

M-12-42-22

1880's

Mt. Zion Methodist Church
Big Woods Community
Private

This one and a half story brick veneered church was originally a simply designed frame church, similar to other black churches in nearby communities built around the turn of the 20th century. Its founders had been "free blacks" and slaves during the ante-bellum era, and after emancipation they banded together to begin their own landowning community. Mt. Zion Methodist Episcopal Church was the first institution they established. In the 1880's they purchased new land and built this, their second church, on that site.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

Magi #
M-12-42-22

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Mt. Zion United Methodist Church

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER West side of Rt. 109

CITY, TOWN

Beallsville VICINITY OF (Big Woods)

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

3

STATE

Md.

COUNTY

Montgomery

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
	No	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
			<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
			<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Mt. Zion United Methodist Church

Telephone #: 301-349-5632

STREET & NUMBER

21000 Beallsville Rd.

CITY, TOWN

Beallsville VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Md.

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC Registry of Deeds

Liber #: JA 36/257 and

Folio #: 4123/734

STREET & NUMBER

County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Rockville

STATE

Md.

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE None

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

M:12-42-22

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This church has recently been remodeled by members of the congregation, but in earlier years it was a one and a half story frame building whose basic design resembled the frame churches of Warren Methodist and St. Paul's Methodist Churches in Martinsburg and Sugarland, respectively. This was the second church to be constructed for the Mt. Zion congregation. The first stood near the old cemetery, west of the present-day site of this church, along the old road that led to Parkland Mills. Nothing remains of that first church.

The church was remodeled by William Bell and other members of the Big Woods community about ten years ago, c. 1969. At that time they added a new entrance and bricked over the frame structure. Earlier a Sunday school wing had been added to the church. The church today has probably the most modern appearance of the churches surveyed in the black communities in upper Montgomery County.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

M.12-42-22

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input checked="" 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/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input 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 1880's

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The congregation of Mt. Zion was the first black church in the up-county area to acquire title to land after the Civil War. According to the deed, EBP 4/419, Phillip Spencer and the trustees of Mt. Zion M.E. Church purchased one acre of land in 1867.

The history of community institutions such as churches is usually remembered by specific events in the lives of their members, rather than by dates. An illustration: When asked about the age of the second church, Florence Hallman who was born around the turn of the 20th century explained, "I don't know how old it is. But my mother was married there, and her funeral was preached there, when I was a little girl."

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Land records, Montgomery County Courthouse, Rockville, Maryland.

Deeds EBP 4/419, 4123/734, JA36/257.

Oral interviews, not taped, with William and Florence Bell, July, 197

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

George W. McDaniel, Historic Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Sugarloaf Regional Trails

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

301-926-4510

CITY OR TOWN

Dickerson,

STATE

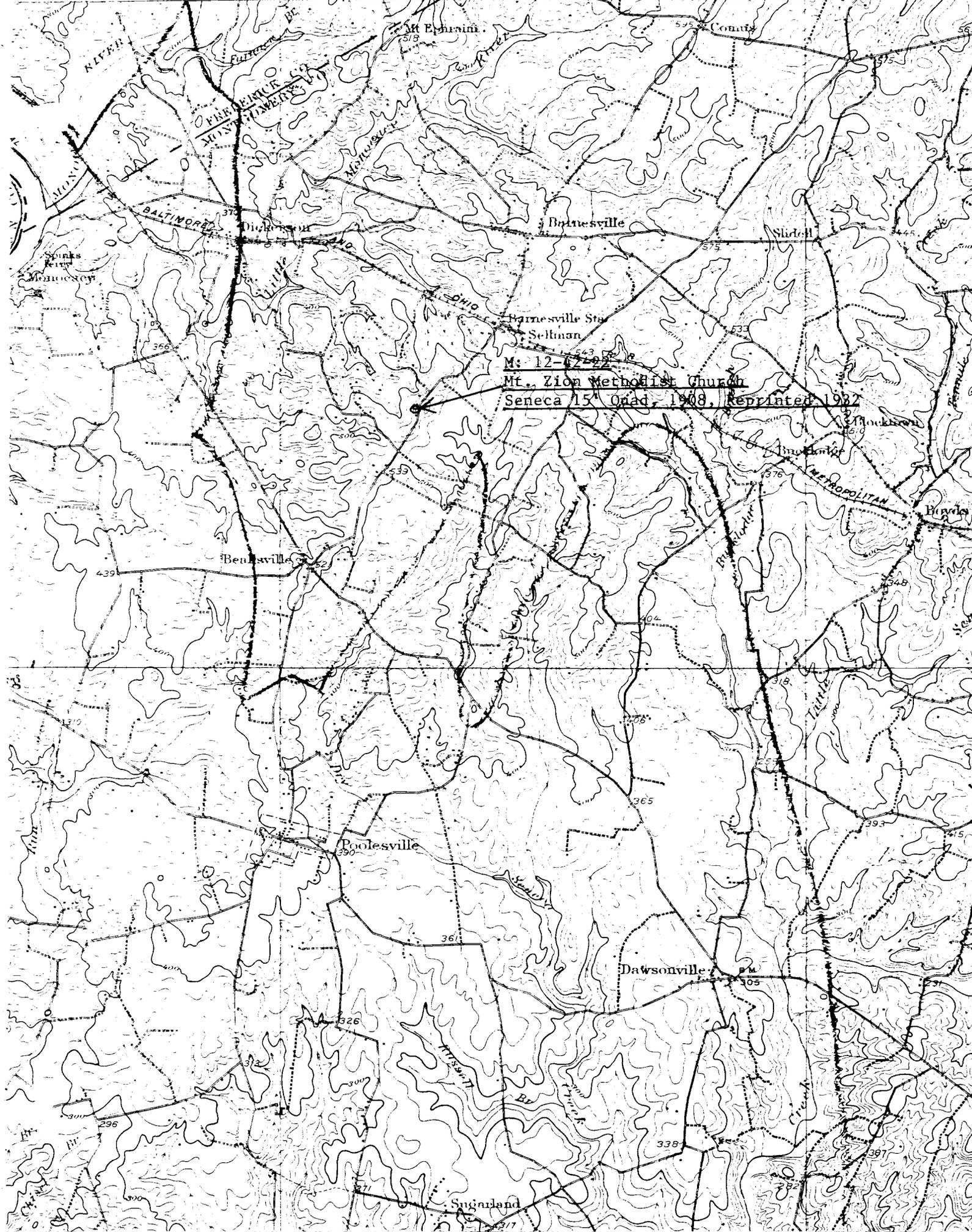
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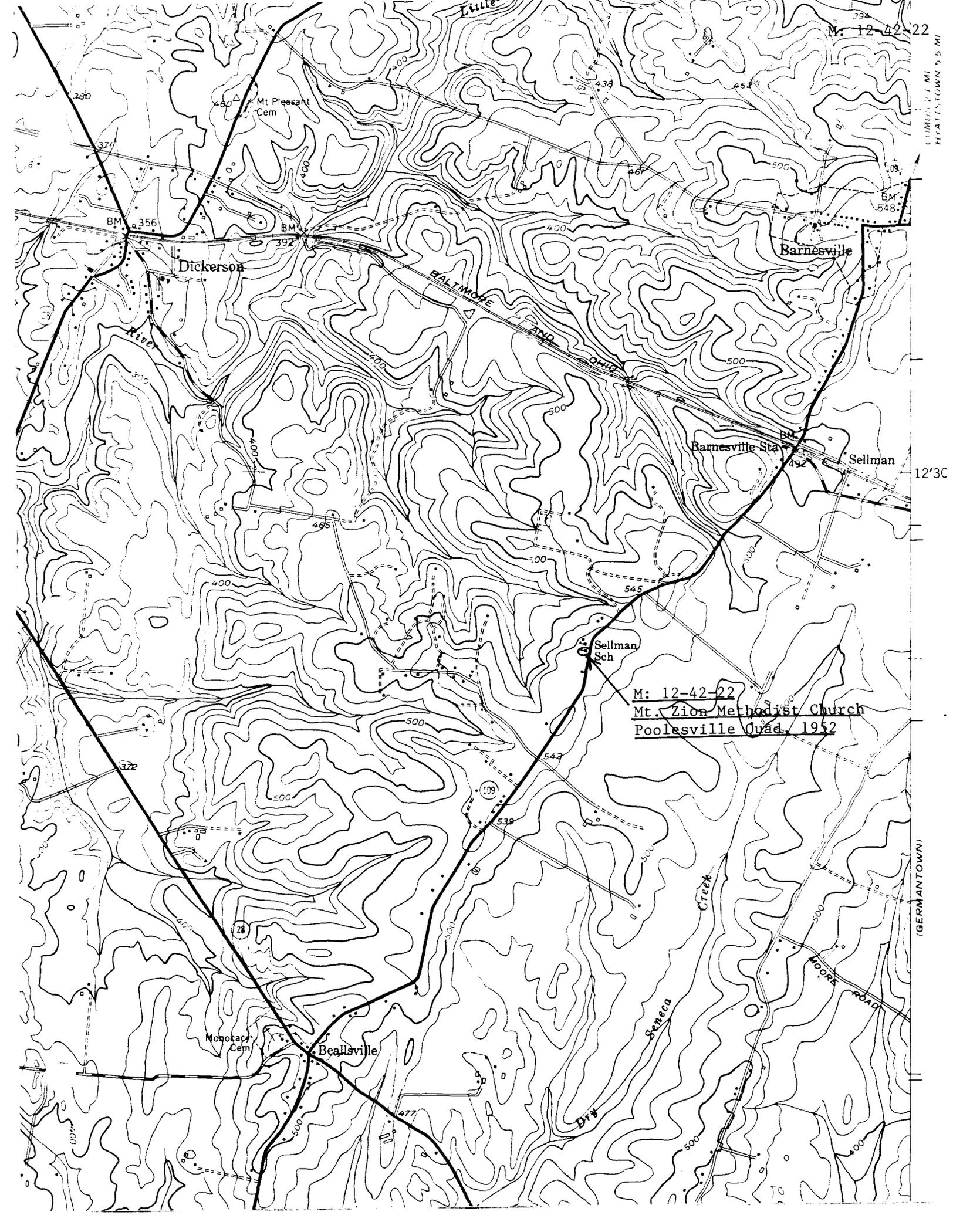
The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

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 State House, State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 257-1438~~

SUGARLOAF REGIONAL TRAILS
Box 87, Stronghold
Dickerson, Md. 20753
(301) 926-4510





M: 12-42-22

COMUS 2.1 MI
HYATSTOWN 5.5 MI

Mt Pleasant
Cem

Dickerson

Barnesville

Barnesville Sta

Sellman

Sellman
Sch

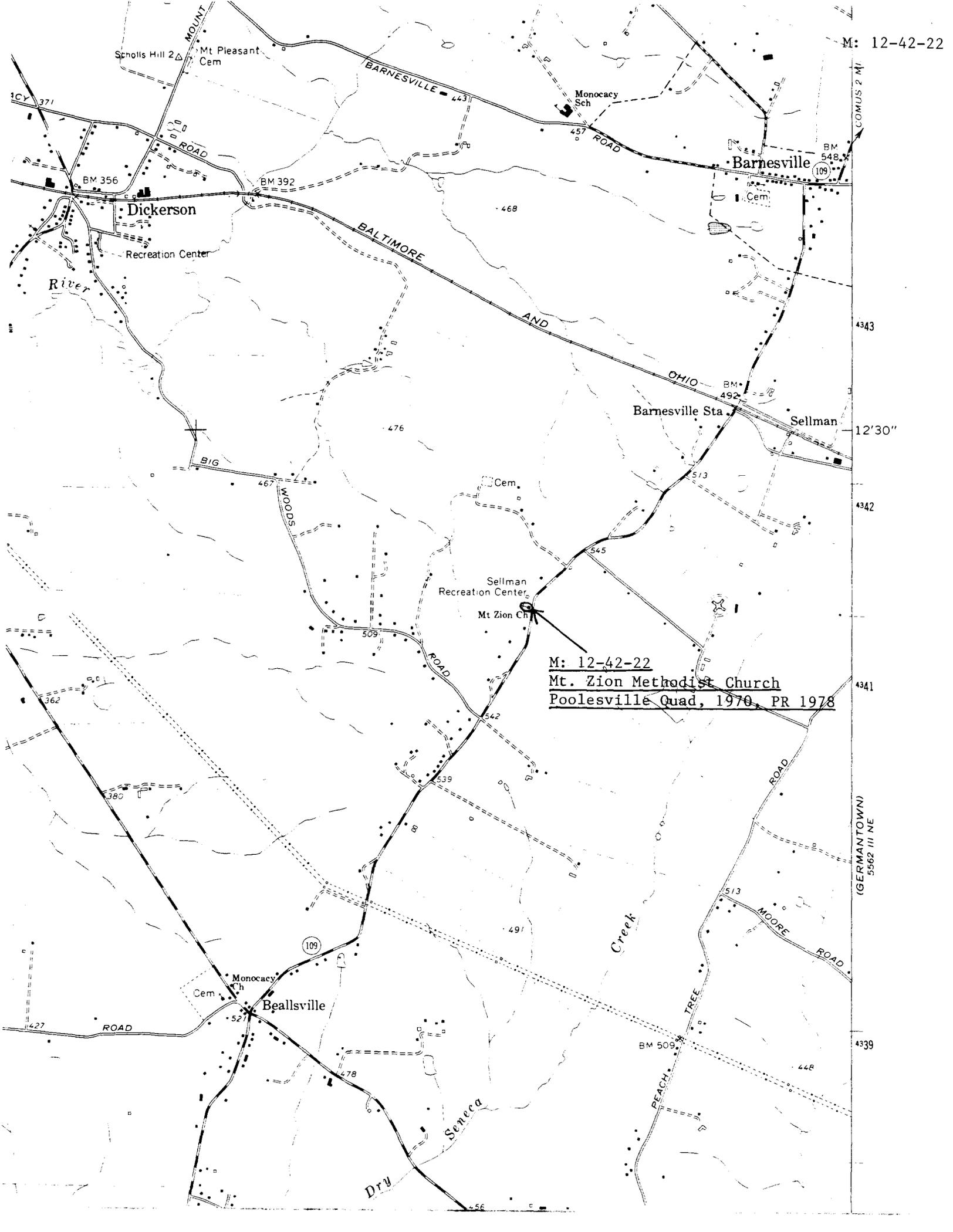
M: 12-42-22
Mt. Zion Methodist Church
Poolsville Quad, 1952

Monotacy
Cem

Beallsville

(GERMANTOWN)

12'30



M: 12-42-22
Mt. Zion Methodist Church
Poolsville Quad, 1970, PR 1978

COMUS 2 M

4343

12'30"

4342

4341

(GERMANTOWN)
5562 III NE

4339

Scolls Hill 2 Δ Mt Pleasant Cem

BARNESVILLE 443

Monocacy Sch

Barnesville

Dickerson

Recreation Center

BALTIMORE

AND

OHIO

Barnesville Sta

Sellman

Sellman Recreation Center

Mt Zion Ch

Beallsville

Monocacy Ch

Seneca

Creek

TREE

MOORE ROAD

PEACH

Dry

1CY 371

BM 356

BM 392

BM 548.3

BM 492

BIG

WOODS

476

468

467

513

545

509

542

539

491

513

BM 509

478

448

456

427



Methodist
Mt. Zion ~~Methodist~~ Church Cemetery

m-12-22-22

Big Woods Community

8/79

photo by George M. Daniel



KING

RICHARD E.

NOV. 24, 1878

DECEASED

AT THE

GRAVESITE

BERTHA E.

OCT. 26, 1887

MAR. 30, 1970

MEMBER

OF THE

Mt Zion Methodist Church cemetery

M-12-42-#22

By Wrote community

~~8/79~~ 8/79

photo by Guy Messier



Mt. Zion Methodist Church

M-12-42-22

Big Woods Community

S. E. Elevation

photo by George McDaniel

88/79



Mt. Zion Methodist church

N. W. Elevation

M - 12 - 42 - 22

Big Woods community

photo by George McDaniel

88/77