

CARR-1099

Morgan Chapel M. E. Church  
Woodbine Road and Gillis Falls Road

1905

In the Spring of 1870 a meeting was first held by local residents to discuss the possibility of building a neighborhood church. Such a church was finally established in May, 1871, under the leadership of Captain James Morgan. A motion was carried in August 1904 to build the new church in the Fall, but in September it was decided to put off construction until the Spring. In January 1905, the decision was made to erect a building 32 by 44 feet, with no vestibule, a pulpit recess with two small windows, two front doors, eight side windows, and two flues. Two months later it was decided to build the roof with jack rafters instead of a simple flat ceiling. Selby Brothers was contracted to do the building. The cost of construction was \$1,445. Selby Brothers charged an additional \$65.00 for the steeple and \$16.00 for the porch. The pews cost the congregation \$320.00, other furniture \$100.00, and the bell was \$18.00. The new sanctuary was dedicated on 26 November 1905. The church building illustrates the stronghold traditional forms had on rural communities in Carroll County.



# 7. Description

Survey No. CARR-1099

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input 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
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date of move _____

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

**Summary:** Morgan Chapel M. E. Church is located at the northwest corner of the intersection of Woodbine Road and Gillis Falls Road about two miles north of Woodbine and four miles south of Winfield, in southwest Carroll County, Maryland. The church is located on a level site and faces east toward Woodbine Road. It is a two-bay by four-bay, one-story frame structure on a raised basement. The foundation is parged, the siding is asbestos shingles, and the gable roof, with a ridge running east-west, is standing-seam metal. Most of the east elevation is covered by a later two-bay by one-bay addition with a CMU foundation, asbestos shingle siding, and a gable roof with asphalt shingles. The north and south elevations each have four 4/4 wood sash in the cellar, with four stained glass lancets above. The original east elevation survives under the later addition and has two double doors. Above each door is a lancet transom with stained glass. On the west end is a raised dais with a segmental altar rail of turned balusters and fat turned newels topped by balls. The apse is recessed. There is a large cemetery south and west of the church.

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Most of the east elevation is covered by a later two-bay by one-bay addition with a CMU foundation, asbestos shingle siding, and a gable roof with asphalt shingles. The east elevation of this addition has double doors, while the north and south elevations each have a single 1/1 sash. Above the addition on the east elevation is a 1/1 lancet sash with stained glass and a masonic symbol. Centered on the ridge at the east end of the church is an open belfry, with a simple wood railing and a steep-hipped roof supported by two simple brackets on each elevation.

The north and south elevations each have four 4/4 wood sash in the cellar, with four stained glass lancets that have wood sills above. Each of these windows has an olive green outer margin with an amber field and a brown, stylized "tree of life" pattern in the center. There is also an oval medallion just above center, with a painted symbol in it. At the bottom of the window is a memorial tablet. The west elevation has a projecting half-hexagonal chancel that was probably originally cantilevered at the sanctuary level. Now it is infilled at the basement, and has a beaded-edge-and-center vertical board door on the west face. The

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Description (continued)

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northwest and southwest faces of the chancel each have a short lancet window with stained glass to match the others. South of the chancel is an exterior brick chimney and north of it a projecting, shed-roofed vestibule with aluminum siding and a door on the west with four lights over three sunken lying panels.

The original east elevation survives under the later addition and has two double doors. Each door has four sunk panels with quarter-round panel moulds. The head rail has dentil moulding and a stylized egg and dart moulding above it. Above each door is a lancet transom with stained glass matching the other windows. At the bottom of each transom is a red glass panel with "Morgan Chapel".

The sanctuary is one open space, with a three-inch wide pine floor that runs east-west, plaster walls, and a gabled ceiling that is open to the bottom of the tie beams and has acoustical tiles. The baseboards and all openings have plain wood surrounds. The pews are new and face west. There are wall sconces between each pair of windows on the north and south walls, and matching lights hanging from the ceiling down the center of the church. The sconces have a black metal bracket with a white glass drop pendant globe that is octagonal in plan. The globe has a gothic window design on each side, and the glass is streaked with red and green.

On the west end is a raised dais with a segmental altar rail of turned balusters and fat turned newels topped by balls. The rail appears to be of oak. There is an oak altar table behind the rail, then a pulpit set on a raised podium. The pulpit has a gothic window motif panel at the bottom, with a quatre foil panel above, an engaged column on each side, and foliate carving across the top. The apse is recessed and has three large oak chairs, with panelled backs.

There is a large cemetery south and west of the church.

# 8. Significance

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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 type="checkbox"/> 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** 1905 **Builder/Architect** Selby Brothers

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:** In the Spring of 1870 a meeting was first held by local residents to discuss the possibility of building a neighborhood church. Such a church was finally established in May, 1871, under the leadership of Captain James Morgan. A motion was carried in August 1904 to build the new church in the Fall, but in September it was decided to put off construction until the Spring. In January 1905, the decision was made to erect a building 32 by 44 feet, with no vestibule, a pulpit recess with two small windows, two front doors, eight side windows, and two flues. Two months later it was decided to build the roof with jack rafters instead of a simple flat ceiling. Selby Brothers was contracted to do the building. The cost of construction was \$1,445. Selby Brothers charged an additional \$65.00 for the steeple and \$16.00 for the porch. The pews cost the congregation \$320.00, other furniture \$100.00, and the bell was \$18.00. The new sanctuary was dedicated on 26 November 1905. The church building illustrates the stronghold traditional forms had on rural communities in Carroll County.

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

The history of Morgan Run comes from a church centennial booklet, and was taken from the minutes of the Board of Trustees. In the Spring of 1870 a meeting was first held by local residents to discuss the possibility of building a neighborhood church. Such a church was finally established in May, 1871, under the leadership of Captain James Morgan. The cornerstone of that church was laid the same year, and the church dedicated on 3 May 1874 by Methodist Episcopal, Methodist Protestant, and Church of God representatives. The trustees of the church resolved that the Methodist Episcopal denomination would have the right to use the chapel on every other Sunday, and that other denominations could use the chapel for preaching after getting the consent of trustees. Thus, though this was not a union church, it operated on similar principles for the benefit of the entire community. The sanctuary stood at the intersection of Hoods Mill and Woodbine Roads, and was 24 by 36

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Significance (continued)

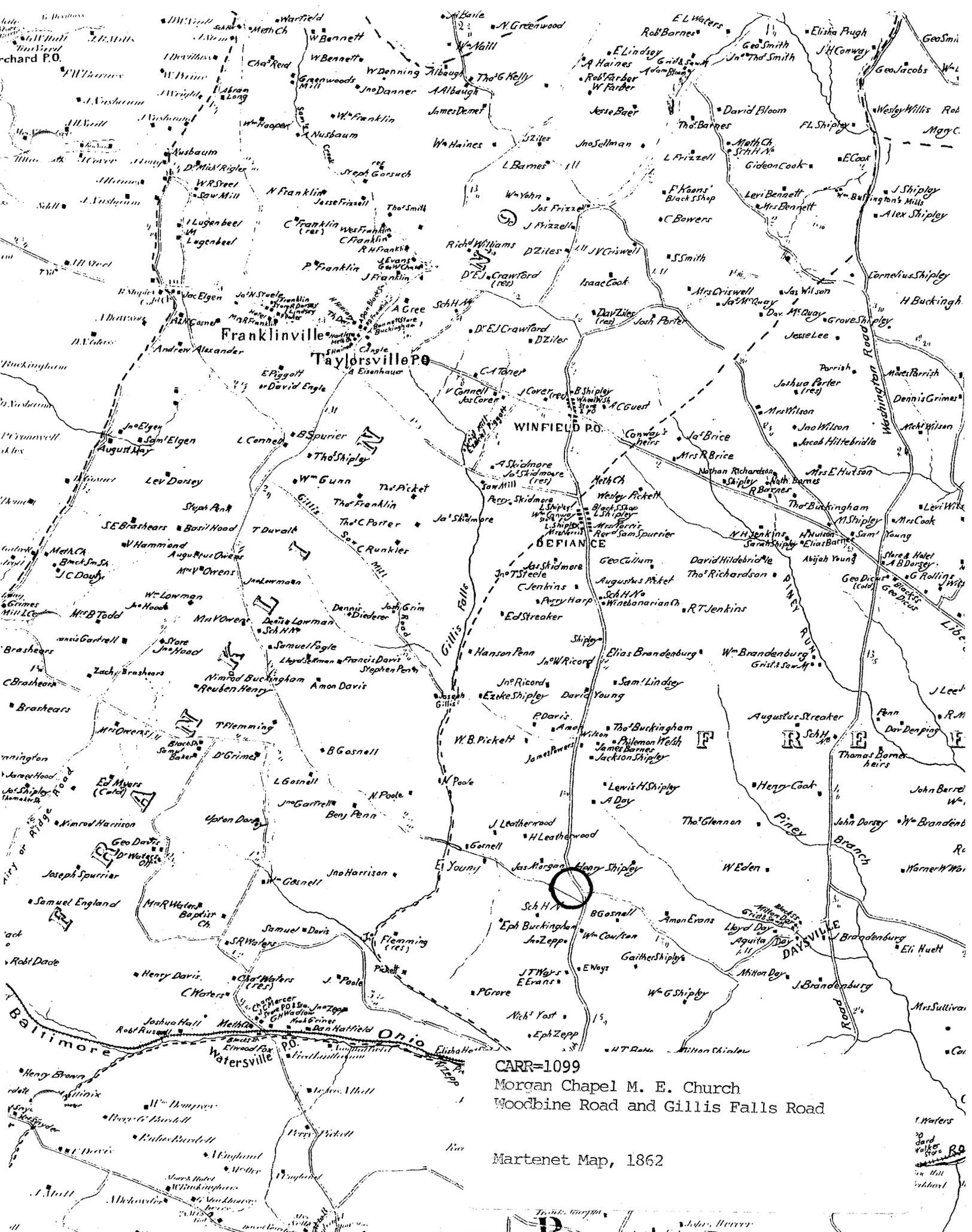
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feet. A half acre was purchased in January 1896 for use as a cemetery. In 1902 an additional acre of land was purchased from James Morgan for \$25.00 and the existing building was constructed about 50 yards north of the original structure. A motion was carried in August 1904 to build the new church in the Fall, but in September it was decided to put off construction until the Spring. In January 1905, the decision was made to erect a building 32 by 44 feet, with no vestibule, a pulpit recess with two small windows, two front doors, eight side windows, and two flues. Two months later it was decided to build the roof with jack rafters instead of a simple flat ceiling, and that the ceiling would be seventeen feet high in the center. The walls would be painted white. Bids were received for the lumber, and Selby Brothers was contracted to do the building. The cost of construction was \$1,445. Selby Brothers charged an additional \$65.00 for the steeple and \$16.00 for the porch. The pews cost the congregation \$320.00, other furniture \$100.00, and the bell was \$18.00. The new sanctuary was dedicated on 26 November 1905.

The church building illustrates the stronghold traditional forms had on rural communities in Carroll County. The Morgan Chapel congregation built a structure that would have been common fifty years before. In the 1890's towns like Lineboro, Mt. Airy, and Silver Run were building auditorium-style churches, and rural congregations were disposing of the dual entrance and occasionally adding an off-center tower, but these influences were not to affect Morgan Chapel.

The most significant changes came in 1943, when the memorial windows were installed, in the Fall of 1963, when the vestibule was added to the east elevation, and in September 1967, when the new pews were installed. The cemetery was fenced in 1921 and three years later the church painted a cream color, with oak trimmings and brown shutters. The original porch was almost as wide as the church, and had five wood steps, with a simple railing at each end of the porch. The congregation held typical church suppers, but their most unique activity was the Morgan Chapel Cornet Band, which was organized 1 September 1911. Bands have been very popular throughout Carroll County's history, and most were associated with towns.





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Morgan Chapel M. E. Church  
Woodbine Road and Gillis Falls Road

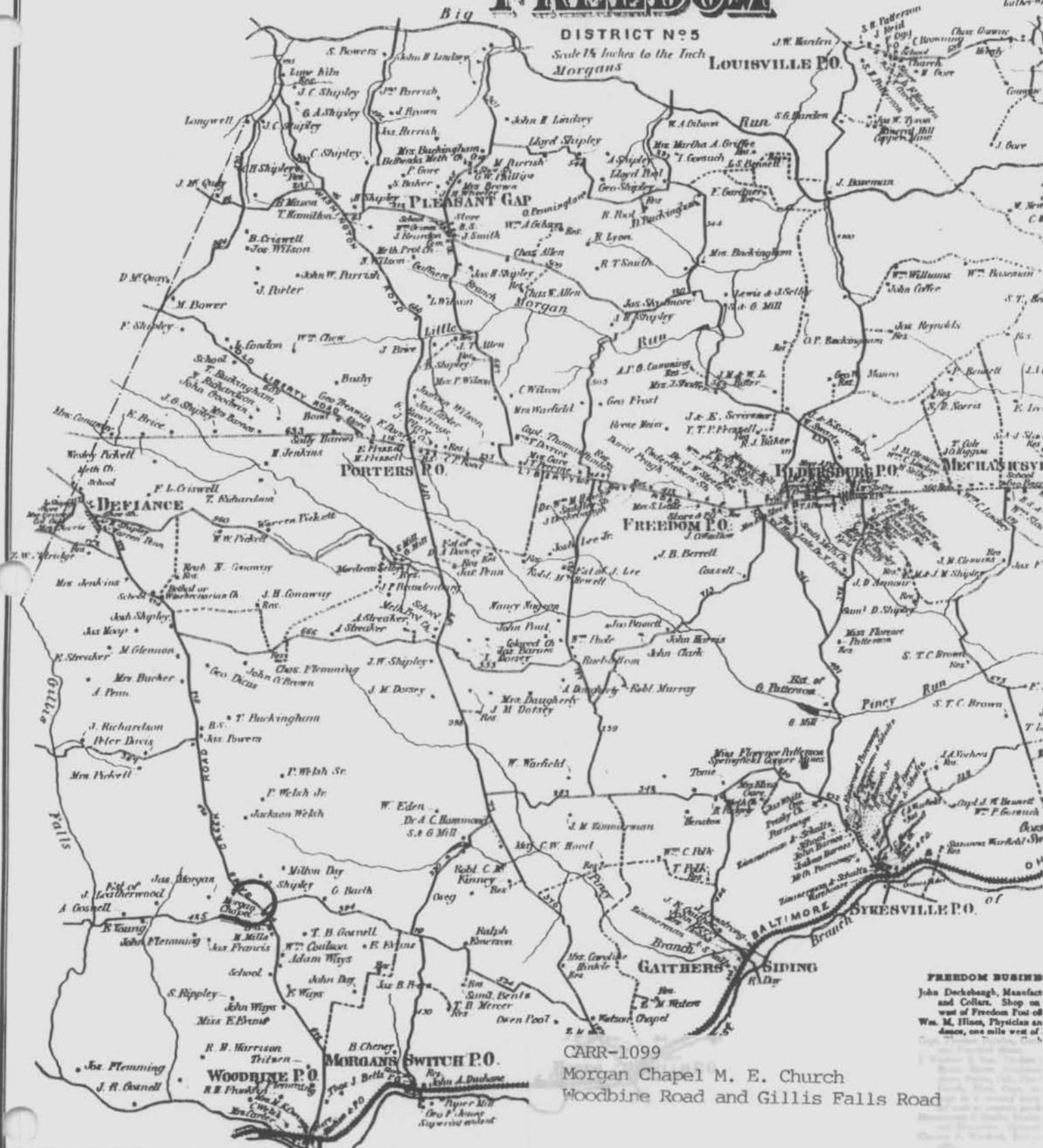
Martenet Map, 1862

Waters  
20  
dard  
1018  
store  
in Hill  
cultural

# FREEDOM

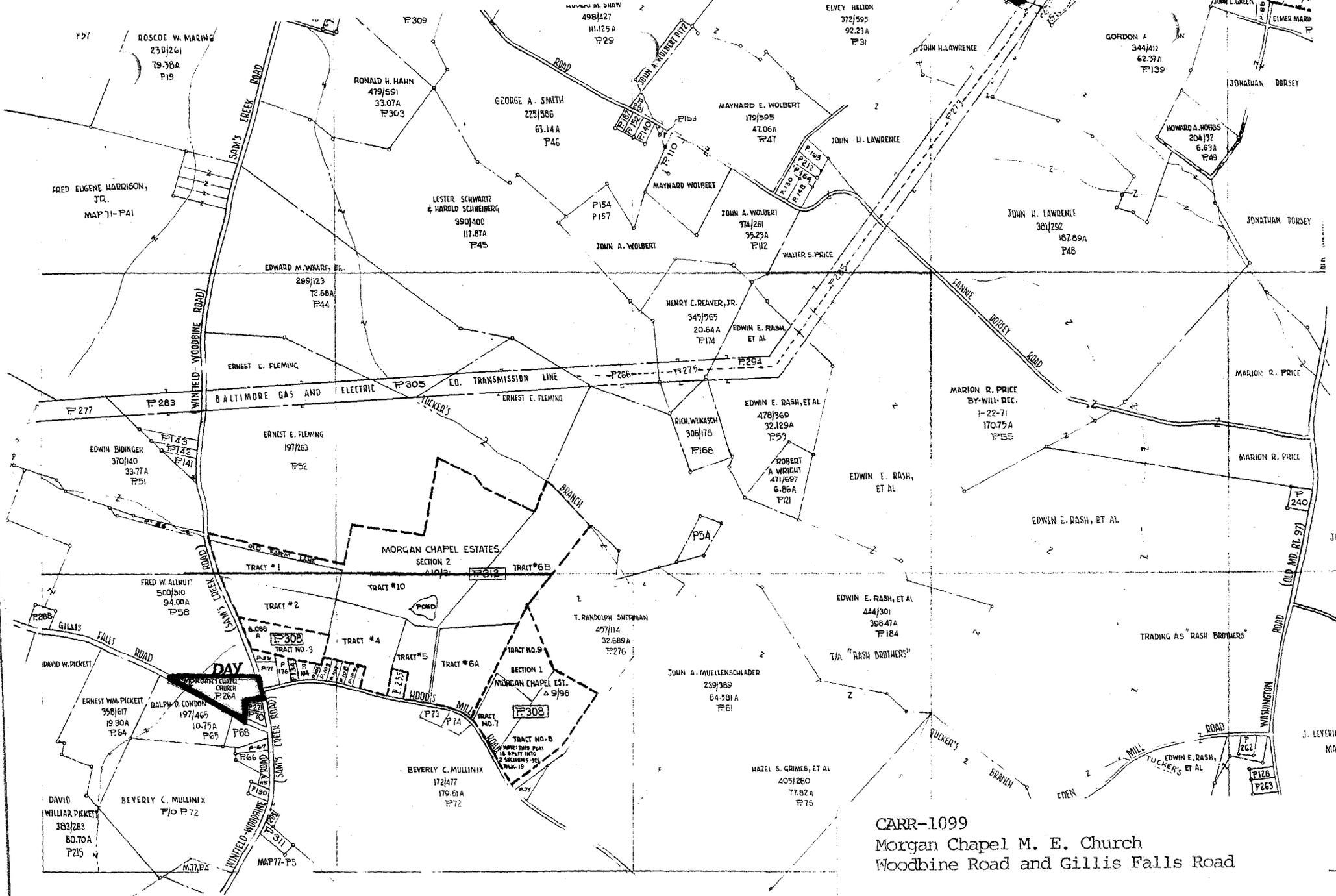
DISTRICT N<sup>o</sup> 5

Scale 1 1/2 inches to the Inch

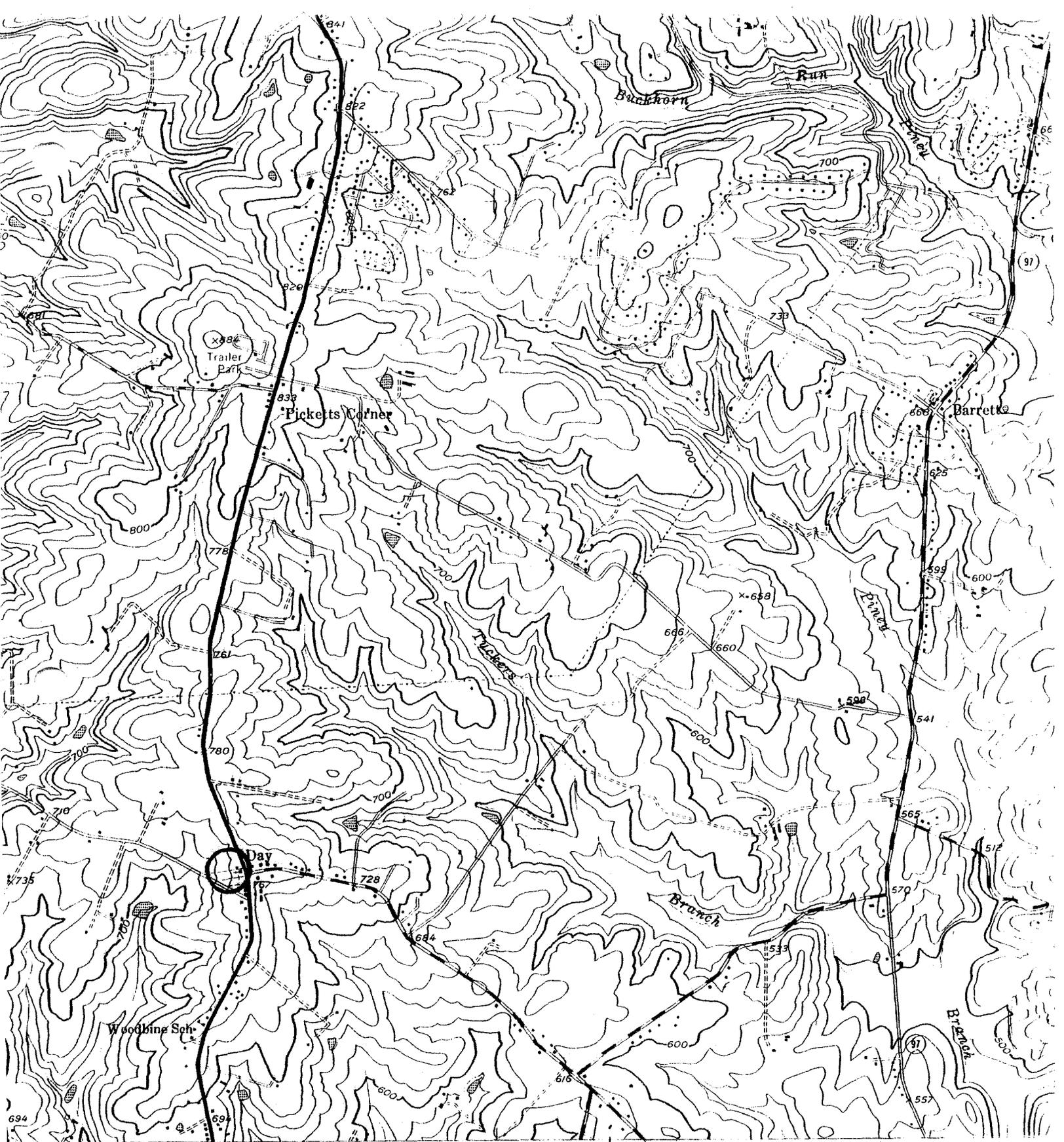


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**FREEDOM BUSINESS**  
 John Deckebough, Manufact  
 and Collars. Shop on  
 west of Freedom Post of  
 Wm. M. Hixon, Physician an  
 dance, one mile west of

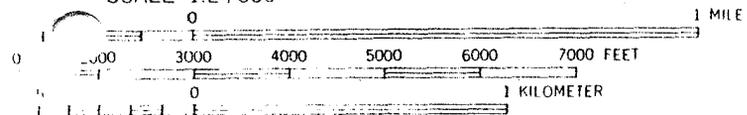


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322 (WOODBINE) 5562 1 SE WOODBINE 1.1 MI. LISBON (JUNC. U. S. 40) 2.9 MI. 324 2'30" HOODS MILLS 2.2 MI. 326

SCALE 1:24000



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Winfield quad

CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET  
 NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929

INTERIOR GEOLOGICAL SURVEY



Morgan Chapel Methodist Church  
Woodbine Road

Carroll County, Maryland

Photo: Kenneth M. Short

Date: March 1993

Neg. Loc.: Maryland Historical Trust

South & east elevations

12



Morgan Chapel Methodist Church  
Woodbine Road

Carroll County, Maryland

Photo: Kenneth M. Short

Date: March 1993

Neg. Loc.: Maryland Historical Trust  
West: South elevations

2/2



CARR-1099

Morgan Chapel Methodist Church  
Woodbine Road

Carroll County, Maryland

Photo: Kenneth M. Short

Date: March 1993

Neg. loc.: Maryland Historical Trust  
interior-view northwest

3/3