

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Trinity Methodist Episcopal Church

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

Bohemia Avenue and Third Street, south west corner

CITY, TOWN

Chesapeake City

— VICINITY OF

First

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Cecil

**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 type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input checked="" 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

Trinity M.E. Church

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

Bohemia Avenue and Third Street

CITY, TOWN

Chesapeake City

— VICINITY OF

Maryland 21915

STATE, zip code

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, Cecil County Courthouse  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Liber #: JAD No. 18  
Folio #: 355

STREET & NUMBER

Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Elkton

STATE

Maryland 21921

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

— FEDERAL — STATE — COUNTY — LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION**

**CONDITION**

- EXCELLENT
- GOOD
- FAIR
- DETERIORATED
- RUINS
- UNEXPOSED

**CHECK ONE**

- UNALTERED
- ALTERED

**CHECK ONE**

- ORIGINAL SITE
- MOVED      DATE \_\_\_\_\_

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Trinity Church is one of the three churches in the Historic District of Chesapeake City. It is a granite Victorian Gothic style building constructed in 1889. It is an L-plan building with one gable facing Bohemia and the other Third Street. In the angle formed by the 'L' is a tall tower having an open bell-fry and octagonal spire.

The granite walls are made of irregular size rough-cut blocks with convex joints. Above the crawl space grills are segmental brick arches, the grills being a floral pattern of cast iron. There is neither belt course nor water table, however, above each of the lancet arched windows is an arch of brick. Both gables are identical and have a large three-part window flanked by a smaller window. In the apex is a lunette. The south side of the building has five smaller windows. The 'A' roof has an overhanging eave with typical exposed and shaped rafters and purlins. Slate covers the roof which is laid with two lines of imbricated slates, four courses deep, between a nearly equal spacing of straight edge slate. This feature is very similar to the Brady-Rees House except for the number of courses.

On both faces of the tower is a double door beneath a stain glass lancet arch transom. Above the transom is a rose window. At the level of the rose window the tower has recessed brick at the corners. Above the granite walls is a partly open bellfry with turrets rising from the corners and an open gallery of six lancet arch spaces. Its cornice has applied beads attached to the fascia. The entire spire is covered with imbricated slates, the top of which has a tin cap from which rises a weathervane.

The building is very neatly maintained and is one of the chief focal points in the District. On the west side of the structure a parish hall was constructed in 1957, part of which is made of the same type granite, a slate colored asphalt roof and awning windows. The hall faces Third and George Streets.

**8 SIGNIFICANCE**

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      1889                                      BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Trinity Church is important on two counts. It is an important piece of architecture in this town of essentially vernacular residences. The Gothic style and granite material are unique in the town and create a focal point emphasized by its corner location and vertical spire. As the seat of Methodism in Chesapeake City, it is also of importance.

In 1846, Richard and Mary Sophia Bayard granted land for the building of a Methodist Church to the trustees, Joseph Bryan, a merchant, Daniel Karsner, William C. Crow, John Peach, William P. Cropper, canal collector, John Burbage, a merchant, and John Adams. A frame building was put up at that time to serve the congregation that had been going to Bethel for services. Bishop Asbury is supposed to have held services in the old frame church. As late as 1874, people were brought to trial in the church for "Habitual neglect of the means of grace," (not attending church) and were expelled. The church society was incorporated in the January session, 1868, Chapter 471, section 156-168, by the name, "The Trustees of the Trinity Methodist Episcopla Church of Chesapeake City".

The trustees in 1889, when the granite church was built were, James Coleman, Harry Pierce, Joseph Brooks, Thomas A. Rees, Irving G. Griffith, Jacob Metz, Waitman Smithers, William H. Wates, and Levi S. Jenness.

Services have been held continuously since the church's founding. Some ministers served longer than others. Some are remembered more than others. Among some of the memorable ministers have been the Reverend Robert Whitlock who helped build the addition in 1957; Reverend William Poole, an especially popular minister, and the Reverend Beckwith, a personable man in the pulpit and in the community. The first minister of record was John Smith in 1845, a native of the Elkton area and a man of property. He bought several parcels of land from the Bayards in the new town which he sold to newcomers at a profit. He also owned a farm south of town.

The present minister, Gary W. Trail, lives in the parsonage on West Third Street. He is an enthusiastic young man filled with initiative who serves Trinity Methodist Church and also conducts services in the old Presbyterian church on the north side of the Canal.

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

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 \_\_\_\_\_

STATE \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY \_\_\_\_\_

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

Michael Bourne &amp; Katherine Wein

April, 1976

ORGANIZATION

DATE

South Chesapeake City Historic District Commission

STREET &amp; NUMBER

TELEPHONE

c/o Town Council of Chesapeake City

(301) 885-5298

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Chesapeake City

Maryland 21915

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.

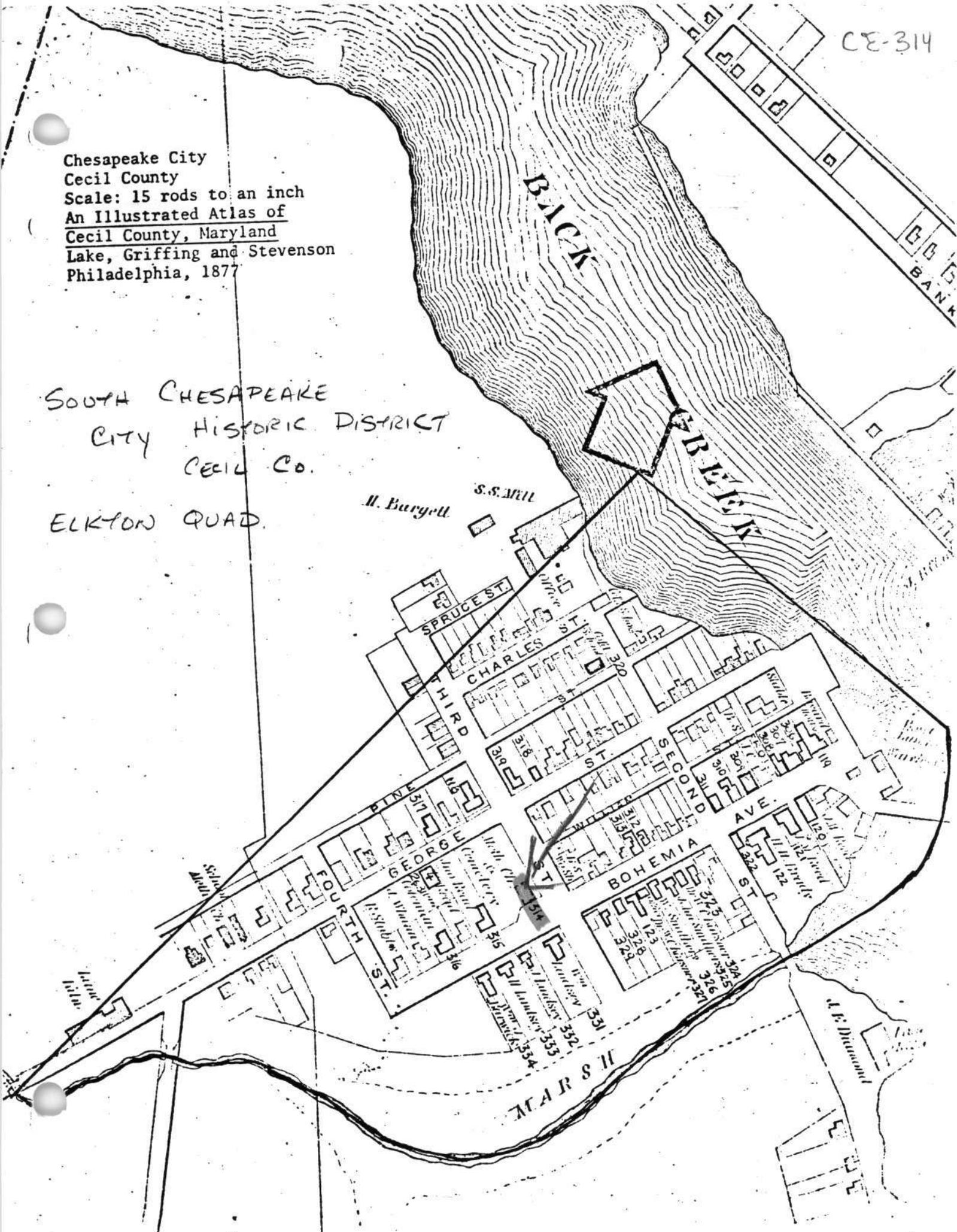
The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

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

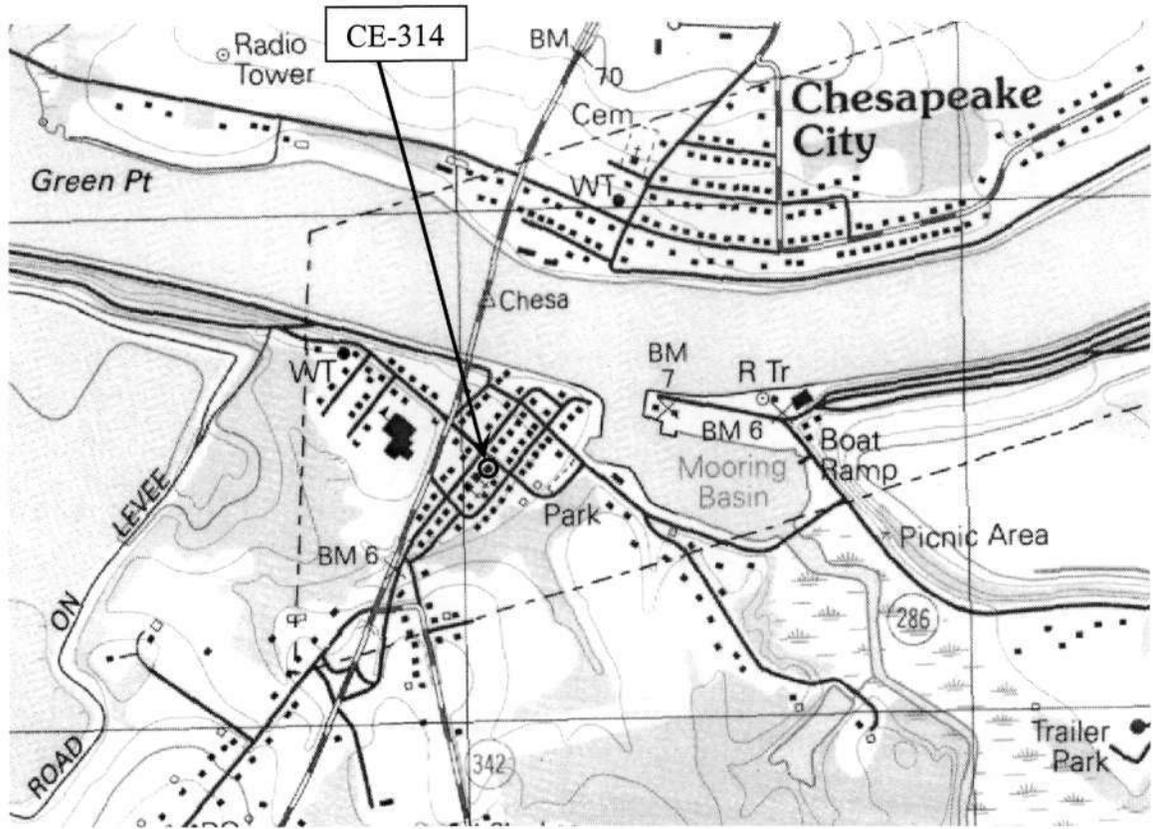
CE-314

Chesapeake City  
Cecil County  
Scale: 15 rods to an inch  
An Illustrated Atlas of  
Cecil County, Maryland  
Lake, Griffing and Stevenson  
Philadelphia, 1877

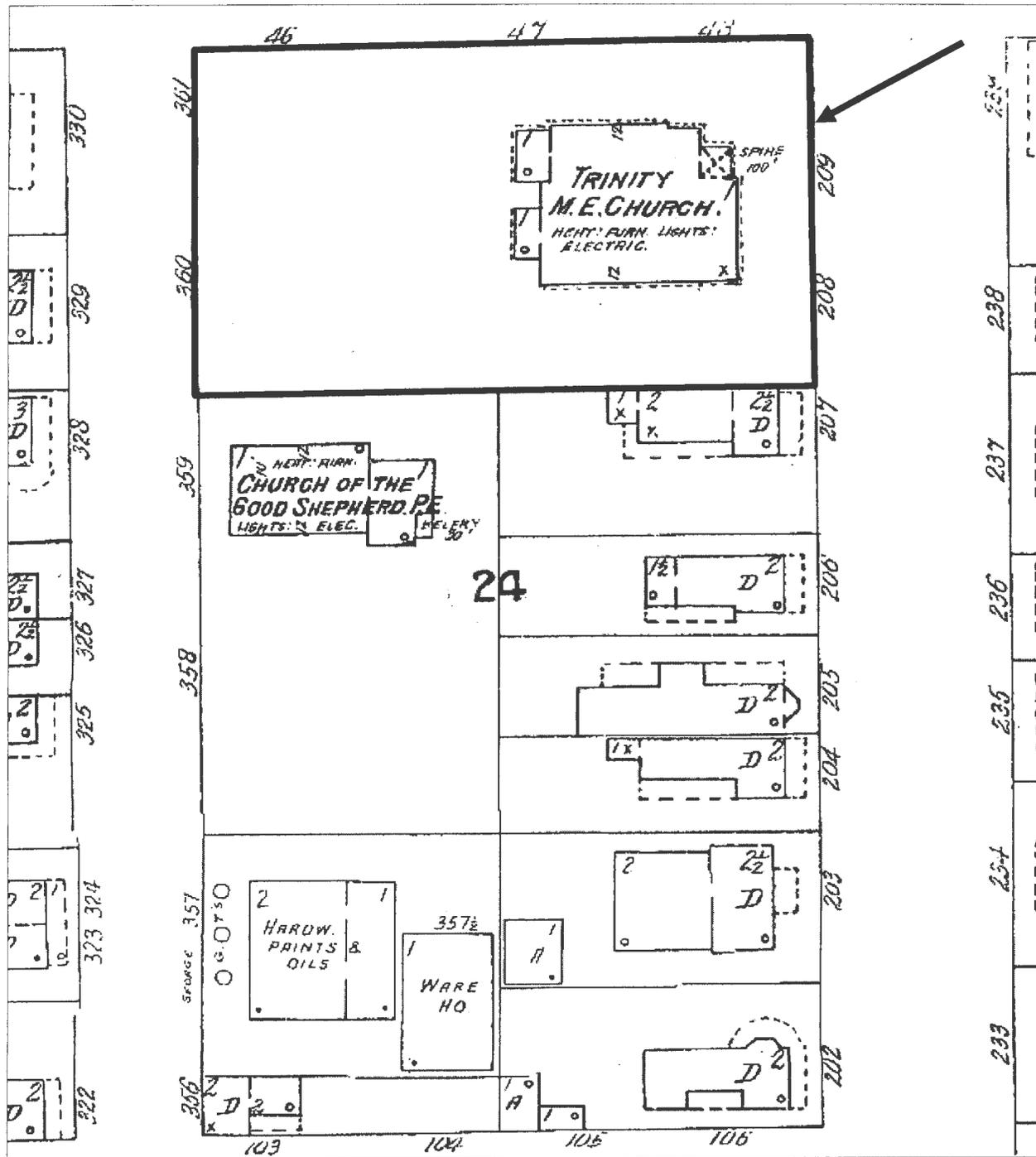
SOUTH CHESAPEAKE  
CITY HISTORIC DISTRICT  
CECIL CO.  
ELKTON QUAD.



CE-314  
Trinity Methodist Episcopal Church  
Bohemia Ave. and 3<sup>rd</sup> St.  
Chesapeake City  
Elkton Quad.  
Cecil County

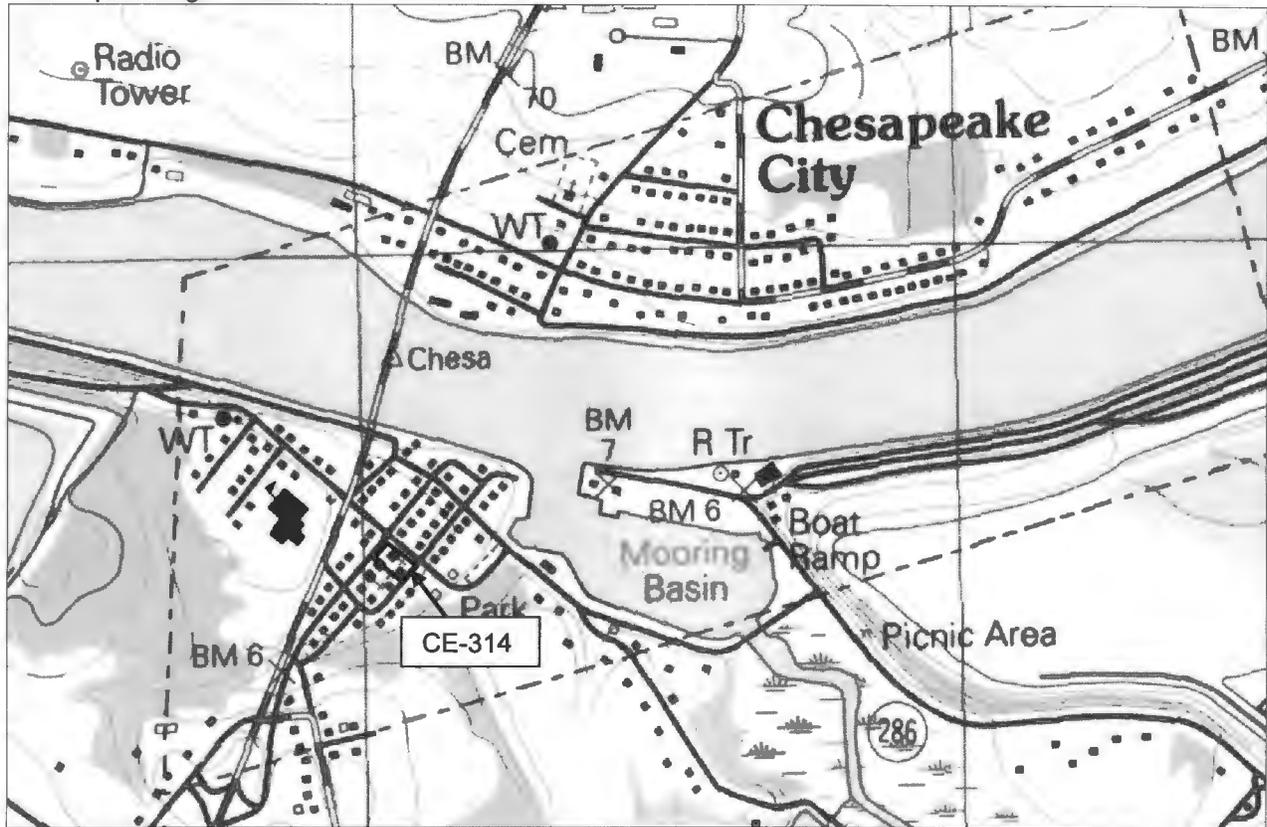


CE-314  
Trinity Methodist Episcopal Church  
450 Third Street, Chesapeake City  
Sanborn Map, 1933, Sheet 4



JKC 2/4/2015

CE-314  
Trinity Methodist Episcopal Church  
450 Third Street, Chesapeake City  
Elkton quadrangle 1992



Cecil County Tax Map 200, Parcel 338



JKC 2/4/2015



CE 314

Chesapeake City

Trinity Methodist Episcopal

Church Box 7173



CE 314

Charapeake City

Trinity Methodist Episcopal Church

882 7/73



Trinity M.E. Church CE-314

Nathaniel

M. Bourne April 1976