

K-642

Circa 1918-1920

Sunday School of Trinity Methodist Church, South

Millington

Private

The frame Sunday School building on Sassafras Street, now altered for a dwelling, is the only survival of Millington's "Southern" Methodist church. Its roof ridge parallel to the street, it was attached by a hyphen to the perpendicular, frame church building, probably built in the 1870s. With its tall walls the usual height of a two-storey building and second-storey windows now in place, the building appears to be two-storey. However, as built, the building was one-storey in use, with the space open in each of the four nearly equal rooms from entry level to a ceiling just under the roof. On the lower level the rooms were divided by only posts and curtains. There were plastered partition walls in the upper area. Most notable and rare are the four rooms' handsome pressed-metal ceilings and cornices with religious-theme patterns. With its quite plain, bulky form, roof details, and vestigial corner pilasters, the Sunday School is reminiscent of the county's earlier Greek Revival buildings, an indication of the persistence of styles in Kent County.

# Maryland Historical Trust

## State Historic Sites Inventory Form

### 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Sunday School of Trinity Methodist Episcopal Church, South

and/or common

### 2. Location

street & number 183 Sassafras Street \_\_\_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Millington \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Kent

### 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

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

name Mrs. Charles L. Hollett

street & number 183 Sassafras Street telephone no.: 928-3233

city, town Millington state and zip code Maryland 21651

### 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Court House liber WHG 18

street & number Cross Street folio 592

city, town Chestertown state Maryland

### 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys NONE

title

date  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records

city, town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_

# 7. Description

<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.

The ca. 1918-1920 frame, gable-roofed Sunday School building of the now-gone Trinity Methodist Episcopal Church, South, is located on the west side of Sassafras Street near the northern edge of Millington. Its roof ridge parallel to the street, the building is almost square, though the gable ends are slightly deeper than the street facade is wide. With its tall walls the usual height of a two-story building and second-story windows now in place the building appears to be two-story. However, as built, the building was one-story in use, with the space open in each of the four nearly equal rooms from entry level to the height of the present second-story ceiling level. On the lower level the rooms were said to have been divided from each other by only posts and heavy curtains. The upper partition walls seem to have been fully framed and plastered, and each of the four ceilings finished with a handsome pressed-metal ceiling and cornice. During the conversion to a dwelling in 1951-1952 a floor was installed for the upper level thereby also creating a conventional-height ceiling for the lower level, and second-story windows were installed. Apparently there had been none originally. Only one of the now second-story rooms with the handsome ceilings and cornices is accessible, via a pull-down stair. The other three can be reached only from the exterior, through a window. A one-story kitchen addition, using in part the old facade vestibule, has been added to the rear. The Sunday School is said to have been connected by a double-doored hyphen on its north end (probably from the northwest room) to the south side of the church, which was perpendicular to the street. Despite its late date, the Sunday School's roof details and simple, bulky form cause it to resemble the vernacular Greek Revival middle-nineteenth century churches of Kent County. No one can now describe the style of the church itself, though the exterior was said to have been clad in horizontal, lapped weatherboard.

The original Sunday School building measured about 32 feet wide by 33-1/2 feet deep. It is three bays wide on the first story with the entry now in the center bay under a screened porch. The entry may have been elsewhere originally. There is some concrete pavement to the west of the town pavement remaining in front of the north half of the building. There is a small double-hung window with 6-over-6 lights in each side bay on the second story, but these are 1951-52 additions. There are three first-story windows on the north end, but their placement reflects the altered interior division of space in the north half of the building. A front and rear bedroom with a bathroom between were created from the two original north rooms. In addition, the north end was partially rebuilt after the hyphen was removed. The two second-story north-end windows were installed during the conversion; there are no south-end second-story windows. Indeed all the windows may be 1951-52 replacements or additions. There are no shutters.

(Continued)

# 8. Significance

Survey No. K-642

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 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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" 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** ca. 1918-1920                      **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.

Although extensively altered for use as a dwelling, the old Sunday School building is the only reminder of Millington's "Southern" Methodist church. With its quite plain, bulky form, vestigial corner pilasters, and roof details (especially the large cornice returns and deep frieze), it is reminiscent of Kent County's middle-nineteenth-century vernacular Greek Revival Churches. It is an example of the persistence of building styles in a rural area. The handsome pressed-metal ceilings and cornices, now hidden away in a second-story that is inaccessible or used only for storage, are the most notable elements of the building. They display a variety of repeated patterns, most with a religious theme. They probably were manufactured for use in church buildings and sold by church supply houses. Such church-building ceilings are rare in Kent County. Nearby Asbury Church (K-624) has a large-scale one that was installed near the turn of the century. There is such a ceiling at Wesley Chapel near Rock Hall (K-486) and at the Methodist church in Crumpton, in Queen Anne's County.

Although the congregations that formed the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, broke away from the national Methodist Episcopal Church in 1845 over the slavery issue, it was not until after the Civil War, in 1872, that a group of Methodist Episcopal, South, trustees bought land for a church in Millington. On December 30, 1872, numerous members of the Cacy family, heirs of John E. Cacy, sold for \$200 the irregularly shaped lot of approximately half an acre on the west side of north Sassafras Street, then at the northern edge of the town to the following trustees: Matthew V. Boyer, Jonathan Jones, John H. Taylor, Thomas L. Cecil, James R. Jones, Henry H. (?) Hammonds (?), and Benjamin F. Downs. Presumably the church has recently been organized, and presumably the building of a church took place shortly after the land transaction. The 1877 atlas of Kent county shows a building in place by that date, labelled Trinity Methodist Church. Martent's 1860 map shows only one Methodist Episcopal Church, in the known old location of Asbury Church.

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The exterior walls are covered with asbestos shingles over the earlier cladding, except for the gables, which are of horizontal, lapped weatherboard that may or may not be original. There are double cornerboards of 5-3/4" x 1-1/8" material trimmed where they meet the cornice frieze with simple caps reminiscent of Greek Revival pilaster treatment. Although it is most likely that the original weatherboard was horizontal, under the bottom course of asbestos shingles the ends of vertical boards were felt and seen.

A square, painted-brick chimney rises near the ridge in the west roof slope, about nine or ten feet from the south end. It may have been the original chimney, for use with a stove. It now serves a furnace. It has a two-course band.

The painted foundation appears to be of concrete that was later parged and scored in an ashlar fashion. A glimpse of the crawl space through a small opening revealed that the joists run north-south, with a central east-west summer beam.

The roof is now covered with asphalt shingles. The cornice is boxed and trimmed with a crown with a profile of a cyma recta over a filleted cove. The bed molding is a cyma reversa on a deep (ca. 12"), plain frieze, which continues under the prominent returns (ca. 40"). The north end is trimmed slightly differently, with a fillet and ovolo bed on a narrow frieze board, indicating alterations on this end. The crown is very small and plain. Gutters have been installed.

In each gable is a semi-circular window with four radiating lights. The center two are of a dark red, wavy glass. The outer lights are of uncolored obscure glass with a star of "aster" pattern. The trim is triple split-face with a plain fillet backband.

The pressed-tin ceilings and curved cornices, now on the second-storey, are the most notable element of the Sunday School. Only the ceiling of the southwest room was seen and photographed; the other second-storey rooms are accessible only through their windows. The main, center ceiling is of 16 interlocking 24" squares with a double quatrafoil theme. The ceiling border employs a kind of Gothic arch theme. The cornice is ca. 16" deep and composed of various horizontally repeated elements. Included is egg-and-dart as well as another linear arch series, with shields within each arch. The design of the ceiling indicates that it was manufactured for use in church buildings. It was probably sold by suppliers of church furnishings. The ceiling and cornice now are painted light green; the owner of the house said they were peach-colored when she and her husband bought the house.

The approach facade is set back about 25-30 feet from the present roadway, near which there is a town sidewalk. Surrounding the house is a lawn with trees and shrubs. Two large trees grow in the filled foundation area of the old church to the north. A one-storey house was built on the northern part of the church lot after 1951.

(continued)

From the site near the northern edge of Millington, views are of other town buildings. Across the street, the main road to the towns of Massey and Sassafras to the north, to the south there are several 2 and 2-1/2 storey late nineteenth or early twentieth century frame houses with Victorian details. The Mallalieu-Simon House (K-644) is one of them. Directly across the street is a middle-nineteenth-century two-storey house, shown as the only nearby building on the 1877 map of Millington. The large, one-storey, mostly prefabricated-metal building of the Millington Fire Company is on the corner lot to the south, at Hurtt Street.

No one now knows why this new congregation was formed, whether it might have involved dissension within Asbury Church or reflected basically southern sympathies and possibly even anti-black attitudes among the founders. There was only one other congregation affiliated with the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, in Kent County, and it too seems to have been established after the Civil War, in about 1867. It was located in the village of Chesterville, west of Millington, and is shown on the 1877 map. The two congregations shared a minister. The church would have been part of the Baltimore Conference of the new church body. "Southern" churches on the eastern shore of Virginia belonged to the Virginia Conference.

Although the Eastern Shore of Maryland certainly had had southern sympathizers and even men fighting for the South during the Civil War, the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, did not have great strength on the Shore. According to Hallman (pp. 17-18), only sixteen charges "went over to the Southern Church," as it became known. When organized in 1845 the national membership was 460,000, mostly in distinctly southern states. At the time of union in 1939, when Methodist Episcopal, Methodist Protestant, and Methodist Episcopal, South, reunited after many years of discussion, there were only ten "Southern" churches with 950 members served by eight ministers on the Eastern Shore of Maryland. The sole Delaware "Southern" congregation was short-lived.

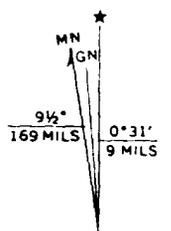
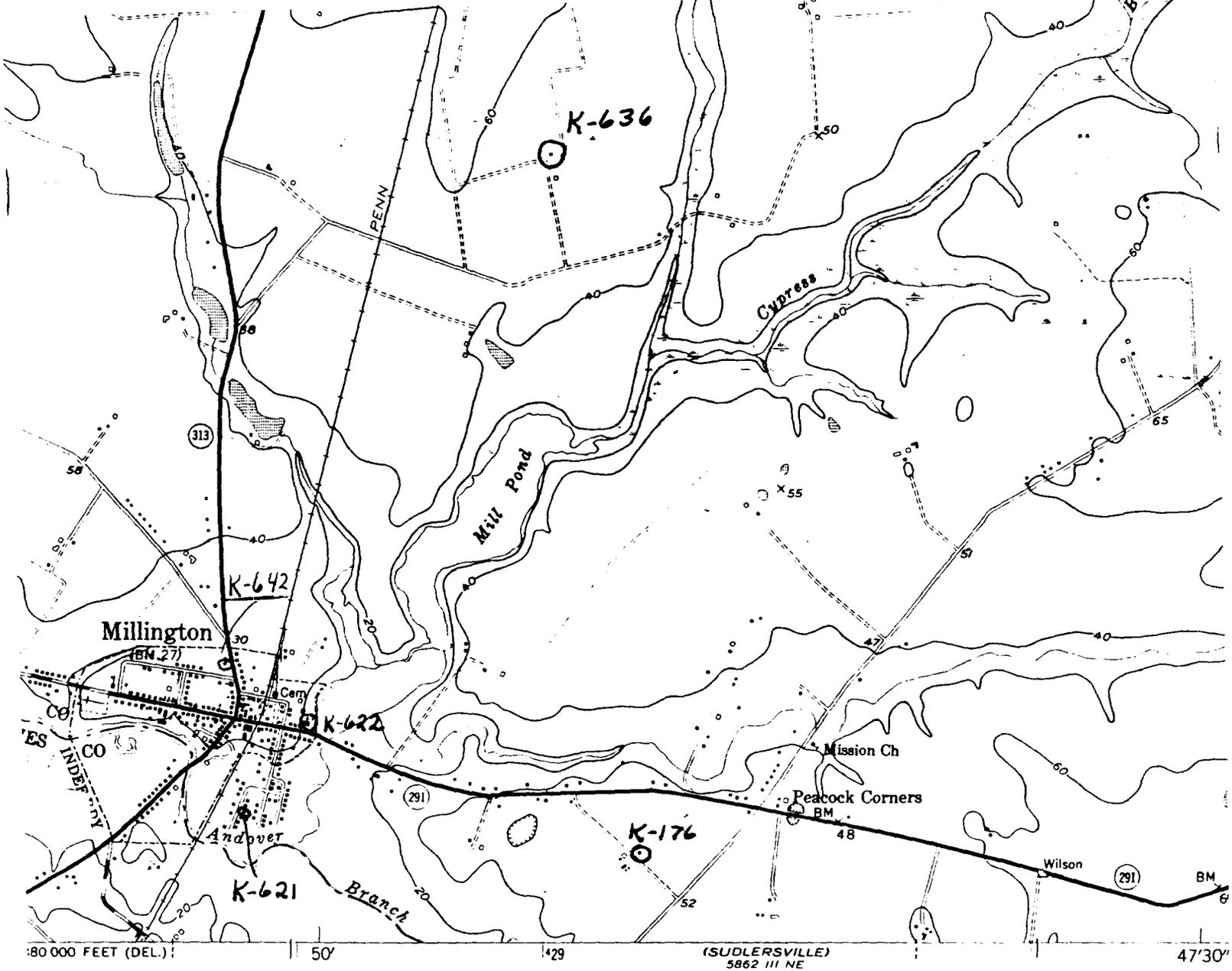
The congregation is said to have built a frame church, with its gable end facing the public road. About 1920 the Sunday School building was built, evidently with a hyphen to the south side of the church. The congregation was small but used the church until union with the other Methodists in 1939. The conference closed the smaller of the two Millington churches closed; most of its its members joined Asbury Church in Millington

In 1951 five men described as trustees of the "Methodist Episcopal Church, South, in Millington," as well as the secretary and treasurer of the Peninsula Conference, sold the property to Charles L. Hollett and Mary Elizabeth Hollett, his wife (WHG 18/592). According to Mrs. Hollett, who still lives in the Sunday School building, they spent some time remodeling the building and removing the old church and moved in during 1952. Some of the church lumber was used to build the house to the north. The windows to each side of the main entry, said to be stained glass windows, were re-used in the Millington Holiness Church.

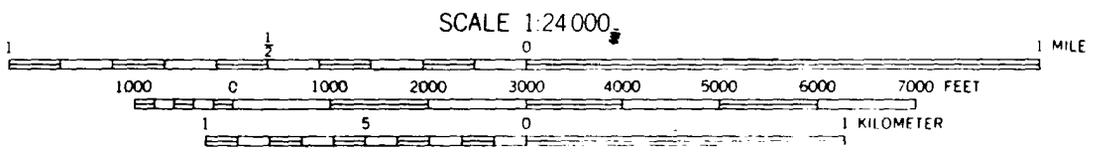
There never was a cemetery at the church site. Church members were buried at the Asbury Church cemetery on Cypress Street or in Chesterville, where the "Southern" church (Emmanuel) did have a cemetery. Mrs. Hollett remembers that there was a shed for horses on the church property.

E. C. Hallman, The Garden of Methodism. No place given: published at the request of the Peninsula Annual Conference of the Methodist Church, 1948.





UTM GRID AND 1973 MAGNETIC NORTH DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET



CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET  
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092 A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

MILLINGTON QUADRANGLE



K-642

Sunday School of Trinity Methodist  
Episcopal Church, South, Sassafras St.

M. Q. Fallaw - 8/20/86

Millington

View to northwest

10472-33



K-642

Sunday School of Trinity Methodist Episcopal  
Church, South Sassafras St., Millington

M. Q. Fallaw - 8/20/86

Ceiling, 2nd story

View to southwest

K 642-13