

PH0026158

Form 10-300
(Rev. 6-72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Maryland
COUNTY:	Prince George's
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	JUN 27 1974

1. NAME

COMMON:
St. Ignatius Church

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
2317 Brinkley Road

CITY OR TOWN:
Oxon Hill

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
Fourth

STATE: Maryland CODE: 24 COUNTY: Prince George's CODE: 033

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/> Comments

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Archdiocese of Washington

STREET AND NUMBER:
1721 Rhode Island Avenue, N. W.

CITY OR TOWN:
Washington

STATE: District of Columbia CODE: 11

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Prince George's County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:
Main Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Upper Marlboro

STATE: Maryland CODE: 24

(see Cont. sheet 1)

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

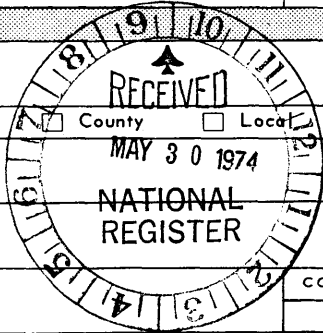
TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Maryland

COUNTY: Prince Georges's

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

St. Ignatius' Roman Catholic Church is located on the south side of Brinkley Road east of St. Barnabas Road and further east of Oxon Hill, Maryland. The frame church was built in the 1890's which is evident from the treatment of the interior and exterior wall surfaces following the contemporary Queen Anne and Shingle Styles. At the same time the round headed windows, centrally placed tower and corner buttresses refer to the then longer lived Gothic Revival.

The main exterior feature is the eighty foot tall tower rising at the center of the main (north) facade. The tower is divided into three stories, the first being the entrance porch into the nave. The second story is part of the rear gallery and the third houses the bell (cast by Henry McShane of Baltimore). The tower has a square two-pitched hipped roof with a cross surmounting it. The entrance is through a round arched entrance with double doors beneath a fan light. At the gallery level is a triple arched window. At the highest level a double-arched window within a single-arched decorative architrave exists on each of the four faces. Between the second and third levels, a heavy cornice projects around all sides of the tower at the level of the peak of the nave roof. At the corner of the tower are small buttresses reaching midway up through the second story which are echoed on the northeast and northwest corners of the church. The surface treatment is a combination of shingle bands alternating with tongue-and-groove siding.

The alternating bands of sheathing are continued from the tower to the church around the north, east and west facades. A vertical tongue-in-groove siding extends from the brick foundation to a wooden course running below the windows. From that point to the springing of the round arched windows horizontal siding is found. The remainder of the wall to the boxed cornice is fish scale shingles. The east and west facades have six round arched windows--one in each bay. The north facade contains a round arched window centrally placed on either side of the tower between it and the corner buttresses.

The south facade was constructed entirely in horizontal sheathing. A window composed of round headed units which is similar to the fenestration at the gallery level on the tower is located in the center of the wall. A door in a round headed frame (similar to the main door) provides entrance at the east end of the south facade.

On the interior St. Ignatius has a barrel vaulted nave supported by square piers. The ribs of the vault spring from the entablatures of the piers. The flat-roofed aisles are also ribbed with the ribs supported by the piers and by square brackets along the exterior aisle walls. The interior walls

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1890-1891

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 type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | osophy | _____ |
| <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

The significance of St. Ignatius' Church is that it represents a style of architecture of which it is the only surviving example in the Potomac area of Prince George's County and that it symbolizes an era in the typical development of a rural to suburban community.

The structure was built in 1890-91, by Charles Beers, contractor, of Anacostia, D. C., at a cost of \$5,000. Although described at the time as of "Romanesque" design, it has many of the elements of the Shingle and Queen Anne styles. It is the second building at this location. Two corner stones are incorporated in the foundation, one dated 1849, and the other 1890. On October 21, 1891, the day the new building was consecrated by James Cardinal Gibbons, of the Baltimore archdiocese, it was conceded by the clergy to be the "prettiest little church in Southern Maryland."

St. Ignatius' is the second oldest Roman Catholic Church in the southwestern part of the county. For many years, it served families living in an area bounded on the west by the Potomac River and to the east, as far as the present city of District Heights. Among its earliest members were representatives of two of Maryland's oldest Roman Catholic families, the Hills and the Brookes. The two main persons who solicited funds for the original building were ladies, Mrs. Christina Spaulding Kerby Edelen and Mrs. Mary Eugenia Surratt. A cemetery located in the churchyard has stones bearing the names of many of the county's oldest families.

This church was founded in 1849 by Father Joseph M. Finotti, S.J., the first Catholic anthropologist in the United States. An Upper Marlboro newspaper reporting the 1891 consecration of the building, stated that in 1849, "...it was then a mission under the charge of Pastors of St. Mary's Church, Alexandria (Va.). Among the distinguished Jesuits whose names are linked with that of this Church and who, at different periods shaped its affairs, were Fathers Finotti, Bixio, Vigilanti, Kroes and De Necker. St. Ignatius' Church next came under the jurisdiction of the Carmelites, who had (see cont. sheet #2)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Cook, Mrs. Charles, 4 Delaware Drive, Oxon Hill, Maryland
 Dwyer, Michael, Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission.
 Owens, Christopher, Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission.
 Begley, Patrick J., "History of St. Ignatius' Roman Catholic Church, Oxon Hill Maryland, 1849-1949" (see cont. sheet 1)

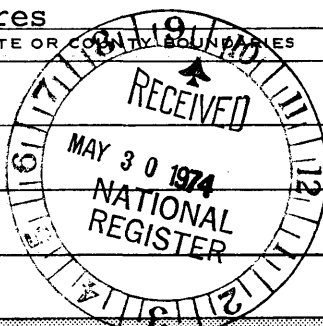
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

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	°	48	'	16	"	76	°	58	'	01	"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"												
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"												
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"												

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **3 acres**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Mrs. Brooke Kerby, Executive Secretary

ORGANIZATION: **St. Ignatius' Preservation Society** DATE: **Oct. 3, 1973**

STREET AND NUMBER:
8407 Indian Hill Highway

CITY OR TOWN: **Oxon Hill** STATE: **Maryland** 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 Historic Preservation Officer for Maryland

Date May 28, 1974

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

[Signature]
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 6/27/74

ATTEST:

[Signature]
 Keeper of the National Register

Date 6-20-74

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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Maryland	
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(Number all entries)

#5. Location of Legal Description.

No deed has been found in the County land records showing the original conveyance of the land to the Church. However, boundaries of the Church land are found in Liber JWB #4, Folio 409; Liber 97, folio 268; Liber 138, folio 62; and Liber 3188, folio 204.

The tax map compiled by the Department of Assessments and Taxation shows the Church located on one acre marked "P.306" and the cemetery on one acre marked "P. 307". This map shows no deed numbers on these parcels as it does on the surrounding parcels.

#9. Major Bibliographical References.

Finotti, Joseph M., "Twenty Six Years A Priest," MS., Georgetown University Archives, Washington, D. C.

Finotti, Joseph M., Diary, MS., Georgetown University Archives, Washington, D. C.

Shea, John Gilmary, "History of the Catholic Church in the United States," Vol. XXXX, 1844-1846, p. 40.

U. S. Catholic Magazine, September 1849, pp. 555-556



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(Continuation Sheet)

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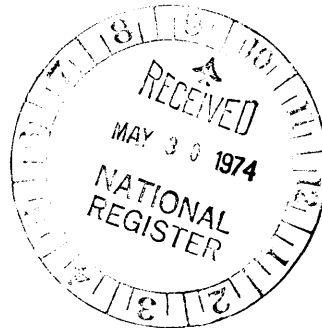
#7. Description

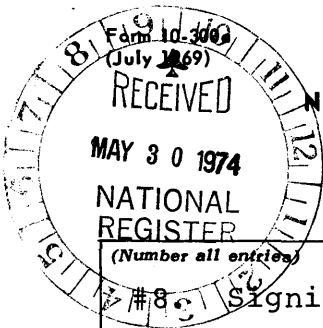
are all covered with narrow boarding. On the vault, the boarding runs longitudinally; along the aisle walls, it runs vertically to the level of the chair rail, horizontally between the windows, and vertically from the level of the springing of the window arches to the cornice. Thus, the treatment of the interior aisle walls mirror the treatment of the exterior walls.

The choir, or gallery, runs across the full width of the church at the north end and projects across the entire north, or first, bay. It is supported by the piers that carry the barrel vault. Like the walls, it is covered with vertical boarding.

The sanctuary has been much altered with square wooden tiles on the walls replacing the narrow boarding. (The parish plans to return the walls to their original state). The altar rail, however, is original. It has turned ballusters supporting a heavily carved and decorated railing. The sanctuary is as wide as the nave with small rooms on either side opening directly into it.

A cemetery exists to the east of the church.





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STATE	Maryland	
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#8 Significance.

their headquarters in this town. The church in question next became a mission attached to St. Dominic's Church in Washington. Father Rocheford, at one time provincial of the Dominicans and an uncle to the architect of new St. Ignatius', was pastor there, as was Father Dwyer, now the pastor of a large Dominican Church in New York City. St. Ignatius' passed next under the regime of the Josephites. The priests of this order had their house also in this town, and were celebrated for their solicitude for the colored race. Of this order Fathers Green, Walsh and Hooman made good records at St. Ignatius'. The mission next came under the control of the secular clergy and among them Father De Wulf, donor of the two cathedral glass windows in the present tower; Father Cunnane, who laid the cornerstone of the new church, and donated the east chancel window, and Father Clark who gave the west chancel window. In 1883, Rev. Thomas B. Hughes then assistant pastor of St. Peter's Church, Washington, was given charge of St. Ignatius' in connection with St. Theresa's Church, Anacostia.

"...The new structure is thirty-eight feet front and sixty feet deep, and cost about \$5,000. The architectural style is Romanesque and the tower rises to a height of eighty feet. The seating capacity of the ground floor is 350 and of the gallery that runs across the north end fifty more. The bell in the tower was cast by Henry McShane of Baltimore, is attuned to "C" and weighs in gross seven hundred and thirty pounds and is the joint donation of Nicholas Brooke, George Gray, Michel Quinn and Father Hughes.

"The church contains twenty cathedral glass windows donated by..." 1

In 1948, St. Ignatius' was made a parish in its own right, assigned to the Archdiocese of Washington. The parish house, located across Brinkley Road from the Church, was erected in 1948-49. St. Ignatius' School, located next to the Church, was erected in 1966.

1) Patrick J. Begley, "History of St. Ignatius' Roman Catholic Church, Oxon Hill, Maryland, 1849-1949," 13-14.