

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM**

Property Name: Wards Chapel United Methodist Church Inventory Number: BA-1190

Address: Wards Chapel Road & Liberty Rd. (MD 26) Historic district: yes  no

City: Randallstown/Holbrook Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_ County: Baltimore County

USGS Quadrangle(s): Reisterstown

Property Owner: \_\_\_\_\_ Tax Account ID Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Tax Map Parcel Number(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Tax Map Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Project: Route 26 Agency: DDOT/FHWA

Agency Prepared By: P. Kurtze, MHT

Preparer's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date Prepared: \_\_\_\_\_

Documentation is presented in: federal file

Preparer's Eligibility Recommendation: X 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)*

Ward's Chapel is significant as an architectural landmark on the old Liberty Road, and for its association with early Methodism in Baltimore County. Designed in the form of a classical temple, the chapel is two bays wide and four bays deep, one story in height over a high basement, and faces north.

[See form for more description]--  
The site's association with Methodist worship predates the first structure [1845]; camp meetings were held on Ward's land in 1814, and services were held in John Ward's home as early as 1790.

Historic boundaries are coterminous with the present tax parcel, to include the chapel, parsonage, and old cemetery (approximately three acres).

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW**

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

MHT Comments: Federal DOE

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

W.R. Luce, Keeper NR

Wednesday, January 23, 1980

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date



## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Addendum

MIHP Number: BA-1190  
Property Name: Ward's Chapel United Methodist Church  
Property Address: Ward's Chapel Road and Liberty Road (MD 26)

### Ward's Chapel Interior:

The interior of Ward's Chapel is a single, rectangular room that functions as the church's sanctuary. The sanctuary is entered from the north via two sets of paired, paneled wood doors centered beneath the exterior portico. Each door includes a stained-glass transom with wide trefoil. Two aisles, one from each entrance door, lead through an open nave to the south-end chancel area. Rows of curved, mahogany pews flank the aisles along the nave's length.

The floor is finished in wood, with burgundy carpet laid at the aisles and covering the chancel. Plaster walls are painted white, and painted crown molding marks the transition to a coved, white ceiling. Although the room's architecture is non-distinct, the furnishings and other interior ornament represent a simplified Gothic Revival. Wood-frame, double-hung sash, stained-glass windows with wood sills line the nave along the four-bay east and west walls. The windows are recessed and set in a rectangular frame, but the glass is designed to give the impression of pointed-arch windows, consistent with the Gothic styling.



At the chancel, a wood balustrade encloses a small, raised sanctuary with a central altar table. Behind the altar table, a carved wood pulpit rests on a raised platform. Behind the pulpit, three ornate wood chairs with burgundy upholstery stand along the south wall, facing north. Flanking the sanctuary, moveable wood and burgundy-upholstered chairs face the altar, providing seating for the choir. A small organ stands between the two southernmost windows on the room's east side. Behind the sanctuary, a large wood cross is mounted east of center on the chapel's south wall. Opposite the cross is a small, framed painting of Christ. A tripartite, wood-lattice screen stands at the south wall's west end, shielding a stairway to the lower level.

Pews are arranged in three columns, with the central pews longer than those along the aisles. The pews bear a slight, segmental curve along their length, and at each end they are carved with a foliated, pointed arch supported on round columns. Carved, scrolled armrests curve to the top of the backrest, and seats are covered with burgundy cushions. The room is lit by a combination of recessed bulbs in the ceiling and hanging, stainless-steel, saucer-shaped lights. White ceiling fans are aligned north-to-south along the ceiling's centerline.

### Ward's Chapel Cemetery:



The Ward's Chapel cemetery is located along the west side of Ward's Chapel Road, south of Ward's Chapel Methodist Church on Liberty Road. The cemetery occupies part of a 16.9-acre site that includes the church and surrounding property. Gravesites are arranged in three distinct groupings, with those



farthest south of the church typically newer. A looped gravel drive provides access to the cemetery from Ward's Chapel Road, following the southernmost grouping's perimeter and returning to the road. Markers are a combination of upright granite stones, obelisks, and simple flat plaques. These markers are uniformly small and modest, with none displaying sculptural or artistic merit. Marble is more common in markers closer to the church, including several of the earliest, dating to the 1850s. Many of the older markers are worn and difficult to read. The cemetery is well-kept, with a large, mown lawn and flowers and flags present at many gravesites.

#### Parsonage:

Sometime after 1979, Ward Chapel's two-story, hipped-roof parsonage was demolished. It originally stood east of the chapel, facing Liberty Road. In its place is a one-level, concrete-masonry-unit fellowship hall with a low-slope, membrane roof. Because the property is not level, the building's roof rests approximately three feet above ground level at Liberty Road, but the walls are fully exposed on the east and south elevations. The building is oriented on a north-south axis and its facade faces east onto an asphalt parking area. The building is entered via paired doors sheltered by a gabled roof. Fixed, tripartite windows occupy the facade north of the entrance. A stone hyphen that at one time connected the church and parsonage still stands between the chapel and the fellowship hall.



Prepared by: Matt Manning

Organization: Parsons Brinckerhoff for Maryland State Highway Administration

Date: February 2011





WALL STREET

PA-1190

WADES CHAPEL.

BALTIMORE CO, MD.

BENDER.

7/27/2010 INDSCALE

LOOKING SOUTH AT NORTH AND WEST  
FACADES.

1/4



PA-1190

WARDS CHAPEL

BALTIMORE CO, MD

BRIDGE.

7/2010

MIDSAFE

LOOKING NORTH AT SOUTH AND EAST

FACADES. CHURCH AND SUNDAY SCHOOL

2/4



PA-1190.  
WARDS CHAPEL  
BALTIMORE CO., MD.

~~BRIDGE~~

AUG. 2010  
MDSAPO

LOOKING SOUTH AT WARDS CHAPEL  
CHURCH INTERIOR - ALTAR, CHOIR  
AND PULPIT,

3/4



OUR GOD IS  
AMAZING!  
PRAISE GOD!



OUR  
GOD IS  
MIGHTY!  
PRAISE GOD!



POSTER

BA-1190.

WARDS CHAPEL

PARTIMORE Co., MD.

AUG. 2010.

BRUNEL.

WIDSAFO

LOOKING NORTH AT WARDS CHAPEL  
NAVE - PENS, WINDOWS AND REAR  
DOOR.

4/4

## MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Ward's Chapel

AND/OR COMMON

Ward's Chapel United Methodist Church

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Ward's Chapel and Liberty Roads

CITY, TOWN

Holbrook

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Baltimore

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

## CATEGORY

 DISTRICT BUILDING(S) STRUCTURE SITE OBJECT

## OWNERSHIP

 PUBLIC PRIVATE BOTH

## PUBLIC ACQUISITION

 IN PROCESS BEING CONSIDERED

## STATUS

 OCCUPIED UNOCCUPIED WORK IN PROGRESS

## ACCESSIBLE

 YES: RESTRICTED YES: UNRESTRICTED NO

## PRESENT USE

 AGRICULTURE COMMERCIAL EDUCATIONAL ENTERTAINMENT GOVERNMENT INDUSTRIAL MILITARY MUSEUM PARK PRIVATE RESIDENCE RELIGIOUS SCIENTIFIC TRANSPORTATION OTHER:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Trustees of Ward's Chapel U.M.C.

Telephone #:

STREET &amp; NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Baltimore County Courthouse

Liber #:

Folio #:

STREET &amp; NUMBER

W. Chesapeake Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Towson

STATE

Maryland

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

 FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION**

BA-1190

<b>CONDITION</b>		<b>CHECK ONE</b>	<b>CHECK ONE</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" 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**

Designed in the form of a classical temple, the chapel is two bays wide, four bays deep, one story in height over a high basement, and faces north. It is constructed of coursed rubble with granite quoins. On the principal (north) facade, a pedimented portico shelters two entrances consisting of double doors with three tiers of moulded panels set in plain consoles over a stained glass transom. Four concrete columns rest on granite bases to support the portico. The roof is covered in standing-seam metal.

The west facade has four large double-hung stained glass windows on the main story, aligned over similar smaller windows on the basement level. The east facade also has four large double-hung stained glass windows; in the northernmost bay, a paneled door with a stained-glass transom affords entrance to the basement. All windows have granite sills and lintels. A bracketed cornice wraps around three sides of the building. An addition the height of the basement, five bays wide with a central entrance, extends to the east.

The parsonage, built 1922, adjoins the chapel. It is a two-story, hip-roofed Colonial Revival block sheathed in novelty siding on the first floor and shingled above. A half-hip porch with square pillars spans the two-bay north facade.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**8 SIGNIFICANCE**

BA-1190

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 1870

BUILDER/~~ARCHITECT~~ John Butts

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Ward's Chapel is significant as an architectural landmark on the old Liberty Road, and for its association with early Methodism in Baltimore County.

The present building was erected in 1870 to replace a log structure which had served the congregation since 1845. A local contractor named John Butts was engaged to build the chapel, and church members donated stone, lime, and lumber. The total cost was estimated at \$7,000. The site's association with Methodist worship predates the first structure; camp meetings were held on Ward's land in 1814, and services were held in John Ward's home as early as 1790.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

BA-1190

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Anonymous. Church History: Ward's Chapel, United Methodist Church,  
1870-1970  
(mimeographed pamphlet, n.d.)

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

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

October 1979

NAME / TITLE

Peter Kurtze & Peggy Bruns Weissman, Historic Sites Surveyors

ORGANIZATION

Maryland Historical Trust

DATE

269-2438

STREET & NUMBER

21 State Circle

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Annapolis,

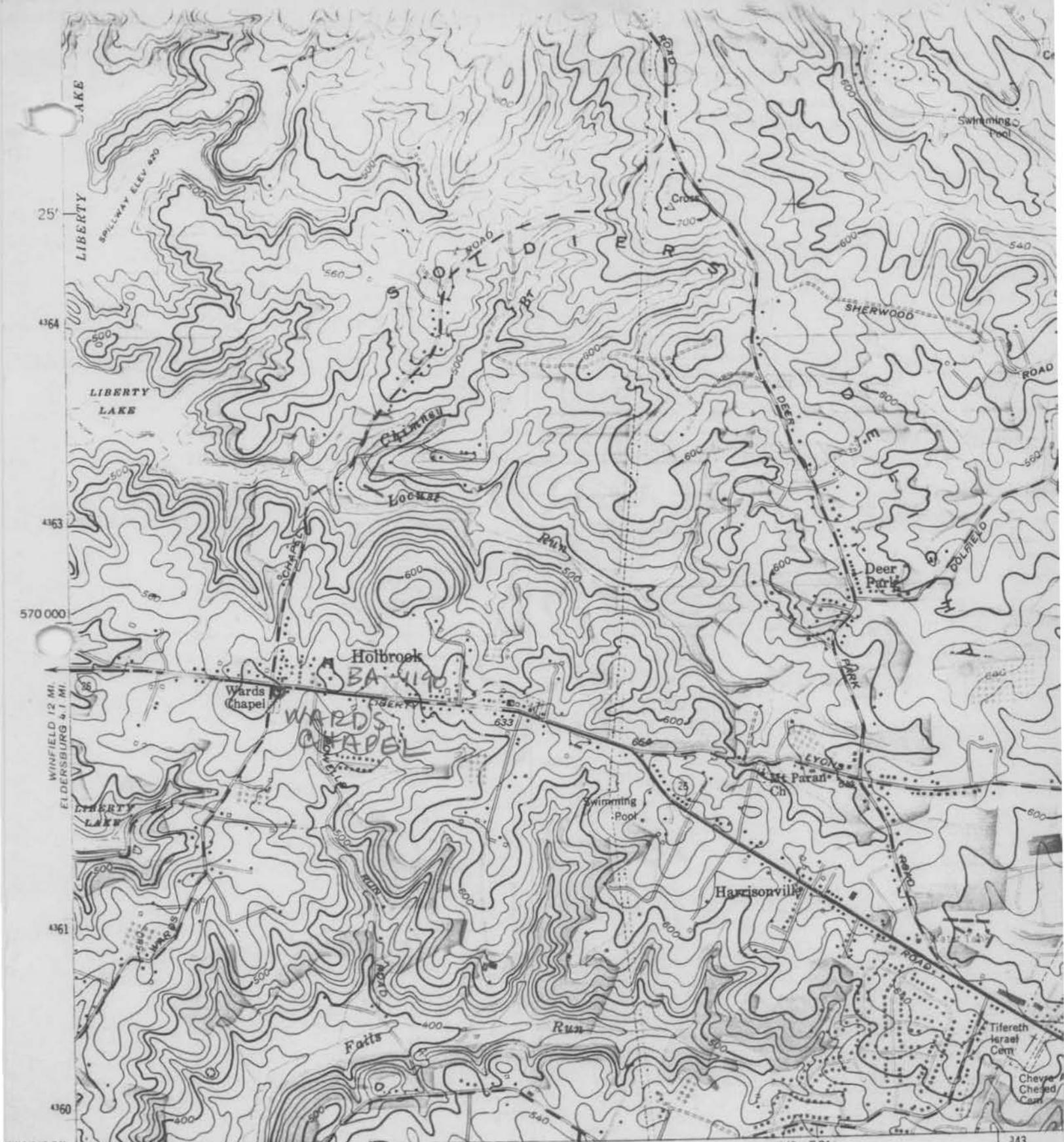
STATE

Maryland 21401

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



9°22'30" 30" 39 840 000 FEET 41 42 50' 43  
 Mapped by the Army Map Service  
 Edited and published by the Geological Survey  
 Control by USGS and USC&GS  
 Topography from aerial photographs by stereophotogrammetric methods. Aerial photographs taken 1943. Field check 1944  
 Culture revised by the Geological Survey 1953  
 Polyconic projection 1927 North American datum

**REISTERSTOWN QUAD**  
 BA-1190  
 142 MILS 1°09' 20 MILS



BA-1190  
WARD'S CHAPEL  
EAST FACADE  
P. KURTZE 10/79



WPA BA-1190

WARD'S CHAPEL

NORTH FACADE

PEGGY BRUNS WEISSMAN

10/79



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Prepared by: Matt Manning

Organization: Parsons Brinckerhoff for Maryland State Highway Administration

Date: February 2011





PA-1190

WADES CHAPEL.

BALTIMORE CO, MD.

BENDER.

7/27/2010 INDCAFE

LOOKING SOUTH AT NORTH AND WEST  
FACADES.

1/4



PA-1190

WARDS CHAPEL

BALTIMORE CO, MD

BRIDGE.

7/2010

MIDSAFE

LOOKING NORTH AT SOUTH AND EAST

FACADES. CHURCH AND SUNDAY SCHOOL

2/4



PA-1190.

WARDS CHAPEL

BALTIMORE CO., MD.

~~BRIDGE~~

AUG. 2010

MD SAPO

LOOKING SOUTH AT WARDS CHAPEL  
CHURCH INTERIOR - ALTAR, CHOIR  
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3/4



OUR GOD IS  
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POSTER

BA-1190.

WARDS CHAPEL

PARTIMORE Co., MD.

AUG. 2010.

BRUNEL.

WIDSAFO

LOOKING NORTH AT WARDS CHAPEL  
NAVE — PENS, WINDOWS AND REAR  
DOOR.

4/4