

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM

Property Name: Oakland United Methodist Church Inventory Number: AA-296

Address: 5540 Muddy Creek Road, Churchton, MD, Anne Arundel County

Owner: Oakland Methodist Church, 5981 Franklin Gibson Road, Tracy's Landing, MD 20779

Tax Parcel Number: 11 Tax Map Number: 74

Project MD 468 from MD 255 to Snug Harbor Road Agency State Highway Administration (SHA)

Site visit by SHA Staff:  no  yes Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Eligibility recommended  Eligibility **not** recommended

Criteria  A  B  C  D Considerations:  A  B  C  D  E  F  G  None

Is property located within a historic district?  no  yes Name of District: \_\_\_\_\_

Is district listed?:  no  yes

Documentation on the property/district is presented in: Project Review and Compliance Files

Description of Property and Eligibility Determination *(Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map and photo)*

Description:

The Oakland United Methodist Church was previously surveyed in 1978 by the Anne Arundel County Department of Planning and Zoning. Since the time of that inventory, the structure has not undergone any changes and the description from 1978 remains thorough and accurate.

Significance:

Anne Arundel County runs along the western shore of the Chesapeake Bay from urban Baltimore in the north to rural Calvert County in the south. The Patapsco, Magothy, Severn, South, and West Rivers cut deep into the county from the Chesapeake forming its eastern edge into a series of peninsular necks and giving it over a hundred miles of coastline. As part of the Tidewater Plain, Anne Arundel is moderately hilly adjacent to its main streams in the east and levels off into rolling countryside towards the west. The first settlers came to this land in 1649 when a group of Puritans fleeing persecution in Virginia established Providence on Greenbury Point. Within a year they had been joined by enough people that the Maryland General Assembly established the county. The boundaries of the county

Prepared by: Kelly Steele Architectural Historian SHA

<b>MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW</b>	
Eligibility recommended <input type="checkbox"/>	Eligibility not recommended <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Criteria: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D	Consideration <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 <input type="checkbox"/> None
Comments: _____	
_____	
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services <u>[Signature]</u>	Date <u>11/14/00</u>
Reviewer, NR Program	Date

Oakland United Methodist Church

Page 2

---

changed in 1659 when land was taken to form Baltimore County, and in 1851 when the county divided to form Howard County, and again in 1919 when part of the county was added to Baltimore City.

Anne Arundel developed as an agricultural community with many large plantation providing a diversified economy based on tobacco, grain production, and some fishing. While the plantations were outnumbered by small farms worked by owners, the plantation owners set the social standard for the county and included many indentured servants who worked out their time, established small households and built them into great estates. Due to tobacco production, Anne Arundel peaked economically during the decades immediately preceding the American Revolution. Following the war, a period of decline occurred as Baltimore replaced Annapolis as the state's main port and the county's soil could no longer produce enough tobacco to sustain the previous growth. During the 1830s and 40s, the county underwent a brief agricultural renaissance when farmers began applying lime to the depleted soil, but the early nineteenth-century trends of declining productivity, population decline, and general stagnation continued. This trend began to reverse during the Civil War when prices for agricultural goods were high and the presence of Union troops in Annapolis provided a strong market for county produce. Following the war the county continued to do well and railroads developed through the area providing access to the urban markets of Washington and Baltimore.

By the early twentieth century the introduction of artificial fertilizer help rejuvenate the agriculture in the county and also, the first of what would become scores of summer communities were built. Following the Second World War, improved highways to Baltimore and Washington opened parts of Anne Arundel County as suburbs of those cities. Such changes have taken Anne Arundel County from a self-contained agricultural and maritime society to a progressive, urban community.

The Oakland United Methodist Church stands in a portion of Anne Arundel county that was part of the Parrish Grant from Lord Baltimore, surrounded by the West River and the Chesapeake Bay. This area has an irregular shape, indented by many creeks and inlets, was originally referred to as "The Swamp," and was first inhabited by the Conoy Indians. By the mid-1600's a group of Quakers settled the area and received large land grants. While the Quakers were a big influence in the early years of the area, their influence eventually died out and another religious group emerged, the Methodists. Farming and oystering provided the economic base for the residents through the 18th century, with many large farms. However, following the Civil War, many holdings were broken up, thus leading to an influx of new settlers who took advantage of the opportunity to buy land. Beginning in 1832, the West River was added to the Maryland Steamboat Company's run to Baltimore, By 1834 there were runs twice a week, and as the years went by the number of steamboat runs to West River increased and more landings were built in order to facilitate larger volumes of produce.

In addition to fishing and agriculture, providing for summer boarders became a huge industry by the late 1800s. Nearly every home owner took in summer boarders and a number of boarding hotels appeared through the area. With the advent of the first paved roads in 1920, the nature of the area changed drastically as "city people" started moving in. A large number of houses were built in waterfront developments along the Bay and West River. At first much of this new population constituted summer residents only. However, as mobility increased, the area provided permanent family homes for commuters to the adjacent cities.

**National Register Evaluation:**

While the Oakland United Methodist Church does represent the religious history of the area, it does not derive from the period of primary significance of Methodist religion in the area. In addition, the current structure replaced a previous church that was constructed in 1869. As a later construction, the church can not convey this aspect of area history. Thus, the structure does not possess an association with significant events or trends, and is not eligible under Criterion A. The structure is not eligible under Criterion B either. Research did not identify any known association with significant persons. Similarly, the structure is not eligible under Criterion C because it does not embody distinctive characteristics of a type and period of construction. While the structure does characterize a Gothic Revival style religious building, modern additions have compromised the structure's

Oakland United Methodist Church

Page 3

---

integrity. In addition to this loss of integrity, the structure is not a complete or elaborate example of Gothic Revival architecture. While it does possess simple versions of some basic identifying features including a steeply pitched roof and vergeboard gable decoration, its simple design and minimal use of traditional Gothic elements does not fully depict the style. Finally, the property has no known potential to yield important information, so it is not eligible under Criterion D. According to the Criteria Consideration guidelines, the structure is not eligible under Criteria Consideration A, and the other six Criteria Considerations do not apply. Thus, the Oakland United Methodist Church is not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, as defined by the criteria of eligibility in 36 CFR 60.

**PRESERVATION VISION 2000; THE MARYLAND PLAN**  
**STATEWIDE HISTORIC CONTEXTS**

**I. Geographic Region:**

- Eastern Shore (all Eastern Shore counties, and Cecil)  
 Western Shore (Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, Prince George's and St. Mary's)  
 Piedmont (Baltimore City, Baltimore, Carroll, Frederick, Harford, Howard, Montgomery)  
 Western Maryland (Allegany, Garrett and Washington)

**II. Chronological/Developmental Periods:**

- Rural Agrarian Intensification A.D. 1680-1815  
 Agricultural-Industrial Transition A.D. 1815-1870  
 Industrial/Urban Dominance A.D. 1870-1930  
 Modern Period A.D. 1930- Present  
 Unknown Prehistoric  
 Unknown Historic

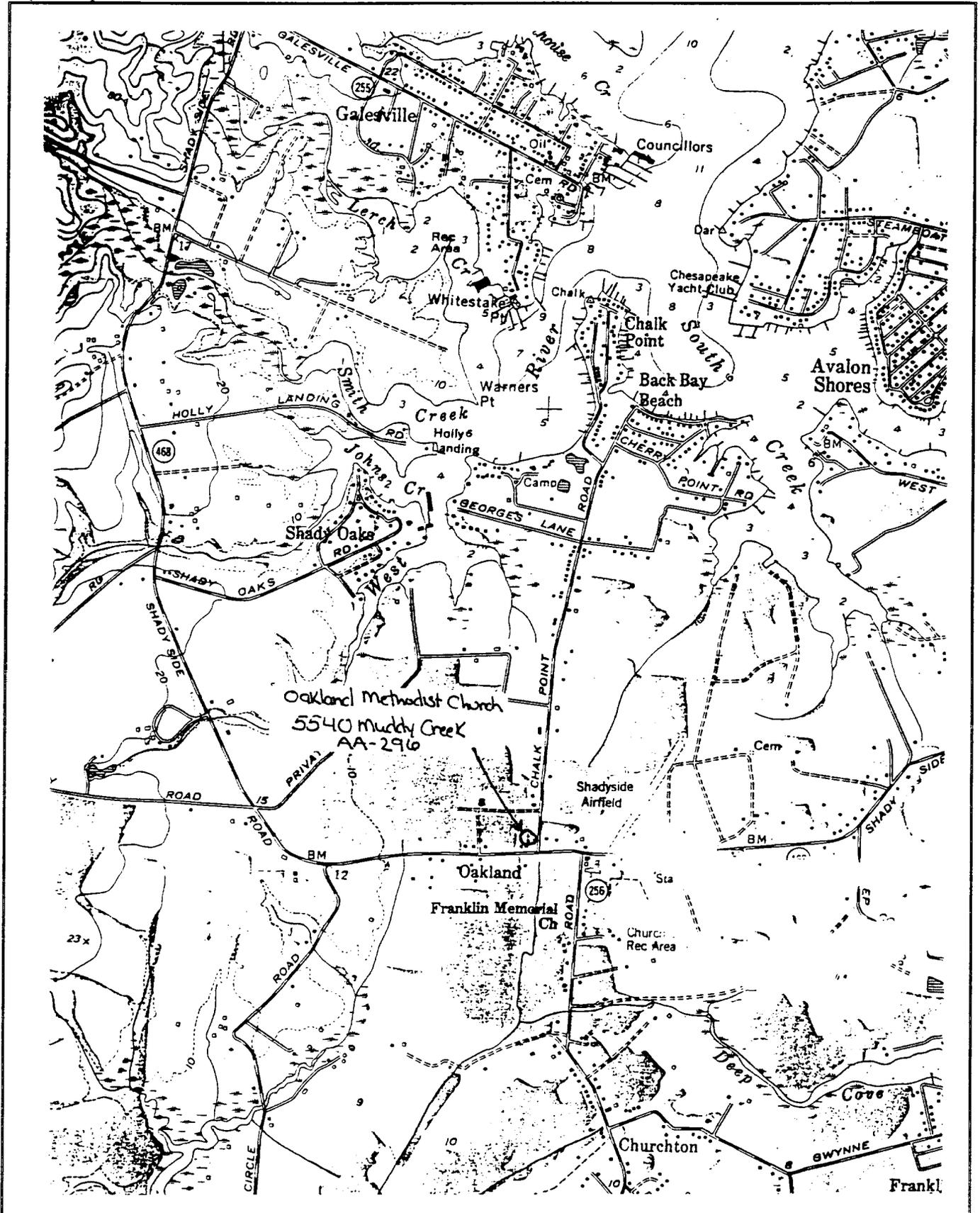
**IV. Historic Period Themes:**

- Agriculture  
 Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Community Planning  
 Economic (Commercial and Industrial)  
 Government/Law  
 Military  
 Religion  
 Social Educational/Cultural  
 Transportation

**V. Resource Type:**

Category: Building  
 Historic environment: Rural  
 Historic Function(s) and Use(s): Religion/religious facility  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Known Design Source: None

Survey No. AA-296  
Resource Name Oakland Methodist Church, 5540 Muddy Creek Road  
Town/County Churchton, Anne Arundel County  
Quad Map Deale





1. PA 292
2. On bridge over Muddy Creek
3. Muddy Creek Rd, Churchton
4. near Anndel, Maryland
5. 21 - Steele
6. September 2000
7. 5HA
8. View from Muddy Creek (MD468) north to main bridge
9. 10F4



1. AA-296
2. Oakland Methodist Church  
5540 Muddy Creek Rd, Churchton
3. Anne Anndel, MD
4. Kelly Steele
5. September 2000
6. SHA
7. South, main, facade of original structure
8. 2 of 4



1. AA-296
2. Oakland Methodist Church  
5540 Muddy Creek Rd, Churchton
3. Anne Anundel, MD
4. Kelly Steels
5. September 2000
6. SHA
7. East Facade of newer portion, taken from north  
on Chalk Point Road
8. 3 of 4



1. AA-296

2. Oakland Methodist Church

5540 Muddy Creek Road, Churchton

3. Anne Arundel, MD

4. Kelly Steeb

5. September 2000

6. SHA

7. North, Rear of structure taken from Chalk Point  
Road Ferry south

8. 4 of 4

## MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

AA-39-U-A

map 30

MAHI #0202964508

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**HISTORIC Oakland Methodist Church

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**STREET & NUMBER northwest corner of Chalk Point Rd. and Rt.468, ChurchtonCITY, TOWN Churchton

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

VICINITY OF

STATE MDCOUNTY 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
			<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
			<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**NAME United  
Oakland Methodist Church

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER Churchton, MD

20733

CITY, TOWN

STATE, zip code

VICINITY OF

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE, Anne Arundel  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.Liber #: SH 4Folio #: 159

STREET &amp; NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Annapolis**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

 FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION**

<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"/> MOVED	DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED			
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED				

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

(c. 1840)

The Oakland Methodist Church is located on the northwest corner of Chalk Point Rd. and Route 468, Churchton. The structure is a starkly simple one room, frame, Gothic Revival Church. It is a one story rectangular building under a steeply pitched roof with overhanging, bracketed eaves and a perforated bargeboard. German siding covers the building and a low brick foundation underlies it. A c. 1950 enclosed corridor connects the church to the church hall. The latter building is covered with german siding on the front, has weather boards flanks and rear; and a gable front roof. It was constructed in the first quarter of the 20th century. The church and its additions face south. An enclosed porch, with a roof similar to the main one, but without a bargeboard, extends from the center of the building.

The main entrance is through the porch on the front of the church. Three brick steps with a railing lead to eight-paneled doors.

The only window opening in the principal facade is a small oculus filled with stained glass, midway between the porch and bargeboard. Windows in the east and west sides of the porch admit light to the entrance. Four pointed arch windows with wide board frames and 4/4 light sash are in the east and west elevations of the church. A five sided apse on the rear displays a rectangular stained glass window. It appears that the roof of the apse has recently been shingled with wood.

A driveway and a bare lot with patches of grass extends from the road ( Rt. 468) to the front of the church; behind it are mature trees.

There are no outbuildings.

Interior: There are many ~~paint~~<sup>ad</sup> grain surfaces inside the church: the back of the double doors, window sills and wainscot in the porch, and the wainscot in the church. The walls and ceiling in the church proper are tin embossed with a ~~trifol~~<sup>quatrefoil</sup> design.

# 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input 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 c. 1890

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The cornerstone of this small, frame, Carpenter Gothic Church was laid in 1889, and the building was completed in 1892. It was the second church on the site. The older church, built in 1869, was moved to Cedar Grove; it burned a few years later. Services in the late 19th and 20th centuries were held on alternate Sunday afternoons. Horses and buggies were tied at the fence around the church yard and many people walked several miles to attend services and revivals; the latter, held in the summer, were an important part of church life. The porch on the front of the church was added c. 1910.

The interior retains its turn of the century pressed metal walls and ceiling, stamped with a design of Gothic arches and quatrefoils. The wainscot of the church and the porch are grained to simulate oak, which was the wood chosen for the altar, altar rail and pews.

The congregation carefully maintains the character and appearance of their church.

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

100th Anniversary -Oakland United Methodist Church 1869- 1969

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE COUNTY

STATE COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

Marion Norton Carroll- Historic Sites Survey

ORGANIZATION

Anne Arundel Ct. Dept. of Planning and Zoning

DATE

August, 1978

STREET & NUMBER

Arundel Center

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Annapolis

STATE

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



AA-  
296

aa-39-4-a  
(map 30)

Oakland Church  
South elevation

Ambiatt 8/75



AA-  
296

AA-39-U-a  
(map 30)

Oakland Church  
South elevation

Amblatt 1975