

Wilton Heights Methodist Protestant Church
B-5260
3523 Hayward Avenue
Baltimore
Date of Construction: 1909, 1916, 1930
Access: Private

Capsule Summary

Wilton Heights Methodist Protestant Church is located at 3523 Hayward Avenue in the Park Heights neighborhood of Baltimore, Maryland. The church faces north and has an irregular form. It was built in three construction phases from south to north—original church (1909), auditorium (1916), and front vestibule (1930). The building is constructed of Gwynns Falls granite with a cross gable roof clad with slate shingles. The main portion of the original church has a gable roof clad with asphalt shingles while the rear section has a flat roof. The entire structure is a single-story building on a raised basement. Built in the late Gothic Revival style, the Wilton Heights Methodist Protestant Church features pointed arch windows and doorways, shouldered buttresses, and two square towers. Renovations to the interior were completed in the 1990s. In 1996, the Berean Baptist Church moved into the building.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. B-5260

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Wilton Heights Methodist Protestant Church (preferred name)

other Berean Baptist Church

2. Location

street and number 3523 Hayward Avenue not for publication

city, town Baltimore vicinity

county

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

name The Berean Baptist Church of Baltimore City, Inc.

street and number 3525 Hayward Avenue telephone (410) 664-7317

city, town Baltimore state MD zip code 21215-5046

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Clarence M. Mitchell Courthouse, 6th Floor liber 3126 folio 421

city, town Baltimore tax map 27 tax parcel 21, 4550, 35 tax ID number 27214550 035

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- Contributing Resource in National Register District
 Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
 Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
 Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
 Recorded by HABS/HAER
 Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
 Other:

6. Classification

| Category | Ownership | Current Function | Resource Count |
|-----------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|--|
| <u> </u> district | <u> </u> public | <u> </u> agriculture | <u> </u> landscape |
| <u>X</u> building(s) | <u>X</u> private | <u> </u> commerce/trade | <u> </u> recreation/culture |
| <u> </u> structure | <u> </u> both | <u> </u> defense | <u>X</u> religion |
| <u> </u> site | | <u> </u> domestic | <u> </u> social |
| <u> </u> object | | <u> </u> education | <u> </u> transportation |
| | | <u> </u> funerary | <u> </u> work in progress |
| | | <u> </u> government | <u> </u> unknown |
| | | <u> </u> health care | <u> </u> vacant/not in use |
| | | <u> </u> industry | <u> </u> other: |
| | | | Contributing <u>1</u> |
| | | | Noncontributing <u> </u> |
| | | | buildings <u> </u> |
| | | | sites <u> </u> |
| | | | structures <u> </u> |
| | | | objects <u> </u> |
| | | | Total <u> </u> |
| | | | Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory |
| | | | <u>0</u> |

7. Description

Inventory No. B-5260

Condition

excellent deteriorated
 good ruins
 fair altered

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

Summary

Wilton Heights Methodist Protestant Church is located at 3523 Hayward Avenue in the Park Heights neighborhood of Baltimore, Maryland (Attachment 1). The church faces north and has an irregular form. It was built in three construction phases from south to north—original church (1909), auditorium (1916), and front vestibule (1930). The progression is illustrated in the 1914 and 1929 Sanborn Insurance Maps (Attachments 2 and 3). The building is constructed of Gwynns Falls granite with a cross gable roof clad with slate shingles. The main portion of the original church has a gable roof clad with asphalt shingles while the rear section of the original church has a flat roof. The entire structure is a single-story building on a raised basement. Built in the late Gothic Revival style, the Wilton Heights Methodist Protestant Church features pointed arch windows and doorways, shouldered buttresses, and two square towers. Renovations to the interior were completed in the 1990s.

Comprehensive Description

North Elevation (Main Façade)

The north elevation of the church serves as the main entrance (Figure 1). It is part of the 1930 vestibule addition that was added to the 1916 auditorium addition. The north elevation is composed of a central gable flanked by two towers. These three components (the central gable and the two towers) are united by a water table.

The east bell tower is the larger of the two towers and reaches above the central gable. It is composed of a two-stage single bay with buttresses at the corners and a stepped parapet. The first stage is defined by a single belt course at the top of the buttresses that runs below the louvered vents of the second stage. A double-door entryway, surmounted by a narrow rectangular window, pierces the first stage. The door is set within a stone pointed arch surround with a stained-glass tympanum and serves as the main entrance to the church. Six granite stairs with metal railings provide access to this entrance. The second stage consists of a pair of louvered vents set in stone pointed arch surrounds. A second belt course is present at the impost line of the pointed arch vent surrounds. A third, narrower, projecting belt course is present at the base of the parapet wall, completing the second stage. The parapet wall is capped with stone coping. A square spire rises from the third belt course at the center of the parapet. To the west of the bell tower, the central gable has three bays. Three pointed arch stained-glass windows on the first floor are stacked above three rectangular basement windows located below the water table. A single round window with a stone surround is centered in the gable. The parapet gable has a square apex and is flanked by low, shouldered buttresses.

The westernmost bay is composed of a single-stage tower, which has less ornamentation than the east tower. This tower is slightly recessed from the center gable and has a single belt course at the bottom of the shaped parapet wall. Like the east tower, the double doorway is set in a pointed arch stone surround with a stained-glass tympanum and a narrow rectangular window above.

There is no basement level in the easternmost bay. The entry door is level with the ground.

East Elevation

All three periods of construction are visible on the east elevation (Figure 2). Located in the three southernmost bays, the first period of construction, dated to 1909, consists of a flat-roofed portion with a gabled parapet and a gabled section. The main block of the church, constructed in 1916 as an auditorium, is to the north of the original building and consists of the three central bays. The 1930 addition consists of a front vestibule affixed to the north end of the 1916 construction. It consists of the northeast tower, which has one bay. All three periods have a water table, although the water table on the first period is of rough stone while the remaining two periods are smooth.

The first bay, located on the southern end of the building, consists of a wood door surmounted by a large stained-glass pointed arch tympanum in a stone surround. Although this portion of the 1909 construction has a flat roof, a gabled parapet wall with a cornice and metal finial emphasize the roofline. The subsequent bay is composed of the gabled portion of the first period of construction. It consists of a large 10-light gothic window with a stained-glass tympanum in a stone surround. Two basement-level windows with

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stone lintels have been infilled. A box cornice, identical to that on the parapet wall in the first bay, decorates the roofline. Terminating the 1909 period of construction, the third bay has a square tower with a pointed arch doorway surmounted by two rectangular louvered vents with stone sills and lintels. It is capped by a crenelated parapet with a central tin finial. Three concrete stairs lead up to the doorway.

The second phase of construction, which now serves as the main block of the church, is dated to 1916. It is composed of the fourth, fifth, and sixth bays of the structure. The cross gable of the main block is a parapet gable and forms the sixth bay. It features a large five-light stained-glass gothic window with a stone lintel and sill. Three basement-level windows are centered below. A square apex is present on the parapet. In the two recessed bays flanking the cross gable, there is a single pointed arch double-hung sash window stacked above a rectangular basement window. A below-grade stair in the fourth bay provides access to the basement. It is surmounted by a metal awning. The seventh bay is composed of the northeast tower, which was built as part of the 1930 addition. Similar to the north elevation, the tower consists of a single bay with two stages. The first stage features a single rectangular window on the basement level and a pointed arch, fixed-window surmounted by a narrow rectangular window on the first floor. The second stage has a pair of louvered vents set in pointed arch stone surrounds. Three belt courses and a water table add horizontal definition to the tower, which is flanked by three-stage shouldered buttresses. The tower is capped by a stepped parapet wall with a spire.

South Elevation

The south elevation, or rear of the three-part church, comprises the original 1909 structure (Figure 3). It has a total of four bays under a simple gable roof with an extended shed roof in the southernmost 4 feet. From west to east, the first three bays are identical. Each features a single-light pointed arch fixed window above a rectangular basement window that has been infilled. The easternmost bay has a pointed arch fixed window set at a lower level than those of the first three bays. A stone chimney rises from the flat roof in the westernmost bay.

West Elevation

Like the east elevation, all three phases of construction are visible on the west elevation. The seven-bay elevation is partially obscured at the basement-level by a concrete cistern. The first bay consists of the northwest tower (Figure 4). It is fenestrated with two stacked, narrow rectangular windows between the water table and upper belt course. A stepped parapet wall caps the bay. The main block of this elevation was built in 1916 and consists of the second through fourth bays. The second and fourth bays are recessed from the vertical surface of the building. The second bay has a double-hung sash window set in a pointed arch stone surround. The third bay consists of the cross gable of the main block and has the same large, five-light stained glass gothic window as the west elevation. The gable is capped with a square stone apex. South of the cross gable, two pointed arch windows compose the fourth bay, which terminates the 1916 construction. The fifth through seventh bays comprise the original 1909 construction. The fifth and sixth bays are fenestrated with a single pointed arch window in each. Fenestration on the last bay was not accessible.

8. Significance

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| Period | Areas of Significance | Check and justify below | | |
|---|---|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699 | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> economics | <input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine | <input type="checkbox"/> performing arts |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799 | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology | <input type="checkbox"/> education | <input type="checkbox"/> industry | <input type="checkbox"/> philosophy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> invention | <input type="checkbox"/> politics/government |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999 | <input type="checkbox"/> art | <input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation | <input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2000- | <input type="checkbox"/> commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage | <input type="checkbox"/> law | <input type="checkbox"/> science |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> communications | <input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement | <input type="checkbox"/> literature | <input type="checkbox"/> social history |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> community planning | | <input type="checkbox"/> maritime history | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> conservation | | <input type="checkbox"/> military | <input type="checkbox"/> other: _____ |

Specific dates

Architect/Builder

Construction dates 1909, 1916, 1930

Evaluation for:

National Register

Maryland Register

not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

Summary

The Wilton Heights Methodist Protestant Church was built in 1909. It was expanded in 1916 and again in 1930. In 1996, the Berean Baptist Church moved into the building.

History

Wilton Heights Methodist Protestant Church¹

In January 1909, the Reverend T.R. Woodford decided to establish a church in Arlington, Maryland.² On March 5 of that year, church leadership selected the lot at Hayward and Wilton Avenues. A \$700 loan was granted by the board of managers of the Church Extension of the Maryland Conference on May 4, 1909, and proceeds from the sale of the Methodist Protestant Church at Whiteground near Hebbville were donated to the Arlington church.

The furniture from the Whiteground church was moved to Arlington and used in a temporary structure on the new church lot. The cornerstone of the chapel was laid on September 26, 1909, with ceremonies conducted by the pastor, Reverend T.R. Woodford, assisted by W.O. Atwood and Reverend D.W. Anstine. Reverend G.W. Haddaway, pastor of Starr Church, delivered the address. The church formally opened on November 21, 1909.

At the annual conference of the Methodist Protestant Church, the new church asked for a pastor, and the Reverend Ronalds Taylor was assigned to the church. The new church grew rapidly and in 1915, plans were completed to build a large auditorium. The cornerstone was laid that year, and the addition was dedicated in April 1916.

Berean Baptist Church³

The Berean Baptist Church had its beginning when individuals in Pimlico formed a Sunday School under a locust tree on Denmore Avenue in the summer of 1916. The people who came brought chairs from their nearby homes or sat on the grass. When it began to get cold, the group rented a house at 5200 Denmore Avenue and used it for services. The Berean Baptist Church was founded at this house in March 1917 with the help of Reverend William Alexander, who was the pastor of Sharon Baptist Church. Reverend Alexander preached the first sermon, gave the church its name, and made it part of Sharon Baptist Church until a pastor was secured.

¹ The information in this section is based on "Methodist Protestants Build Wilton Heights Church in 1916" (*Baltimore Post*, December 21, 1931); Churches vertical file, Maryland Room, Enoch Pratt Library, Baltimore, Maryland.

² Arlington, Maryland, became the Arlington neighborhood of Baltimore when Baltimore annexed the land in 1919.

³ Information in this section is based on "Berean History" (Berean Baptist Church website, n.d.). Available at <http://bereanbaptistofbaltimore.com/id2.html>. Viewed June 8, 2012.

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In September 1917, the first pastor, Reverend Sidney J. Edwards, was called to lead the church. Under his direction, the building at 5202 Denmore Avenue was acquired. The church was also used as a school for the children of the community until the School Board of Baltimore could have one erected.

The Arlington Presbyterian Church donated a huge pipe organ and a piano to the church between 1920 and 1930.

Reverend Edwards was succeeded by Reverend Samuel Cephas and then Reverend Robert Plato. The cornerstone of Berean was laid on October 26, 1930, under leadership of Reverend Plato. Reverend Plato was the pastor until 1933. Reverend A.J. Frye was elected in 1933 and served until 1942.

On March 5, 1942, Reverend Edward Alexander Brown became the pastor. Under his leadership, the church was renovated, and the mortgage was burned in March 1944. The officers and members during Reverend Brown's tenure elected Reverend Joseph McDaniel as assistant pastor. Reverend Brown continued as pastor until July 1971.

Reverend Booker T. Jackson joined Berean Baptist Church and was baptized there on August 15, 1971. He offered his services as interim pastor free of charge and served in this capacity until May 1972. Reverend J. Marion Bradley was elected on June 6, 1972. On June 20, 1975, Reverend Bradley's tenure was terminated.

The church membership elected Reverend John A. Lunn, Sr., as pastor on July 26, 1976. Reverend James McEachin, the church evangelist, was ordained in the spring of 1997.

In 1996, Berean Baptist Church moved into the newly renovated building at 3523 Hayward Avenue.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. B-5260

"Berean History." n.d. Berean Baptist Church website (<http://bereanbaptistofbaltimore.com/id2.html>).

"Methodist Protestants Build Wilton Heights Church in 1916." 1931, December 2. *Baltimore Post*. Churches vertical file, Maryland Room, Enoch Pratt Library, Baltimore, Maryland.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 0.17 acres
Acreage of historical setting 0.17 acres
Quadrangle name Baltimore West

Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The parcel Ward 27, Section 21, Block 4550, Lot 035 is the current and historic property description.

11. Form Prepared by

| | | | |
|-----------------|---|-----------|----------------|
| name/title | Robyn Chrabasz, Historic Preservation Officer | | |
| organization | WLS Corporation for Baltimore City DHCD | date | June 2012 |
| street & number | 417 E. Fayette Street, Suite 313 | telephone | (443) 984-1871 |
| city or town | Baltimore | state | MD |

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties 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.

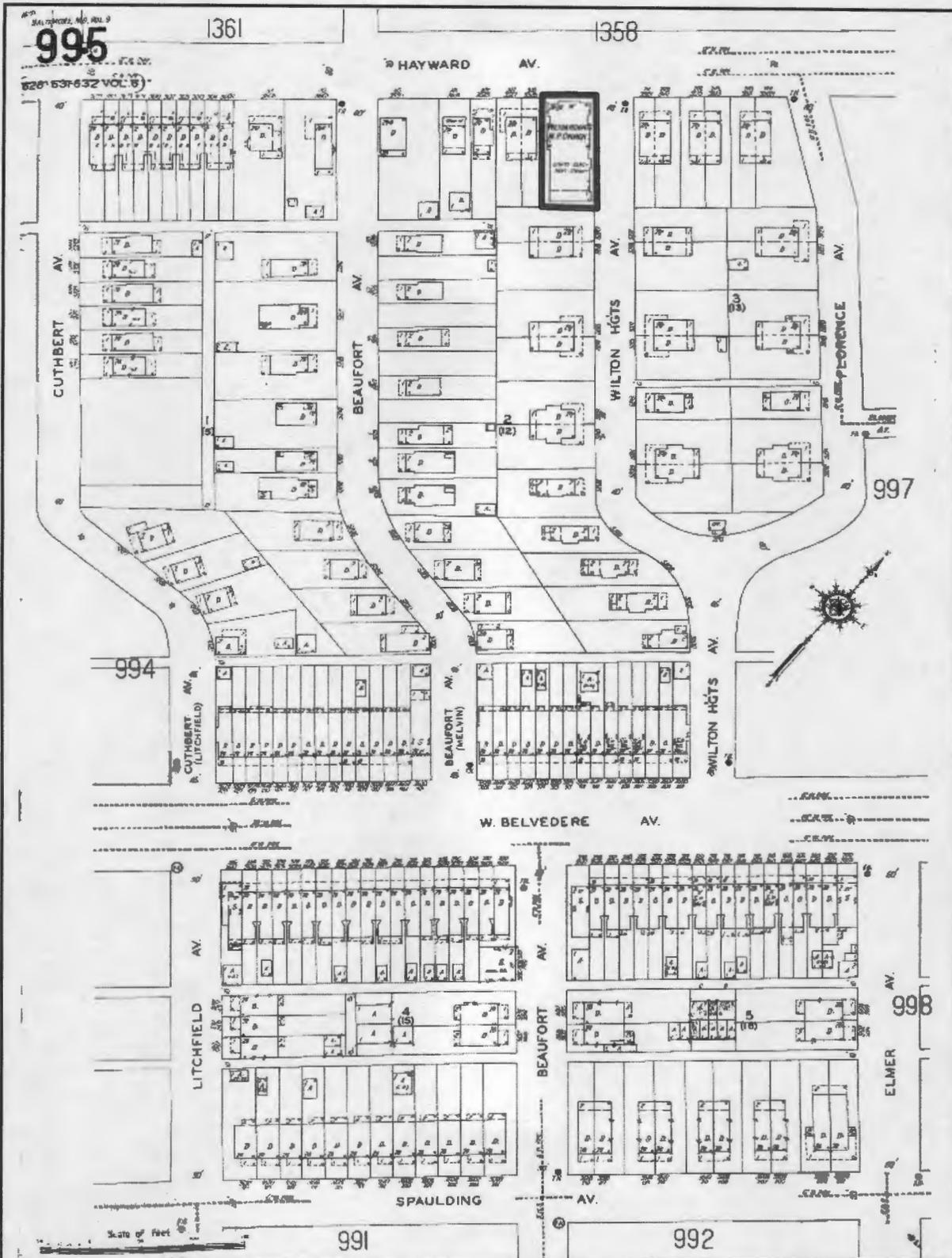
return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Department of Planning
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600



| | | | |
|---------|---|--|----------------------|
| PROJECT | Baltimore Housing | Topographic Map of Wilton Heights Methodist Protestant Church | |
| SCALE | 1:24,000 | | |
| SOURCE | USGS 7.5' Series Baltimore West MD 1953 | URS | Project No. 15303130 |
| | | | Attachment 1 |



| | | | |
|---------|-----------------------|----------------------------|----------------------|
| PROJECT | Baltimore Housing | 1914 Sanborn Insurance Map | |
| SCALE | See Map | URS | Project No. 15303130 |
| SOURCE | Sanborn Insurance Map | | Attachment 2 |



| | | | |
|---------|-----------------------|----------------------------|----------------------|
| PROJECT | Baltimore Housing | 1929 Sanborn Insurance Map | |
| SCALE | See Map | URS | Project No. 15303130 |
| SOURCE | Sanborn Insurance Map | | Attachment 3 |



| | | | |
|---------|--------------------------------|---|----------------------|
| PROJECT | Baltimore Housing | Photo Map Key, Wilton Heights Methodist Protestant Church | |
| SCALE | N/A | URS | Project No. 15303130 |
| SOURCE | Google Earth Professional 2012 | | Attachment 4 |



St. John's Church
1000 ...
...
...
...

B-5260

WILTON HEIGHTS METHODIST PROTESTANT CHURCH

BALTIMORE, MARYLAND

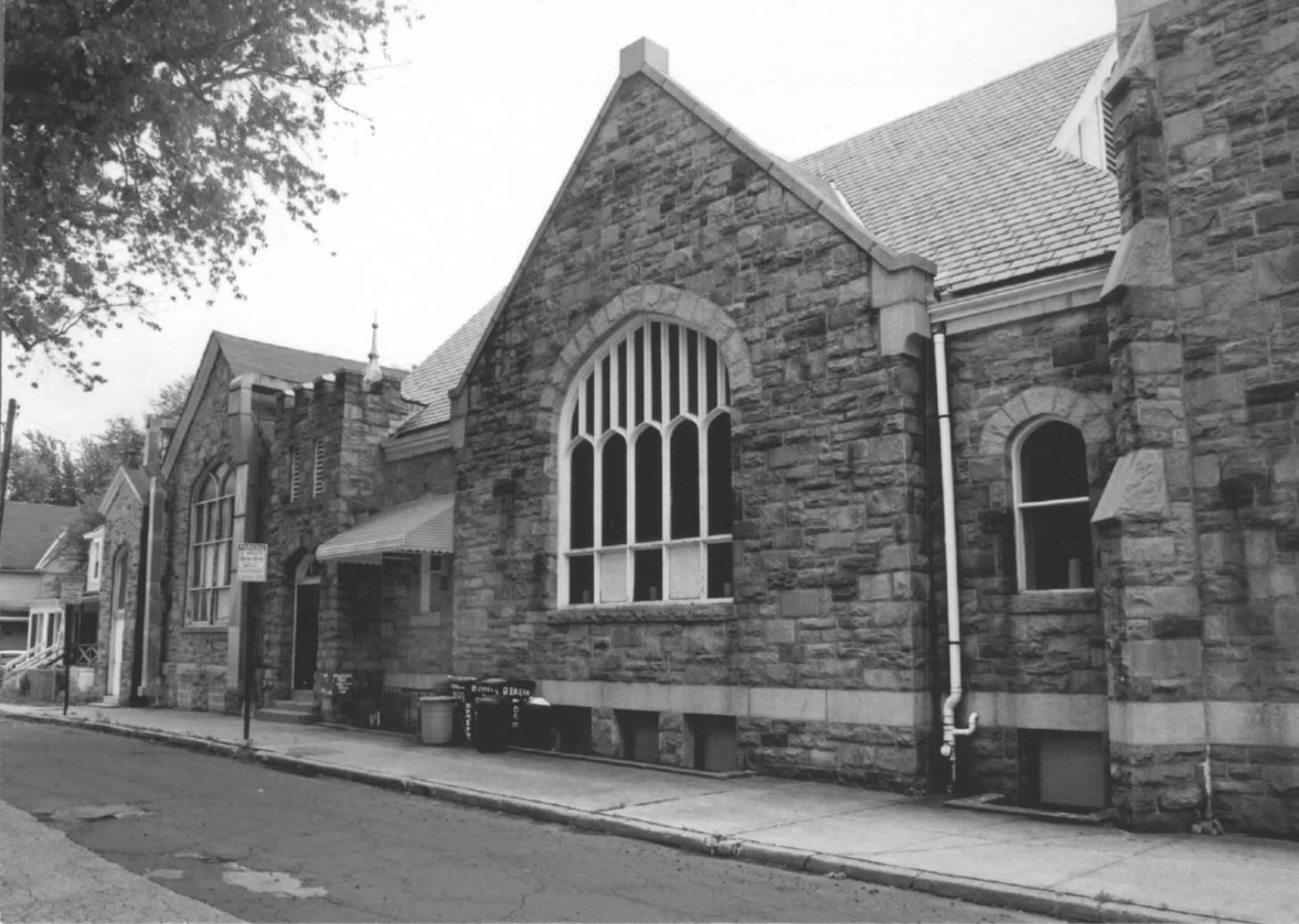
BRIAN CLEVEN

30 MAY 2012

MD SHPO

WILTON HEIGHTS METHODIST PROTESTANT CHURCH, MAIN FACADE, LOOKING SOUTH.

#1 OF 4



B-5260

WILTON HEIGHTS METHODIST PROTESTANT CHURCH

BALTIMORE, MARYLAND

BRIAN CLEVEN

30 MAY 2012

MD SHPO

WILTON HEIGHTS METHODIST PROTESTANT CHURCH, EAST ELEVATION, LOOKING SOUTH.

2 OF 4



B- 5260

WILTON HEIGHTS METHODIST PROTESTANT CHURCH

BALTIMORE, MARYLAND

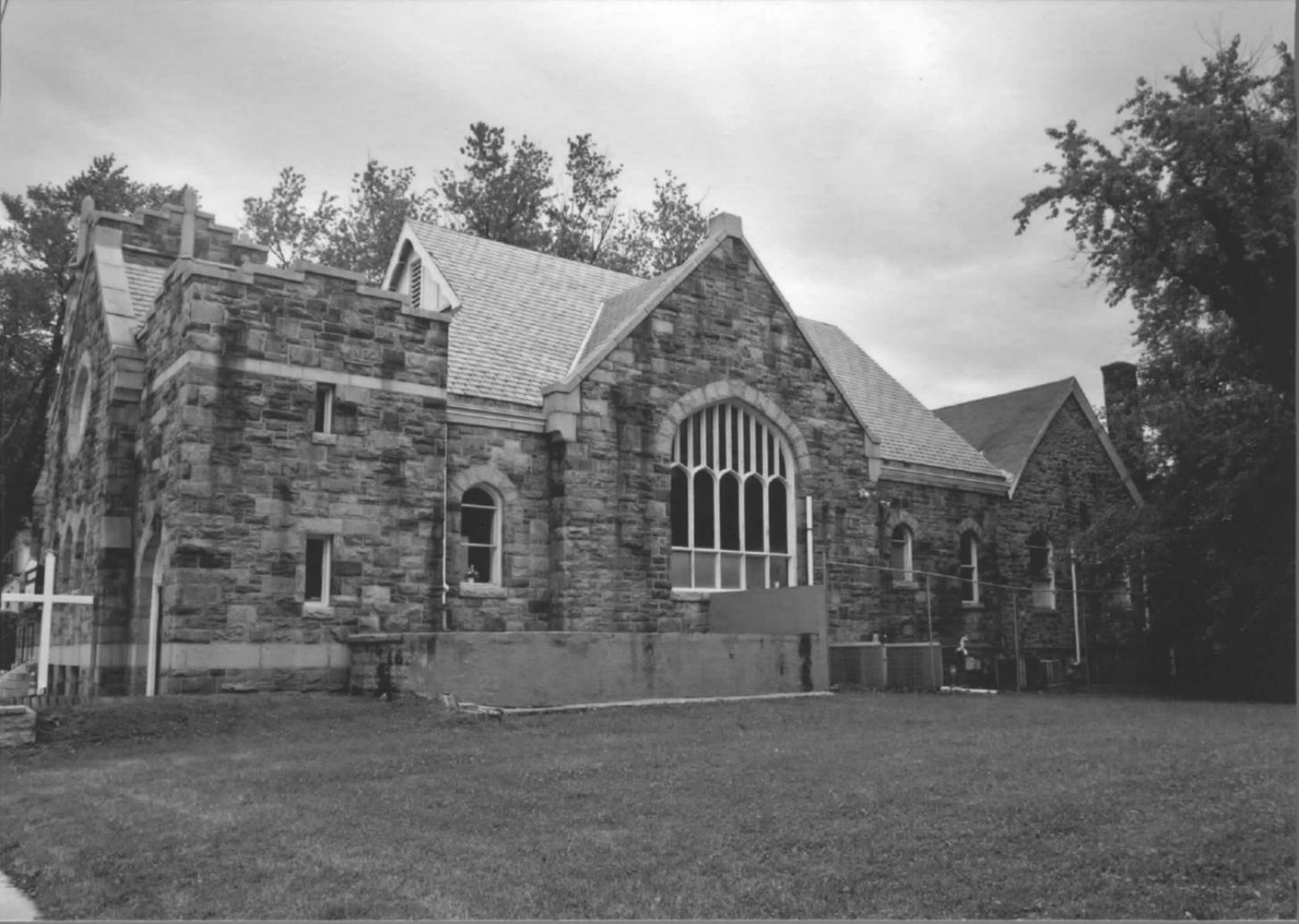
BRIAN CLEVEN

30 MAY 2012

MD SHPO

WILTON HEIGHTS METHODIST PROTESTANT CHURCH, SOUTH ELEVATION (LEFT) AND EAST ELEVATION (RIGHT)
LOOKING NORTHWEST.

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B-5260

WILTON HEIGHTS METHODIST PROTESTANT CHURCH

BALTIMORE, MARYLAND

BRIAN CLEVEN

30 MAY 2012

MD SHPO

WILTON HEIGHTS METHODIST PROTESTANT CHURCH, WEST ELEVATION, LOOKING EAST.

#4 OF 4