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15. Acreage: 3/4 acre

# MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

# INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME			
HISTORIC	Hermon Presbyte:	rian Church	
AND/OR COMM	ON		
2 LOCATI	ON		
STREET & NUME	ser 7801 Persimm	on Tree Lane	
CITY, TOWN	Bethesda	VICINITY OF	CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
STATE	Maryland		county Montgomery
3 CLASSII			
CATEGOI DISTRICT  X_BUILDING(S) STRUCTURE SITE OBJECT	PUBLIC	STATUS  X_OCCUPIED  _UNOCCUPIED  _WORK IN PROGRESS  TION  ACCESSIBLE  X_YES: RESTRICTED  _YES: UNRESTRICTED  _NO	PRESENT USE AGRICULTUREMUSEUMCOMMERCIALPARKEDUCATIONALPRIVATE RESIDENCEENTERTAINMENT
4 OWNER	OF PROPERTY		
NAME	Hermon Presbyte	rian Church	Telephone #:
STREET & NUME	7801 Persimmon	Tree Lane	
CITY, TOWN	Bethesda	VICINITY OF	state, zip code Maryland
COURTHOUSE,	ON OF LEGAL DE	SCRIPTION  County Courthouse	Liber #: EBP 12 Folio #: 423
CITY, TOWN	Rockville		state Maryland
TITLE	ENTATION IN EX	CISTING SURVEYS	
"Locationa.	1 Atlas and Inde	x of Historic Site	es in Montgomery County Md."
	ober 1976	FEDERAL	_STATE XCOUNTY _LOCAL
DEPOSITORY FO SURVEY RECOR		unty Planning Boar	rd.
CITY, TOWN	Rockville		state Maryland

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

\_\_EXCELLENT \_\_GOOD \_\_FAIR \_\_DETERIORATED

CHECK ONE

\_\_UNALTERED XALTERED

CHECK ONE

XORIGINAL SITE

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

The building is a clapboard, Gothic Revival style country church. It is three-bays deep with a very steep pitched roof that rises to meet a two-story tower that projects from the south (entrance) facade. The tower is capped with an open porch type of belfry that features bracketed posts and a bracketed cornice. Other features of the tower are a wooden bull's-eye medallion, long, narrow stained glass windows with peaked mouldings, and a hood supported by brackets over the entrance. There is a small cemetery to the north of the church.

Although the interior of the church was changed considerably by these renovations, there are still some reminders of how it looked in earlier days. The original pews were arrayed in three sections separated by two aisles; some of the old, shorter pews are still in use today in the Sunday School in the basement. Today the pews are in two sections separated by a center aisle. In the early days there were two stoves in the church, one on each side. The locations of their chimneys are still evident in the interruptions in the facing boards along the top of the inside walls of the church. Before the installation of electricity, the church was lit by a central chandelier holding a dozen kerosene lamps. The chandelier was suspended from a hook in the center of the ceiling so that it could be lowered for lighting, filling, or cleaning. The large hook is still in the ceiling.



PERIOD	AR	REAS OF SIGNIFICANCE CH	IECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW	
PREHISTORIC	ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	COMMUNITY PLANNING	LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	X RELIGION
1400-1499	ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	CONSERVATION	LAW	SCIENCE
1500-1599	AGRICULTURE	ECONOMICS	LITERATURE	SCULPTURE
1600-1699	ARCHITECTURE *	EDUCATION	MILITARY	SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
1700-1799	ART	ENGINEERING	MUSIC	THEATER
X_1800-1899	COMMERCE	EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	PHILOSOPHY	TRANSPORTATION
1900-	COMMUNICATIONS	INDUSTRY	POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	_OTHER (SPECIFY)
		INVENTION		

1874 SPECIFIC DATES

Mr. Nowell BUILDER/ARCHITECT

#### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Hermon Presbyterian Church, named for Mount Hermon, a high peak in the Holy Land, was founded in 1874 by Presbyterians from various congregations, including some from the historic Captain John's Church. When that church ceased to exist in 1850 because of the migration of many of its members to the population centers of Rockville and Bethesda, the people in the area of Cabin John and Potomac were forced to travel long distances to churches in Rockville, Bethesda, and Georgetown. In the early 1870's two pastors from the Bridge Street Presbyterian Church (now Georgetown Presbyterian Church) occasionally held services in private homes and in the Friendship School on Persimmon Tree Road. One of these homes was that of Mrs. Mary Catherine Holmes Magruder Carter, also on Persimmon Tree Road. It was in Mrs. Carter's home, in early 1874, that the Hermon Presbyterian Church was organized. Significantly, Mrs. Carter was a direct descendant of Ninian Beall who is fittingly called the father of Presbyterianism in Maryland.

The charter members of the congregation were John D.W. Moore, Mrs. Sarah B. Moore, Mrs. Eliza H. Baker, Mrs. M.C.H. Carter, Miss Rebecca Magruder, Mrs. M.E. Offutt, Robert G. Davidson, Mrs. Anna C. Davidson, Miss Mary Harrison, Miss Alice Harrison, Miss Elizabeth G. Dodge, Miss Lilly C. Moore, Mrs. Sarah R. Pennifill, William Canning, Mrs. Eliza Canning, and James Harrison.

The church was erected in 1874 on 3/4 acre of land donated by Thomas and Amanda Dowling. The people raised about \$1000 and borrowed \$500 without interest from the Presbytery Board of Church Erection. The white frame church was dedicated on Sunday, November 8, 1874. The original church had a tall (100 feet), slender steeple. That steeple was damaged by a storm in 1902 and replaced by the present belfry.

The original deed by which the Dowlings gave the land for the church provided that the land was "under no circumstances to be used for the purpose of a burying ground." By 1909, however, the land in the rear of the church was set apart and laid out for a burying ground with the cooperation of the Dowling family. The land was officially released from the conditions imposed in the original deed in 1911 when the heirs of Amanda Dowling recorded her intentions in Montgomery County Deed Book 222. The cemetery is still known as the Dowling Memorial Cemetery. CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY (Continued on Attachment Sheet A)

Hermon Presbyterian Church

In 1930, when the church was in need of repairs, a new building was considered. However, the congregation voted to repair the existing building. Some of the timbers of the church were reinforced, the roof was repaired, and the interior was replastered and repainted. More extensive work took place in 1963 and 1964. The ground beneath the church was excavated, and a new concrete foundation and basement were installed to provide room for Sunday School and social functions. A reinforced concrete slab was built over the basement as the floor of the church. A new heating system and new plumbing and wiring were installed. During this period of restoration, church services were held at "Glenmore" the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. Dunbar Stone. Mr. Stone was the grandson of John D.W. Moore, the first Elder of Hermon Church.

Fortunately the exterior of the church and its setting, which is so striking to the passer-by, has not changed even though the land in the vicinity of the church has been developed. The plain little white chapel sits today among the "Wind-singing pines and cedars" exactly as it is described by The Rambler in The Sunday Star (Washington, D.C.) of March 2, 1919. Posterity can thank the small but devoted congregation (some of whom are the fourth generation of their families to have worshipped at Hermon Church) for preserving the original church.

Hermon Church, "Outline of the History of Hermon Presbyterian Church on its One Hundredth Anniversary, 1874-1974". M:29-37

9 MAIOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Montgomery County Deeds, Book EBP 12, page 423 and Book 222, page 253. Montgomery County Sentinel. October 9. 1874.

Duncan, Rev. George S., "Outline History of Captain John, Hermon and Cropley Presbyterian Churches in Montgomery County, Maryland", Printing House of Jos. C. Wood, Washington, D.C., 1926.

	•				
10	GEO	GRA	PHIC	ALD.	ATA

3/4 acre ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE

COUNTY •

COUNTY

## II FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Mary Charlotte Crook

Michael Dwyer/Arch. Description

Maryland

ORGANIZATION. Sugarloaf Regional Trails STREET & NUMBER

2/79 TELEPHONE

DATE

Box 87 CITY OR TOWN

926-4510

STATE

Dickerson

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust

The Shaw House, 21 State Circle

Annapolis, Maryland 21401

(301) 267-1438

## MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

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

Hermon Presbyterian Church  LOCATION  STREET AND NUMBER:	AND/OR HISTORIC:			<u> </u>		
STREET AND NUMBER: 7800 Block Persimmon Tree Road  CITY OR TOWN: POTOMAC  STATE  Maryland  CATEGORY (Check One)  District   Building   Public   Public Acquisition:   Occupied   Unoccupied   Unoccupied		resbyteriar	n Church			
TREET AND NUMBER:  TO THE POOR TOWN:  POSTORY   County	LOCATION					
POTOMAC  STATE  Maryland  CLASSIFICATION  CATEGORY	7800 Bloc	ck Persimmo	on Tree Road			
CLASSIFICATION  CATEGORY				•		e e e e e e e e e e e e e e e e e e e
CLASSIFICATION  CATEGORY (Check One)  District   Building   Public   Public Acquisition:   Occupied   Yes:   Restriction   Object   Both   Being Considered   Unoccupied   In Process   Unoccupied   Unrestriction   In Process   In Process   Unoccupied   Unrestriction   Industriction   Private Residence   Other (Specify)   Religious   Entertainment   Museum   Scientific    WNER UF PROPERTY  OWNER UF PROPERTY  OWNER'S NAME:  STREET AND NUMBER:  CITY OR TOWN:  STATE:  CITY OR TOWN:  STATE:  CITY OR TOWN:  STATE:  CITY OR TOWN:  STATE:  CITY OR TOWN:  STATE  TITLE OF SURVEY:  DATE OF SURVEY:  STREET AND NUMBER:  STREET AND NUMBER:  STATE   County   Local			cour	NTY:		
CLASSIFICATION  CATEGORY (Check One)  District   Building   Public   Public Acquisition:   Occupied   Yes:   Restriction   Object   Both   Being Considered   Unoccupied   In Process   Unoccupied   Unrestriction   In Process   In Process   Unoccupied   Unrestriction   Industriction   Private Residence   Other (Specify)   Religious   Entertainment   Museum   Scientific    WNER UF PROPERTY  OWNER UF PROPERTY  OWNER'S NAME:  STREET AND NUMBER:  CITY OR TOWN:  STATE:  CITY OR TOWN:  STATE:  CITY OR TOWN:  STATE:  CITY OR TOWN:  STATE:  CITY OR TOWN:  STATE  TITLE OF SURVEY:  DATE OF SURVEY:  STREET AND NUMBER:  STREET AND NUMBER:  STATE   County   Local	Maryland			Moi	ntgomery	
Check One)						
Site   Structure   Private   Bosh   B			OWNERSHIP	na marka da	STATUS	ACCESSIE TO THE PU
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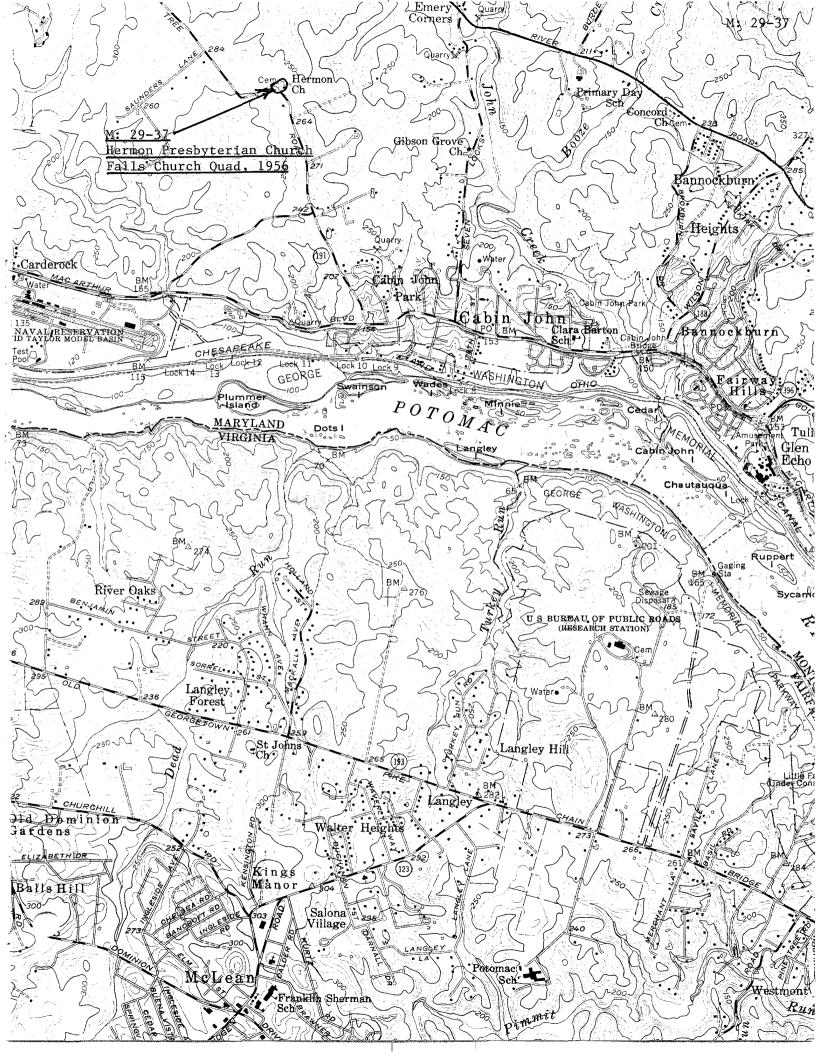
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The building is a clapboard, Gothic-Revival style country church. It is three bays deep with a very steeppitched roof that rises to meet a two-story tower that projects from the south (entrance) facade. The tower is capped with an open porch-type of belfry that features bracketed posts and a bracketed cornice. Other features of the tower are a wooden bull's-eye medallion, long, narrow stained glass windows with peaked mouldings and a hood supported by brackets over the entrance. There is a small cemetery to the north of the church.

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		] Historic		Industry		losophy	
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		Architecture		Landscape		Sculpture	
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