

CONTRIBUTING RESOURCE
MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
INTERNAL NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM

Property Name: Mt. Zion Church Survey Number: AA-892

Property Address: Bacontown, Md.

Project: CDBG Bacontown Sewer Installation (9203650) Agency: Anne Arundel Co.

Site visit by MHT Staff: no yes Name _____ Date _____

District Name: Bacontown Historic District Survey Number: AA-

Listed Eligible _____ Comment

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

The resource contributes/ does not contribute to the historic significance of this historic district in:

Location Design Setting Materials

Workmanship Feeling Association

Justification for decision: (Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map)

Mt. Zion Church is the second or third church on this site. An earlier log building stood just east of the present church and dated to the late 19th century. The present church may date to 1909. It has been added to several times and covered in stucco. This church contributes to the National Register eligible Bacontown Historic District as part of the collection of three buildings that hold local significance in the history of African-Americans in Anne Arundel County. It is significant under Criterion A as part of a group of structures that possess symbolic historical significance that represent the development of African-American communities in Anne Arundel County.

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

and Maryland Inventory Files

Prepared by: Donna M. Ware, Anne Arundel County

Ellen Inese
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

12/17/92
Date

NR program concurrence: yes no not applicable

R. Andrew
Reviewer, NR program

12-21-93
Date

James

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA - HISTORIC CONTEXT

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:

- Paleo-Indian 10000-7500 B.C.
- Early Archaic 7500-6000 B.C.
- Middle Archaic 6000-4000 B.C.
- Late Archaic 4000-2000 B.C.
- Early Woodland 2000-500 B.C.
- Middle Woodland 500 B.C. - A.D. 900
- Late Woodland/Archaic A.D. 900-1600
- Contact and Settlement A.D. 1570-1750
- 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 Period (prehistoric historic)

III. Prehistoric Period Themes:

- Subsistence
- Settlement
- Political
- Demographic
- Religion
- Technology
- Environmental Adaption

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 Village

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

Known Design Source: None

AA-892

built 1913

Mount Zion Methodist Church

Bacontown community of Laurel, Anne Arundel County

Private

Mt. Zion Methodist Church is significant for its important role in the social development of the predominately African-American community of Bacontown. Bacontown was established by free and enslaved blacks prior to the Civil War and continues to retain its distinctive sense of place.

Architecturally, this building is a center-steeple example of Gothic Revival style architecture. The Gothic Revival style was widely used in ecclesiastical architecture from the second quarter of the 19th century well into the 20th century.

Maryland Historical Trust

State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. AA-892

Magi No.

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Mt. Zion Methodist Church

and/or common Mt. Zion United Methodist Church

2. Location

street & number 3592 Whiskey Bottom Road not for publication

city, town Laurel 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	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<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"/> 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 Mt. Zion United Methodist Church

street & number 3592 Whiskey Bottom Road telephone no.: _____

city, town Laurel state and zip code: Maryland 20724

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Anne Arundel County Courthouse liber 3236

street & number Franklin Street folio 47

city, town Annapolis state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title _____

federal state county local

depository for survey records _____

city, town _____ state _____

7. Description

Survey No. AA-892

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" 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.

Mt. Zion United Methodist Church is located on the south side of Whiskey Bottom Road in the small and predominately African-American community of Bacontown. It neighbors St. Jacobs Lodge and cemetery (AA-894) and is across the street from the Mary Elizabeth Henson House (AA-893). The building sits on a one-half acre lot. A gravel parking area, shared by both the church and lodge building, is located directly east of the church, while a smaller, paved parking area is located on the church's west side

Facing northeast, this small, modest church is one-story tall with walls covered with white stucco. The building is defined by its square center steeple, which projects from the middle of the three-bay façade. The steeple, which lacks a bell tower, rises above the main body of the church and is capped by a pyramidal roof. Its eaves, as well as those on the main building, display very little overhang. A narrow fascia board is present. The main entrance is in the front steeple wall and consists of a pair of modern, heavy metal doors. Bricks set flush into the wall above the entrance form a cross. Fenestration is symmetrical and evenly spaced. Three tall and one short stained glass lancet windows are located in the west wall. Brick spandrels are used to give the effect of square frames. Conversely, the front façade features a square-framed, stained-glass window on either side of the steeple. Each square frame has a pointed arch cap, created by regular and herringbone-patterned bricks set flush into the wall. Original east side fenestration is obscured by additions to the church.

Periodizing the building is complicated by the presence of stucco. At least two building episodes are represented in the east-side wing. This wing currently serves as the Sunday school and church hall.

The building's interior was not examined.

8. Significance

Survey No. AA-892

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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" 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) (recreation)

Specific dates	1913	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.

This small vernacular church is important for its association with the social development of the African-American community of Bacontown. Furthermore, it is a fair example of center-steeple type, Gothic-Revival style church architecture. The Gothic Revival enjoyed immense popularity in ecclesiastical architecture from the second quarter of the 19th century well into the 20th century. The center steeple configuration is one of the most common of the style (1).

This building was constructed in 1913, but according to a boundary description for a neighboring parcel, a church was standing on this property by 1890. The community of Bacontown was established by free and enslaved blacks prior to the Civil War and developed on property owned by the Dorsey family. The church is built on land willed in 1880 by Acsah Dorsey to Mary Virginia "Jerry" Moore. Moore was the daughter of Maria (sometimes Moriah) Bacon, and a member of the family for whom the community is named. Moore, Bacon, and another woman named Lou Scott were manumitted by Dorsey in 1860 and shared a 30 acre inheritance after Dorsey's death. Acsah Dorsey's will indicates the three women were already living on the property at the time that document was written. While a church was standing on Moore's property by at least 1890, title was not legally conveyed until after Moore's death in 1907. St. Jacob's Lodge of the Sons and Daughters of Abraham, which stands directly adjacent Mt. Zion Church, is also built on land that belonged to Moore (2).

Mt. Zion United Methodist Church and St. Jacobs Lodge were important social institutions and helped to forge a cohesive and enduring community. Bacontown's survival in a highly developed suburban setting is a testament the people and the institutions that exist here.

AA- 892

Built 1913

Mt. Zion Methodist Church

Bacontown community of Laurel, Anne Arundel County

Private

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Western Shore

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

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme(s): architecture

Resource Type:

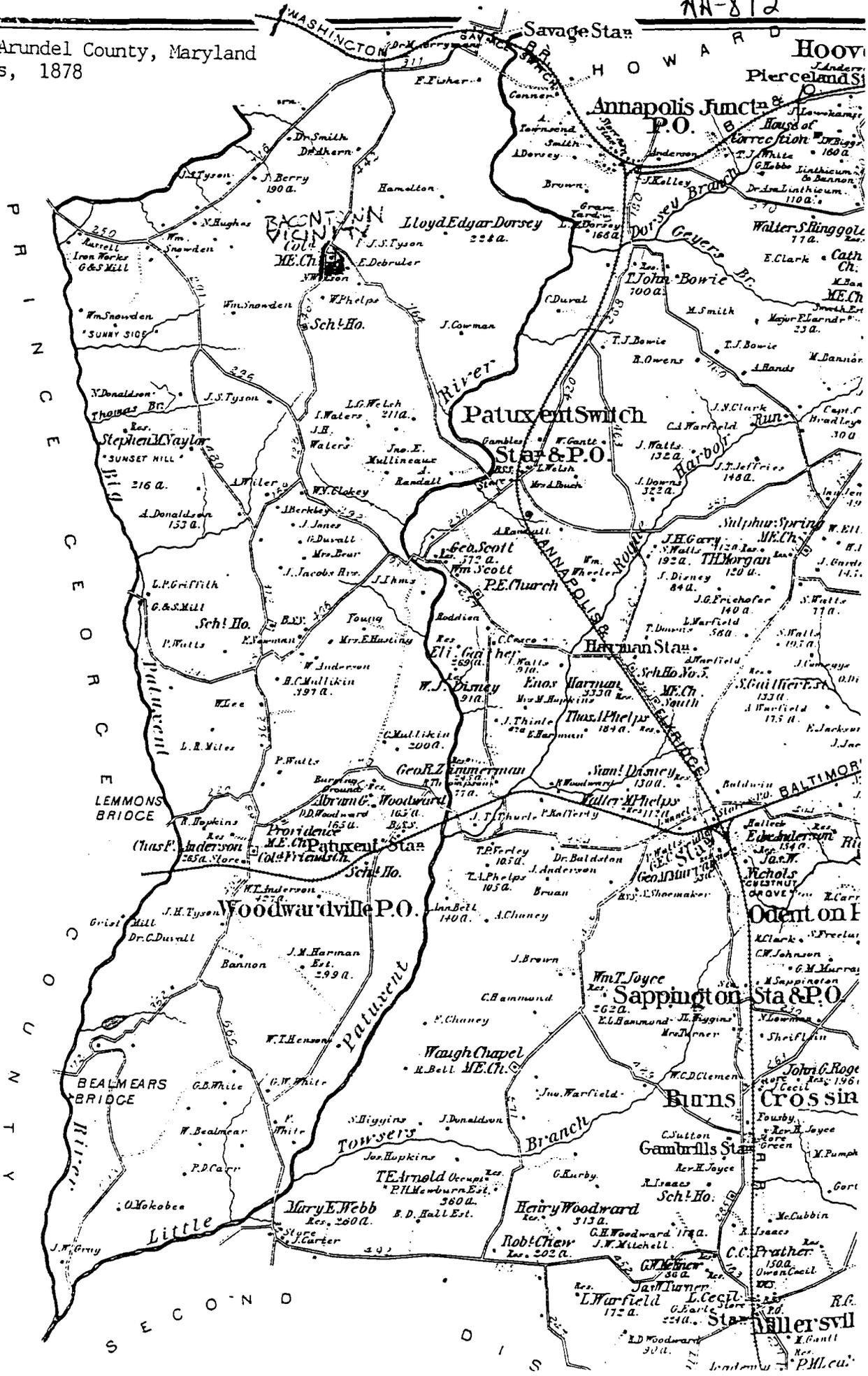
Category Type: Building

Historic Environment: village

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

Known Design Source: none

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



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WASHINGTON

Savage Station

HOOPER
Pierceland St

Annapolis Junction
P.O.

BAWNTOWN
VICINITY
ME. Ch.

Patuxent Switch
Sta & P.O.

Woodwardville P.O.

Sappington Sta & P.O.

Burns Cross Sta

Waller's Mill

BEALMEARS BRIDGE

LEMMONS BRIDGE

Providence
ME. Ch. Patuxent Sta

Wm. T. Joyce
Sch. Ho.

Nichols
Chestnut Grove

Mary E. Webb
Res. 260 a.

Henry Woodward
Res. 513 a.

Gambrells Sta

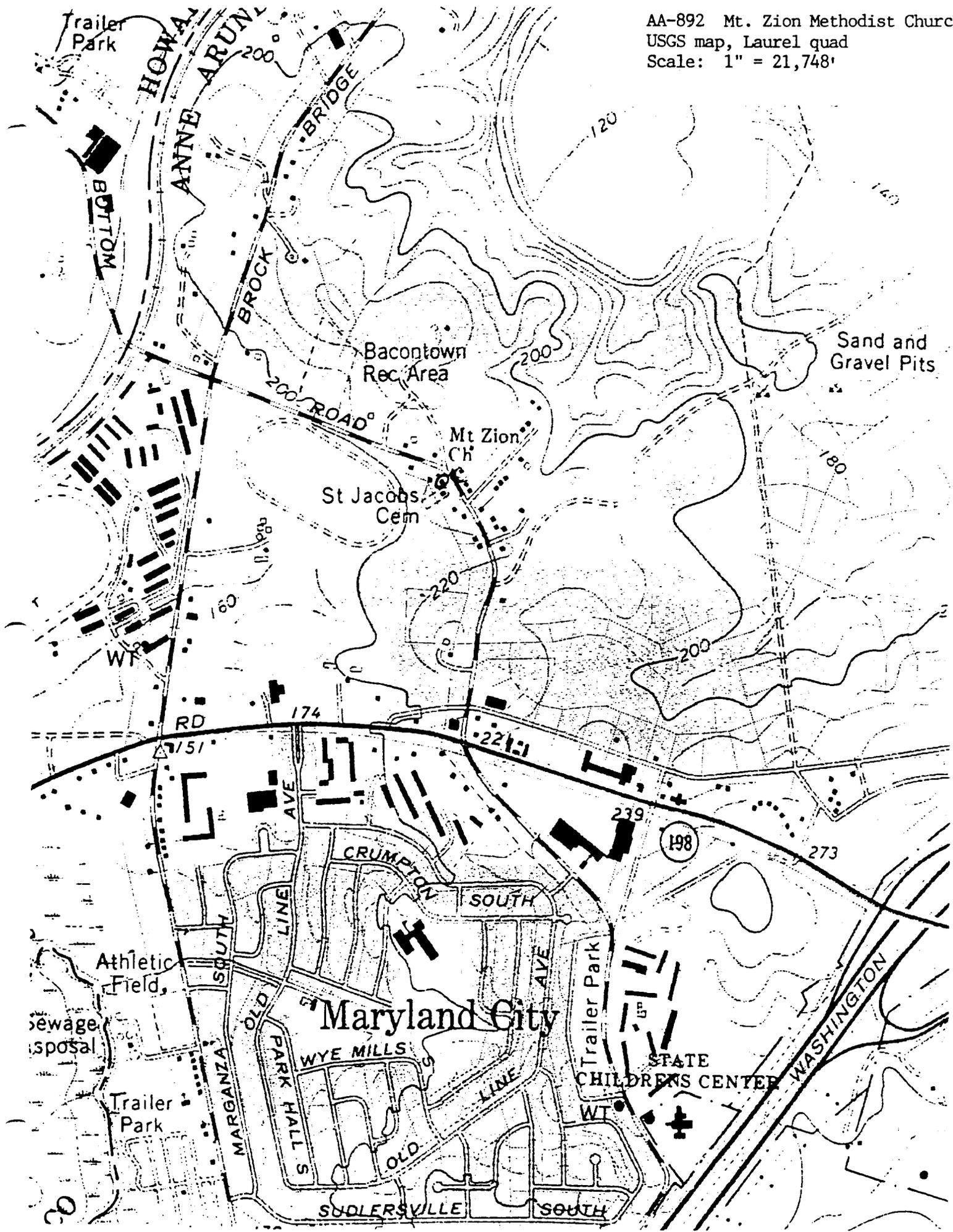
C.C. Prather
1500

George Zimmerman
Res. 270 a.

Wm. J. Dancy
Res. 910 a.

Wm. J. Dancy
Res. 1300 a.

Wm. J. Dancy
Res. 910 a.





AA-892

Mt. Zion Methodist Church

Barontown community, Laurel, Anne Arundel Co.

by Sherri Marsh

October 1997

Negative at Maryland SHPO

Camera facing S/SE

Photo 1 of 1



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