorated space in the building. It is an intact, two story space with decorative panels set above and below a chair rail line on the walls. A dais is placed across west side of the room. Figural stained glass windows of St. Joseph and St. Michael are placed in the second story section of the north and south walls. The east side of the room is also decoratively paneled with closet-like space remaining that served as a confessional. There is a very small balcony above the entrance that is accessed from the second story. It appears large enough for only one or two people to occupy the space. The north and south wings of the building have dormitory rooms arranged in a double loaded corridor plan. These modest, single room spaces are identical in size and appointment with one large armoire and sink with a mirror above and period light fixtures.

**STATUARY**

There are three figural marble statues on the grounds, all with religious themes.

K-5054.005 (Contributing Object) Placed in front of the Chapel, on a tear-shaped planting median is the largest of the three statues. It depicts a robed male figure with arms outstretched with the emblem of the Sacred Heart centered on his chest, standing on a hemispherical base. The statue has been modified over time. The original appearance of the statue was more crisp than exists now. An inscription on the base, partially visible in a historic picture states "Gift of Rev. WMP McQuaid, Boston,

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Mass." The date in the image is obscured. Originally set on a paneled pedestal of stone in a lushly planted setting, the base was encased in a square poured concrete base impressed with the coat of arms of the Josephite Fathers and the planting area is grass covered. The statue and the base were coated at a later time with a skim coat of stucco.

K-5045.006 (Contributing Object) Placed in front of the Brothers House, facing toward the main entrance on the façade is a small marble statue of a female robed figure on a hemispherical base encircled by a snake with an apple in its mouth. It is placed on a small, square pedestal, approximately three feet high.

K-5045.007 (Contributing Object) The third statue was placed in memory of Brother Patrick Richardson, according to a marble plaque placed on the front of the structure. It is a small statue of a female figure in flowing robes placed in a rubble stone structure approximately seven feet tall, five feet wide, and five feet deep. The statue is placed in a niche with a slate base and the back of the niche is painted sky blue. The entire structure is surmounted by a stone cross.

**CONCRETE BLOCK GARAGE K-5045.008 (Non-Contributing Building)**

Facing south, and placed across the outside drive from the north elevation of the Administration Building and Rectory is a one story, two bay, square plan concrete block garage. The façade is altered with new metal doors enclosing the two bays. This building is a remnant of a larger L-shaped dormitory structure whose foundations remain west of the building.

**THE LANDSCAPE**

The buildings on the campus of the St. Joseph' Industrial School are placed in a well vegetated setting with mature trees lining the outer road of the campus. The campus is set up on a slight rise with cultivated agricultural fields surrounding the property, providing views from the main campus into the agricultural setting beyond. A canopy of deciduous trees shades the campus with some special groupings of coniferous trees. Historic photos indicate planting beds were more numerous and more densely planted in the historic period than they appear today.

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**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

St. Joseph's Industrial School, located on Duck Creek Road near Clayton, Kent County, Delaware is being listed on the National Register of Historic Places under criteria A and C, for its historical importance as an educational institution for young African American men during the time of segregation, and for the architectural significance of the Chapel, a sophisticated example of an Italianate style, basilica-form church, expressed in wood and built in 1896. Founded by the St. Joseph Society of the Sacred Heart of Catholic Church, the St. Joseph's Industrial School provided an opportunity for "worthy" African American boys with up to five years of industrial training, and secular and religious education beyond elementary school.

The Josephite Order of the Sacred Heart was founded with the mission of evangelizing to the African American population through education and social service. In Delaware, the Josephite Fathers, through the leadership of Father John DeRuyter, established a mission presence with a complex in Wilmington with the St. Joseph's Church (NR pending), rectory, convent and orphanage (last three non-extant), located on French Street. Beyond evangelization, these priests were concerned with the welfare of the African American community in America, and they employed strategies used by others to successfully bring their disadvantaged student population into society as self sufficient and productive members.

**Background**

**The St. Joseph's Society of the Sacred Heart**

A community of priests was founded in Mill Hill, England in 1866 called the St. Joseph's Society of the Sacred Heart. Their mission was to evangelize to areas outside of Europe, specifically the continent of Africa and the United States of America.<sup>1</sup> In 1871, four priests from the Mill Hill seminary came to the United States to do missionary work in the South, focusing on the Black population of former slaves. These four priests were put in charge of St. Francis Xavier's Church, in Baltimore, Maryland. Other missions focusing on evangelization to African Americans were started in Louisville, Charleston, Washington, Richmond, and Norfolk.<sup>2</sup> Founded as a society with a specific mission, the work of the Josephite Fathers progressed independently of the existing parish and diocese structure of the Catholic Church already existing in the communities where this new missionary work focusing on African

<sup>1</sup> Josephite Fathers Records. Notre Dame Archives Index.

<sup>2</sup> Ott, Michael. *St. Joseph's Society for Colored Missions*. *The Catholic Encyclopedia*, Volume VIII. New York: Appleton Publishing Company. 1910. On-line Edition: Kevin Knight. 1999.

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Americans was being undertaken. Under the leadership of Father John R. Slattery, the American mission separated in 1892 from the English Society and established their headquarters in Baltimore as an ordered society of the Catholic Church whose member priests were entitled to use the letters S.S.J. after their names<sup>3</sup>.

The needs of the African American community were great. Many social service programs previously available for the newly freed slaves ended with Radical Reconstruction and the presidency of Rutherford B. Hayes in 1877.<sup>4</sup> Direction was set for the evangelization of Blacks by the Third Plenary Council of Baltimore held in December 1884. The bishops recommended separate churches for African Americans whenever possible because of the prejudice against them in white churches. Special collections were mandated to be held every year to support the Negro and Indian Missions. A commission for Catholic Missions Among the Colored People and Indians was set up and presided over by the Archbishop of Baltimore. The establishment of churches and schools were seen as the best way to evangelize in the African American community. One other recommendation by the Third Plenary Council proved to be more controversial. It was recommended that Blacks be trained to evangelize in the African American community.

The Josephite Society was moving further than the Council in that direction. The ordination of Black priests was an early goal of the Society and seen as the best way to effect conversion in the African American community. A seminary was established in Baltimore for the ordination of priests interested in the Josephite mission, with the expectation that seminarians would include African Americans. Although Blacks were ordained, they were very few in numbers and were mostly placed in northern churches. The Josephites area of service was to be the southern United States which placed an even greater hardship on prospective Black Josephite priests. Unfortunately, the ordination of Black priests did not occur as the founding Josephite fathers foresaw. Reflecting the predominant prejudiced feelings of the time, the Catholic Hierarchy would not support Black men as seminary candidates for the priesthood.<sup>5</sup> The integration of the Catholic priesthood in general continued to be a controversial issue in the church into the late 20<sup>th</sup> Century and was part of the general African American struggle for civil rights.<sup>6</sup>

The response of the Josephite Order was to foster an educated laity, increasing the participation of African Americans in the administration of the church at the local level. Although the priests of the order

<sup>3</sup>Ochs, Stephen J. Desegregating the Altar, The Josephites and the Struggle for Black Priests 1871-1960. Baton Rouge, LA: Louisiana State University Press. 1993, p. 84

<sup>4</sup>Ibid, p 51.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid, pp. 89-114

<sup>6</sup> Ibid, pp. 446-453.

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are predominately white, a large contingent of seminary-educated Brothers to work among the African American population.

**The Josephites in Delaware**

The Josephite presence in Delaware began in 1888 when the Bishop of Wilmington, Most Reverend Alfred A. Curtis, invited the Society of St. Joseph to open a mission in the city of Wilmington to evangelize to the African American population there.<sup>7</sup> Rev. John A. DeRuyter, S.S.J. (Society of St. Joseph) arrived in Wilmington in 1889 as the first pastor. The mission was set up in the basement of St. Mary's Church at 6<sup>th</sup> and Pine Streets in the city. The needs were very great. Father DeRuyter was quoted in the April 1890 issue of St. Joseph's Advocate, a Society magazine:

A school in Wilmington is badly needed; for even the colored public schools cannot accommodate all the colored children here.

The first building constructed on their own site on French Street was a school. A convent, rectory, clinic, and orphanage followed with the church construction beginning in 1890. The orphanage drew its population from the Baltimore, Philadelphia and Washington metropolitan areas and was one of the first for African American children in the country, regardless of religious affiliation.<sup>8</sup>

Father DeRuyter also wanted to build a Catholic industrial school.<sup>9</sup> He saw the need to find constructive activity for the older boys from the orphanage who needed a structured environment as they developed into men. Around the same time, Booker T. Washington was traveling and promoting his ideas of developing a better society, healing race relations and teaching life skills, all through industrial education for African American students, as practiced at the Tuskegee Normal Institute in Tuskegee, Alabama where he was the Principal:

The chief value of industrial education is to give to the students habits of industry, thrift, economy and an idea of the dignity of labor. But in addition to this, in the present economic condition of the colored people, it is most important that a very large proportion of those trained in such institutions as this, actually spend their time at industrial occupations.<sup>10</sup>

<sup>7</sup> 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary St. Joseph's Industrial School, Clayton, Delaware. Pamphlet. 1971.

<sup>8</sup> Ibid.

<sup>9</sup> Ochs, Stephen J. Desegregating the Altar, The Josephites and the Struggle for Black Priests 1871-1960. Baton Rouge, LA: Louisiana State University Press. 1993, p. 87.

<sup>10</sup> Washington, Booker T. Nineteenth Annual Report Of The Principal Of The Tuskegee Normal And Industrial Institute,



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Industrial development, coupled with religious and mental development, will bring a change in the civil and political status of the South. . . . So long as my race is submerged in poverty and ignorance, so long as with hooks of steel, will we drag down and retard the upward growth of the white man in the South. If the Negro's degradation tempts one to steal his ballot, remember that it is the one who commits the theft that is permanently injured. You owe it, not less to yourselves than to your white brethren in the South, that this load be lifted from their shoulders. Industrial training will help to do it. Strike a common interest in the affairs of life, and prejudice melts away.<sup>11</sup>

**St. Joseph's Industrial School**

Father DeRuyter began promoting the idea of establishing an industrial school to his superiors, stating "We must have another institution that will make our boys, men, that will teach them the dignity of labor and create in them a spirit of industry. . . . Our idea is to teach the boys a trade, to let them support or at least help to support themselves, and when they are twenty-one years of age, they can go forth among their own people and make good Christian workmen."<sup>12</sup> The lobbying effort proved a success and the St. Joseph's Society for Colored Missions of Wilmington began acquiring the land for the St. Joseph's Industrial School in 1895. Deed records show a "Declaration of Trust" was recorded in August 1896 that noted that the "described premises were purchased with moneys belonging to and advanced by Katherine M. Drexel<sup>13</sup> for the purpose of establishing an Industrial School for Colored Children."<sup>14</sup> According to this Declaration of Trust, this training in the "practical trades for their future livelihood and a

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Tuskegee, Alabama. For The Year Ending May 31, 1900. Tuskegee Institute Steam Print, Tuskegee, Ala. 1900. From the Library of Congress, American Memory Project. African American Perspectives: Pamphlets from the Daniel A.P. Murray Collection, 1818-1907. <http://lcweb2.loc.gov/ammem/ammemhome.html>, May 29, 2002

<sup>11</sup> An address by Booker T. Washington, prin., Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute, Tuskegee, Alabama : delivered under the auspices of the Armstrong Association, Lincoln Day exercises, at the Madison Square Garden Concert Hall, New York, N.Y., February 12, 1898. From the Library of Congress, American Memory Project. African American Perspectives: Pamphlets from the Daniel A.P. Murray Collection, 1818-1907. <http://lcweb2.loc.gov/ammem/ammemhome.html>, May 29, 2002

<sup>12</sup> *St. Joseph's Industrial School, Clayton, Delaware. The Colored Harvest, 1898. Vol#3, P 45-46*

<sup>13</sup> Saint Katherine Drexel was a Philadelphia heiress who, in her desire to use her fortune to benefit others and to heed the calling to religious life she felt, founded the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament. Through guidance of her mentors in the religious life, she focused the efforts of her order to working with Native Americans and African Americans through the building of schools, the funding of Catholic missions for Indians in the American southwest and for the African American population in the East and South. She was made a saint of the Catholic Church in October 2000.

<sup>14</sup> Declaration of Trust, August 1, 1896. Kent County Deed Book W-7-235. Title Conveyance of lands,T-7-444.

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secondary grade of schooling" was to include such subjects as the following: arithmetic, penmanship, letter writing, forms of making bills, simple forms of account, the Fifth Reader, geography, history of the United States and Constitution, Bible history, Catechism, and English Literature.<sup>15</sup>

The school opened with twenty-five students with ages ranging from 14-17, all from the St. Joseph Orphanage in Wilmington. The students were involved the creation of the physical aspects of the property. They helped build new buildings and re-established a working farm under the direction of an experienced local farmer. The existing farm house was remodeled to serve the needs of the school, first housing all functions under its roof as the complex was fleshed out, and then as a classroom building. Father DeRuyter lived long enough to set his vision for the school in motion. He died in 1896 and is buried in the cemetery outside the boundary of the nominated property.

Eventually, nine of the 400 acres of the campus were occupied by the complex of buildings associated with the educational and religious life at the campus, all laid out in a horseshoe shape around the chapel. The industrial complex was composed of a large u-shaped building with its own water tower and pump station (all non-extant). It was placed approximately 500 feet southwest of the church. A swampy area was drained and a pond created that was used by the boys for recreation. The rest of the property was developed for livestock and field crops. The farm provided the work for the majority of the students.

One of the first industries to be established on the property was a printing department. Their main product was the Society of St. Joseph's publications, *The Colored Harvest* and *St. Anthony's Monthly*. Religious statues and rosary beads were made on site by students. Traditional trades such as carpentry, painting, and plumbing were also taught.

The student population at St. Joseph's Industrial School grew quickly, from the initial class of 25 in 1895, to 70 pupils in 1902. Students came from underprivileged backgrounds in the Mid-Atlantic region, but the school was focused on providing opportunity for children with promise. Student population peaked in 1937 when there were 117 students at the school. Although predominately Catholic, non-Catholics were also admitted. The average yearly attendance throughout the school's 77 year history was 71 students annually.

Classes were taught by lay teachers as well as nuns and brothers. The Sisters of St. Francis provided the four or five nuns that lived on the campus annually. Other instructors were found in the nearby community for craft instruction and other hired help at the school.

<sup>15</sup> Excerpt from the Declaration of Trust, August 1, 1896. Kent County Deed Book W-7-235.

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Fire plagued the St. Joseph's Industrial School and several buildings were lost to it over time. The first rectory was burned to the ground in 1945, killing one resident priest. The education complex suffered a fire in the early 1970s that finally closed the school for good.

**Other Functions of the Industrial School**

The first steps at establishing a Catholic church in the Smyrna/Clayton area began in the 1860s with worship in private homes conducted by a priest from New Castle. By the 1880s, the priest from Dover came to offer services twice a month at the Oddfellow's Hall. With his assistance, the former Presbyterian Church in Smyrna was purchased and it was dedicated as a Catholic Church in 1883. By the early 1920s the lack of a strong Catholic parish and a lack of priests to serve them, caused the local presiding bishop to order the church building sold to a fledgling African American congregation, Centennial Methodist Episcopal Church. At the same time, bishop ordered the priests at St. Joseph's Industrial School to serve the parish and designated St. Joseph's Chapel as the community church. The chapel served the larger community in this way until 1968 when a new St. Polycarp's Catholic Church was built.

The St. Joseph's Society used the facility in Clayton in many ways. It was a place to assign priests for short stays "In Residence." These transfers typically ranged from a couple of months to a year. St. Joseph's was used as a retirement home for elderly priests. This function is reflected in the new Administration Building and Rectory (1951) built by Gadreau and Gadreau, an architectural firm in Baltimore. While the school only had two or three priests involved in running the school, there are simple dormitory facilities for several times that number in this building.

In 1943, several members of the staff from Clayton were transferred to the Epiphany Apostolic College in Newburgh, New York, the new training center for those becoming Josephite Brothers. The first step for the new postulants was an assignment to St. Joseph's Industrial School in Clayton, Delaware to try out the religious life. Most of these postulants went on to the college in New York but some left the society all together. In 1960 St. Michael's Hall was completed with simple dormitory style rooms for approximately 30 residents. A major part of the new St. Michael's Hall was the private chapel space. This small but complete chapel was highly detailed with stained glass windows depicting St. Joseph and St. Michael. The paneled interior included a confessional, a dais for the altar and a small balcony.

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**Closing of the Industrial School**

Enrollment in the school began to decline in the 1940s but increased again into the 1950s and 1960s. As the society began to racially integrate, more educational opportunities were available to the potential student pool of applicants. The school was closed by the Josephite Society in 1972 who then established the St. Joseph Center for Prayer at the facility in 1973. The complex was open to community groups into the late 1990s when a community group was formed to purchase the complex from the Josephite Society, rehabilitate the existing buildings, including the school complex, to house a new school. The St. Joseph's Project Foundation succeeded in purchasing the property from the Josephite Society in March 2002 and has secured a charter school to rehabilitate and occupy the school buildings. St. Joseph's Industrial School is taking on a new life.

**Architectural Significance of the Chapel**

The chapel at the St. Joseph's Industrial School is architecturally significant at the state level. Its sophisticated basilica form Italianate design compares with the finest, most elaborate expressions of church architecture in the state. The insular nature of the Industrial School and the vision of European-born Father John DeRuyter combined to create an unexpectedly distinctive and elaborate architectural work in rural Clayton, Delaware. Although further research in the archival collections of the Josephite Fathers will undoubtedly uncover the designer of this highly detailed yet small in scale church, the architect is not known at this time. Church histories of the property indicate it was built under the direction of Father John DeRuyter with the first students at the school assisting with its construction.

In comparison to other church architecture in Delaware, this building is particularly striking. In general, vernacular architecture defines the Delaware architectural patrimony. Church buildings are generally no exception to that rule. Delaware was one of the first footholds for Methodism in the United States. Barrett's Chapel (NR 1972) in Frederica, Kent County, Delaware was built in the 1780s and is one of the earliest Methodist Church buildings still standing in the country. The rural landscape is dotted with small, vernacular Methodist chapels donated and maintained by individual families. Usually constructed in wood, but sometimes in brick, typical examples of this building type are Todd's Chapel (NR 1998) in Mispillion Hundred in Kent County and Thomas' Chapel (NR 1994) in West Dover Hundred, also in Kent County. Church buildings in towns tend to be somewhat more elaborate and larger in scale than the rural chapels. The 1899 restrained Gothic Revival style Woodside Methodist Episcopal Church (NR 1996) in Kent County is a typical example of this type.

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Historically, Wilmington was the center of Catholicism in Delaware being home to the large immigrant populations that came to the area in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Large and impressive churches were built for parishes that served specific ethnic communities. These churches are architecturally impressive with direct European precedents for their designs. Some of these include: St. Anthony's Roman Catholic Church (NR1986), St. Hedwig's Roman Catholic Church (NR 1982), and St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception Church (NR 1976).

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COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING

Zone: Upper Peninsula  
Period: 1880-1940+/-: Urbanization and Early Suburbanization  
1940-1960+/-: World War II and Suburbanization  
Theme: Education, Religion  
Property Type: School, Religious Institution

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*St. Joseph's Industrial School Chapel, Clayton, DE*. Draft National Register nomination by Dawn Melson, Kent County Preservation Planner.

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**Boundary Description:**

Located in Kenton Hundred, Kent County, Delaware St. Joseph's Chapel is near the Kent County-New Castle County boundary line. It is located on the property of the St. Joseph's Industrial School currently within the town limits of Clayton. The property is located on the west side of Duck Creek Road (County Road 38). The entire property is shown on Kent County Property maps KH-04-9.00 and KH-04-18.06.

**Boundary Justification:**

The nominated boundary of the St. Joseph's Industrial School is smaller than the tax parcel for the property and consists of approximately 5.5 acres where the concentration of historic buildings occurs. Excluded from the boundary are: the five modern school buildings that were built in 1972 and are now being remodeled for use as a charter school; a single story ranch dwelling; the cemetery for the property because it is not contiguous to the historic core of the property; an isolated agricultural building; and the 283.5 acres of open land that make up the balance of the parcel.



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**SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD**

NRIS Reference Number: 02001491 Date Listed: 12/12/2002

Property Name: St. Joseph's Industrial School

County: Kent State: DE

Multiple Name

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This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

Patrick Andrews  
Signature of the Keeper

12/12/2002  
Date of Action

=====

Amended Items in Nomination:

This SLR is issued to make a technical correction to the form. Section 3 of the form was not fully completed. The DE SHPO has confirmed that the property is being nominated at the State level of significance. The form is officially amended to add this information

**DISTRIBUTION:**

- National Register property file**
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)**

8" WATER

EX. 2" GAS

EX. 10" GAS

ENTRY ARCH .002

PROPOSED 13' WIDE PAVING

PROPOSED 8' WIDE SIDEWALK

PROPOSED 13' WIDE PAVING

PROPOSED 8' WIDE SIDEWALK

PROPOSED 8' WIDE SIDEWALK

EX. 2" GAS

EXISTING BUILDING .001  
44776L

EXISTING BUILDING .003  
F.F. = 40.23  
ADMINISTRATIVE RECTORRY

SEPTIC AREA

EXISTING BUILDING .004  
ST MICHAEL'S HALL  
PRINCIPAL HOUSE

EXISTING BUILDING .005

PROPOSED SANITARY SEWER LATERAL

EXISTING SIDEWALKS (TO REMAIN)

PROPOSED 8' WIDE SIDEWALK (TO REMAIN)

MATCH EXISTING PAVEMENT

PROPOSED 5' CONCRETE SIDEWALK (SEE SIDEWALK DETAIL, SHEET CA)

EXISTING CONCRETE PAD

EXISTING BUILDING  
F.F. = 35.56

ST JOSEPH'S INDUSTRIAL  
35.5 W DUKE GOEBE ROAD  
QUARTON, KENT COUNTY, DE  
SITE MAP 19 = 50'

EXISTING PAVED SIDEWALK

PROPOSED 5' CONCRETE SIDEWALK

