

CAPSULE SUMMARY

BA-1887

Union Methodist Episcopal Church

5225 Sweet Air Road

Baldwin, Baltimore County

1900 ca.

Private

Constructed circa 1900 near the Eleventh District community of Baldwin, the Union Methodist Episcopal Church is representative of the many Gothic Revival style churches erected throughout Baltimore County in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Although it was little more than a cluster of residential buildings in the mid-19th century, Baldwin grew rapidly in a southwesterly direction along the northern branch of the Harford Turnpike and, by 1877, was a post office town with numerous buildings. West of the town along Sweet Air Road, a church was already located on the lot occupied by the extant resource. Exterior architectural evidence suggests that the church depicted on the atlas pre-dates the existing building, which was constructed at the turn-of-the-20th century. Between 1877 and 1915, the Maryland and Pennsylvania Railroad was constructed, and its course passed to the north of Baldwin before intersecting with the northern branch of the Harford Turnpike to the northeast of the village. Nevertheless, the area of Sweet Air Road, to the west of the village, has remained rural through the late 20th century.

The Union Methodist Episcopal Church is a one-story wood frame building clad in vinyl siding that is sited at the center of a flat, asphalt-paved parking lot. The church features a solid parged stone foundation and front gable roof clad in slate tiles. The façade fronts north and is articulated by a central projecting bell tower that rises two stories in height. The tower's central entry is composed of a double-leaf wood door with three panels on each leaf. A multi-light leaded stained glass window with a pointed arch and the words "Union M.E. Church" surmounts the entry. The tower's west elevation features a six-panel single-leaf wood door accessible by a poured concrete wheelchair-accessible ramp that wraps around the northwest corner of the building. A two-light fixed round window pierces the second story of the bell tower above the main entry. Below the tower's asphalt-shingled pyramidal roof, the upper portion of the tower features two pointed-arched louvered metal ventilators on each elevation. Two lancet-arched multi-light stained glass windows that pierce the main block of the three-bay-wide, three-bay-deep church flank the entry. The sides of the building feature lancet-arched multi-light stained glass windows, while a one-story, one-bay-wide canted apse beside an exterior stretcher bond brick chimney define the south elevation of the building. All openings on the structure have vinyl surrounds. To the south of the church is a circa 1965 parish hall of wood frame construction clad in vinyl siding with an asphalt-shingled side gable roof.

7. Description

Inventory No. BA-1887

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.

Constructed circa 1900, the Gothic Revival style Union Methodist Episcopal Church is a one-story wood frame building clad in vinyl siding that is sited at the center of a flat, asphalt-paved parking lot. The church features a solid parged stone foundation and front gable roof clad in slate tiles. The façade fronts north and is articulated by a central projecting bell tower that rises two stories in height. The tower's central entry is composed of a double-leaf wood door with three panels on each leaf. A multi-light leaded stained glass window with a pointed arch and the words "Union M.E. Church" surmounts the entry. The tower's west elevation features a six-panel single-leaf wood door accessible by a poured concrete wheelchair-accessible ramp that wraps around the northwest corner of the building. A two-light fixed round window pierces the second story of the bell tower above the main entry. Below the tower's asphalt-shingled pyramidal roof, the upper portion of the tower features two pointed-arched louvered metal ventilators on each elevation. Two lancet-arched multi-light stained glass windows that pierce the main block of the three-bay-wide, three-bay-deep church flank the entry. The sides of the building feature lancet-arched multi-light stained glass windows, while a one-story, one-bay-wide canted apse beside an exterior stretcher bond brick chimney define the south elevation of the building. All openings on the structure have vinyl surrounds.

To the south of the church is a circa 1965 parish hall of wood frame construction clad in vinyl siding with an asphalt-shingled side gable roof. The one-story, six-bay-wide building features one sash-and-paneled single-leaf wood door, one flush-and-lighted single-leaf wood door, one six-panel single-leaf wood door and one four-light fixed metal windows with a metal surround. The west bay of the structure is parged with stucco.

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8. Significance

Inventory No. BA-1887

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" 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 1900 ca.-present **Architect/Builder** Unknown

Construction dates 1900 ca.

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.)

Constructed circa 1900 near the Eleventh District community of Baldwin, the Union Methodist Episcopal Church is representative of the many Gothic Revival style churches erected throughout Baltimore County in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. By the mid-19th century, the community of Baldwin, named for the Baldwin family, was a scattering of dwellings at the intersection of the northern branch of the Harford Turnpike with Baldwin Mill Road and Long Green Pike. In 1850, the village included a tavern and school in addition the many residential buildings along these roads.¹ Although it was little more than a cluster of residential buildings in the mid-19th century, Baldwin grew rapidly in a southwesterly direction along the northern branch of the Harford Turnpike and, by 1877, was a post office town with numerous buildings. A second schoolhouse, blacksmith's shop, Catholic church, and two general stores served the residents of the Baldwin community and surrounding farmland.² West of the town along Sweet Air Road, a church was already located on the lot occupied by the extant resource. Exterior architectural evidence suggests that the church depicted on the atlas pre-dates the existing building, which was constructed at the turn-of-the-20th century. Between 1877 and 1915, the Maryland and Pennsylvania Railroad was constructed, and it's course passed to the north of Baldwin before intersecting with the northern branch of the Harford Turnpike to the northeast of the village.³ Nevertheless, the area of Sweet Air Road, to the west of the village, has remained rural through the late 20th century.

The Gothic Revival style was popular in the mid- to late 19th century for residential and religious buildings. As the style was supplanted by the popular Queen Anne style for domestic construction, the Gothic Revival style continued to predominate in the design of churches. High-style Gothic Revival churches make use of steeply pitched roofs, ornate stone or wood tracery in pointed-arched windows, masonry polychroming, and trefoil and quatrefoil motifs. In rural country churches, the style is modestly interpreted through the use of pointed-arched windows and steeply pitched roofs.

¹ J.C. Sidney, *Map of the City and County of Baltimore, Maryland, from Original Surveys* (Baltimore, MD: James M. Stephens, 1850).

² *Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland* (Philadelphia: G.M. Hopkins, 1877).

³ *Map of Baltimore County* (Philadelphia, PA: G.W. Bromley, 1915).

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. BA-1887

- Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland.* Philadelphia, PA: G. M. Hopkins, 1877.
Baltimore County Historic Inventory.
Brooks, Neal A. and Eric G. Rockel. *A History of Baltimore County.* Towson, MD: Friends of the Towson Library, Inc., 1979.
Map of Baltimore County. Philadelphia, PA: G. W. Bromley, 1915.
Scharf, J. Thomas. *History of Baltimore City and County From the Earliest Period to the Present Day: Including Biographical Sketches of Their Representative Men.* Philadelphia, PA: Louis H. Everts, 1881. Reprinted by Higginson Book Company, Salem, MA.
Sidney, J. C. *Map of the City and County of Baltimore, Maryland, from Original Surveys.* Baltimore, MD: James M. Stephens, 1850.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property .3 Acre
Acreage of historical setting Unknown
Quadrangle name Jarrettsville Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

Since its construction circa 1900, the Union Methodist Episcopal Church has been associated with the .38 acres of parcel 370, map 44 that were acquired by the church according to deed book 3084, folio 381.

Four additional lots appear to be associated with tax parcel 370 of map 44:

- Tax id number 1121045076 references .470 acres
Tax id number 1800014579 references .073 acres
Tax id number 1800014580 references .098 acres
Tax id number 2200008537 references .0042 acres

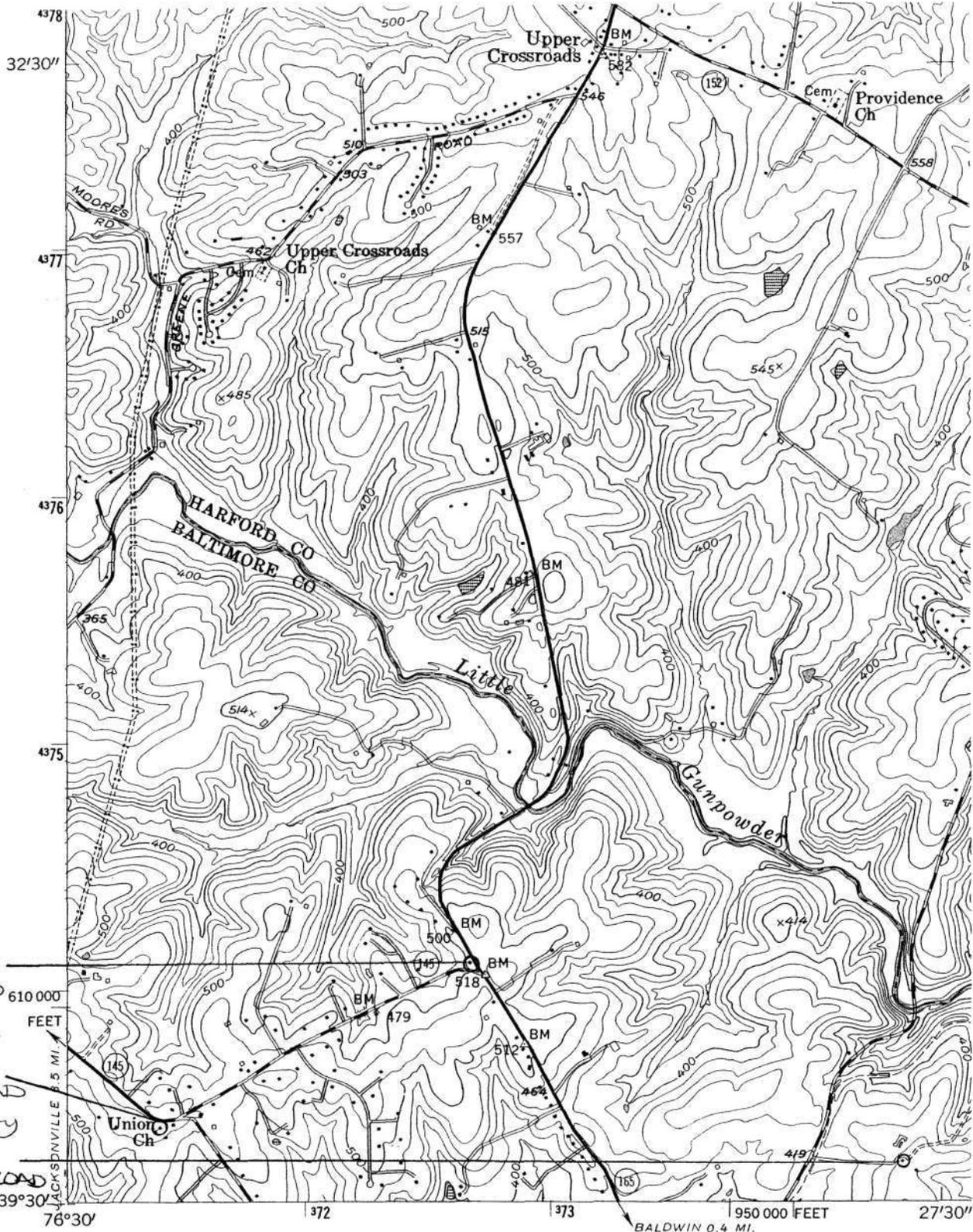
11. Form Prepared by

name/title	A. McDonald and A. Didden, Architectural Historians		
organization	EHT Tracerics, Incorporated	date	May 22, 2001
street & number	1121 5th Street NW	telephone	202.393.1199
city or town	Washington	state	DC

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
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600



BA-1886
5520 SWEET AIR ROAD
BALDWIN
BALTIMORE COUNTY

BA-1887
5225 SWEET AIR ROAD
BALDWIN
BALTIMORE COUNTY

BA-1882
13801 PLEASANTVILLE ROAD
BALDWIN
BALTIMORE COUNTY

(TOWSON)
6682 / NE

USGS Quad: JARRETTSVILLE
Scale: 1:24,000



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and USCE

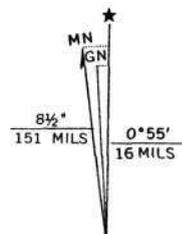
Topography from aerial photographs by multiplex methods
photographs taken 1954. Field check 1956

Projection: 1927 North American datum
Foot grid based on Maryland coordinate system
Other Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
shown in blue

Unchecked elevations are shown in brown

Revisions shown in purple compiled from aerial
photographs taken 1974. This information not field checked

To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983,
move the projection lines 7 meters south and
28 meters west as shown by dashed corner ticks



UTM GRID AND 1974 MAGNETIC NORTH
DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET



BA-1887

5225 SWEET AIR ROAD, BALDWIN
BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES

3/2001

MD SHPO

N. ELEVATION

1 of 3



BA-1887

5225 SWEET AIR ROAD, BALDWIN
BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

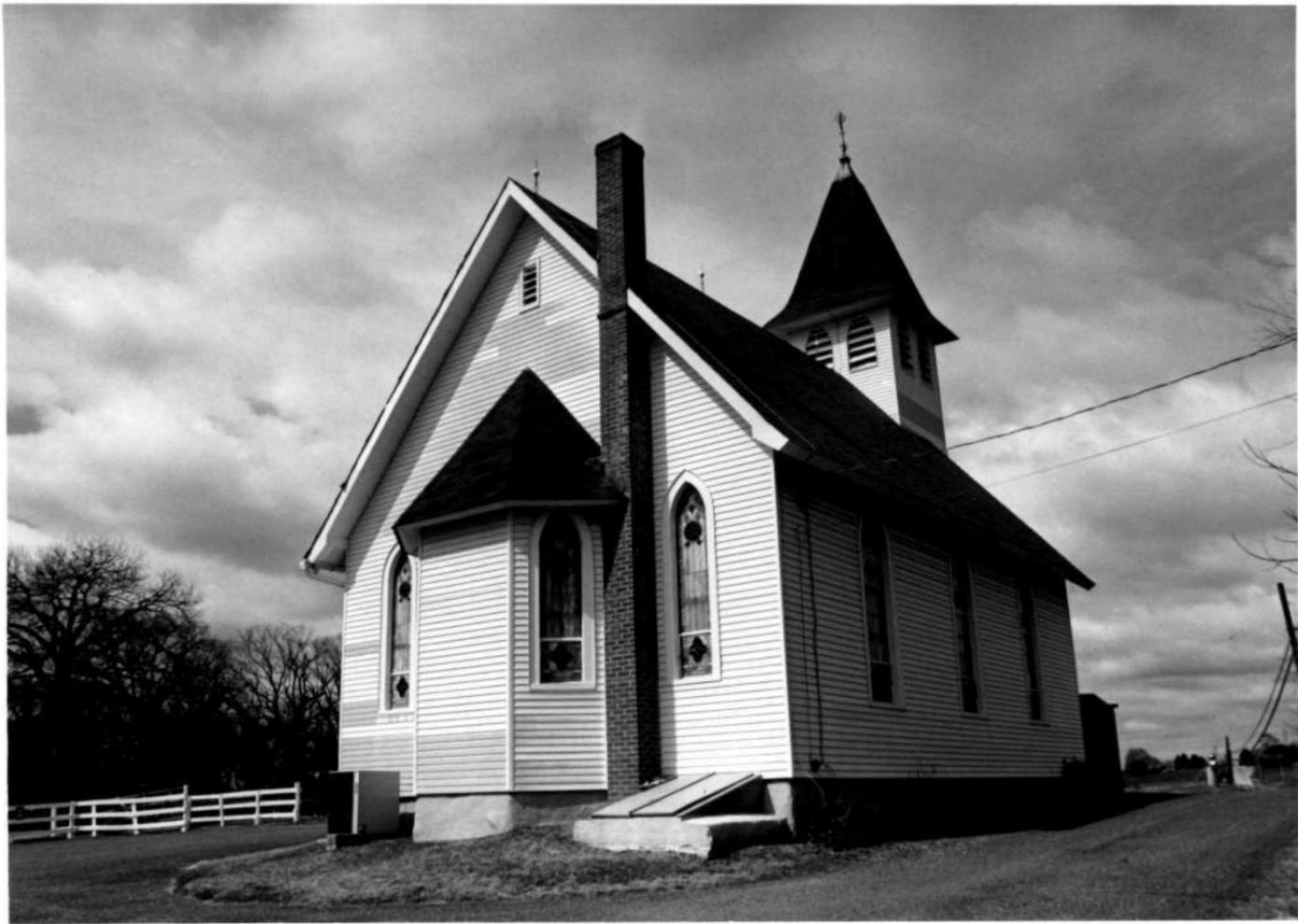
TRACERIES

3/2001

MD SHPO

W. ELEVATION

2 of 3



BA-1887

5225 SWEET AIR ROAD

BALDWIN

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRAILER

4/2001

MO-STRAD

SE CORNER

3 of 3