

F-5-75

Prospect Methodist Episcopal Church  
Mt. Airy vicinity  
Private

1897

The Prospect Methodist Episcopal Church is minimally significant for the still-discernible L-shaped plan of its original form and the decorative trim on the gables and bell tower. Its brick walls and Gothic arched windows are still intact, although changes were made in 1962 in the addition of a large brick veneer education wing on the west elevation and the closure of one of the original doorways in the bell tower. The adjoining cemetery is moderately significant for the number and variety of headstones from the period 1850 to 1920, including at least one cast iron monument, marble and granite columns, obelisks, and others with carved symbolic motifs, an unusual characteristic among rural church cemeteries of the period in Frederick County.

F-5-75  
Prospect Methodist Episcopal Church  
Mt. Airy  
Frederick County

HISTORIC CONTEXT:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Piedmont  
(Harford, Baltimore, Carroll, Frederick, Howard, Montgomery  
Counties, and Baltimore City)

Chronological/Development Period:  
Industrial/Urban Dominance, 1870-1930 A.D.

Prehistoric/Historic Period Themes:  
Architecture, Landscape Architecture, Community Planning

Resource Types:

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function & Use:  
Religion/religious facility/church

Known Design Source: None

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF  
HISTORIC PROPERTIESMaryland Historical Trust  
State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Magi No.

DOE  yes  no**1. Name** (indicate preferred name)

historic Prospect Methodist Episcopal Church

and/or common Prospect United Methodist Church

**2. Location**street & number 5900 block Woodville Road  not for publicationcity, town Mt. Airy  vicinity of congressional district 6th

state Maryland county Frederick

**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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

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

name Trustees of Prospect United Methodist Church

street &amp; number c/o 5923 Woodville Road telephone no.:

city, town Mt. Airy state and zip code MD 21771

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Frederick County Courthouse liber

street &amp; number 100 W. Patrick Street folio

city, town Frederick state MD 21701

**6. Representation in Existing** Historical Surveys

title

date  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records

city, town state

# 7. Description

Survey No. F-5-75

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

CONTRIBUTING RESOURCE COUNT: 2

The Prospect Methodist Episcopal Church is a one-story brick church built in 1897 in a picturesque Gothic Revival style with an L-shaped plan, featuring a bell tower/entrance in the angle, and altered in 1962 with a two-story brick veneer addition adjoining the west elevation. The church has a cemetery on the north and east sides with several elaborate and unusual examples of headstones in marble, granite, and cast iron. The church and cemetery are located on the east side of Woodville Road about 200 yards north of the intersection of Old Annapolis Road near Mt. Airy, Frederick County, Maryland. The church has a paved parking lot west of the building, the site of a schoolhouse in the 19th century which has been demolished. A non-contributing one-story building with artificial siding is located south of the church. The date of the church is inscribed on a marble stone at the base of the bell tower at the southwest corner.

The original form of the church has been partially obscured by the 1962 addition, but on the south elevation, the corner angle with the bell tower is still clearly discernible. The brick is 7:1 American bond and the roof is covered with composition material. The eaves are extended with small decorative brackets at the corners. At the gable peaks on the west and south elevations are decorative bargeboards. The south elevation has a large Gothic arched window with tracery muntins and colored glass. The bell tower originally had entrance doors on both the south and west sides; during the 1962 alterations, the south entrance was filled in with light colored brick and the west doors were replaced with modern glass and anodized aluminum doors. Above the doorway and the former opening on the south are Gothic arched transoms and circular "rose" windows. The belfry is enclosed with louvers and decorative trim. The steeple roof is covered with composition. The east elevation of the church has four bays with sliding 2/2 sash in colored, textured glass. The interior of the church was inaccessible for this survey.

In the adjoining cemetery, the variety of headstones date from about 1847, the earliest noted death date, to the present. There are several stones in marble and granite with symbolic motifs of trees, lambs, floral compositions, obelisks, urns, and a considerable number with paired columns joined by an arch at the top. A cast iron monument with paired arched tablets was also observed.

# 8. Significance

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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates** 1897 **Builder/Architect**

check: Applicable Criteria:  A  B  C  D  
 and/or  
 Applicable Exception:  A  B  C  D  E  F  G  
 Level of Significance:  national  state  local

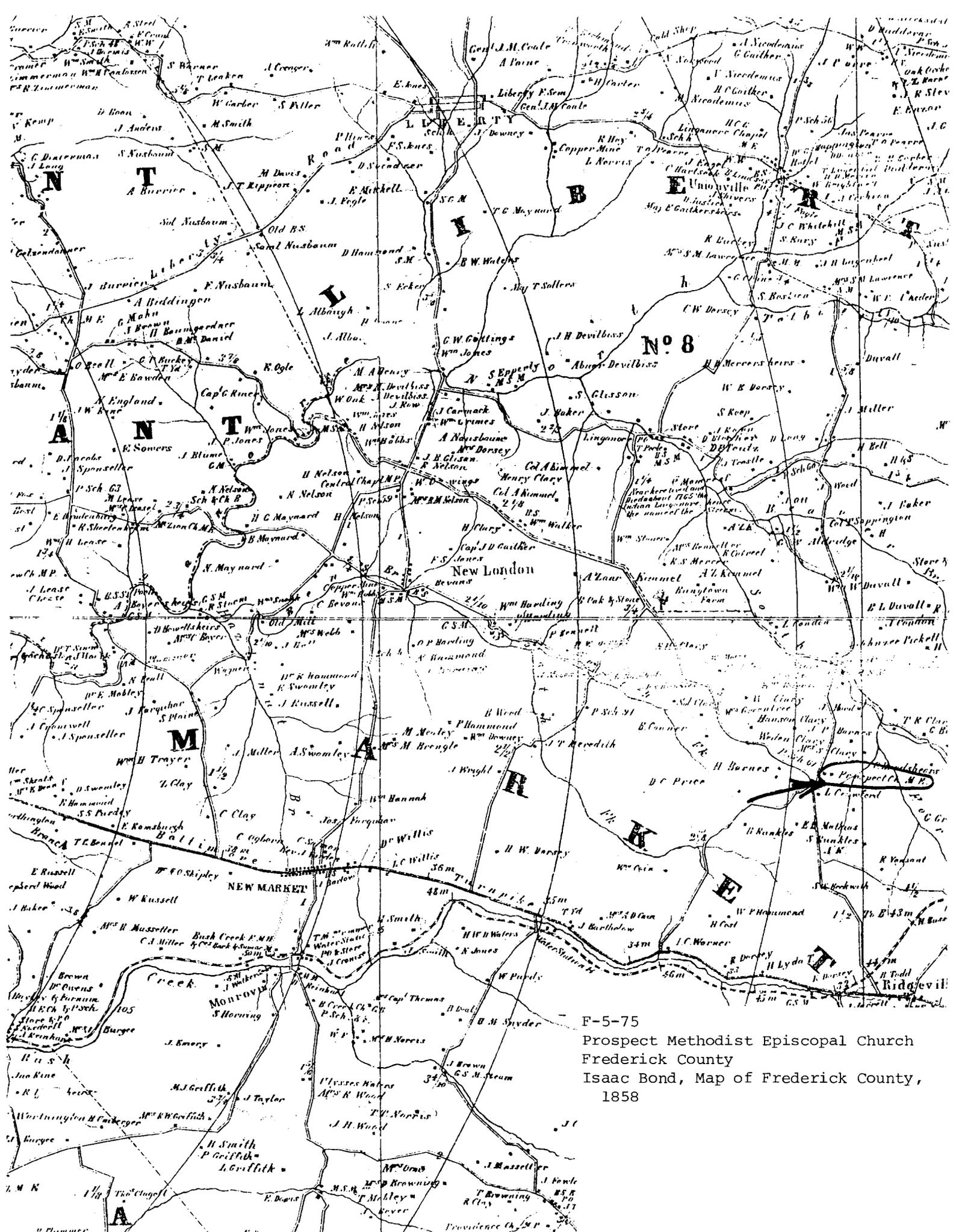
Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The Prospect Methodist Episcopal Church is minimally significant in architecture for its exterior decoration and form. Although altered by a 1962 addition and the replacement of some of its original materials, the general outline of an L-shaped church with a corner tower and entrance is still visible. In the adjoining cemetery are a large number of artistically varied headstones of the period about 1850-1920, unusual for rural church cemeteries of Frederick County.

Little history about the Prospect M. E. Church was discovered in the current survey. The dated stone in the present church reads 1853-1897 and both the 1858 and 1873 maps of Frederick County show a church on the site called Prospect. Land records and the maps indicate that a schoolhouse was located just west of the original church building. The earliest deed to the M. E. church trustees is 1814, suggesting that the present 1897 building is the second or third church on the site.



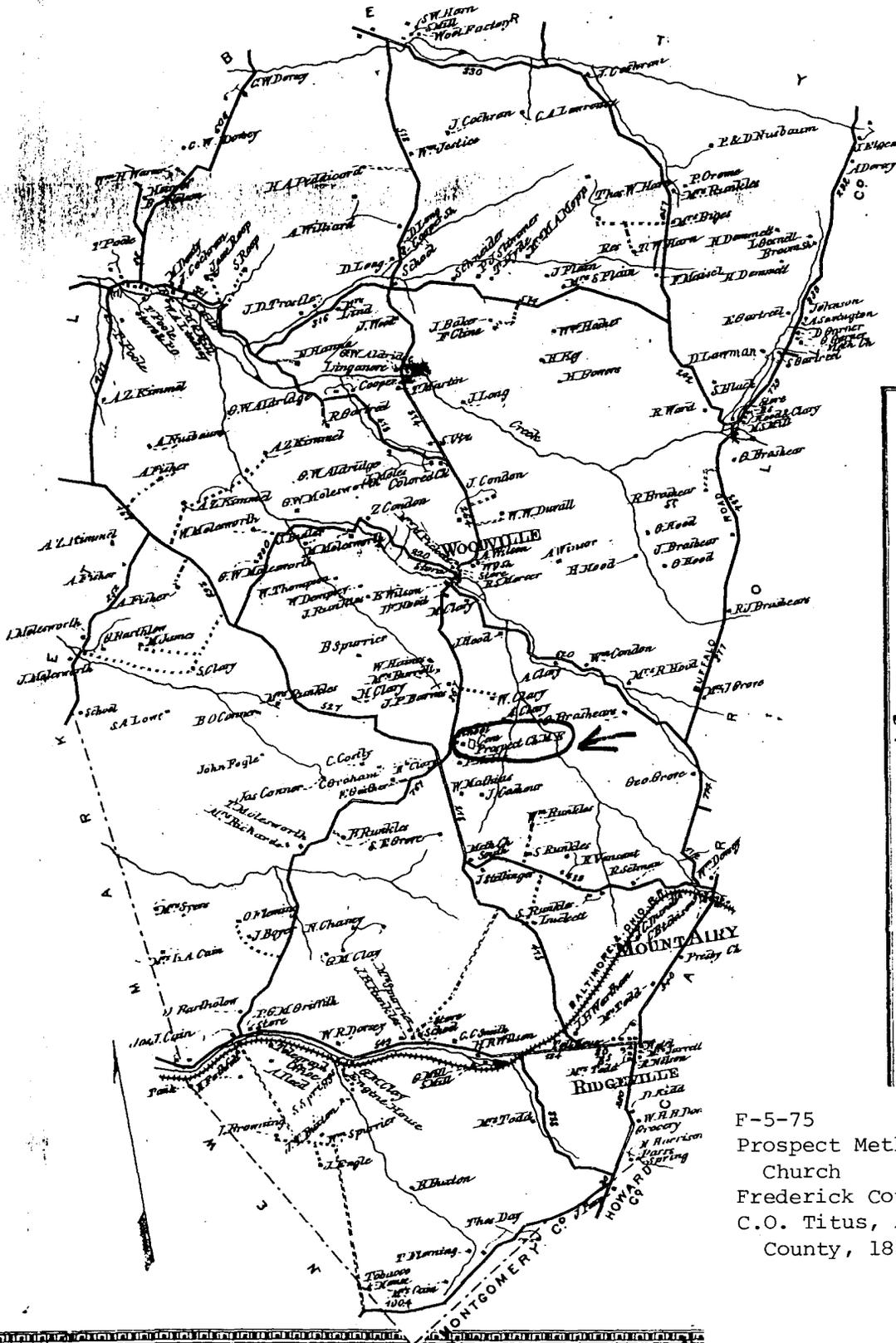




F-5-75  
 Prospect Methodist Episcopal Church  
 Frederick County  
 Isaac Bond, Map of Frederick County,  
 1858

# WOODVILLE DIST No. 18

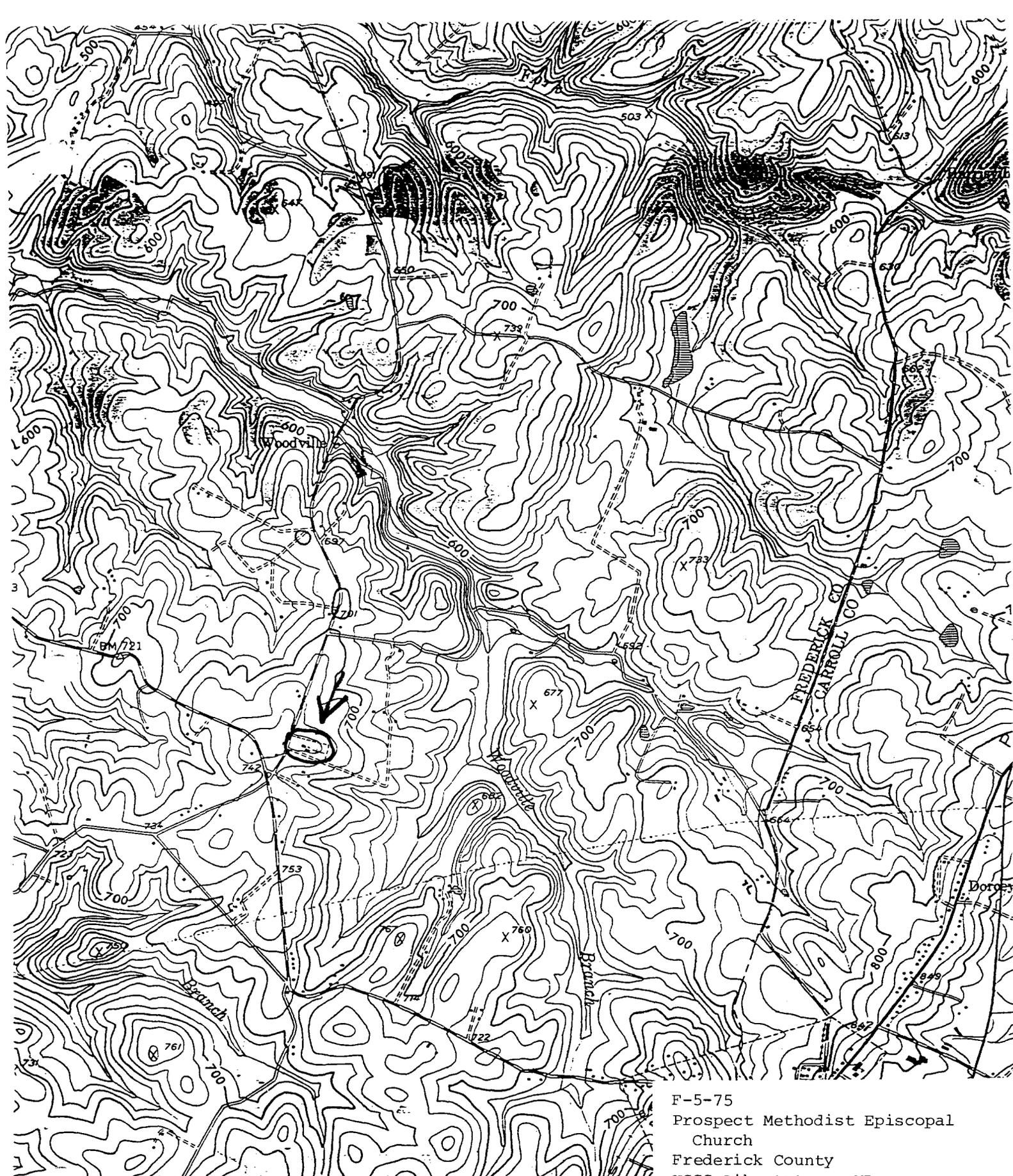
Scale 1 1/2 Inches to the Mile



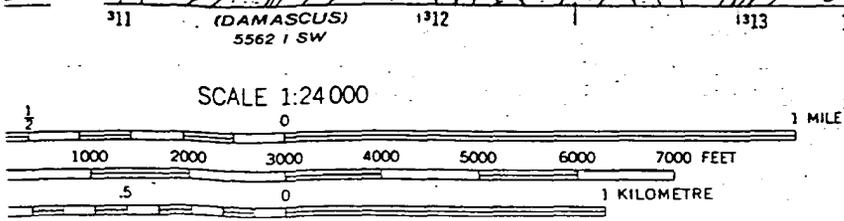
JOHN

John  
Scale 36

F-5-75  
Prospect Methodist Episcopal  
Church  
Frederick County  
C.O. Titus, Atlas of Frederick  
County, 1873



F-5-75  
 Prospect Methodist Episcopal  
 Church  
 Frederick County  
 USGS Libertytown, MD  
 1:24000





F. 5-75

Prospect Methodist Episcopal Church  
Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

April 1994

Neg. loc.: Md. SHPO, Crownsville, Md

Southwest corner view

1/2



F-5-75

Prospect Methodist Episcopal Church  
Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

April 1994

Neg. loc: Md. SHPO, Crownsville, Md.

General view in cemetery

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