The property known as the Howard Chapel and Cemetery is located on a 204-acre parcel of land at the northwestern corner of the junction of Howard Chapel Road and Elton Farm Road. The property originally included a church, built in 1889, a school, built by 1879, and a cemetery, with burials beginning in 1901. The only remaining resource standing is the cemetery. The school, chapel, and cemetery were built on land owned by Enoch George Howard. Howard was a former slave who bought his freedom in 1857, and became a well-respected citizen in the community. The chapel served the rural black community from 1889 to 1930, and was destroyed by fire in 1979. It was served by a circuit minister from the Washington Negro Conference. The small black school was erected c. 1879 by Enoch George Howard for his children and the children of the community. The cemetery, located north of the church, began burials in 1901, with George Howard, a descendant of Enoch George Howard. The property has been owned by the State of Maryland since 1968 and is presently part of the Patuxent River State Park. Although in a neglected state, this property meets Criteria B & D of the Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties.
MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

MD INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

===================================================================
1. Name of Property

historic name Howard Chapel & Cemetery
common/other name ____________________________________________

===================================================================
2. Location

street & number NW corner of the junction between Howard Chapel & Elton Farm Roads
Not for publication

city or town Unity vicinity X state Maryland
code MD county Montgomery code ______ zip code 20833

===================================================================
3. State/Federal Agency Certification

N/A

===================================================================
4. National Park Service Certification

N/A

===================================================================
5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check all that apply)
   ___ private
   ___ public-local
   X  public-State
   ___ public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)
   X  building(s)
   ___ district
   X  site
   ___ structure
   ___ object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing  Noncontributing

___  2  buildings
___
___ sites
___ structures
___ objects
___  2  Total

Is this property listed in the National Register?
   Yes ___ Name of Listing___________________________  No X
6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)
Cat: RELIGION Sub: Religious Facility: Church
FUNERARY
Church School
Cemetery

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)
Cat: FUNERARY Sub: Cemetery

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)
No Style

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)
foundation N/A
roof N/A
walls N/A
other

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property.)

See Continuation Sheet No. 7-1
8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

___ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

___ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

___ C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

___ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

___ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

___ B removed from its original location.

___ C a birthplace or a grave.

___ D a cemetery.

___ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

___ F a commemorative property.

___ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.
Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)
ETHNIC HERITAGE: Black
RELIGION
EDUCATION

Period of Significance 1901-1942

Significant Dates 1901

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)
Enoch George Howard

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property.)

See Continuation Sheet No. 8-1
9. Major Bibliographical References

(Cite the books, articles, legal records, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Sergeant Murphy: Story of a Civil War Veteran. (Original copy housed in the Department of Natural Resources file for the Gaither-Howard House.)


Montgomery County Historical Society, Rockville, MD., Vertical Files.

Montgomery County Land Records, Montgomery County, Maryland.
Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties  
Inventory No. M-23-11  
Howard Chapel & Cemetery  
Montgomery County, Maryland  

Mutual Assurance Society Records, Montgomery County Historical Society.


Sandy Spring Museum, Sandy Spring, Maryland, Vertical Files.

Genealogical Abstracts, Montgomery County Sentinel 1855-1899.

Maps and Drawings and Photographs


Martenet, Simon L. Martenet and Bond's Map of Montgomery County, 1865.
10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: 204.02 acres

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The Howard Chapel Cemetery occupies a portion of parcel #888 on Montgomery County Tax Map HW.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

This parcel is part of a larger parcel of land that was associated with the Howard Family since the mid-nineteenth century.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Kimberly Williams/Michele Naru, Architectural Historians
organization: M-NCPPC
street & number: 8787 Georgia Avenue
phone: 301/563-3403
city or town: Silver Spring
state: MD
zip code: 20910

date: 3-12-99

12. Property Owner

name: State of Maryland, Department of Natural Resources
street & number: 580 Taylor Avenue
phone: 410-260-8164
city or town: Annapolis
state: MD
zip code: 21401
The property known as the Howard Chapel and Cemetery, is located on a 204-acre parcel of land at the northwestern corner of the junction of Howard Chapel Road and Elton Farm Road. The property originally included a church, built in 1889, a school, built by 1879, and a cemetery, with burials beginning in 1901. The only remaining resource standing is the cemetery.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

The overgrown cemetery is surrounded by a black metal fence. The following is a list of people buried in the cemetery:

William H. Nettles
Husband of Bettie Nettles; Died October 14, 1918 - Age 62

Malinda J.
Wife of Daniel W. Green; 1847-1924

George Howard (ancestor of Enoch George Howard)
Born 1872; Died 8, 1901 - Age 29 years

Harriet A.
Wife of John H. Howard (August 25, 1839 - May 6, 1923)
February 9, 1843; Died July 31, 1917

Daughter - Christeen Howard Vonce
December 11, 1874; Died October 9, 1931

Lucy, Wife of Evan Gaither
Died June 17, 1912 - Age 89 years, 10 months and 7 days

John B. Howard
January 19, 1885; Died May 12, 1920

Fannie Fisher
October 30, 1942 - Age 53

Mildred Simpson
Daughter of Martha Whitney; July 1912 - Age 22 Years

Robert Simpson
January 19, 1902 - Age 55 years

Arthur H. Ishwood
March 1, 1862; Died October 27, 1915

Waymon Ishwood
Son of Arthur and Anna Ishwood
September 6, 1890 - January 7, 19--
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Howard Chapel & Cemetery is located at the northwestern corner of the junction of Howard Chapel Road and Elton Farm Road. The land on which the chapel is located was owned by Enoch George Howard and his heirs. Howard was a former slave, who bought his freedom in 1857, and became well-respected by the community. The small, black school was erected c. 1879 by Enoch George Howard for his children and the children of the community. In 1889, the chapel was built north of the church by Enoch G. Howard. The chapel was used from about 1889 to 1930, and was served by a circuit minister from the Washington Negro Conference. The chapel burned in 1976 and laid in ruins until recently. The cemetery, located north of the church, began burials in 1901, with George Howard, an ancestor of Enoch George Howard. Names on the tombstones include Howards, Greens, Ishwoods, Simpsons, Gaithers, Fishers and Nettles. The property has been owned by the State of Maryland since 1968 and is presently part of the Patuxent River State Park. Although in a neglected state, this property provides an illustration of rural black communities in Montgomery County and meets Criteria B & D of the Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties.

Historic Context:

This parcel of land corresponds with the 18th-century tract of land designated as "Gaither's Forest." In 1862, Enoch George Howard purchased 289.5 acres of land from the heirs of Beale Gaither. This land included the present site of the cemetery and the house of Beale Gaither, his former master. George Howard erected the school and chapel on this land. In 1878, Enoch George Howard sold the school to the School Commissioners of Montgomery County.

In 1895, Enoch George Howard died, leaving his estate to his five children. Over the course of the succeeding seven years Greenbury Howard, bought all of his fathers land from his siblings.

---

1 The school is shown on the Hopkins map of 1879.
2 Montgomery County Courthouse, Deed Book JGH 8 Folio 671
3 Montgomery County Courthouse, Deed Book EBP 18 Folio 430
4 Montgomery County Courthouse, Deed Book GCD 2 Folio 227
5 Montgomery County Courthouse, Deed Book TD 2 Folio 222, and Deed Book TD 22 Folio 260
In February of 1907, Greenbury Howard sold the parcel of land on which the chapel and cemetery were erected to Mr. Charles King and his wife.% The following year, Greenbury Howard purchased the land back from Charles and Sarah King.7 Due to a default in the mortgage, the property was sold at a public auction on July 12, 1937.8 The 94.7 acres of land was purchased by Emma Pierson.

Seven years later, Emma Pierson sold the property to Bishop Monroe H. Davis.9

In 1953, the heirs of Bishop Davis conveyed the chapel and cemetery to Leonard and Jene Williams.10 Mr. and Mrs. Williams sold the property to the State of Maryland in 1968.11 The chapel burned in 1979. The cemetery presently occupies the grounds of the Patuxent River State Park.

---

6 Montgomery County Courthouse, Deed Book 196 Folio 472
7 Montgomery County Courthouse, Deed Book 197 Folio 462
8 Montgomery County Courthouse, Deed Book CKW 674 Folio 297
9 Montgomery County Courthouse, Deed Book 934 Folio 283
10 Montgomery County Courthouse, Deed Book 1832 Folio 272
11 Montgomery County Courthouse, Deed Book 3784 Folio 460
MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. M: 23-11
Howard Chapel & Cemetery
Name of property
Montgomery County, MD
County and state

HISTORIC CONTEXT:

Geographic Organization: Piedmont

Chronological/Development Period (s):
Industrial/Urban Dominance, 1870-1930

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme (s):

RESOURCE TYPE(S)

Category: Site: Cemetery

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function (s): Social/Education/Cultural; Religion

Known Design Source: none
MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. M: 23-11
Howard Chapel & Cemetery
Name of property
Montgomery County, MD
County and state

Chain of Title:

Beale Gaither to Frederick Gaither. (Will Book W Folio 154)

Frederick Gaither to his grandchildren: Maria Griffith, Martha Jane Griffith, Kate Ann Warfield, Maria Warfield, and Deborah Jane Crowder. (Will Book Y Folio 253)

August 5, 1862
Frederick Gaither's Grandchildren to Enoch George Howard. 289.5 acres. (Deed Book JGH 8 Folio 671)

September 16, 1878
Enoch George Howard sells school to School Commissioners of Montgomery County. 0.10 acres. (Deed Book EBP 18 Folio 430)

January 25, 1895
Enoch George Howard died. (Sentinel, p189)

1895
George Howard to his five children: John, Greenbury, Mary Alice, Martha and Maria. (Will Book GCD 2 Folio 227)

January 29, 1898
Martha Murphy and John Howard to Greenbury Howard. (Deed Book TD 2 Folio 222)

June 31, 1902
Maria Oliver to Greenbury Howard. (Deed Book TD 22 Folio 260)

February 28, 1907
Greenbury and Rebecca Howard to Charles and Sarah King. (Deed Book 196 Folio 472)

March 3, 1908
Charles and Sarah King to Greenbury Howard (Deed Book 197 Folio 462)

August 18, 1937
John E. Oxley, Assignee, to Emma A. Pierson. 94.78 acres. "Mortgage was in default...property sold at public auction on July 12, 1937." (Deed Book CKW 674 Folio 297)

April 10, 1944
Emma Pierson to Bishop Monroe H. Davis. (Deed Book 934 Folio 283)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>August 24, 1953</td>
<td>Harry W. Allers, Trustee for Milburne M.D. Brown et al vs. Catherine B. Davis et al (Docket 93A Folio 190, July 10, 1953) to Leonard and Jene Williams. 94.78 acres. (Deed Book 1832 Folio 272)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 28, 1968</td>
<td>Leonard and Jene Williams to State of Maryland. (Deed Book 3784 Folio 460)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Name: SANDY SPRING
Date: 7/13/99
Scale: 1 inch equals 2000 feet

Location: 039° 13' 41.8" N 077° 03' 32.3" W
Caption: HOWARD CHAPEL CEMETERY (M: 23-11)
Howard Chapel/Elton Farm Rds

Copyright (C) 1997, Maptech, Inc.
23-11
Howard Chapel Cemetery
Montgomery Co., MD
Michele Naru
2-22-xx
Maryland SHPO
View of Cemetery from Howard Chapel Rd
1 of 5
23-11

Howard Chapel Cemetery
Montgomery Co., MD

Michele Naru
2-22-09

Maryland SHPO

Grave Markers
2 of 5
HARRIET A.
wife of
JOHN H.
HOWARD,
Born
Feb. 9, 1843,
Died
July 31, 1917,
Aged 74 yrs.
6 mos. & 22 days.
23-11
HOWARD CHAPEL CEMETERY
MONTGOMERY CO., MD
MICHELE NARU
2-22-99
MARYLAND SHPO
HARRIET A. HOWARD'S TOMBSTONE
3 OF 5
LUCY,
Wife of
EVAN GAITHER,
Died
June 17, 1912,
Aged 89 yrs, 10 mos.
& 7 days.
23-11
Howard Chapel Cemetery
Montgomery Co., MD
Michele Naru
2-22-09
Maryland Shpo
Lucy Gaither's Tombstone
4 of 5
GEORGE E.
HOWARD
DIED
DEC. 8, 1901
AGED
26 YEARS.
He was a member of the local Masonic Lodge.
Fond and admired by all.
23-11
HOWARD CHAPEL CEMETERY
MONTGOMERY CO., MD
MICHELE NARU
2-22-99
MARYLAND SHPO
GEORGE E. HOWARD'S TOMBSTONE
5 of 5
Addendum

M 23-11
Howard Chapel
Montgomery Co., MD
C. Mazurek
Dec. 1996
Section 7.1

Howard Chapel was destroyed by an arson fire and no remains are left of the structure. The cemetery is still located on the site with numerous gravestones scattered across the property. A sign along Howard Chapel road denotes the cemetery as "The Burial Ground of the Ancestors of the Original African American Community of Howard Chapel 1862". This site is generally well kept up, with the exception that a number of gravestones are covered by vegetation further back on the property.
Howard Chapel
Montgomery Co., MD
C. Mazurek
Dec 96
MD Dept. of Natural Resources
South View of Ruin - on Howard Chapel Rd.

1 of 5
Howard Chapel Cemetery
Montgomery Co., MD
C. Mazurek
Dec 96
MD Dept. of Natural Resources
South View of Cemetery
20E5
HO-WARD, CHAPEL
CEMETERY

THE BURIAL GROUND OF THE
ANCESTORS OF THE ORIGINAL
AFRICAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY
OF HOWARD CHAPEL 1862
M-23-11

HOWARD CHAPEL CEMETERY
MONTGOMERY CO., MD
C. MAZUREK

Dec 96
MD DEPT. OF NATURAL RESOURCES
S.E. VIEW OF CEMETERY
3 OF 5
M-23-11
Howard Chapel Cemetery
Montgomery Co., MD
C. Mazurek
Dec 96
MD Dept. of Natural Resources
S.E. View of Tombstones
40F5
HOWARD CHAPEL CEMETERY
MONTGOMERY CO., MD
C. MAZUREK
Dec 96
MD DEPT. OF NATURAL RESOURCES
S.E. VIEW OF TOMBSTONES
50' S
**INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY**

### 1 NAME

**HISTORIC**
Howard Chapel

**AND/OR COMMON**

### 2 LOCATION

**STREET & NUMBER**
Northwest corner of Howard Chapel Road and Elton Farm Road

**CITY, TOWN**
Unity

**STATE**
Maryland

### 3 CLASSIFICATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CATEGORY</th>
<th>OWNER(SHIP)</th>
<th>STATUS</th>
<th>PRESENT USE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>__DISTRICT</td>
<td>__PUBLIC</td>
<td>__UNOCCUPIED</td>
<td>__AGRICULTURE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>X_BUILDING(S)</td>
<td>__PRIVATE</td>
<td>__WORK IN PROGRESS</td>
<td>__COMMERCIAL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>__STRUCTURE</td>
<td>__BOTH</td>
<td>__IN PROCESS</td>
<td>__EDUCATIONAL</td>
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<td>__SITE</td>
<td>__PUBLIC ACQUISITION</td>
<td>__YES: RESTRICTED</td>
<td>__PRIVATE RESIDENCE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>__OBJECT</td>
<td>__IN PROCESS</td>
<td>__YES: UNRESTRICTED</td>
<td>__ENTERTAINMENT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>__IN PROCESS</td>
<td>__BEING CONSIDERED</td>
<td>X_NO</td>
<td>__RELIGIOUS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>__IN PROCESS</td>
<td>__BEING CONSIDERED</td>
<td>X_NO</td>
<td>__GOVERNMENT</td>
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<td>__IN PROCESS</td>
<td>__BEING CONSIDERED</td>
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<td>__INDUSTRIAL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>__IN PROCESS</td>
<td>__BEING CONSIDERED</td>
<td>X_NO</td>
<td>__MILITARY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>__IN PROCESS</td>
<td>__BEING CONSIDERED</td>
<td>X_NO</td>
<td>__OTHER</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

**NAME**
Maryland Department of Natural Resources

**STREET & NUMBER**
Taylor Avenue

**CITY, TOWN**
Annapolis

**STATE, zip code**
Maryland 21401

### 5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

**COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.**
Montgomery County Courthouse

**LIBER #**
3784

**FOLIO #**
460

### 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

**TITLE**

**DATE**

**DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS**

**CITY, TOWN**

**STATE**
### DESCRIPTION

**CONDITION**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EXCELLENT</th>
<th>GOOD</th>
<th>FAIR</th>
<th>DETERIORATED</th>
<th>RUINS</th>
<th>UNEXPOSED</th>
<th>ALTERED</th>
<th>ORIGINAL SITE</th>
<th>MOVED</th>
<th>DATE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**CHECK ONE**

- DETERIORATED
- RUINS
- UNEXPOSED
- ALTERED
- ORIGINAL SITE
- MOVED

**CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY**

---

**DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**

Howard Chapel, located on the northwest corner of Howard Chapel and Elton Farm Road is a frame structure with its main entrance on the gable (east) end. A central doorway flanked by window openings and a bell tower characterize this facade. Both the north and south sides are three bays with large window openings. An interior stove flue chimney is located on the south facade.

A cemetery, overgrown, barely discernable, is located to the north of the church.

The church is in ruinous condition, especially in particular the north wall, which is severely bowed.

A one room school house erected by the black community once stood directly across from the chapel. Only the foundations remain today.
Howard Chapel and the nearby school house were built on land deeded by George Howard to the black community of the area in the latter part of the nineteenth century. For further information on the Howard family see M 23-8 - Gaither/Howard House.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

The ruinous condition of the Howard Chapel leaves little alternative but to tear it down. It may fall down first. Photographs and information included on the Maryland Historic Sites Inventory survey form is adequate documentation for this structure. Appropriate measures to safeguard the cemetery grounds from further abuse should be effected immediately.

---

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY
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 Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438
1. Name: Howard Chapel and Cemetery

2. Planning Area/Site Number: 23/11


4. Address: Northwest Corner of Howard Chapel and Elton Farm Roads, Unity

5. Classification Summary:
   - Category: building
   - Ownership: public
   - Public Acquisition: N/A
   - Status: unoccupied
   - Accessible: yes
   - Present use: unrestricted
   - Previous Survey Recording: M-NCPCC
   - Title and Date: 1976 Inventory of Historical Sites
   - Federal, State, County, Local: State

6. Date: c. 1900

7. Original Owner: George Howard and Howard Chapel Congregation?

8. Apparent Condition
   - deteriorated
   - unaltered
   - original site

9. Description: This simple frame chapel sits hidden by undergrowth and forest close to the side of Howard Chapel Road. It is in ruinous condition. It is a one-and-a-half story, one bay by three bay, chapel which faces southeast. The exterior walls have white novelty siding. The southeast elevation has a simple post and lintel opening. All the windows and doors are gone. The gable roof had asbestos shingles. At the southeast end there is a bell cote astride the roof ridge.

10. Significance: The small chapel served the rural black community for the last part of the 19th and the first half of the 20th century. The land on which the chapel is located was owned by George Howard and his heirs. Howard was a former slave who had gained his freedom by 1857, and was well respected by the community. Although no deed to the congregation from the family could be located, land for the chapel was probably donated by the Howards. They also helped to establish a black school which was located south of the church.

    The chapel was used from about 1900 to 1930, and was served by a circuit minister from the Washington Negro Conference. Burials in the cemetery began in 1901 with that of George Howard. Names on tombstones include Howards, Greens, Ishwoods, Simpsons, Gaithers, Fishers, and Nettles. Since 1968 the property has been part of Patuxent State Park.

12. Researcher and date researched: Harold E. Radtke, Jr. 7/79 Arch. Description

13. Date Compiled: 10/79

14. Designation Approval

15. Acreage: 2 acres
INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME
HISTORIC: Howard Chapel and Cemetery
AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION
STREET & NUMBER: Northwest Corner of Howard Chapel and Elton Farm Roads
CITY. TOWN: Unity
STATE: Maryland
VICINITY OF: Montgomery

3 CLASSIFICATION
CATEGORY
_DISTRICT
_X-BUILDING(S)
_STRUCTURE
_SITE
_OBJECT

OWNERSHIP
_PUBLIC
PRIVATE
_BOTH
PUBLIC ACQUISITION

STATUS
_OCCUPIED
_UNOCCUPIED
_WORK IN PROGRESS
_ACCESSIBLE
_YES: RESTRICTED
_YES: UNRESTRICTED
_NO

PRESENT USE
_AGRICULTURE
_COMMERCIAL
_PARK
_EDUCATIONAL
_PRIVATE RESIDENCE
_ENTERTAINMENT
_RELIGIOUS
_GOVERNMENT
_SCIENTIFIC
_INDUSTRIAL
_TRANSPORTATION
_MILITARY
_OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY
NAME: Dept. of Natural Resources
State of Maryland
STREET & NUMBER: Taylor Avenue
CITY. TOWN: Annapolis
STATE, zip code: Maryland 21401

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Montgomery County Courthouse
Liber #: 3784
Folio #: 460

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS
TITLE: M-NCPPC Inventory of Historical Sites
DATE: 1976
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Park Historian's Office
CITY. TOWN: Rockville
STATE: Maryland 20850
This simple frame chapel sits hidden by undergrowth and forest close to the side of Howard Chapel Road. It is in ruinous condition -- the roof has holes in it, the floor is entirely gone and all the windows and doors have been broken or removed.

The chapel is one-and-a-half stories high, one bay across and three bays deep. It has a gable roof and its gable-end faces southeast toward Howard Chapel Road. Its exterior walls have novelty siding. It is built upon a wooden sill directly on the ground, with a low stone footing which runs down the center of the building like a spine. Heavy oak beams run southwest to northeast across the width of the building. At the northwest elevation there is a small pavilion. There are remains of a two-step platform on the inside at the northwest corner which indicate that the pavilion and platform were used as the altar area. There is an exterior stone chimney on the southwest elevation toward the south corner.

The southeast (front) door has a simple post and lintel wooden frame. Two windows surmount the door at the second level. A small bell cote with a gable roof and fish scale shingle sits close to the southeast end at the roof ridge. The gable roof which is in serious disrepair appears to have asbestos covering.

The interior walls, now almost entirely gone, were recently covered by plaster board or sheet rock. The ceiling was lined with decorative metal sheathing.

The overgrown cemetery is on the north side of the building and is surrounded by a black metal fence.
This small chapel served the rural black community for the last part of the 19th and the first half of the 20th century. The land on which the chapel is located was owned by George Howard and his heirs. Howard was a former slave who had gained his freedom by 1857, and was well respected by the community. Although no deed to the congregation from the family could be located, land for the chapel was probably donated by the Howards. They also helped to establish a black school which was located south of the church.

During the majority of the period during which the chapel was in use, approximately 1900 to 1930, the congregation was part of the Washington Negro Conference, a division of the Methodist Episcopal Church to which black congregations belonged after its formation in 1870. It was served by a circuit minister who shared his time among the several congregations in his assigned area. A circuit minister usually was not assigned to a specific circuit for longer than a few years at a time, due as much to the hardships of the job as to the dictates of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

Members of the congregation included William H. Nettles (an illiterate farm laborer) and his wife Bettie, who could read and write. Harriet & John Howard owned their own house and were literate. In 1900 the Howards had been married 38 years and had 12 living children.

Burials in the adjacent cemetery began in 1901, with that of George Howard. The most recent burial date legible on a tombstone is that of Fannie Fisher, who died in 1942. Names on tombstones include Howards, Greens, Ishwoods, Simpsons, and Gaithers.

The property was sold by Jacob and Mary Vogel to Leonard and Jene Williams in Parcels. Since 1968 it has been owned by the State of Maryland, and comprises part of Patuxent State Park.

FOOTNOTES:
1. U.S. Census Records (1900).
2. Land Records of Montgomery County, Md., 982/12 (August 18, 1945); 1832/272 (August 24, 1952).
**MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Land Records of Montgomery County, Maryland.
Interviews with Fanny Brown, (926-4551); Maude Taylor, (460-1845);
Constantia Sims, Unity, Maryland.
U.S. Census Records.

**CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY**

**GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY  Approximately 2 acres

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

On the corner of Howard Chapel and Elton Farm Roads. Delineated by
a rectangle of approximately 50 yards north and 100 yards west.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STATE</th>
<th>COUNTY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STATE</th>
<th>COUNTY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**FORM PREPARED BY**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME / TITLE</th>
<th>Candy Reed Architectural Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Harold E. Radtke, Jr.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ORGANIZATION</th>
<th>Sugarloaf Regional Trails</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>STREET &amp; NUMBER</td>
<td>Box 87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CITY OR TOWN</td>
<td>Dickerson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Maryland 20753</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DATE</td>
<td>7/79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TELEPHONE</td>
<td>926-4510</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 infringe­
ment of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438
People Buried in Howard Chapel Cemetery

William H. Nettles
Husband of Bettie Nettles
Died October 14, 1918 - Age 62

Malinda J.
Wife of Daniel W. Green
1847-1924

George Howard
Born 1872
Died 8, 1901 - Age 29 years

Harriet A.
Wife of John H. Howard (August 25, 1839 - May 6, 1923)
February 9, 1843
Died July 31, 1917

Daughter - Christeen Howard Vonce
December 11, 1874
Died October 9, 1931

Lucy, Wife of Evan Gaither
Died June 17, 1912 - Age 89 years, 10 months and 7 days

John B. Howard
January 19, 1885
Died - May 12, 1920

Fannie Fisher
October 30, 1942 - Age 53

Mildred Simpson
Daughter of Martha Whitney
July 1912 - Age 22 years

Robert Simpson
January 19, 1902 - Age 55 years

Arthur H. Ishwood
March 1, 1862
Died October 27, 1915

Waymon Ishwood
Son of Arthur and Anna Ishwood
September 6, 1890 - January 7, 19--
MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

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

1. NAME
COMMON:

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Howard Chapel

2. LOCATION
STREET AND NUMBER:
Howard Chapel Road
CITY OR TOWN:
Brookeville
STATE: Maryland
COUNTY: Montgomery

3. CLASSIFICATION
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CATEGORY (Check One)</th>
<th>OWNERSHIP</th>
<th>STATUS</th>
<th>ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>□ District □ Building</td>
<td>□ Public □ Private □ Both</td>
<td>□ Occupied □ Unoccupied □ Preservation work in progress</td>
<td>Yes: □ Restricted □ Unrestricted □ No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□ Site □ Structure □ Object</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate):
□ Agricultural □ Government □ Park □ Transportation □ Other (Specify): Vacant
□ Commercial □ Industrial □ Private Residence □ Religious
□ Educational □ Military □ Religious
□ Entertainment □ Museum □ Scientific

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY
OWNER'S NAME:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE:

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
Montgomery County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE:
Rockville Maryland

Title Reference of Current Deed (Book & Pg. #):

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS
TITLE OF SURVEY:
None

DATE OF SURVEY: [ ] Federal [ ] State [ ] County [ ] Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE:
### 7. DESCRIPTION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CONDITION</th>
<th>Excellent</th>
<th>Good</th>
<th>Fair</th>
<th>Deteriorated</th>
<th>Ruins</th>
<th>Unexposed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance:

The church is a frame building with a gabled facade. The side walls are three bays with large window openings. Surmounting the roof is a bell tower with a gabled roof. The facade has a central doorway with a transom light and windows at gallery level.
### SIGNIFICANCE

**PERIOD** (Check One or More as Appropriate)
- [ ] Pre-Columbian
- [ ] 16th Century
- [ ] 17th Century
- [ ] 18th Century
- [ ] 19th Century
- [ ] 20th Century

**AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE** (Check One or More as Appropriate)
- [ ] Aboriginal
- [ ] Prehistoric
- [ ] Historic
- [ ] Agriculture
- [ ] Architecture
- [ ] Art
- [ ] Commerce
- [ ] Communications
- [ ] Conservation
- [ ] Education
- [ ] Engineering
- [ ] Industry
- [ ] Invention
- [ ] Landscape
- [ ] Architecture
- [ ] Literature
- [ ] Military
- [ ] Music
- [ ] Political
- [ ] Religion/Phil.
- [ ] Science
- [ ] Sculpture
- [ ] Social/Humanitarian
- [ ] Theatre
- [ ] Transportation
- [ ] Urban Planning
- [ ] Other (Specify)

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CORNER</th>
<th>LATITUDE</th>
<th>LONGITUDE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NW</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NE</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SE</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SW</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LATITUDE</th>
<th>LONGITUDE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

Acreage Justification:

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Christopher Owens, Park Historian

ORGANIZATION:
M-NCPPC

STREET AND NUMBER:
8787 Georgia Avenue

CITY OR TOWN:
Silver Spring

STATE:
Maryland

SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY IS:
National [ ] State [ ] Local [ ]
Radtke
April 2, 1978
Howard Chapel M. 23/11
Side view - North
April 2, 1978

Howard Chapel 23/11

Belfry - East

(from Howard Chapel Rd)
April 2, 1978
Howard Chapel M: 23/11
Sideview - South
(From Elton Rd)
Radtke

April 2, 1978
Howard Chapel 23/11
Side view - South
(from Elton Rd)
Radtke

April 2, 1978

Howard Chapel 23/11
Side view - North

M: 23-11
April 2, 1978
Howard Chapel 23/11
Front view - East
(from Howard Chapel Rd)
April 2, 1978

Howard Chapel 23/11 -
Back view - West
April 2, 1978

Howard Chapel 23/11
Back view - West
Radtke

April 2, 1978
Howard Chapel 23/11
Ceiling
(from front door - East)
April 2, 1978
Howard Chapel 23/11
Sanctuary
(from Front door - East)
Radtke

April 2, 1978

Howard Chapel  23/11 -

Ceiling from Northwest
window
Rad+Ke

April 3, 1978
Howard Chapel 23/11

Cemetery: George E. Howard
Tombstone
Radtke

April 2, 1978
Howard Chapel 23/11

Cemetery: George E. Howard tombstone
CHRISTEEN HOWARD VONCE
Daughter of
JOHN H. & HARRIET HOWARD
Born Dec. 24, 1856
Died Jan. 4, 1862
April 2, 1978
Howard Chapel 2/11
Cemetery: daughter Christeen Howard Vonce
tombstone:
Dec 11, 1874
Oct 19, 1931
JOHN B. HOMARD
Jan. 19 1853
May 12 1920
God will provide for the rest.
Radtke

April 2, 1978
Howard Chapel 23/11

Cemetery: John B. Howard tombstone
Jan 19, 1885

Died - May 12, 1920
Radtke

April 2, 1978
Howard Chapel 23/11

Cemetery:
Lucy, wife of Evan Gaither
tombstone—
June 17, 1912
age 89 yrs. 10 mos. + 7 days
Radtke

April 2, 1978

Buckley tombstone in cemetery: North of Howard Chapel 23/11
Howard Chapel
west side of Howard Chapel Road
Unity, MD
Patuxent River State Park
N.W. Elevation
NAME  HOWARD CHAPEL
LOCATION  HOWARD CHAPEL Rd & ECTON FARM Rd UNIVY, MD
FACADE  S
PHOTO TAKEN  11/7/74 MOWYER