	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 Ruilding Ownership Private Public Acquisition Status Occupied Accessible Yes: restricted Present use Private residence: religious Previous Survey Recording	
	National Register, 1977	
	Date 1850 Apparent Condition	7. Original Owner Bethesda Presbyterian Chur
	a. Good	c. Original Site

Description

Unaltered

Bethesda Mee ting 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 lo. 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-1880'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

13. Date Compiled Fall '78 14. Designation Approval\_i...

15. Acreage 3 acres

30 0 13

Ann Harris

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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AND/OR COMMON				
AND ON COMMON	Temple Hill Ba	ptist Church		
LOCATION				,
STREET & NUMBER		Avenue (Rockvil	le Pike)	
			NOT FOR PUBLICATION	
CITY, TOWN	Bethesda		CONGRESSIONAL DISTRIC	T
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	Maryland	24	COUNTY Montgomery	CODE 031
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\_\_EXCELLENT

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#### CONDITION

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#### 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. 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. is a large, pointed-arch overlight above the doors that features delicate, "foliated" muntins and stained glass panes. 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.) 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.

See continuation sheet #1

Form	No.	10-300a	
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## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

Bethesda Meeting House Bethesda, Maryland

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE 1

DATE ENTERED

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

## UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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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. 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.

1Photograph appears in the <u>Washington Star</u>, "Rambler" article, May 18, 1919.

<sup>2</sup>Eugene & Edythe Clark, <u>The Spirit of Captain John</u> (New York, 1970), p. 131.

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

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

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

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	<b>X</b> ARCHITECTURE	EDUCATION	MILITARY	SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
1700-1799	ART	ENGINEERING	MUSIC	THEATER
1800-1899	COMMERCE	EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	PHILOSOPHY	TRANSPORTATION
<b>X_1900</b> -	COMMUNICATIONS	INDUSTRY	POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	X_OTHER (SPECIFY)
	•	INVENTION		Local History

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 sturcture 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

Form No. 10-300a (Rev. 10-74)

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# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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Bethesda Meeting House Bethesda, Maryland

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

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

## UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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Bethesda Meeting House Bethesda, Maryland

CONTINUATION SHEET

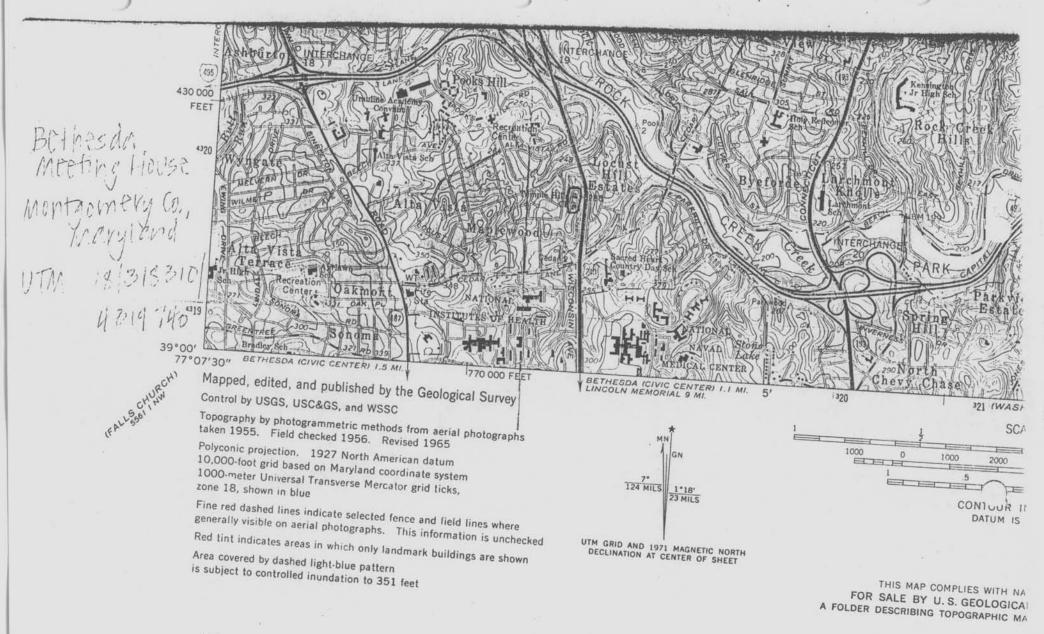
ITEM NUMBER

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.

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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
Washingotn, 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 SERVICE

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# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

Bethesda Meeting House
Montgomery County
CONTINUATION SHEET 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)

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# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

Bethesda Meeting House Montgomery County

CONTINUATION SHEET Maryland

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE 2 (Addendum)

Bethesda Presbyterian Church Cemetery, continued

Catholic Church from 1944-1952, to the ownership of the Temple Hill Baptish 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. 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

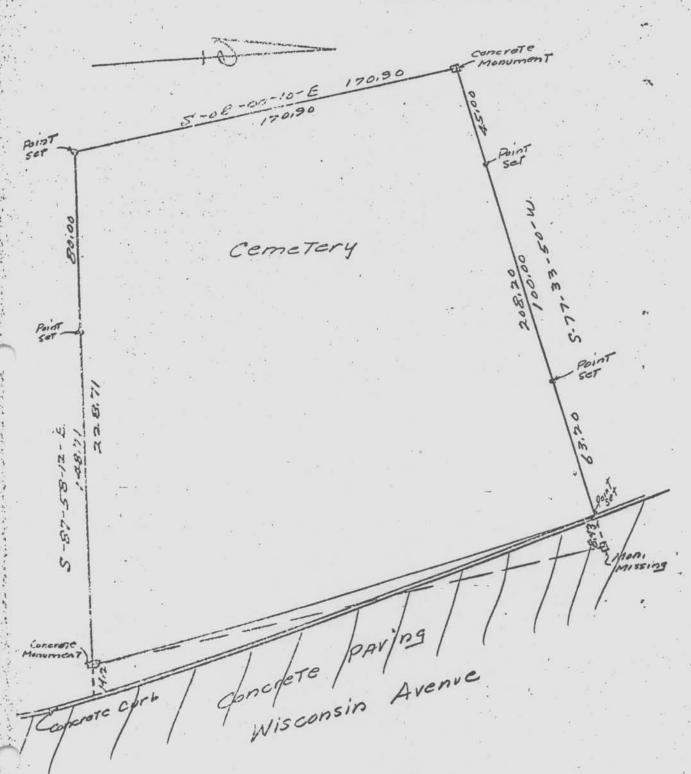
AMERICAN TOPOGRAPHIC ENGINEERS

Surveyors & Jopographers

ATE 19558 Bernesda Prebyterian Church

BETHESDA, MARYLAND

Proper Line Survey on Church <u>Cemetery</u> on Wisconsin Avenue Bethesda, Montgomery Co. Md. Scale 1"=40' September 28, 1961



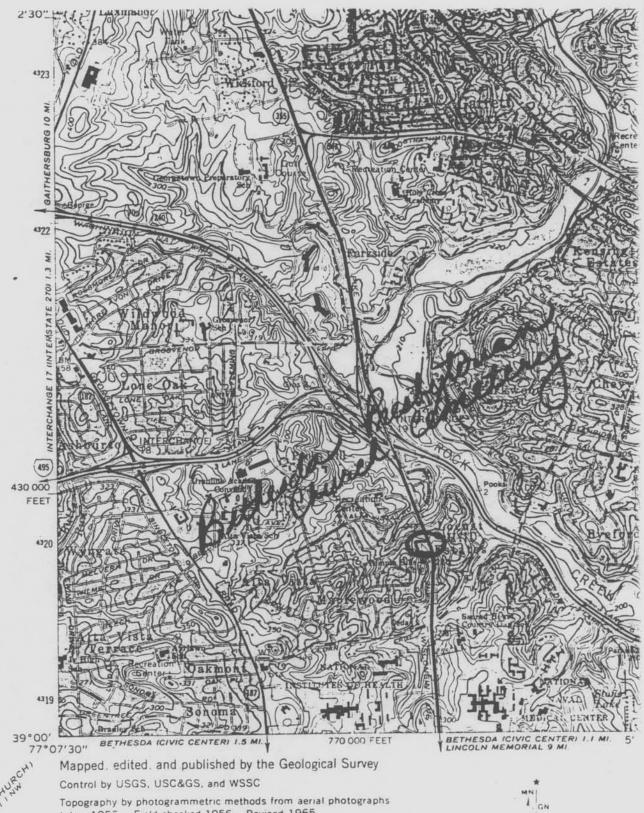
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FRANK B. LANE. REGISTERED SURVEYOR



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. cone 18, shows in plue

Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where generally while 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

124 MILS: 1\*18

UTM GRID AND 1971 MAGNETIC NORTH DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET

M#35-5 160852N508

#### MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

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

	NAME	į				
	Temple Hill	. Baptist (	Church		•	
	AND/OR HISTORIC:		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·			
(A)	Bethesda Me	eting Hous	se			
<b>A</b>	LOCATION STREET AND NUMBER:					
	9400 Wiscon	sin Ave.	(Rockvill	e Pike)		
	CITY OR TOWN:					
	Bethesda	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·				
	Maryland		ł	COUNTY:	~~~~~	
3.	CLASSIFICATION			MOITC	gomery	
********	CATEGORY		OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE
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	☐ District ☑ Building .	Public Private	Public Acquisiti		Occupied	y • s :
	Site Structure Object	Both	☐ In Proc	ess Considered	Unoccupied	Restricted Unrestricted
	00,000				Preservation work	□ No
	PRESENT USE (Check One or M	ore as Appropriate)	<u> </u>		l	
	Agricultural Go	vernment	] ,Park		Transportation	Comments
	Commercial Ind	lustrial 🗓	Private Resider		Other (Specify)	
	<u></u>		Religious			
**********		\$⊕∪m _	] Scientific			
	OWNER OF PROPERTY					
	Church & Pa	rsonage: T	'emple Hi	ll Banti	at Ch / Com	
	THE TAND NOMBER.					etery: etery Asso
i	9400 Wiscon	sin Ave. (	Rockville		Cem	ecery Asso
	Bethesda			STATE:	_	
5.	LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCR	RIPTION		Ma:	ryland	7523
	COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF D					<i>S</i>
	Montgomery (	County Cou	rthouse			
	O THE E AND NUMBER!		•			
	CITY OR TOWN:			STATE		
	Rockville			Ma	aryland	
	Title Reference o	f Current	Deed (Boo	k & Pq.	#);	
12:	EPRESENTATION IN EXIST!	NG SURVEYS				₹. c
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L.	DATE OF SURVEY: 1976		Federal	State		Local
	DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY REC			·		
}	M-NCPPC & Ma	aryland Hi	storical	Trust		
	a comment					
1.	CITY OR TOWN:			STATE		
	Rockville &	Annapolis		Mar	yland	

7.	DESCRIPTION							
					(Check One)			***********
CONDITION	CONDITION	☐ Excellent	☐ Good	Fair	☐ Deteriorated	d 🔲 Ruins	□ ·Unexposed	
- 1	CONDITION	ſ	(Check On	10)		(Che	ck One)	
	<u> </u>	☐ Alter	red	☐ Uncltered		☐ Moved	Original Site	i
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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.) 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

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 twostory, 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

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. 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.

<sup>1</sup> Photograph appears in the <u>Washington</u> <u>Star</u>, "Rambler" article, May 18, 1919.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>Clark, Eugene & Edythe. <u>The Spirit of Captain John</u>. New York, 1970, p. 131.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup>Flaherty, Carolyn. "The Domestic Architecture of Downing", <u>Old House Journal</u>, New York, Oct. 1974.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup>Unpublished glass-plate negative in the "Rambler" collection, Columbia Historical Society, Washington, D.C.

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

PERIOD (Check One or More as	Appropriate)		
Pre-Columbian	16th Century	18th Century	20th Century
☐ 15th Century	☐ 17th Century	19th Century	
SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicat	ole end Known)		
AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Ch	eck One or More as Appropria	te)	
Abor iginal	■ Education	☐ Political	Urban Planning
Prehistoric	Engineering	Religion/Phi-	Other (Specify)
Historic	industry [	losophy	
Agriculture	☐ Invention	Science	
Architecture	☐ Landscape	☐ Sculpture	
☐ Art	Architecture	Social/Human-	
Commerce	Literature	itarian	
Communications	Military	☐ Theater	
□ Conservation	Music	Transportation	

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 congre-A gations is inextricably linked with the history of Mont-gomery 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.\*

<sup>\*</sup> 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

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 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.

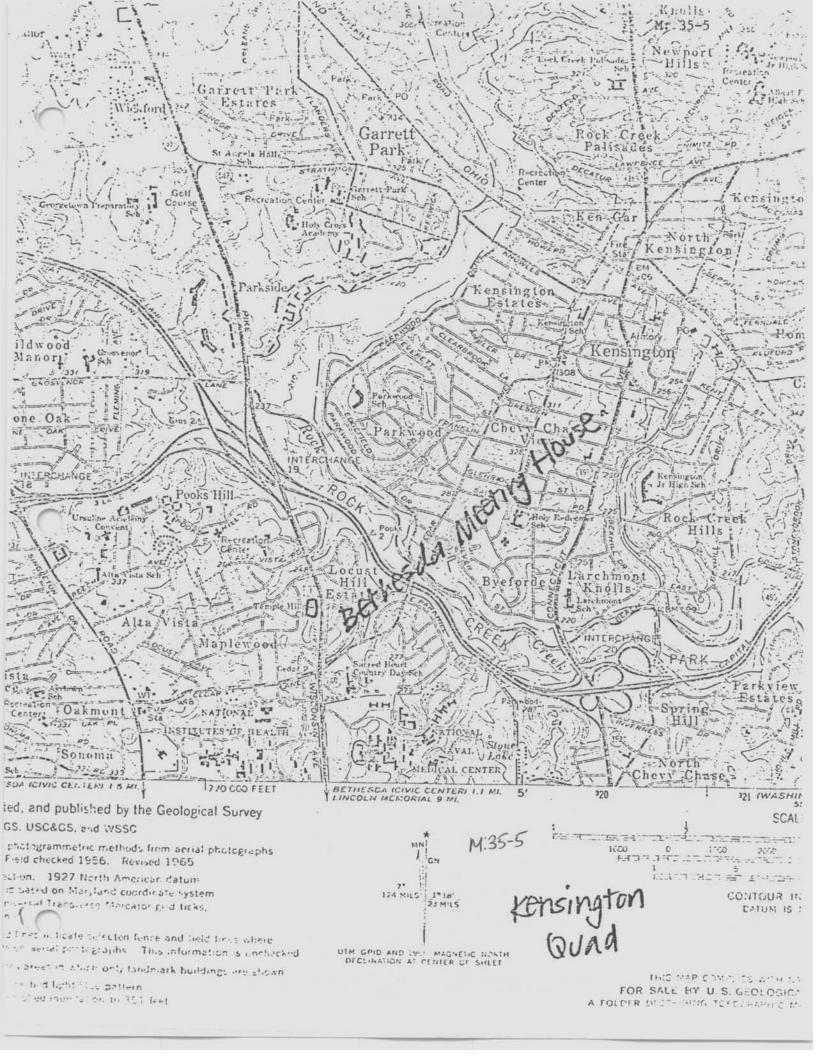
In 1820 the Presbytery of Baltimore directed that a church be organized on the Rockville Pike, for Presbyterians in the southern reaches of the Cabin John Congregation. The Elders purchased a parcel of land on the Pike, which was part of the tract Leeke Forest, and either built or converted a structure 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 This new building, on a hill overlooking the wooden church. 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

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.

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. MAJOR	BIBLIOGRAPHICAL RE	FERENCES -					
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1)		-Montgomery C					
2)	Clark, Eugen	e & Edythe.	Th	<u>e Spirit of</u>	Capt	<u>ain John</u> .	
	New York, 19		_				
3)	A 250 Year H	eritage, 1973	b	ooklet by th	ne Be	thesda Pr	esby.
	Church, Beth	•					
4)	Historical D	iscoursede	li	vered by Rev	7. Pa	rke P. Fl	ournoy
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Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation MONTGOMERY COUNTY Real Property Data Search

Go Back View Map New Search

**Account Identifier:** 

District - 07 Account Number - 00436130

**Owner Information** 

Owner Name:

TEMPLE HILL BAPTIST CH

BETHESDA MD 20824-0406

Use:

EXEMPT COMMERCIAL

\_\_\_\_

Principal Residence:

NO

Mailing Address:

PO BOX 30406

Deed Reference:

1) / 2026/ 444

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2)

Location & Structure Information

Premises Address 9400 ROCKVILLE PIK BETHESDA 20814 Zoning R60 Legal Description

LEEK FOREST

MapGridParcelHP21P070

**Primary Structure Built** 

1850

Sub District Subdivision Section Block Lot Group Plat No: 1 81 Plat Ref:

Special Tax Areas

Town Ad Valorem

Tax Class 38

**Enclosed Area** 

\_\_\_\_

Property Land Area County Use

Basement

2,397 SF

2.82 AC

691 Exterior

Stories 2

YES

**Type** STANDARD UNIT

FRAME

**Value Information** 

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

Total: Preferential Land:

809,700 0 243,700 809,700 0

809,700 0 809,700

**Transfer Information** 

Seller:
Type:
Seller:
Type:
Seller:

Date: Deed1: Date:

Price: Deed2: Price: Deed2:

Deed1: Date: Deed1:

Price: 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: Exempt Class:

Type:

COUNTY AND STATE

CHURCHES, SYNAGOGUES, & PARSONAGES

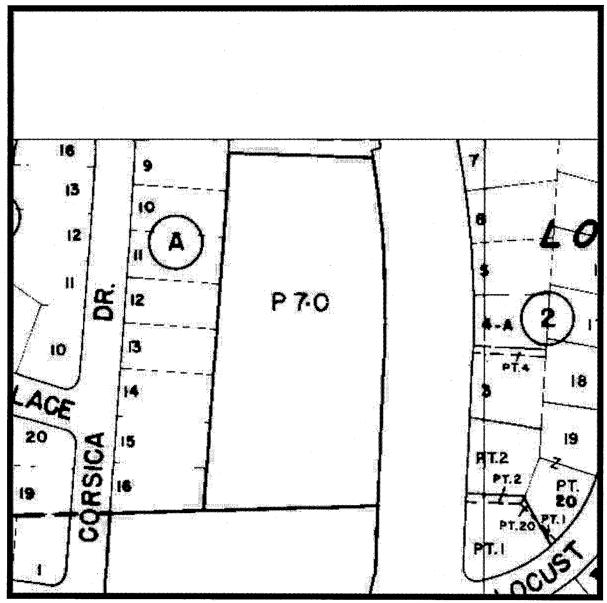
Special Tax Recapture:

\* NONE \*

Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation
MONTGOMERY COUNTY
Real Property Data Search

Go Back View Map New Search

**District - 07** Account Number - 00436130



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Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation **MONTGOMERY COUNTY** Real Property Data Search

Go Back View Map **New Search** 

**Account Identifier:** 

District - 07 Account Number - 03128975

**Owner Information** 

**Owner Name:** 

BETHESDA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

RESIDENTIAL

**Principal Residence:** 

NO

Mailing Address:

7611 CLEARDON RD

**Deed Reference:** 

1)

BETHESDA MD 20814

2)

**Location & Structure Information** 

**Premises Address** ROCKVILLE PIK

Zoning R60

**Legal Description** 

Lot

**CEMETERY** 

BETHESDA 20814 CONDO UNIT: 692

Мар

HP22

Parcel P988

**Sub District** 

Subdivision Section 501

Block

Group Plat No:

Plat Ref: 80

**Special Tax Areas** 

**Stories** 

Grid

Town Ad Valorem

Tax Class **Enclosed Area** 

**Property Land Area** 

County Use

**Primary Structure Built** 0000

**Basement** 

42,732.00 SF Type

692

**Exterior** 

**Value Information** 

	Base	Value	Phase-in Assessments		
	Value	As Of	As Of	As Of	
		01/01/2001	07/01/2003	07/01/2004	
Land:	100	100			
Improvements:	0.	0			
Total:	100	100	100	NOT AVAIL	
Preferential Land:	0	0	0	NOT AVAIL	

	Large to State 2		
Tran	ster I	ntorm	ation

Seller:	Date: 03/08/1996	Price: \$0
Type: NOT ARMS-LENGTH	Deed1:	Deed2:
Seller:	Date:	Price:
Type:	Deed1:	Deed2:
Seller:	Date:	Price:
Type:	Deed1:	Deed2:

#### **Exemption Information**

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

Tax Exempt: **Exempt Class:**  NO

**Special Tax Recapture:** 

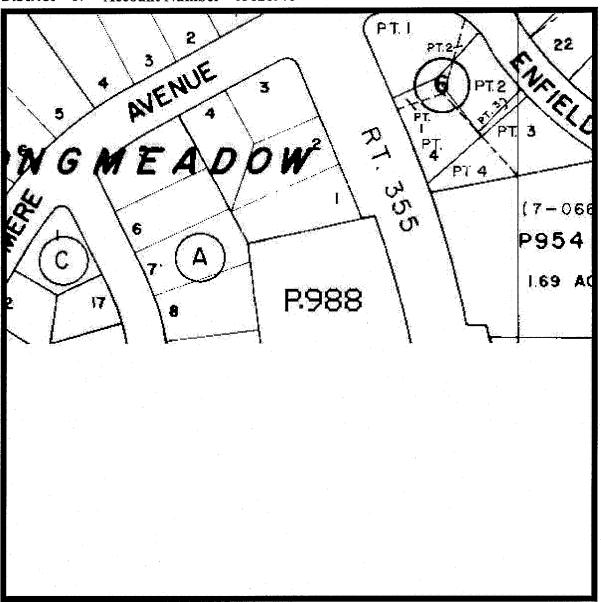
\* NONE \*

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Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation
MONTGOMERY COUNTY
Real Property Data Search

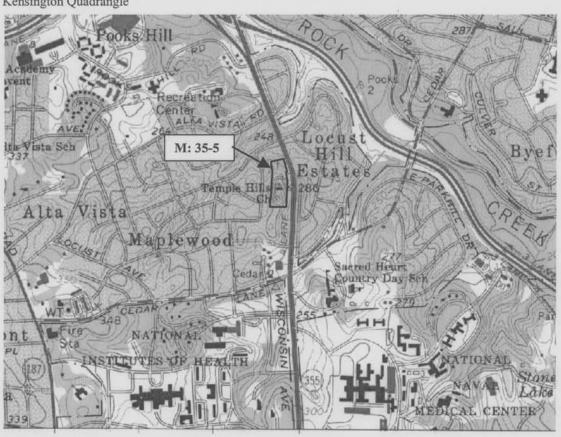
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**District - 07** Account Number - 03128975



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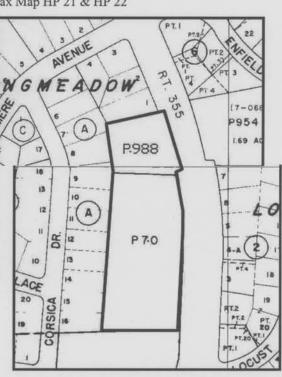
M: 35-5 Bethesda Meeting House & Cemetery (Temple Hill Baptist Church) 9400 Rockville Pike (MD 355), Bethesda Kensington Quadrangle



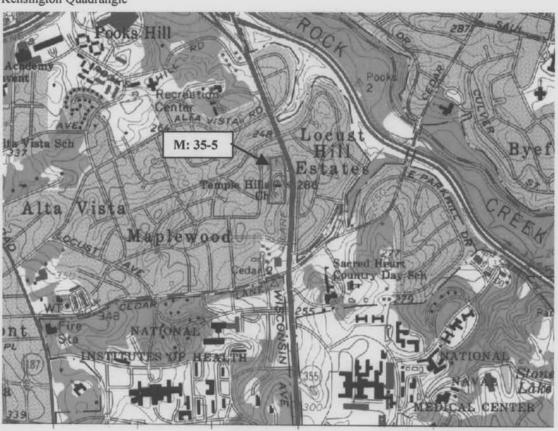
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Tax Map HP 21 & HP 22

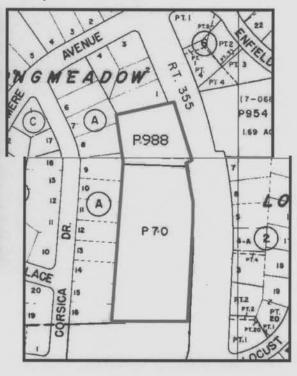


M: 35-5 Bethesda Meeting House & Cemetery (Temple Hill Baptist Church) 9400 Rockville Pike (MD 355), Bethesda Kensington Quadrangle



1993-95 Aerial Photo

Tax Map HP 21 & HP 22















#35-5 POETHESDA PRESBYTERIAN CH. NAME ROCKOILE PIKE, BETHESDA, MD. LOCATION FACADE NE PHOTO TAKEN 9/0/14 M. RevyER



NAME #35-5 BETHESDA PRESBY. CHUPCH-PARSONAGE LOCATION ROCKUILLE PIKE, BETHESDA, MD. FACADE Sa PHOTO TAKEN 9/10/74 M. BusyER