

PH0294578

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED AUG 29 1975  
DATE ENTERED NOV 8 1975

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

St. Inigoes Church; The Cove Church

AND/OR COMMON

St. Ignatius Roman Catholic Church (Preferred)

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER At entrance to NESTEF, end of  
Villa Road-west of Rt. 5 about 2 miles

— NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

St. Inigoes *vic.*

— VICINITY OF

First

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Maryland

24

St. Mary's

037

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

**CATEGORY**

**OWNERSHIP**

**STATUS**

**PRESENT USE**

—DISTRICT

—PUBLIC

—OCCUPIED

—AGRICULTURE

—MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

UNOCCUPIED

—COMMERCIAL

—PARK

—STRUCTURE

—BOTH

WORK IN PROGRESS

—EDUCATIONAL

—PRIVATE RESIDENCE

—SITE

**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**

**ACCESSIBLE**

—ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

—OBJECT

—IN PROCESS

YES: RESTRICTED

—GOVERNMENT

—SCIENTIFIC

—BEING CONSIDERED

—YES: UNRESTRICTED

—INDUSTRIAL

—TRANSPORTATION

—NO

—MILITARY

—OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Corporation of Roman Catholic Clergymen

STREET & NUMBER

The Provincial's Residence, Maryland Province of the  
Society of Jesus, 5704 Roland Avenue

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Baltimore

— VICINITY OF

Maryland

21210

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE.

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

St. Mary's County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Leonardtwn

Maryland

20650

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

—FEDERAL —STATE —COUNTY —LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

St. Ignatius Roman Catholic Church is located at the southwest end of Villa Road about one and three quarters miles west of St. Inigoe's, St. Mary's County, Maryland.

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

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

"THS MAR IGNATIUS"

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

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

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

# 8. SIGNIFICANCE

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input checked="" 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 checked="" 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

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The significance of St. Ignatius Church is that it is a direct descendant of Maryland's first Roman Catholic Chapel at St. Mary's City, who's communicants formed the nucleus of American Catholicism. The name is that of the patron saint of the Maryland venture, St. Ignatius, founder of the Society of Jesus. Further significance is in its dependence and co-existence with historic St. Inigoe's Manor, on which lands it is situated and which lands were acquired by the Jesuit Fathers in 1637 according to the Conditions of Plantation of the Maryland Colony.

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

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

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

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

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

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Archives of Maryland VI, 539, 540

Father White's "Relation"

History of Maryland, Scharf, Vol. I p. 368.

(See continuation sheet No. 3)

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY ~~less than one~~ <sup>2</sup> *57M 5.8 km*  
UTM REFERENCES

A 

1	8	3	7	5	2	6	0	4	2	2	3	2	7	0
ZONE				EASTING				NORTHING						

B 

ZONE				EASTING				NORTHING						

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

St. Mary's City Commission/J. Richard Rivoire sao

ORGANIZATION

Maryland Historical Trust DATE May 1975

STREET & NUMBER

/21 State Circle TELEPHONE (301) 267-1438

CITY OR TOWN

St. Mary's City/Annapolis STATE Maryland

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL  STATE  LOCAL

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

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE *[Signature]*

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer DATE Aug. 21, 1975

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Acting

DATE 11/3/75

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST: *[Signature]*  
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 10/31/75

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NOV 3 1975

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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ST. IGNATIUS ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH  
St. Mary's County  
Maryland

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sash of nine over six panes. Within the gable are two small archless windows of four over two pane sash. The gable roof has a flush chimney at the east end and the modillioned eave cornice, matching in detail and possibly contemporary to the cornice of the main block, has patterned end boards rather than gable returns.

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

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

The interior walls and vaulted ceiling (the original flat ceiling was removed and the present ceiling introduced during the renovations of 1817) of St. Ignatius Church are plastered and, in 1817, elaborately frescoed in shades of blue cream and a reddish brown, certainly one of the finest and oldest surviving examples of that art form in Maryland.

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land according to the Conditions of Plantation and other noted missionaries, martyrs, teachers, administrators, builders of schools, founders of parishes, chaplains to local prison camps and the moral and practical leaders of the area. The annual letters of the Jesuit Superiors to their Provincials, at first in England and later in Maryland, reflect the history of the colony: the raids on the farms and Manor House in Pirate Ingle's Rebellion; the Revolutionary War; the War of 1812 when the Novitiate was transferred from here to escape the British invasions; the War Between the States when the pastor of St. Ignatius Church ministered to the prisoners at Point Lookout and the many summers Jesuit seminarians spent at the Villa on the Manor. All these accounts give intimate glimpses of the parish of St. Ignatius and its people.

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

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

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

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

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

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History of the Maryland--New York Province--Edward I. Devitt, S. J.  
Vols. 50, 61, 63--Woodstock Letters.

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

"Sacred Heart Messenger" 1899--June

St. Mary's "Beacon" 1886.

The Day Star Davis

The Jesuit Missions of St. Mary's County Beitzell

The Woodstock Letters -- Vol. 62

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OWNER OF PROPERTY

U.S. Department of the Navy  
Webster Field  
Patuxent, Maryland