

BA 1990

PARKE CHURCH PARSONAGE

1896-1911

PARKTON

PRIVATE

This large parsonage was built as a private home on the lot south of the church which now owns it. However it was built by Dr. Robert R. Norris sometime after the 1896 tax ledger was prepared, because at that time, Dr. Norris only had a small office and a stable on the property. A large vernacular style dwelling had appeared by the time of the 1911 tax list, and it passed to J. Wesley (or J. Wiley) Norris. Some time between 1918 and 1923, the property passed to the Monkton M.E. Church (but not to the congregation next-door). Then in 1941, both of Parkton's Methodist bodies were merged and only the Parke Memorial Church and the parsonage continued in use. This is a plain house with some cross-gables, but not Victorian. There is a wrap-around porch and an L-shaped layout. There is a bay window, and there is fish-scale shingle infilling on the pediments. Roofing is gabled, standing-seam aluminum. Outer wall covering is white composition shingle.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC PARKE CHURCH PARSONAGE

AND/OR COMMON
SAME

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
18,908 York Road

CITY, TOWN
Parkton

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
2nd

STATE
Maryland

COUNTY
Baltimore County

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input 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"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME PARKE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER
18,908 York Road

CITY, TOWN
Parkton

STATE, zip code
Maryland 21120

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. County Courts Building

Liber #: JWS 169
Folio #: 315

STREET & NUMBER
401 Bosley Avenue

CITY, TOWN
Towson

STATE
Maryland 21204

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
NONE

DATE
 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN STATE

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

The Parke Church Parsonage is a very large, cross-gabled vernacular, 2½-story, frame house with little decoration. The main block presents its gable end to the street and is two bays wide, with double-hung sash windows of 1-over-1 format (similar to all the other windows).

The main entrance is in the southern (or left-handed) bay, a paneled door, topped by a rectangular transom and flanked by sidelights. There are two small gable windows in the pediment, 1-over-1 double-hung sash types. A wraparound porch with its wooden deck six steps above grade crosses the full width of the house and extends around the southside of the structure until it encounters the short-leg of the "L" or wing. The porch is railed with solid panels. Ten posts, two of them recessed at the rear corners of the porch, support the shed roofing. The posts are a mixture of round and square cross-sections over their length. Wooden lattice panels close off the spaces between the porch deck and the brick piers that support the posts.

Facing the southern part of the porch are one window (set in the south facade) and a second door with an overhead transom; this door faces the street and leads directly into the rear wing of the "L."

A gable-roofed, overhanging bay with two full-sized windows projects over the porch. The window nearest the street is directly under a pediment with fish-scale shingling.

The south end of the "L" is two bays, with a total of four full-scale windows, and two smaller 1-over-1 double-hung as sash windows in the pediment; the pediment is filled in with fish-scale shingling.

The rear facade is three bays wide; the rear walls of the main block and the L or south wing form one surface. Two double-hung sash windows are found in the pediment of the main block, again surrounded by fish-scale shingles. At second-story level are three typical windows, the center one probably for a bathroom, being smaller than the others. At first-story level, only the southernmost (right-hand) bay is unobstructed, and contains a typical sash window. Two other bays are hidden by a one-story shed-roofed pantry wing, which is fenestrated with: (1) a 1-over-1 sash window, (2) a door with glass lights and transom, and (3) a sun porch with 30 square lights on the west or rear of the house, 25 lights on the south.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

(continued)

The northside is four bays deep, all positions supplied with 1-over-1 windows, except for a small metal framed kitchen window.

The entire house is covered with white composition shingles. Roofing is standing-seam aluminum. There is an inside end-chimney at the south end of the L, another chimney rises through the roof ridge of the main block, aligned with the second bay from the street.

Foundation is stone, punctuated under the south wing by rectangular cellar windows of two lights each.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" 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 1896-1911

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The spacious house used as a parsonage by two Methodist congregations was originally a private home. This property is on the high ground north of the railroad stop at Parkton and is composed of lots 15 and 16 on a plat filed in the deeds (rather than the plat books) in 1887. (1)

Mrs. Margaret Emack, heir to the vast Castle Clader properties of The Calder-Turner families laid out these lots, and they were promptly purchased, also in 1888, by Dr. Robert R. Norris, who had a number of relatives next door, by the time all the lots were sold. The lots ran west from the York Turnpike Road to a new street, Calder Avenue. (2)

The 1896 tax ledger shows that in the eight years since his purchase, Dr. R. R. Norris had not built a large dwelling:

1/2 of an acre of land on West side of York Turnpike	30.00
Office	75.00
Stable	200.00
1-3/4 acres on West side of York Turnpike @ \$75	131.25
2 horses @ \$50 ⁰⁰	120.00
1 @ \$20 ⁰⁰	20.00
Two Buggies & Harness	60.00
Office Furniture	30.00
Total	656.25 (3)

The 1911 tax ledger showed that Dr. R. R. Norris had a dwelling worth \$1400, and a correction made in 1915 showed that ownership had passed to J. Wesley Norris. (4) The second Norris was also owner of "Barn and Out Bldgs" worth \$200. Bromley's 1915 atlas seemed to show that all the lots between Parke Memorial Church and the corner of Calder Avenue and York Road were occupied by housing. (5)

The 1918 tax ledger charged the house to J. Wiley Norris and described it as

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

(continued)

1 Lot on York Road in Parkton adj M. P. Church	
N. @	\$175.00
Dwelling 16 x 34 2 stories	1344.00
2 Outbldgs	300.00 (6)

However, a note in the same 1918 assessment ledger stated "Abate--owned by Parkton M. E. Church."

How the house was transferred to the church body is not clear, because the present tax maps have no clues as to the deed number of the parcel, and the usual search of deed indexes fails to show a recordation from Norris to the church.

The house became a parsonage, not for the church immediately next door, but for the Methodist Episcopal Church on the east side of York Road between the fringe of north Parkton and Dairy-Stablersville Road. The 1915 Bromley atlas showed both churches in Parkton as the M. E. churches, but the Parke Church next to Dr. Norris' house should have been distinguished as M. P. for Methodist Protestant.

The two church bodies were merged in 1941. (7) The M. E. parsonage then became the home of the minister serving the combined congregations; the Parke Church pastor had previously lived in Maryland Line. The Rev. Robert H. Parker was the first minister after the unification.

The parish history relates that in June 1974, the minister assigned to the church owned his own home, and the parsonage was rented:

The parsonage, left vacant, was rented to a family who, unfortunately, proved to be both dishonest and destructive. When they were evicted, a complete renovation of the house was needed. (8)

Miss Emily R. Stiffler, a lifelong member of Parke Church, recalled in 1980 that Dr. R. R. Norris had never used the large house himself. He had the Hawkins family take care of it in exchange for free rent. The doctor lived in the back in the small office structure. That miniature building was later moved a few blocks northward to what had been the Hendrix House (BA 1987), where it survives. (9)

As to Parkton's surplus church, it was sold in 1936 to nearby farmer and landowner Philip C. Turner. (10) Turner used the basement for a barn, and the city papers made sport of the situation:

Cows go to church at Parkton, Md. Moreover, they go every day. For the old Parkton Methodist Episcopal Church, abandoned several years ago, has recently been turned into a barn. Philip C. Turner, president of the Farm Bureau of Baltimore County, and owner of the property, put some stalls in the basement and used the main floor of the church as a haymow.

Several pews remain. The stained glass windows have been demolished by stones thrown by small boys. In the winter the cattle keep warm by the old furnace of the church. Calves are placed there throughout the year. (11)

NOTES:

1. Baltimore County Deeds, JWS 178:518.
2. B.C. Deeds, JWS 171:227.
3. Tax Ledger, District 7, 1896, n.p.
4. Tax Ledger, District 7, 1911, f. 663.
5. G. W. Bromley, Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland (Philadelphia, 1915), Plate 39.
6. Tax Ledger, District 7, 1918, f. 708.
7. Committee on History, Parke Memorial United Methodist Church, 1888-1978 (Parkton, Md., 1978), pp. 7-8.
8. Ibid., p. 14.
9. Data from Miss Emily R. Stiffler, Parkton, March 27, June 19, 1980.
10. B.C. Deeds, CWB JR. 967:418.
11. Sun, May 19, 1938.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

PARKE CHURCH PARSONAGE

Committee on History, Parke Memorial United Methodist Church
1888-1978 (Parkton, Md., 1978).

Baltimore County Deeds and Tax Ledgers.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 71.5 square perches

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Original dwelling parcel consisted of Lots 15 and 16 laid out in 1887:

- Beginning in center of Calder Avenue
- S76E 280 feet to centerline of York Road
- S14½W 66.6 feet
- N76W 256 feet to centerline of Calder Avenue
- N40W 71 feet to Beginning. (Map 17, Parcel P297)

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

STATE NONE COUNTY NONE

STATE NONE COUNTY NONE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

John W. McGrain, Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Baltimore County Office of Planning and Zoning

DATE

June 25, 1980

STREET & NUMBER

401 Bosley Avenue

TELEPHONE

494-3495

CITY OR TOWN

Towson

STATE

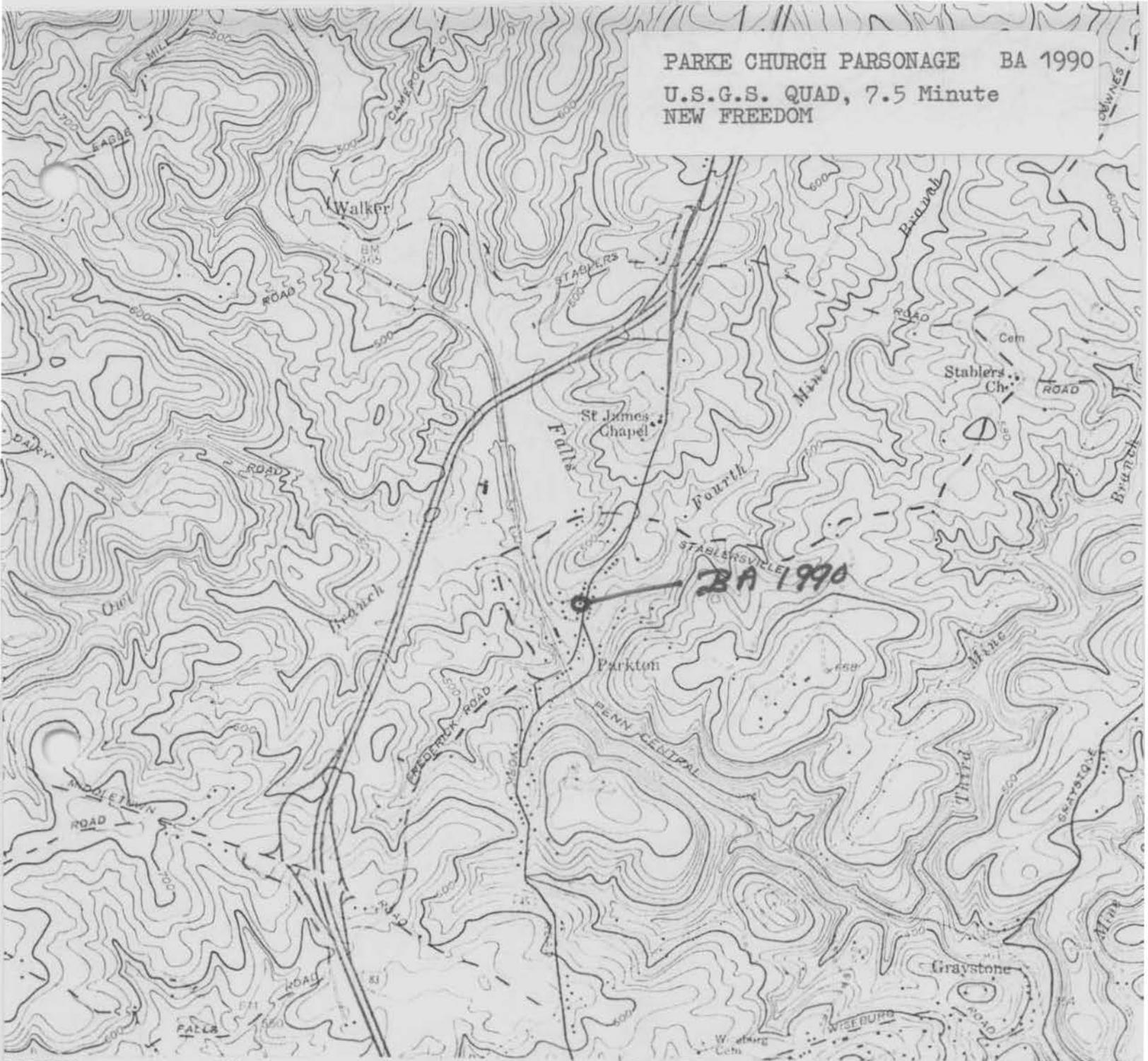
Maryland 21204

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.

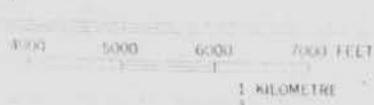
The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

PARKE CHURCH PARSONAGE BA 1990
 U.S.G.S. QUAD, 7.5 Minute
 NEW FREEDOM



HEREFORD) 663 II SW E 1:24 000
 40' HEREFORD 2.6 MI. BALTIMORE (NORTH AVE) 22 MI.
 2 310 000 FEET (PA.)
 150 000 = E WHITE HALL



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy-duty	—————	Light-duty	—————	
Medium-duty	- - - - -	Unimproved dirt	- - - - -	
	⊠	U. S. Route	○	State Route

NEW FREEDOM, M

N3937.5 - W7637.5/

1958
 PHOTOREVISED 1958
 AMS 5663 II NW SERIES



PARKE CHURCH PARSONAGE BA 1990
Baltimore County, Maryland
J. McGrain, March 1980
Neg. located at MHT
South facade, rear; also church



PARKE CHURCH PARSONAGE BA 1990
Baltimore County, Maryland
J. McGrain, March 1980
Neg. located at MHT
South end from SE



PARKE CHURCH PARSONAGE BA 1990
Baltimore County, Maryland
J. McGrain, March 1980
Neg. located at MHT
Mian (E) & south facades