

ACHS SUMMARY FORM

M:35-5

Name Bethesda Meetinghouse and Cemetery

2. Planning Area/Site Number 35/5

3. MNCPPC Atlas Reference
Map 21 Coordinate C-6

4. Address 9400 Wisconsin Avenue
Bethesda, MD

5. Classification Summary

Category Building
 Ownership Private
 Public Acquisition _____
 Status Occupied
 Accessible Yes: restricted
 Present use Private residence; religious
 Previous Survey Recording _____ Federal _____ State _____ County _____ Local _____
 National Register, 1977

6. Date 1850

7. Original Owner Bethesda
Presbyterian Church

8. Apparent Condition

a. Good

c. Original Site

b. Unaltered

Description

Bethesda Meeting House is one of the few Greek Revival "temple" structures in Montgomery County. It was built in 1850 on or near the site of an 1820 church, located on the present Rockville Pike south of the Capital Beltway. The Meeting House features stained glass Gothic windows along the front and sides. Wooden pilasters, a boxed cornice and wide frieze repeat the Greek Revival trend around the building. Placed on a high knoll, the church has a stone foundation exposed in the rear.

The adjacent Victorian style parsonage, structure date uncertain, is a two story frame building showing signs of "Queen Anne and Cottage Gothic" style. A

10. Significance cemetery is on the property.

The Meeting House and parsonage present architectural styles rare in Montgomery County and preserve an early Christian facility of the area.

The church, mostly of clapboard siding, is entered by two double front doors, beneath a front portico. A bell is suspended from the portico ceiling. Inside are a "slave galley", Gothic style pews, raised pulpit and oak floor. The parsonage probably built around 1851, has shingled gables, verandahs and bay windows, purportedly of a style popular in the mid-1830's.

The Meeting House was known when built in 1850 as the Bethesda Presbyterian Church. Presbyterians from the old Cabin John Meeting House had constructed an earlier church (later destroyed by fire) here in 1820. Sold in 1925, the church changed hands several times until bought by the Baptists in 1950. Presbyterians retain ownership of the cemetery.

11. Date researched: Congregation of Temple Hills Baptist Church, 1976

12. Compiler
Ann Harris

13. Date Compiled Fall '78 14. Designation
Approval _____

15. Acreage 3 acres

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

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DATE ENTERED

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC Bethesda Meeting House

AND/OR COMMON Temple Hill Baptist Church

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 9400 Wisconsin Avenue (Rockville Pike)

CITY, TOWN Bethesda VICINITY OF Eigth

STATE Maryland CODE 24 COUNTY Montgomery CODE 031

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Church & Parsonage: Temple Hill Baptist Church/Cemetery: Cemetery Association

STREET & NUMBER 9400 Wisconsin Avenue (Rockville Pike)

CITY, TOWN Bethesda VICINITY OF Maryland 20014

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, MONTGOMERY COUNTY COURTHOUSE
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

STREET & NUMBER
CITY, TOWN Rockville STATE Maryland 21250

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

This property occupies a prominent knoll overlooking Rockville Pike (Route 355) just south of the Capital Beltway. It consists of a cemetery, parsonage and the church itself.

The church is a large, frame structure built in the Greek Revival "temple" form. It is one of very few Montgomery County examples of this elsewhere popular style, and even this building features prominent Gothic-style windows throughout.

The gabled main facade faces east and contains three bays. The central entrance is flanked by two large pointed-arch windows identical to the Gothic-style windows along the sides of the building. The bays are separated by wooden pilasters which also emphasize the corners of the building. The pilasters support a wide frieze that wraps around the structure beneath the eaves. The gable end here is of shiplap siding, and a recessed carved panel reads "Bethesda Church, Rebuilt 1850." The rest of the siding on the church is of clapboards.

Each of the double doors has two raised vertical panels. There is a large, pointed-arch overlight above the doors that features delicate, "foliated" muntins and stained glass panes. The open, two-story pedimented portico that spans the entire front is an early 20th century addition. An old photograph of the church shows a much smaller hood-type portico, decorated with shingles (probably a Victorian addition itself.)¹ A bell (reportedly once owned by Paul Revere) now rests on a wooden frame that is suspended near the ceiling of the portico. True to the Greek form, the church never included a bell tower.

With the exception of the windows, the sides and rear of the church repeat the Greek Revival style of the front, i.e., boxed cornice, frieze and pilasters. The sides are three bays deep and the windows, like those on the front, feature triple sash with a fixed-arch section of foliated muntin atop double-hung, fifteen-over-twenty sections.

The grade slopes downward towards the rear of the church, so that a partial basement is exposed. It is made of stone taken from the ruins of the previous church. The northeast cornerstone of this 1850 church is also from the earlier building. It reads "BMH 1820." At the rear of the church, a small, three-sided apse is cantilevered out over the basement wall. It features two small Gothic windows. The present roof of the entire building is asphalt shingle.

Inside, the church also exhibits few modern changes. An entrance vestibule is formed underneath the former slave gallery. The

See continuation sheet #1

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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

Bethesda Meeting House
Bethesda,
Maryland

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1

DESCRIPTION (continued)

center aisle is flanked by rows of wooden pews. The original pews (removed to Bethesda, and subsequently taken to a mission in North Carolina) have been replaced by Gothic-style pews from the old First Baptist Church of Washington. To the right of these, the side-window glass is clear, to allow light, while the rest of the glass in the church is rare stained glass, reportedly from Sandwich, Massachusetts. Behind the small, elevated pulpit in the chancel, the light from the apse gives illumination. Present ceiling chandeliers are electric, but marks of the previous gas and oil lamps can be seen on the ceiling which is a high, flat surface.

Attention is drawn to the front of the church by an arched, vault-type opening over the apse. It is trimmed with the same Greek-style pilaster molding seen throughout the building. On both sides of this are slim brick chimney stacks that have been plastered over. They once were used as flues for the heating stove and carried an elevated pipe toward the rear of the structure. The present heating system, like most of the few modernizations here, has been well screened; it rises through grates in the old oak floor between the pews.

To the south of the church is the parsonage. This is a two-story, frame Victorian structure of a modified cruciform plan. Church records show that a "manse" was built here for the preacher in 1851.² Subsequent church records were fairly well kept and these make no mention of a later parsonage. If the present building was indeed built in 1851 or so, it was 30 or 40 years before the style became generally accepted in Montgomery County. Although it exhibits traits of the later "Queen Anne" style (shingled gables, one-over-one sash, German siding, etc.), it also possesses a number of "Cottage Gothic" motifs made popular by Andrew Jackson Downing between 1840 and 1870. The house is festooned with hood-type gables, verandahs, scrolled brackets, bay windows, etc., all of these basic to a Downing-influenced house. Although not a strictly Gothic-appearing structure, the design may have been based on a pattern shown in Cottage Residences (1842) or The Architecture of Country Houses (1850).³

See continuation sheet #2

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Bethesda Meeting House
Bethesda,
Maryland

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE 2

DESCRIPTION (continued)

At any rate, the present building is a particularly noteworthy piece of architecture, and appears to have been standing for a number of years when a photograph of it was taken in 1918.⁴ Downing and his protege, Calvert Vaux, had designed the Dodge houses in Washington in the 1850's. Rev. Smith, rector at Bethesda Church at that period, was a native of New England and a former Baltimore merchant, who was certainly aware of developments in architecture outside of Montgomery County.⁵

¹Photograph appears in the Washington Star, "Rambler" article, May 18, 1919.

²Eugene & Edythe Clark, The Spirit of Captain John (New York, 1970), p. 131.

³Carolyn Flaherty, "The Domestic Architecture of Downing," Old House Journal (New York, October 1974).

⁴Unpublished glass-plate negative in the "Rambler" collection, Columbia Historical Society, Washington, D.C.

⁵Georgetown Architecture, Historic American Buildings Survey Selections, #10, 1970, by the Commission of Fine Arts and H.A.B.S., pp. 17-36.

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) Local History	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Architecturally, the Bethesda Meeting House and parsonage represent sophisticated styles that, for one reason or another, never flourished in Montgomery County.

The background of the church and its various congregations is inextricably linked with the history of Montgomery County, from its earliest inception up to present times. In fact, the name of the modern community of Bethesda is taken from this landmark church. The word refers to a place of healing mentioned in the Bible. It is especially significant that present day Bethesda, Maryland, is known world wide as a center of healing, due to the Bethesda Naval Hospital, the National Institute of Health, and the National Library of Medicine located there.

The church is the subject of a recently written, full length book that documents its history fully. A brief summary of that history appears below:

The structure now known as the Temple Hill Baptist Church was originally the Bethesda Presbyterian Church, erected in 1850. The Bethesda Presbyterian congregation had its origins in the group founded by the Reverends Hugh Conn and John Orme, before the Revolutionary War. The group's original meeting house was built on an acre of land deeded to the Presbyterians by Edward Offutt in 1746. The land was in the Captain John Creek area, and the worship center subsequently became known as the "Cabin John" Meeting House.

[The exact derivation of the term Cabin John is unknown. Some assert that the name came from Captain John Smith, the first white settler in the area. Other sources suggest that a stranger who built a log house in the area became known as John of the Cabin. (Clark, The Spirit of Captain John.)]

The records indicate that in its early days the congregations of Cabin John and Bladensburg were united and shared the services of the same minister. One of the outstanding early pastors was James Hunt, who graduated from Princeton in 1759 and was ordained by the Presbytery of New Brunswick, N.J., the following year. Hunt led the United

See continuation sheet #3

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Bethesda Meeting House
Bethesda,
Maryland

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 3

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (continued)

congregations during the time of colonial unrest and was an ardent advocate of an independent America. In 1779 Hunt acquired 365 acres in Montgomery County; the land was about six miles south of Rockville and bounded on the east and west by present day Old Georgetown and Seven Locks Roads. It was at this farm, named Tusculum after a mountain outside of Rome, that he founded the first private secondary school for boys. Many of the students boarded at the nearby home of Samuel Wade Magruder. Perhaps Reverend Hunt's most famous pupil was William Wirt, who served as U.S. Attorney General from 1817 to 1829, and was a presidential candidate in 1832 on the Anti-Masonic ticket. After Reverend Hunt's death in 1793 the Cabin John congregation became affiliated with those at Seneca and Difficult, abandoning its connection with Bladensburg.

In 1820 the Presbytery of Baltimore directed that a church be organized on the Rockville Pike for Presbyterians in the southern reaches of the Cabin John congregation. The Elders purchased a parcel of land on the Pike, which was part of the tract Leeke Forest, and either built or converted a structure already there to serve as the Bethesda Meeting House. John Mines was pastor of the Bethesda and Rockville congregations from 1823 to 1849. He also served as the principal of the Rockville Academy.

The first Bethesda Meeting House was destroyed by fire on November 23, 1849. The pastor, Randolph Smith, immediately set out to build a new church. He not only solicited subscriptions, but also participated in the actual construction. The stones of the original structure were used as the foundation of the new wooden church. This new building, on a hill overlooking the Rockville Pike, served as the Bethesda Presbyterian Church from 1850 until 1925 when the congregation decided to erect a new church farther south in Bethesda. The records of the church contain references to the baptisms, marriages and funerals of many of the area's prominent families. Among them were the names Magruder, Stone, Willson, Perry, Veirs and Muncaster.

When the church moved to its new location, the trustees sold the building and seven acres of land to May Fitch Kelley in 1925. The Presbyterian congregation, however, retained ownership of the cemetery and the graveyard. Mrs. Kelley, who held the property for twenty years,

See continuation sheet #4

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Bethesda Meeting House
Bethesda,
Maryland

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 4

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (continued)

sold it to a Catholic missionary group, the White Fathers (a Canadian group). After several changes of ownership, the property was purchased by the trustees of the Temple Hill Baptist Church in the 1950's. Reverend William B. Adams, the pastor since then, has turned down several lucrative offers to sell the property, and he and his congregation have recently embarked on a program to restore the old church.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Land Records of Montgomery County, Md.
 Clark, Eugene & Edythe. The Spirit of Captain John. New York: Carlton Press, Inc., 1970.
A 250 Year Heritage. 1973 booklet by the Bethesda Presbyterian Church, Bethesda, Md.
 Historical Discourse...delivered by Rev. Parke P. Flournoy, 1880.
 Numerous newspaper articles.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 3 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	B	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	D	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

bjn

NAME / TITLE Reverend & Mrs. William B. Adams & Congregation/Michael Dwyer

ORGANIZATION Temple Hill Baptist Church/M-NCPPC

DATE 8/26/76

STREET & NUMBER 9400 Wisconsin Avenue/5107 Muncaster Mill Road

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN Bethesda/Rockville Maryland

STATE 20014 /20853

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

TITLE

DATE

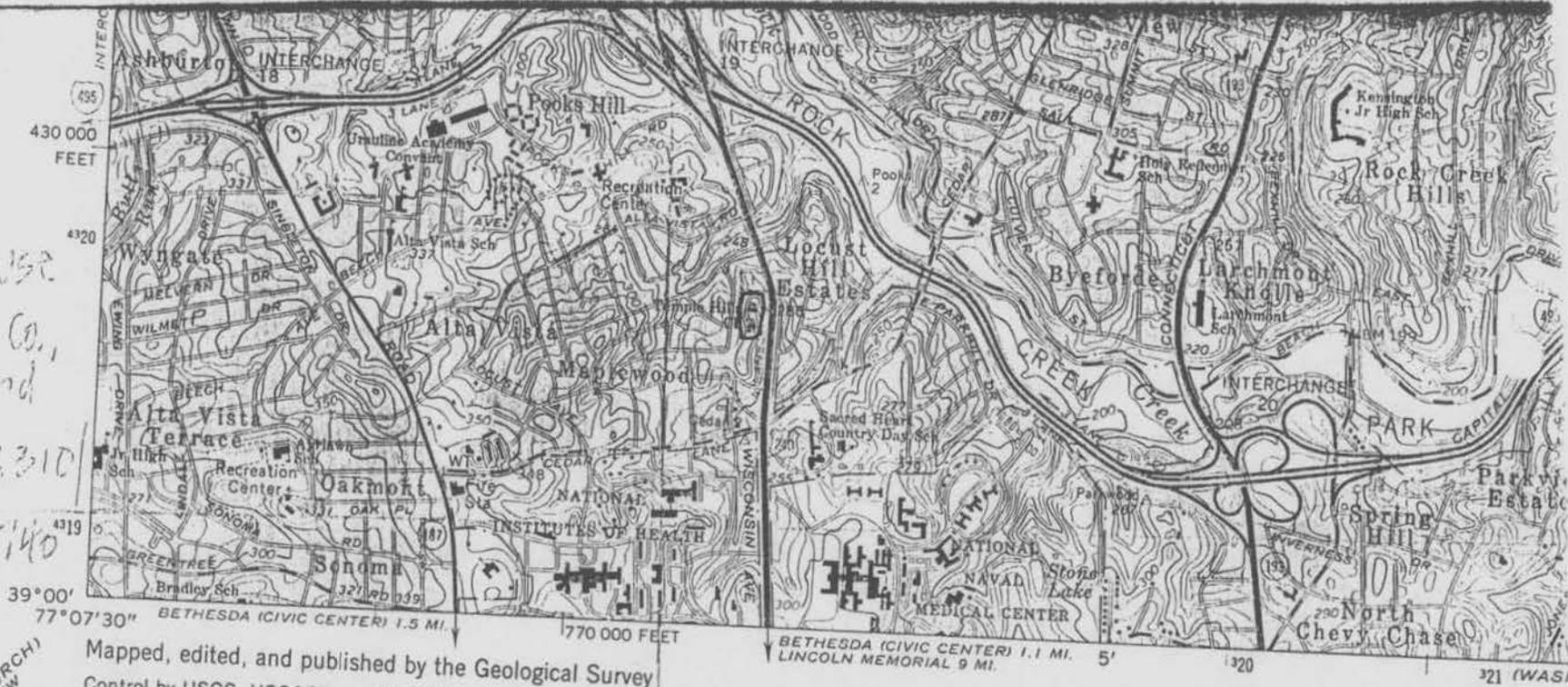
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER	
	DATE
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION	DATE
ATTEST	DATE
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER	

Bethesda
Meeting House
Montgomery Co.,
Maryland

UTM 18 31S 31D

4219 740

(FALLS CHURCH)
5661 NW



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and WSSC

Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs
taken 1955. Field checked 1956. Revised 1965

Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Maryland coordinate system
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 18, shown in blue

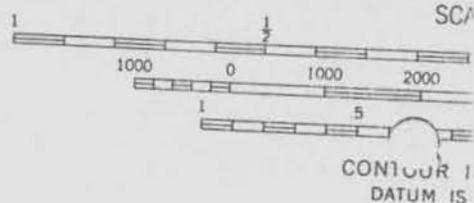
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where
generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked

Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown

Area covered by dashed light-blue pattern
is subject to controlled inundation to 351 feet



UTM GRID AND 1971 MAGNETIC NORTH
DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET



THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NA
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS

WASHINGTON QUADRANGLE

(FALLS CHURCH)
5661 NW

M: 35-1



Maryland Historical Trust

July 12, 1978

Dr. William Murtagh
Keeper
National Register of Historic Places
U. S. Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service
Washington, D. C. 20240

Dear Dr. Murtagh:

Enclosed is an addendum to the nomination for Bethesda Meeting House, Montgomery County, Maryland. This includes an increase in acreage of one (1) acre adjacent to the three acres placed on the National Register on April 18, 1977.

Please let us know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Pamela James
National Register
Coordinator

PMJ/1km
Enclosures

Form No. 10-300a
(Rev. 10-74)UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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Bethesda Meeting House
Montgomery County
Maryland

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE 1 (Addendum)

ADDENDUM TO BETHESDA MEETING HOUSE NOMINATION
Bethesda Presbyterian Church Cemetery

The Bethesda Presbyterian Church Cemetery is situated at 9410 Rockville Pike (Wisconsin Avenue) in Bethesda, Maryland, adjacent to and north of the present Bethesda Meeting House, which was listed in the National Register of Historic Places on April 18, 1977.

The acre of ground on which the cemetery is located was purchased in October, 1820 from Thomas Cramphin for the token sum of one dollar. It was part of a larger tract known as Leake (or Leeke) Forest, which had been the earliest land grant in the area, surveyed in 1688 for Colonel Henry Dulany. The deed for this acre of land contains the following sentence:

. . . for the purpose of having erected thereon a church or meeting house for the accomodation of a Presbyterian congregation or society which it is in contemplation to form and establish in that neighborhood and to and for the use of a burying ground and yard for the convenience of said church or congregation . . . (Deed V/308, 12/25/1820)

A stone meeting house was built on the property in 1820, and burials were made in the land around the church. The earliest existing grave marker is that of Abraham Wingerd, who died in 1820. The church was built by the Captain (Cabin) John Presbyterian Congregation of Potomac and was named the Bethesda Meeting House. The cornerstone of the building on the original acre was used in 1850 in a new church located about 100 yards south of the original property (the 1850 structure is the one currently listed on the National Register). It is at this newer structure that the original cornerstone, inscribed "B.M.H. - 1820," can still be seen.

In 1926 the Bethesda Presbyterian Church congregation had outgrown the frame church of 1850, and it relocated in Bethesda at Wilson Lane and Clarendon Road, where it remains today. Ownership of the one-acre cemetery land has been retained by the Bethesda Presbyterian Church continuously since 1820, while the property on which the second Bethesda Meeting House was built in 1850 has passed through private ownership from 1925-1944, to an order of the Roman

continued

Form No. 10-300a
(Rev. 10-74)UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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Bethesda Meeting House
Montgomery County
Maryland

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE 2 (Addendum)

Bethesda Presbyterian Church Cemetery, continued

Catholic Church from 1944-1952, to the ownership of the Temple Hill Baptist Church, which uses the property today.

While there is no space for additional burials, the Bethesda Presbyterian Church Cemetery is well maintained and permanent markers have been erected to describe and identify this historic place. The cemetery is on a beautiful hillside site amongst larger trees; it has galvanized wire fencing on three sides. The older grave markers apparently were made by local craftsmen. Many prominent local leaders of the community are interred here, including the Reverend Parke Poindexter Flournoy, D.D., and his family. Dr. Flournoy had served the Bethesda Presbyterian Church as Pastor from 1875-1882 and from 1890-1922, providing vital leadership in the church and community for several generations. He was made Pastor Emeritus of the church on his retirement in 1922. Members of other prominent families interred here include Gingells, Magruders, Perrys, Renshaws, Spatses, and Wilsons. These families and many others who are buried in this historic cemetery played an important role not only in the history of Bethesda Presbyterian Church, but also in the development of the community and the county.

(Most of the above has been extracted from The Spirit of Captain John - A History of the Bethesda Presbyterian Church, Montgomery County, Maryland, by Eugene and Edythe Clark, New York: Carlton Press, Inc., 1970.)

Donald H. Humphries
Colonel, USAF (Retired)
Chairman, Board of Trustees
Bethesda Presbyterian Church

Wilson Lane & Clarendon Road
Bethesda, Maryland 20014

18 November 1977

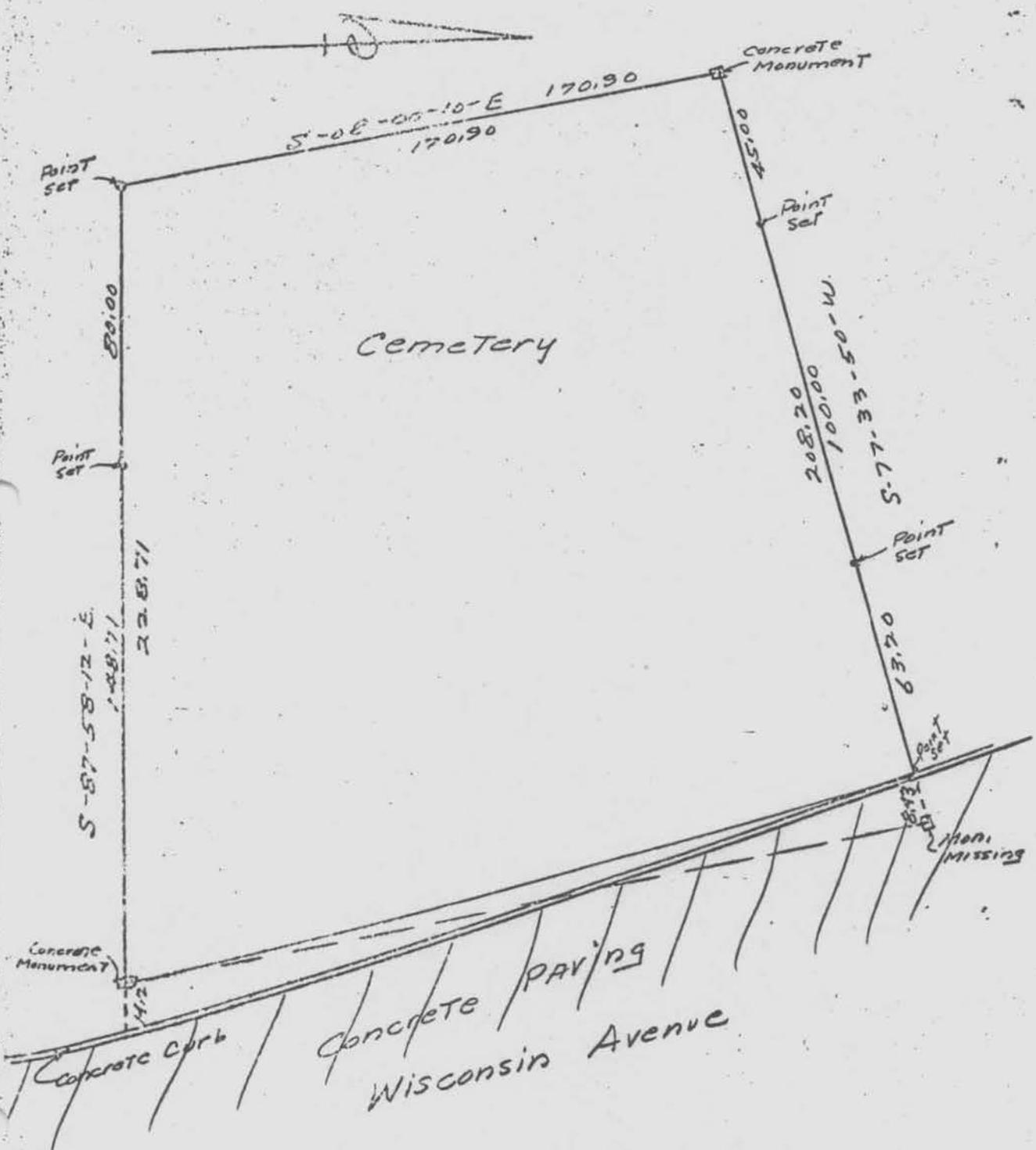
AMERICAN
TOPOGRAPHIC
ENGINEERS

Surveyors & Topographers

BETHESDA, MARYLAND

PL 19558 Bethesda
Presbyterian Church

Property Line Survey on Church
Cemetery on Wisconsin Avenue
Bethesda, Montgomery Co. Md.
Scale 1"=40' September 28, 1961

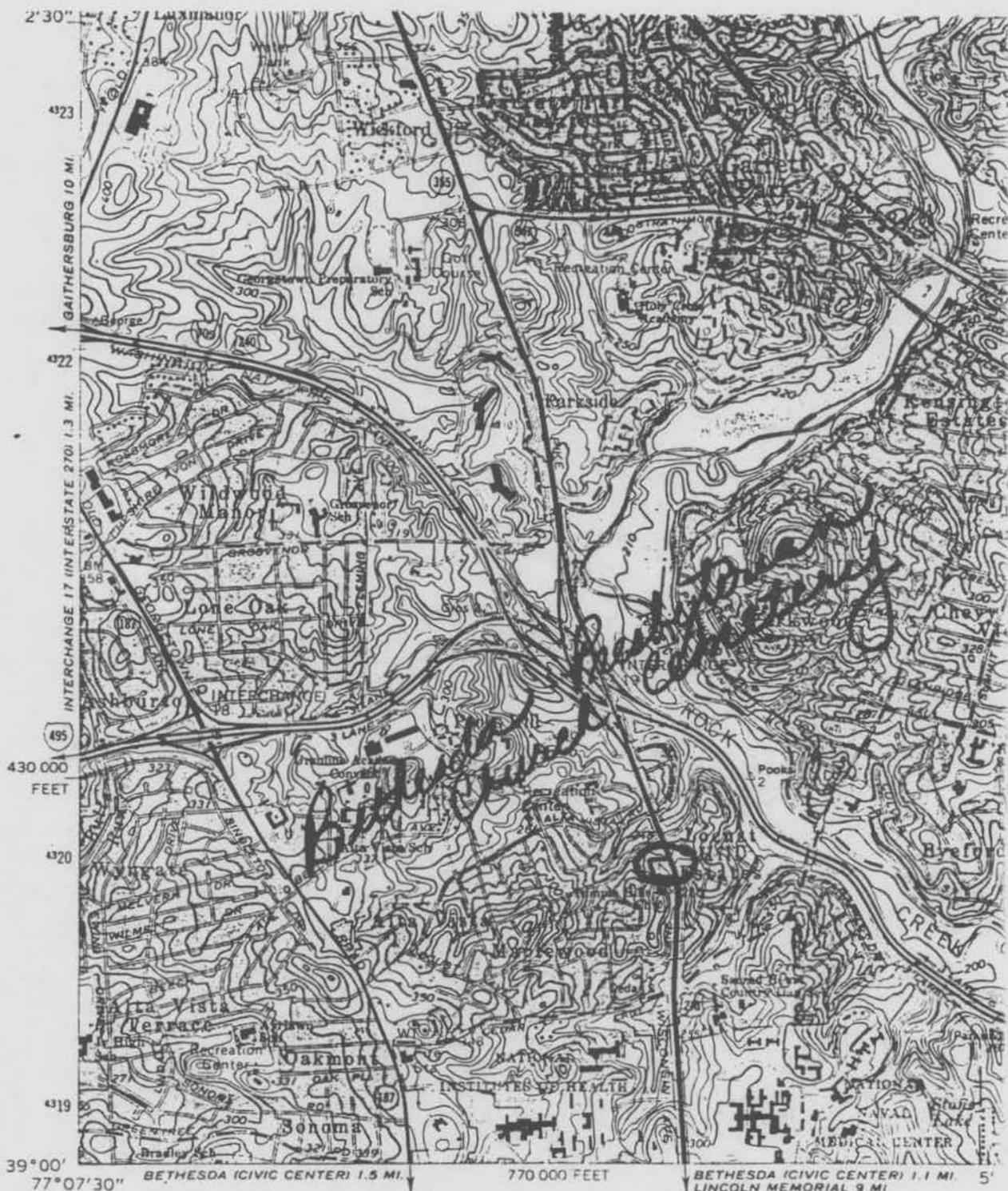


I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT I HAVE CAREFULLY SURVEYED THE ABOVE PROPERTY BY TRANSIT-TAPE SURVEY,
 LOCATED IMPROVEMENTS THEREON, AND HAVE FOUND IT TO BE AS SHOWN ON THIS PLAT AND THAT
 THERE ARE NO ENCROACHMENTS EITHER WAY ACROSS PROPERTY LINES EXCEPT AS SHOWN ON SAID PLAT

MD. REG. NO. 1690 - VA. REG. NO. 441

FRANK B. LANE, REGISTERED SURVEYOR

Frank B. Lane



(FALLS CHURCH)
 5561 / NW

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
 Control by USGS, USC&GS, and WSSC

Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs
 taken 1955. Field checked 1956. Revised 1965

Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
 10,000-foot grid based on Maryland coordinate system
 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

Area covered by dashed light-blue pattern
 is subject to controlled inundation to 351 feet



UTM GRID AND 1971 MAGNETIC NORTH
 DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET

met Pa

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

NOMINATION FORM
for the
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME					
COMMON: Temple Hill Baptist Church					
AND/OR HISTORIC: Bethesda Meeting House					
2. LOCATION					
STREET AND NUMBER: 9400 Wisconsin Ave. (Rockville Pike)					
CITY OR TOWN: Bethesda					
STATE: Maryland		COUNTY: Montgomery			
3. CLASSIFICATION					
CATEGORY (Check One) <input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object		OWNERSHIP <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered		STATUS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC 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"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments	
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	_____	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious	_____	_____	
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	_____	_____	
4. OWNER OF PROPERTY					
OWNER'S NAME: Church & Parsonage: Temple Hill Baptist Ch./ Cemetery: Cemetery Assoc.					
STREET AND NUMBER: 9400 Wisconsin Ave. (Rockville Pike)					
CITY OR TOWN: Bethesda		STATE: Maryland			
5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION					
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Montgomery County Courthouse					
STREET AND NUMBER:					
CITY OR TOWN: Rockville		STATE: Maryland			
Title Reference of Current Deed (Book & Pg. #):					
6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS					
TITLE OF SURVEY: The Maryland Inventory of Historic Sites					
DATE OF SURVEY: 1976 <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local					
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: M-NCPPC & Maryland Historical Trust					
STREET AND NUMBER:					
CITY OR TOWN: Rockville & Annapolis		STATE: Maryland			

7 DESCRIPTION	
CONDITION	(Check One)
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/> Ruins <input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered <input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered <input type="checkbox"/> Moved <input type="checkbox"/> Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This property occupies a prominent knoll that overlooks Rockville Pike (Rte. 355) just south of the Capital Beltway. It consists of a cemetery, parsonage, and the church itself.

The church is a large, frame, rectangular-shaped structure built in the Greek Revival "temple" form. It is one of very few Montgomery County examples of this elsewhere-popular style, and even this building features prominent Gothic-style windows throughout.

The gabled main facade faces east and contains three bays. The central entrance is flanked by two large pointed-arch windows, that are identical to the Gothic-style windows along the sides of the building. The bays are separated by wooden pilasters, which also emphasize the corners of the building. The pilasters support a wide frieze band that wraps around the structure beneath the eaves. The gable-end here is of ship-lap siding, and a recessed carved panel reads "Bethesda Church, Rebuilt 1850." The rest of the siding on the church is of clapboards.

Each of the double doors has two raised vertical panels. There is a large, pointed-arch overlight above the doors that features delicate "foliated" muntins and stained glass panes. The open, two-story pedimented portico that spans the entire front here represents an early 20th Century addition. An old photograph of the church shows a much smaller hood-type portico, decorated with shingles (probably a Victorian addition in itself.)¹ A bell (reportedly once owned by Paul Revere) now rests on a wooden frame, that is suspended near the ceiling of the portico. True to the Greek form, the church never included a bell-tower.

With the exception of the windows, the sides and rear of the church repeat the Greek Revival style of the front, i.e., boxed cornice, frieze band and pilasters. The sides are three-bays deep and the windows, like those on the front, feature triple-sash, with a fixed-arch section of foliated muntin atop double-hung, fifteen-over-twenty sections.

The grade slopes downward towards the rear of the church, so that a partial basement is exposed. It is made of stone taken from the ruins of the previous church. The NE corner

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

DESCRIPTION (CON'T.)

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stone of this (1850) church is also from the earlier building. It reads "BMH 1820". At the rear of the church, a small, three-sided apse is cantilevered out over the basement wall. It features two small Gothic windows. The present roof of the entire building is asphalt shingle.

Inside, the church also exhibits few modern changes. An entrance vestibule is formed underneath the former slave gallery. The center aisle is flanked by rows of wooden pews. The original pews (removed to Bethesda, and subsequently taken to a mission in North Carolina) have been replaced by Gothic-style pews from the old First Baptist Church of Washington. To the right of these, the side-window glass is clear, to allow light, while the rest of the glass in the church is rare stained glass-reportedly from Sandwich, Mass. Behind the small, elevated pulpit in the chancel, the lights from the apse give illumination. Present ceiling chandeliers are electric, but marks of the previous gas and oil lamps can be seen on the ceiling-which is a high, flat surface.

Attention is drawn to the front of the church by an arched, vault-type of opening over the apse. It is trimmed with the same Greek-style pilaster molding seen throughout the building. On both sides of this are slim brick chimney stacks that have been plastered over. They once were used as flues for the stove heating device, that carried an elevated pipe toward the rear of the structure. The present heating system, like most of the few modernizations here, has been well-screened since it rises through grates in the old oak floor between the pews.

To the south of the church is the parsonage. This is a two-story, frame Victorian structure of a modified cruciform plan. Church records show that a "manse" was built here for the preacher in 1851.² Subsequent church records were fairly well kept and these make no mention of a later parsonage. If the present building was indeed built in 1851 or so, it was 30 or 40 years before the style became generally accepted in Montgomery County. Although it exhibits traits of the later "Queen Anne" style (shingled gables, one-over-one sash, German siding, etc.) it also possesses a number of "Cottage Gothic" motifs made popular by Andrew Jackson Downing between 1840 and 1870. The house is festooned with hood-type gables, verandahs, scrolled brackets, bay windows, etc.-all of these basic to a Downing-influenced house. Although not a strictly Gothic-appearing structure, the design may have been based on a pattern shown in Cottage Residences (1842) or The Architecture of Country Houses (1850).³

DESCRIPTION (CON'T.)

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At any rate, the present building is a particularly-noteworthy piece of architecture, and appears to have been standing for a number of years when a photograph of it was taken in 1918.⁴ Downing and his protege', Calvert Vaux, had designed the Dodge houses in Washington in the 1850's. Rev. Smith, rector at Bethesda Church at that period, was a native of New England and a former Baltimore merchant, who was certainly aware of developments in architecture outside of Montgomery County.⁵

¹Photograph appears in the Washington Star, "Rambler" article, May 18, 1919.

²Clark, Eugene & Edythe. The Spirit of Captain John. New York, 1970, p. 131.

³Flaherty, Carolyn. "The Domestic Architecture of Downing", Old House Journal, New York, Oct. 1974.

⁴Unpublished glass-plate negative in the "Rambler" collection, Columbia Historical Society, Washington, D.C.

⁵Georgetown Architecture, Historic American Buildings Survey Selections, #10, 1970, by the Commission of Fine Arts and H.A.B.S., pp. 17-36.

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

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 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 type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> 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

Architecturally, these structures represent sophisticated styles that, for one reason or another, never flourished in Montgomery County.

The background of the church and its various congregations is inextricably linked with the history of Montgomery County, from its earliest inception up to present times. In fact, the name of the modern community of Bethesda is taken from this landmark church. The word refers to a place of healing mentioned in the Bible. It is especially significant that the present-day Bethesda, Maryland is known world-wide as a center of healing, what with the Bethesda Naval Hospital, the National Institute of Health, and the National Library of Medicine.

The church is the subject of a recently-written, full-length book that documents its history fully. A brief summary of that history appears below:

The structure now known as the Temple Hill Baptist Church was originally the Bethesda Presbyterian Church, erected in 1850. The Bethesda Presbyterian congregation had its origins in the group founded by the Reverends Hugh Conn and John Orme, before the Revolutionary War. The group's original meeting house was built on an acre of land deeded to the Presbyterians by Edward Offutt in 1746. The land was in the Captain John Creek area, and the worship center subsequently became known as the "Cabin John" Meeting House.*

* The exact derivation of the term Cabin John is unknown. Some assert that the name came from Captain John Smith, the first white settler in the area. Other sources suggest that a stranger who built a log house in the area became

known as John of the Cabin. (Clark, The Spirit of Capt. John.)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SIGNIFICANCE (CON'T.)

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The records indicate that in its early days the congregations of Cabin John and Bladensburg were united and shared the services of the same minister. One of the outstanding early pastors was James Hunt, who graduated from Princeton in 1759 and was ordained by the Presbytery of New Brunswick, N.J. the following year. Hunt led the united congregations during the time of colonial unrest and was an ardent advocate of an independent America. In 1779 Hunt acquired 365 acres in Montgomery County; the land was about 6 miles south of Rockville and bounded on the east and west by the present-day Old Georgetown and Seven Locks Roads. It was at this farm, named Tusculum after a mountain outside of Rome, that he founded the first private secondary school for boys. Many of the students boarded at the nearby home of Samuel Wade Magruder. Perhaps Reverend Hunt's most famous pupil was William Wirt, who served as U.S. Attorney General from 1817 to 1829, and was a presidential candidate in 1832 on the Anti-Masonic ticket. After Reverend Hunt's death in 1793 the Cabin John congregation became affiliated with those at Seneca and Difficult, abandoning its connection with Bladensburg.

In 1820 the Presbytery of Baltimore directed that a church be organized on the Rockville Pike, for Presbyterians in the southern reaches of the Cabin John Congregation. The Elders purchased a parcel of land on the Pike, which was part of the tract Leeke Forest, and either built or converted a structure already there to serve as the Bethesda Meeting House. John Mines was pastor of the Bethesda and Rockville Congregations from 1823 to 1849. He also served as the principal of the Rockville Academy.

The first Bethesda Meeting House was destroyed by fire on November 23, 1849. The pastor, Randolph Smith, immediately set out to build a new church. He not only solicited subscriptions, but also participated in the actual construction. The stones of the original structure were used as the foundation of the new wooden church. This new building, on a hill overlooking the Rockville Pike, served as the Bethesda Presbyterian Church from 1850 until 1925-when the congregation decided to erect a new church farther south in Bethesda. The records of the church contain references to the baptisms, marriages, and funerals of many of the area's prominent families. Among them were the names: Magruder, Stone, Willson, Perry, Veirs, and Muncaster.

When the church moved to its new location, the trustees sold the building and seven acres of land to May Fitch Kelley in 1925. The Presbyterian congregation, however, retained ownership of the cemetery and the graveyard. Mrs. Kelley, who held the property for twenty years, sold it to a Catholic

SIGNIFICANCE (CON'T.)

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missionary group, The White Fathers (a Canadian group.) After several changes of ownership, the property was purchased by the trustees of the Temple Hill Baptist Church in the 1950's. Reverend William B. Adams, the pastor since then, has turned down several lucrative offers to sell the property, and he and his congregation have recently embarked on a program to restore the old church.

M:35-5

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- 1) Land Records-Montgomery County, Md.
- 2) Clark, Eugene & Edythe. The Spirit of Captain John. New York, 1970.
- 3) A 250 Year Heritage, 1973 booklet by the Bethesda Presby. Church, Bethesda, Md.
- 4) Historical Discourse...delivered by Rev. Parke P. Flournoy, 1880.
- 5) Numerous newspaper articles.

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				
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	0	'	"	0	'	"	0	'	"
NE	0	'	"	0	'	"	0	'	"
SE	0	'	"	0	'	"	0	'	"
SW	0	'	"	0	'	"	0	'	"

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

Acreage Justification:

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
 Reverend & Mrs. William B. Adams & Congregation/Michael Dwyer

ORGANIZATION: Temple Hill Baptist Church/M-NCPPC DATE: 8/26/76

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Bethesda/Rockville STATE: Maryland

12. State Liaison Officer Review: (Office Use Only)

Significance of this property is:

National State Local

Signature _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



M. 35-5

Bethesda Maryland House

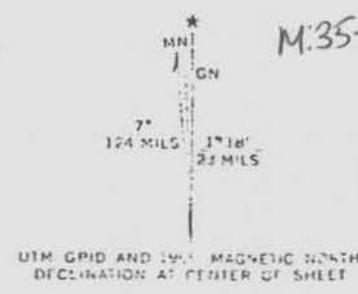
SDA (CIVIC CENTER) 1.5 MI. 1770 000 FEET BETHESDA (CIVIC CENTER) 1.1 MI. 5' 320 321 (WASHI) 5'

ted, and published by the Geological Survey
GS, USC&GS, and WSSC

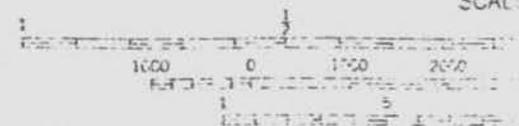
photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs
Field checked 1956. Revised 1965

ation. 1927 North American datum
is based on Maryland coordinate system
vertical transfer Mercator grid ticks.

and lines indicate selected fence and field lines where
from aerial photographs. This information is unchecked
to street in which only landmark buildings are shown
with light blue pattern
of shaded information to 100 feet



M.35-5



*Kensington
Quad*

THIS MAP COMPLEES WITH 1:50,000
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS

[Click here for a plain text ADA compliant screen.](#)

	Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation MONTGOMERY COUNTY Real Property Data Search	Go Back View Map New Search
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Account Identifier: District - 07 Account Number - 00436130

Owner Information

Owner Name:	TEMPLE HILL BAPTIST CH	Use:	EXEMPT COMMERCIAL
		Principal Residence:	NO
Mailing Address:	PO BOX 30406 BETHESDA MD 20824-0406	Deed Reference:	1) / 2026/ 444 2)

Location & Structure Information

Premises Address 9400 ROCKVILLE PIK BETHESDA 20814	Zoning R60	Legal Description LEEK FOREST
---	----------------------	---

Map	Grid	Parcel	Sub District	Subdivision	Section	Block	Lot	Group	Plat No:
HP21		P070		1				81	Plat Ref:
Special Tax Areas			Town						
			Ad Valorem						
			Tax Class	38					
Primary Structure Built		Enclosed Area		Property Land Area		County Use			
1850		2,397 SF		2.82 AC		691			
Stories	Basement		Type		Exterior				
2	YES		STANDARD UNIT		FRAME				

Value Information

	Base Value	Phase-in Assessments		
		Value As Of 01/01/2002	Value As Of 07/01/2003	Value As Of 07/01/2004
Land:	566,000	566,000		
Improvements:	243,700	243,700		
Total:	809,700	809,700	809,700	809,700
Preferential Land:	0	0	0	0

Transfer Information

Seller:	Date:	Price:
Type:	Deed1:	Deed2:
Seller:	Date:	Price:
Type:	Deed1:	Deed2:
Seller:	Date:	Price:
Type:	Deed1:	Deed2:

Exemption Information

Partial Exempt Assessments	Class	07/01/2003	07/01/2004
County	000	0	0
State	000	0	0
Municipal	000	0	0

Tax Exempt: COUNTY AND STATE	Special Tax Recapture:
Exempt Class: CHURCHES, SYNAGOGUES, & PARSONAGES	

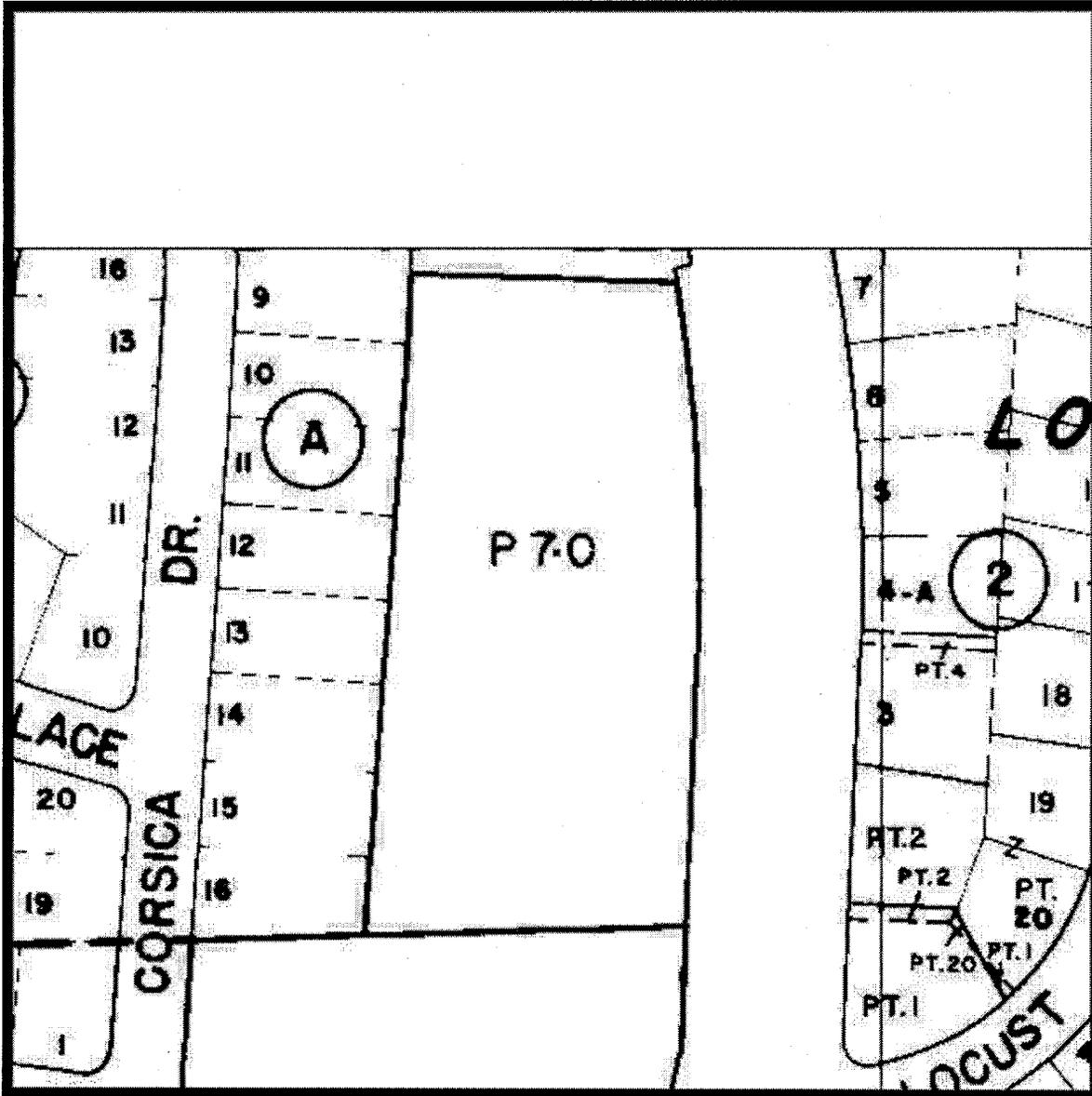
* NONE *



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MONTGOMERY COUNTY
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District - 07 Account Number - 00436130



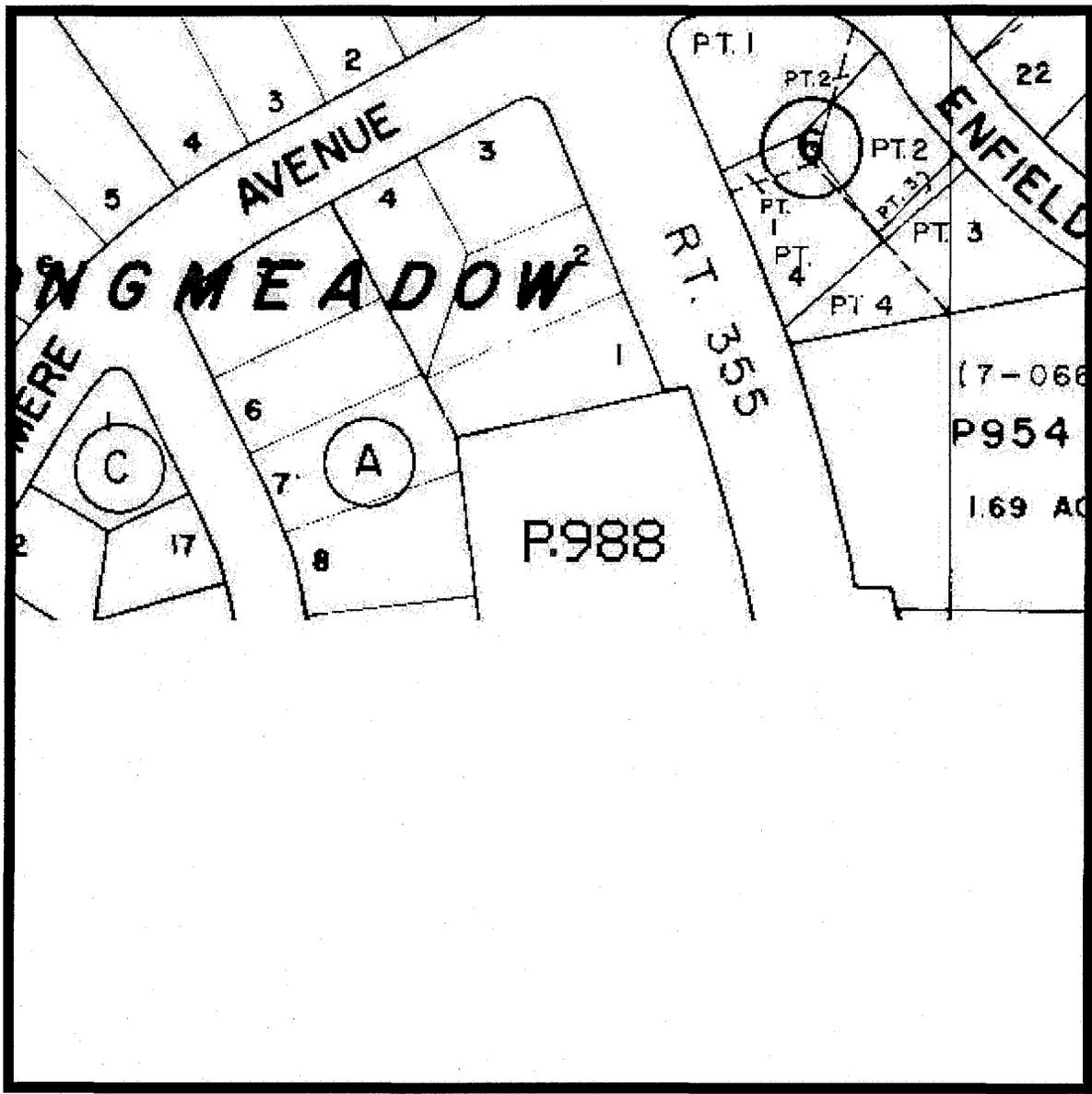
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web site at www.mdp.state.md.us/webcom/index.html

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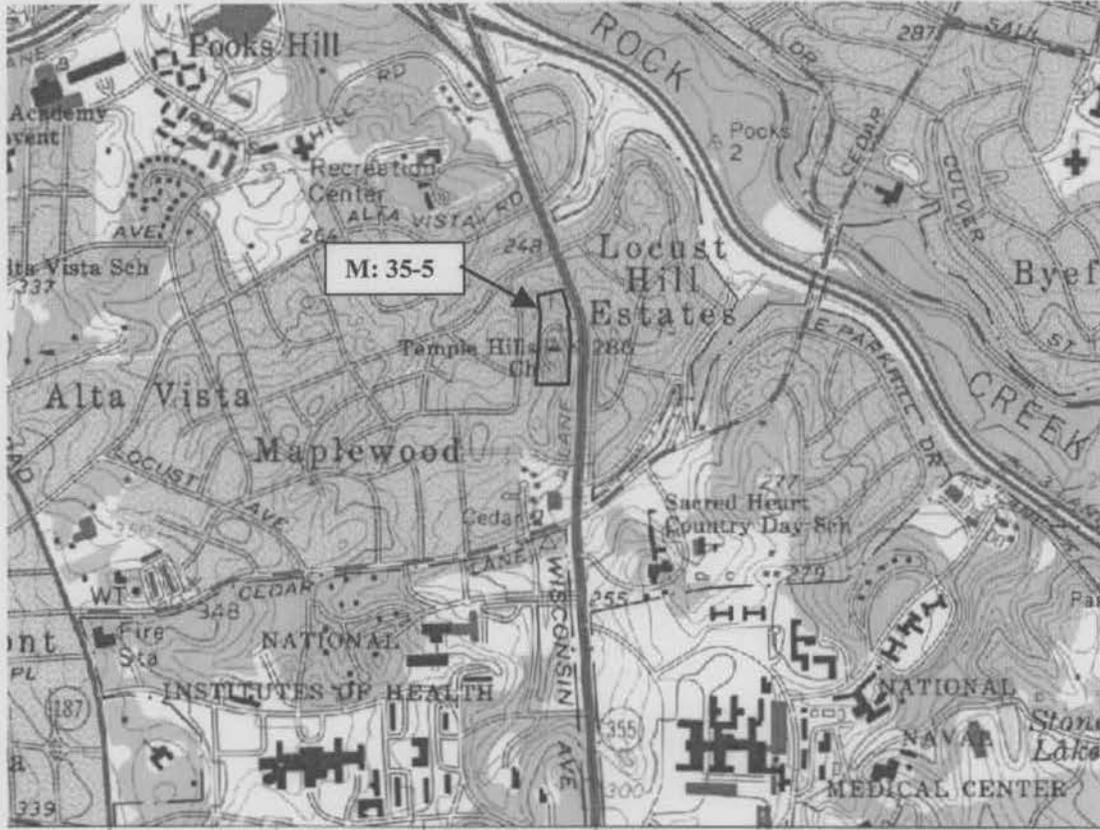
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District - 07 Account Number - 03128975



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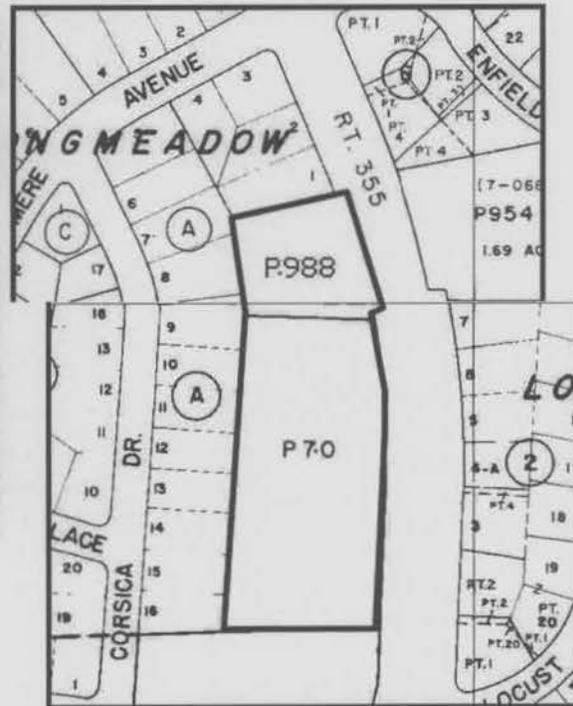
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 Bethesda Meeting House & Cemetery
 (Temple Hill Baptist Church)
 9400 Rockville Pike (MD 355), Bethesda
 Kensington Quadrangle



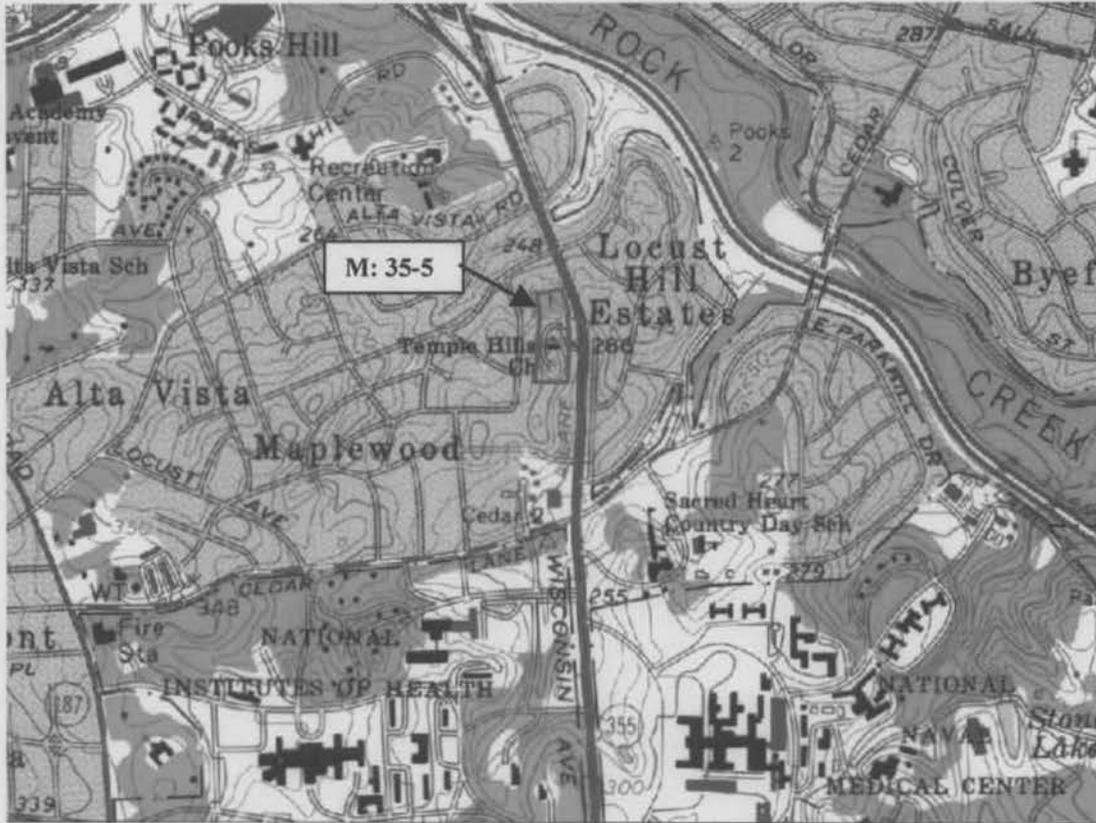
1993-95 Aerial Photo



Tax Map HP 21 & HP 22



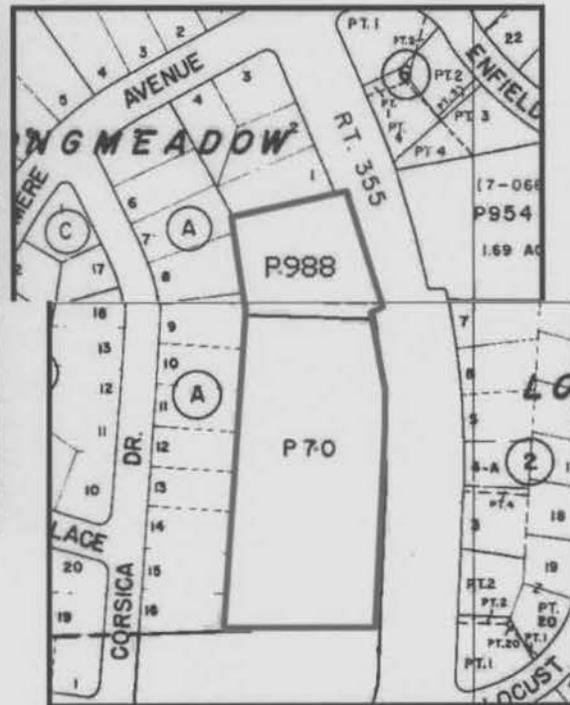
M: 35-5
 Bethesda Meeting House & Cemetery
 (Temple Hill Baptist Church)
 9400 Rockville Pike (MD 355), Bethesda
 Kensington Quadrangle



1993-95 Aerial Photo



Tax Map HP 21 & HP 22



Clay Teunis, 2003
Art of the Dead
Gardens of Stone, Room VIII



Clay Teunis, 2003
Art of the Dead
Gardens of Stone, Room VIII



Clay Teunis, 2003
Art of the Dead
Gardens of Stone, Room VIII



Clay Teunis, 2003
Art of the Dead
Gardens of Stone, Room VIII



Clay Teunis, 2003
Art of the Dead
Gardens of Stone, Room VIII

M: 35-5





#35-5

NAME BETHESDA PRESBYTERIAN CH.

LOCATION ROCKVILLE PIKE, BETHESDA, MD.

FACADE NE

PHOTO TAKEN 9/10/74

M. REYER



#35-5

NAME BETHESDA PRESBY. CHURCH-PARSONAGE

LOCATION ROCKVILLE PIKE, BETHESDA, MD.

FACADE NE

PHOTO TAKEN 9/10/74
M. ROYER