

Dorchester - 599  
Mt.Zion ME Church (Gum Swamp)  
Rt.335  
Church Creek,MD 21622

1889

Access:Public

Mt.Zion ME Church stands 40ft from the east side of Rt.335 near Church Creek it faces west. The church is sided with weatherboard and rests on brick and concrete piers. It was built by C. Earl in 1889. It is now abandoned and appears to be used only as a mortuary chapel. It is located in area known as "Gum Swamp" and the church is also referred to by that name. There were a number of black farmers and field hands in this area following the Civil War but in recent years their numbers have declined to such an extent that they cannot maintain the church.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Mt. Zion ME Church

AND/OR COMMON

Gum Swamp Church

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

MD Rte. 335 (Golden Hill Road)

CITY, TOWN

Church Creek <sup>Gum Swamp</sup>  
VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First

71K  
12/20/93

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Dorchester

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" 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 checked="" 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

Trustees, Mt. Zion ME Church  
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 Co. Courthouse

Liber #: WHM 1

Folio #: 523

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-599

<b>CONDITION</b>		<b>CHECK ONE</b>	<b>CHECK ONE</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		DATE <u>1889</u>

**DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**

Mt. Zion ME Church stands 40ft from the east side of Rt. 335 near Church Creek; it faces west. The church is sided with weatherboard and rests on brick and concrete piers. It is gabled (east-west) and measures 30' across the front facade and is 46' in length. There is a 5' extension under the west gable with a peaked roof that forms the entrance foyer. There are three concrete steps that lead to the double 4panel oak doors. There are three colored lights above the door (rectangular arch) they are blue, red and green. There is a central window in the west gable which is composed of 17 panes of colored glass; it has an arc top. There are 2 2-over-2 colored glass rectangular windows 5' on the north side of the building and two more identical windows on the south side. The east gabled end of the building has two of these same 2-over-2 rectangular 5' colored glass windows. The cemetery is located to the south of the church. There is an old vertical-sided Sunday School on the north side of the church.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**8 SIGNIFICANCE**

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**AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW**

<b>PERIOD</b>	<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 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 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 C.Earl

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

Mt. Zion ME Church was built by C.Earl in 1889. It is now abandoned and appears to be used only as a mortuary chapel. It is located in an area called Gum Swamp by the natives and the church is also referred to by this name. There were a number of black farmers and field hands in this area following the Civil War but in recent years their numbers have declined to such an extent that they cannot maintain the church. The congregation of Mt.Zion ME Church has disbanded and most of them now attend John Wesley UM Church (Liners Road).

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

D-599

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 &amp; 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-599 R

GUM

SWAMP

Gum Swamp  
D-599  
MT ZION  
ME CHURCH

SWAMP

Riggins Corner

Meekins

WHITE OAK  
SWAMP

BM 6

Marsh

BM 8

335

336

BM 5

Crossroads

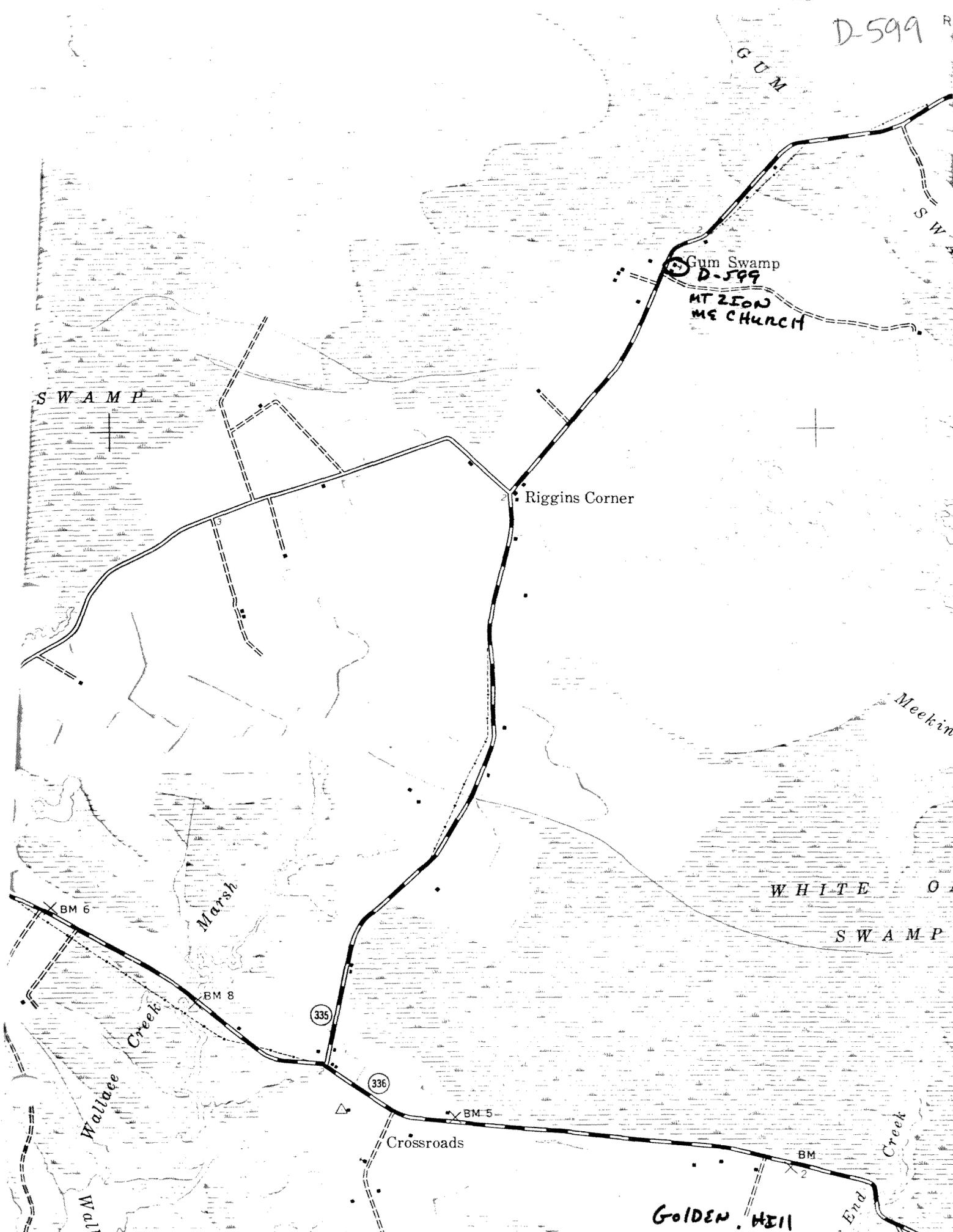
BM 2

Wallace Creek

Wallo

GOLDEN HILL

Olds End Creek





Mt. Zion Meth. Epis. Church (Gumswamp) D-599  
Church Creek, Dorchester County, MD  
Michael Hosford

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



599

47%

Mt. Zion Meth. Epis. Church (Gumswamp)  
Church Creek, Dorchester Co., MD  
Michael Hosford

D-599

Maryland Historical Trust, Annapolis,  
West elevation  
2/81