

M: 23-11
Howard Chapel & Cemetery
Montgomery County, MD

The property known as the Howard Chapel and Cemetery is located on a 204-acre parcel of land at the northwestern corner of the junction of Howard Chapel Road and Elton Farm Road. The property originally included a church, built in 1889, a school, built by 1879, and a cemetery, with burials beginning in 1901. The only remaining resource standing is the cemetery. The school, chapel, and cemetery were built on land owned by Enoch George Howard. Howard was a former slave who bought his freedom in 1857, and became a well-respected citizen in the community. The chapel served the rural black community from 1889 to 1930, and was destroyed by fire in 1979. It was served by a circuit minister from the Washington Negro Conference. The small black school was erected c. 1879 by Enoch George Howard for his children and the children of the community. The cemetery, located north of the church, began burials in 1901, with George Howard, a descendant of Enoch George Howard. The property has been owned by the State of Maryland since 1968 and is presently part of the Patuxent River State Park. Although in a neglected state, this property meets Criteria B & D of the Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
MD INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Inventory No. M-23-11

=====

1. Name of Property

=====

historic name Howard Chapel & Cemetery

common/other name _____

=====

2. Location

=====

street & number NW corner of the junction between Howard Chapel & Elton Farm Roads Not for publication _____

city or town Unity vicinity X state Maryland

code MD county Montgomery code _____ zip code 20833

=====

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

N/A

=====

4. National Park Service Certification

N/A

=====

5. Classification

=====

Ownership of Property (Check all that apply)

- private
 public-local
 public-State
 public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

- building(s)
 district
 site
 structure
 object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing Noncontributing

<u> </u>	<u> 2 </u>	buildings
<u> 1 </u>	<u> </u>	sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	objects
<u> 1 </u>	<u> 2 </u>	Total

Is this property listed in the National Register?

Yes Name of Listing _____ No

=====
6. Function or Use
=====

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: RELIGION Sub: Religious Facility: Church
Church School
FUNERARY Cemetery

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: FUNERARY Sub: Cemetery

=====
7. Description
=====

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

No Style

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation N/A
roof N/A
walls N/A
other _____

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property.)

See Continuation Sheet No. 7-1

=====
8. Statement of Significance
=====

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

=====
Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

ETHNIC HERITAGE: Black
RELIGION
EDUCATION

Period of Significance 1901-1942

Significant Dates 1901

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)
Enoch George Howard

Cultural Affiliation _____

Architect/Builder _____

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property.)

See Continuation Sheet No. 8-1

=====

9. Major Bibliographical References

=====

(Cite the books, articles, legal records, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

_____. *Sergeant Murphy: Story of a Civil War Veteran.* (Original copy housed in the Department of Natural Resources file for the Gaither-Howard House.)

Arnoult, Sandra. "Preserving a Family Heritage." *Journal*. December 14, 1992.

Annals of Sandy Spring, Vols. I-V, Sandy Spring, MD.: Privately Printed.

Barrow, Healan. "Local Cemetery will be Preserved." *The Olney Courier-Gazette*. December 9, 1992. p A4.

Boyd, T.H.S., *History of Montgomery County*, 1879. Reprint. Baltimore, MD: Clearfield Comp., 1989.

Coleman, Peg. "As Slavery Flourishes, George Howard Wins Freedom and Land." *County Courier*. February 25, 1981. p A1 and A10.

Coleman, Margaret Marshall and Anne Dennis Lewis. *Montgomery County: A Pictorial History*. Norfolk, VA: The Donning Company. 1984.

Fly, Everett L. and La Barbara Wigfall. *Northeastern Montgomery County Black Oral History Study*. Np: 1983.

Farquhar, Roger Brooke. *Old Homes and History of Montgomery County, MD*. Silver Spring, MD., 1952, 1962.

Hill-Talley, Barbara. "Howard -Holland Family Celebrates the Past & Present." *The African American Times*. July/August 1996, p A9.

MacMaster, Richard K. and Ray Eldon Hiebert. *A Grateful Remembrance: The Story of Montgomery County, Maryland, 1776-1976*. Rockville, MD.: Montgomery County Historical Society, 1976.

Montgomery County Historical Society, Rockville, MD., Vertical Files.

Montgomery County Land Records, Montgomery County, Maryland.

=====
Mutual Assurance Society Records, Montgomery County Historical
Society.

Myers, Angela. "Over 400 Family Members Gather for the Howard
Holland Family Reunion." *Montgomery County Sentinel*. July 27,
1994.

Nesbitt, Martha C. and Mary Reading Miller. *Chronicles of Sandy
Spring Friends Meeting and Environs*. Sandy Spring, MD., 1987.

Noble, Allen G. and Richard K. Cleek. *The Old Barn Book: A Field
Guide to North American Barns and other Farm Structures*. New
Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press, 1995.

Oliver, Elizabeth M. "400 attend Howard Family Reunion."
Baltimore-Afro-American. July 7, 1984.

Pressley, Sue Anne. "The Similarities that Bind." *Washington
Post*. July 5, 1990.

Sandy Spring Museum, Sandy Spring, Maryland, Vertical Files.

Genealogical Abstracts, *Montgomery County Sentinel 1855-1899*.

Maps and Drawings and Photographs

Hopkins, G.M., comp. *Atlas of Fifteen Miles around Washington,
including the County of Montgomery, Maryland*, 1879. Reprint.
Rockville, MD.: Montgomery County Historical Society, 1975.

Martenet, Simon L. *Martenet and Bond's Map of Montgomery County*,
1865.

=====
10. Geographical Data
=====

Acreage of Property 204.02 acres

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The Howard Chapel Cemetery occupies a portion of parcel #888 on Montgomery County Tax Map HW.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

This parcel is part of a larger parcel of land that was associated with the Howard Family since the mid-nineteenth century.

=====
11. Form Prepared By
=====

name/title Kimberly Williams/Michele Naru, Architectural Historians
organization M-NCPPC date 3-12-99
street & number 8787 Georgia Avenue telephone 301/563-3403
city or town Silver Spring state MD zip code 20910
=====

12. Property Owner
=====

name State of Maryland, Department of Natural Resources
street & number 580 Taylor Avenue telephone 410-260-8164
city or town Annapolis state MD zip code 21401
=====

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 1

Inventory No. M-23-11

Howard Chapel & Cemetery

name of property

Montgomery County, MD

county and state

=====

The property known as the Howard Chapel and Cemetery, is located on a 204-acre parcel of land at the northwestern corner of the junction of Howard Chapel Road and Elton Farm Road. The property originally included a church, built in 1889, a school, built by 1879, and a cemetery, with burials beginning in 1901. The only remaining resource standing is the cemetery.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

The overgrown cemetery is surrounded by a black metal fence. The following is a list of people buried in the cemetery:

William H. Nettles

Husband of Bettie Nettles; Died October 14, 1918 - Age 62

Malinda J.

Wife of Daniel W. Green; 1847-1924

George Howard (ancestor of Enoch George Howard)

Born 1872; Died 8, 1901 - Age 29 years

Harriet A.

Wife of John H. Howard (August 25, 1839 - May 6, 1923)

February 9, 1843; Died July 31, 1917

Daughter - Christeen Howard Vonce

December 11, 1874; Died October 9, 1931

Lucy, Wife of Evan Gaither

Died June 17, 1912 - Age 89 years, 10 months and 7 days

John B. Howard

January 19, 1885; Died May 12, 1920

Fannie Fisher

October 30, 1942 - Age 53

Mildred Simpson

Daughter of Martha Whitney; July 1912 - Age 22 Years

Robert Simpson

January 19, 1902 - Age 55 years

Arthur H. Ishwood

March 1, 1862; Died October 27, 1915

Waymon Ishwood

Son of Arthur and Anna Ishwood

September 6, 1890 - January 7, 19--

=====

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Howard Chapel & Cemetery is located at the northwestern corner of the junction of Howard Chapel Road and Elton Farm Road. The land on which the chapel is located was owned by Enoch George Howard and his heirs. Howard was a former slave, who bought his freedom in 1857, and became well-respected by the community. The small, black school was erected c. 1879¹ by Enoch George Howard for his children and the children of the community. In 1889, the chapel was built north of the church by Enoch G. Howard. The chapel was used from about 1889 to 1930, and was served by a circuit minister from the Washington Negro Conference. The chapel burned in 1976 and laid in ruins until recently. The cemetery, located north of the church, began burials in 1901, with George Howard, an ancestor of Enoch George Howard. Names on the tombstones include Howards, Greens, Ishwoods, Simpsons, Gaithers, Fishers and Nettles. The property has been owned by the State of Maryland since 1968 and is presently part of the Patuxent River State Park. Although in a neglected state, this property provides an illustration of rural black communities in Montgomery County and meets Criteria B & D of the Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties.

Historic Context:

This parcel of land corresponds with the 18th-century tract of land designated as "Gaither's Forest." In 1862, Enoch George Howard purchased 289.5 acres of land from the heirs of Beale Gaither.² This land included the present site of the cemetery and the house of Beale Gaither, his former master. George Howard erected the school and chapel on this land. In 1878, Enoch George Howard sold the school to the School Commissioners of Montgomery County.³

In 1895, Enoch George Howard died, leaving his estate to his five children.⁴ Over the course of the succeeding seven years Greenbury Howard, bought all of his fathers land from his siblings.⁵

¹The school is shown on the Hopkins map of 1879.

²Montgomery County Courthouse, Deed Book JGH 8 Folio 671

³Montgomery County Courthouse, Deed Book EBP 18 Folio 430

⁴Montgomery County Courthouse, Deed Book GCD 2 Folio 227

⁵Montgomery County Courthouse, Deed Book TD 2 Folio 222, and Deed Book TD 22 Folio 260

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 2

Inventory No. M: 23-11
Howard Chapel & Cemetery
name of property
Montgomery County, MD
county and state

=====

In February of 1907, Greenbury Howard sold the parcel of land on which the chapel and cemetery were erected to Mr. Charles King and his wife.⁶ The following year, Greenbury Howard purchased the land back from Charles and Sarah King.⁷ Due to a default in the mortgage, the property was sold at a public auction on July 12, 1937.⁸ The 94.7 acres of land was purchased by Emma Pierson.

Seven years later, Emma Pierson sold the property to Bishop Monroe H. Davis.⁹

In 1953, the heirs of Bishop Davis conveyed the chapel and cemetery to Leonard and Jene Williams.¹⁰ Mr. and Mrs. Williams sold the property to the State of Maryland in 1968.¹¹ The chapel burned in 1979. The cemetery presently occupies the grounds of the Patuxent River State Park.

⁶Montgomery County Courthouse, Deed Book 196 Folio 472

⁷Montgomery County Courthouse, Deed Book 197 Folio 462

⁸Montgomery County Courthouse, Deed Book CKW 674 Folio 297

⁹Montgomery County Courthouse, Deed Book 934 Folio 283

¹⁰Montgomery County Courthouse, Deed Book 1832 Folio 272

¹¹Montgomery County Courthouse, Deed Book 3784 Folio 460

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. M: 23-11
Howard Chapel & Cemetery
Name of property
Montgomery County, MD
County and state

=====

HISTORIC CONTEXT:

Geographic Organization: Piedmont

Chronological/Development Period (s):
Industrial/Urban Dominance, 1870-1930

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme (s):

RESOURCE TYPE(S)

Category: Site: Cemetery

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function (s): Social/Education/Cultural; Religion

Known Design Source: none

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. M: 23-11
Howard Chapel & Cemetery
Name of property
Montgomery County, MD
County and state

=====
Chain of Title:

Beale Gaither to Frederick Gaither.
(Will Book W Folio 154)

Frederick Gaither to his grandchildren:
Maria Griffith, Martha Jane Griffith, Kate
Ann Warfield, Maria Warfield, and Deborah
Jane Crowder. (Will Book Y Folio 253)

August 5, 1862 Frederick Gaither's Grandchildren to Enoch
George Howard. 289.5 acres. (Deed Book JGH
8 Folio 671)

September 16, 1878 Enoch George Howard sells school to School
Commissioners of Montgomery County. 0.10
acres. (Deed Book EBP 18 Folio 430)

January 25, 1895 Enoch George Howard died.
(Sentinel, p189)

1895 George Howard to his five children: John,
Greenbury, Mary Alice, Martha and Maria.
(Will Book GCD 2 Folio 227)

January 29, 1898 Martha Murphy and John Howard to Greenbury
Howard. (Deed Book TD 2 Folio 222)

June 31, 1902 Maria Oliver to Greenbury Howard.
(Deed Book TD 22 Folio 260)

February 28, 1907 Greenbury and Rebecca Howard to Charles
and Sarah King. (Deed Book 196 Folio 472)

March 3, 1908 Charles and Sarah King to Greenbury Howard
(Deed Book 197 Folio 462)

August 18, 1937 John E. Oxley, Assignee, to Emma A.
Pierson. 94.78 acres. "Mortgage was in
default...property sold at public auction
on July 12, 1937." (Deed Book CKW 674
Folio 297)

April 10, 1944 Emma Pierson to Bishop Monroe H. Davis.
(Deed Book 934 Folio 283)

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. M: 23-11
Howard Chapel & Cemetery
Name of property
Montgomery County, MD
County and state

=====

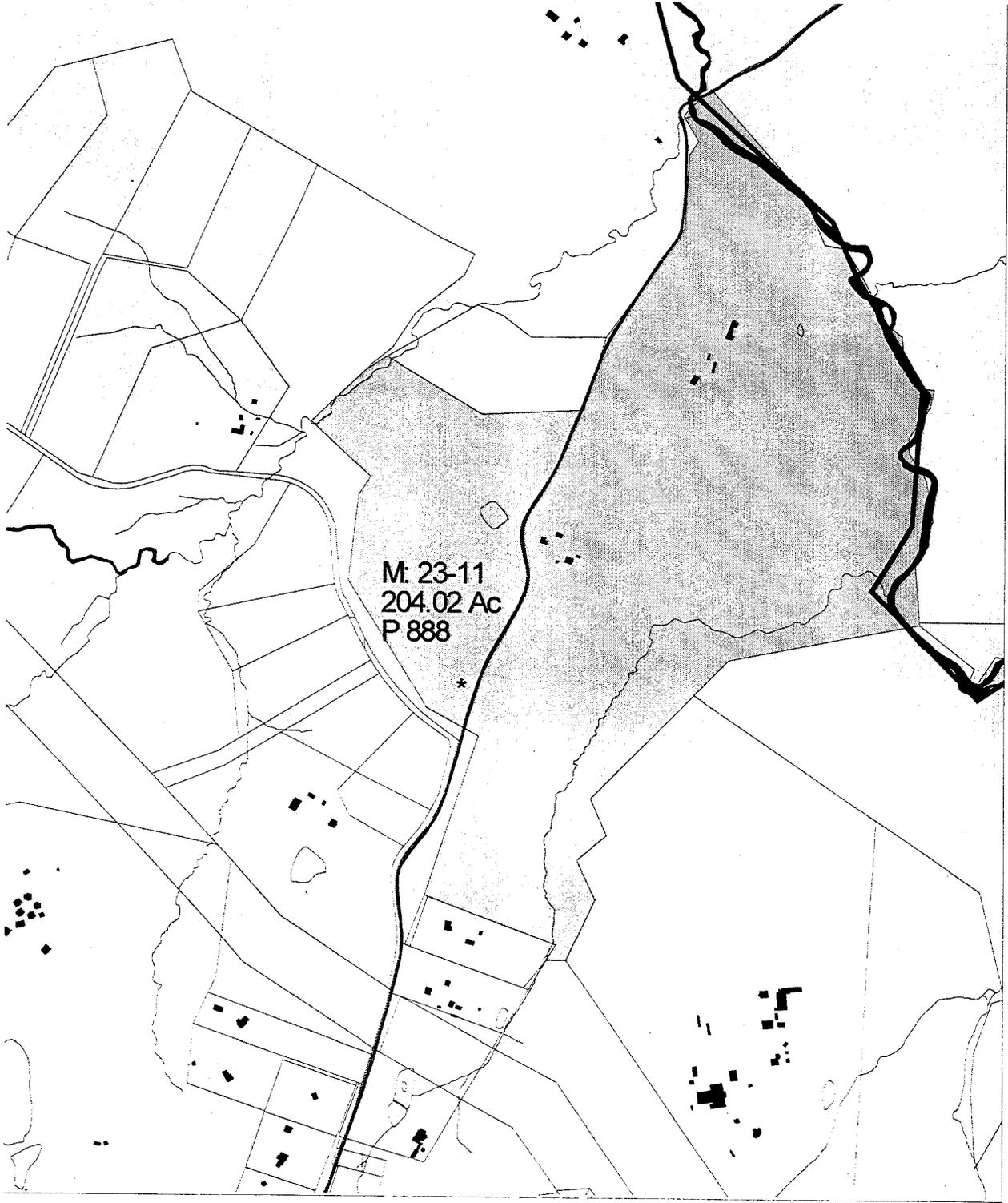
August 24, 1953

Harry W. Allers, Trustee for Milburne
M.D. Brown et al vs. Catherine B. Davis et
al (Docket 93A Folio 190, July 10, 1953)
to Leonard and Jene Williams. 94.78
acres. (Deed Book 1832 Folio 272)

August 28, 1968

Leonard and Jene Williams to State of
Maryland. (Deed Book 3784 Folio 460)

HOWARD CHAPEL CEMETERY (M: 23-11)



Casual User Application



MONTGOMERY COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PARK AND PLANNING
THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION
8787 Georgia Avenue - Silver Spring, Maryland 20910-3760

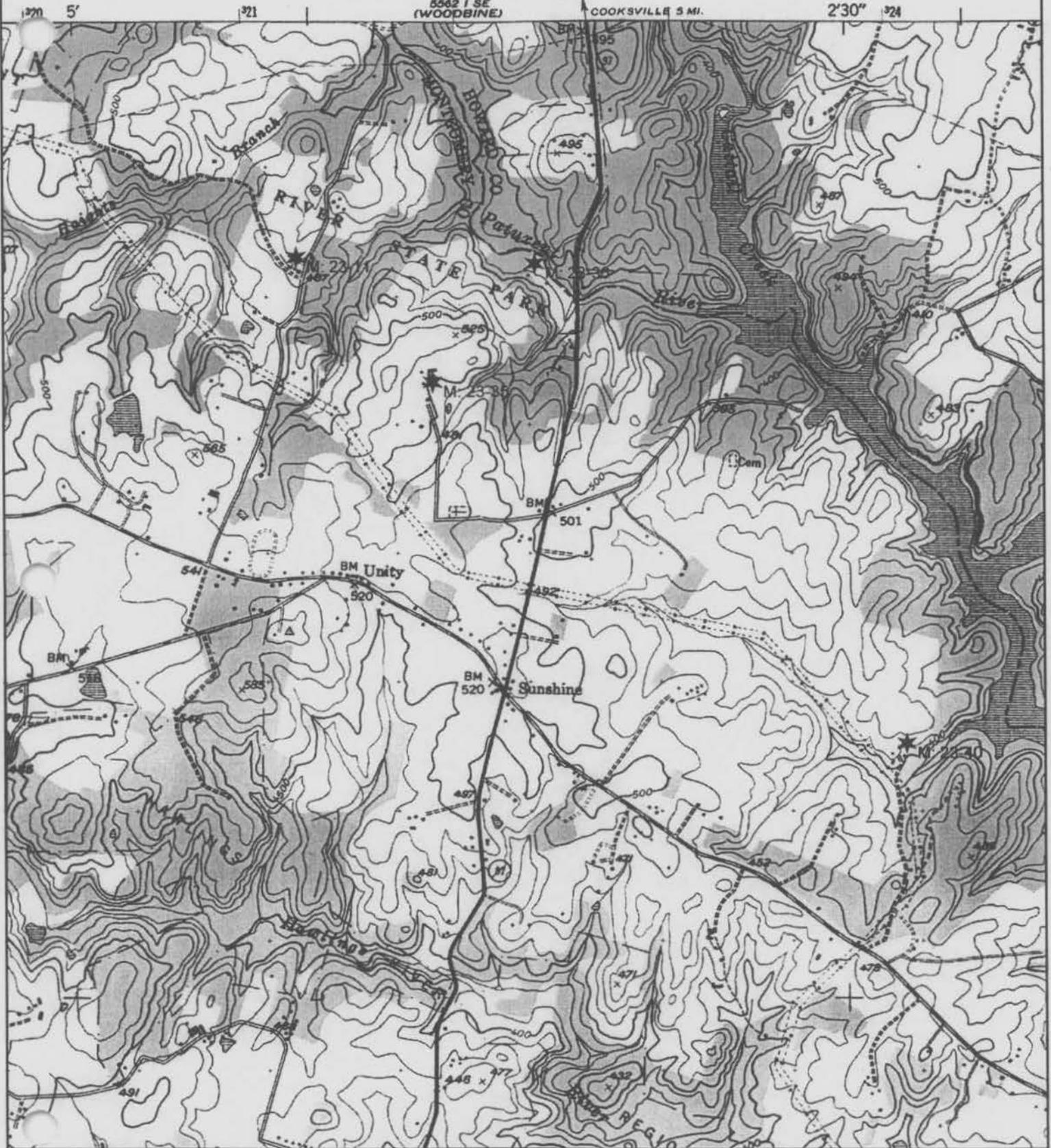


Scale 1" = 900'



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
CORPS OF ENGINEERS

★ M: 23-08a



Name: SANDY SPRING
Date: 7/13/99
Scale: 1 inch equals 2000 feet

Location: 039° 13' 41.8" N 077° 03' 32.3" W
Caption: HOWARD CHAPEL CEMETERY (M: 23-11)
Howard Chapel/Elton Farm Rds



2 22 '99

23-11

HOWARD CHAPEL CEMETERY

MONTGOMERY CO., MD

MICHELE NARU

2-22-00

MARYLAND SHPO

VIEW OF CEMETERY FROM HOWARD CHAPEL RD

1 OF 5



HARRIET
WIFE OF
JOHN H.
HOWARD
BORN
Feb. 9, 1817
DIED
July 21, 1892
Aged 75 yrs.
Buried 2 days

HOWARD

23-11

HOWARD CHAPEL CEMETERY

MONTGOMERY CO., MD

MICHELE NARU

2-22-99

MARYLAND SHPO

GRAVE MARKERS

2 OF 5



HARRIET A.

wife of

JOHN H.
HOWARD,

Born

Feb. 9, 1843,

Died

July 31, 1917,

Aged 74 yrs.

5 mos. & 22 days.

23-11

HOWARD CHAPEL CEMETERY
MONTGOMERY CO., MD

MICHELE NARU

2-22-99

MARYLAND SHPO

HARRIET A. HOWARD'S TOMBSTONE

3 OF 5



LUCY,
Wife of
EVAN GAITHER,
Died
June 17, 1912,
Aged 89 yrs. 10 mos.
& 7 days.

23-11

HOWARD CHAPEL CEMETERY

MONTGOMERY CO., MD

MICHELE NARU

2-22-09

MARYLAND SHPO

LUCY GAITHER'S TOMBSTONE

4 OF 5

GEORGE E.
HOWARD
DIED
DEC. 8, 1901
AGED
28 YEARS.

He was a victim
of malignant malaria
A true son and
a true friend to all.

66.222

23-11

HOWARD CHAPEL CEMETERY

MONTGOMERY CO., MD

MICHELE NARU

2-22-99

MARYLAND SHPO

GEORGE E. HOWARD'S TOMBSTONE

5 of 5

Addendum

M 23-11

Howard Chapel

Montgomery Co., MD

C. Mazurek

Dec. 1996

Section 7.1

Howard Chapel was destroyed by an arson fire and no remains are left of the structure. The cemetery is still located on the site with numerous gravestones scattered across the property. A sign along Howard Chapel road denotes the cemetery as "The Burial Ground of the Ancestors of the Original African American Community of Howard Chapel 1862". This site is generally well kept up, with the exception that a number of gravestones are covered by vegetation further back on the property.

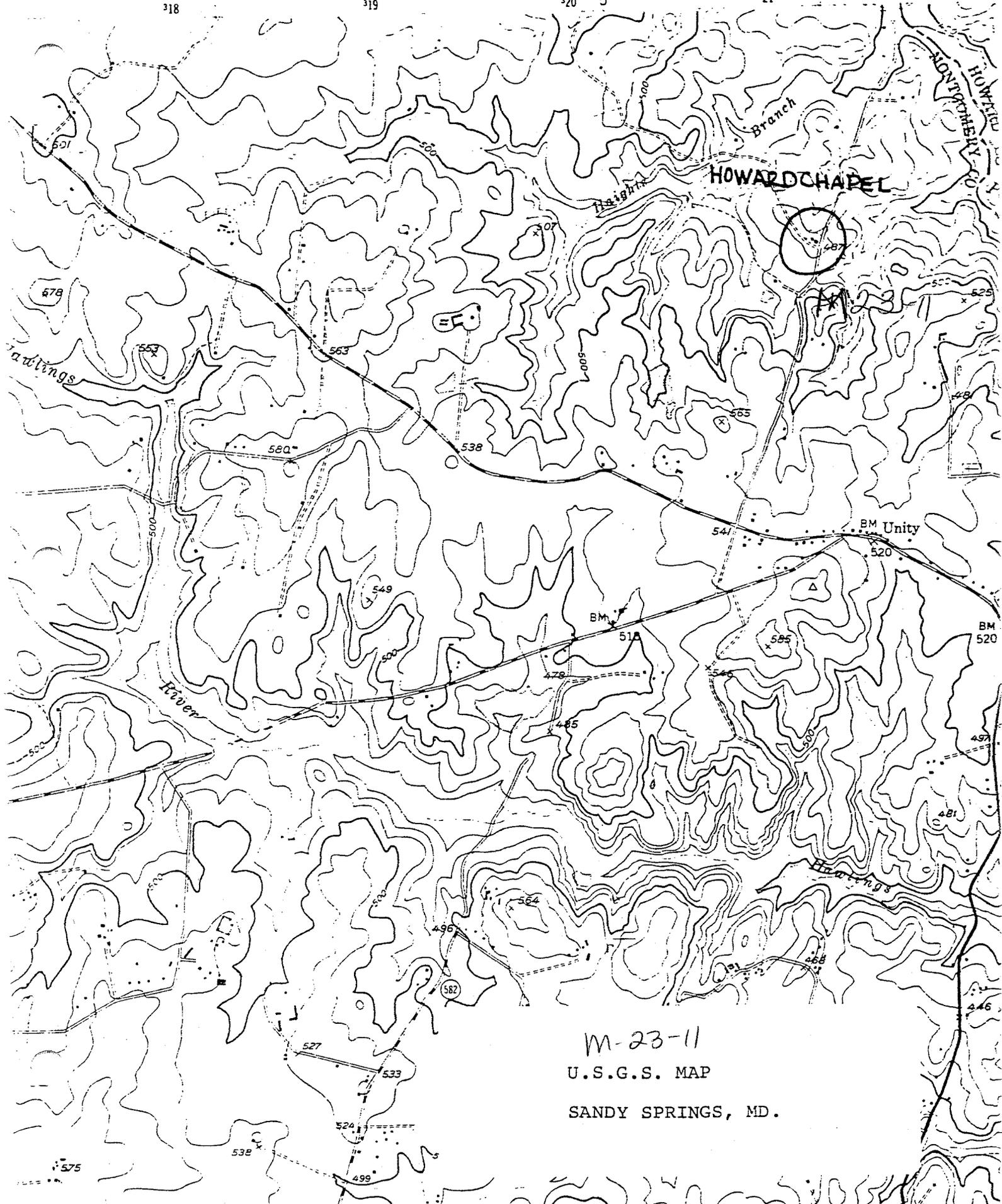
5562 1 SE
WOODBINE

318

319

320 5'

321



M-23-11
U.S.G.S. MAP
SANDY SPRINGS, MD.



M. 23-11

HOWARD CHAPEL

MONTGOMERY CO., MD

C. MAZUREK

DEC 96

MD DEPT. OF NATURAL RESOURCES

SOUTH VIEW OF RUIN - ON HOWARD CHAPEL
RD.

1 OF 5

A black and white photograph of a cemetery sign. The sign is rectangular and mounted on a post. It is set in a wooded area with many bare trees and a ground covered in fallen leaves. The sign's text is as follows:

HOWARD CHAPEL
CEMETERY

THE FINAL RESTING PLACE OF THE
ANCESTORS OF THE ORIGINAL
AFRICAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY
OF HOWARD CHAPEL 1902

THE FINAL RESTING PLACE OF THE
ANCESTORS OF THE ORIGINAL
AFRICAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY
OF HOWARD CHAPEL 1902

M-23-11

HOWARD CHAPEL CEMETERY

MONTGOMERY CO., MD

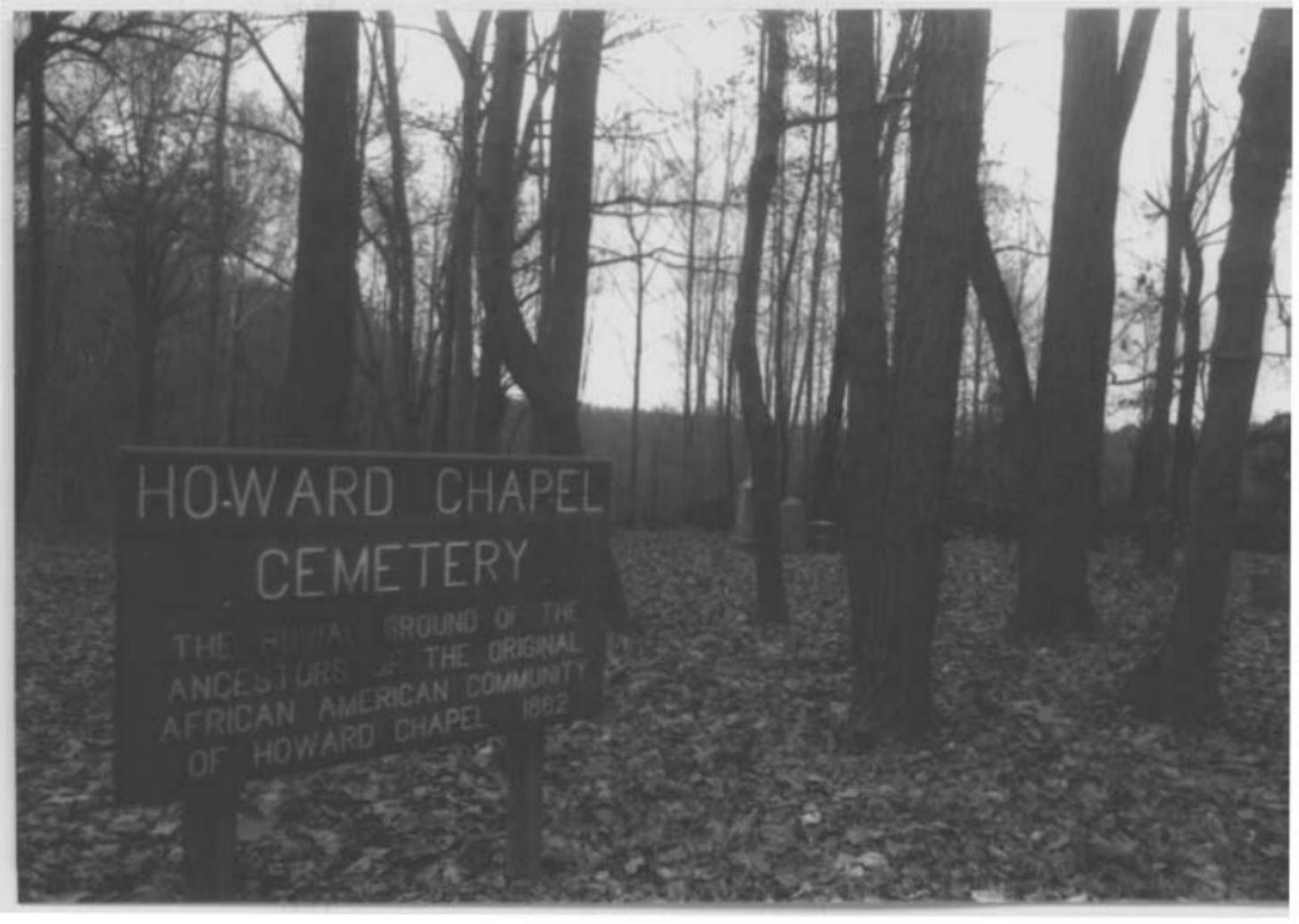
C. MAZUREK

DEC 96

MD DEPT. OF NATURAL RESOURCES

SOUTH VIEW OF CEMETERY

20F5

A black and white photograph of a wooden sign in a cemetery. The sign is mounted on two posts and is set against a background of many thin, bare trees. The ground is covered with fallen leaves. In the distance, a few tombstones are visible through the trees.

HOWARD CHAPEL
CEMETERY

THE BURIAL GROUND OF THE
ANCESTORS OF THE ORIGINAL
AFRICAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY
OF HOWARD CHAPEL 1862

m-23-11

HOWARD CHAPEL CEMETERY

MONTGOMERY CO., MD

C. MAZUREK

DEC 96

MD DEPT. OF NATURAL RESOURCES

S.E. VIEW OF CEMETERY

3 OF 5



M-23-11

HOWARD CHAPEL CEMETERY

MONTGOMERY CO., MD

C. MAZUREK

DEC 96

MD DEPT. OF NATURAL RESOURCES

S.E. VIEW OF TOMBSTONES

4 OF 5



^{m-23-11}
HOWARD CHAPEL CEMETERY

MONTGOMERY CO., MD

C. MAZUREK

Dec 96

MD DEPT. OF NATURAL RESOURCES

S.E. VIEW OF TOMBSTONES

50-5

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC
 Howard Chapel
 AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
 Northwest corner of Howard Chapel Road and Elton Farm Road

CITY, TOWN
 Unity

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

___ VICINITY OF

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Montgomery

3 CLASSIFICATION

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

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Maryland Department of Natural Resources

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

Taylor Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Annapolis

___ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21401

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
 REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Montgomery County Courthouse

Liber #: 3784

Folio #: 460

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Rockville

STATE

Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

___ FEDERAL ___ STATE ___ COUNTY ___ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
 SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

M:23-11

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 type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input checked="" 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

Howard Chapel, located on the northwest corner of Howard Chapel and Elton Farm Road is a frame structure with its main entrance on the gable (east) end. A central doorway flanked by window openings and a bell tower characterize this facade. Both the north and south sides are three bays with large window openings. An interior stove flue chimney is located on the south facade.

A cemetery, overgrown, barely discernable, is located to the north of the church.

The church is in ruinous condition, especially in particular the north wall, which is severely bowed.

A one room school house erected by the black community once stood directly across from the chapel. Only the foundations remain today.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

M:23-11

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) black history
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Howard Chapel and the nearby school house were built on land deeded by George Howard to the black community of the area in the latter part of the nineteenth century. For further information on the Howard family see M 23-8 - Gaither/Howard House.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The ruinous condition of the Howard Chapel leaves little alternative but to tear it down. It may fall down first. Photographs and information included on the Maryland Historic Sites Inventory survey form is adequate documentation for this structure. Appropriate measures to safeguard the cemetery grounds from further abuse should be effected immediately.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE COUNTY

STATE COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Bridget M. Deale, Historic Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Maryland Historical Trust

DATE

August 1979

STREET & NUMBER

21 State Circle

TELEPHONE

269-2438

CITY OR TOWN

Annapolis

STATE

Maryland

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

ACHS SUMMARY FORM

M:23-11
(date entered 5-13-80)

1. Name: Howard Chapel and Cemetery
2. Planning Area/Site Number: 23/11 3. M-NCPPC Atlas Reference: Map 9 G-4
4. Address: Northwest Corner of Howard Chapel and Elton Farm Roads, Unity

5. Classification Summary

Category <u>building</u>	Previous Survey Recording <u>M-NCPPC</u>
Ownership <u>public</u>	Title and Date: <u>1976 Inventory of</u>
Public Acquisition <u>N/A</u>	<u>Historical Sites</u>
Status <u>unoccupied</u>	
Accessible <u>yes:unrestricted</u>	Federal <u> </u> State <u>x</u> County <u>x</u> Local <u> </u>
Present use <u>park</u>	

6. Date: c. 1900 7. Original Owner: George Howard and Howard Chapel Congregation ?

8. Apparent Condition

a. deteriorated b. unaltered c. original site

9. Description: This simple frame chapel sits hidden by under growth and forest close to the side of Howard Chapel Road. It is in ruinous condition. It is a one-and-a-half story, one bay by three bay, chapel which faces southeast. The exterior walls have white novelty siding. The southeast elevation has a simple post and lintel opening. All the windows and doors are gone. The gable roof had asbestos shingles. At the southeast end there is a bell cote astride the roof ridge.

10. Significance: The small chapel served the rural black community for the last part of the 19th and the first half of the 20th century.

The land on which the chapel is located was owned by George Howard and his heirs. Howard was a former slave who had gained his freedom by 1857, and was well respected by the community. Although no deed to the congregation from the family could be located, land for the chapel was probably donated by the Howards. They also helped to establish a black school which was located south of the church.

The chapel was used from about 1900 to 1930, and was served by a circuit minister from the Washington Negro Conference. Burials in the cemetery began in 1901 with that of George Howard. Names on tombstones include Howards, Greens, Ishwoods, Simpsons, Gaithers, Fishers, and Nettles. Since 1968 the property has been part of Patuxent State Park.

11. Researcher and date researched: Harold E. Radtke, Jr., 7/79 Arch. Description

Candy Reed

12. Compiler: Gail Rothrock 13. Date Compiled: 10/79 14. Designation Approval
15. Acreage: 2 acres

7 DESCRIPTION

M:23-11

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input 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 simple frame chapel sits hidden by undergrowth and forest close to the side of Howard Chapel Road. It is in ruinous condition -- the roof has holes in it, the floor is entirely gone and all the windows and doors have been broken or removed.

The chapel is one-and-a-half stories high, one bay across and three bays deep. It has a gable roof and its gable-end faces southeast toward Howard Chapel Road. Its exterior walls have novelty siding. It is built upon a wooden sill directly on the ground, with a low stone footing which runs down the center of the building like a spine. Heavy oak beams run southwest to northeast across the width of the building. At the northwest elevation there is a small pavilion. There are remains of a two-step platform on the inside at the northwest corner which indicate that the pavilion and platform were used as the altar area. There is an exterior stone chimney on the southwest elevation toward the south corner.

The southeast (front) door has a simple post and lintel wooden frame. Two windows surmount the door at the second level. A small bell cote with a gable roof and fish scale shingle sits close to the southeast end at the roof ridge. The gable roof which is in serious disrepair appears to have asbestos covering.

The interior walls, now almost entirely gone, were recently covered by plaster board or sheet rock. The ceiling was lined with decorative metal sheeting.

The overgrown cemetery is on the north side of the building and is surrounded by a black metal fence.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

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 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 c. 1900

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This small chapel served the rural black community for the last part of the 19th and the first half of the 20th century.

The land on which the chapel is located was owned by George Howard and his heirs. Howard was a former slave who had gained his freedom by 1857, and was well respected by the community. Although no deed to the congregation from the family could be located, land for the chapel was probably donated by the Howards. They also helped to establish a black school which was located south of the church.

During the majority of the period during which the chapel was in use, approximately 1900 to 1930, the congregation was part of the Washington Negro Conference, a division of the Methodist Episcopal Church to which black congregations belonged after its formation in 1870. It was served by a circuit minister who shared his time among the several congregations in his assigned area. A circuit minister usually was not assigned to a specific circuit for longer than a few years at a time, due as much to the hardships of the job as to the dictates of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

Members of the congregation included William H. Nettles (an illiterate farm laborer) and his wife Bettie, who could read and write. Harriet & John Howard owned their own house and were literate. In 1900 the Howards had been married 38 years and had 12 living children.

Burials in the adjacent cemetery began in 1901, with that of George Howard. The most recent burial date legible on a tombstone is that of Fannie Fisher, who died in 1942. Names on tombstones include Howards, Greens, Ishwoods, Simpsons, and Gaithers.

The property was sold by Jacob and Mary Vogel to Leonard and Jene Williams in Parcels.² Since 1968 it has been owned by the State of Maryland, and comprises part of Patuxent State Park.

FOOTNOTES:

1. U.S. Census Records (1900).
2. Land Records of Montgomery County, Md., 982/12 (August 18, 1945); 1832/272 (August 24, 1952).

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Land Records of Montgomery County, Maryland.
 Interviews with Fanny Brown, (926-4551); Maude Taylor, (460-1845);
 Constantia Sims, Unity, Maryland.
 U.S. Census Records.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Approximately 2 acres

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

On the corner of Howard Chapel and Elton Farm Roads. Delineated by a rectangle of approximately 50 yards north and 100 yards west.

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

STATE	COUNTY
STATE	COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE	Harold E. Radtke, Jr.	Candy Reed
ORGANIZATION	Sugarloaf Regional Trails	Architectural Description
STREET & NUMBER	Box 87	DATE 7/79
CITY OR TOWN	Dickerson	TELEPHONE 926-4510
		STATE Maryland 20753

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

23/11 Howard Chapel

People Buried in Howard Chapel Cemetery

William H. Nettles
Husband of Bettie Nettles
Died October 14, 1918 - Age 62

Malinda J.
Wife of Daniel W. Green
1847-1924

George Howard
Born 1872
Died 8, 1901 - Age 29 years

Harriet A.
Wife of John H. Howard (August 25, 1839 - May 6, 1923)
February 9, 1843
Died July 31, 1917

Daughter - Christeen Howard Vonce
December 11, 1874
Died October 9, 1931

Lucy, Wife of Evan Gaither
Died June 17, 1912 - Age 89 years, 10 months and 7 days

John B. Howard
January 19, 1885
Died - May 12, 1920

Fannie Fisher
October 30, 1942 - Age 53

Mildred Simpson
Daughter of Martha Whitney
July 1912 - Age 22 years

Robert Simpson
January 19, 1902 - Age 55 years

Arthur H. Ishwood
March 1, 1862
Died October 27, 1915

Waymon Ishwood
Son of Arthur and Anna Ishwood
September 6, 1890 - January 7, 19--

160574708

(See updated form)

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

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

1. NAME						
COMMON:						
AND/OR HISTORIC: Howard Chapel						
2. LOCATION						
STREET AND NUMBER: Howard Chapel Road						
CITY OR TOWN: Brookeville						
STATE: Maryland			COUNTY: Montgomery			
3. CLASSIFICATION						
CATEGORY (Check One)		OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC	
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object		<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	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)						
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment		<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum		<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>Vacant</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments <hr/> <hr/>
4. OWNER OF PROPERTY						
OWNER'S NAME:						
STREET AND NUMBER:						
CITY OR TOWN:			STATE:			
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: None						
DATE OF SURVEY: <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local						
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:						
STREET AND NUMBER:						
CITY OR TOWN:			STATE:			

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 19th 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/Philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			_____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Empty box for Major Bibliographical References.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

Acreage Justification:

Large empty box for Acreage Justification.

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Christopher Owens, Park Historian

ORGANIZATION: M-NCPPC

DATE: 8 Nov 74

STREET AND NUMBER:
8787 Georgia Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: Silver Spring

STATE: Maryland

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

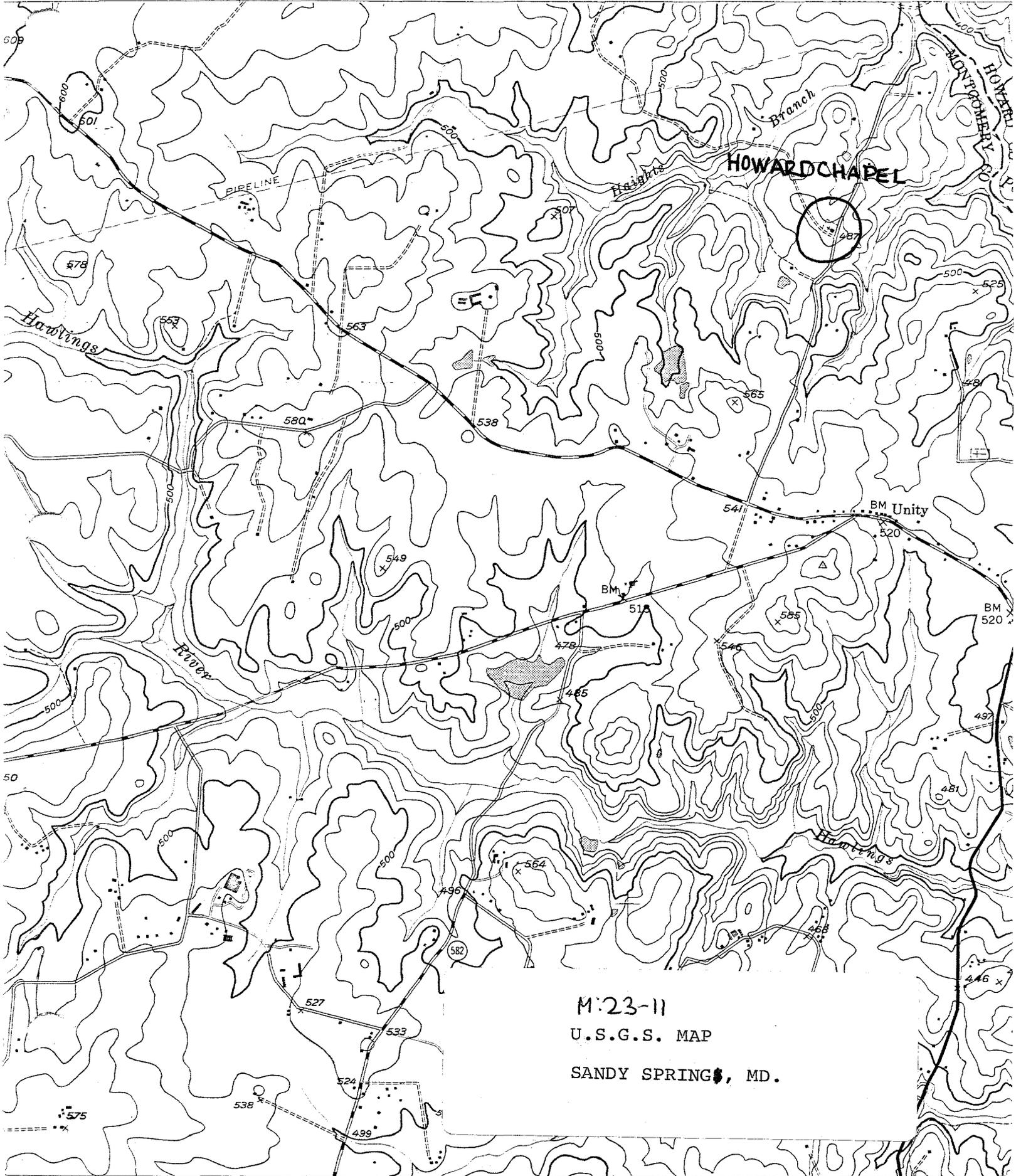
Significance of this property is:

National State Local

Signature

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1000m.E. 318 319 320 5' 321 5562 1 SE (WOODBINE)





Radtke

April 2, 1978

Howard Chapel M: 23/11

Side view - North



Radtke

M: 23-11

April 2, 1978

Howard Chapel 23/11

Belfry - East

(from Howard Chapel Rd)



Radtke

April 2, 1978

Howard Chapel M: 23/11

Sideview - South

(From ELton Rd)



Radtke

Mizz-11

April 2, 1978

Howard Chapel 23/11
Side view - South
(from Elton Rd)



Radtke

April 2, 1978

M: 23-11

Howard Chapel 23/11

Side view - North



Radtke

M: 23-11

April 2, 1978

Howard Chapel 23/11

Front view - East

(From Howard Chapel Rd)



Radtke

M:23-11

April 2, 1978

Howard Chapel 23/11 -

Back view - West



Radtke

Mi'23-11

April 2, 1978

Howard Chapel 23/11 -

Back view - West



Radtke

M:23-11

April 2, 1978

Howard Chapel 23/11

Ceiling

(from front door - East)



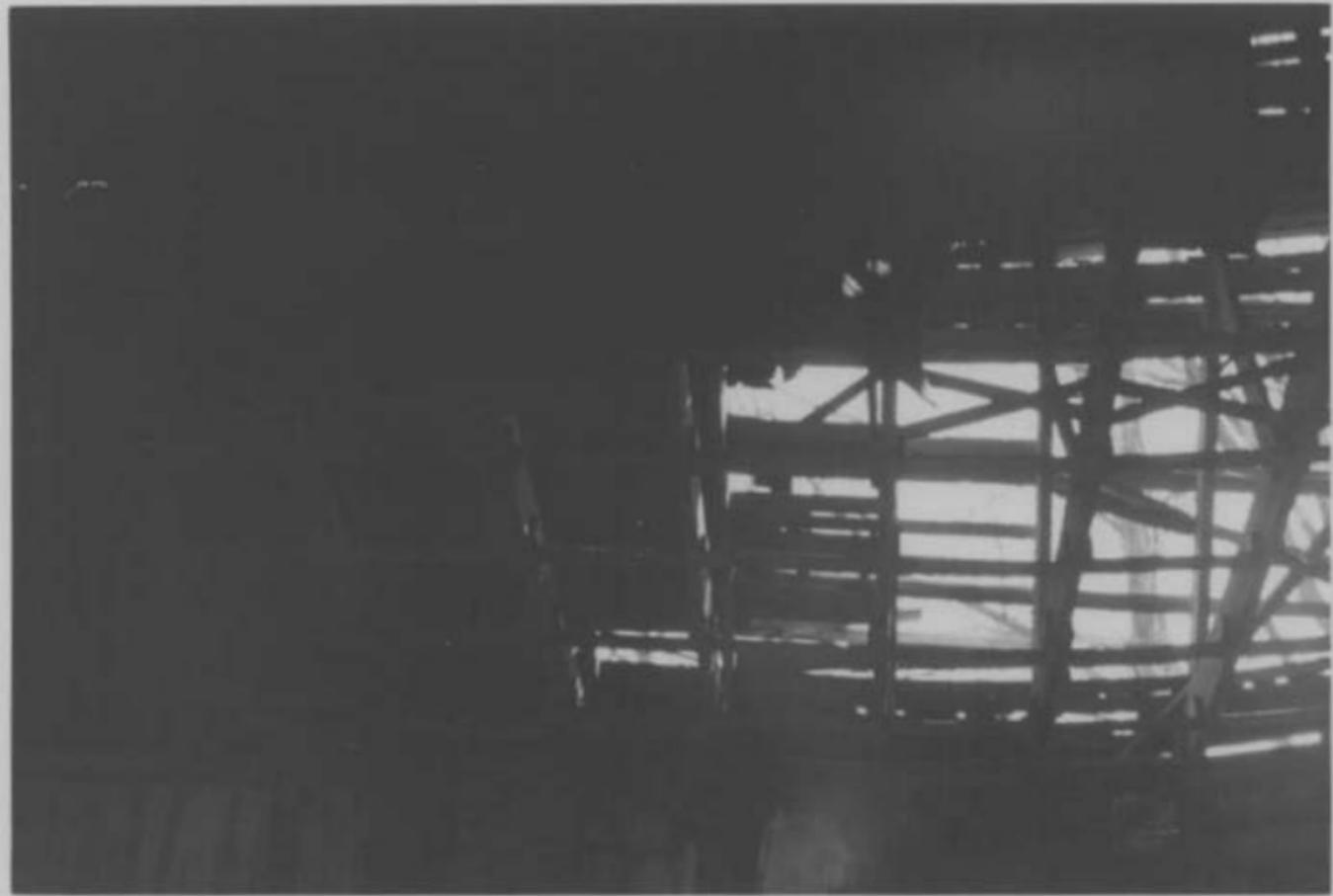
Radtke

April 2, 1978

Howard Chapel 23/11

sanctuary

(from front door - East)



M: 23-11

Radtke

April 2, 1978

Howard Chapel 23/11 -
ceiling from Northwest
window



Radtke

April 2, 1978

Howard Chapel 23/11

Cemetery: George E. Howard
Tombstone



ESTABLISHED 1854
VOL. 1
NO. 1
JANUARY 1854

Radtke

April 2, 1978

Howard Chapel 23/11

Cemetery: George E. Howard
tombstone

CHRISTEEN HOWARD
VONCE,
daughter of
JOHN H. & HARRIET
HOWARD

Radtke

April 2, 1978

Howard Chapel 23/11

Cemetery: daughter Christeen Howard
Vonce

tombstone -

Dec 11, 1874

Oct 19, 1931

JOHN B. HOWARD

Jan 10 1853

May 12 1929

Rest in Peace
His wife
Mary E. Howard
Born Jan 10 1853
Died May 12 1929

Radtke

April 2, 1978

Howard Chapel 23/11

Cemetery : John B. Howard tombstone

Jan 19, 1885

Died - May 12, 1920



Radtke

April 2, 1978

Howard Chapel 23/11

Cemetery: Lucy, wife of Evan Gaitner
tombstone -

June 17, 1912

age 89 yrs. 10 mos. + 7 days



Radtke

M:23-11

April 2, 1978

Burkley tombstone in
cemetery: North of Howard
chapel 23/11



M 23-11;DNR-56

Howard Chapel
west side of Howard Chapel Road
Unity, MD
Patuxent River State Park
N.W. **E**levation

BMD;4/79



#23-11

NAME HOWARD CHAPEL

LOCATION HOWARD CHAPEL Rd + ELTON FARM Rd UNITY, Md.

FACADE S

PHOTO TAKEN 11/7/74 MOWYER