

PH0352641

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JUL 13 1976
DATE ENTERED NOV 7 1976NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORMSEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

 * St. Joseph's On the Brandywine *nh*
AND/OR COMMON**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

10 Barley Mill Road

— NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Greenville

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

One

— VICINITY OF

STATE

Delaware

CODE

10

COUNTY

New Castle

CODE

002

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

— DISTRICT

 BUILDING(S)

— STRUCTURE

— SITE

— OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

— PUBLIC

 PRIVATE

— BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

— IN PROCESS

— BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

 OCCUPIED

— UNOCCUPIED

— WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

 YES: RESTRICTED

— YES: UNRESTRICTED

— NO

PRESENT USE

— AGRICULTURE

— COMMERCIAL

— EDUCATIONAL

— ENTERTAINMENT

— GOVERNMENT

— INDUSTRIAL

— MILITARY

— MUSEUM

— PARK

— PRIVATE RESIDENCE

 RELIGIOUS

— SCIENTIFIC

— TRANSPORTATION

— OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Diocese of Wilmington

STREET & NUMBER

1925 Delaware Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Wilmington

— VICINITY OF

STATE

Delaware

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Public Building

STREET & NUMBER

Rodney Square

CITY, TOWN

Wilmington

STATE

Delaware

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Delaware Survey of Historic Sites & Buildings N-1256

DATE

1974

— FEDERAL STATE — COUNTY — LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Division of Historical & Cultural Affairs

CITY, TOWN

Dover

STATE

Delaware

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

St. Joseph's On the Brandywine is set in an enclosed churchyard and surrounded by contemporary structures which blend well. A classical church with simple lines, and Italianate and Gothic features, it has undergone many changes in its history.

In its present form, St. Joseph's displays very little of the original church structure. The stone walls, constructed thick enough "to resist man-made earthquakes" remain, but additions were made in 1848, 1878, 1941 and 1950. The basement reflects the original size of the church. It was first increased by one-third; and then a tower was added in 1878. The size of the vestibule was increased in 1941 and then the sacristy was enlarged in 1950. The church is stuccoed and painted yellow. Documentation for this color dates to 1895. The major renovations to the interior of the church were completed in 1894 and 1941. In preparation for the church's consecration in 1894, three new marble altars were installed as well as statues, memorial windows, a new ceiling and pews. At about the same time the church was painted and frescoed. As it celebrated its centennial, St. Joseph's enlarged the sanctuary, installed new pews and windows, marble aisles, marble statuary, and a pipe organ.

Presently, the exterior and interior of the church are very similar in color and form. The pedimented gable of the facade is pierced by the steeple. The latter takes a modified Gothic form with arched openings in the belfry and a heavy wooden balustrade surrounding the towers. A niche in the projecting tower contains a statue of Saint Joseph. Below this a Georgian Revival architrave has been added to the main door. The original style of the door is reflected in the two auxiliary doors added in 1941. Here a simple fanlight fills the top of the arched door opening. Arched openings are found in most of the windows in the structure. Along each side of the church, five elongated arched openings contain two narrower arched windows. These memorial windows were set in place in 1941 replacing those of 1894. The sections of the building added in 1941 and 1950 have smaller arched openings on the upper level with square openings below.

The interior of the church reflects many of the exterior forms. All of the openings in the vestibule are arched. Three arches also set off the sanctuary. An altar is enclosed in each and in the center of the rear wall a niche holds a statue. Arched doorways to the sacristy flank the main altar. The panelling in the sacristy is copied from that in the rear of the church. It replaces the 1894 marble altars which were recently removed. The ceiling in the church is ribbed narrow-board ceiling with bosses at the junctions of the ribs. It was added in 1894. The original ceiling may have been vaulted. Along the walls is a wainscot, stained dark to resemble walnut. It was added in 1941. The walls of the church are painted yellow. The aisles are marble and along with the present pews, also date to 1941. A choir loft spans the width of the church in the rear.

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

1841

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Built in 1841, St. Joseph's On the Brandywine symbolizes the duPont family's concern for the needs of its workers. In 1841, the idea of caring for the welfare of the worker outside of the working hours was a relatively new concept. The duPonts were ahead of their time in realizing that if they provided for the needs of their workers, the Company would benefit. To the Irish and Italian Catholic workers, the church was essential to a happy peaceful life. Having a church would also benefit the Company in that it would serve as a uniting force between the two nationalities and establish a sense of permanence for the workers who were newly settled in this country.

Built by stonemasons from the duPont Company, St. Joseph's has the extraordinarily thick stone walls that the masons were accustomed to building in the powder mills. The masons were allowed to work on company time in constructing the church but this is only one of the ways in which the duPonts assisted in the establishment of the parish. Madame Victor duPont, a Catholic, by allowing mass to be celebrated in her home, activated interest in the Catholics. Other duPonts began to take an interest in the Catholic community. Among them was Charles I. duPont, who contributed the land on which the church was built. St. Joseph's first board of trustees was composed of several duPonts; the building committee was chaired by Alexis duPont who took great interest in the project. Shortly thereafter, when the bell tower was erected, Alexis duPont furnished the apparatus and oversaw its construction.

Throughout the nineteenth century, a close bond continued between the parish, the duPont family and the Company. The Company deducted pew rents from the pay of the parish members. After a fire in 1866 gutted the church and rectory, loans and gifts from the duPont family and the Company made possible their rebuilding. In 1895, Alfred I. duPont made provisions for electricity to be provided for the church, rectory, convent and school. Later when he painted his house, he made allowances for painting St. Joseph's buildings the same yellow color. He also provided a new roof.

Throughout the parish's first eighty years, at times when an explosion or an epidemic seriously affected the mill workers, the priests and the family members often met at the workers' homes ministering to their spiritual and temporal needs. This is particularly true of Alfred I. duPont and Father Bermingham at the time of the 1890's typhoid epidemic.

In 1850, Amelia duPont offered the parish five hundred dollars for the construction of a convent. This began the movement of parochial education in the state. Before the founding of the school in 1850, Catholics received their religious training at the Brandywine Manufacturer's Sunday School. This school, founded in 1815, was a unique ecumenical effort on the part of all denominations in the area. Each denomination instructed its own members in religion; jointly the children and adults were instructed in reading, writing and arithmetic. Various denominations withdrew as they completed their churches.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Zebley, Frank R. The Churches of Delaware. Wilmington: By the Author, 1947.
- Errigo, Joseph A. L. St. Joseph's On the Brandywine. Wilmington: Wm. N. Carr, Inc., 1941.
- Citro, Pauline A. "St. Joseph's On the Brandywine". Unpublished paper, 1964.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Two

UTM REFERENCES

A

1	8	4	4	9	5	7	5	4	4	0	2	4	3	5
ZONE				EASTING				NORTHING						

B

ZONE				EASTING				NORTHING					

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The site is defined on the east, west and north by the stone wall that encloses the churchyard and on the south by the boundary of the cemetery. It includes the church, rectory, convent, school and cemetery.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME/TITLE

J. M. Noxton, Historic Site Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Division of Historical & Cultural Affairs

DATE

4/15/76

STREET & NUMBER

Hall of Records

TELEPHONE

(302) 678-5314

CITY OR TOWN

Dover

STATE

Delaware

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

Lauren [Signature]

TITLE Director, Division of Historical & Cultural Affairs

DATE

6/23/76

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Lawrence [Signature]

DATE

11/9/86

ATTEST: DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

4/1/76

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

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CONTINUATION SHEET

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In 1894, when St. Joseph's was consecrated, it was the largest Catholic church in the state. Then, in about 1930, the DuPont Company moved its powder manufacture away. The church was so much tied to the company that it began to experience a period of decline. It seemed possible that it would close. However, Wilmington was growing and spreading its population out to the Brandywine Valley. New parishoners came and today, although it draws its parishoners from all of northern New Castle County, the parish has the solidarity that characterized it in its earlier years. It is, in fact, a symbol of continuity for the Catholic faith in Delaware.

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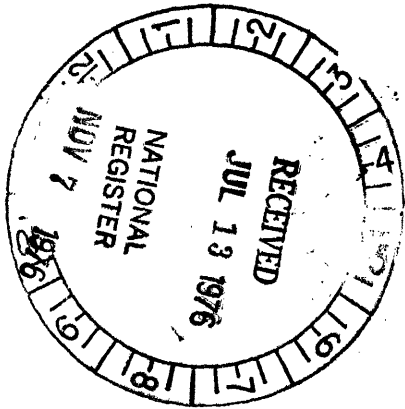
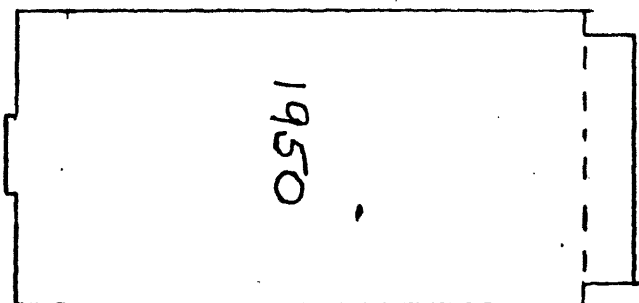
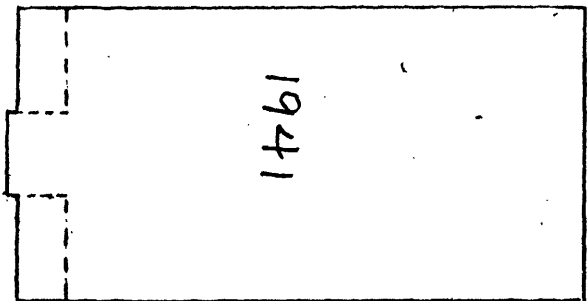
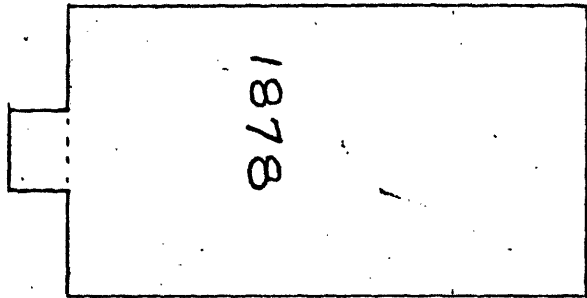
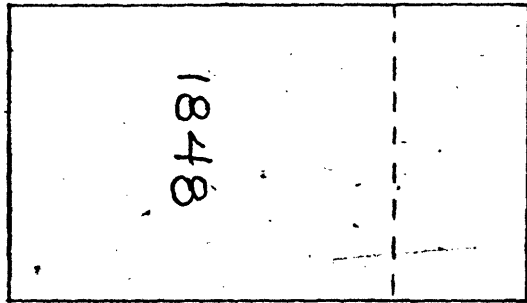
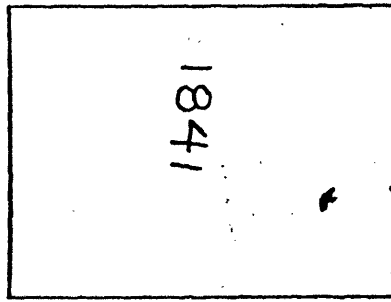
ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 2

Sunday Star, Wilmington, DE 8-17-41: 1

Journal Every Evening, Wilmington, DE 12-6-41: 3

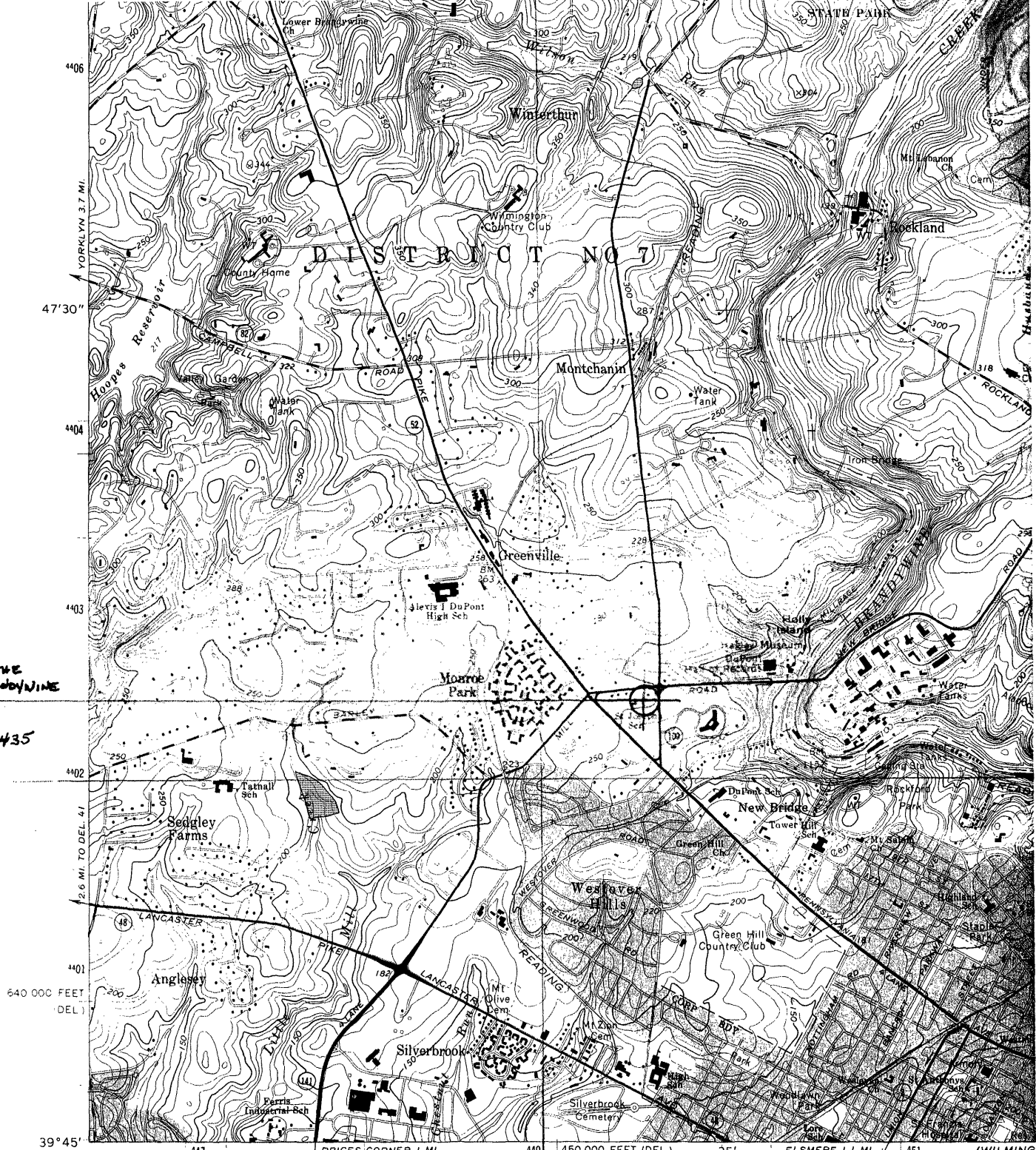
Every Evening, Wilmington, DE 12-27-28: 9

Development of the Plan of
ST. JOSEPH'S ON THE BRANDYWINE



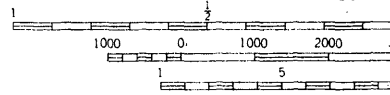
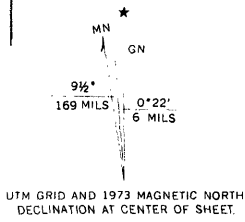
Drawn: 6/15/76
By: JHN
Not to Scale

ST. JOSEPH'S ON THE
BRADDOCKLINE
GREENVILLE, DE
18/449575/4402435



NEWARK EAST 7
5883 11 NW

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS and USC&GS
Topography in Delaware by planetable surveys 1935-1936
Topography in Pennsylvania by photogrammetric methods
from aerial photographs taken 1950. Field checked 1954
Revised from aerial photographs taken 1965. Field checked 1967
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grids based on Delaware coordinate system,
and Pennsylvania coordinate system, south zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 18, shown in blue
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where
generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown



CONTOUR INT
NATIONAL GEODETIC VE

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NAT
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAP