

D-606
St. Paul's M. E. Church
Harrisville
1910
Private

St. Paul's M. E. Church is the principal historic structure to remain standing in the African-American community of Harrisville, south of Madison, in central Dorchester County. The single-story, gable roofed frame church dates around 1910 according to the architectural features of the structure as well as the marble datestone set in the northeast corner. While the foundation is laid in concrete block, the early twentieth century datestone was saved when the foundation was rebuilt and it was reset. At the same time an older marble stone from the Union Mission meeting house was set in the southeast corner, and it is dated 1889. The church follows a common architectural form for small rural congregations in Dorchester County with a central entrance tower rising on axis with the gable roofed sanctuary. Distinguishing the upper level of the tower and the gable front of the main block are layers of fishscale shingles that were popular during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The church is joined on the site by the former Harrisville School, (D-8), which was acquired by the church trustees in 1940 when it was converted into a social hall.

The written history of the St. Paul's M. E. Church begins with the organization of the congregation initially known as the Union Mission in 1888. And the marble datestone set in the southeast corner confirms that the Union Mission meeting house was erected and dedicated with the marble marker in 1889. The first meeting house, classed as a "plain wooden structure without a steeple," was used until the congregation decided to rebuild during the early twentieth century. The early list of church trustees included

John Chase, George Camper, Levin Macer, John Todd, John R. Brown, Archie Clash, Moses Camper, and Joseph Bailey.

The first building, according to the church history, was sold to Mrs. Fannie Cornish for use as a house when her parents' house burned. When the congregation rebuilt in 1910, they changed the name to St. Paul's M. E. Church. During the mid twentieth century, the trustees authorized the construction of a single-story concrete block addition to the back of the church, and they acquired the former Harrisville School next door from the Dorchester County Board of Education.

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. D-606

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic St. Paul's M. E. Church

other Union Mission Meeting House

2. Location

street and number Harrisville Road not for publication

city, town Cambridge vicinity

county Dorchester

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

name Trustees of St. Paul's M. E. Church of Harrisville

street and number C/O Tammy Washington 1126 Maces Lane telephone

city, town Cambridge state MD zip code 21613

4. Location of Legal Description

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

city, town Cambridge tax map 50 tax parcel 167 tax ID number 16-004383

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
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input type="checkbox"/> domestic	<input type="checkbox"/> social
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> unknown
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>2</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> buildings
	<input type="checkbox"/> sites
	<input type="checkbox"/> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> objects
<u>2</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> Total

Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory

7. Description

Inventory No. D-606

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 St. Paul's M. E. Church, stands on the west side of Harrisville in the Church Creek Election District of Dorchester County, Maryland. The early twentieth century frame church occupies a small lot marked by mature cedars. Standing next to the church is the former Harrisville School, a single-story gable-front frame structure erected for the African-American residents of Harrisville during the fourth quarter of the nineteenth century. (See D-8) The single-story gable roofed frame church rests on a concrete block foundation and the exterior is clad with a combination of vinyl siding and fishscale shingles. The gable-front structure is has a two-story pyramidal roofed entrance and bell tower capped by a steeply pitched pyramidal roof with flared eaves. Attached to the back of the church is a single-story concrete block addition. The church faces east with the gable roof oriented on an east/west axis.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The St. Paul's M. E. Church is an early twentieth century frame structure that stands on the west side of Harrisville Road in the Church Creek Election District of Dorchester County, Maryland. Dated by a marble datestone to 1910, the single-story, gable roofed frame church is dominated by a two-story, pyramidal roofed entrance and bell tower. Supported on a concrete block foundation, the exterior is clad with vinyl siding and the roof is covered with asphalt shingles. Attached to the back of the church is a single story concrete block addition.

The east (main) elevation is a symmetrical façade with the entrance and bell tower rising in the center of the gable-front church, and to each side are small shed roofed additions. The marble datestone is located on the northeast corner and it is inscribed, "St. Paul's M. E. Church, 1910." A second marble stone is fixed in the southeast corner and it is a cruder inscription for the "Union Mission, 1889." The entrance tower has a double-door entrance topped by a three-light transom, and a pent eave stretches around the tower above the transom and ties into a pent eave that encloses the gable end. The wall surfaces above the pent eave on the tower and within the gable are covered with fishscale shingles. Marking the upper level of the tower are rectangular vents. The tower is capped by a pyramidal roof featuring a kicked eave, and exposed rafter ends in an open soffit.

The north and south sides of the church are similar three-bay elevations with rectangular windows fitted with pressed glass in the pattern of a small daisy. There is an exterior concrete block stove flue chimney stack on the north side. The eave of the roof is open with exposed rafter ends.

The rear (west) wall is largely covered by a single-story gable-roofed concrete block addition dating to the mid twentieth century.

8. Significance

Inventory No. D-606

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

1910

Architect/Builder

Construction dates

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 Harrisville Methodist Episcopal Church is the principal historic building to remain standing in the African-American community of Harrisville, south of Madison, in central Dorchester County. The single-story gable roofed frame church dates around 1910 according to the architectural features of the structure as well as the marble datestone set in the northeast corner. While the foundation is laid in concrete block the early twentieth century datestone was saved and reset in the late foundation along with an earlier stone from the Union Mission Meeting house which has a date of 1890. The building follows a common architectural form for rural churches in Dorchester County with a central entrance tower rising on axis with the gable roofed frame sanctuary. Distinguishing the upper level of the tower and the gable-front of the main block is a layer of fishscale shingles that were popular during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The church is joined on the site by the former Harrisville School, (See D-8) which was acquired by the church trustees in 1940 when it was converted into a church hall.

HISTORY AND SUPPORT

The written history of the St. Paul's M. E. Church begins with the organization of the congregation initially known as the Union Mission. And the marble datestone in the foundation confirms that the Union Mission Meeting House was erected and dedicated the year following with the stone inscribed 1889. The first meeting house, classed as "a plain wooden structure without a steeple," was used until the congregation decided to rebuild during the early twentieth century.¹ The first building, according to the church history, was sold to Mrs. Fannie Cornish for use as a house for her parents after a fire their house.² When the congregation rebuilt in 1910, they changed the name of the congregation to St. Paul's M. E. Church. During the mid twentieth century, the congregation acquired the Harrisville School next door and converted it into a social hall.

¹ St. Paul's M. E. Church history, unsigned and undated, p. 2. Courtesy of Mr. and Mrs. Randolph Stanley.

² *Ibid.*

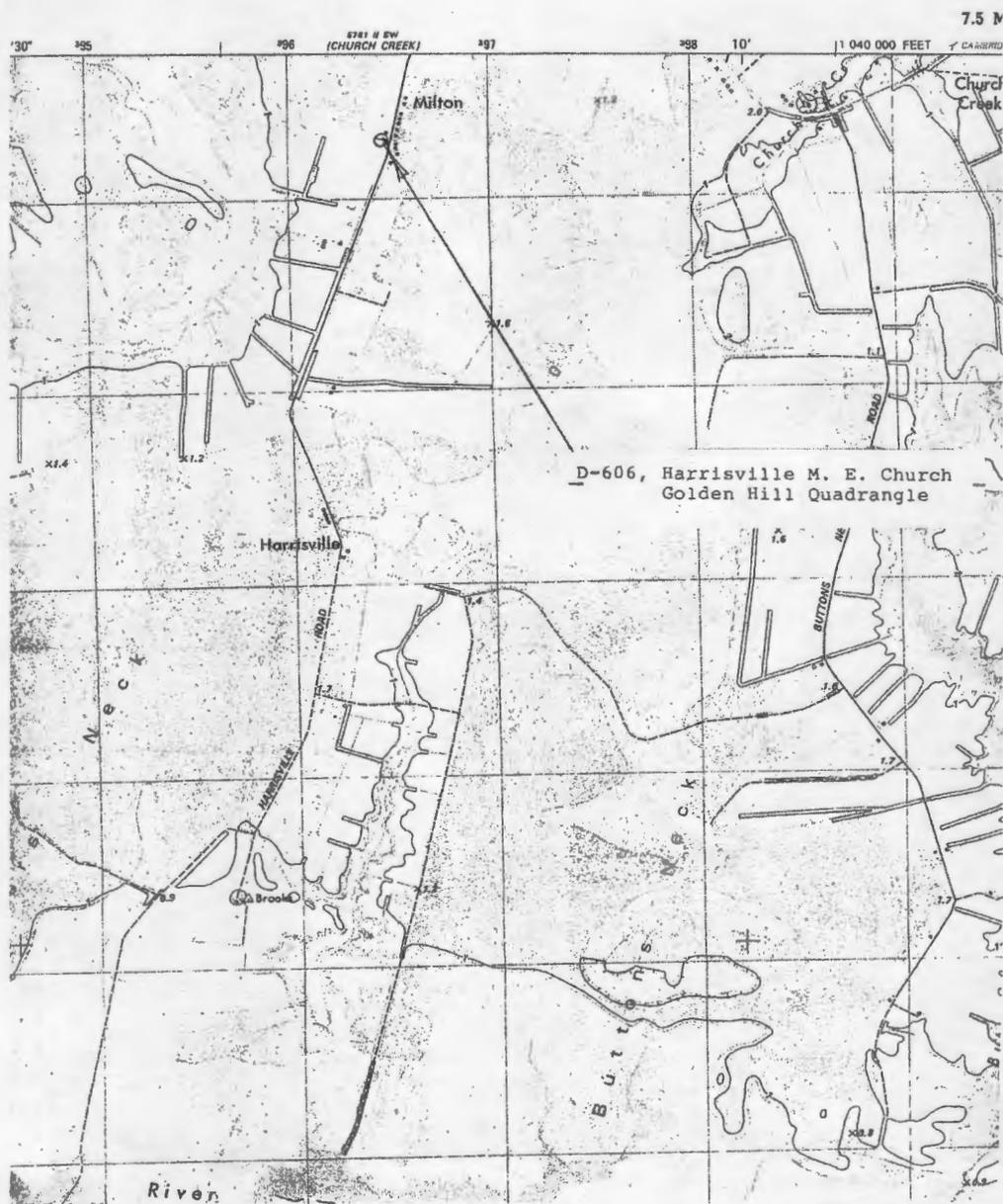
Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. D-606

Name St. Paul's M. E. Church

Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 1



Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. D-606

Name St. Paul's M. E. Church

Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 2



9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. D-606

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

Personal Interview with Mr. and Mrs. Randolph Stanley

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 22,215 square feet

Acreage of historical setting 1/4 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	9.11.2012
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-606

St. Paul's M. E. Church
HARRISVILLE, DORCHESTER

Co. MD
EAST ELEVATION

9/2002, Paul B. Tourant,

PHOTOGRAPHER

NEG./MB. Hist. Trust

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D-606

St. Paul's M. E. Church
HARRISVILLE, DORCHESTER Co, MD.
SOUTHEAST ELEVATION

9/2012, PAUL TOWART, PHOTO.
METH. AND HISTORICAL TRUST

2 OF 3



D-606

St. Paul's M. & C. Church
Harrisville, Dorchester Co., MD
North Elevation

9/2012, Pam B. Touart, photo.
NEH / MD Historical Trust

3 of 3

Dorchester - 606
St. Paul's ME Church
Harrisville Rd.
Harrisville, MD

1910

Access: Public

The present St. Paul's ME Church is 20' from the west side of Harrisville Rd.; it faces east. The church is 26' across the front facade and 40' in depth. The building is sided with weatherboard and rests on concrete piers. This church was built in 1910. The congregation dates from 1880 but it was not always located at the present site. It is the only church in the black community of Harrisville. The old elementary school for black children is still extant on the north side of the church.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

St. Paul's ME Church

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Harrisville Rd.

CITY, TOWN

Harrisville

___ VICINITY OF

Woolford

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Dorchester

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 type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<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 St. Paul's M.E. Church, Trustees
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 Co. Court House

Liber #: RSM 41

Folio #: 525

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-606

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE 1910

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The present St. Paul's ME Church is 20' from the west side of Harrisville Road; it faces east. The church is 26' across the front facade and 40' in depth. It has an concrete block addition on the west end that extends the length of the church 15'. This church was built on this site in 1910. The original site of the Chapel was near this location but I have been unable to find it. The building is gabled (east-west) and is reached by three concrete steps that lead to double wooden single-paneled doors. There is an entrance tower 10' in width that has been extended at the top of the doorway so now there is an entrance foyer as wide as the church. The tower is louvered at the belfry and covered with imbricated shingles (wooden) as is the front gable of the church (east). There is a short spire atop the tower covered with composite shingles as is the roof. The church is sided with weatherboard and rests on concrete piers. There are three 1-over-1 clear glass rectangular windows on the north side of the church and three identical windows on the south side. An old schoolhouse is located on the northern end of the property.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

D-606

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 1910

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The present St. Paul's ME Church was built in 1910. The congregation dates from 1880 but they have not always been located at the present address. The church was founded by black freedmen (mostly farmers). It is the central fixture in the black community of Harrisville. The old elementary school for black children is still extant on the north side of the site.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

D-606

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

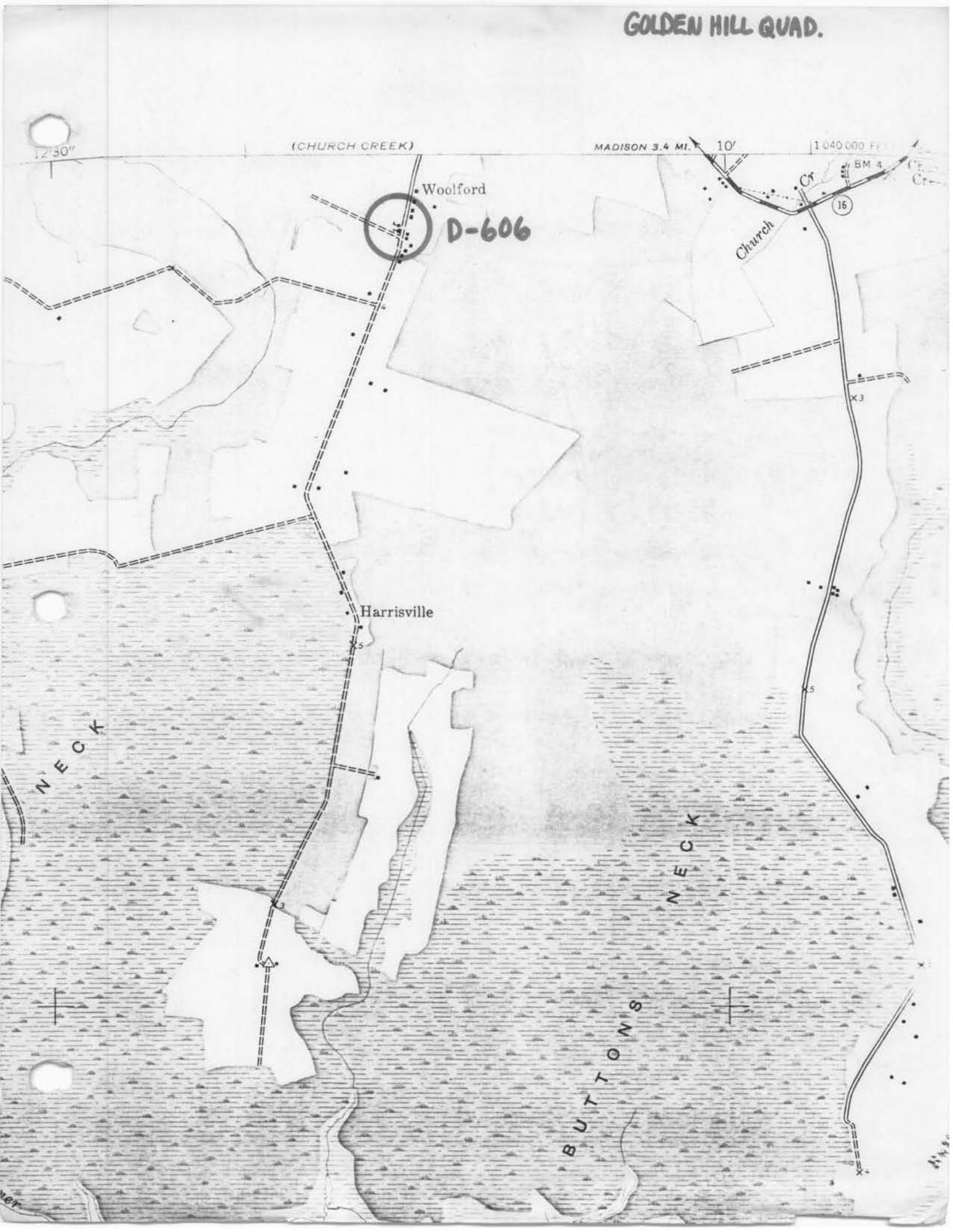
Maryland

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

GOLDEN HILL QUAD.



(CHURCH CREEK)

MADISON 3.4 MI.

1040000 FT

Woolford

D-606

Church Cr

16

BM 4

Harrisville

NECK

NECK

BUTTONS

12' 30"

10'

X3

X5

X

X



606

47%

St. Paul's Methodist Episcopal Church D-606
Harrisville, Dorchester County, MD
Michael Hosford

Maryland Historical Trust, Annapolis,
Southeast elevation
2/81



St. Paul's Methodist Episcopal Church D-606
Harrisville, Dorchester County, MD
Michael Hosford

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