

D-221
Oak Grove Methodist Church
Golder Hill vicinity
1892
Private

The Oak Grove Methodist Church is a diminutive frame chapel that stands in a grove of trees not far from the Blackwater Wildlife Refuge north of the former crossroads village of Golden Hill. Clearly influenced architecturally by Grace P. E. Church on Taylor's Island, the Oak Grove church is a less elaborately executed Gothic Revival design with the same steeply pitched gable roof, lancet windows and hexagonal gable end windows. Rather than operating as traditional sash windows, the long lancet windows open by turning on a center pivot.

The full history of this congregation has been obscured by the loss of records and discontinuation of the membership, but it evidently started as a Methodist Episcopal Church South. E. C. Hallman, in his history of peninsular Methodism, places the construction of the chapel in 1892. According to the Lake, Griffing, and Stevenson Atlas, published in 1877, a Methodist congregation worshipped at this site in an earlier building. At some point during the early to mid twentieth century the name was changed to Oak Grove M. E. Church. No longer used for weekly service, the site is maintained by the Oak Grove Church Foundation.

Condition

excellent deteriorated
 good ruins
 fair altered

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

DESCRIPTION SUMMARY

The Oak Grove Methodist Church, also known as the Golden Hill Methodist Episcopal Church South, stands on the east side of Smithville Road three-quarters of a mile north of the Golden Hill crossroads in the Taylor's Island Election District of Dorchester County, Maryland. Built in 1892, the single-story gable roofed frame chapel is supported on a rebuilt brick pier foundation, and the exterior is clad with plain weatherboard siding. The steeply pitched gable roof is covered with asphalt shingles. Inside, the church has survived in pristine condition with few alterations since the late nineteenth century. The church faces southwest with the gable roof oriented on a northeast/southwest axis.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The Oak Grove Methodist Church, formerly the Golden Hill M. E. Church South, stands in a grove of oak trees on the east side of Smithville Road approximately three-quarters of a mile north of the Golden Hill crossroads in the Taylor's Island Election District of Dorchester County. According to Methodist Church records, the rectangular frame church was erected in 1892, and architectural finishes agree with that date. Supported on a brick pier foundation, the exterior is clad with plain weatherboard siding, and the very steep pitched roof is covered with asphalt shingles. The perimeter of the roof is finished with an extended eave and sloped and enclosed soffits. At the base of the roof is a board drip course.

The southwest (main) elevation is a symmetrical façade with a center double door entrance and small lancet windows to each side. The pointed arch entrance is fitted with original late nineteenth century doors with heavy panel moldings framing the interior flat panels. To each side are small pointed arch lancet windows with one pane surviving with etched glass. The windows are trimmed with a narrow beaded edge surround. Fixed above the entrance is a pair of evenly spaced pointed arch lancet windows fitted with eight pane windows. A boarded up hexagonal window is located in the upper gable.

The northwest and southeast side elevations are marked by three eight-pane pointed arch lancet windows. Instead of sash windows, these eight-pane light pivot outward at the center when open.

The northeast (rear) wall is defined by a single story gable roofed apse with small six-pane lancet windows to each side. The rear wall of the apse is a blind wall surface. Fixed above the apse is a hexagonal window opening fitted with six pie-shaped ruby glass panes.

The church interior has survived relatively unchanged since the late nineteenth century with plastered walls. Iron tie rods stretch laterally between the side walls. The altar is defined by a low turned baluster handrail. A milkglass light hangs from the center tie rod. The plank pews are arranged in two blocks on each side of a center aisle.

8. Significance

Inventory No. D-221

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input 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 history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____

Specific dates	Architect/Builder
Construction dates 1892	

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 projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY

The Oak Grove Methodist Church is a diminutive frame chapel that stands in a grove of trees not far from the Blackwater Wildlife Refuge north of the former crossroads village of Golden Hill. Clearly influenced by Grace Protestant Episcopal Church on Taylor’s Island, the Oak Grove Church is a less elaborately executed Gothic Revival design with the same steeply pitched gable roof, lancet windows and hexagonal gable end windows. Rather than operating as traditional sash windows, the narrow, lancet windows open by turning on a center pivot.

HISTORY AND SUPPORT

The full history of this congregation has been obscured by the loss of records, but it evidently started out as the Golden Hill M. E. Church South. E. C. Hallman, in his history of Methodism on the Eastern Shore, places the construction of the building in 1892.¹ According to the Lake, Griffing, and Stevenson Atlas published in 1877 a Methodist Episcopal congregation worshipped on this site in an earlier structure.² At some point during the mid twentieth century the name was changed to Oak Grove M. E. Church. No longer used for regular services, the site is maintained by the Oak Grove Church Foundation, Inc.

¹ E. C. Hallman, *The Garden of Methodism*, Peninsula Annual Conference, p. 306.

² John L. Graham, ed. *The 1877 Atlases and Other Early Maps of the Eastern Shore of Maryland*. Wicomico Bicentennial Committee, p. 69.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. D-221

Dorchester County Land Records, various volumes, Dorchester County Courthouse.

E. C. Hallman, *The Garden of Methodism*, Peninsula Annual Conference, 1948, p. 306.

Graham, John L. ed. *The 1877 Atlases and Other Early Maps of the Eastern Shore of Maryland*. Wicomico Bicentennial Committee, 1976.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of surveyed property 26,658 square feet

Acreeage of historical setting ½ acre

Quadrangle name Golden Hill, MD Quadrangle

Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The metes and bounds of this property are coincidental with the current boundary of the lot.

11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Paul B. Touart, Architectural Historian		
organization	Chesapeake Country Heritage & Preservation	date	10.24.2012
street & number	Cedar Hill, P. O. Box 5	telephone	410-651-1094
city or town	Westover	state	Maryland 21871

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.

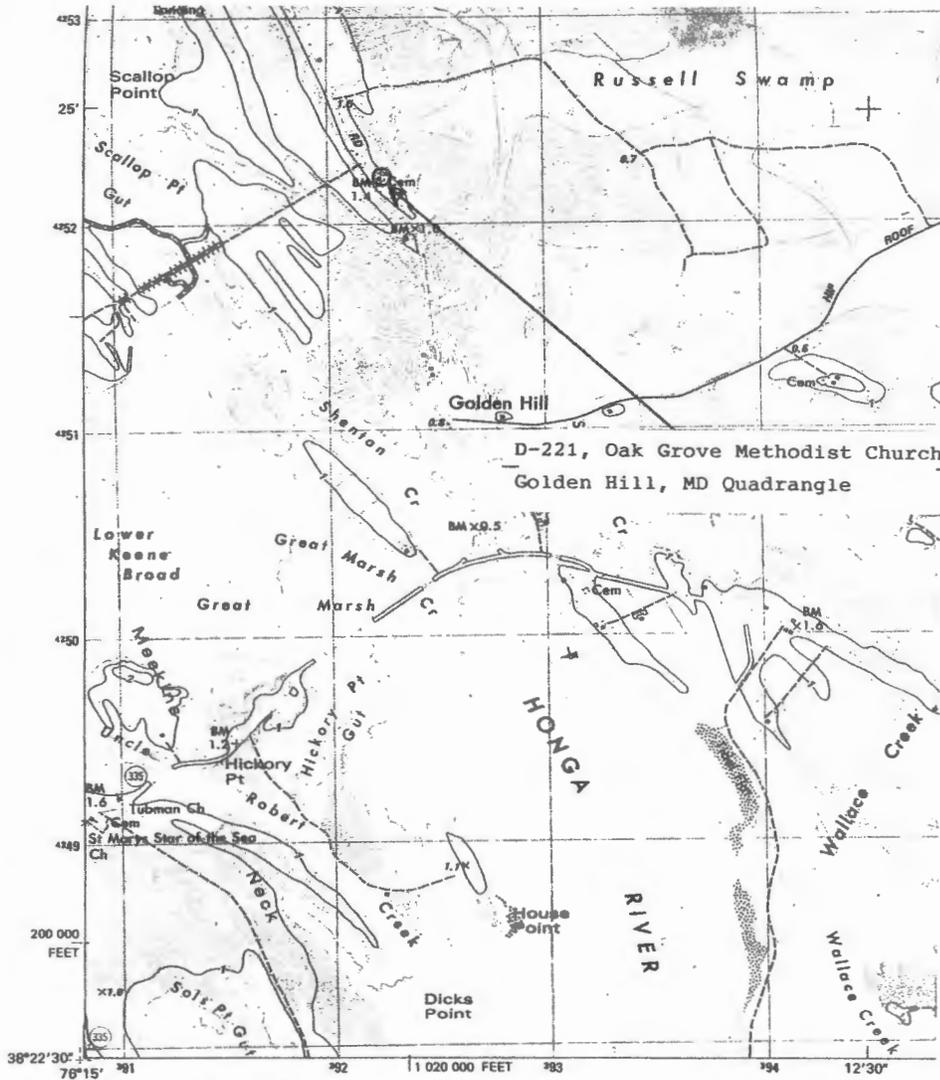
return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. D-221

Name Oak Grove Methodist Church
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 1



Produced by the United States Geological Survey

Control by USGS and NOS/NOAA

Orthophotomap prepared from aerial photograph taken

April 29, 1978. Topography by planimetric surveys

1980. Field checked 1980. Map edited 1981

Supersedes Army Map Service topographic map dated 1942

Selected hydrographic data compiled from NOS chart 12264 (1980)

This information is not intended for navigational purposes

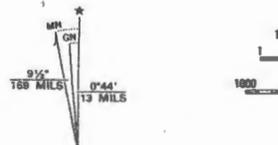
Projection and 1000-meter grid, zone 18: Universal

Transverse Mercator

10,000-foot grid ticks based on Maryland coordinate system

1927 North American Datum

To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983



UTM GRID AND 1981 MAGNETIC NORTH
DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET

RAJ:MSH (24/4/80)
2000 IV 22

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

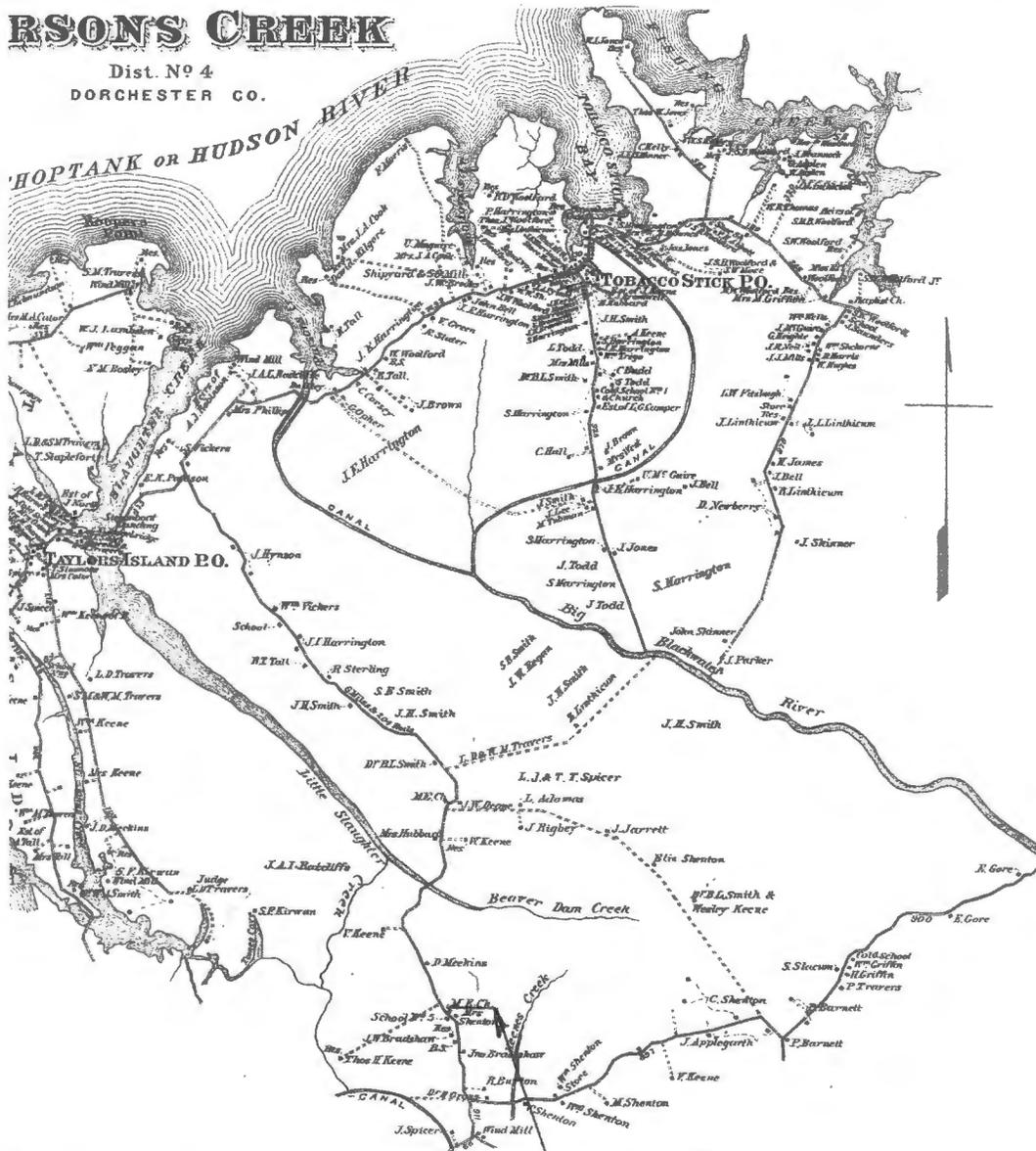
Inventory No. D-221

Name Oak Grove Methodist Church
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 2

PERSONS CREEK

Dist. No 4
DORCHESTER CO.



D-221, Oak Grove Methodist Church
Lake, Griffing & Stevenson Atlas
1877



D-221

BAK GROVE M. E. CHURCH

GOLDEN HILL VIC.

DORCHESTER CO. MD.

SOUTHWEST ELEVATION

10.2012, PAUL B. TOUART,

PHOTOGRAPHER

NEG. / MD. HISTORICAL TRUST

1 OF 4



+

OAK GROVE
M.E. CHURCH
CIRCA 1874

Oak Grove Church
Fayetteville, Pa.
May 2, 1906

D-221

OAK GROVE M. E. CHURCH
GOLDEN HILL VIC., DORCHESTER Co., MS.
SOUTHWEST ELEVATION
NO. 2012, PAUL B. TOUART, PHOTO.
N.E. JUD. HISTORICAL TRUST

2 OF 4



D-221

OAK GROVE M. E. Church
GOLDEN HILL VIC., DORCHESTER Co. MD.

EAST ELEVATION

10. 2012, PAUL B. TOWANT, PITVTV.

NEZI. / MD. HISTORICAL TRUST

3 OF 4



D-221

OAK GROVE M. E. CHURCH
GOLDEN HILL VIC.,
DORCHESTER CO., MD.

EAST ELEVATION

10.2012, PAUL D. TOUART
NEZ./MD. HISTORICAL TRUST
!

4 OF 4

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

NOMINATION FORM
for the
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON:
Oak Grove Methodist Church
AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Smithville Rd, 1.2 miles north of Md. Rt. 335
CITY OR TOWN:
Golden Hill, Church Creek
STATE: Maryland COUNTY: Dorchester

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <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 (Specify) _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Oak Grove Methodist-Episcopal Church
STREET AND NUMBER:
CITY OR TOWN: Church Creek STATE: Maryland 21622

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Dorchester County Courthouse
STREET AND NUMBER:
High Street
CITY OR TOWN: Cambridge STATE: Maryland 21613

Title Reference of Current Deed (Book & Pg. #):

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
STREET AND NUMBER:
CITY OR TOWN: STATE:

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Uncltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Standing in a grove of oak trees on the east side of Smithville Road is a small frame late 19th century Methodist Chapel. It is built on brick piers as many of the buildings in the vicinity. The gable faces the road and it has a center double door flanked by two narrow windows. Above the door are two large windows and above them is a boarded up hexagonal window. The "A" roof has a very steep pitch and overhangs the structure by about a foot on each side. On each wall are three windows, and like the door and windows, mentioned above, have welsh arches and single sash which pivot in the center. The walls are covered with weather-board and have a projecting drip course at the base of the walls. Like most Methodist chapels, there is a small projection or leanto out the back gable with windows on the narrow side to light the table within.

The interior is presently being removed and stablized. Otherwise, the church is in fine condition and is an attractive element in the wilds of the Dorchester swamps.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

6. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			_____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Oak Grove is very similar to the main body of Grace P.E. Church on Taylor's Island, devoid of the ornamentation which make Grace Church so outstanding. The chapel is important not only because of its picturesque quality, but also because of the handsome setting in the grove of oak trees in an area which is mostly loblolly pine.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

Acreage Justification:
 Tax Map 77, p.62, $\frac{1}{2}$ acre

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
 Michael Bourne, Architectural Consultant

ORGANIZATION: Maryland Historical Trust DATE: May 1, 1975

STREET AND NUMBER:
 Shaw House, 21 State Circle

CITY OR TOWN: Annapolis STATE: Maryland 21401

12. State Liaison Officer Review: (Office Use Only)

Significance of this property is:
 National State Local

 Signature

12X1-65

D-221



✓

✓

2 SHOTS: Fio (5.7) @ 111%

D-221 75%

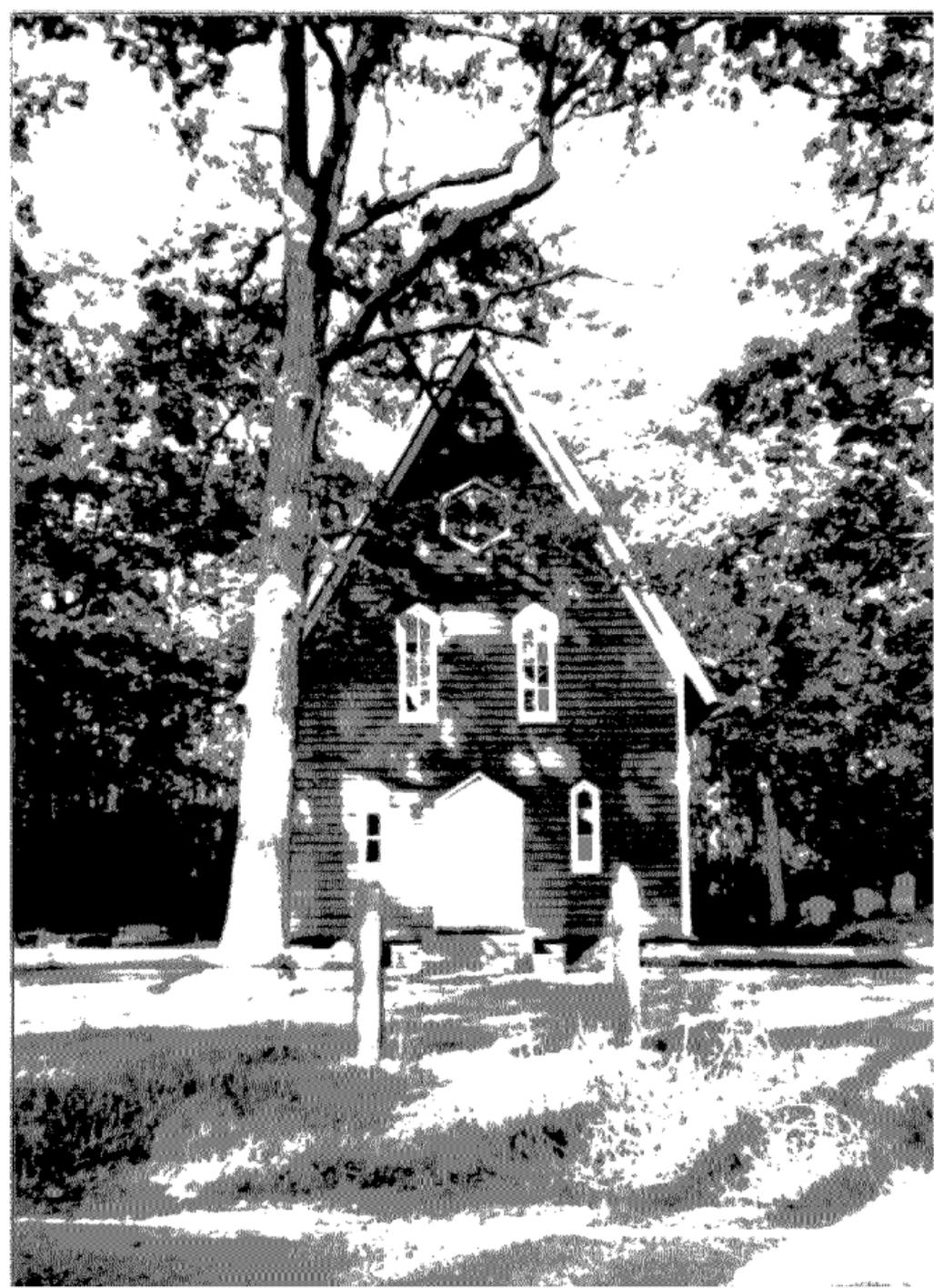
✓

Oak Grove Methodist Church

D-221

M. Bourne May 1975





New Fence & Steps
1978