

D-597
Jefferson Memorial M. E. Church
Smithville
1924
Private

The winding route that connects Taylor's Island Road with the former crossroads community of Golden Hill passes through field, forest and marsh, and few standing structures of any distinct age survive along its path. One of the few structures at the north end of the road, the former Jefferson Memorial M. E. Church, survives as a defining element to the historic African-American community of Smithville. The single story Gothic Revival frame church, dating to 1924, repeats an architectural tradition in Methodist churches that dates to the mid nineteenth century. A gable roofed main block that houses the sanctuary is defined by pointed arch windows on each side and an off-center entrance tower with a truncated broach spire. This church was erected as a replacement to an earlier building erected during the fourth quarter of the nineteenth century around the time the congregation was founded in 1876.

During the third quarter of the nineteenth century an African-American community developed along the road that connected Golden Hill and the main road between Taylor's Island and Church Creek. Small house or farm lots were sold along the road where a line of dwellings was erected by black residents who worked their own plots and the surrounding fields, timberlands, or worked on the water with close access to Slaughter Creek and the Little Choptank River. By the time the Lake, Griffing, and Stevenson atlas was printed in 1877, a scattered settlement of houses, a school, and a Methodist Episcopal church defined the road for more than a mile. One of the more dominant surnames is Smith, which was clearly the reason why the community became

known as "Smithville." The early history of the Methodist Episcopal church located at the south end of the community is somewhat clouded by a lack of records. The early twentieth century Gothic Revival church was erected on the site occupied by the community school. In 1926, articles of incorporation were drawn up and entered in the official record, and those members listed in the act of incorporation were Alfred Keene, Matthew Ellis, John T. Wheatley, Moses Wilson, William H. Wilson, Solomon Henson, William J. Keene, William Henson, and Fred Cornish.

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. D-597

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Jefferson Memorial M.E. Church

other _____

2. Location

street and number 4350 Smithville Road not for publication _____

city, town Taylor's Island x vicinity _____

county Dorchester

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

name Jefferson Memorial M. E. Church

street and number P. O. Box 26 telephone _____

city, town Taylor's Island state MD zip code 21669

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Dorchester County Clerk of Court liber JFD 17 folio 458

city, town Cambridge tax map 59 tax parcel 125 tax ID number 04-059409

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 at MHT
 Other: _____

6. Classification

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

Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory

7. Description

Inventory No. D-597

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 Jefferson Memorial Methodist Episcopal Church, now known as the New Revived United Methodist Church, stands at 4350 Smithville Road approximately a quarter mile south of Taylor's Island Road (MD Route 16) in the village of Smithville, Dorchester County, Maryland. The single-story Gothic Revival frame church with its off-center entrance tower, was built reportedly in 1924 by a congregation that had formed during the fourth quarter of the nineteenth century. The church was enlarged during the mid twentieth century with a single-story concrete block, church hall addition. The church faces northeast with the gable roof oriented on a northeast/southwest axis.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The former Jefferson Memorial Methodist Episcopal Church, now called the New Revived United Methodist Church, is one of the few historic structures to remain standing in the village of Smithville, a historic African-American community that developed on each side of Smithville Road during the second half of the nineteenth century. The single-story, Gothic Revival frame church is the second structure to serve this community. Erected in 1924, the rectangular frame sanctuary is supported by a masonry foundation covered with vinyl siding, and the exterior is sheathed with asphalt type siding. The steeply pitched roof is sheathed with asphalt shingles. Attached to the front, northeast corner of the sanctuary is an entrance tower topped by an octagonal tower.

The northeast (main) elevation is an asymmetrical façade with the off-center entrance tower pierced by a double door entrance capped by a triangular, four-light colored glass transom. The original doors have been substituted for modern replacements. A set of concrete steps and a concrete handicapped ramp have been built in front of the doorway and obscures the marble datestone. The second level of the tower is defined by an extension of the gable roof of the main church which wraps the tower and has an open soffit with exposed rafter tails. The sides of the tower above the gable roofed eave is marked by pointed arch louvered vents. The tower is capped by a truncated version of a broach spire where the pyramidal roofed base of the tower roof transitions to an octagonal spire. Adjacent to the entrance tower is a paired set of colored glass windows that terminate in a point. The pointed arch window is accented with a pointed arch turn in a pent eave that extends across the midst of the gable end to visually join the tower eave with the main roof eave.

The southeast side of the church is defined by five pointed arch windows; four of which light the sanctuary and a fifth window defines the southwest side of the tower. The northwest side is marked by three pointed arch windows since the fourth window has been converted to a doorway when the single-story concrete block church hall was built during the mid twentieth century.

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Name
Continuation Sheet

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The southwest (rear) elevation is defined by a gable roofed apse that is pierced by pointed arch windows on the sides. To the right (east) of the apse is an exterior door and a set of steps that provides access to the sanctuary.

8. Significance

Inventory No. D-597

| 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 checked="" 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 history | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> conservation | | <input type="checkbox"/> military | <input type="checkbox"/> other: _____ |

Specific dates

Architect/Builder

Construction dates 1924

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 winding road that connects Taylor's Island Road with the former crossroads community of Golden Hill passes through woods and marsh and few standing structures of any age survive along its route. One of the few buildings at the north end of the road, the former Jefferson Memorial M. E. Church, survives as a defining element to the historic African-American community of Smithville. The single-story Gothic Revival frame church, dating to 1924, repeats an architectural tradition in Methodist churches that dates to the mid nineteenth century. A gable roofed main structure that houses the sanctuary is defined on each side by pointed arch windows, and an entrance tower with a spire dominates the front corner. This church was erected as a replacement to an earlier building erected during the fourth quarter of the nineteenth century around the time the congregation was founded in 1876.

HISTORY AND SUPPORT

During the third quarter of the nineteenth century an African-American community developed along road that connected Golden Hill and the main route between Taylor's Island and Church Creek. Small house lots were sold along the road where a line of houses were erected by black residents who surely worked the agricultural fields and timberlands of the Parson's Creek district. They could as well worked on the nearby water in the shellfish industry that ballooned during the mid to late nineteenth century using points of access on Slaughter Creek, a tributary of the Little Choptank River. By the time the Lake, Griffing, and Stevenson atlas was published in 1877, a scattered settlement of houses, a school and a Methodist Episcopal Church were scattered along the road for more than a mile.¹ One of the more dominant surnames, Smith, was clearly the reason why the community became known as "Smithville." The early history of the Methodist Episcopal church in Smithville is somewhat clouded by a lack of records, and an early twentieth century Gothic Revival church was erected on the site of

¹ John L Graham, ed. *The 1877 Atlases and Other Early Maps of the Eastern Shore of Maryland*, Wicomico Bicentennial Committee, p. 69.

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Name Jefferson Memorial M.E. Church
Continuation Sheet

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the community school in 1924. Two years later, articles of incorporation were entered in the record and those listed as trustees were Alfred Keene, Matthew Ellis, John T. Wheatley, Moses Wilson, William H. Wilson, Solomon Henson, William J. Keene, William Henson, and Fred Cornish.²

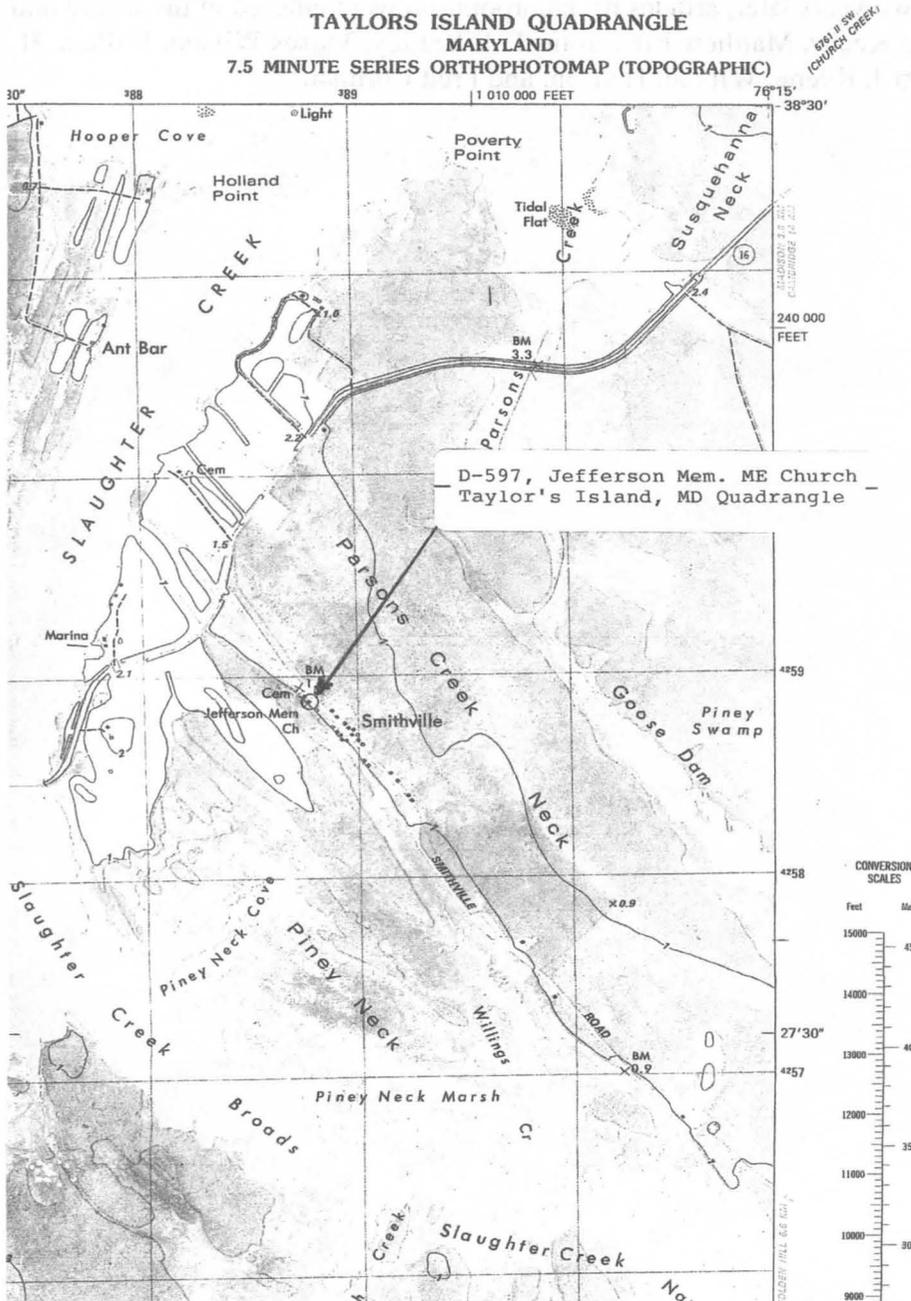
² Dorchester County Incorporation Records, JFD 2/228, 2 January 1926, Dorchester County Courthouse, Cambridge, Maryland.

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Name Jefferson Memorial M.E. Church
Continuation Sheet

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D-597, Jefferson Memorial M.E. Church, southeast elevation, Smithville, Dorchester County, 10.2012, Paul Baker Touart, photographer



D-597, Jefferson Memorial M. E. Church, south elevation, Smithville, Dorchester County, Maryland, 10.2012, Paul Baker Touart, photographer

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Maryland Inventory of
Historic Properties Form

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Name **Jefferson Memorial M.E. Church**
Continuation Sheet

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D-597, Jefferson Memorial M.E. Church, northwest elevation, Smithville, Dorchester County, 10.2012, Paul Baker Touart, photographer.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. D-597

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

Clark, James W. Maryland Historic Property Form, D-597, no date, Maryland Commission on Afro-American History & Culture. Corporations Ledger, Dorchester County Clerk of Court, Dorchester County Courthouse, Cambridge.

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

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 1/2 acre
Acreage of historical setting 1 acre +/-
Quadrangle name Taylor's Island, 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 | 10.5.2012 |
| 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



D-597

JEFFERSON MEMORIAL M. E. CHURCH
MADISON VIC, DORCHESTER Co. MD.
SOUTHEAST ELEVATION

10/2012, Paul B. Tourant PHOTO.
NEE. / MD. HISTORICAL TRUST

#1 OF 3



D-597

JEFFERSON MEMORIAL M.E. Church
MANISON VIC., DORCHESTER Co., MD.

SOUND ELEVATION

10/2012, PAUL B. TOULANT, PITUITO.

W&F/MD. HISTORICAL TRUST

2 OF 3



D-597

JEFFERSON MEMORIAL M. E. CHURCH
MADISON VIC, DORCHESTER Co. MD.

NORTHEAST ELEVATION

10/2012, PAUL B. TOUANT, PHOTO.
NEZ. / MD. HISTORICAL TRUST

3 OF 3

Dorchester - 597
Jefferson ME Church
Smithville Rd.
Smithville, MD

1878, 1924

Access : Public

The present Jefferson ME Church is on the south side of Smithville Road, $\frac{1}{4}$ mile from that road's junction with Rte.16. The building faces north and is 16' from the road. This structure was built in 1924. The original chapel stood on the north side of the road $\frac{3}{4}$ mile from the present structure in an area that is now wooded. It measures 36' across the front facade and is 60' in depth. The congregation dates from 1876. Smithville is a black village inhabited by watermen and farmers. An abandoned school house is located on the Jefferson ME property that served as the Smithville School (colored) until consolidation in the 1950's.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Jefferson M.E. Church

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Smithville Rd.

CITY, TOWN

Smithville

___ VICINITY OF

Taylor's Island

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Dorchester

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERICAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Trustees, Jefferson M.E. Church
C/O Rev. Wallace L. Greene, Sr.

Telephone #:

673-7537

STREET & NUMBER

Rte. 1, Box 14

CITY, TOWN

Preston

___ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code
MD, 21655

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Dorchester County Court House

Liber #: JFD 17

Folio #: 458

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Cambridge

STATE

Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

N/A

DATE

___ FEDERAL ___ STATE ___ COUNTY ___ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

D-597

| | | | | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|---|--|--------------------------------|-------------|
| CONDITION | | CHECK ONE | | CHECK ONE | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT | <input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED | <input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED | <input type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE | <input type="checkbox"/> MOVED | DATE 1878-1 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> GOOD | <input type="checkbox"/> RUINS | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FAIR | <input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED | | | | |

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The present Jefferson ME Church is on the south side of Smithville Rd., 1/4 mile from that road's junction with Rte. 16. The building faces north and is 16' from the road. This structure was built in 1924. The original chapel stood on the north side of the road 3/4 mile from the present structure in an area that is now wooded. The present church was built in 1924. It measures 36' across the front facade and is 60' in depth. There is an entrance tower on the south-east corner of the building it extends ten feet from the south gable. The building is gabled (North -South). It sits on concrete piers and is built of weatherboard. The building is covered with composite shingles and has a composite shingle roof. There are three steps up to the double-wooden 5panel doors (the entrance is at the front of the tower). There are three panes of colored glass in the triangular arc above the entrance. The belfry had small 3 1/2 ft. lancet louvers on all four sides. There is a double lancet window in the front(south) gable of the building. These windows are 2-over-2 colored-glass(yellow, blue, red) 4 1/2' in height. There are five lancet (colored-glass) 4 1/2' windows on the east side of the building and 3 identical windows on the west side. At the rear of the building is a 5' bayed extension where the sacristy is located. A new cinder block structure has been attached to the south-west side of the building. This structure is made of cinder block. It extends 40' to the west. There is an abandoned school on the west side of the Church and the cemetery.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

D-597

| 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 1878-1924

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Although the present church was built in 1924 the congregation dates from 1876. The present church is located 3/4 mile from the original site of Jefferson ME Chapel. Smithville is a black village inhabited by watermen and farmers. They have lived in this region since before the Civil War. An abandoned school house is located on the Jefferson ME Church property that served as the Smithville School (colored) until consolidation in the 1950's.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

D-597

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 & Culture

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

20 Dean Street

TELEPHONE

269-2893

CITY OR TOWN

Annapolis

STATE

Maryland

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.

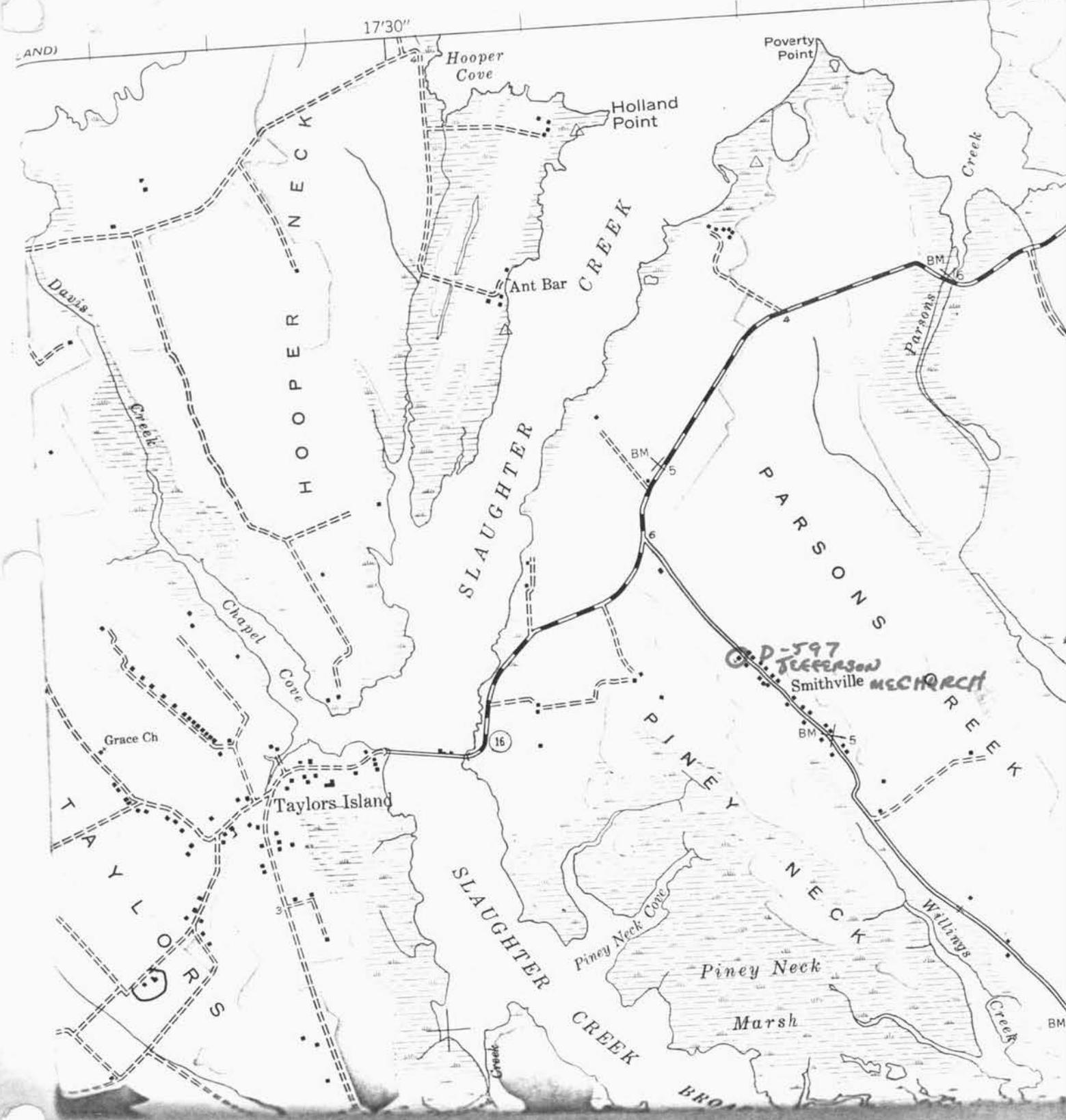
The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

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

D-597

TAYLORS ISLAND QUADRANGLE
MARYLAND - DORCHESTER
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)
NE/4 DRUM POINT 15' QUADRANGLE

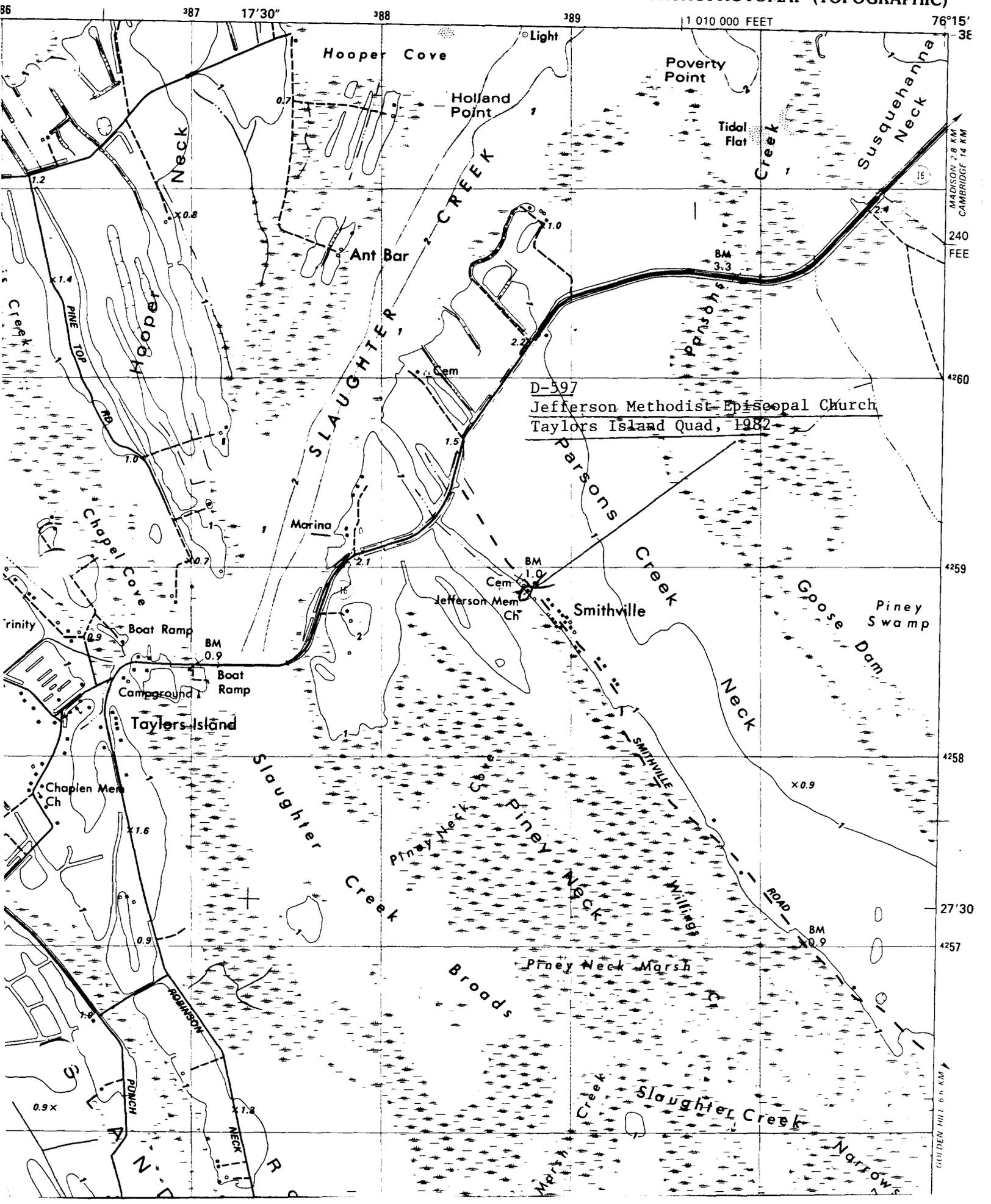
1010,000 FEET



TAYLORS ISLAND

TAYLORS ISLAND QUADRANGLE D-597
MARYLAND

7.5 MINUTE SERIES ORTHOPHOTOMAP (TOPOGRAPHIC)



D-597
Jefferson Methodist Episcopal Church
Taylors Island Quad, 1982

MADISON 2.8 KM
CAMBRIDGE 14 KM
240
FEE
4260
4259
4258
27'30
4257
GOLDEN HILL 6.6 KM



Jefferson Methodist Episcopal Church D-597
Smithville, Dorchester County, MD
Michael Hosford

Maryland Historical Trust, Annapolis, MD
Northeast elevation
2/81



597

47%

Jefferson Methodist Episcopal Church D-597
Smithville, Dorchester County, MD
Michael Hosford

Maryland Historical Trust, Annapolis,
Northwest elevation
2/81