

D-82
Christ M. E. Church
Aireys
c. 1914
Private

Built in 1914, this Gothic Revival frame church is the later day successor on this site to Airey's Chapel, a early Methodist church that housed the meeting organized and supported by a prominent planter and Dorchester magistrate, Henry Airey. Established around 1780-81, the early Methodist congregation was inspired by the ministry of Reverend Freeborn Garrettson, who was incarcerated in the county jail for what was perceived by some as unlawful actions and/or an unwillingness to sign a loyalty oath to the Maryland revolutionary government. Henry Airey came to Garrettson's aid as the authorities in Maryland and Delaware reviewed his case.

As one of Dorchester's oldest Methodist meetings, the members were treated to visits by Reverends Francis Asbury as well as Thomas Coke and Henry Boehm. The deed conveying the property to the church trustees was executed by Thomas Hill Airey in April 1790. The half-acre lot, transferred for the sum of 5 shillings, was part of a tract called "Pilgrimage," and the land was conveyed to church trustees at the time; John Pitt, William Pitt, Gardnier Bruffitt, Jonathan Partridge, David Mills, William Tucker, Henry Hooper, Ezekial Vickers, and Henry Ennalls. The deed specifically states that the lot was intended for

...a house for the public worship of God...and that they and their survivors and successors and the Trustees...thereafter permit such persons as shall be appointed at the yearly Conference of the people called Methodists...and that the said persons preach no other doctrine than is contained in Mr. John Wesley's Notes upon the New Testament and four volumes of sermons..."

Various buildings served this congregation during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The marble datestone fixed in the corner of the foundation is inscribed "Christ M. E. Church, 1879-1914."

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. D-82

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Christ M. E. Church
 other Airey's M. E. Church, Airey's Chapel

2. Location

street and number 5033 Airey's Road not for publication
 city, town Aireys vicinity _____
 county Dorchester

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

name Aireys M. E. Church
 street and number Box 470 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 54 tax parcel 50 tax ID number 008667

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	Contributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	<u>1</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion	_____ buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> domestic	_____ sites
		<input type="checkbox"/> education	_____ structures
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	_____ objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	<u>1</u> Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	
		<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	
		<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	
		<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

7. Description

Inventory No. D-82

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

Christ M. E. Church, also Christ United Methodist Church and originally Airey's Chapel, stands at 5033 Aireys Road in the former rural village of Aireys, Dorchester County, Maryland. Built in 1914, this single-story Gothic Revival frame church is a later day successor building to the congregation that formed here during the late eighteenth century under the leadership of Henry Airey, an early Methodist convert. Supported on a low brick foundation covered with stucco, the rectangular frame church is sheathed with vinyl siding and the steeply pitched roof is covered with asphalt shingles. The gable-front structure is dominated by an entrance and bell tower that rises against the gable-front structure. The church is extended to the rear (northeast) by a single-story church hall addition.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

Christ M. E. Church, formerly Airey's Chapel M. E. Church and currently Christ United Methodist Church, stands at 5033 Airey's Road in the former rural village of Airey, Dorchester County, Maryland. The early twentieth century church, erected in 1914, is supported on a low stuccoed masonry foundation, and the exterior is clad with vinyl siding. The steeply pitched roof is covered with asphalt shingles. Attached to the front of the gable-front, Gothic Revival structure, is a two-story entrance and bell tower. Extending to the northeast is a modern church hall addition.

The southwest (main) elevation is a symmetrical elevation with a double door entrance in the projecting tower. The two principal levels of the tower are divided by a gable roof form that is over built with the upper section of tower that includes the belfry. The front doors are modern replacements as is the transom. On each lateral side of the entrance is a pointed arch window fitted with corresponding shutters. The upper level of the tower is marked by a small round window, and the belfry has small louvered vents. The tower is capped by a pyramidal style roof featuring a kicked eave. To each side of the entrance tower is a single pointed arch window flanked by louvered shutters. The edge of the gable roof is finished with an extended eave and sloped soffits.

The lateral sides of the sanctuary are defined by four pointed arch windows flanked by pointed arch shutters and fitted with opaque glass.

8. Significance

Inventory No. D-82

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

Specific dates 1879-1914

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

Built in 1914, this Gothic Revival frame church is the later day successor on this site to Airey's Chapel, a congregation that was organized and supported by a prominent planter and magistrate Henry Airey. Established around 1780-81, the early Dorchester congregation was inspired by the early ministry of Reverend Freeborn Garrettson, who was incarcerated in the county jail for what was perceived as unlawful actions and/or an unwillingness to sign a loyalty oath in support of the revolution. Henry Airey came to Garrettson's aid as the authorities in Maryland and adjacent Delaware reviewed his case.

As one of Dorchester's oldest Methodist meetings, the members were also treated to visits by Reverends Francis Asbury as well as Thomas Coke and Henry Boehm.¹ The deed conveying the property to the church trustees was executed by Thomas Hill Airey in April 1790.² The half-acre lot, transferred for the sum of 5 shillings, was part of a tract called "Pilgrimage," and the land was conveyed to church trustees at the time; John Pitt, William Pitt, Gardiner Bruffitt, Jonathan Partridge, David Mills, William Tucker, Henry Hooper, Ezekial Vickers, and Henry Ennalls. The deed specifically states that the lot was intended for

"a house for the public worship of God...and that they and their survivors and successors and the Trustees...thereafter permit such persons as shall be appointed at the yearly Conference of the people called Methodists...and that the said persons preach no other doctrine than is contained in Mr. John Wesley's Notes upon the New Testament and four volumes of sermons..."

Various buildings served this congregation during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The marble datestone fixed in the corner of the foundation is inscribed "Christ M. E. Church, 1879-1914."

¹ E. C. Hallman, *The Garden of Methodism*, Peninsula Annual Conference, 1948, p. 302.

² Dorchester County Land Record, HD 2/536, 13 April 1790, Dorchester County Courthouse, Cambridge, Maryland.

Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of
Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. D-82

Name Christ M. E. Church

Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 1

Christ M. E. Church
5033 Aireys Road
Aireys, Dorchester County, Maryland

Map 54, Parcel 50

HD 2/536

Thomas Hill Airey

to

4.13.1790

John Pitt, William Pitt, Gardiner Bruffit, Jonathan Partridge,
David Mills, William Tucker, Henry Hooper, Ezekial Vickers,
and Henry Ennalls

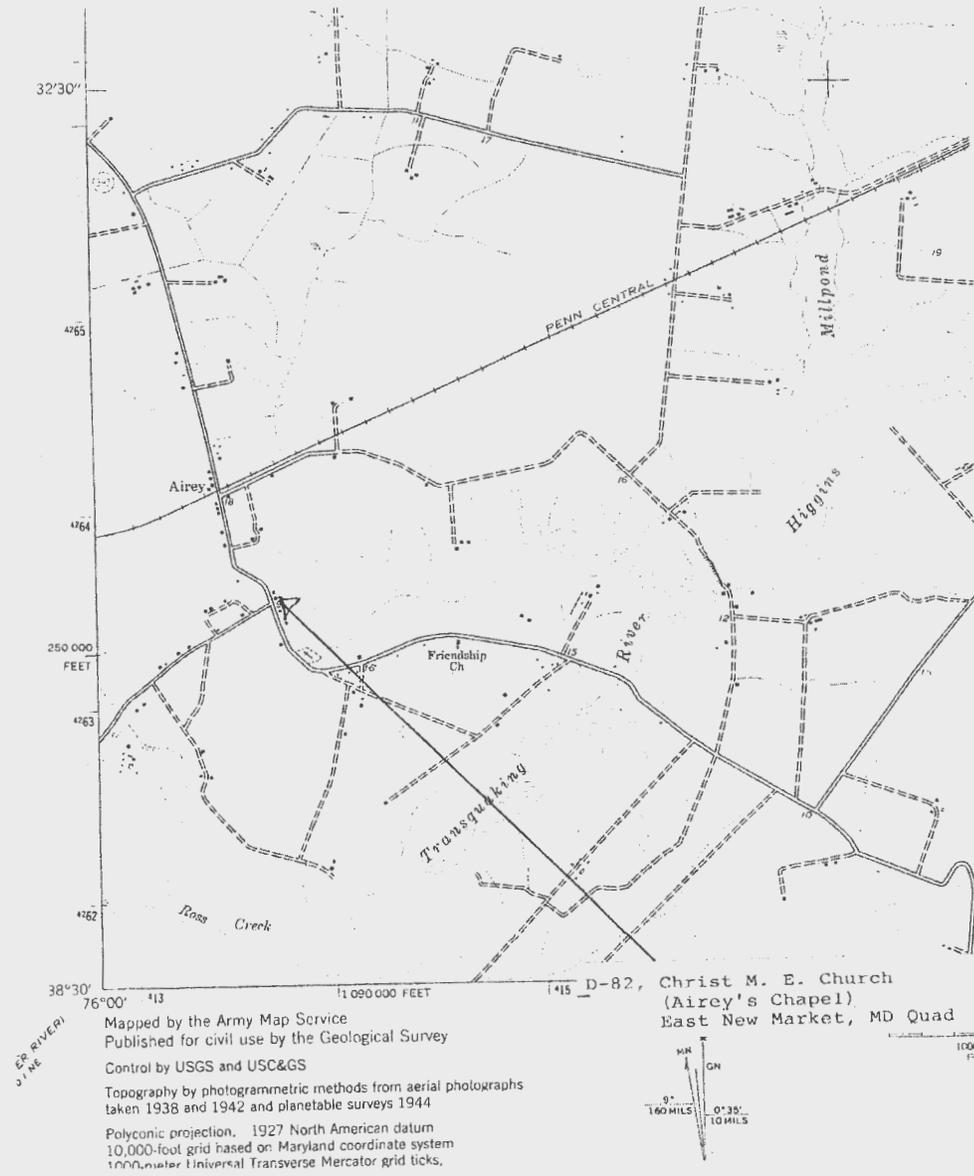
5 shillings... all that Lot of Land part of a tract of Land called Pilgrimage lying and being in Dorchester County buted and bounded as followeth viz: Beginning at a stone standing on the east side of the main road leading from Cambridge to Middle Town and running thence North seventy three degrees thirty minutes east eight perches thence North eleven degrees thirty minutes west ten perches, then South seventy three degrees thirty minutes west eight perches and thence by a strait (sic) line to the place of Beginning containing one half Acre of Land... Nevertheless upon special trust and confidence that and to the intent that they cause to be erected thereon a house for the public worship of God and that they and their survivors and successors and the Trustees, for the time being do and shall from time to time, and at all times, forever thereafter permit such persons as shall be appointed at the yearly Conference of the people called Methodists held in America to preach and expound God's Holy Word and no others to have and enjoy the said premises for the purposes afd. Provided always that the said persons preach no other doctrine than is contained in Mr. John Wesley's Notes upon the New Testament and four volumes of sermons and upon further trust and confidence that as often as any of these Trustees or of the Trustees for the time being shall die or cease to be members of the Methodist Society the rest of the said Trustees or of the Trustees for the time being as soon as convenient may be shall and may chuse (sic) another Trustee or Trustees in order to keep the number of nine Trustees forever.

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. D-82

Name Christ M. E. Church
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 2

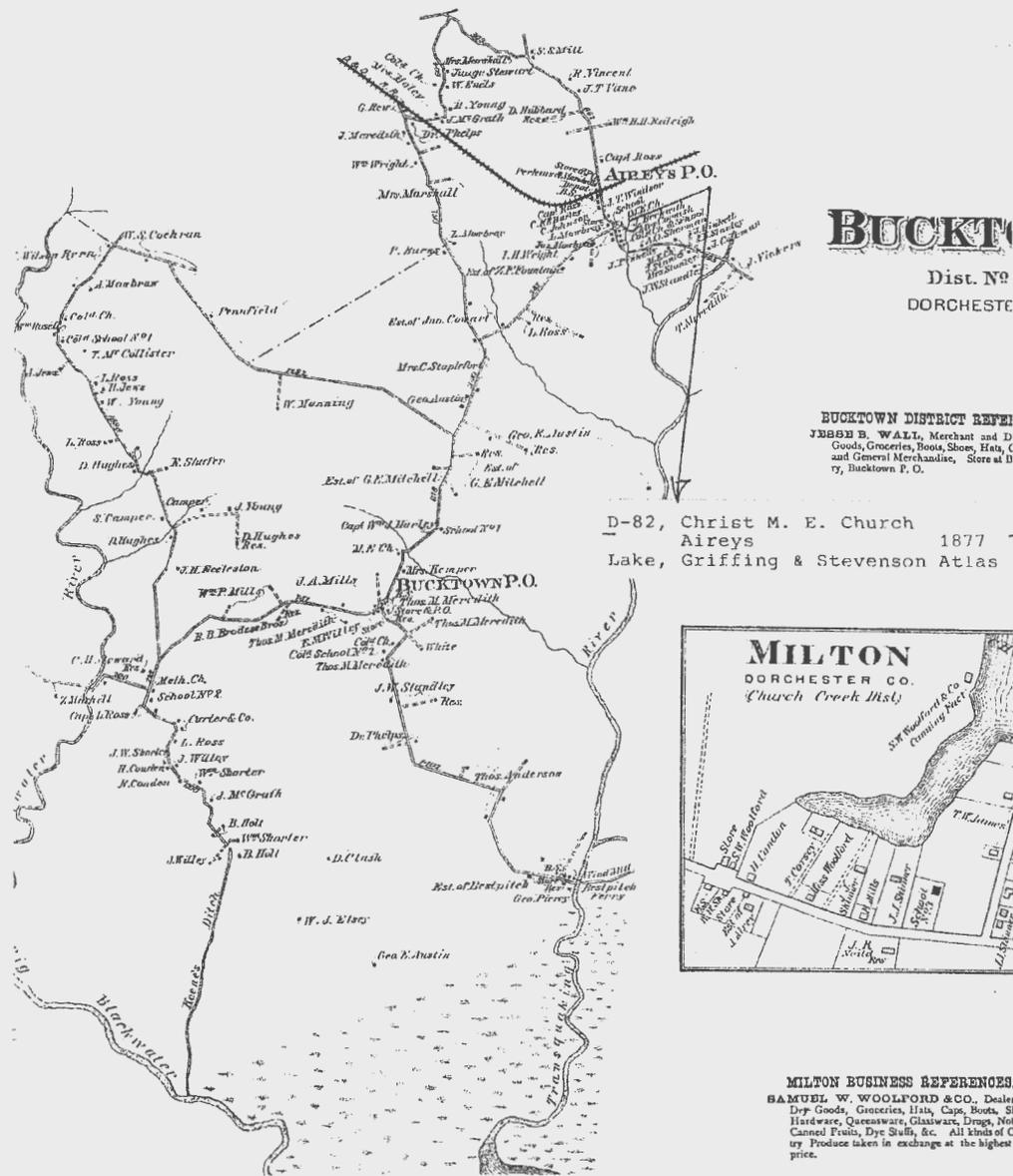


Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. D-82

Name Christ M. E. Church
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 3



9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. D-82

Dorchester County Land Record, various volumes, Dorchester County Courthouse, Cambridge, MD.
E. C. Hallman, *The Garden of Methodism*, Peninsula Annual Conference, 1948, p. 302.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property .74 acres
Acreage of historical setting _____
Quadrangle name East New Market, MD Quad 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	Private Consultant	date	12.30.2011
street & number	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



WEEKLY
WORSHIP
SERVICE
9:00 AM

D-82
Christ M. E. Church
Arling's, Dorchester Co., MD.
NORTHWEST ELEVATION
12. 2011, Pam B. Toward, PHOTO.
W.E. / MD. HISTORICAL TRUST

#1 of 2



D-82

Chest M. E. Church

Araby's, Dorchester Co., MD

SOUTHWEST ELEVATION

12.2011, Paul B. Touant, PHOTO.

NE/MD. HISTORICAL TRUST

2 OF 2

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

1600824708

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME				
COMMON: Christ M.E. Church				
AND/OR HISTORIC: Aireys Church				
2. LOCATION				
STREET AND NUMBER: Md. Rt. 397				
CITY OR TOWN: Cambridge vicinity (Airey)				
STATE: Maryland		COUNTY: Dorchester		
3. CLASSIFICATION				
CATEGORY (Check One)		OWNERSHIP		STATUS
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure		<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
Public Acquisition:		ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC		
<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"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	_____	_____
4. OWNER OF PROPERTY				
OWNER'S NAME: Christ M.E. Church, Aireys				
STREET AND NUMBER: Rt. 2				
CITY OR TOWN: Cambridge			STATE: Maryland	
			21613	
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: <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> 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
	(Check One)			(Check One)	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Aireys Church is a handsome four bay deep by three bay wide frame building covered with white weatherboard. It is constructed upon brick piers and the windows have lancet arches, 1/1 sash and louvered shutters. In the center of each side wall is a brick chimney rising from the 'A' roof. At the facade, there is a tower entrance with double doors and lancet transom. From a would-be roof rises the remainder of the tower which has a circular window on its facade with imbricated shingle and louvered area beneath the pyramidal roof.

The cornerstone states "Christ M.E. Church, 1879-1914."

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian 16th Century 18th Century 20th Century
- 15th Century 17th Century 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"/> Prehistoric
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture
<input type="checkbox"/> Art
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Education
<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering
<input type="checkbox"/> Industry
<input type="checkbox"/> Invention
<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape
<input type="checkbox"/> Architecture
<input type="checkbox"/> Literature
<input type="checkbox"/> Military
<input type="checkbox"/> Music | <input type="checkbox"/> Political
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi-
losophy
<input type="checkbox"/> Science
<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human-
itarian
<input type="checkbox"/> Theater
<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> |
|---|--|--|--|

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Few of the churches or structures in the survey have been constructed in the 19-teens. This structure built in 1914 indicates the prevalent style of structure built for the previous 30 years.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Blank area for 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:

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	COUNTY:

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Michael Bourne, Architectural Consultant

ORGANIZATION: **Maryland Historical Trust** DATE: **Nov, 1975**

STREET AND NUMBER:
Shaw House, 21 State Circle

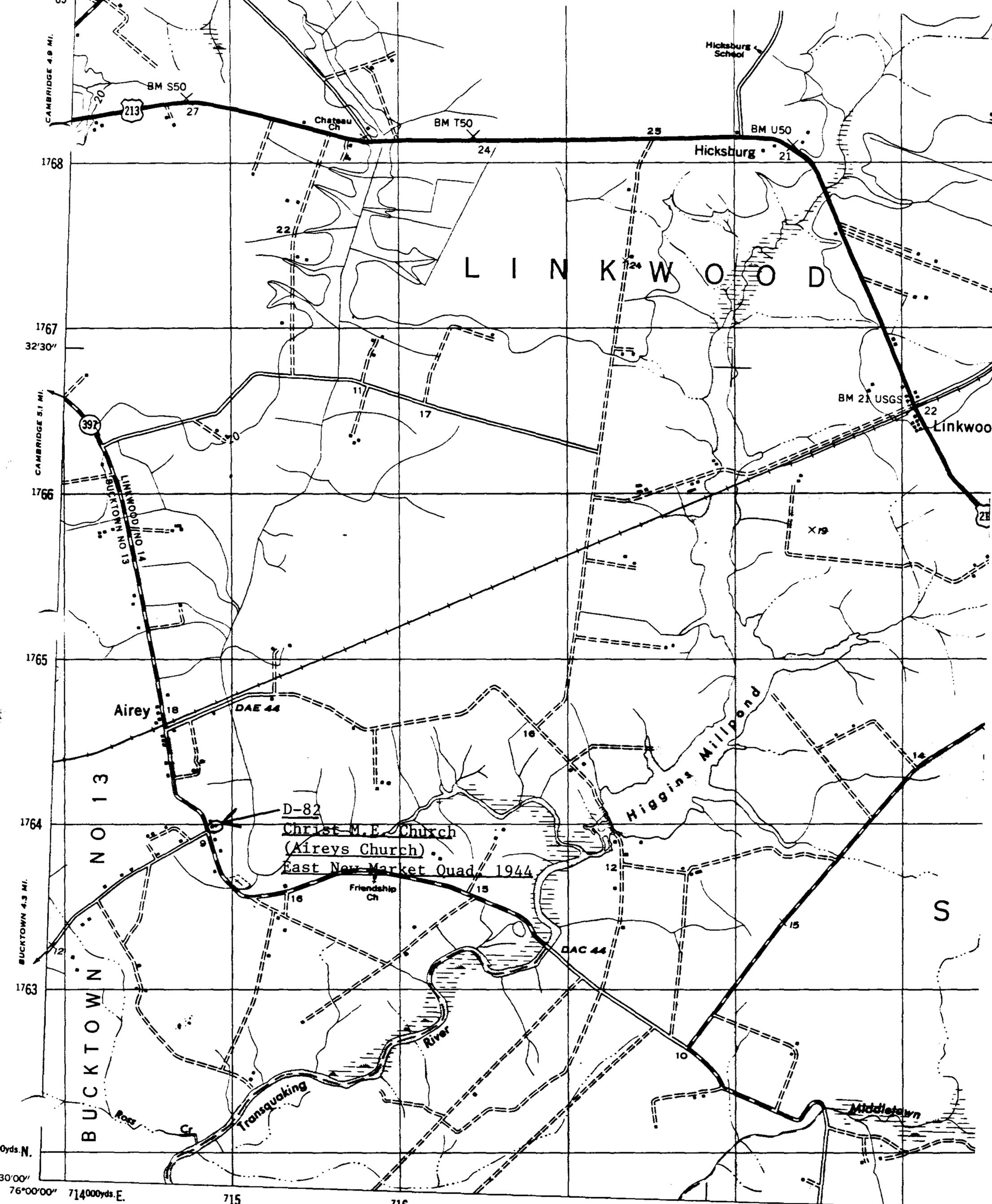
CITY OR TOWN: **Annapolis** STATE: **Maryland** ZIP: **21401**

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

Significance of this property is:
 National State Local

 Signature

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

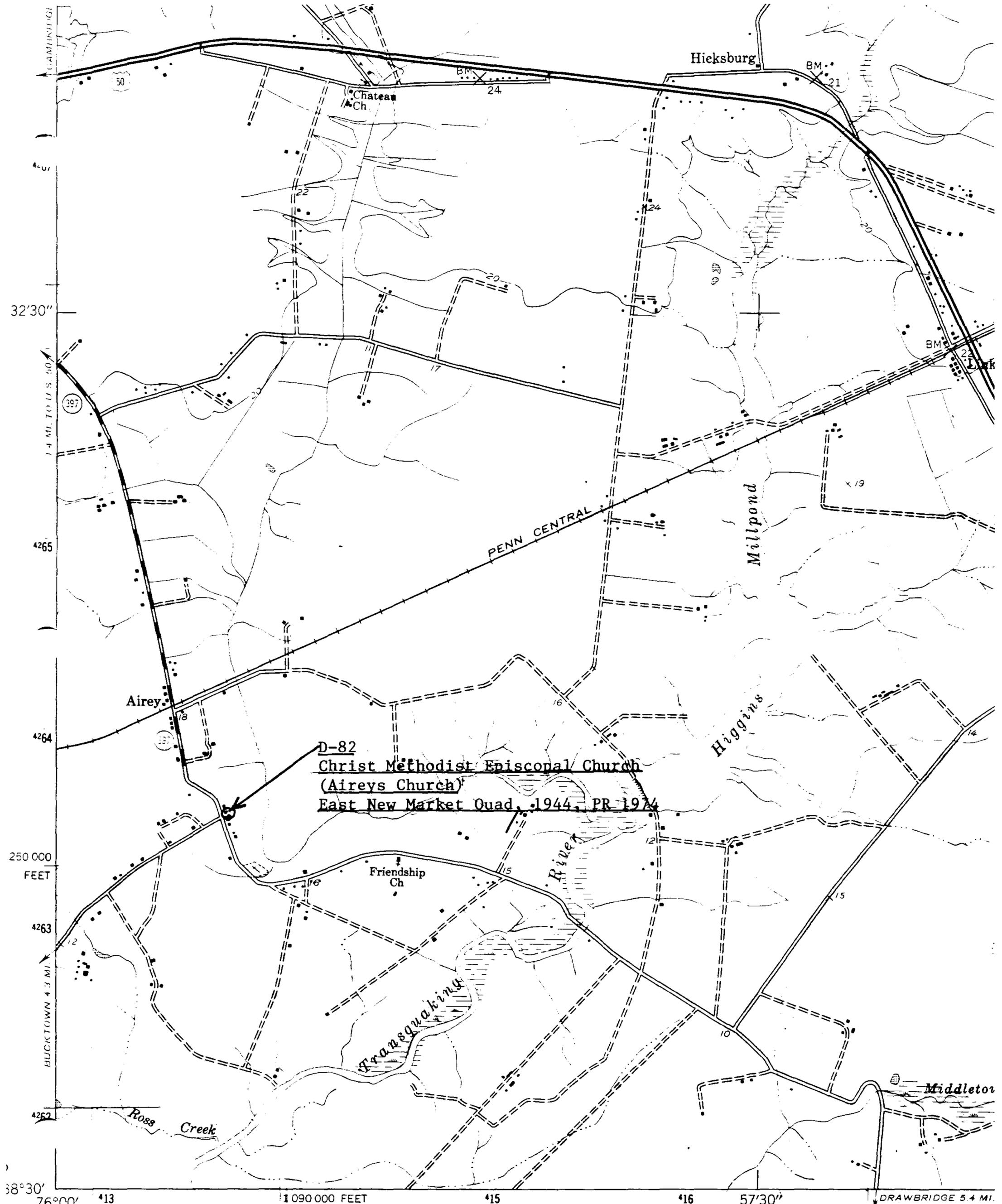


L I N K W O O D

D-82
Christ M.E. Church
(Aireys Church)
East New Market Quad, 1944

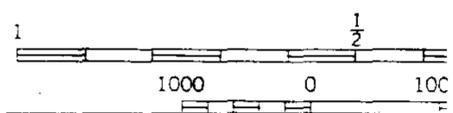
CAMBRIDGE 4.9 MI.
CAMBRIDGE 5.1 MI.
BUCKTOWN 4.3 MI.
Oyds. N.
76°00'00" 714000yds. E.

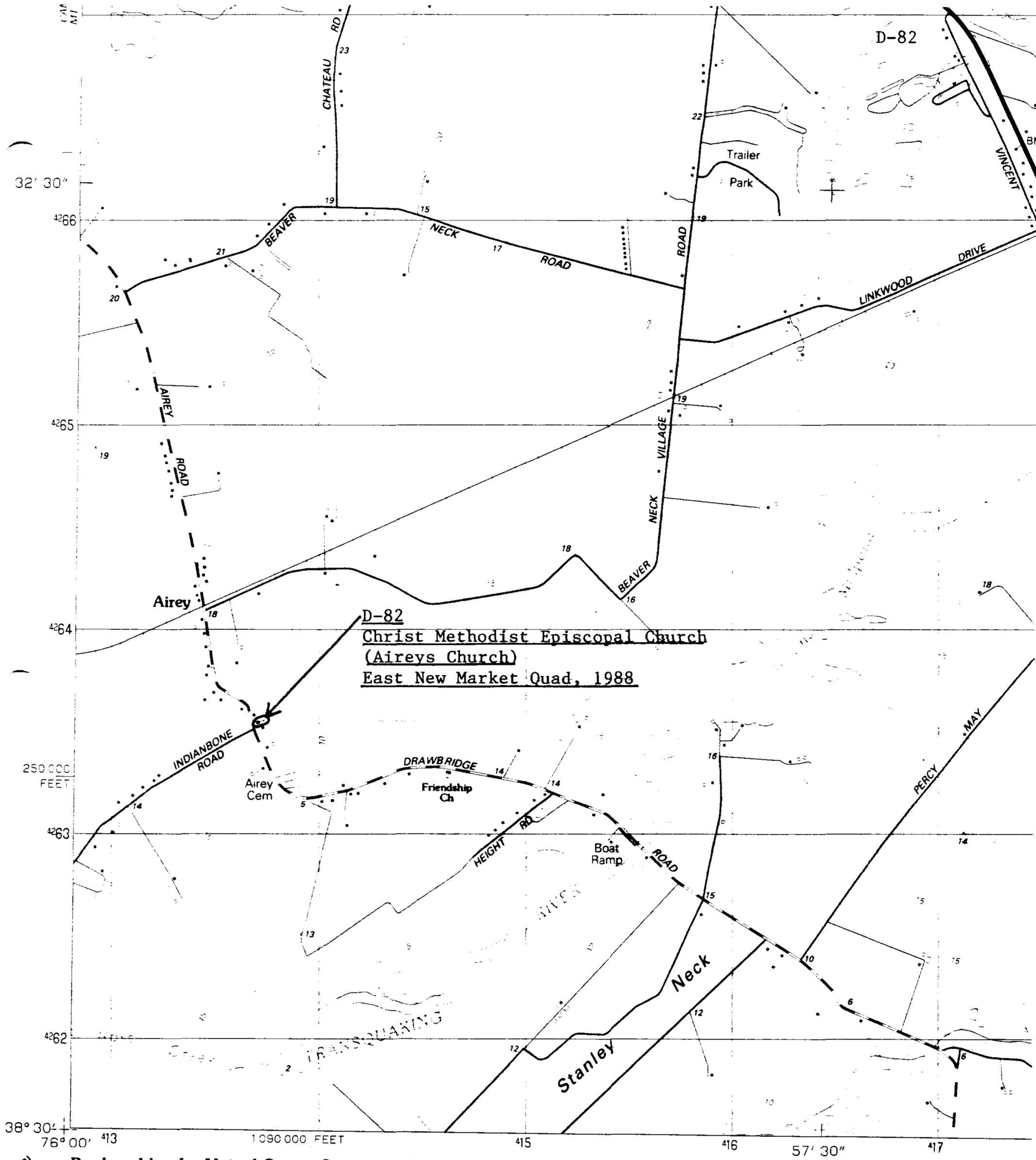
BM S50
27
Chateau Ch
BM T50
24
25
Hicksburg
BM U50
21
1768
1767
32'30"
1766
397
BUCKTOWN NO 13
LINKWOOD NO 14
1765
Airey
18
DAE 44
1764
D-82
Christ M.E. Church
(Aireys Church)
East New Market Quad, 1944
Friendship Ch
15
16
12
11
17
10
15
16
12
10
1763
BUCKTOWN NO 13
Transquaking River
Middletown
DRAWBRIDGE 5.4 MI.
715
716
717
57'30" 718
719



D-82
Christ Methodist Episcopal Church
(Aireys Church)
East New Market Quad, 1944, PR 1974

Mapped by the Army Map Service
 Published for civil use by the Geological Survey
 Control by USGS and USC&GS





D-82
Christ Methodist Episcopal Church
(Aireys Church)
East New Market Quad, 1988

Produced by the United States Geological Survey

Control by USGS and NOS/NOAA

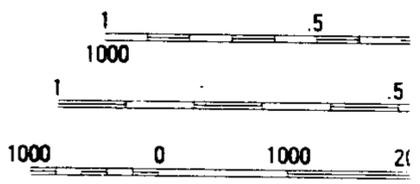
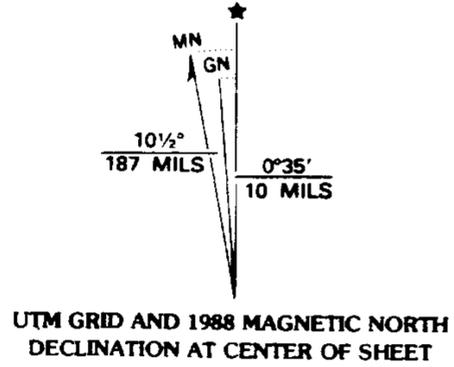
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1980-81. Field checked 1982. Map edited 1988
Supersedes Army Map Service map dated 1944

Projection and 10,000-foot grid ticks: Maryland coordinate system (Lambert conformal conic)

1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid, zone 18

1927 North American Datum

To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983, move the projection lines 8 meters south and



SHORELINE

(WATER RIVER)
5780 1 NE

.14 X 1.64

75%

D-82



Christ M.E. Church, Aireys

D. 82

M. Bourne

Nov 1975