

D-838

Bethany United Methodist Church

Crocheron

c. 1940 and c. 1910

The Bethany United Methodist Church, originally the Bethany Methodist Episcopal Church, represents the only religious organization to serve the immediate environs of Crocheron at the south end of the peninsula of land known as Bishops Head. The formation of the Bethany Methodist congregation dates to 1890 when a small parcel of land was conveyed from Amos and Ruth C. Jones to church trustees, William H. Todd, William H. Langrell, Major A. Jones, William E. Powell, and George T. Pritchett. The lot contained forty-four square perches. Similar to rural churches throughout Dorchester County, a school was sited next to the church. A few months after the land for the church was conveyed, a half-acre parcel south of the church was conveyed by Amos and Ruth Jones to the Board of School Commissioners. The relationship of the church and school sited next to one another has survived intact due to the conversion of the school to a church hall in the mid twentieth century. The Board of School Commissioners conveyed the school and a half-acre lot to the trustees of the Bethany United Methodist Church in July 1957. Also during the middle years of the twentieth century, the congregation financed the construction of a replacement church, built on a ell-shaped plan with modest references to the Colonial Revival style. The school follows a traditional form for one-room plan educational structures with its gable-front main elevation and six-over-six sash windows.

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. D-838

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic

other Bethany United Methodist Church

2. Location

street and number Bishops Head Road not for publication

city, town Crocheron vicinity

county Dorchester

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

name Bethany Methodist Church

street and number telephone

city, town Crocheron state MD zip code 21627

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Dorchester County Clerk of Court liber 108 folio 126

city, town Cambridge tax map 113 tax parcel 70 tax ID number 10-006295

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	Noncontributing
<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"/> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input type="checkbox"/> domestic	<input type="checkbox"/> social	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> structures
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	<u>1</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<u>2</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> Total
		<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:		
				Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory	
				<u> </u>	

7. Description

Inventory No. D-838

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

Bethany United Methodist Church is located on the west side of Bishops Head Road in the village of Crocheron in the Straits Election District of Dorchester County, Maryland. The single-story, ell-shaped frame church, built around 1940-50, is supported on a minimal concrete block pier foundation, and the exterior is clad with asbestos shingles. The medium pitched gable roofs are covered with asphalt shingles. The ell-shaped church is joined on the property by a c. 1910-20 single-story gable-front frame church hall, which was probably built as a school originally. The church faces northeast with the principal gable oriented on a northwest/southeast axis. The church hall is oriented on same basic directional axis.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The Bethany United Methodist Church stands on the west side of Bishops Head Road on the edge of the village of Crocheron in the Strait's Election District of Dorchester County, Maryland. The single-story, ell-shaped frame church was built during the second quarter of the twentieth century with an estimated date of construction around 1940. Supported on a block pier foundation, the exterior is clad with asbestos shingles, and the medium pitched gable roofs are covered with asphalt shingles. Standing south of the church is a single-story gable-front frame school building now used as the church hall.

The northeast (main) façade of the church is an asymmetrical elevation with a forward extending gable-front section balanced on the south side by a recessed wall. The gable-front façade of the forward extending ell is defined by a paired double-door entrance trimmed with a simple Colonial Revival surround, and to the north of the entrance is a paired set of three-over-one sash windows. The upper sash have colored glass panes. The entrance has a set of brick steps. Piercing the upper gable end is a half-round lunette window featuring radiating muntins dividing six pie-shaped panes. The edge of the roof is finished with an extended eave with returns at the base of the roof. The recessed wall of the ell-shaped church is pierced by a paired set of three-over-one sash windows. Rising in the corner of the ell-shaped plan is a short bell tower capped by a flat roof. The belfry vents have been boarded up.

The rear wall of the church has a small three-sided apse with three-over-one sash windows on each side, and there is a blind rear wall. The edge of the roof is finished with an extended eave with returns at the base. There is a rear entrance to the church on the leg of the ell.

The interior was not open for inspection on the day of survey.

Standing next to the church is a single story church hall, formerly a school. The gable-front frame building has a small enclosed gable-roofed vestibule with a single door opening on the gable front and narrow four-over-four sash windows on each side. The sides of the former school building are defined by three six-over-six sash windows. The edge of the roof is finished with a boxed cornice. The rear wall is defined by two doorways. The interior has been remodeled with sheet paneling.

8. Significance

Inventory No. D-838

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
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	entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion
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

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 Bethany United Methodist Church, originally Bethany Methodist Episcopal Church, represents the only religious organization to serve the village of Crocheron at the south end of peninsula of land known as Bishops Head. The formation of Bethany Methodist congregation dates to 1890 when a small parcel of land was conveyed from Amos and Ruth C. Jones to church trustees, William H. Todd, William H. Langrell, Major A. Jones, William E. Powell, and George T. Pritchett. The lot contained forty-four square perches.¹ Similar to rural churches in Dorchester County a school was sited next to the church. A few months after the land for the church was conveyed to the trustees, a half-acre of land south of the church lot was conveyed by Amos and Ruth Jones to the Board of School Commissioners.² The relationship of church and school sited next to one another has survived intact due to the conversion of the school to a church hall in the mid twentieth century. The Board of School Commissioners conveyed the school and half-acre lot to the trustees of the Bethany United Methodist Church in July 1957.³

¹ Dorchester County Land Record, CL 14/128-29, 11 July 1890, Dorchester County Courthouse, Cambridge, Maryland.

² Dorchester County Land Record, CL 14/379, 6 September 1890, Dorchester County Courthouse, Cambridge, Maryland.

³ Dorchester County Land Record, RSM 108/126, 15 July 1957, Dorchester County Courthouse, Cambridge, Maryland.

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Maryland Historical Trust
Inventory No. D-831M
Historic Properties Form

Name Bethany United Methodist Church
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 1

Bethany United Methodist Church
Bishops Head Road
Crocheron, Dorchester County, Maryland

Tax Map 113, Parcel 70

RSM 108/126 Board of Education
to
7.15.1957 Trustees of Bethany M. E. Church

Whereas by a deed dated September 6, 1890, and recorded among Land Records of Dorchester County, Maryland in Liber CL 14/279 Amos Jones and Ruth C. Jones, his wife, granted and conveyed unto the Board of School Commissioners of Dorchester County, in fee simple, All of the hereinafter described property; and

Whereas, the ownership and title in the said land has remained and continued in the various boards handling the ownership and title to the school property in Dorchester County, Maryland, down to and including the present time and said owning body corporate is not the hereinafter named Grantor; and

Whereas, the said Grantor by virtue of the power and authority contained in the said Article 77 of the Code of Public General Laws of Maryland has determined that it is for the benefit of the school system that the land and property hereinafter described be sold.

...one half acre of land, more or less.

The grantor herein, reserving unto itself, its successors and assigns, the right, in the event of an emergency resulting from a catastrophe or serious disaster to sue any building constructed on the herein granted and conveyed land for temporary Dorchester County public school functions...

**Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of
Historic Properties Form**

Maryland Historical Trust
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Name Bethany United Methodist Church
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 2

CL 14/379

Amos Jones and Ruth C. Jones

to

9.6.1890

Board of School Commissioners

Beginning for the same at a locust boulder standing on the west side of the county road leading to Bishops Head then runs west until it intersects the Church lot, and thence with said line on the south side of the Church lot...containing one half acre more or less

\$50

CL 14/128-29

Amos Jones and Ruth C. Jones

to

7.11.1890

William H. Todd, William H. Langrall, Major A. Jones, William E. Powell, and George T. Pritchett, building committee, Trustees, or successors

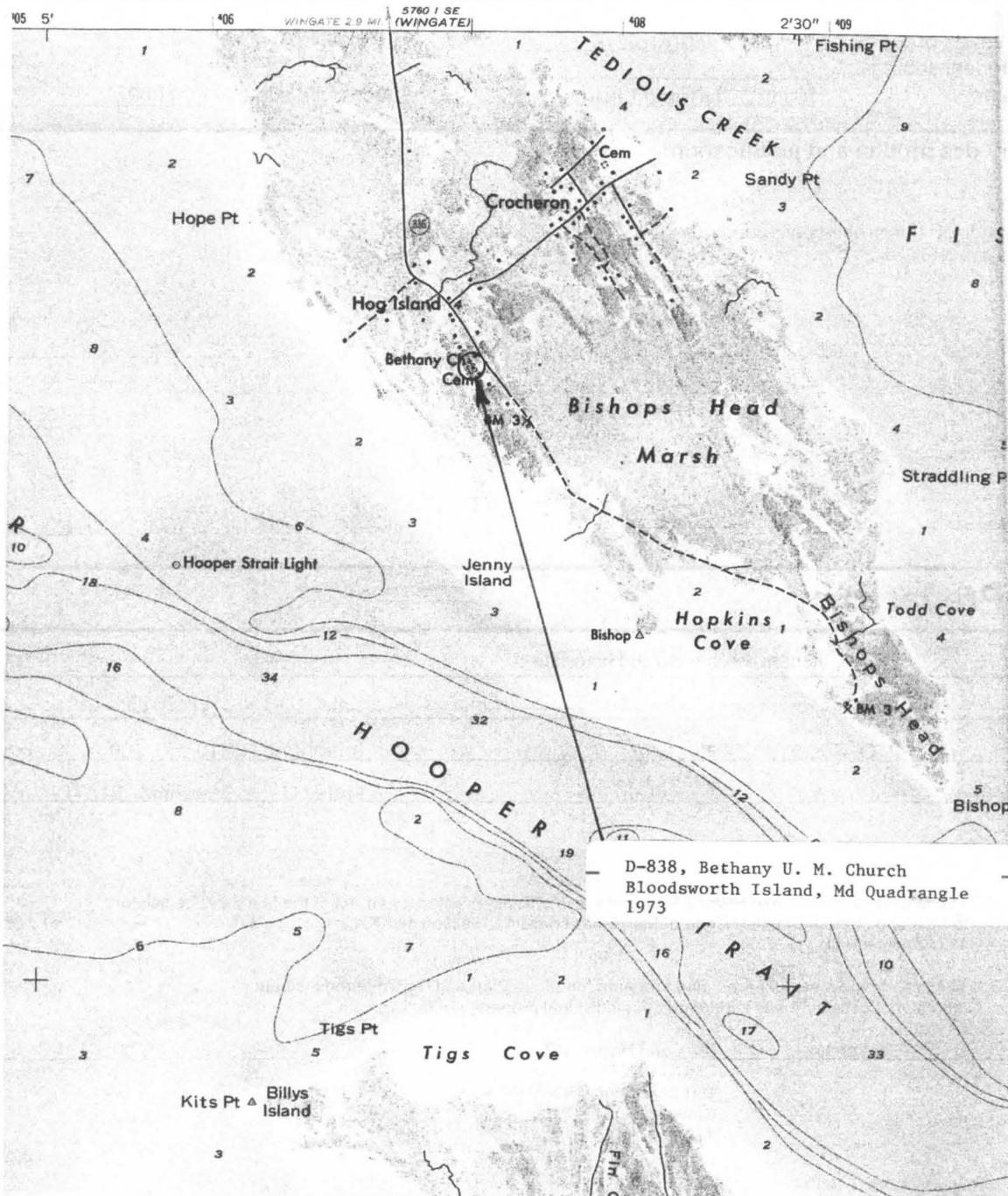
All that lot or parcel of land within the following metes and bounds, Beginning at a locust post on the south and west side of the county road that leads to Bishops Head and south of the fork that leads to the south side of Tedious Creek...containing and laid down for forty four square perches of land...and the said Lot is to be used by that Denomination known as Methodist of America

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

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Name Bethany United Methodist Church
Continuation Sheet

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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

John L. Graham, 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 50,095 square feet

Acreage of historical setting _____

Quadrangle name Honga, Maryland Quadrangle

Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

Bloodsworth Island

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	10.8.2013
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

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

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Name Bethany United Methodist Church
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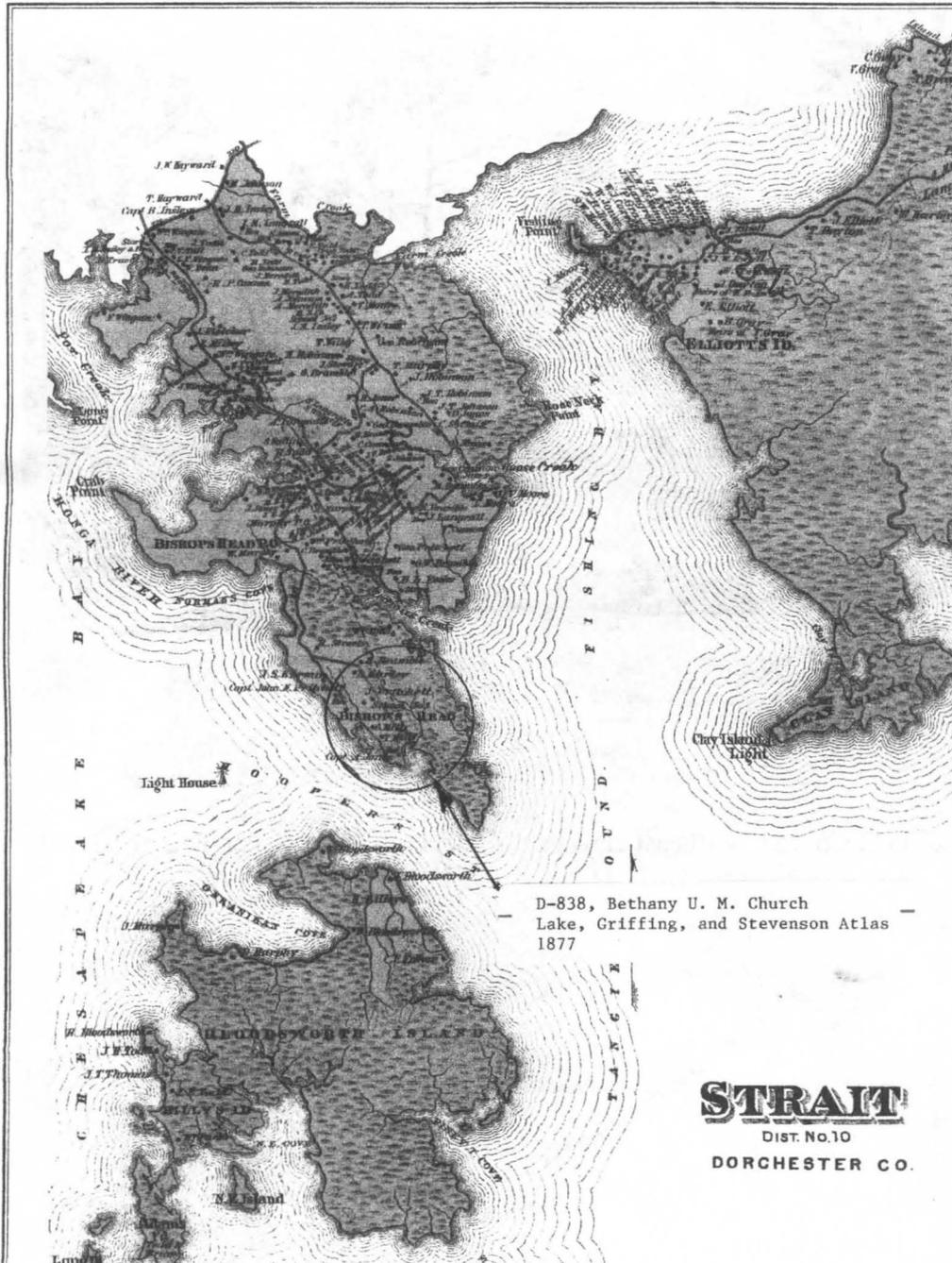
D-838, Bethany United Methodist Church, northeast elevation, Crocheron, Paul Baker Touart, 9.2013

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

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Name Bethany United Methodist Church
Continuation Sheet

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STRAIT
DIST. NO. 10
DORCHESTER CO.

Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of
Historic Properties Form

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Name Bethany United Methodist Church
Continuation Sheet

Number 9 Page 5



D-838, Bethany United Methodist Church, northeast elevation of church hall (former school), Paul Baker Touart, 9.2013

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

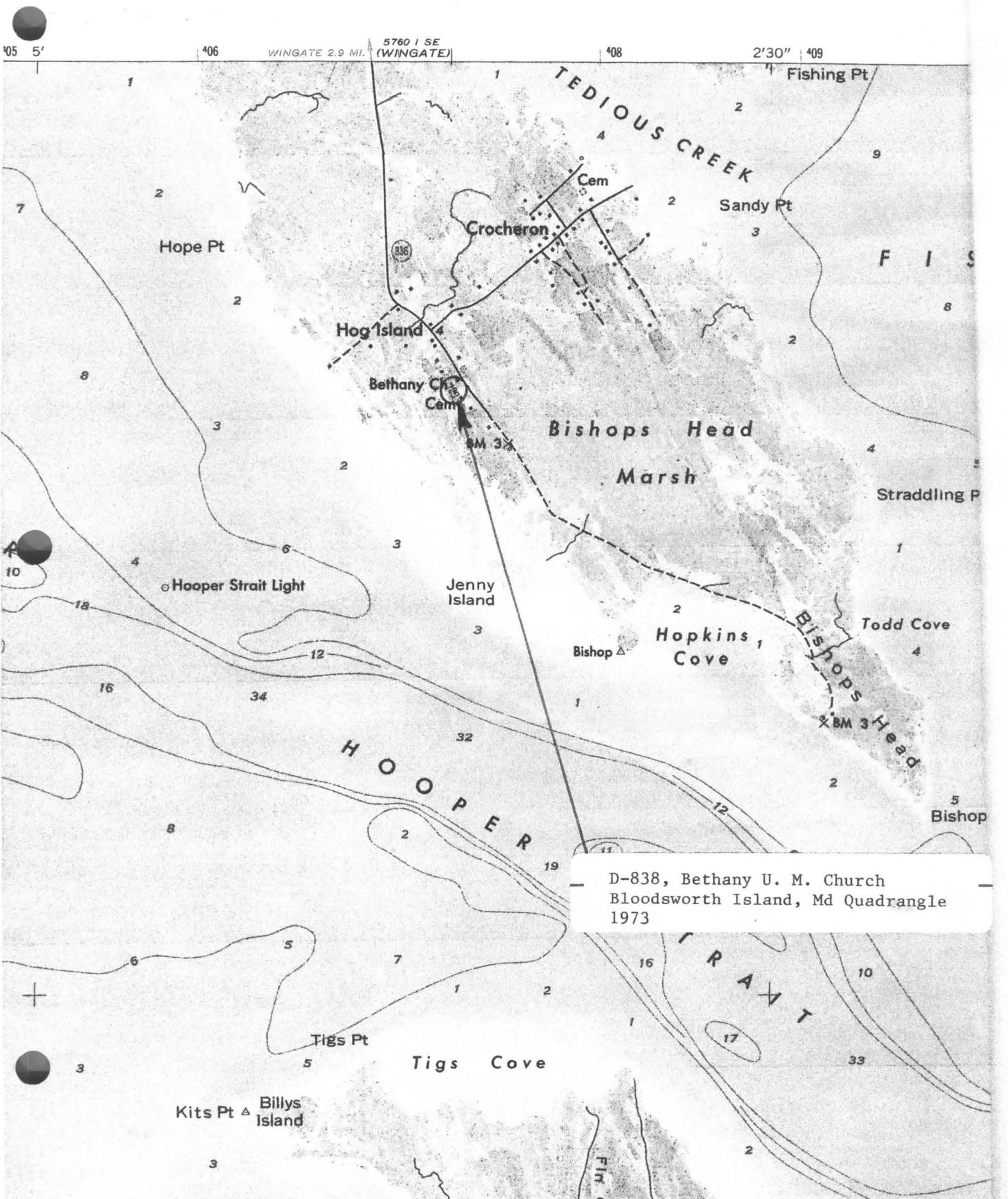
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Name Bethany United Methodist Church
Continuation Sheet

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D-838, Bethany United Methodist Church, northeast elevation of church hall (former school), Paul Baker Touart, 9.2013



D-838, Bethany U. M. Church
 Bloodsworth Island, Md Quadrangle
 1973



BETHANY
METHODIST EPISCOPAL
CHURCH
BETHANY, MARYLAND, Md.
PASTOR
WELCOME

D-838

BETHANY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
CROCKERON, DORCHESTER Co., MD.

NORTHEAST ELEVATION

9. 2013, PAUL B. TONKAY, PHOTO.

WETA, INC. HISTORICAL TRUST

1 OF 3



BETHANY CHURCH HALL

D-838

BETHANY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
CROFTON, DORCHESTER Co. MD.
Church Hall - (FORMER SCHOOL)
NORTHWEST ELEVATION

9.2013, PAUL B. TOWERS, PITTSB.
W. VA. / MD. HISTORICAL TRUST

2 OF 3



D-838

BETHANY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
CROCKETON, DOUGHERT CO., MD.

Northwest elevation of church
Hall (former school)

9.2013, Paul B. Towser, PHOTO.
NEB./MD. HISTORICAL TRUST

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