

**COMMUNITY OF FAITH UNITED METHODIST  
CHURCH & CEMETERY  
CLARKSBURG, MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MD 20871**

**MASTER PLAN HISTORIC SITE DESIGNATION FORM  
JANUARY 2025**



 **Montgomery Planning**

THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

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**1. NAME OF PROPERTY**

Historic Name: John Wesley Methodist Episcopal Church and Cemetery; Pleasant View Methodist Episcopal Church and Cemetery  
Current Name: Community of Faith United Methodist Church and Cemetery  
Other Names: Rocky Hill Church and Cemetery; Centenary Methodist Episcopal Church  
Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties #(s): 13-48

**2. LOCATION OF PROPERTY**

Address Number and Street: 22420 Frederick Road  
County, State, Zip: Clarksburg, Montgomery County, Maryland 20871

**3. ZONING OF PROPERTY**

R-200: The intent of the R-200 zone is to provide designated areas of the County for residential uses with a minimum lot size of 20,000 square feet. The predominant use is residential in a detached house.

**4. TYPE OF PROPERTY**

A. Ownership of Property

- Private
- Public
- Local
- State
- Federal

B. Category of Property

- Private
- Public
- Local
- State
- Federal

C. Number of Resources within the Property

Contributing

Noncontributing

- Buildings
- Structures
- Objects
- Archaeological Sites
- Total

- Buildings
- Structures
- Objects
- Archaeological Sites
- Total

D. Listing in the National Register of Historic Places: In 2019, the Maryland Historical Trust found the Community of Faith United Methodist Church and Cemetery ineligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

## 5. FUNCTION OR USE

Historic Function(s): RELIGION: Religious facility, Church; FUNERARY; Cemetery

Current Function(s): RELIGION: Religious facility, Church; FUNERARY; Cemetery

## 6. DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY

### Site Description:

The Community of Faith United Methodist Church and Cemetery is located in Clarksburg, Maryland. The church is on the west side of Frederick Road (MD 355), approximately 1.25 miles southeast of the Clarksburg Master Plan Historic District. The congregation acquired the property in 1886, established the cemetery, and then constructed the first church by 1894. The trustees built the current church building, the second on the site, in 1925. The property is bound by the Clarksburg Heights subdivision to the north, Bennett Creek Animal Hospital to the south, Frederick Road to the east, and Rocky Hill Middle School to the west.

The Community of Faith United Methodist Church is set back approximately 100 feet from Frederick Road on a narrow, one-acre lot. A wide concrete sidewalk, installed in 2020, runs parallel to the public right-of-way. An asphalt driveway towards the southeast corner of the lot provides access to the property from Frederick Road. The driveway leads to a large asphalt parking lot that wraps the east (façade) and south (side) elevations of the church. There is a small, wood-frame, non-historic shed to the south of the church.

The cemetery is located to the west (rear) of the church. A gravel path bisects the cemetery. In 1963, F. Wilson and Sarah Wims conveyed to the church Outlot B of the Clarksburg Heights subdivision, a .47-acre parcel to the west (rear) of the cemetery, allowing for the expansion of the burial ground. The north, south, and west boundaries of the cemetery is lined with coniferous and deciduous trees and abuts various fences installed by adjacent property owners. A line of mostly coniferous trees delineates the original boundary of the cemetery from the later expansion.

### Architectural Description (see App. 4 and App. 5 for current and historic photographs):

Community of Faith United Methodist Church is a Gothic Revival-styled church constructed in 1925. The one-story, front-gable church is adorned with an integrated side tower with a flat roof. The vaulted ceiling in the nave paired with the partially exposed basement accounts for the building's multi-story appearance. The wood-frame church rests on a brick foundation. The original common-bond brick veneer walls are covered with non-historic vinyl siding. The structure supports a front gable roof sheathed in asphalt shingles. Typical fenestration consists of one-over-one, double-hung, wood-sash, stained glass windows on the first story and vinyl windows in the basement. In the late 1950s, the congregation constructed a rear addition to the church. The concrete block section is clad in the same matching vinyl as the original building and ties directly into the asphalt shingle gable roof creating a seamless transition.

When constructing the building, C.W.S. Graves and Charles Green, African American contractors from Washington, D.C., articulated and divided the three-bay wide, front-gable façade using a tripartite form.<sup>1</sup> The front gable, which features the entrance, stands proud of the main building plane, and distinguishes itself from the substantial side-tower to the south. The northern six-foot section of the front gable is slightly setback and differentiated with a stepped gable roofline. This division creates symmetry and balance to the façade, but retains the central aisle interior floorplan.

The three-bay, facade (east elevation) is accessed by a non-historic concrete stair and ramp with metal pipe railings. The first story of the front gable features the central entrance that consists of a large, pointed arch opening divided into three parts: 1) replacement, double-leaf, metal doors with small diamond windows; 2) a transom with vertical wood siding; and 3) a wood-frame, three-light, pointed arch, stained glass window. In the upper gable end, there is a narrow, wood-frame, single-light, stained glass window. The tower features a typical stained-glass window on the first story and a rectangular louvered opening in its belfry. The original

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<sup>1</sup> The architect of the building remains unknown.

architectural details of the tower including the brick corbelling and pointed arch, wood, louvered openings at its belfry are obscured by the non-historic vinyl siding. A cement plaque is located towards at the base of the tower and reads, "The New John Wesley M.E. Church Was Redeemed June 11th 1932 Rev. J.H. Lewis, Pastor."

The side elevations consist of the four-bay wide original church and one-bay, non-historic rear addition constructed ca. 1960. In general, each bay of the original church is delineated by a buttress. Fenestration consists of a typical basement-level and first story windows. Ornamentation is otherwise limited on these elevations. The south elevation of the tower provides an additional point of access via a non-historic, single-leaf, metal door accessed via a concrete stair.

For a detailed architectural description of the building, refer to Appendix 4: MIHP Form.

## **7. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

### **A. Applicable Designation Criteria as described in Chapter 24A: Historic Resources Preservation, §24A-3, Montgomery County Code**

Community of Faith United Methodist Church and Cemetery meets three of the nine designation criteria as described in §24A-3 of the Montgomery County Code. See Section J of this report for a detailed analysis.

### **B. Statement of Significance:**

The Community of Faith United Methodist Church and Cemetery in Clarksburg, Maryland, is a significant Gothic Revival-styled brick church built in 1925. The church represents the development of the African American Rocky Hill community and the lives of its residents during the Jim Crow era of segregation. The church trustees acquired the property in 1886, established the burial ground, and constructed a wood-frame church by 1894. After the original church burned in 1924, the congregation hired Charles W. Spurgeon Graves and Charles Green, two highly skilled African American builders from Washington, D.C., to construct this high-styled place of worship in a rural location. The building served as a center for religious activity, but more importantly, functioned as an essential location where African American residents of Clarksburg had opportunities for leadership, activism, education, and social engagement. Many of these leaders are buried in the church cemetery and no other site or resource remains to reflect their contribution to the development of the county. Community of Faith United Methodist Church and Cemetery has fronted Frederick Road for nearly a century and serves as a link to the past, preserving the legacy of the African American community in Clarksburg.

### **C. Period of Significance: 1886-1963**

**D. Significant Dates:** 1886 (acquisition of the property); 1894 (approximate construction of the first church); 1926 (construction of second church); 1963 (acquisition of the adjacent parcel for expanded cemetery)

**E. Significant Persons:** Trustees of the Church

**F. Areas of Significance:** African American Heritage; Social History

**G. Architect/Builder:** Charles W. Spurgeon Graves and Charles Green

## H. Narrative:

### *Historic Context: Rocky Hill*

Rocky Hill—a historic African American community—originated in the late twentieth century to the south of the Village of Clarksburg.<sup>2</sup> After the Civil War, African American homeownership in Clarksburg remained limited. In 1874, George T. Williams acquired 23 perches of land (approximately .14-acres) from Mary and William Waters. The property abutted the Clarksburg Methodist Episcopal Church in Clarksburg.<sup>3</sup> Williams later served as one of the first trustees of the Pleasant View Methodist Church (the present Community of Faith United Methodist Church) and the Rocky Hill segregated Black elementary school.<sup>4</sup> In 1880, at least two other African American families rented properties in or near the village including John H. and Emma Wims, and John and Rachel Snowden.<sup>5</sup> Black homeownership, however, remained sparse until Lloyd N. Gibbs Jr. and Elizabeth Gibbs (his mother) purchased 24 acres for \$600 from Abraham H. and Violetta Rose in 1884.<sup>6</sup> This purchase propelled the development of Rocky Hill.

The Gibbs family were held in slavery by Thomas S. Nicholls and Charles T. Purdum until the emancipation of enslaved persons in Maryland. Purdum, who lived to the south of the village, submitted evidence of ownership to the *Montgomery County Commissioner of Slave Statistics* for the following members of the Gibbs family: Elizabeth Jane (female, 37 years old), Henrietta M. (female, 11 years old), Lloyd N. (male, 9 years old), Mary C. (female, 7 years old), Flora E. (female, 4 years old), and Eliza A. (female 2 years old).<sup>7</sup> Similarly, Nicholls claimed that he held “Lloyd [N.] Gibbs (male, 40),” likely the husband of Elizabeth and father of Lloyd N., in slavery.<sup>8</sup> The *Baltimore Sun* noted that Lloyd Gibbs, enslaved by Lamper Nicholls, was drafted in 1864, but no service records confirm his enlistment.<sup>9</sup> After the Civil War, the Gibbs family remained in Clarksburg. In 1870, Lloyd N. and Elizabeth rented a house north of Clarksburg village (potentially as a tenant and laborer for Hanson Miles) on Frederick Road where they lived with their four children, Henrietta, Lloyd, Mary, and Eliza. After their acquisition of the Rose property in 1884, the Gibbs constructed a new house on Frederick Road.

During the 1880s and 1890s, African American homeownership increased in Clarksburg and Rocky Hill. Early landowners included, but were not limited to Benjamin F. Wims, Townsend Coats, and Thomas Snowden, who

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<sup>2</sup> George W. McDaniel, *Black Historical Resources in Upper Western Montgomery County* (Montgomery County, MD: Sugarloaf Regional Trails, 1979), 73.

<sup>3</sup> Williams acquired additional parcels in 1888 and 1893. Montgomery County Circuit Court, “William and Mary Waters to George T. Williams,” October 8, 1874, Liber EBP 13, Folio 65, <http://www.mdlandrec.net>; Montgomery County Circuit Court, William and Mary Waters to George T. Williams,” September 7, 1888, Liber JA 11, Folio 303, <http://www.mdlandrec.net>; Montgomery County Circuit Court, “Sarah I. Sellman to George T. Williams,” February 7, 1893, Liber JA 36, Folio 376, <http://www.mdlandrec.net>.

<sup>4</sup> Montgomery County Circuit Court, “Lloyd N. and Sarah Gibbs to George T. Williams, James H. Mason, and Townsend Coats, Trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church,” October 13, 1886, Liber JA 9, Folio 399, <http://www.mdlandrec.net>.

<sup>5</sup> John Wims and John Snowden were listed as farm laborers. 1880 United States Federal Census, “John Snowden,” Ancestry; 1880 United States Federal Census, “John Wims,” Ancestry.

<sup>6</sup> After the death of his mother, Lloyd N. Gibbs conveyed 12-acres of the property to his Eliza Gibbs, his sister. Montgomery County Circuit Court, “Lloyd N. Gibbs and Sarah Gibbs to Eliza Gibbs,” August 21, 1885, Liber EBP 35, Folio 385, <http://www.mdlandrec.net>; Montgomery County Circuit Court, “Abraham H. and Violetta Rose to Lloyd N. and Elizabeth Gibbs,” August 13, 1884, Liber EBP 32, Folio 409, <http://www.mdlandrec.net>.

<sup>7</sup> Montgomery County Commissioner of Slave Statistics, “Charles T. Purdum,” March 7, 1867, 145, Archives of Maryland Online.

<sup>8</sup> Montgomery County Commissioner of Slave Statistics, “Thomas S. Nicholls,” May 29, 1867, 96, Archives of Maryland Online.

<sup>9</sup> Additional research should be conducted into the service of Lloyd Gibbs in the Civil War. “The Draft in Maryland,” *Baltimore Sun*, November 19, 1864, Newspapers.com.

purchased properties in 1886 and 1889.<sup>10</sup> Warner Wims acquired properties in 1891 and Gassaway Matthews in 1897.<sup>11</sup>

By 1900, the United States Federal Census recorded 424 African American residents in District No. 2. Although the boundaries of this enumeration district far exceed the Rocky Hill and Clarksburg community, at least 42 of these residents, from the Davis, Foreman, Gray, Green, Hawkins, Mason, Moore, Snowden, Williams, and Wims families, were later buried at the Community of Faith United Methodist Church's Cemetery. Occupations of owners and renters primarily included day laborers, farmers, mail carriers, servants, washers, cooks, and whitewashers. These residents not only built their homes but also established or advocated for two essential community pillars: a school and church. Both institutions provided opportunities for education, social support, activism, and meeting spaces during an era of widespread discrimination in Montgomery County.

### ***Historic Context: Rocky Hill Segregated Black Elementary School (1873 – 1962)***

This report explores the establishment of the segregated Black elementary school due to its significance to the Rocky Hill community, the function of the church as a schoolhouse in the late nineteenth century as noted by oral histories, and the use of the abandoned schoolhouse as an auxiliary building in the mid-twentieth century.

Maryland's General Assembly mandated segregated public education for Black students in 1872. The legislature repealed and re-enacted the Public Education Act (first established in 1867) to provide a general system of free public schools in the state. The legislation required the Comptroller to appropriate an annual sum for the support of Black schools. The funding failed to meet the needs of the populace or proportionally match the proceeds from the public-school tax devoted to white schools. By the end of the 1870s, the Board of Education had established 20 Black schools in Montgomery County with 1,525 different students in attendance over the course of the year.

In 1878, the Montgomery County Board of School Commissioners allocated state funds to purchase a lot for a schoolhouse on the road between Neelsville and Clarksburg. The African American patrons, however, were required to construct the building themselves.<sup>12</sup> That same year, Abraham and Violetta Rose sold the Board of Education a quarter-acre site for \$50 at the present-day intersection of Frederick Road and Wims Road.<sup>13</sup> It is likely that Rocky Hill residents constructed a schoolhouse on the property shortly thereafter, though the exact date of construction remains unclear.<sup>14</sup> George T. Williams—who would later serve as one of the first trustees of Community of Faith United Methodist Church—served as an early trustee of the school.<sup>15</sup>

The Montgomery County Board of Education documented the development of the Rocky Hill Elementary School in their meeting minutes. In 1887, the board allocated \$10 to the Clarksburg School (then identified as School No. 1, Election District 2) to construct an outhouse.<sup>16</sup> The following year, the board closed and

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<sup>10</sup> Montgomery County Circuit Court, "George W. Hilton and Francis C. Hilton to Townsend Coates," August 18, 1886, Liber JA 3, Folio 233, <http://www.mdlandrec.net>.

<sup>11</sup> Montgomery County Circuit Court, "George F. Linthicum to Warner Wims," August 1, 1891, Liber JA 29, Folio 138, <http://www.mdlandrec.net>; Montgomery County Circuit Court, "James H. and Sarah E. Purdum to Gassaway Matthews," April 20, 1897, Liber JA 58, Folio 176, <http://www.mdlandrec.net>.

<sup>12</sup> Nina H. Clarke and Lillian B. Brown, *History of the Black Public Schools of Montgomery County, Maryland, 1872-1961* (New York: Vintage Press, 1978), 4. "Montgomery County Board of Education, Meeting Minutes, 1839-1927," (Maryland State Archives, TM62-1).

<sup>13</sup> This conveyance occurred six years prior to the acquisition of the adjacent 24-acre property by the Gibbs family. Deed

<sup>14</sup> Nina H. Clarke and Lillian B. Brown documented and noted the conflicting dates of construction of the Rocky Hill Elementary School in *History of the Black Public Schools of Montgomery County, Maryland, 1872 – 1961*. Clarke and Brown, 7-10.

<sup>15</sup> The minutes noted that rent or fuel could not be paid to the trustees of the Martinsburg school and that the same message should be conveyed to the trustees of Clarksburg. It is unclear, however, if both rent and fuel applied to Clarksburg.

"Montgomery County Board of Education, Meeting Minutes, 1839-1927," (Maryland State Archives, TM62-1), November 5, 1880.

<sup>16</sup> The Clarksburg School, then identified as School No. 1, Election District 2, may have had a different school number prior to 1887.

combined multiple African American schools for a single year to save money for new school buildings.<sup>17</sup> This included the closure of the Clarksburg and Hyattstown schools in 1887-1888. The Board of Education sold the old Clarksburg (Rocky Hill) school, likely built by the residents a decade earlier, for \$25.<sup>18</sup> On May 15, 1888, the board noted the building of a “colored school house near Damascus and one near Clarksburg [Rocky Hill]...”<sup>19</sup> A similar entry appeared in the meeting minutes in 1894, but evidence still suggests an 1888 date of construction, as the Rocky Hill school reopened in 1889.<sup>20</sup>

In the 1930s, the Board of Education closed the segregated Black elementary school in Boyds (now known as the Boyds Negro School) and transferred the students to Rocky Hill. The board constructed an addition at Rocky Hill to accommodate the increased number of students. The two-room school remained open until the mid-twentieth century when Montgomery County constructed four equalization elementary schools prior to the Supreme Court’s ruling in *Brown vs. the Board of Education of Topeka I* (1954). African American children from Poolesville, Boyds, Sugarland, Sellman, and Clarksburg were all transferred to the new, modern Edward U. Taylor Elementary School, Boyds, in 1952. The Board of Education permitted the John Wesley Methodist Episcopal Church—a predecessor to the Community of Faith United Methodist Church—the use of the abandoned elementary school for a community hall. In 1960, the board described the school:

One story, 2 room frame schoolhouse 22’ x 70’, one section built on a stone and the other on a cinder block foundation. Two brick chimneys. Galvanized iron roof. Poor condition. Three room cinder block building containing 2 pit type toilets and a coal storage room. Poor condition.<sup>21</sup>

The following year, the Board of Education conveyed the property, along with five other abandoned schools, to the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission for the establishment of a present-day Clarksburg Neighborhood Park and Activity Building.<sup>22</sup> In 1963, the commission approved the demolition of the school building.<sup>23</sup>

#### ***Historic Context: Community of Faith United Methodist Church and Cemetery***

In 1886, Lloyd N. Gibbs and Sarah Gibbs sold to George T. Williams, Townsend Coats, and James H. Mason, trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church, one-acre of land as a place of worship and burial ground for \$90.<sup>24</sup> The deed stated:

In trust that the said premise shall be used, kept, maintained, and disposed of as a place of divine worship for the use of the ministry and membership of the Methodist Episcopal Church in the United

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<sup>17</sup> Clarke and Brown mistakenly identified the Clarksburg school as School No. 2, Election District 2. At this time, School No. 2 identified the Hyattstown School.

<sup>18</sup> “Montgomery County Board of Education, Meeting Minutes, 1839-1927,” (Maryland State Archives, TM62-1), November 22, 1887.

<sup>19</sup> There are inconsistencies in the meeting minutes about acquisition of the property and construction of the building. “Montgomery County Board of Education, Meeting Minutes, 1839-1927,” (Maryland State Archives, TM62-1), May 15, 1888 and July 2, 1889.

<sup>20</sup> Maryland Department of Education, *Twenty-Second Annual Report of the State Board of Education showing the condition of Public Schools of Maryland for the Year Ending September 30, 1888* (Baltimore, MD: Press of Thomas & Evans, 1889), 148-149; Maryland Department of Education, *Twenty-Third Annual Report of the State Board of Education showing the condition of Public Schools of Maryland for the Year Ending September 30, 1889* (Annapolis, MD: George T. Melvin, 1890), 152-153.

<sup>21</sup> Board of Education (Montgomery County, Maryland), “Description of Abandoned School Site,” November 11, 1960, M-NCPPC Archives.

<sup>22</sup> Planning Board (Montgomery County, Maryland), “Meeting Minutes, December 28, 1960,” M-NCPPC Archives; Montgomery County Circuit Court, “Board of Education of Montgomery County to Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission,” June 20, 1961, Liber CKW 2877, Folio 163, <http://www.mdlandrec.net>.

<sup>23</sup> Planning Board (Montgomery County, Maryland), “Meeting Minutes, May 23, 1961,” M-NCPPC Archives.

<sup>24</sup> The deed for the church property was recorded in 1888. Montgomery County Circuit Court, “Lloyd N. and Sarah Gibbs to George T. Williams, James H. Mason, and Townsend Coates,” October 13, 1886, Liber JA 9, Folio 399, <http://www.mdlandrec.net>.



States of America.... A part or portion of said lot or land may be set apart and used as a place of burial, but so as not to encroach upon or interfere with its use for the purpose above designated.<sup>25</sup>

Burials at the property likely started shortly after acquisition of the property as the oldest extant monument marks the grave of John Wesley Snowdon (ca. 1847-1886).<sup>26</sup> Prior to the Civil War, Snowdon was enslaved with other members of his family by Lyde Griffith on a plantation to the east of Damascus.<sup>27</sup> Oral histories suggest that the congregation first held services in the homes of nearby residents and then built a modest wood-frame church named Pleasant View Methodist Episcopal Church at the property. The precise date of construction, however, remains unclear. In 1894, the *Evening Star* reported the following:

The colored Methodists of Rocky Hill have just completed the erection of a comfortable church edifice, which will be known as Centenary Methodist Episcopal Church. Rev. Joshua Barnes is the pastor.<sup>28</sup>

While the name “Centenary” does not align with “Pleasant View,” this may still refer to the first wood-frame church on the subject property. Outside of Clarksburg, there are no other known areas referred to as “Rocky Hill” and the name “Centenary Church” does not correspond to a known African American church in Montgomery County. Furthermore, in 1892, Rev. Joshua Barnes served as pastor for the Clarksburg charge in the Washington District of the Washington Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church.<sup>29</sup> A charge is a group of one or more congregations led by a single minister. Although the boundaries of the charges for the Washington District remain unclear, it seems likely that the congregation was part of the Clarksburg charge that contained eight churches. This made the Clarksburg charge the largest in the Washington District, likely prompting its division that created the Boyds and Damascus charges. Rev. Joshua Barnes served as the pastor of the Damascus charge and Benjamin. F. Myers as the pastor of the Boyds charge.<sup>30</sup> Under the pastorate of Nathan Ross, the congregation remodeled the church in 1907.<sup>31</sup>

In the 1920s, newspapers referenced the church as the “Rocky Hill Church” and “Pleasant View Church.”<sup>32</sup> In 1924, the original wood-frame church burned and required replacement.<sup>33</sup> The *Minutes of the Washington*

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<sup>25</sup> Ibid.

<sup>26</sup> Historic Preservation staff did not conduct a comprehensive survey of the cemetery, but relied on the database collated at <http://www.findagrave.com>.

<sup>27</sup> Commissioner of Slave Statistics, “Record of Slaves in Montgomery County, 1867-1868” Vol. 761, Archives of Maryland Online, <http://www.msa.maryland.gov>.

<sup>28</sup> “Gaithersburg,” *Evening Star*, May 15, 1894, Newspapers.com.

<sup>29</sup> Methodist Episcopal Church, *Minutes of the Annual Conferences of the Methodist Episcopal Church, Spring Conferences of 1892* (New York: Hunt & Eaton, 1892), 58.

<sup>30</sup> The Clarksburg charge appears to have renamed or disbanded with the creation of the Boyds charge ca. 1894. Myers, the son of Benjamin and Rebecca Myers, was born in Poolesville, Montgomery County, in 1841. His biography noted his perseverance as there were minimal educational opportunities for African Americans in the county in his youth. During his ministry, he constructed twelve churches and parsonages, but it remains unknown if he built the first church on the subject property. Barnes was born in St. Mary’s County, Maryland, in 1837. He served in the civil War and was licensed to preach in 1872. Methodist Episcopal Church, *Minutes of the Annual Conferences of the Methodist Episcopal Church, Spring Conferences of 1894* (New York: Hunt & Eaton, 1894), 30.

<sup>31</sup> Washington Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, *Journal of the Forty-Fourth Session of the Washington Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church held in the Mt. Zion M. E. Church, Washington, D.C., March 27 to April 1, 1907* (Baltimore, MD: Excelsior Printing Company, 1907), 67.

<sup>32</sup> The name “Pleasant View” was confirmed via the records associated with the death of eleven-year old Harold Jackson in 1925. The newspaper obituary noted his funeral service at St. Mark’s Church, Boyds, but internment at Pleasant View Cemetery. There is a funerary marker for an eleven-year-old named “Harold R. Jackson” (1914-1925) at the subject cemetery. “Boyd, MD.,” *Afro-American*, April 11, 1925, Newspapers.com; “Rockville, MD.,” *Afro-American*, October 12, 1923, Newspapers.com.

<sup>33</sup> An uncited document stated that Billy Watkins, a property owner across the street, provided the congregation with worship space in his storehouse after the loss of the church. Sugarloaf Regional Trails, “Landmark Research Form: John Wesley United Methodist Church,” undated, Montgomery History.

Conference noted that “this charge has been handicapped...by the loss of one church destroyed by fire...” under the Pastor W. H. Kent.<sup>34</sup> The *Afro-American* recorded the construction and fundraising for the new building:

The people of Rocky Hill have begun their new church. They will build a brick church. Two years ago [1924], their church, which was of wooden frame structure, was burned by fire (June 6, 1925).<sup>35</sup>

Cornerstone laying of John Westley [sic] M. E. Church near Clarksburg, MD., will be held Saturday, October 24<sup>th</sup> (October 14, 1925).<sup>36</sup>

Boyd circuit is prospering under the leadership of the Rev. J. H. Lewis.\* The oyster supper given by the Ladies’ Aid Society at the home of Mrs. Rachel Mason, Thanksgiving night, for the benefit of the new church at Rocky Hill, was quite a success, \$35.57 was realized (December 12, 1925).<sup>37</sup>

In 1925, the church trustees—Arthur M. Gibson, William Suggs, Warner Wims, R. P. Foreman, William H. Hackey, William Davis, R. L. Gray, and James Gray—secured a mortgage for \$7,232 from Charles W. Spurgeon Graves and Charles Green.<sup>38</sup> Ethel Foreman, interviewed in 1979, recalled that the congregation hired two African American builders to construct the church.<sup>39</sup> This mortgage supports her recollection as the United States Federal Census listed Graves as a carpenter in Washington, D.C.<sup>40</sup> C. W. S. Graves & Sons advertised as building contractors in the *Times Herald*.<sup>41</sup> More importantly, the D.C. Building Permits Database identifies “C.W. S. Graves” and “Graves and Green” as active builders in 1925.<sup>42</sup> That year, Graves built the Haven African Methodist Episcopal at 1401 Independence Avenue, Southeast, Washington, D.C. for \$30,000.<sup>43</sup> Renowned architect John Anderson Lankford, the first African American architect licensed in Washington, D.C., and Virginia, and Supervising Architect for the African Methodist Episcopal Church, designed the church.<sup>44</sup> Although the Community of Faith United Methodist Church has no direct ties to the works of John Anderson Lankford, Graves and Green collaboration with him on a high-styled brick church in the nation’s capital may have influenced their work at Rocky Hill.

The congregation laid the cornerstone in August 1926. As stated in the *Minutes of the Washington Conference* and the *Afro-American*:

The new church at Rocky Hill is near completion. The corner stone laying to be the fourth Sunday in August (July 17, 1926).<sup>45</sup>

J.H. Lewis Pastor—two years. Here on this four point circuit a new church, built of brick, is standing at Rock [sic] Hill, consisting \$7,000.00, on which has been paid this year \$2,500.00. This church’s cornerstone was laid by the A. F. and A. M. of Maryland. The District Superintendent J. H. Jenkins,

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<sup>34</sup> Washington Conference, *The Minutes, including the Official Journal of the Washington Annual Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, Sixty-Second Annual Session, Asbury Methodist Episcopal Church, Frederick, Md., March 25<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup>, 1925* (1925), 76, Lovely Lane Methodist Archives.

<sup>35</sup> “Sellman and Poolesville, MD.,” *Afro-American*, June 27, 1925, Newspapers.com.

<sup>36</sup> Interestingly, this is the first known reference to the church as “John Wesley Methodist Episcopal Church.” Records suggest that the congregation, however, remained known as the Pleasant View Methodist Church. The trustees incorporated the “John Wesley Methodist Episcopal Church of Clarksburg, Maryland” with the state in 1932 and the plaque on the church reads that the new John Wesley Church was redeemed on June 11, 1932. “Boyd, MD.,” *Afro-American*, October 24, 1925, Newspapers.com.

<sup>37</sup> “Boyd, MD.,” *Afro-American*, December 12, 1925, Newspapers.com.

<sup>38</sup> Montgomery County Circuit Court, “Trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church to C.W.S. Graves and Charles Green,” July 1, 1925, Liber PBR 381, Folio 62, <http://www.mdlandrec.net>.

<sup>39</sup> Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form, “John Wesley Methodist Church, M: 13-48,” 2018, <https://apps.mht.maryland.gov/medusa/>.

<sup>40</sup> United States Federal Census, “Charles W. Graves,” (1930), Ancestry.

<sup>41</sup> “Ready Reference Service Directory, Builders—Contractors—Materials,” *Times Herald*, July 30, 1935, Newspapers.com.

<sup>42</sup> Brian D. Kraft, “Building Permits Database, Version 2009.2.”

<sup>43</sup> Ibid.

<sup>44</sup> “Civil Rights Tour: Employment – John Lankford, Architect,” DC Preservation League, <http://www.historicsites.dcpreservation.org> (accessed October 9, 2024).

<sup>45</sup> “Boyd, MD.,” *Afro-American*, July 17, 1926, Newspapers.com.

conducted the service. The plans for the dedication are now ready for whomsoever this conference sees fit to send to the charge for another year.<sup>46</sup>

Newspaper references record individuals active at the church at the time of its dedication:

The “Rainbow Wedding” given by the young people of Pleasant View Church, Rocky Hill, was quite a success. \$57 was cleared.... There will be a Lawn Fete given at Pleasant View church, Saturday, August 25, managers being Mrs. Sarah Mason, Ms. Altie Wims, Mrs. Mozelle Robinson, and others (August 18, 1928).<sup>47</sup>

After the 1930s, the Community of Faith United Methodist Church and Cemetery is referred to informally as the Rocky Hill Church and Cemetery.<sup>48</sup> The congregation, however, officially renamed the church to the John Wesley Methodist Episcopal Church of Clarksburg, Maryland, and redeemed the building in 1932.<sup>49</sup> Several mortgages identified the trustees of the church as J. W. Mason, William E. Brown, John Mason, R. P. Foreman, R. L. Gray, Zelma Foreman, Martha Foreman, Rachel Foreman, William Mason, and Rachel Mason.<sup>50</sup> In 1963, F. Wilson and Sarah L. Wims conveyed to the church Outlot B, located directly behind the cemetery, of the adjacent Clarksburg Heights subdivision for the expansion of the burial ground.<sup>51</sup> F. Wilson Wims, along with Frannie Snowden, Earl Green, Zelma Foreman, James R. Green, and Rachel Snowden all served as trustees.<sup>52</sup>

The church changed its name in accordance with national events relating to the Methodist Church and continued to modify the building. In 1968, the merger of the Methodist Church and the Evangelical United Brethren Church created the United Methodist Church. The John Wesley Methodism Episcopal Church of Clarksburg then renamed itself the John Wesley United Methodist Church of Clarksburg.<sup>53</sup> After 1974, church histories listed several alterations to the building including roofing, carpeting, lights (interior and exterior), basement and kitchen improvements, heating and air conditioning systems, organs, and lecterns. Before the 49<sup>th</sup> Homecoming of the John Wesley United Methodist Church in 1989, numerous alterations occurred to the exterior of the building. This included but is not limited to the application of the vinyl siding, replacement of pointed arched louvered windows with rectangular louvered windows, and addition of the accessible ramp on the façade.<sup>54</sup> In 2009, the John Wesley United Methodist Church changed its name to the Community of Faith United Methodist Church.<sup>55</sup>

**I. Areas Exempt from Designation:** There are no areas exempt from designation.

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<sup>46</sup> Washington Conference, *The Minutes, including the Official Journal of the Washington Annual Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, Sixty-Fourth Annual Session, Simpson Methodist Episcopal Church, Charleston, West Virginia* (1927), 71, Lovely Lane Methodist Archives

<sup>47</sup> “Boyd, MD.,” *Afro-American*, August 18, 1928, Newspapers.com.

<sup>48</sup> “Deaths: Davis, Anne,” *Times Herald*, March 16, 1931, Newspapers.com; “Foreman, Robert Perry,” *Evening Star*, May 14, 1937, Newspapers.com.

<sup>49</sup> A mortgage from that year noted that the church was incorporated in the Maryland in 1932. Montgomery County Circuit Court, “William A. Combe to John Wesley Methodist Episcopal Church of Clarksburg, Maryland,” June 11, 1932, Liber CKW 536, Folio 292, <http://www.mdlandrec.net>.

<sup>50</sup> Ibid; Montgomery County Circuit Court, “The Board of Home Missions and Church Extension of the Methodist Episcopal Church to John Wesley Methodist Episcopal Church of Cow Pasture or Clarksburg, Maryland,” January 27, 1933, Liber CKW 546, Folio 20, <http://www.mdlandrec.net>.

<sup>51</sup> Montgomery County Circuit Court, “F. Wilson and Sarah L. Wims to John Wesley Methodist Episcopal Church of Clarksburg, MD.,” September 17, 1963, Liber CKW 3135, Folio 201, <http://www.mdlandrec.net>.

<sup>52</sup> Ibid.

<sup>53</sup> Montgomery County Circuit Court, “John Wesley Methodist Episcopal Church of Clarksburg, Maryland, Inc., (also known as Rocky Hill Church) and Community of Faith United Methodist Church, Inc.,” August 26, 2009, Liber LEK 38188, Folio 135, <http://www.mdlandrec.net>.

<sup>54</sup> The following commemorative pamphlets are available at Montgomery History: “106<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of John Wesley United Methodist Church, 22420 Frederick Road, Clarksburg, Maryland 20734,” (1976): 3-4, Montgomery History; “49<sup>th</sup> Homecoming of John Wesley Methodist Church, October 22, 1989,” (1989): 3-4, Montgomery History.

<sup>55</sup> Montgomery County Circuit Court, “John Wesley Methodist Episcopal Church of Clarksburg, Maryland, Inc., (also known as Rocky Hill Church) and Community of Faith United Methodist Church, Inc.,” August 26, 2009, Liber LEK 38188, Folio 135, <http://www.mdlandrec.net>.

## **J. Designation Criteria:**

The Community of Faith United Methodist Church and Cemetery meets Designation Criteria 1.A, 1.D, and 2.E as listed in §24A-3 of the Montgomery County Code. The historic significance of the cemetery itself and its funerary monuments will be explored at a future date. Montgomery Planning is undertaking the completion of the “Montgomery County Cemetery Historic Context Survey” that will be used to develop an analysis of notable characteristics associated with the types of cemeteries, landscape features, marker organization, and headstone materials and design to identify means to evaluate a cemetery’s historical significance and physical integrity. The outcomes of this analysis may augment our understanding and significance of the property but the proposed environmental setting would remain intact.

### **1.A Historical and cultural significance. The historic resource has character, interest or value as part of the development, heritage or cultural characteristics of the county, state or nation.**

The Community of Faith United Methodist Church and Cemetery represents an early twentieth century, gothic revival church attended by the residents of Rocky Hill—the earliest African American community in Clarksburg—and the surrounding region. The church reflects the development pattern associated with the formation of the Rocky Hill community and the lives of African Americans during an era of segregation in Montgomery County. Churches and schools provided parishioners the opportunity for education, social engagement, and leadership opportunities. Influential members of the Rocky Hill and Clarksburg community including the Davis, Foreman, Mason, Snowden, and Wims families are all buried at the church cemetery.

### **1.D Historic and cultural significance. Exemplifies the cultural, economic, social, political or historical heritage of the county and its communities.**

The Community of Faith United Methodist Church serves as a visible reminder of segregated life and the resilience, achievements, and contributions of African Americans residents in the early twentieth century. After the original wood-frame church burned in 1924, the congregation pressed forward with the construction of an imposing Gothic Revival-styled brick church. The church trustees hired Charles W. Spurgeon Graves and Charles Green, highly skilled African American builders from Washington, D.C., to construct the building for \$7,500 in 1925. These actions by the congregants—who worshiped more than 30 miles away from the nation’s capital in a rural section of the county—reflect the prosperity of the church and its function as a religious, educational, and social center for the African American community. As noted in *Black Historical Resources in Upper Western Montgomery County, Maryland* (1979), Community of Faith United Methodist Church was one of the largest and most architecturally notable African American churches.

### **2.E Represents an established and familiar visual feature of the neighborhood, community or county due to its singular characteristic or landscape.**

The Community of Faith United Methodist Church and Cemetery is the last public site associated with the Rocky Hill community in Clarksburg. The church and cemetery serve as a tangible link to the African American community’s past, providing a sense of continuity, orientation, and place as a former center of religious, social, and educational activities. The imposing front-gable brick church with an integrated tower has stood in its original location along Frederick Road for nearly a century.

The Rocky Hill community, however, lost its other community landmark along with other significant resources. In the 1960s, Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning demolished the Rocky Hill Elementary School, a two-room segregated Black elementary school. Additionally, many homes of early Rocky Hill and Clarksburg community members identified in previous architectural surveys, such as the Lloyd and Sarah Gibbs House, Arthur and Ella Mae Gibson House, William and Mary Hackey House, Clifton and Rachel Snowden House, Benjamin F. and Elizabeth Wims House, and John Henry and Emma M. Wims House, have been demolished. Most of these individuals were buried in the church cemetery, and there are no limited sites that reflect their contributions to the development of Rocky Hill or Clarksburg in the *Master Plan for Historic Preservation*. Therefore, the church remains as an essential feature of the built environment and its preservation would retain the legacy of the community.

## **K. Conclusion:**

The Community of Faith United Methodist Church and Cemetery retains its integrity as an early twentieth century church constructed in 1925. The integrity of location and setting remain intact with the church and its cemetery in their original location. The adjacent Clarksburg Heights subdivision built by F. Wilson Wims (a trustee of the church) and Sarah Wims provided housing for members of the Rocky Hill community in the mid-twentieth century and is essential to understanding the development of Rocky Hill. The construction of Clarksburg High School and Rocky Hill Middle School, the Bennett Creek Animal Hospital, and other nearby modern subdivisions diminishes the integrity of location and setting, but not to the extent that it inhibits ones understanding of the property as a rural church and cemetery. The property retains integrity of design, workmanship, and materials. The church is adversely affected by the late-twentieth-century vinyl siding; however, the original brick remains intact which would allow for a restoration of the exterior of the building. The cemetery is well cared for and the extant funerary markers are maintained. Therefore, the Community of Faith United Methodist Church and Cemetery conveys its association with the Rocky Hill community in the early twentieth century.

## **8. ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING/GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

**Property Land Area:** 1.42 acres

**Account Number:** 00028481, 00022347

**Environmental Setting Description:** The Community of Faith United Methodist Church and Cemetery is located at 22420 Frederick Road, Clarksburg, Maryland. The proposed site to be listed in the *Master Plan for Historic Preservation* consists of the church and cemetery and its associated 1.42-acres identified as Account Numbers 00028481 and 00022347, District 02, as shown on the accompanying map (App. 1, Fig. 1).

**Environmental Setting Justification:** The environmental setting incorporates the entire two parcels acquired by the trustees of the church in 1886 and 1963.

## **9. PROPERTY OWNERS**

Name: Community of Faith United Methodist Church

Premise Address: 22420 Frederick Road, Clarksburg, MD 20871

## **10. FORM PREPARED BY**

Name/Title: John Liebertz, Cultural Resource Planer III, Montgomery County Planning Department

Date: October 2024

## **11. MAJOR SOURCES CONSULTED**

*Afro-American* [numerous].

Ancestry.com [numerous].

Clarke, Nina H and Lillian B. Brown. *History of the Black Public Schools of Montgomery County, Maryland, 1872-1961*. Washington, D.C.: Vintage Press, 1978.

*Evening Star* [numerous].

Maryland Department of Education, *Annual Report of the State Board of Education showing the condition of Public Schools of Maryland* [numerous].

McDaniel, George W. *Black Historical Resources in Upper Western Montgomery County*. Montgomery County, MD: Sugarloaf Regional Trails, 1979.

Methodist Episcopal Church, *Minutes of the Annual Conferences of the Methodist Episcopal Church* [numerous].

Montgomery County Board of Education, "Meeting Minutes," Maryland State Archives [numerous].

Montgomery County Land Records, <http://www.mdlandrec.net>.

Montgomery County Commissioner of Slave Statistics [numerous].

Washington Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, *Journal of the Washington Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church* [numerous].

*Washington Post* [numerous].

**APPENDIX ONE:**  
**ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING AND AERIAL VIEW**

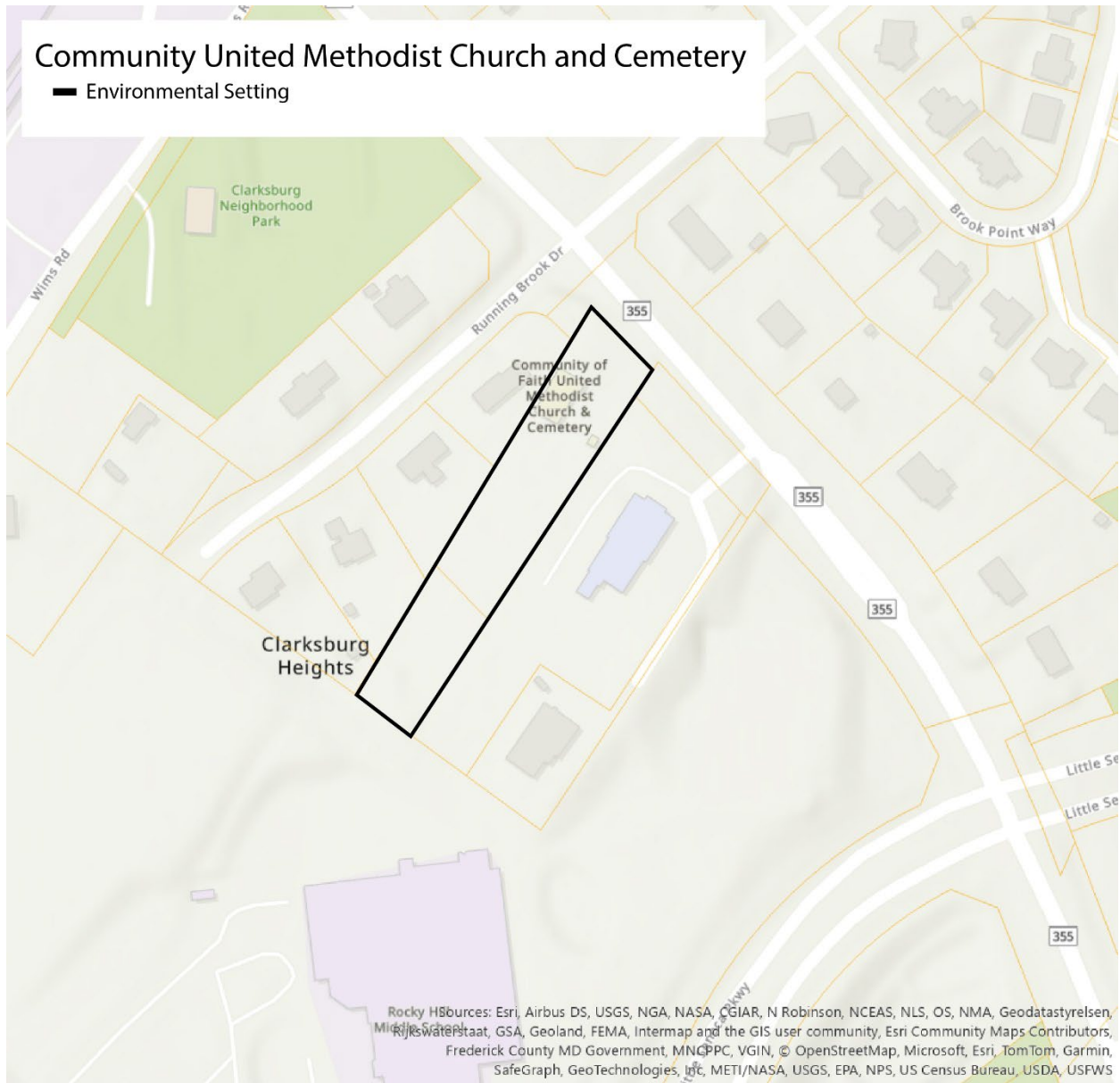


Figure 1: Proposed environmental setting for the Community of Faith United Methodist Church and Cemetery Master Plan Historic Site, Clarksburg, Montgomery County, Maryland.





Figure 2: Aerial view showing the proposed Community of Faith United Methodist Church and Cemetery Master Plan Site (red), 2023. The orange arrow points to the Community of Faith United Methodist Church, the blue arrow points to the Clarksburg Heights Subdivision (developed in 1963), the green arrow points to Rocky Hill Middle School.

**APPENDIX TWO:**  
**EXTERIOR PHOTOGRAPHS OF COMMUNITY OF FAITH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH AND  
CEMETERY**



Figure 1: View of façade (east elevation) of Community of Faith United Methodist Church, 2024.



Figure 2: Detailed view of the front entrance to Community of Faith United Methodist Church, 2024.



Figure 3: Detailed view of the stone plaque on the tower, 2024.



Figure 4: Detailed view of a stained-glass windows on the facade, 2024.



Figure 5: View of the side (south) elevation of Community of Faith United Methodist Church, 2024.



Figure 6: View of the rear (west) and side (south) elevations of Community of Faith United Methodist Church, 2024.





Figure 7: View of the original cemetery, 2024. Outlot B was acquired to expand funerary services in 1963 and is beyond the tree line in the background of the photograph.



Figure 8: View of Outlot B acquired in 1963 to extend funerary services, 2024.

**APPENDIX THREE:  
HISTORIC PHOTOGRAPHS**



Figure 1: Aerial view of the Clarksburg Heights subdivision with the Community of Faith United Methodist Church and Cemetery (red arrow) in the background, 1972.  
Source: Vintage Aerials.

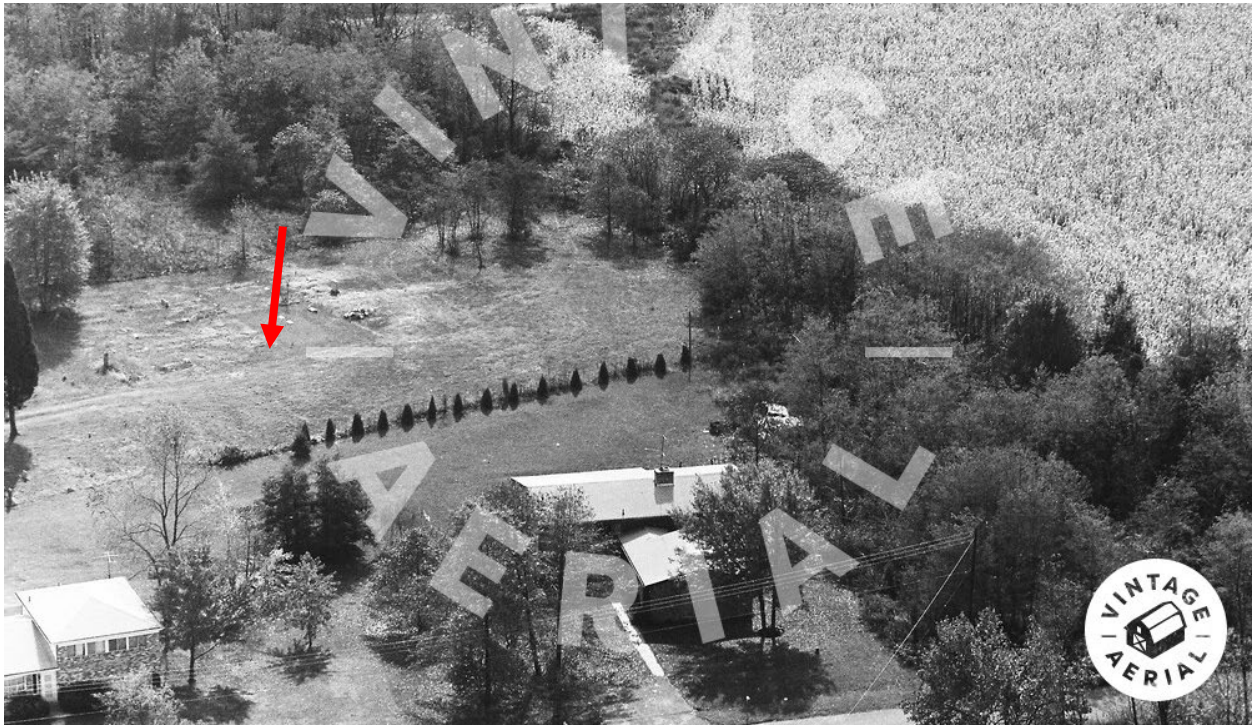


Figure 2: Aerial view of the Clarksburg Heights subdivision with Outlot B of the Community of Faith United Methodist Cemetery (red arrow) in the background, 1972.  
Source: Vintage Aerials.



Figure 3: Aerial view of the tower of the Community of Faith United Methodist Church and Cemetery (red arrow), 1972.

Source: Vintage Aerials.



Figure 4: View of the Community of Faith United Methodist Church, 1978.  
Source: George McDaniel, *Black Historical Resources in Upper Western Montgomery County, Maryland*, held by Montgomery History.

**APPENDIX FOUR:**  
**MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES FORM**

M: 13-48

1925

John Wesley Methodist Church  
Clarksburg  
Private

This one and a half story brick church has replaced a small, frame church built in c. 1878 by the founders of the black communities in Clarksburg. The church combines several architectural styles, especially Gothic. The three bay principal block has lancet windows and a large portal of similar design. The church was built by hired black contractors from nearby Washington, D.C. Behind the church is a well-kept cemetery with inscribed tombstones where many of the founders of the community are buried. This brick church is one of the most imposing of black congregations in rural Montgomery County.



MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

M: 1348  
Magi #

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC  
John Wesley Methodist Church  
AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER  
West side of Route 355  
CITY, TOWN  
Clarksburg VICINITY OF  
STATE Maryland COUNTY Montgomery  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 8

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<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	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" 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
	No	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME Rocky Hill Church Telephone #: 428-0047  
STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN Clarksburg VICINITY OF STATE, zip code Maryland

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Montgomery County Courthouse Liber #: JA 9 Folio #: 399  
STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN Rockville STATE Maryland

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE None  
DATE

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION**

M:13-48

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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

This handsome church stands on the west side of Route 355 south of Clarksburg, and faces east towards the highway. It is one of the largest and most imposing of the black churches to have been surveyed in the communities of upper Montgomery County. It replaces an earlier, small frame church of c. 1878 on this site.

The brick church combines several architectural styles. The plain facade in the east gable end features a stepped gable on the north side, balanced by a tall, square bell tower on the south side reminiscent of Romanesque design. A set of seven steps leads up to a tall portal of lancet design containing double doors. The building is three bays in depth and each of the three bays of the principal block is buttressed by brick piers.

Behind the church is a large, well-maintained cemetery in which many of the founders of the Black community in Clarksburg are buried. The graves of the Masons, of Benjamin Wims and of the Foreman family were photographed as a part of this survey and illustrate the types of stones used for grave markers by the community. The fact that they were stone markers, rather than simple wood grave markers, indicates that the Black families of Clarksburg were relatively prosperous and could afford these more costly and permanent memorials, unlike many poor people in upper Montgomery County and in Maryland. They are also indicative of the respect that their descendants felt for them.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**8 SIGNIFICANCE**

M:13-48

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

SPECIFIC DATES

1925

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

According to the history of the church published for its one hundred and sixth anniversary in 1976, the church was first known as Pleasant View Methodist Episcopal Church. Although the date of the founding of the church is not known precisely, church historians estimate that it was begun in c. 1870. The congregation probably gathered first in houses of its members as did churches founded soon after emancipation by blacks throughout rural Maryland. In 1884 Lloyd Gibbs, one of the members of the church, purchased a tract of land of twenty-four acres (deed EBP 32/409). Two years later he and his wife, Sarah Gibbs, conveyed one acre to George T. Williams and the other trustees of the Pleasant View Methodist Episcopal Church (deed JA 9/399). At that time the small frame church was probably constructed. In the late 1880s the church doubled in use as the school for the black children of Clarksburg until construction of the schoolhouse was completed. In 1924 this small frame church burned and was replaced by the present structure. In c. 1932, the name of the church was changed to John Wesley Methodist Church.

According to Ethel Foreman, the church hired two black contractors from Washington, D.C. or northern Virginia to construct the building. She believes that local men in the community may have helped haul bricks to the site but that the common laborers for the construction of the church were probably from Washington, D.C. She adds that there is a church in a black community in Spotsylvania County in northern Virginia that closely resembles this one and that may well have been built by the same contractor.

The brick construction and more architecturally stylish design of the church indicate that blacks in Clarksburg were more prosperous than blacks in other communities in the survey area.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Land Records of Montgomery County, County Courthouse, Rockville, Md.  
Deed: JA 9/399; EBP 32/409.

Oral interview with Ethel Foreman (not taped) Feb-Mar. 1979 by George  
McDaniel, Clarksburg, Maryland.

106th Anniversary of John Wesley United Methodist Church, 22420 Frederick  
Road, Clarksburg, Md. 20734

Private publication.

**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

George McDaniel, Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Sugarloaf Regional Trails

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Box 87

CITY OR TOWN

Dickerson

DATE

7/79

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

1. Name: Boyds Charge, Methodist Episcopal Church

2. Planning Area/Site Number: 10/58; 3. M-NCPPC Atlas Reference:

13/48 13/10; 18/11; 18/29

10/58-Map 1-J/19;

r. Address: Hyattstown, Clarksburg,  
Boyds, & Germantown

13/10-Map 7-A/4;

18/11-Map 6-G/4;

5. Classification Summary

18/29-Map 13-K/2

Category buildings

Previous Survey Recording M-NCPPC

Ownership private

Title and Date: 1976 Inventory of

Public Acquisition N/A

Historical Sites

Status 10/58-unoccupied; all others-occupied

Accessible yes; restricted

Federal      State X County X Local     

Present use religious

6. Date:

7. Original Owner:

8. Apparent Condition

a. \_\_\_\_\_ b. \_\_\_\_\_ c. \_\_\_\_\_

9. Description: St. Mark's is a 3 bay by 3 bay, 1½ story, white clapboard church on fieldstone foundations. The gable roof has a raised seam metal covering. A cemetery is behind the church.

John Wesley is a common-bonded brick church painted white with a brick foundation. The front facade presents 3 distinct, 1-bay sections, a 2-stepped roofline, a higher gabled roof and a square tower. A cemetery is behind the church.

The Asbury Church is 4 bays by 3 bays of stucco-covered cinderblock. It has 3 distinct sections, the main church, a vestibule and a front porch, each having a gable roof covered with black asphalt shingles. A cemetery is on one side of the church.

Montgomery Chapel is a frame 1 bay by 2 bay clapboard structure on stone foundations. The gable roof is covered by corrugated tin roofing.

10. Significance: Small communities of blacks clustered together in Montgomery County shortly after the end of the Civil War. They established churches separate from, yet associated with local denominations which were at that time all white. Among these was the formation of the Washington Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, of which Francis Asbury Church, John Wesley Church, St. Mark's Church and Montgomery Chapel were a part. These four churches came to be referred as the Boyd's Charge, or circuit. The original St. Mark's Church in Boyds, for which the circuit was named, was a one room structure, which doubled as the school. In 1892 the present building replaced the original one. The adjacent parsonage was built in 1899 and remained in use until 1968. The John Wesley Church in Clarksburg, built in 1925, replaces a small frame structure which stood on the same site in 1878 and burned in 1924. The Francis Asbury Church, in Brownstown was built in 1959 on the site of the original 1885 church which burned down. The Montgomery Chapel near Hyattstown, dated 1871, is the oldest building of the group, and is the only one now without a congregation. School was held here and community meetings as well. In 1964 the church was abandoned.

11. Researcher and date researched: Mark Walston-5/79

Candy Reed  
Arch. Description

12. Compiler: Margaret Coleman

13. Date Compiled: 10/79

14. Designation  
Approval \_\_\_\_\_

15. Acreage: 10/58-50 A.; 13/10-1 A.;  
18/11-1 A.; 18/29-1.02 A.

The north and south facade have four bays. The one-over-one casement windows have stained inner glass, capped by a double row of brick headers, and have cement lintels below. The windows at basement level are half size but also feature double rows of headers. The south side has a door at both ends. Dividing the bays and delineating the corners are square brick pilasters with a second level water course.

The roof is black asphalt shingle. There is a small cinder-block addition at the rear which is veneered with brick on the south facade. The rear (west) facade has a gable roof and a variety of apertures.

The treed, well-kept cemetery lies to the west of the church. The variety of stones and markers includes a round one.

IV. (18/29) The four bay by three bay Asbury Church faces southwest on Black Rock Road. The stucco-covered cinderblock church has three distinct sections, the main church, a vestibule, and a front porch. Each section has a gable roof covered with black asphalt shingle.

The front double-door entrance is approached by four cement steps with an iron rail, and the wooden porch sign reads "ASBURY METHODIST CHURCH". There is a central exterior brick chimney at the rear of the church.

All windows are two-over-two, double-hung, with brick lintels. Windows on the sides of the main building are separated by square pilasters with slightly corbelled brick at the top. A marble cornerstone reads "ASBURY METHODIST CHURCH 1959".

The well-kept, treed cemetery is to the west of the church.

Attachment Sheet B

M: 10/58  
13/10  
18/11  
18/29  
Magi #

church, which replaced the earlier building, is situated upon one acre of land granted to the trustees of St. Mark's Church for \$50 by Mary Delauder and her husband Edward in 1892.<sup>6</sup> Construction was begun immediately, under the charge of Reverend Benjamin F. Myers, and the building was completed on September 24, 1893. The adjacent parsonage was constructed on the same acreage in 1899, under the pastorage of Reverend Daniel Wheeler; it remained in use until 1968. The church today remains as active a part of the community as it was at its inception.

FOOTNOTES:

- 1 Montgomery County Land Records, JA 9/399.
- 2 Montgomery County Corporation Records, Art. of Inc. PBR 2/285.
- 3 Land Records, EBP 33/407 (October 15, 1884).
- 4 Ibid., JA 9/222 (October 2, 1886).
- 5 Montgomery County Mechanics Lein Docket, Volume 1/34.
- 6 Land Records, JA 34/45 (August 5, 1892).

<u>Name</u>	<u>Acreage</u>	<u>Liber/Folio</u>	<u>Number</u>
Rocky Hill Church c/o John Wesley United Methodist Church Box 1130 Clarksburg, Md. 20734	1 acre	JA 9/399	13/10
Montgomery Chapel Maryland National- Capital Park & Planning Commission	50 acres	3361/414	10/58
Francis Asbury Methodist Episcopal Church at Brownstown and Order Gallilean Fishermen CR James Johnson Boys, Md. 20720	1.02 acres	2327/561	18/29
St. Mark's United Methodist Church at Boys	1 acre	JA 34/45	18/11

12-8  
13-14  
Boyd's  
Census

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

3-48  
M: 10/58  
13/10 48  
18/11  
18/29  
Magi #

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Boyd's Charge, Methodist Episcopal Church

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

Hvattstown, Clarksburg, Boyds, and Germantown

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

VICINITY OF

STATE

COUNTY

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<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	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

See Attachment Sheet A

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Montgomery County Courthouse

Liber #: See Attachment A  
Folio #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Rockville

STATE

Maryland

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

MNCPPC Historic Sites Inventory

DATE

1976

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

Park Historian's Office

CITY, TOWN

Derwood

STATE

Maryland 20855



# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input 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

I. (10/58) Montgomery Chapel is a simple frame one bay by two bay clapboarded structure built on stone foundations. The gable roof is covered by corrugated tin roofing and the gable end faces the street. Double wooden paneled doors lead into this one room chapel. A stone chimney provided heat to the chapel.

II. (18/11) St. Mark's is a three bay by three bay, one and a half story church.

Built on fieldstone foundations, the church faces south and has white clapboarded exterior walls. The south (front) porch has four poured concrete steps, flanked by a black handrail which leads to the double wooden doors. These doors are set into a gabled projective pavilion in the south elevation.

There are one-over-one double-hung marbelized lancet windows. There is a round window in the south gable. The north apse has two, two-over-one double-hung stained glass lancet windows.

The gable roof has a raised seam metal covering. The south door opens into a small entry room. This room opens into a single large rectangular room. There are narrow and random width floor boards. There is tongue and groove wainscoting around the main room and the ceiling has acoustical tile with inset lights. Double wooden paneled doors open into the main room. There are rows of folding chairs. The altar rail, altar and podium are carved wood. There is a piano in the northeast corner. There is a "Monogram" stove on the east side of the room.

III. (13/10) 48 John Wesley is a (beige, common-bonded) church, painted white. The church has a brick foundation below a vertical stretcher course at the above-ground entrance level. The east (front) facade presents three distinct one bay sections. From north to south, these are: a two stepped roofline with one-over-one casement window which has stained glass on the inner glaze; a higher gabled roof with rounded-arch vertically-slender window on the third level, pointed-arch mullioned stained glass window on the second level, and a double door with two diamond pane glass windows on the first level; and the tower section, which has a one-over-one casement window with stained glass inner glaze and is capped at the third level with a square tower. The tower features corbelling in an inset on all four sides and within that (on south and east sides) a louvered pointed-arch window. The cement plaque at the foot of the tower reads "THE NEW JOHN WESLEY M.E. CHURCH WAS REDEEMED JUNE 11TH, 1932 REV. J. H. LEWIS, PASTOR".

There is a cement porch with six steps and an iron rail to serve a double door.

(Continued on Attachment Sheet A)

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**8 SIGNIFICANCE**

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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)		
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION				

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Shortly after the Civil War, and the subsequent nationwide emancipation, there appeared in Montgomery County a number of small black enclaves. In conjunction with these communities churches were established separate from, yet peripherally associated with, the established white denominations. Among these was the formation of the Washington Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, of which Francis Asbury Church, John Wesley Church, St. Mark's Church and Montgomery Chapel were a part. These four churches came to be referred as the Boyd's Charge, or circuit.

The oldest of these churches appears to be John Wesley, located near Clarksburg at 22420 Frederick Road. The first church was erected upon this site in 1878, and originally went under the name "Pleasant View." (A formal deed for the one acre church lot was not executed until 1886.)<sup>1</sup> A small plot of ground to the rear of the church was set aside for use as a cemetery. This church, a small frame structure, was destroyed by fire in 1924, and the following year was replaced by the present brick church building. The church was officially incorporated on February 20, 1932, and, at that time, the congregation changed the title to John Wesley Methodist Episcopal Church.<sup>2</sup>

The Montgomery Chapel, situated north of John Wesley Church on Frederick Road, in the vicinity of Hyattstown, is the second oldest church on the circuit, and is the oldest extant building of the four. The church, which bears the date 1871 on its main facade, is said to have been utilized by a Hyattstown congregation, at a different location. In 1884, George Butler granted to Henry Johnson, Benjmain Price, and John Gray, trustees, for the sum of \$10, 46 perches of "Resurvey on Wild Cat Spring", to be used as a place of worship, and the church building was then moved to this new site.<sup>3</sup> Montgomery Chapel, as was common practice, doubled as a community meeting-house, and for a time was used as a school. The church closed in 1964, with the diminished congregation joining neighboring churches, and is currently abandoned.

The original Francis Asbury Church was constructed in 1885 on one acre of land on Black Rock Mill Road, near Germantown conveyed to the church trustees by William Brown. A formal deed for the property was not made until 1886 after the erection of the church building.<sup>4</sup> The church, a one room frame building measuring 16' x 24', was constructed by James B.opleby.<sup>5</sup> The community which the church served came to be known as Brownstown, in honor of William Brown. The church burned sometime in the 1950s, and the present church was built on its site in 1959.

The original St. Mark's Church in Boyds, for which the circuit was named, was a one room structure, which doubled as the school. The present

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

(continued on Attachment Sheet B)

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Montgomery County Land Records, Mechanics Lien Docket, and Corporation Records  
Sugarloaf Regional Trails, Inventory of Historical Sites (1977)  
work of Geraldine Berkman appearing in same

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY See Attachment Sheet B

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  
Mark Walston

Candy Reed  
Architectural Description

ORGANIZATION  
Sugarloaf Regional Trails

DATE  
May 1979

STREET & NUMBER  
Box 87

TELEPHONE  
926-4510

CITY OR TOWN  
Dickerson

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



John Wesley U. Methodist  
church

Facade

13-48

m-13-10-15

Clarksburg

11/78

gwm

God Love.

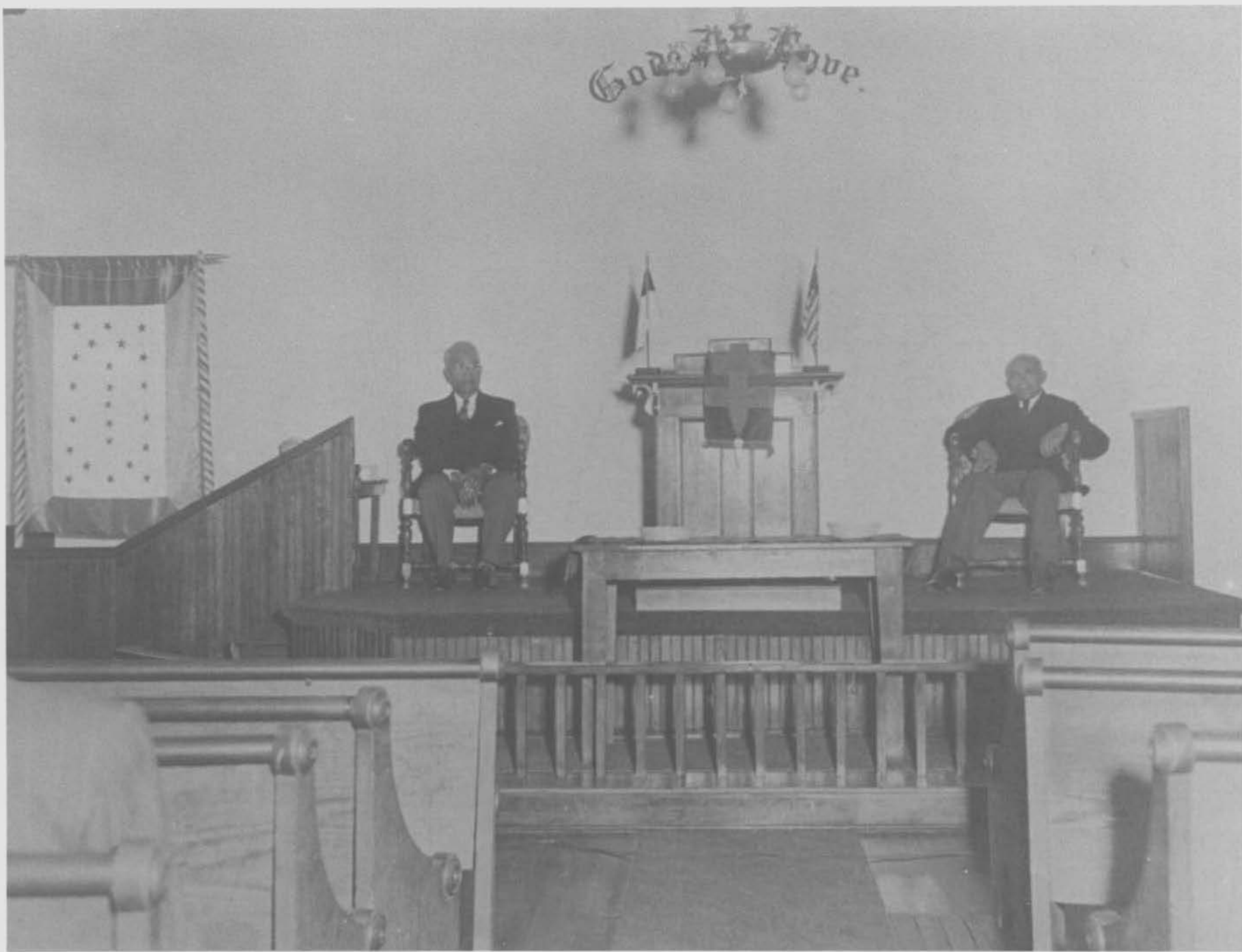


Congregation of John Wesley  
United Methodist Church:  
Ladies of the Church  
Clarksburg, Md.

11/78 sum

1944  
Mortgage burning day, 1944  
13-48  
M-43-10-15

collection of Ethel Foreman  
Clarksburg





Sanctuary of John Wesley Church

Clarksburg, Md.

13-48

M-13-18-15

photo in collection of family  
photos of Ethel Foreman

M-13-10-3



BENJAMIN F.  
FIVE 31  
1871-1921

MASON

JOHN H. HATTIE R.	J. WILLIAM 1877 — 1956 RACHEL E. 1871 — 1946
----------------------	---

John Wesley United Methodist  
Church Cemetery

13-48

M- ~~13-10-15~~

Clarksburg

11/78

Sum

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM

NR Eligible: yes   
no

Property Name: John Wesley Methodist Church Inventory Number: M: 13-48  
Address: 22420 Frederick Road (MD 355) Historic district:  yes  no  
City: Clarksburg Zip Code: 20871 County: Montgomery  
USGS Quadrangle(s): Germantown  
Property Owner: Community of Faith United Methodist Church Inc. Tax Account ID Number: 02-00028481  
Tax Map Parcel Number(s): P540 Tax Map Number: EV53  
Project: MD 355 Bus Rapid Transit Improvements Project Agency: Montgomery County Dept. of Transportation  
Agency Prepared By: VHB  
Preparer's Name: Britta Tonn Date Prepared: 8/31/2018  
Documentation is presented in: MHT Maryland Inventory of Historic Places Form  
Preparer's Eligibility Recommendation:  Eligibility recommended  Eligibility not recommended  
Criteria:  A  B  C  D Considerations:  A  B  C  D  E  F  G  
*Complete if the property is a contributing or non-contributing resource to a NR district/property:*  
Name of the District/Property: \_\_\_\_\_  
Inventory Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Eligible:  yes Listed:  yes  
Site visit by MHT Staff  yes  no Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Description of Property and Justification: *(Please attach map and photo)*

Introduction:

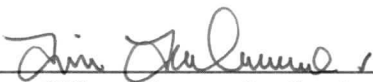
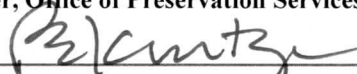
The John Wesley Methodist Church (Maryland Inventory of Historic Places [MIHP] number M:13-48), constructed circa 1925, is located on the southwest side of Frederick Road (also known as MD 355), approximately 50 feet southeast of the intersection of Running Brook Drive in Clarksburg, Montgomery County, Maryland. The church is set back approximately 95 feet from Frederick Road on a narrow, one-acre lot (State Department of Assessments and Taxation [SDAT] 2018), the rear half of which is occupied by a cemetery. The cemetery extends into an adjacent, 0.47-acre parcel also owned by the Methodist Church (SDAT 2018). The church is located in a primarily residential area and is adjacent to single-family lots to the northwest and northeast and an animal hospital to the southeast. Rocky Hill Middle School is located to the southwest of the cemetery.

The John Wesley Methodist Church sits on a lawn with the primary façade facing northeast toward Frederick Road. A driveway from Frederick Road at the northeast corner of the property accesses a gravel parking area located in front of and southeast of the church. A gravel road emanating from the southwest end of the parking area leads through the cemetery, which is located immediately behind the church and features varying styles of granite grave markers situated amid grass lawn and mature

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended  Eligibility not recommended   
Criteria:  A  B  C  D Considerations:  A  B  C  D  E  F  G

MHT Comments:

 5/17/19  
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services Date  
 5/23/19  
Reviewer, National Register Program Date

vegetation. Maintained grass lawn dotted with mature, coniferous and deciduous trees covers most of the church property. A small, non-original, wood-frame shed is located within the cemetery to the southeast of the church. A wooden fence delineates a portion of the northwest property boundary. The property is currently owned by the Community of Faith United Methodist Church Inc. and continues to be used as a Methodist church (SDAT 2018).

Architectural Description:

The John Wesley Methodist Church, located at 22420 Frederick Road, is a one-and-a-half story, wood-frame church building constructed in the Gothic Revival style. The building sits on a brick foundation and is clad in non-original vinyl siding which covers the original brick veneer. A portion of this painted, common bond brick veneer is visible in the northwest corner of the building where the vinyl siding has been removed. The front façade faces northeast toward Frederick Road and has a tripartite design. The central, gabled portion of this façade projects out from the building plane and contains the primary entrance. To the north, there is a stepped gable while to the south there is a square tower with a flat roof that extends above the height of the gable. The primary entrance consists of non-original double metal doors with small, diamond windows. Above the doors rests a transom with vertical siding and above the transom is a wood-frame, three-light, pointed arch window with stained glass featuring a cross motif. A narrow, wood-frame, stained glass window is situated in the gable above the primary entrance. The primary entrance is accessed by poured concrete steps and a non-original poured concrete ramp located adjacent to the southeast of the steps; both the steps and the ramp have non-original metal railings. A wooden, one-over-one stained glass window covered with a two-light, tilt screen window is located on each of the outer portions of the front façade. At basement level there is a vinyl, two-light sliding well window upon which rests a wooden transom. On the upper portion of the tower, a narrow, louvered window is located on each of the front and southeast sides. A cement plaque, carved with the words "The New John Wesley M.E. Church Was Redeemed June 11th 1932 Rev. J.H. Lewis, Pastor," is located on the front façade in the lower southeast corner of the tower.

The side elevations are four bays wide (five bays including a rear addition) with each bay delineated by a slender buttress. According to the 1979 Maryland Historical Trust (MHT) Inventory Form, these buttresses are made of brick, although at present they are covered with metal siding (McDaniel, Reed, and Walston 1979). On the northwest elevation, there are four wooden, one-over-one stained glass windows on the main floor of the sanctuary. At basement level below each window is a vinyl, two-light sliding well window. These windows have wooden surrounds and rest on sills composed of brick laid in a header bond. A painted brick chimney rises from the rear buttress on the northwest elevation. The southeast elevation has three of the same one-over-one stained glass windows on the main floor of the sanctuary as are on the northwest elevation. At basement level below each window is a vinyl, two-light sliding window with a wood surround and concrete sill. The southeast side of the tower has a non-original metal door accessed via poured concrete steps with a non-original metal railing. A concrete walkway runs the length of the building along the southeast side.

A gabled, cinderblock addition, likely constructed between 1957 and 1963, seamlessly extends from the rear of the building creating a fifth bay on each side (NETR 1957 and 1963). The 1979 MHT Inventory Form reports that the addition had a common bond brick veneer (McDaniel, Reed and Walston 1979); this veneer has since been covered by the same vinyl siding found on the main block of the building. A non-original metal door opens into the addition on the southeast elevation. The rear elevation of the addition contains an open garage bay at ground level accessing a storage area. Two wood-framed, fixed-light windows are located to the right of the garage bay. On the main floor of the rear elevation there are two wooden, two-over-two sash windows and within the rear gable there is a narrow, wood-frame, stained glass window similar to the gable window on the front façade.

Historic Context:

The area now known as Clarksburg began as a crossroads of Native American trails in the 1730s where a trading post was

<b>MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW</b>	
Eligibility recommended _____	Eligibility not recommended _____
Criteria: ___ A ___ B ___ C ___ D	Considerations: ___ A ___ B ___ C ___ D ___ E ___ F ___ G
MHT Comments:	
_____	_____
<b>Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services</b>	<b>Date</b>
_____	_____
<b>Reviewer, National Register Program</b>	<b>Date</b>

established by William Clark. In the 1750s, Michael A. Dowden opened a 17-room inn known as Dowden's Ordinary which became a popular stop for those traveling along The Great Road (now known as MD 355) between Frederick and Georgetown. William Clark's grandson, John G. Clark surveyed the area and laid out lots in 1790, which spurred settlement in the area that eventually became known as Clarksburg. Clarksburg became a thriving commercial center of upper Montgomery County, spurred by a tanning industry and supported by related businesses. By 1879, Clarksburg had 250 residents and was the third largest town in Montgomery County. However, Clarksburg experienced a decline when the Metropolitan Branch of the B&O Railroad was established in nearby Gaithersburg and Germantown in 1873. The convenience of the railroad drew business and development away from Clarksburg to the vicinity of the train depots to the south (Boyd 1879: 124; Clarksburg Historical Society, Inc 2018; Parker and Reed 1979).

Shortly after the Civil War, small enclaves of African-Americans clustered together in Montgomery County (McDaniel, Reed, and Walston 1979). In Clarksburg, landownership by African-Americans was achieved later than in other communities in the county, not beginning until the 1880s. However, African-American families were generally more prosperous than in other communities, as evidenced by the quality of houses, churches, and gravestones still extant in Clarksburg. The first generation of free African-Americans bought land and constructed small log or frame dwellings in the vicinity of one another in order to support and assist one another with whatever skills, tools, and materials they had available. These landowners worked together to build churches and schools to serve their newly established communities. One of the earliest African-American enclaves in Clarksburg was known as Rocky Hill, which was a 24-acre tract of land purchased by Lloyd Gibbs in 1884 (McDaniel 1979; McGuckian 1992: 194). This enclave included the John Wesley Methodist Church, several dwellings such as the Maurice and Sarah Mason House (MIHP number M: 13-42) and the Warner Wims House (MIHP number M: 13-51), as well as the Clarksburg Negro School (MIHP number M: 13-34).

In 1887, Lloyd Gibbs sold a one-acre parcel of land in this location to George T. Williams, James H. Mason and Townsend Coat, who were trustees of a new Methodist church that was planned to serve the new Rocky Hill community (MCDB JA 9: 399-400). Before the church building was erected, Methodist congregants likely met in each other's houses for church services; however, as the community grew, the need for a dedicated church building and accompanying burial ground was evident (McDaniel, Reed and Walston 1979; McGuckian 1992). The 1887 deed specified that "the said premises shall be used, kept, maintained and disposed of as a place of divine worship... of the Methodist Episcopal Church in the United States of America" and that "a part or portion of said lot or land may be set apart and used as a place of burial..." which suggests that the first church on this location was erected soon after 1887 (MCDB JA 9: 399-400).

This first church was probably a frame structure known as Pleasant View Methodist Episcopal Church, reportedly built by local African-American carpenter-builders known as the Howard Brothers (McGuckian 1992; McDaniel, Reed and Walston 1979). This church also served as a school for the African-American children of Clarksburg until the one-room Clarksburg Negro School (MIHP number M: 13-34, demolished) was built nearby in about 1890 (McDaniel, Reed and Walston 1979; McDaniel and Sewell 1979). This first Pleasant View Methodist Episcopal Church was destroyed in a fire in 1924; in 1925, the existing church building was erected (McDaniel, Reed and Walston 1979). According to a carved cement plaque in the southeast corner of the church's tower, the church was officially redeemed and renamed John Wesley Methodist Church on June 11, 1932. The 1979 MIHP inventory form for John Wesley Methodist Church documents that Ethel Foreman, a congregant of the church, claimed that two African-American contractors from Washington, D.C. constructed the building with the help of local men in the community (McDaniel, Reed and Walston 1979). Hiring experienced and more highly-trained contractors from Washington, D.C. to construct the stylish building, instead of using a local builder, suggests that the community which attended the Pleasant View Methodist Church was relatively prosperous, and that the church itself served as an important center of the surrounding community's religious, educational and social life (McGuckian 1992).

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW**

Eligibility recommended \_\_\_\_\_ Eligibility not recommended \_\_\_\_\_  
 Criteria: \_\_\_ A \_\_\_ B \_\_\_ C \_\_\_ D Considerations: \_\_\_ A \_\_\_ B \_\_\_ C \_\_\_ D \_\_\_ E \_\_\_ F \_\_\_ G

MHT Comments:

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Reviewer, National Register Program

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Date

The advent and increasing popularity of the automobile in the early decades of the 20th century resulted in a revival in growth in Clarksburg as areas beyond the railroad axes became accessible and open to residential and commercial development. Frederick Road was improved in the 1930s, which allowed for easier travel by automobile between Clarksburg and Washington, D.C. Many tourists from Washington enjoyed driving through Clarksburg and the surrounding countryside and area homeowners rented out rooms for boarders and tourists. The construction of I-270 in the 1950s preceded a period of rapid suburban growth in northern Montgomery County, spurred by the ease of commuting into Washington, D.C. (KCI 1999; Parker and Reed 1979).

In 1963, F. Wilson Wims and Sarah L. Wims sold an approximately 0.47-acre parcel of land adjacent to the southwest of the church property to the John Wesley Methodist Church to be used as an expansion to the existing cemetery located to the southwest of the church (MCDB 3135: 201). This parcel was designated as Outlot B of the subdivision known as Clarksburg Heights, which Wilson Wims developed in the mid-1960s with rent-to-own homes built for African-American families who would otherwise be unable to afford to reside in Montgomery County (MIHP number M: 13-61). The cemetery associated with John Wesley Methodist Church is the resting place for multiple generations of many of the influential families of the African-American community at Rocky Hill, including the Wims family, the Mason family, the Williams family and the Foreman family.

In 1968, after The Methodist Church and The Evangelical United Brethren Church were merged to form The United Methodist Church, the church was officially renamed the John Wesley United Methodist Church of Clarksburg, Inc. (MCDB 38188: 135). Sometime after the building was first surveyed in 1979, several significant alterations were made to the building. Most conspicuous is the application of vinyl siding over the brick façade, which obscures the original recessed corbeling at the top of the tower and has resulted in the replacement of the tower's pointed arch windows with smaller, rectangular louvered windows. The vinyl siding has also covered the slightly arched lintel profile of the sanctuary's side windows, and metal siding has been applied over the brick buttresses. In addition, the basement windows have been replaced with vinyl sliding windows, and the rear doorway on the southeast elevation has been replaced with a modern metal door. Finally, a large, poured concrete ramp with a metal railing has been installed along the front façade in front of the tower.

In 2009, the John Wesley United Methodist Church of Clarksburg, Inc., which was also commonly known as the Rocky Hill Church, changed its official name to the Community Of Faith United Methodist Church through a transfer of property (MCDB 38188: 135-136, 145). Today, the Community Of Faith United Methodist Church shares its building with a congregation known as Iglesia de Cristo Pentecostes.

Evaluation:

The John Wesley Methodist Church is an early 20th century, Gothic Revival-style church that was built to replace an earlier Methodist church attended primarily by African-American residents in one of the earliest African-American enclaves in Clarksburg. In order to be considered eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), a religious property's significance "must be judged in purely secular terms" and must derive its significance from "architectural or artistic distinction or historical importance" (Shrimpton et al 1990: 26).

To be considered eligible for listing in the NRHP under Criterion A, a building must not only be associated with important events or trends, it must clearly be important within the associated context... and it must retain historic integrity" (Shrimpton et al 1990: 12). The John Wesley Methodist Church is important for its association with the early African-American community in Clarksburg known as Rocky Hill, which developed following the Civil War. The John Wesley Methodist Church was attended by residents of this African-American community, who built the first church at this location in about 1887. Influential members of these communities, such as members of the Mason family, the Foreman family and the Wims family, are buried in the cemetery on the church property. The church remains in its original location in the vicinity of other buildings associated with the Rocky Hill

<b>MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW</b>	
Eligibility recommended _____	Eligibility not recommended _____
Criteria: ___ A ___ B ___ C ___ D	Considerations: ___ A ___ B ___ C ___ D ___ E ___ F ___ G
MHT Comments:	
_____	_____
<b>Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services</b>	<b>Date</b>
_____	_____
<b>Reviewer, National Register Program</b>	<b>Date</b>

community, such as the Warner Wims House (MIHP number M: 13-51) and the Maurice and Sarah Mason House (MIHP number M: 13-42). The church is also adjacent to the Clarksburg Heights subdivision (M: 13-61), a mid-20th century subdivision developed by Wilson Wims with rent-to-own homes built for African-American families who likely attended services at this church. However, modern development in the vicinity of the resource, including Rocky Hill Middle School, the adjacent Bennett Creek Animal Hospital, and the nearby Clarksburg High School, as well as the loss of other properties of the Rocky Hill community, such as the Clarksburg Negro School (MIHP number M: 13-34) and the Lloyd & Sarah Gibbs House (MIHP number M: 13-38), have resulted in a diminished integrity of setting and feeling. Additionally, the church building has been substantially altered since its original construction and many of the original, character-defining features of the exterior have been lost. The character-defining features which are no longer visible due to the application of vinyl siding include the brick corbeling at the top of the tower, the original pointed arch windows of the tower which have been replaced with smaller, rectangular windows, and the slightly arched lintel profile of the sanctuary windows. The loss of these architectural elements has greatly altered the exterior appearance of the church building as these important features conveyed the building's stylish, Gothic Revival appearance. As such, these alterations limit the resource's ability to convey its association with the growth and relative prosperity of the Rocky Hill community in the early-20th century and have resulted in the loss of integrity of design and materials that are required for eligibility under Criterion A as discussed in Maryland's Suburbanization Historic Context and Survey Methodology (KCI 1999: D-56). Therefore, the John Wesley Methodist Church is recommended not eligible for the NRHP under Criterion A.

To qualify for eligibility under Criterion B, a property must be associated with an individual "whose activities are demonstrably important within a local, State, or national historic context" and the property must be associated with that individual's productive life (Shrimpton et al 1990: 14-15). Although many residents who were well-known in the predominantly African American community of the area attended and supported the John Wesley Methodist Church, such as members of the Mason family and the Wims family, the resource has no direct association with any particular individual who is considered significant within the historic context. Therefore, the John Wesley Methodist Church is recommended not eligible under Criterion B.

To be considered eligible for listing under Criterion C, the resource should "represent distinctive characteristics of its type, period, or method of construction" (KCI 1999: D-57). The John Wesley Methodist Church portrays some elements of the Gothic Revival style which was popular for church architecture in the early 20th century. However, although the church retains its general form and some of its Gothic Revival elements, such as a pointed arch window above the entrance, a tripartite design and stained-glass windows in the sanctuary, it has been substantially modified since its construction. Vinyl and metal siding have been applied over the brick veneer and brick buttresses, obscuring the tower's original corbelled brickwork and the original, slightly arched lintel profile of the sanctuary's side windows. In addition, the tower's original, character-defining pointed arch windows have been replaced with smaller, rectangular windows with no arches. Finally, the basement windows have all been replaced with vinyl windows and the original doors have been replaced with metal doors throughout. These alterations have resulted in a diminished integrity as outlined in the Suburbanization Historic Context and Survey Methodology, which states that to be eligible under Criterion C, "all character-defining elements must be intact" because "late-nineteenth and twentieth century government and public buildings will require greater architectural integrity and distinction due to an increased frequency of property type" (KCI 1999: D-57). Therefore, the resource is recommended not eligible for the NRHP under Criterion C. As an architectural resource, it was not evaluated under Criterion D.

In sum, the John Wesley Methodist Church at 22420 Frederick Road is recommended not eligible for listing in the NRHP.

<b>MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW</b>	
Eligibility recommended _____	Eligibility not recommended _____
Criteria:    ___ A    ___ B    ___ C    ___ D	Considerations:    ___ A    ___ B    ___ C    ___ D    ___ E    ___ F    ___ G
MHT Comments:	
_____	_____
<b>Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services</b>	<b>Date</b>
_____	_____
<b>Reviewer, National Register Program</b>	<b>Date</b>



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McGuckian, Eileen 1992 Black Builders in Montgomery County 1865-1940. The Montgomery County Story 35(1): 189-200.

<b>MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW</b>	
Eligibility recommended _____	Eligibility not recommended _____
Criteria: ___ A ___ B ___ C ___ D	Considerations: ___ A ___ B ___ C ___ D ___ E ___ F ___ G
MHT Comments:	
_____	_____
<b>Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services</b>	<b>Date</b>
_____	_____
<b>Reviewer, National Register Program</b>	<b>Date</b>

Montgomery County

2018 Montgomery County Map, Esri:

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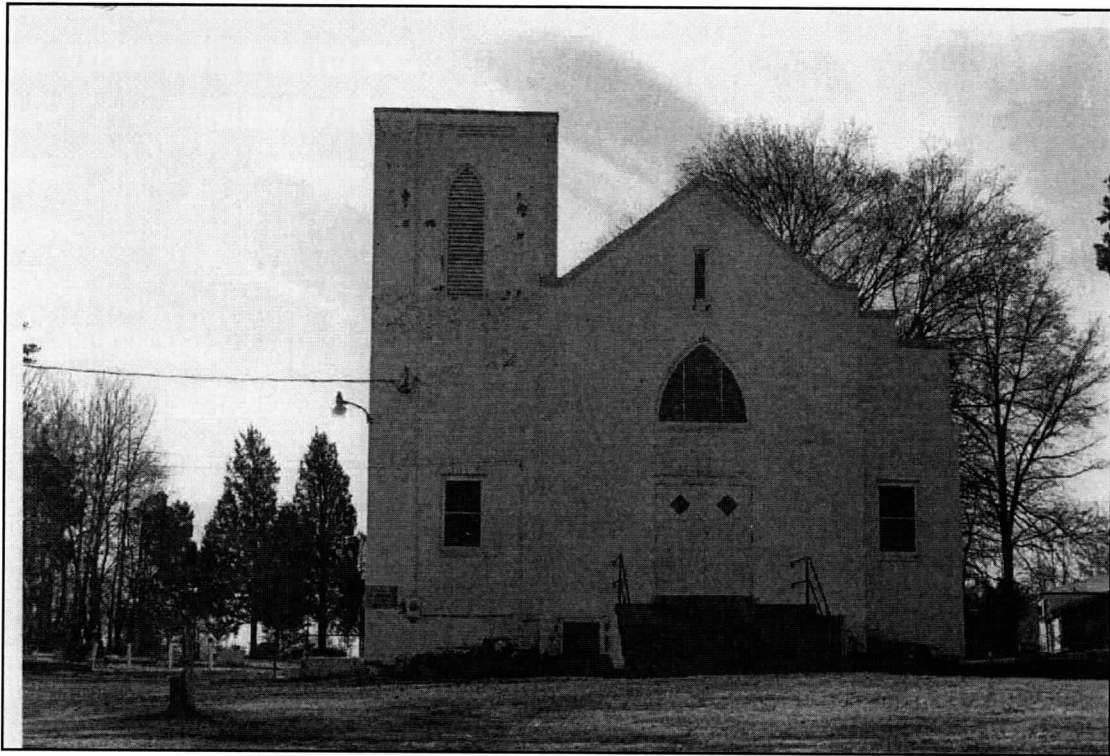
2016 Germantown, Maryland, Quadrangle Map. 7.5 Minute Series. U.S. Geological Survey, Washington, D.C.

<b>MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW</b>	
Eligibility recommended _____	Eligibility not recommended _____
Criteria: ___ A ___ B ___ C ___ D	Considerations: ___ A ___ B ___ C ___ D ___ E ___ F ___ G
MHT Comments:	
_____	_____
<b>Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services</b>	<b>Date</b>
_____	_____
<b>Reviewer, National Register Program</b>	<b>Date</b>

**John Wesley Methodist Church (M: 13-48)  
Clarksburg, Montgomery County, Maryland**

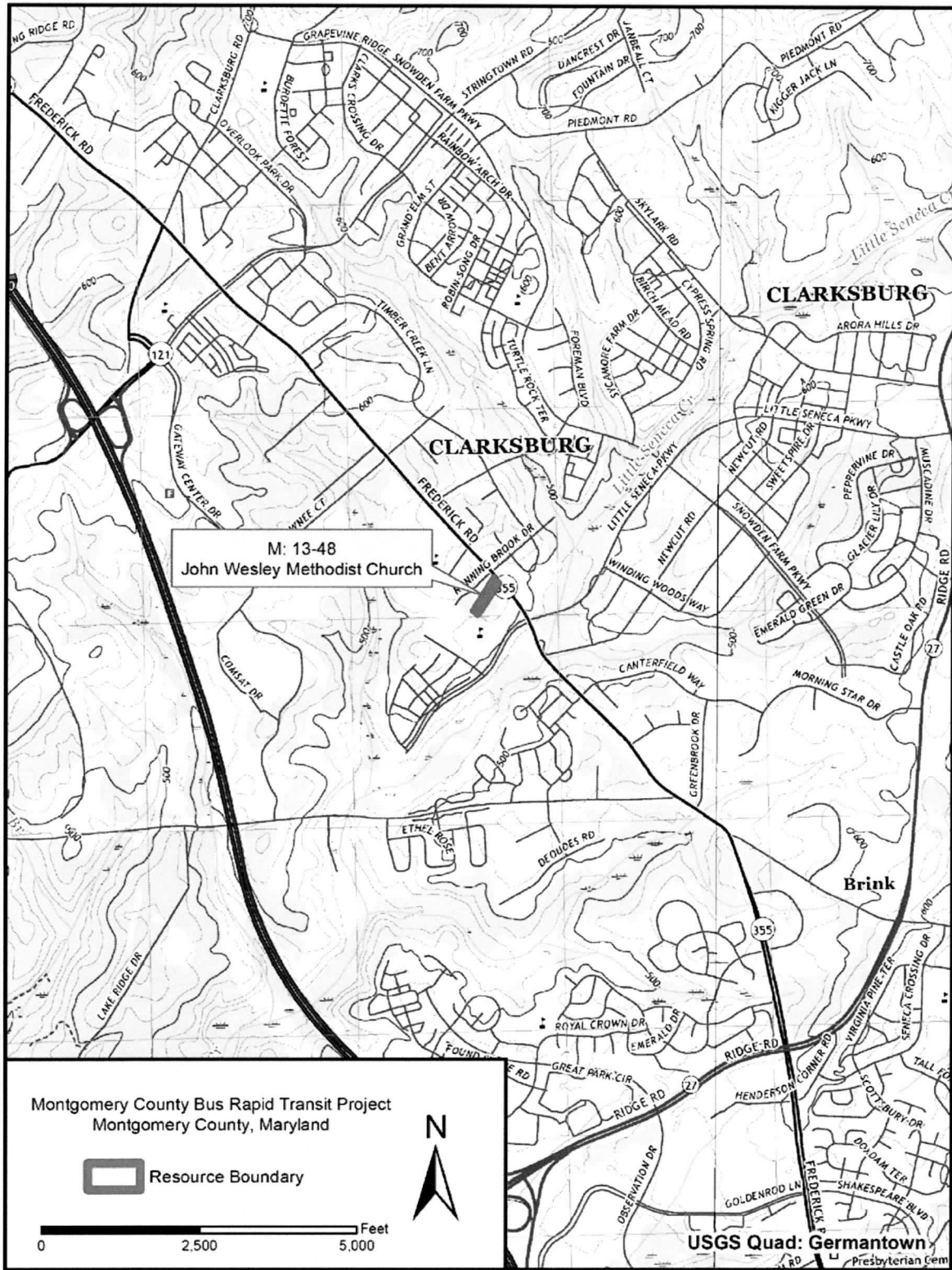


Circa 1979 photograph of John Wesley Methodist Church, looking west  
(Montgomery County Historical Society 2016)



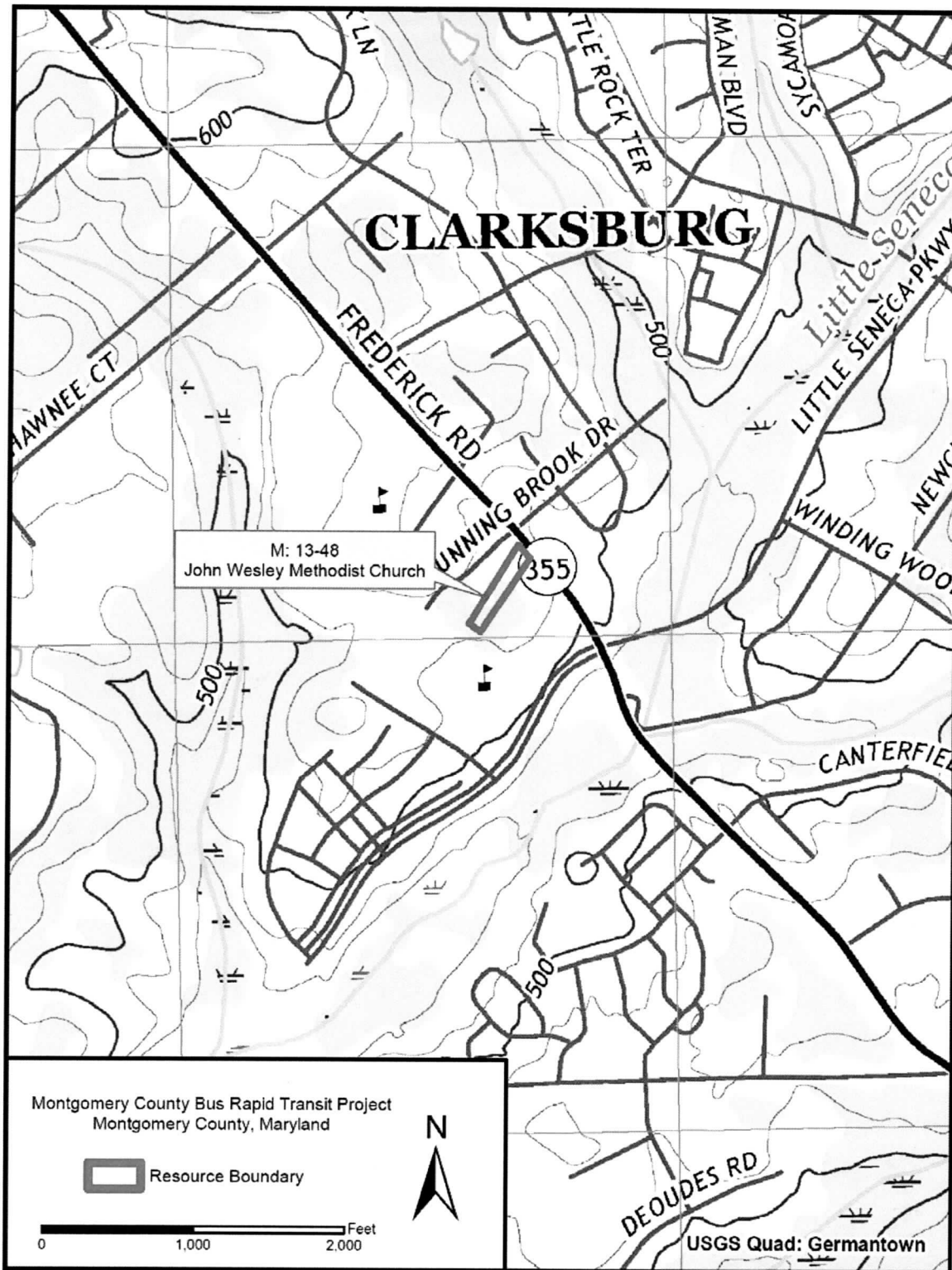
1979 photograph of John Wesley Methodist Church, looking southwest  
(McDaniel, Reed, and Walston 1979)

John Wesley Methodist Church (M: 13-48)  
Clarksburg, Montgomery County, Maryland



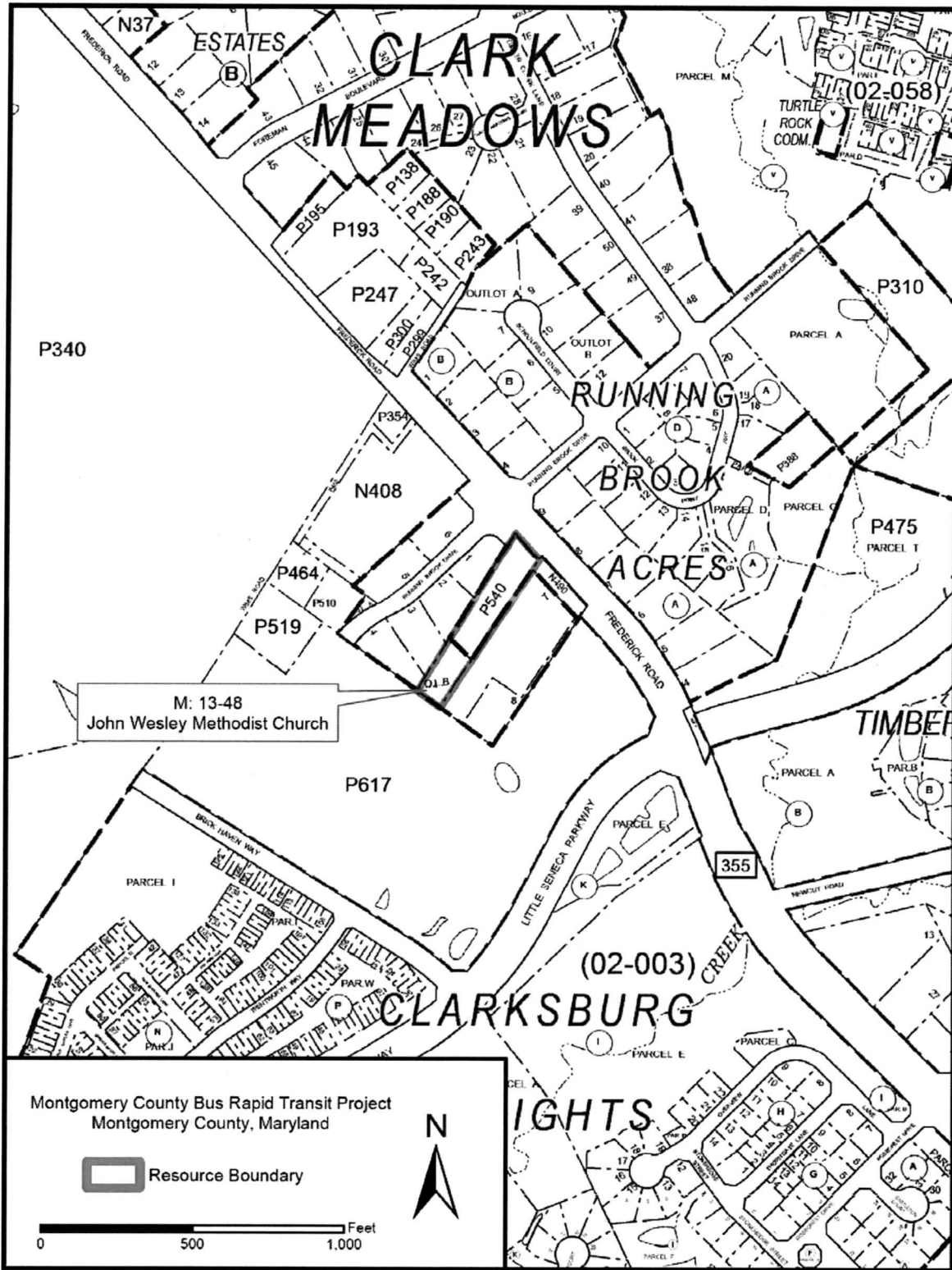
Location of the John Wesley Methodist Church on 7.5-Minute Germantown, Maryland,  
United States Geological Survey Topographic Map (USGS 2016)

John Wesley Methodist Church (M: 13-48)  
Clarksburg, Montgomery County, Maryland



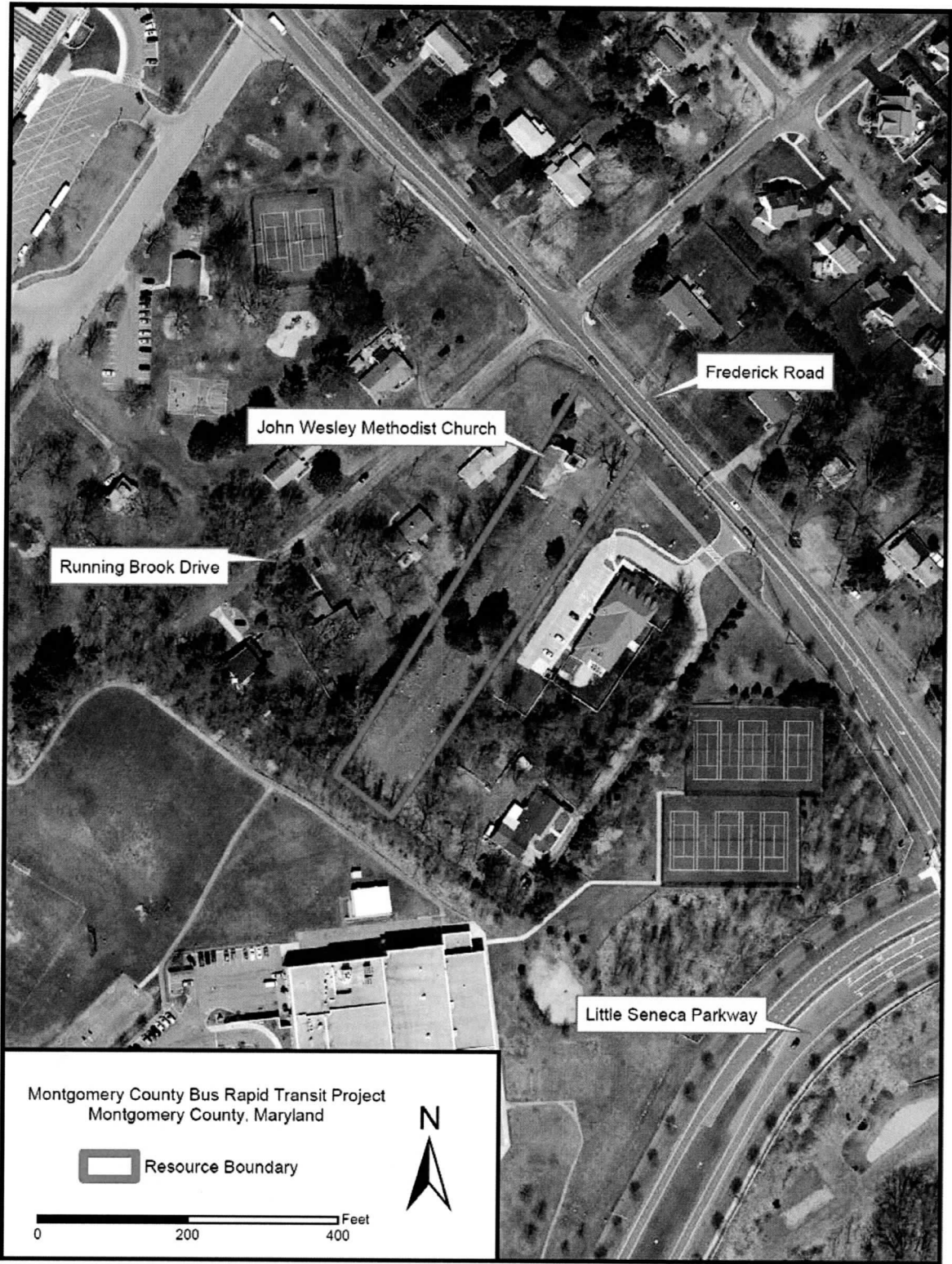
Location of the John Wesley Methodist Church on 7.5-Minute Germantown, Maryland, United States Geological Survey Topographic Map (USGS 2016)

John Wesley Methodist Church (M: 13-48)  
Clarksburg, Montgomery County, Maryland



Location of the John Wesley Methodist Church on Montgomery County Tax Map  
(Maryland Department of Planning, Planning Data and Analysis 2013)

John Wesley Methodist Church (M: 13-48)  
Clarksburg, Montgomery County, Maryland



Location of the John Wesley Methodist Church on 2017 Aerial Image  
(Maryland's Mapping and GIS Data Portal 2017)

**John Wesley Methodist Church (M: 13-48)  
Clarksburg, Montgomery County, Maryland**

<b>TIFF Image File Name</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Date Taken</b>	<b>Ink</b>	<b>Paper</b>	<b>Brand, Make &amp; Dye Type of DVD</b>
M; 13-48_2018-01-24_01.tif	Overview of the church from Frederick Ave, looking southwest	01/24/18	Canon Chromalife100 CLI-271 Inks	Cannon Photo Paper Plus Glossy II	Verbatim UltraLife 4.7GB 8x Gold Archival Grade DVD-R
M; 13-48_2018-01-24_02.tif	Northwest and partial front elevations with exposed brick veneer visible at center	01/24/18	Canon Chromalife100 CLI-271 Inks	Cannon Photo Paper Plus Glossy II	Verbatim UltraLife 4.7GB 8x Gold Archival Grade DVD-R
M; 13-48_2018-01-24_03.tif	Primary façade, looking southwest	01/24/18	Canon Chromalife100 CLI-271 Inks	Cannon Photo Paper Plus Glossy II	Verbatim UltraLife 4.7GB 8x Gold Archival Grade DVD-R
M; 13-48_2018-01-24_04.tif	Front and southeast elevations	01/24/18	Canon Chromalife100 CLI-271 Inks	Cannon Photo Paper Plus Glossy II	Verbatim UltraLife 4.7GB 8x Gold Archival Grade DVD-R
M; 13-48_2018-03-13_05.tif	Southeast elevation	03/13/18	Canon Chromalife100 CLI-271 Inks	Cannon Photo Paper Plus Glossy II	Verbatim UltraLife 4.7GB 8x Gold Archival Grade DVD-R
M; 13-48_2018-03-13_06.tif	Rear and southeast elevations	03/13/18	Canon Chromalife100 CLI-271 Inks	Cannon Photo Paper Plus Glossy II	Verbatim UltraLife 4.7GB 8x Gold Archival Grade DVD-R
M; 13-48_2018-01-24_07.tif	Rear addition of church building viewed from cemetery	01/24/18	Canon Chromalife100 CLI-271 Inks	Cannon Photo Paper Plus Glossy II	Verbatim UltraLife 4.7GB 8x Gold Archival Grade DVD-R
M; 13-48_2018-01-24_08.tif	Detail of stained-glass window above primary entrance	01/24/18	Canon Chromalife100 CLI-271 Inks	Cannon Photo Paper Plus Glossy II	Verbatim UltraLife 4.7GB 8x Gold Archival Grade DVD-R
M; 13-48_2018-01-24_09.tif	Detail of doorway and windows on southeast elevation	01/24/18	Canon Chromalife100 CLI-271 Inks	Cannon Photo Paper Plus Glossy II	Verbatim UltraLife 4.7GB 8x Gold Archival Grade DVD-R
M; 13-48_2018-01-24_10.tif	Detail of concrete plaque installed in 1932	01/24/18	Canon Chromalife100 CLI-271 Inks	Cannon Photo Paper Plus Glossy II	Verbatim UltraLife 4.7GB 8x Gold Archival Grade DVD-R
M; 13-48_2018-01-24_11.tif	Overview of cemetery behind church building	01/24/18	Canon Chromalife100 CLI-271 Inks	Cannon Photo Paper Plus Glossy II	Verbatim UltraLife 4.7GB 8x Gold Archival Grade DVD-R



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**22420**





THE NEW  
JOHN WESLEY  
M.E. CHURCH  
WAS REDEEMED JUNE 11<sup>th</sup> 1932  
REV. J. H. LEWIS, PASTOR

