

AA-1049  
Asbury Methodist Church  
Arnold  
Private

1859 with alterations

The Asbury Methodist Church is important architecturally as a highly intact example of a typical, Gothic-Revival style, Methodist church building, a fashion popularly employed in ecclesiastical buildings from the mid-1840s onward. The Gothic Revival style was embraced by many religious dominations, who believed it embodied true Christian forms. It is possible that this church was constructed according to a published plan.

Historically, the Asbury Methodist Church is significant for being the oldest church on the Broadneck Peninsula. The church was built in 1859 on land donated by Thomas Arnold, the person for whom the town of Arnold is named.

AA-1049  
Asbury Methodist Church  
Arnold

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Western Shore

Chronological/Development Period(s): Agricultural-Industrial Transition (1815-1870)

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme(s): Architecture

Resource Type:

Category Type: Building

Historic Environment: village

Historic Function(s) and Use(s): Church

Known Design Source: none

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. AA-1049

Magi No.

DOE \_\_\_ yes \_\_\_ no

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Asbury Methodist Church

and/or common

## 2. Location

street & number 78 Church Road \_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Arnold \_\_\_ vicinity of congressional district

state Maryland county Anne Arundel

## 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 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"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

## 4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Trustees of Asbury United Methodist Church

street & number 78 Church Road telephone no.: (410) 974-1276

city, town Arnold state and zip code: Maryland 21012

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Anne Arundel County Courthouse liber 1017

street & number Church Circle folio 258

city, town Annapolis state Maryland

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date \_\_\_ federal \_\_\_ state \_\_\_ county \_\_\_ local

pository for survey records

city, town state

## 7. Description

Survey No. AA-1049

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Asbury United Methodist Church sits on the north side of Church Road and is surrounded on the north and west sides by a gravel parking lot, and on the east side by a church school. The rear (south) of the building is the location of the church cemetery.

Originally constructed in 1859 and expanded in the early 20th century, Asbury United Methodist is a frame, Gothic-Revival style, ecclesiastical building. It is primarily L-shaped, built with a gable-end-and-steeped-ell plan. A square steeple with pyramidal roof is located at the intersection of the two perpendicularly arranged blocks. The original section presents its gable front to the road and is three bays wide and four bays deep, while the east-side ell is three bays deep. Only one window is present on the front wall, which is interrupted by the placement of the steeple. Both portions rest upon a full basement.

The dominant window type, both in this and the three-bay-deep addition, is a long, triangularly-topped, or peak-head, double-hung sash type. The glazing pattern is five lights over six, with opaque but uncolored panes. The upper level of the steeple and the east gable end feature small, five-light, peak-head windows, while the north gable end is illuminated by a wide, lancet-top, stained-glass window. The building's principal entrance is located in the lower level of the bell tower. The pair of molded panel doors is topped by a three-light, gothic-style window. The entrance is partially protected by a pent roof situated between the door and bell tower. A secondary entrance is located in the east wall, and while the opening is original, the door is new and a ramp for wheelchair access is added.

The building's interior has experienced several episodes of remodeling, but retains a significant amount of historic material. Notable features include exposed roofing members, featuring a system of W trusses and common purlins. The upper level of the rear wall is dominated by a full-width, enclosed balcony. In addition, much of the window and door trim appears original. Until recently the sanctuary contained a folding partition wall that allowed the space to be divided for Sunday School meetings or opened to accommodate large congregations.

Note: Files of Anne Arundel County, Department of Planning and Code Enforcement, contains a turn of the century sepia print showing Asbury United Methodist Church.

# 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 type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates	c. 1860	Builder/Architect						
Check:	Applicable Criteria:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A	<input type="checkbox"/> B	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C	<input type="checkbox"/> D			
	and/or							
	Applicable Exception:	<input type="checkbox"/> A	<input type="checkbox"/> B	<input type="checkbox"/> C	<input type="checkbox"/> D	<input type="checkbox"/> E	<input type="checkbox"/> F	<input type="checkbox"/> G
	Level of Significance:	<input type="checkbox"/> national	<input type="checkbox"/> state	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> local				

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Asbury United Methodist Church in Arnold is an architecturally significant and highly intact example of a typical, Gothic-Revival style, Methodist church building. Originally constructed in the mid-nineteenth century and expanded in the early twentieth century, Asbury is the oldest church on the Broadneck Peninsula (1) (2). It is built on land donated in December, 1859 by Thomas Arnold, the person for whom the town of Arnold is named.

This building is executed in the Gothic Revival style, an architectural fashion popularly employed in ecclesiastical buildings from the mid 1840s onward. Typical Gothic Revival features seen on this building include lancet or peaked windows, steeply pitched gable roof, overhanging eaves, decorative stained glass, and a general emphasis on verticality (3). The style was embraced by many religious denominations, who felt it embodied true Christian forms. The beginning of the Civil War marked the beginning of the great era of American Gothic Revival architecture. Architects such as Richard Upjohn published a book of plans that were used to erect modest frame churches in small towns nation wide (4). Vernacular and low-budget examples were further facilitated by national church establishments who published standardized plans. The National Methodist Episcopal Church was amongst the denominations who published such catalogues, and this building is not unlike a number of those mass produced designs (5).

From its establishment in Maryland in the 18th century until present, Methodism remained one of the area's dominant religious denominations. But the Methodist Church was not without internal dissension. The African Methodist Episcopal Church broke away in 1816, while the main Methodist Episcopal body subsequently split again over the issue of slavery. Two independent Methodist Churches, a northern and southern group, formed. The end of the Civil War did not end the schism. This residual tension is seen in the Asbury Church at Arnold, which in 1872, seven years after the end of the war, aligned itself with the southern Methodist Church and incorporated under the name Asbury Methodist Church, South.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. AA-1049

- (1) Anne Arundel County Board of Education, School Histories; Discovering our School Community, 1957.  
In collection of Maryland Hall of Records, Microfilm number CR,704.
- (2) "New Pews? Peninsula's Oldest Church May Be Demolished", The Capital, \_\_\_\_\_ day, October 12, 1987.
- (3) Robert Packard and Balthazar Korab, Encyclopedia of American Architecture, McGraw Hill, New York, 1995.
- (4) Ibid (5) Catalogue of Architectural Plans for Churches and Parsonages, Board of Church Extension, M.E. Church, Philadelphia, PA, 1889.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle name Round Bay

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References Do NOT complete UTM references

A 

Zone	Easting	Northing
------	---------	----------

B 

Zone	Easting	Northing
------	---------	----------

C 

Zone	Easting	Northing
------	---------	----------

D 

Zone	Easting	Northing
------	---------	----------

E 

Zone	Easting	Northing
------	---------	----------

F 

Zone	Easting	Northing
------	---------	----------

G 

Zone	Easting	Northing
------	---------	----------

H 

Zone	Easting	Northing
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### Verbal boundary description and justification

The proposed boundary includes the lot containing the church, Sunday school building, cemetery, and parking lot.

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

## 11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Sherri M. Marsh		
organization	Anne Arundel County Historical Sites Survey	date	November, 1996
street & number	2664 Riva Road / P.O. Box 6675	telephone	(410) 222-7441
city or town	Annapolis	state	Maryland

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

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

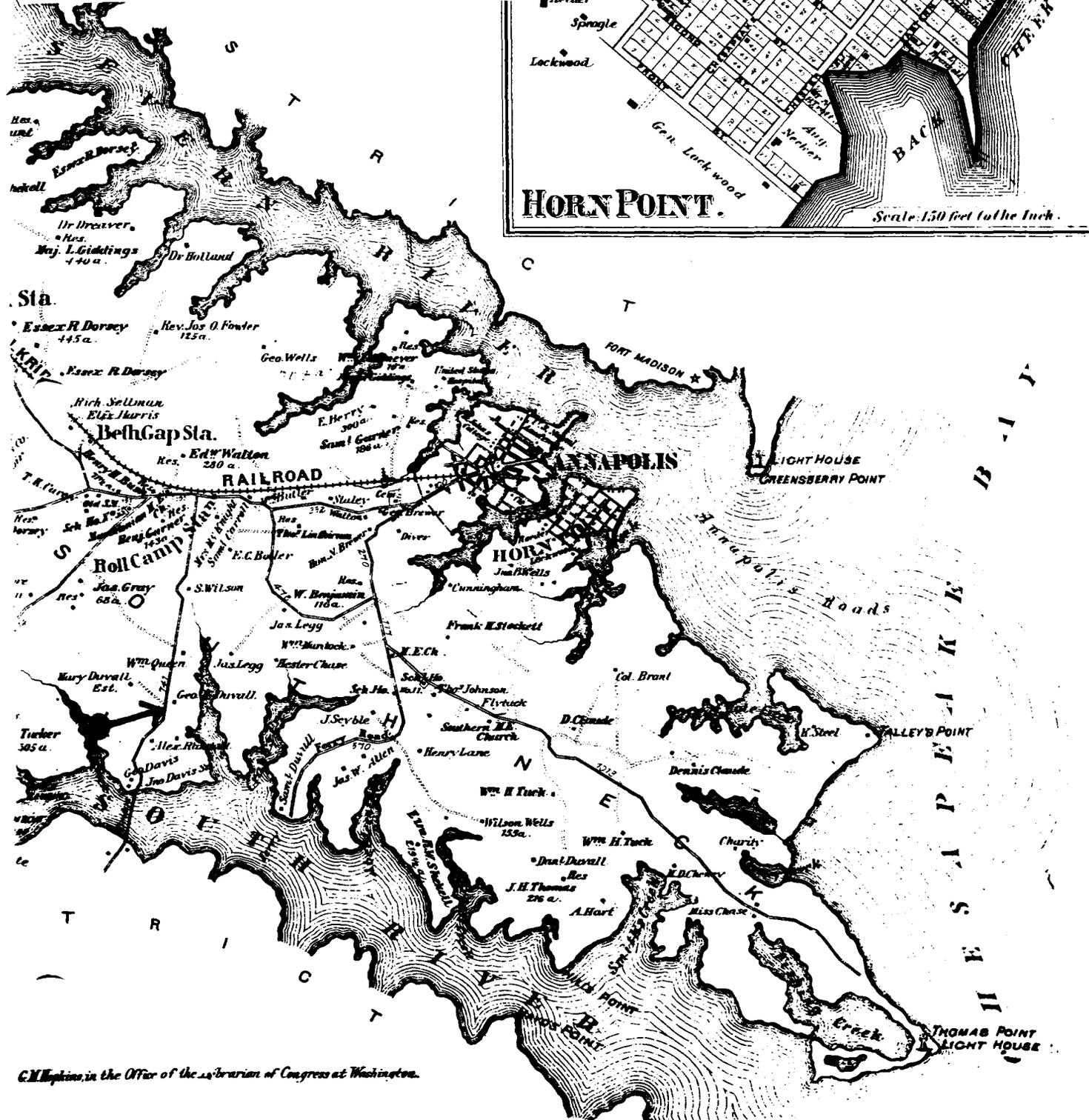
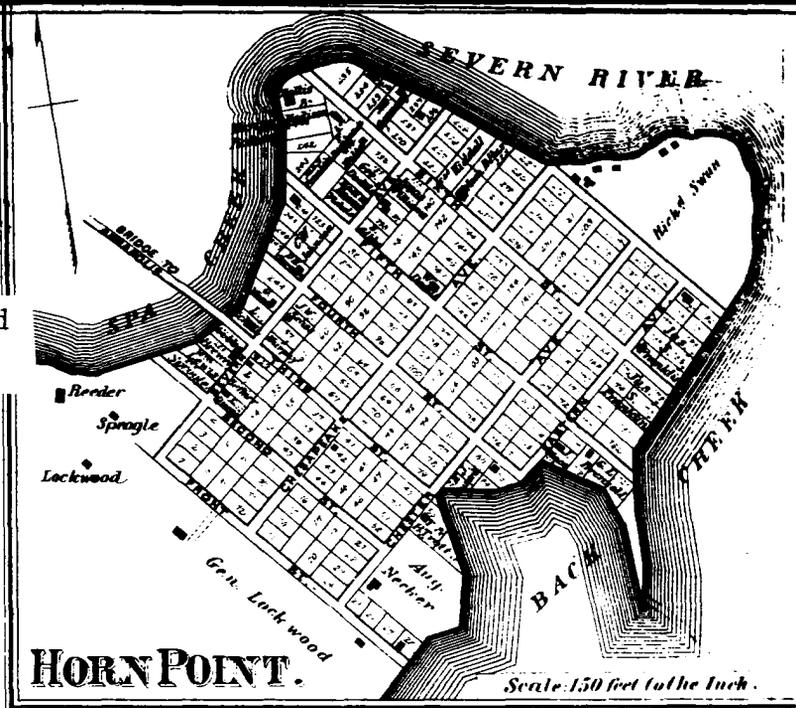
return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
DHCP/DHCD  
100 Community Place  
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023  
410-514-7600

# BOND DISTRICT

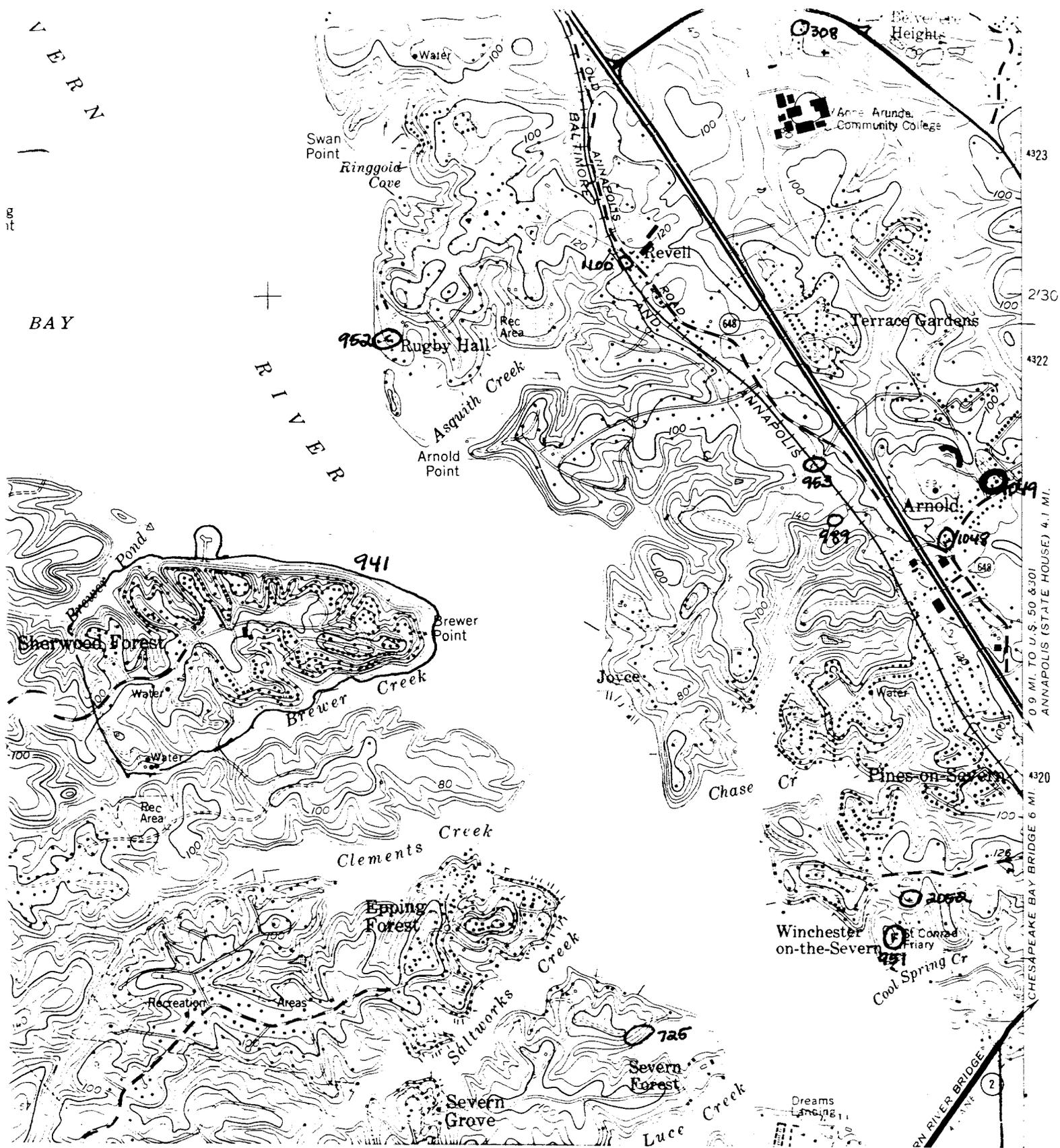
## IN ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY

Scale 1/2 Inches to a Mile.

Atlas of Anne Arundel County, Maryland  
by G.M. Hopkins, 1878



G.M. Hopkins in the Office of the Librarian of Congress at Washington.



**ROUND BAY**  
**USGS 7.5 minute series**  
**Scale: 1:24,000**  
**1956, photo revised 1979**

**Site Number: AA-1049**  
**Site Name: Asbury Methodist Church**  
**Location: 78 Church Road, Arnold**



AA-1049

ASBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

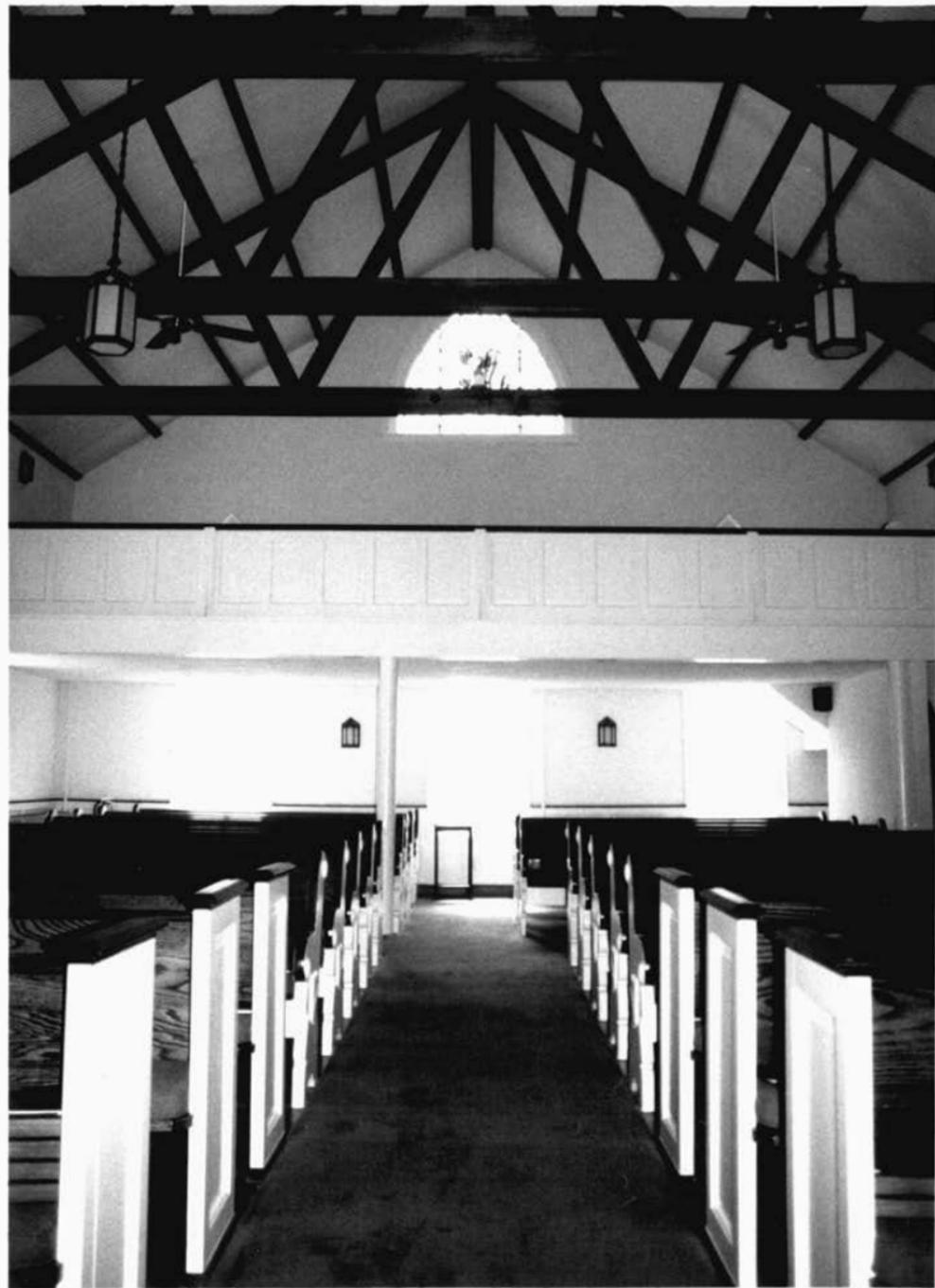
ANNE ARUNDEL CO., MARYLAND

Photo By SHERRI M. MARSH, AUG. 1996

NEG. AT MARYLAND SHPO

SOUTH ELEVATION

Photo 1 of 2



AA-1049

ASBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

ANNE ARUNDEL CO., MARYLAND

PHOTO BY SHERRI M. MARSH, AUG 1996

NEG. AT MARYLAND SHPO

INTERIOR VIEW

Photo 2 of 2