

CARR-1014

Bethesda M. E. Church
Bethesda U. M. Church
328 North Klees Mill Road

1880

The original Bethesda Methodist Church was a log structure built in 1810. The congregation seems to have been frustrated on numerous occasions in their attempts to build as was noted in August 1880. The members of Bethesda M. E. Church . . . are at work putting up the brick work of their new church. Mr. Albinus Poole is contractor for the brick work, Mr. Joshua Dittman, carpenter, size 36 x 50. They have purchased the bricks from Mr. William H. Bell, of [Westminster]. By November it was reported that the church was nearly finished, and it was dedicated 23 January 1881. Judging from a date on one of the stained glass windows, they were added in 1908. Bethesda Church is one of the largest rural churches in southern Carroll County, contains some of the most elaborate stained glass for a rural church, and has great integrity, both inside and out.

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Bethesda M. E. Church

and/or common Bethesda U.M. Church

2. Location

street & number 328 North Klees Mill Road _____ not for publication

city, town Winfield _____ vicinity of _____ congressional district

state Maryland _____ county Carroll

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

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

name Bethesda M. E. Church

street & number 324 North Klees Mill Road telephone no.: 795-7677

city, town Sykesville state and zip code MD 21784

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Courthouse Annex liber

street & number 55 North Court Street folio

city, town Westminster state MD

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date _____ federal _____ state _____ county _____ local

depository for survey records

city, town _____ state

7. Description

Survey No. CARR-1014

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.

Summary: The Bethesda M. E. Church is located on the west side of Klees Mill Road about 4 miles northeast of Winfield and 4 miles northwest of Eldersburg in south-central Carroll County. The church is a one-story, three-bay by four-bay structure of 6-1 common bond brick on a rubble stone foundation. The gable roof has slate shingles and a ridge that runs north-south. The south elevation has double doors on the end bays, with a central stained glass 1/1 lancet. In the gable end of the south elevation is a lanciform oculus with stained glass. In the southwest corner of the foundation is a marble stone carved with "M.E.C. 1880". The sanctuary is one large room. The ceiling is flat, with an eight-point star in the center. Hanging from the center is a large chandelier. Like the star above, it has eight arms, and each holds a glass oil lamp. The pews below are grained to imitate oak. There is a raised dais on the north end, with an altar rail around three sides. There is a cemetery east of the church, with stones set in even rows, facing west.

The Bethesda M. E. Church is located on the west side of Klees Mill Road about 4 miles northeast of Winfield and 4 miles northwest of Eldersburg in south-central Carroll County. The church is a one-story, three-bay by four-bay structure of 6-1 common bond brick on a rubble stone foundation. There is evidence of grey paint on the brick in several locations. The gable roof has slate shingles and a ridge that runs north-south. A change in brick on the south elevation indicates that the eaves of the roof have been raised six to eight feet, giving the gable a steeper pitch. The box cornice has returns. The south elevation has double doors on the end bays, with a central stained glass 1/1 lancet. The doors each have two flat, sunken panels with bolection mouldings. Above each door is a lanceolate transom with stained glass. Both are identical, with flowers inside a circle, and with a foliate surround. The windows and doors have granite sills and brick voussoirs. The window, like all of them, has a stylized four-petal flower inside of a diamond, in the center. Above this is a circle containing a different religious symbol in each one, and above the circle a fleur de lis. Below the center diamond is a square panel with a stylized flower that has many petals, and below this a memorial tablet in red glass. The outer margin is green, the inner margin purple, and the field is of clear glass with a pebble finish. Both the north bay and south central bay windows in both side elevations also have this color combination. The south and north-central bay windows, on the other hand, have an amber outer margin, a blue inner band, a clear, pebble finish field, and a tablet of mauve glass. In the gable end of the south elevation is a lanciform oculus with stained glass. It contains a dove and "Bethesda M. E. Church 1908". In the southwest corner of the foundation is a marble stone carved with "M.E.C. 1880". There is a tie rod between the central window and the oculus above. The west elevation has an interior brick chimney in the center that appears to have been rebuilt. There is no chimney on the east elevation. The north elevation has an addition built in 1966. Above it is a tie rod in the north wall of the church.

Description (continued)

Section 7 Page 2

The sanctuary is one large room. The floor is carpeted and the plaster walls have a three-color paint scheme with sand at the bottom, a narrow band of tan in the center, and white above. The doors on the south elevation have sunken panels with ogee panel moulds, and a flat wood surround with a beaded interior edge. On either side of the central window is a cast (bronze?) bracket supporting a glass oil lamp that has now been electrified. According to the pastor, all of these lamps in the church had been stored in the attic until recently, when they were electrified and reinstalled. Both the east and west walls have a matching lamp between the south and south-central bays, and between the north and north-central bays. There is a brick buttress between the center two bays. The windows do not have surrounds; instead, the plaster is rounded off on the corners. The frames have a beaded interior edge.

The ceiling is flat, with an eight-point star in the center, painted in yellow with a gold outline. Hanging from the center of the star is a large chandelier that matches the lamps on the walls. Like the star above, it has eight arms, and each holds a glass oil lamp. It too has been electrified. The pews below are grained to imitate oak. The arm rests are "S"-shaped, and are open underneath, between the arm rest and the seat. The base of each end has an applied moulding to imitate a semi-circular panel. This moulding has a cavetto on each side, with an astragal down the center. The pews are loose and are currently set up with a single central aisle, but many of the pews are short, and are butted together, suggesting that the original layout had two aisles, with short pews on both sides and long ones in the center. There is a raised dais on the north end, with an altar rail around three sides. The rail has turned balusters and a large turned newel, with a button on top, on each end. Behind the rail is a raised podium with a pulpit that is grained to imitate oak. Each side of the pulpit has a raised panel, with bosses in the four corners. Beyond the pulpit are three oak chairs with red velvet seats and backs. Above the top rail is an incised sunburst motif, topped by a fleur de lis, and on top of each end stile is a stylized Prince of Wales feather. According to the pastor the north elevation formerly had a fresco, now painted over, and the church plans to restore this. On either side of the dais is a new door to the rear wing.

There is a cemetery east of the church, with stones set in even rows, facing west.

8. Significance

Survey No. CARR-1014

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 1880 **Builder/Architect** Albinus Poole & Joshua Dittman

check: Applicable Criteria: A B C D
 and/or
 Applicable Exception: A B C D E F G
 Level of Significance: national state local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Summary: The original Bethesda Methodist Church was a log structure built in 1810. The congregation seems to have been frustrated on numerous occasions in their attempts to build as was noted in August 1880. The members of Bethesda M. E. Church . . . are at work putting up the brick work of their new church. Mr. Albinus Poole is contractor for the brick work, Mr. Joshua Dittman, carpenter, size 36 x 50. They have purchased the bricks from Mr. William H. Bell, of [Westminster]. By November it was reported that the church was nearly finished, and it was dedicated 23 January 1881. Judging from a date on one of the stained glass windows, they were added in 1908. Bethesda Church is one of the largest rural churches in southern Carroll County, contains some of the most elaborate stained glass for a rural church, and has great integrity, both inside and out.

Geographic Organization: Piedmont
 Chronological/Development Period: Industrial-Urban Dominance A.D. 1870-1930
 Historic Period Themes: Architecture, Religion
 Resource Types: Church, Rural Vernacular

The original Bethesda Methodist Church was a log structure built in 1810. The land on which it stood was not deeded to the congregation until 19 June 1824, however. Until that time it had been in the possession of the Parish family. Additional land was sold to the church and cemetery by the Brown family on 10 February 1879, and by the Buckingham family on 15 January 1926. As early as 1870 it was noted that ". . . the old-time log meeting house is found far too small for the increasing congregation, and plans have already been devised for the erection of a commodious brick building, 45 x 60 feet, with a basement." It took some years, but the 1879 purchase of additional land was probably a prelude to construction, which began the following year. In April 1880, the American Sentinel noted:

The members of Bethesda M. E. Church, . . . intend to remove their old log church which is in rather a dilapidated condition and replace it with a new

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

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Significance (continued)

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brick edifice. The building committee . . . have contracted with Mr. Moses Parish, for the brick who is preparing to make them.

The congregation seems to have been frustrated on numerous occasions in their attempts to build. The plan of 1870 was postponed for a decade, and when resurrected, the building had to be made smaller. In addition, they had problems getting building materials, as was noted in August 1880.

The members of Bethesda M. E. Church . . . are at work putting up the brick work of their new church. Mr. Albinus Poole is contractor for the brick work, Mr. Joshua Dittman, carpenter, size 36 x 50. They having burnt two kilns of brick, both of them were unfit for use, with the exception of a few thousand, which detained them in the construction of their church. They have purchased the bricks from Mr. William H. Bell, of [Westminster].

By November it was reported that the church was nearly finished, and it was dedicated 23 January 1881. At that time it was described as ". . . a substantial brick building, 52 by 36, neatly frescoed, and well furnished throughout." Judging from a date on one of the stained glass windows, they were added in 1908. The only other significant change was the addition on the rear of the church in 1966. This replaced a free-standing social hall that was built in 1927.

Bethesda Church is one of the largest rural churches in southern Carroll County, contains some of the most elaborate stained glass for a rural church, and has great integrity, both inside and out. The survival of the original lamps is unique, and the restoration of the fresco, which was once very common in local churches, would add greatly to the historic importance of this building.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. CARR-1014

"160th Anniversary Bethesda U. M. Church" 1970

American Sentinel, 24 April 1880, p. 3, c. 2; 14 August 1880, p. 3, c. 3; 20

November 1880, p. 3, c. 3.

1862 & 1877 maps

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name Finksburg

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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D

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E

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F

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kenneth M. Short, Historic Planner

organization Carroll County Planning Department

date July 13, 1993

street & number 225 North Center Street

telephone (410) 857-2145

city or town Westminster

state MD

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
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

STATE OF MARYLAND
DEPT. OF NATURAL RESOURCES
596/637
196.74A
P2

STATE OF MARYLAND
DEPT. OF NATURAL RESOURCES
847/467
48.08A
R498

JOSEPH C. WISBY
354/517
33.60A
R139
1.0F2

LEFUS REALTY, INC.
711/637
27.04A
P61

KLEE
MILL

STATE OF MARYLAND
DEPT. OF NATURAL RESOURCES
610/303
21.79A
P305

JAMES D. BOGGS
23/199
27.66A
P337

LOS G. PHILSON, ET AL
248/79
103.87A
P101

STANLEY D. COX
763/234
25.08A
P141

WILLIAM J. DURIN
323/105
82.20A
P107

STATE OF MARYLAND
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
673/60
76.50A
P142

DEPT. OF NATURAL RESOURCES
STATE OF MARYLAND
591/575
21.00A
P287

STATE OF MARYLAND
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
659/109
20.94A
P476

WESTMINSTER
NURSERIES, INC.
1271/838
96.73A
P546

MILTON F.
POBLETTS
382/406
25.58A
R16

DAVID MOORE SCOTT
377/628
47.04A
R 30

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Bethesda M. E. Church
328 North Klees Mill Road



CARR-1014
 Bethesda M. E. Church
 328 North Klees Mill Road

Martenet, 1862

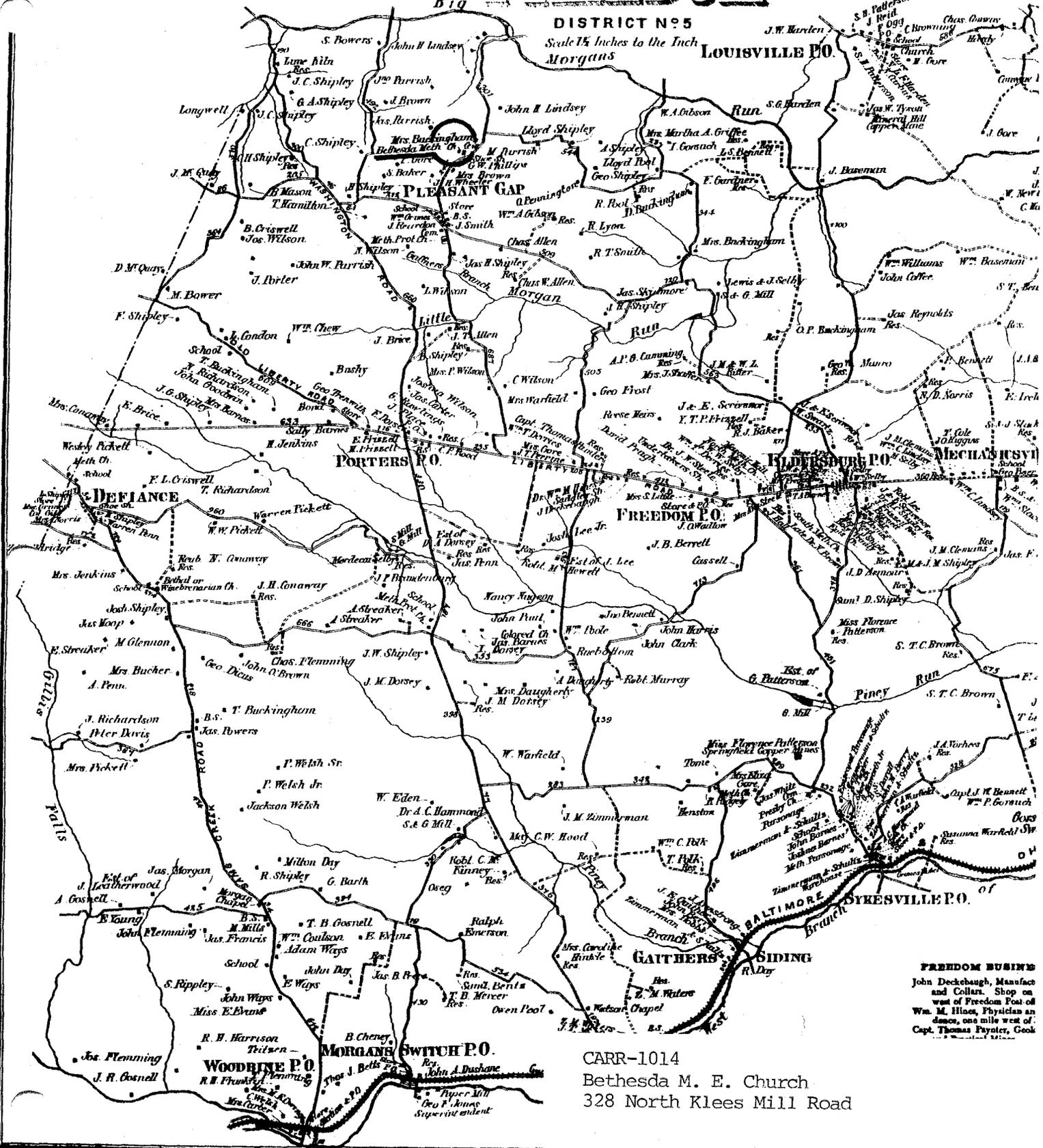
FREEDOM

Big

DISTRICT N^o 5

Scale 1/4 Inches to the Inch
Morgans

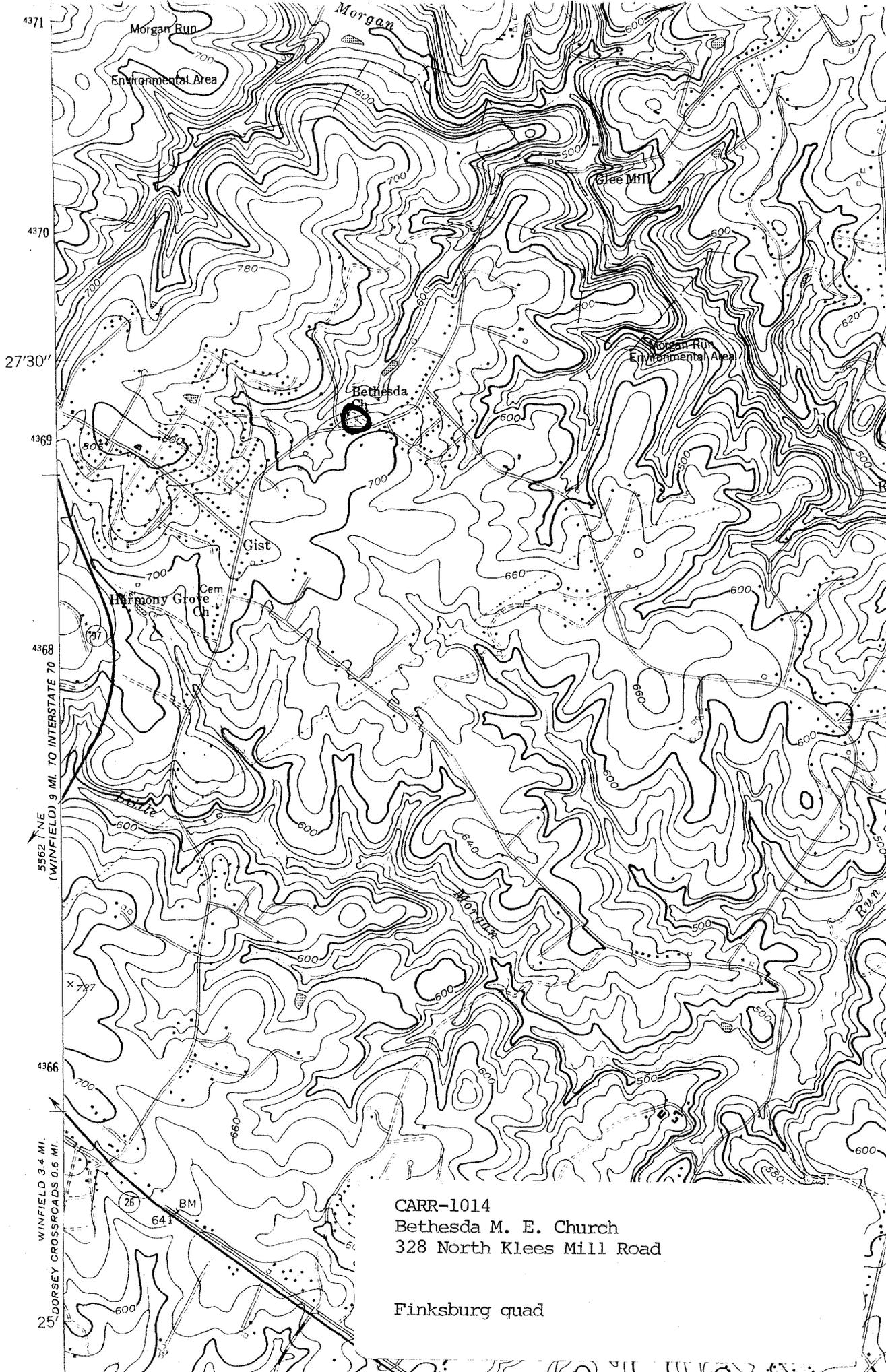
LOUISVILLE P.O.



FREEDOM BUSINESS
John Deckerbaugh, Manufact
and Collar. Shop on
west of Freedom Post of
Wm. M. Hines, Physician an
dancer, one mile west of
Capt. Thomas Paynter, Cook

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328 North Klees Mill Road

Lake, Griffin & Stevenson Atlas, 1877



4371
4370
27°30'
4369
4368
4366
25

5562 1" NE
(WINFIELD) 9 MI. TO INTERSTATE 70

WINFIELD 3.4 MI.
DORSEY CROSSROADS 0.6 MI.

CARR-1014
Bethesda M. E. Church
328 North Klees Mill Road

Finksburg quad



Bethesda M.E. Church
328 N. Kees Mill Rd.

Carroll County, Maryland

Photo: Kenneth M. Short

Date: April 1993

Neg. Loc.: Maryland Historical Trust
west and south elevations

1/4



Bethesda M.E. Church
328 North Klee Mill Road
Carroll County, Maryland
Photo: Kenneth M. Short
Date: March 1993

Neg. Loc.: Maryland Historical Trust
interior: view northeast



Bethesda M.E. Church
328 North Klee Mill Road
Carroll County, Maryland

Photo: Kenneth M. Short

Date: March 1993

Neg. Loc.: Maryland Historical Trust
interior - view south

3/4



Bethesda M.E. Church
328 North Klee Mill Road
Carroll County, Maryland
Photo: Kenneth M. Short
Date: March 1993

Neg. Loc.: Maryland Historical Trust
interior - chandelier