Maryland Historical Trust Determination of Eligibility Form

Address: 48400 Bealls City: Poolesville				In	ventory N	umber:	M: 17-1	8		
City: Poolesville	ville Road			н	istoric Dis	trict:		Yes	X	No
City. Foolesville		Zip Co	ode: 20837	с	ounty:	Montgom	ery			
USGS Quadrangle(s):	Poolesville									
Property Owner: Elija	ah UMC Board of Tr	rustees		Tax Acc	count ID N	umber:		00035	5932	
Tax Map Parcel Number(s	s):	P95		Та	ax Map Nu	mber:		CT22		
Project: Brightwell Cro	ssing 200662663 N	162666		A	gency:	COE				
Agency Prepared By:	Brightwell Crossin	ng								
Preparer's Name:	illiam Lebovich			D	ate Prepar	ed:		12/14/200	06	
Documentation Is Presen	Histo	orical Resource	he property/districts in Upper Worf Poolesville by (estern Montg	gomery Co				rails,	
Preparer's Eligibility Reco	ommendation:	X	Eligibility Recor	nmended			Eligibilit	ty Not Re	comm	ended
Criteria: X A	в _ с _	D Cons	iderations:	_ A	В	c _	D	E	F _	_ G
Co.	mplete if the proper	ty is a contribut	ing or non-contrib	uting resourc	ce to a NR	district/pr	operty:			
Name of the District	Property:									
Inventory Number:			Elig	ible:	Yes		Liste	ed:	_	Yes
Site Visit by MHT Staff:	Yes	No	Name:				Date	:		
NAMES OF ASSET AS A		(Please attach	map and photo)							
Historical Context: Early land grants in the John Poole, Sr. acquire of Montgomery County, District of Columbia and dotted with horse farms handsome Federal Perinewer buildings. As most authors have p Virginia, Maryland, and armies alternated occup	Poolesville area dated the land that is not the area remained if the major urban are and large estates, rood residences, 19th cointed out, no Civil Pennsylvania. And	te to around 173 w Poolesville al largely agricultu eas in Montgon mostly outside t century church War battles tool as the people of	30, but the beginn nd erected the sti ural into the early nery County it has the downtown are less and some late k place in Pooles of Poolesville wer	ning of Poole: Il extant Johr 20th century s remained to a. The down er residences ville, but seve e southern s	n Poole Ho And beca a surprisintown common, along with	use, circa use of its ng degree mercial ar n a number pattles too s, the Uni	distance f e still agric ea retains er of unfor	ke much from the ultural ar some tunate earby in	nd	

Tuesday, August 14, 2007

Printed from MHT GIS/Library Database

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NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM

M: 17-18

Elijah Methodist Church

e 2

It is apparent from the early buildings in the Poolesville Historic District and a few early buildings north of the district, such as the Frank Poole farm house and farm buildings that in the late 18th and early 19th century Poolesville enjoyed its first success as a small town located close to Potomac River crossings and at the intersection of two major transportation routes in western Montgomery County. Outside of the commercial and residential core, Poolesville remained and, to a fair degree, remains agricultural and horse farms, while the rest of the county has changed dramatically. Its most important historic movement was its occupation by Civil War troops and as a passage way to major battles.

According to "A History of the Elijah United Methodist Church and Cemetery": "There had always been African-Americans in western Montgomery County. The large slaveholders owned slaves, but there were also a number of free African-Americans, some of whom owned land which they farmed or cut for timber. However, the number of African-Americans in the area significantly increased during the War. In the winter of 1861-62, General Charles P. Stone, the Federal troops commander, established a camp outside of Poolesville for runaway slaves from Virginia. This camp is considered to be the origin of the Jerusalem community. Ora Lyles, born in 1894, reported to a local historian that 'older people told her that little log cabins were scattered all over the community and that it resembled a camp.' This, a nucleus of free blacks existed above Poolesville to which others were attracted after the war and the abolition of slavery."

By 1870, a school house and graveyard for African-Americans had been established on this parcel. The building, Love and Charity Hall, was demolished in 1932. It stopped being a school for Black children some years earlier as it was replaced by a school on Jerusalem Road.

It is believed that the first church was built in 1871 in front of the school building. A replacement church was built in 1909 and was destroyed by a fire in 1950. The current church was erected in approximately 1951. In 1923 land was bought across Beallsville Road for a parsonage, which was demolished within the last few years.

Description of church and cemetery and evaluation criterion:

The church faces east on Beallsville Road at its intersection with Elgin Road. According to the church's official history, "The new church, constructed of cinder blocks covered by siding, offers many improvements: a tall bell tower, modern bathrooms, central oil heat, and air-conditioning." While the foundation is obviously cinderblock at the sides and rear, it appears that some stone foundation might have been reused at the front. The gabled entrance vestibule, square tower with pyramidal roof, and gabled two story main block are covered in metal siding. Also covered in metal siding are the three buttresses on the north and south sides of the main block. One of buttresses contains a chimney. It was not possible to gain admittance.

Behind the church is the cemetery, which consists of randomly placed graves, a few of which have been moved. The earliest grave is 1871, but most are probably 20th century.

Under the National Register criteria: "Ordinarily cemeteries.properties owned by religious institutions. shall not be considered eligible for the National Register. However, such properties will qualify if they are integral parts of districts that do meet the criteria or if they fall within the following categories: A. A religious property deriving primary significance from architectural or

Eligibility Recommended:	Eligibility Not Recommended	_			
Criteria: A B C D MHT Comments:	Considerations: A	B	· c —	D — E	_ F _
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services	_		12	Date	

NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM

M: 17-18

Elijah Methodist Church



artistic distinction or historical importance."

In the opinion of this researcher the church and cemetery are a unit, based on physical proximity and same congregation. But, the church is the primary component.

The church is the only major physical embodiment of a Black community that dates to at least the mid-19th century. Located on the northern outskirts on Poolesville, the community was a source of slave and free labor starting in the 19th century. That very little of that community is known (the church's records were destroyed in the 1950 fire) and that nothing else of that community survives only strengthens the church and cemetery's significance for their historical association with the Black community.

The Elijah Methodist Church is at best a marginal National Register property. Not only is the building recent, having being built in 1950, but it lacks any architectural significance. In addition, as a church and a cemetery it has to be of exceptional importance. The evaluation of this property is further complicated because all records were destroyed in the 1950 fire and this researcher was denied access to the interior.

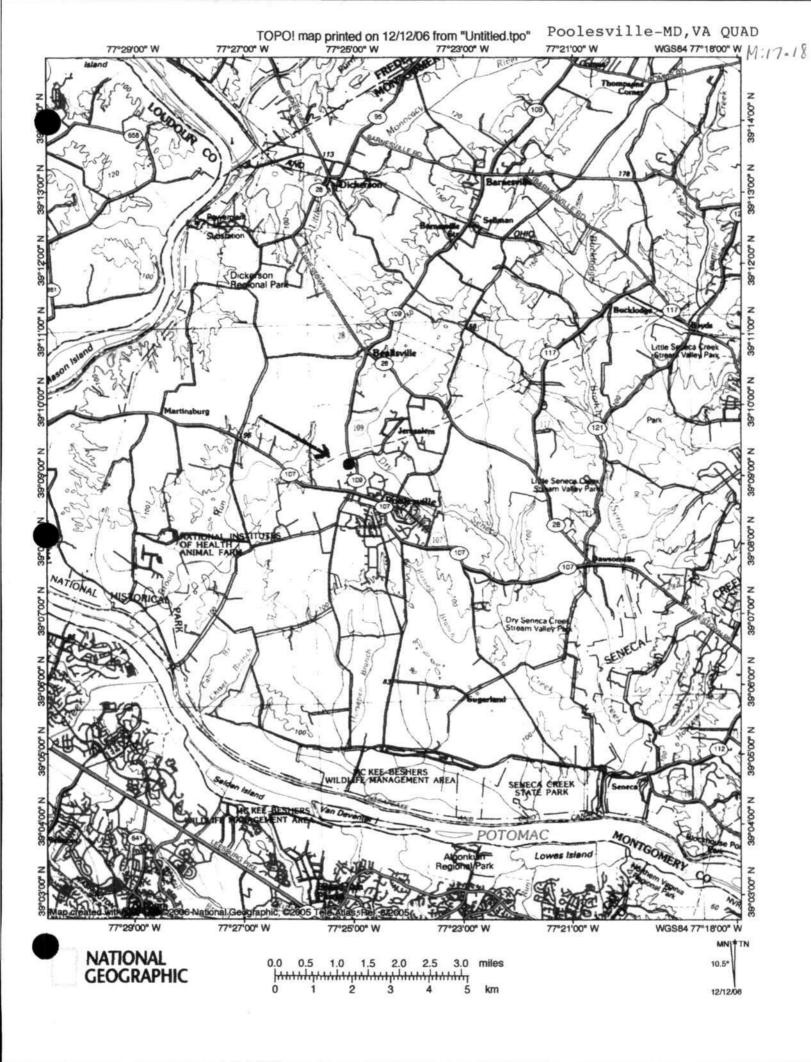
The new structure is described in the church's history as being a cinderblock structure, covered in siding with new features such as the steeple. However, at least one corner of the foundation appears to be stone, rather than cinderblock. Therefore, it is assumed by this researcher that this structure is built on the site of the earlier church and most likely has the same footprint, with some earlier foundation.

But more compelling than any shared architectural features is the historical association.

The congregation first erected a colored school on this parcel in 1870. That school was abandoned and subsequently demolished soon after 1932. In 1871 the congregation erected a church presumably next to the school. A new, larger church was built in 1909, but destroyed in 1950.

It is presumed by this researcher that the current church is largely an embodiment of the early building (although certain major features are said to be different), and that the church and cemetery would have been considered by the National Register evaluator as eligible as the embodiment of free black settlement on the outskirts of Poolesville going back at least as far as 1870. If this researcher placed too much emphasis on the historical association for a group that is underrepresented (in the National Register), than he concurs that it is not eligible.

Eligibility Re	ecommen	ded:	_		Eligibility Not Reco	mmended:	_	_				
Criteria: MHT Comm	A _ nents:	_ B _	_ c _	_ D	Considerations:	_ A _	В —	- ° -	- ^D -	- ^E -	- F -	-
Rev	viewer, Off	ice of Pre	eservatio	on Services	s				Date		3	5





M:17-18 Elijah Melhadud Church Montgo meny 60 MD Bill Lebovid WON 2000 MD S HOO front (east)



M:17-18 Elijeh Methodist Church Montgomery 6 MB Bill Lebovich NOV 2006 north side

#2/2

MD SHOD

M:17-18

M-17-51-23

c. 1950

Elijah Methodist Church Jerusalem community, Poolesville vicinity Private

This well-maintained one and a half story cinder block church is the fourth church building to stand on this site. The first was built in the early 1870's soon after the founding of the church. Behind it was the cemetery and a tall two story frame building, which was built to serve as the hall for the local benefit society and as school. This site was truly the center of the black community.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

Magi # N-17-51-23 M:17-18

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

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LOCATIO	N				
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	yland			gomery	1 1 2 2 2
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_STRUCTURE	вотн	_WORK IN PROGRESS		EDUCATIONAL	PRIVATE RESIDE
SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITI	ON ACCESSIBLE		ENTERTAINMENT	XXRELIGIOUS
OBJECT	IN PROCESS	XXES: RESTRICTED		GOVERNMENT	SCIENTIFIC
	BEING CONSIDERED	YES: UNRESTRICTED		_INDUSTRIAL	_TRANSPORTATIO
	No				OTHER
OWNER O	F PROPERTY	NO		MILITARY	OTHER:
NAME Elijah	F PROPERTY Methodist Church		Telep	hone #:	_ОТНЕК:
NAME Elijah STREET & NUMBER Bealls	F PROPERTY		Telep	hone #:	
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CONDITION

CHECK ONE

CHECK ONE

_EXCELLENT

_FAIR

__DETERIORATED
__RUINS
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__UNALTERED

ZORIGINAL SITE
__MOVED DATE_____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This one and a half story cinder block church stands on the west side of Beallsville Road. Its roof line is oriented east-west and the east gable end serves as the principal facade. The main block is five bays in depth, and three in length. Buttresses of cinder block support the longer walls. Enclosing the front door is a smaller one story vestibule. To the south is a taller two story bell tower with pyrimidal roof. The windows contain one-over-one panes, which have been glazed in pastel colors.

The interior contains wooden pews, burgundy floor covering, and an attractive pulpit and altar.

PERIOD	. AF	REAS OF SIGNIFICANCE CH	IECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW	A 100 to 10
REHISTORIC	ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	*COMMUNITY PLANNING	_LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	RELIGION
1400-1499	_ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	CONSERVATION	LAW	SCIENCE
1500-1599	AGRICULTURE *	ECONOMICS	LITERATURÉ	SCULPTURE
1600-1699	**RCHITECTURE	EDUCATION	MILITARY	X SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
1700-1799	ART	ENGINEERING	MUSIC	THEATER
_1800-1899	COMMERCE	EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	PHILOSOPHY	_TRANSPORTATION
X1900-	COMMUNICATIONS	INDUSTRY	POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	X OTHER (SPECIFY)
		INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

c. 1950

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

According to the deed, EBP 5/255, the trustees of this church purchased 1 acre from Edward Hoskinson in 1868. The trustees were John Adams, William Taylor, Peter H. Davis, Bennett Lea, and Charles Dorsey. The tract was lot #7 of Chiswell's Inheritance. A school was also to be built on the land.

At some time in the late 1800s a two story frame building was constructed behind the church as the hall for the Loving Charity Society, a local benefit society. The downstairs of the building served as the school, and is shown in the photograph of 1909, filed with the Poolesville School survey forms, M-17-51-19. That building has since been torn down.

Behind the church is a well-kept cemetery, where many of the founders of the Jerusalem and Jonesville communities are buried. The gravestones contain important information for family histories and should be indexed.

As the enclosed history of the church explains, this is the fourth church building to stand on this site. The first was constructed soon after the founding of the church. the second in 1909, the third in c. 1950, (it burned after its completion). This history of the church also gives the names of the different ministers who have served the congregation for over a century.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Land Records, Montgomery County Courthouse, Rockville, Md. Deed EBP 2/255.

History of the Elijah United Methodist Church, One Hundred and Sixth Anniversary, 1871-1977. Privately printed, 1977.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARI		
10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY		
VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION		
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	* A	8
		gen U S
LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAP STATE COUNTY	PING STATE OR COUNTY BOU	NDARIES
STATE COUNTY		
11 FORM PREPARED BY		W-
NAME / TITLE	2 3 W To 1	
George McDaniel, Historic Sites Surveyor		
- ORGANIZATION	DATE	
Sugarloaf Regional Trails	7/79	
STREET & NUMBER	TELEPHONE	
Box 87	926-4510	
CITY OR TOWN	Maryland	20753
Dickerson	Maryland	20/93

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 The Shaw

Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

Box 87, Strong's Id Box 87, Strong's Id Dickerson, Md. 20753 (301) 926-4510

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

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HISTORIC			
AND/OR COMMON			
Elijah Church			NAMES OF THE PARTY
LOCATION			
STREET & NUMBER			
Rte. 109 & Jerusalem	Road		
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STATE	VICINITY OF	COUNTY	
Maryland		Montgomery	
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_BEING CONSIDERED	_YES: UNRESTRICTED	INDUSTRIAL	_TRANSPORTATION
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CONDITION

CHECK ONE

CHECK ONE

VORIGINAL SITE

MOVED

M:17-18

_EXCELLENT GOOD FAIR

__DETERIORATED __RUINS __UNEXPOSED

DNALTERED ALTERED

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This is an early-20th Century, Negro country church, built within the confines of limited financial resources, but nevertheless with a concious style. The building is a five-bay long, cinderblock structure, with a raised "watertable" type of founddation, and three slim buttresses separating the bays. There is a small vestibule on the east entrance gable, and this is capped with a short bell-tower.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

SPECIFIC DAT	ES	BUIL DER/ARCH	HITECT	
		_INVENTION		
<u>√</u> 1900-	COMMUNICATIONS	_INDUSTRY	POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	_OTHER (SPECIFY)
800-1899	COMMERCE	_EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	PHILOSOPHY	_TRANSPORTATION
_1700-1799	ART	ENGINEERING	_MUSIC	THEATER
_1600-1699	ARCHITECTURE	EDUCATION	MILITARY	_SOCIAL/HUMANITARIA
_1500-1599	_AGRICULTURE	ECONOMICS	LITERATURE	SCULPTURE
1400-1499	_ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	CONSERVATION	_LAW	SCIENCE
PREHISTORIC	_ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	_COMMUNITY PLANNING	_LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	RELIGION
FERIOD	AF	REAS OF SIGNIFICANCE CH	ECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW	

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Although the present building is not of great antiquity, it probably marks the site of an early Negro meeting place, as a "Colored School House" is shown at this location on the map of 1878.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE	ON	SEPARATE	SHEET	IF	NECESSARY
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GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

W End to Fire In.

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

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

III FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Michael F. Dwyer, Senior Park	HISCOFIAN
ORGANIZATION	DATE
M-NCPPC	5/10/74
STREET & NUMBER	TELEPHONE
8787 Georgia Ave.	589-1480
CITY OR TOWN	STATE
Silver Spring	Maryland

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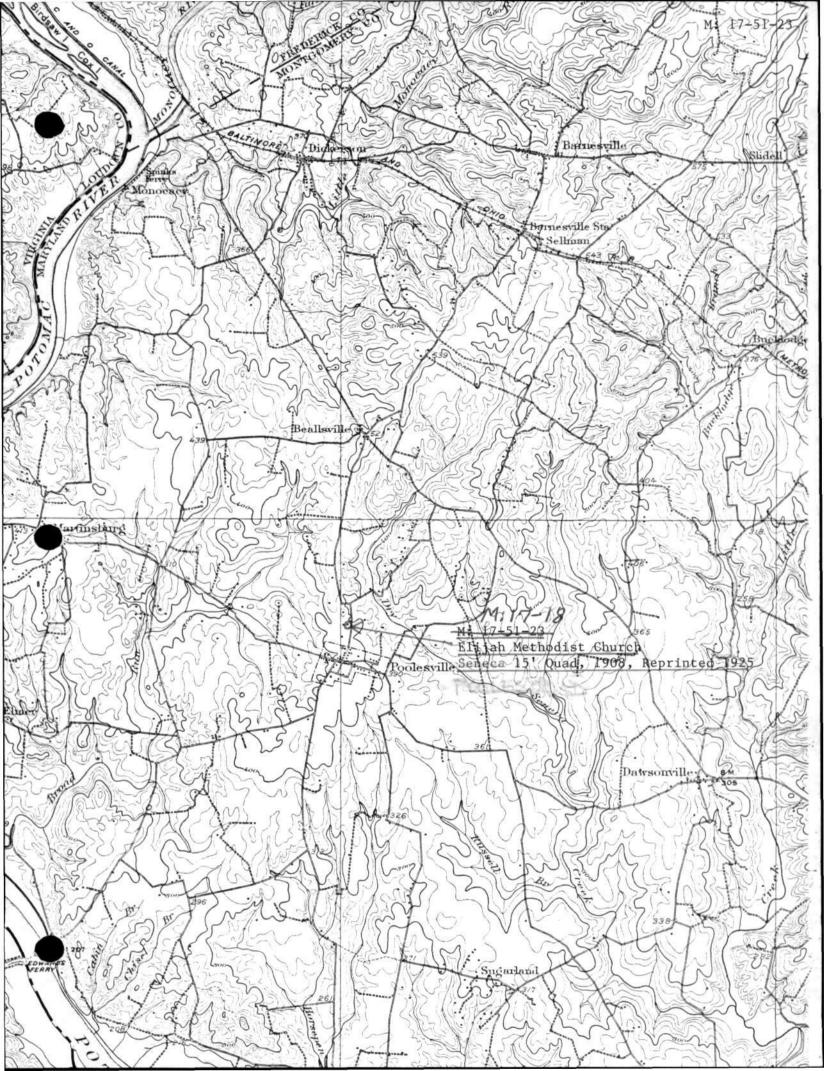
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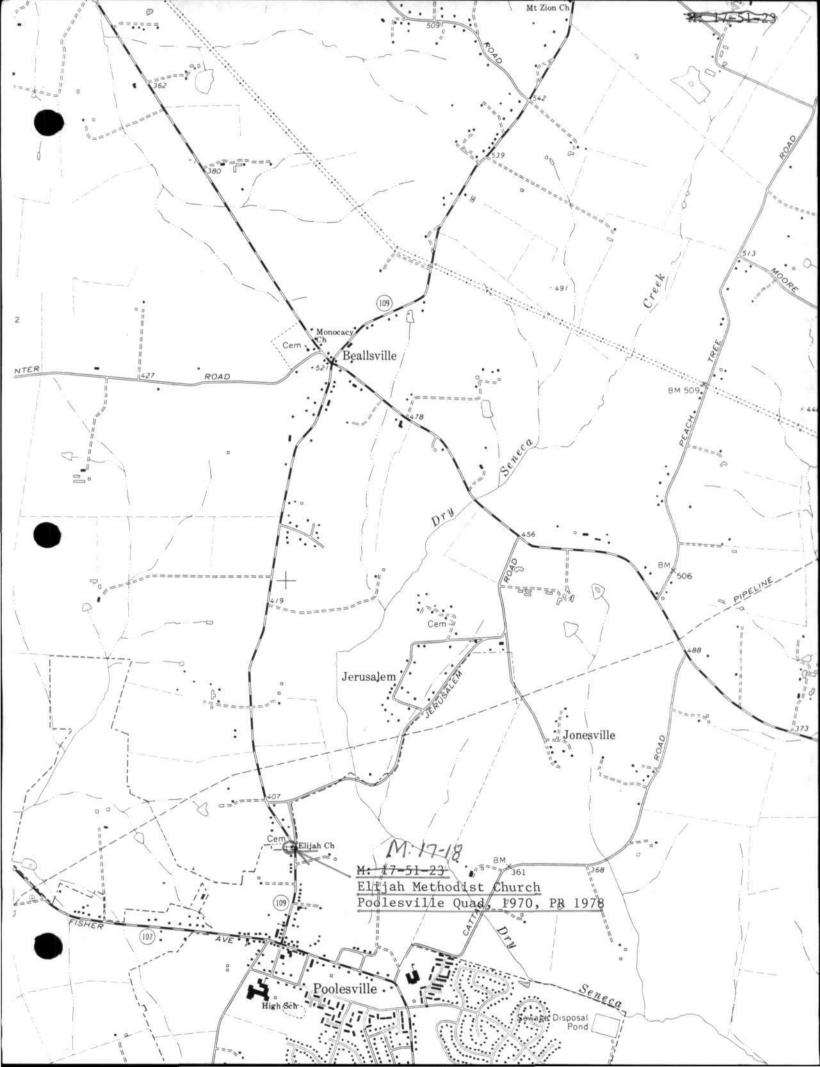
RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust

The Shaw House, 21 State Circle

Annapolis, Maryland 21401

(301) 267-1438







NAME ELIJAH CHURCH (NEGRO)

LOCATION Rt 109 POOLESVILLE, McL

FACADE N

PHOTO TAKEN 5/10/74 MOWYER



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Slijah Rest United Methodist

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M:17-18

Facade: East M-17-51-23

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Elizah's Rest M.E. Church
M- 17-18
N. E. Elevation

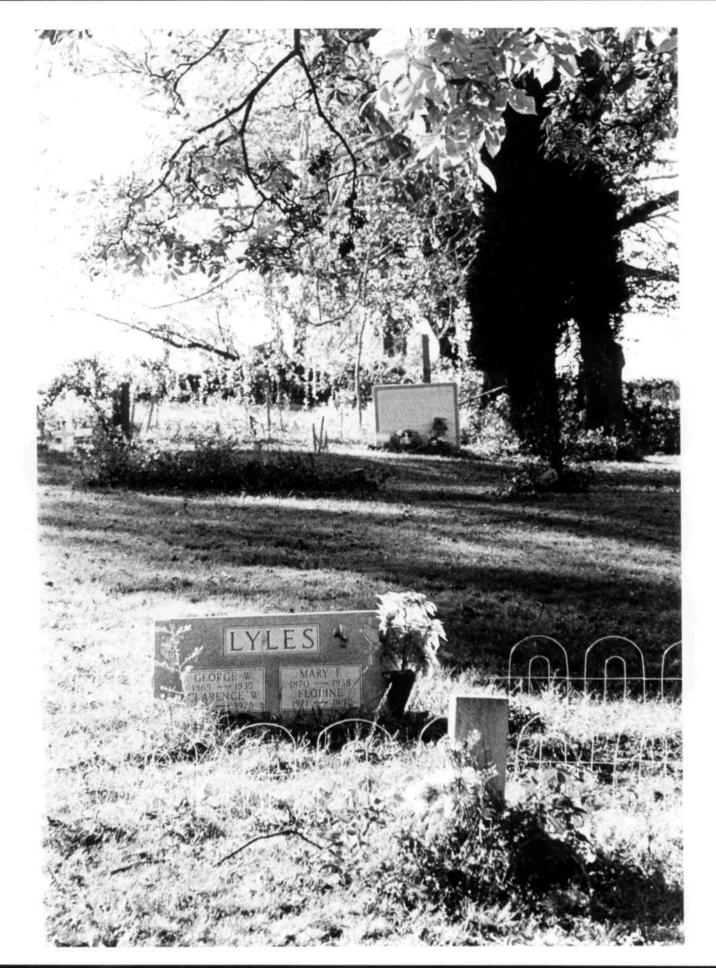
Jerusalem community

Poolesulle vicinity

Photograph & bum



Elijoh's Rest Methodest Church 5 17-18 17-51-23



Elijoh's Rest United Methodist
Church Cemetery
M: 17-18
M-19-51-23

Terusalem
3 hm



Elijoh's Rest Methodist M:17-18 Church m-19-51-23 View through cemetery: last derusa lem 10/98