

CH-362

1902

Smiths Chapel

Pisgah

Private

Despite significant alterations to the front and side elevations, Smith Chapel is one of a handful of remaining early 20th century chapels built for African-American congregations in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The church is a front-gable frame structure standing on the north side of Poorhouse Road near the village of Pisgah. The original structure has a front-gable orientation that is three bays in length with a steeply pitched composition shingle roof, original lancet windows on the eave elevations, and a diamond-shaped gable window on the façade. The church cemetery The cemetery, including scattered graves marked by stone tablets, cedar stakes, wood crosses, and locally made concrete markers reflects African American burial traditions during the 20th century.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. CH-362

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Smiths Chapel
 other

2. Location

street and number 7750 Poorhouse Road ___ not for publication
 city, town Pisgah X vicinity
 county Charles

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

name Earl Barbour, trustees et al
 street and number PO Box 505 telephone unknown
 city, town Marbury state MD zip code 20658-0505

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Charles County Courthouse tax map and parcel: 31 p. 105
 city, town La Plata liber 231 folio 121

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- Contributing Resource in National Register District
- Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
- Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
- Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
- Recorded by HABS/HAER
- Historic Structure Report or Research Report
- Other

6. Classification

| Category | Ownership | Current Function | Resource Count |
|---|---|--|--|
| | | | Contributing Noncontributing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> district | <input type="checkbox"/> public | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private | <input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade | <u>1</u> buildings |
| <input type="checkbox"/> structure | <input type="checkbox"/> both | <input type="checkbox"/> defense | <u>1</u> sites |
| <input type="checkbox"/> site | | <input type="checkbox"/> domestic | structures |
| <input type="checkbox"/> object | | <input type="checkbox"/> education | objects |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> funerary | <u>2</u> Total |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> government | |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> health care | |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> industry | |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> landscape | |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture | |
| | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion | |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> social | |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation | |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> work in progress | |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> unknown | |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use | |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> other: | |
| | | | Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory |
| | | | 1 |

7. Description

Inventory No. CH-362

Condition

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated |
| <input type="checkbox"/> good | <input type="checkbox"/> ruins |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair | <input type="checkbox"/> altered |
-

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

Erected in 1902, Smith's Chapel is a front-gable frame structure standing on the north side of Poorhouse Road near the village of Pisgah. The original church was three bays in length and rests on a continuous poured concrete and concrete block foundation. It has a steeply pitched composition shingle roof, original lancet windows on the eave elevations, and a diamond-shaped gable window on the façade. The original structure has been altered by the construction of mid-20th century concrete block and frame additions on three of the four elevations and a brick veneer on the façade. The church cemetery includes scattered graves marked by stone tablets, cedar stakes, wood crosses, and locally made concrete markers in the form of tablets or crosses. Several graves are outlined with garden fencing. The interior was not available at the time of the survey.

8. Significance

Inventory No. CH-362

| 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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input 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 industry | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> conservation | | <input type="checkbox"/> military | <input type="checkbox"/> other: |

Specific dates 1902 **Architect/Builder** unknown

Construction dates 1902

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 reports, complete evaluation on a DOE Form - see manual.)

Despite significant alterations to the front and side elevations, Smiths Chapel is one of a handful of remaining early 20th century chapels built by and for African-American congregations in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The setting adds to the site's significance including a cemetery containing representative examples of African American burial traditions from the 20th century.

According to published local history accounts, Methodism was spread to Southern Maryland via traveling evangelical preachers who visited private homes and staged impromptu revival meetings. There are few surviving records of early Methodist activities in Charles County. However, it is known that from approximately 1785 throughout the 19th century itinerant apostles traveled the countryside converting residents and preaching at meetings. As the number of believers grew, small groups of converts began to organize into what were called Methodist societies. Some of the earliest of these societies in Charles and St. Mary's counties were located at Bethel (Budds Creek), Mechanicsville, New Town (near La Plata), Pisgah, Shiloh and Chicamuxen.

The first African American congregation were formed around the end of the Civil War. Shiloh near Newburg, Jordan Chapel (later Alexander or Alexandria) at Chicamuxen, and Price's Chapel, (later Metropolitan Church). Around the 1880's the churches became affiliated with the Washington Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, Charles Circuit, followed by a spur of church construction throughout the County. Until the 1890's they shared many early preachers including Rev. Charles Daniel Wheeler, and R.H. Alexander. According to local accounts, Smith Chapel was officially organized in 1901 and the current chapel erected in 1902.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. CH-362

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 4.81

Acreage of historical setting 4.81

Quadrangle name Port Tobacco

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

Smith Chapel is associated with Charles County Property tax map 31, parcel 105.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Cathy Hardy/Historic Sites Surveyor

organization Charles County Planning

dat 6/13/2003

street and number 200 Baltimore Street

telephone 301-396-5815

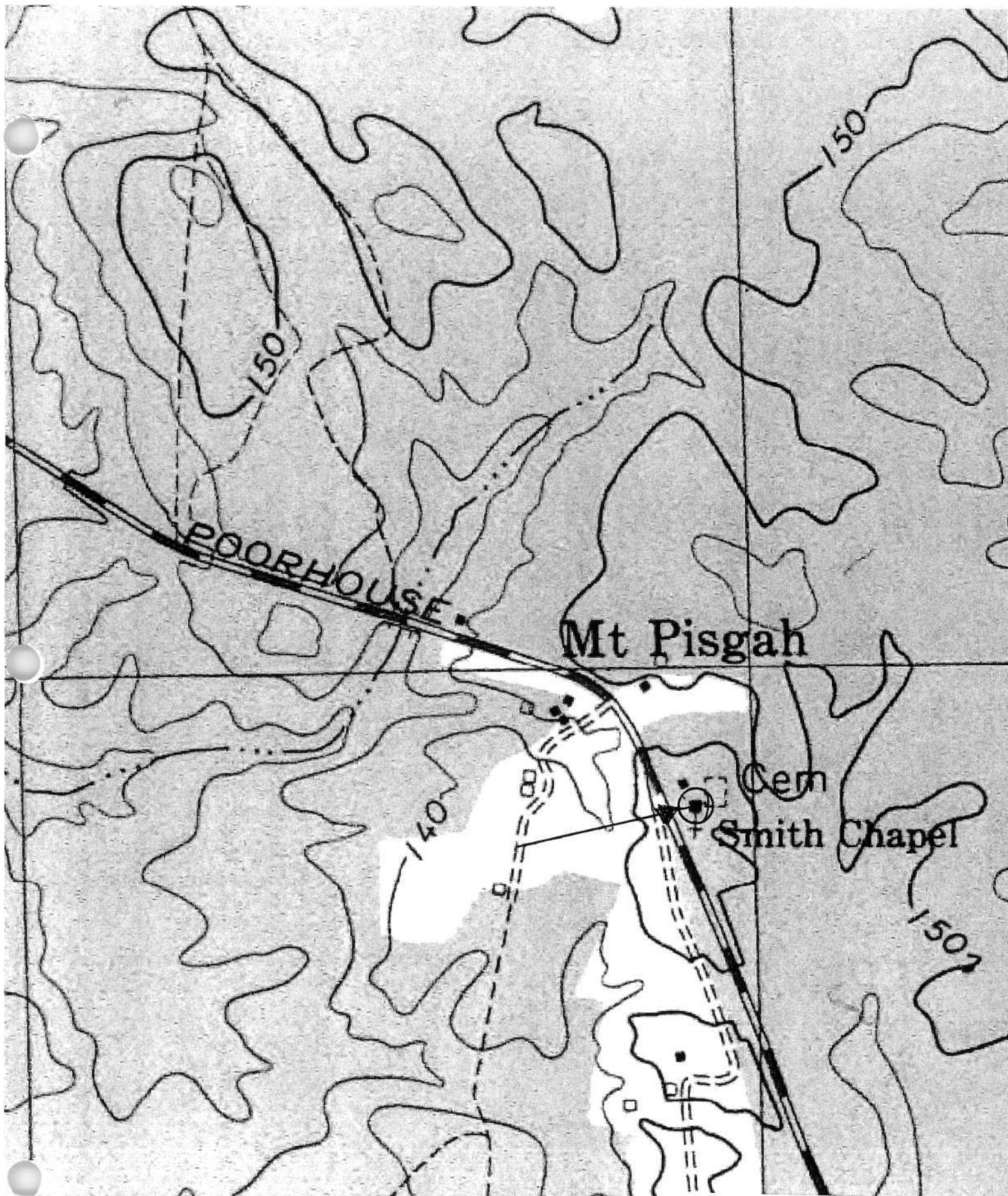
city or town La Plata

stat MD zip code 20646

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
410-514-7600



CH-362 Charles County, MD
Name: SMITH CHAPEL
Location: PISGAH VIL.
Quad: POINT TOBACCO

157 XE



CH-362

SMITH CHAPEL
CHARLES CO. MD

C. HARDY

7/2002

MD SHPO

LOOKING N

10P4



CH-362

SMITH CHAPEL

CHARLES CO, MD

C. HARDY

7/2002

MD SHPO

REAR ELEVATION

2 of 4



CH-362

SMITH CHAPEL

CHARLES CO. MD

C. HARDY

7/2002

MD SHPO

CEMETERY, LOOKING WEST

30P4



SARAH
WARREN

CH-362
SMITH CHAPEL
CHARLES CO. MD
C. HARDY
7/2002
MD SHPO
LOCALLY MADE STONE
4074

Charles - 362
Smith's Chapel(Methodist)
Near Rt. 225
Pisgah,MD

1886, 1910

On a local road off of Rt.225, two miles before you reach the village of Pisgah, is Smith's Chapel. The chapel stands 34' from the east side of the road and faces west. The present structure was built in 1910 and has grown without thought of architectural beauty. Smith's Chapel is one of three small black chapels in the Pisgah Charge. These Chapels (Smith's, Emory and Alexandria) were all founded after the Civil War. Smith's congregation is made up of sharecroppers, field hands and small farmers. The cemetery on the north side of the church contains graves from the 1880's and 90's. The Chapel houses an isolated congregation that continues to survive in rural Charles County.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC Smith's Chapel (Methodist)

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER Near Rt. 225 on Poor House Road

CITY, TOWN _____ CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT _____

___ VICINITY OF Pisgah

STATE Maryland COUNTY Charles

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 type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE | <input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> BOTH | <input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS | <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SITE | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE | <input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS |
| <input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT | <input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS | <input 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 Trustees, Smith's Chapel
Rev. Harvey R. Curtis

Telephone #: 753-6553

STREET & NUMBER Box 121

CITY, TOWN Indian Head VICINITY OF _____ STATE Md. zip code 20640

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Charles Co. Court House

Liber #: GN 5 AND 35
Folio #: 125 121

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN La Plata STATE Md.

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE na/

DATE

___ FEDERAL ___ STATE ___ COUNTY ___ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN _____ STATE _____

7 DESCRIPTION

| | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|--|
| 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 <u>1886</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FAIR | <input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED | | |

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

On a local road off of Rte. 225, two miles before you reach the village of Pisgah is Smith's Chapel. The chapel stands 34 feet from the east side of the road and faces west. The present structure was built in 1910 and has grown without thought of architectural beauty. The old weatherboard chapel is now covered with white asbestos shingles. A cement block addition has been joined to the chapel on the north side. I have included photographs of the present structure.

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 type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY | <input checked="" 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 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 1886-1910

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Smith's Chapel (United Methodist) is one of three small black chapels in the Pisgah Charge. These chapels (Smith's Emory and Alexandria) were all founded after the Civil War. The blacks that made up the congregations of these chapels were once served by the old Pisgah Methodist Church. Smith's congregation is made up of sharecroppers, field hands and small farmers. The cemetery on the north side of the church contains graves from the 1880's and 1890's. Smith's Chapel is an isolated congregation that continues to survive in Charles County.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

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

James W. Clark, Historic Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Maryland Commission on Afro-American
History and Culture

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

20 Dean Street

TELEPHONE

269-2893

CITY OR TOWN

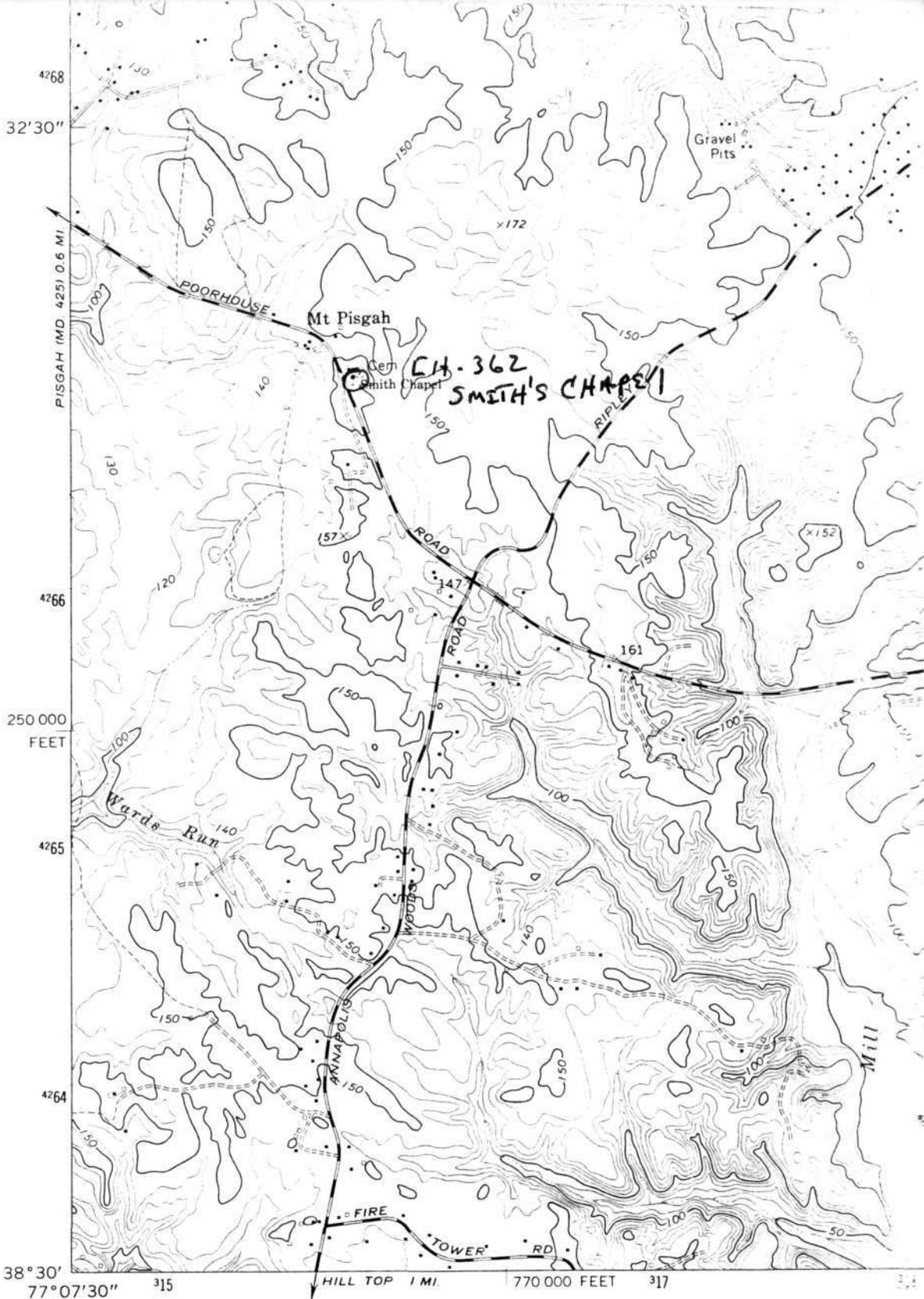
Annapolis, MD

STATE

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



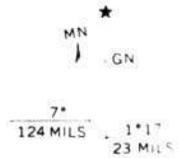
IN ANJEMOVY
5560 1 NW

Mapped by the Army Map Service
 Edited and published by the Geological Survey
 Control by USGS, USC&GS, and USCE

Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial
 photographs taken 1955. Field checked 1956.
 Revised by Geological Survey 1966

Selected hydrographic data compiled from USC&GS
 Chart 560 (1965). This information is not intended
 for navigational purposes

Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
 10,000-foot grid based on Maryland coordinate system
 1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
 zone 18, shown in blue



UTM GRID AND 1966 MAGNETIC DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET



Photograph by
J. MICHAEL HOSFORD

Annapolis, Md. 21401
301 • 263 • 4995

Smith's Chapel (Methodist) CH-362
Near Rt. 225, Pisgah, Charles Co., MD
Michael Hosford

Maryland Historical Trust, Annapolis, MD
Southwest elevation
6/80



Photograph by
J. MICHAEL HOSFORD

Annapolis, Md. 21401
301 - 263 - 4995

Smith's Chapel (Methodist) CH-362
Near Rt. 225, Pisgah, Charles Co., MD
Michael Hosford

Maryland Historical Trust, Annapolis, MD
Northwest elevation
6/80