

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Ridgely Methodist Church

and/or common Ridgely Church of God in Christ

2. Location

street & number 8900 Central Avenue not for publication

city, town Landover vicinity of congressional district 5

state Maryland county Prince George's

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	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<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 United Methodist Church

street & number 8118 Central Avenue telephone no.:

city, town Landover state and zip code Maryland 20786

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Prince George's County Courthouse liber JWB #23

street & number Main Street folio 471

city, town Upper Marlboro state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Prince George's County Inventory of Historic Sites

date 1974/1981 federal state county local

depository for survey records Historic Preservation Commission, MNCPPC

city, town Upper Marlboro state Maryland

7. Description

Survey No. PG #72A-5

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input 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 Ridgely Church is a small frame gable-roof church structure of the meeting house type. It fronts upon a heavily travelled highway in a rapidly developing area just within the Capital Beltway; it is distinguished by a series of stained glass memorial windows, and an adjoining burial ground with hand-carved stones.

The church building is three bays long, extended from its original two-bay length. Entrance is through in a vestibule at the south gable end. Entrance into the vestibule is through plain modern double doors. The vestibule is lighted by pointed-arch windows in its east and west facades. The nave comprises the two southerly bays of the building, i.e., the original structure, and is lighted by pointed-arch windows: 1/1 double hung sash surmounted by a pedimented transom. These four pointed-arch windows, as well as the two similar windows which light the vestibule, are filled with stained glass memorials which replace the original clear glass.

The windows in the northmost bays of the east and west facades are plain 1/1 double hung sash, filled with stained glass; they light the altar (on the east) and the pastor's study (on the west). Across the north gable end are five windows: three small 1/1 double hung sash windows side by side, flanked by two larger 1/1 sashes. All windows have narrow molded surrounds.

The original German siding is now covered by gray "brick-tex" asphalt shingle. The gable roof is covered with black asbestos shingle. There is a clearly visible seam in the roof between the original two-bay church structure and the north addition. The roof has a noticeable overhang, and the eaves are punctuated by exposed rafter ends. The rake boards at the gable ends are painted white. Between first and second bays in the east plane of the roof is a stuccoed chimney, marking the location of the original stove. The main front of the building rests on a poured concrete foundation; in the southeast corner is a cornerstone which reads "Ridgely M.E. Church 1887-1921."

The foundation of the north addition is of concrete block. There is a basement under the north section only; it includes the heating plant, which superseded the original stove heating system. There is an entrance to the basement at grade level in the east foundation, and the basement is lighted by two small windows on the north and on the west.

One enters the nave through double doors, five panels each, from the south vestibule; there are eight rows of pews, and a three-level altar in the north addition. A pastor's study has been partitioned out of the west third of the altar space. The pews are highlighted by molded gothic arches. The altar rail is decorated with gothic arches with tracery, and panelled posts

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

Survey No. PG #72A-5

Description (continued)

Section 7 Page 2

with the same molded gothic arches. The lower section of the walls is panelled with narrow beaded wainscoting. The wainscoting differs between the nave and the altar space, and the line of demarcation between original structure and north addition is clearly visible in the three-plane ceiling.

To the north and west of the church is a burial ground with handsome, primitively-carved gravestones dating from the early years of this century. To the east is open space where once stood the original late nineteenth century church. The 1 1/2 acre lot is bordered by trees in the rear (north) and fronts directly on Central Avenue (Maryland Route 214).

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 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 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
				Black History

Specific dates 1921 **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.

Ridgely Methodist Church is a significant example of a simple meeting-house church structure built in the early years of this century. It was built in 1921 to replace the original meeting place which was destroyed by fire; it is distinguished by its stained glass memorial windows, its adjoining burial ground with hand-carved stones, and its 115-year association with the local black community.

In January 1871 Thomas E. Berry and his wife deeded to three black men one-half acre of their farm on the north side of the "central turn-pike", to be used "as a place of divine worship -- of the Methodist Episcopal Church." These three black trustees were Lewis Ridgely, Joseph Beall and Richard Cooke.¹ The first church structure was erected in the 1880's. In 1892 Mrs. Berry deeded another acre, adjoining the church lot on the west, to Lewis Ridgely, Samuel Lofton, Lewis Cook, Frank Douglas and Frank Johnson "provided that said lot shall be kept for Divine Worship and cemetery."² The church came to be known as Ridgely Church in honor of its most active trustee; members of Lewis Ridgely's family continued to be active in the church and in the local black education movement.

In 1921, the Ridgely Church burned to the ground, and was replaced by the present structure a short distance to the west of the original church, in essentially the same style. After World War II, the church was expanded by an additional bay to the north; a basement was excavated under this addition, and mechanical plant installed. A small pastor's study was created west of the altar. At approximately the same time, stained glass windows were installed in memory of active members of the congregation.³

Today the church fronts directly on a busy highway across from a large shopping center. In spite of dense development around it, the church yard and burial ground retain much of the tranquil beauty of the original situation. Together with its predecessor, Ridgely Church has served the local black community for over 115 years.

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Statement of Significance (continued)

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Notes.

- 1 Prince George's County Deed HB #4:223.
- 2 Prince George's County Deed JWB #23:471.
- 3 Interview, February 1987, with Mildred Ridgely Grey.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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cf. Notes, Item #8;
cf. Chain of Title;

Interview with Mildred Ridgely Gray

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property 1.275 acres

Tax Map 67, parcel 99

Quadrangle name Lanham, Section G

Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

B	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

C	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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D	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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E	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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F	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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G	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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H	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Susan G. Pearl, Research/Architectural Historian

organization Historic Planning Commission, c/o MNCPPC date August, 1987

street & number #4010 County Administration Building telephone 952-3521

city or town Upper Marlboro state Maryland

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
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438



ANACOSTIA
5661 IV SW

Mapped by the Army Map Service
 Edited and published by the Geological Survey
 Control by USGS and USC&GS

Planimetry by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1938 and 1943. Topography by planetable surveys 1944
 Revised by the Geological Survey 1965
 Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
 10,000-foot grid based on Maryland coordinate system
 1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 18, shown in blue

Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked
 Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown
 There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of the National or State reservations shown on this map
 Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas



UTM GRID AND 1979 MAGNETIC NORTH DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET

PG: 72-5

R-R

R-T
GA

C-M-O

BELTWAY

STATE OF MD

115035

'B'

L
CENTRE

JMMERS
ACRES

LOT 3

127100

MANOR FARM BUS. PARK
LOT 3

I-3
124043

MANOR FARM BUS. PARK
LOT 1

126019

4371 / 673
2.23 A.
P.146
P.101
P.7

THE MEADOWS OF
MANOR FARM
DRIVE
ST. OAK WAY

123028

123029

126053

123026

123027

9105

MANOR FARM

1.89A.
P.38

113015

R-R

BRIGHTSEAT RD.

2.51A.
P.46
1.50A.
P.99

CH

MD.

214

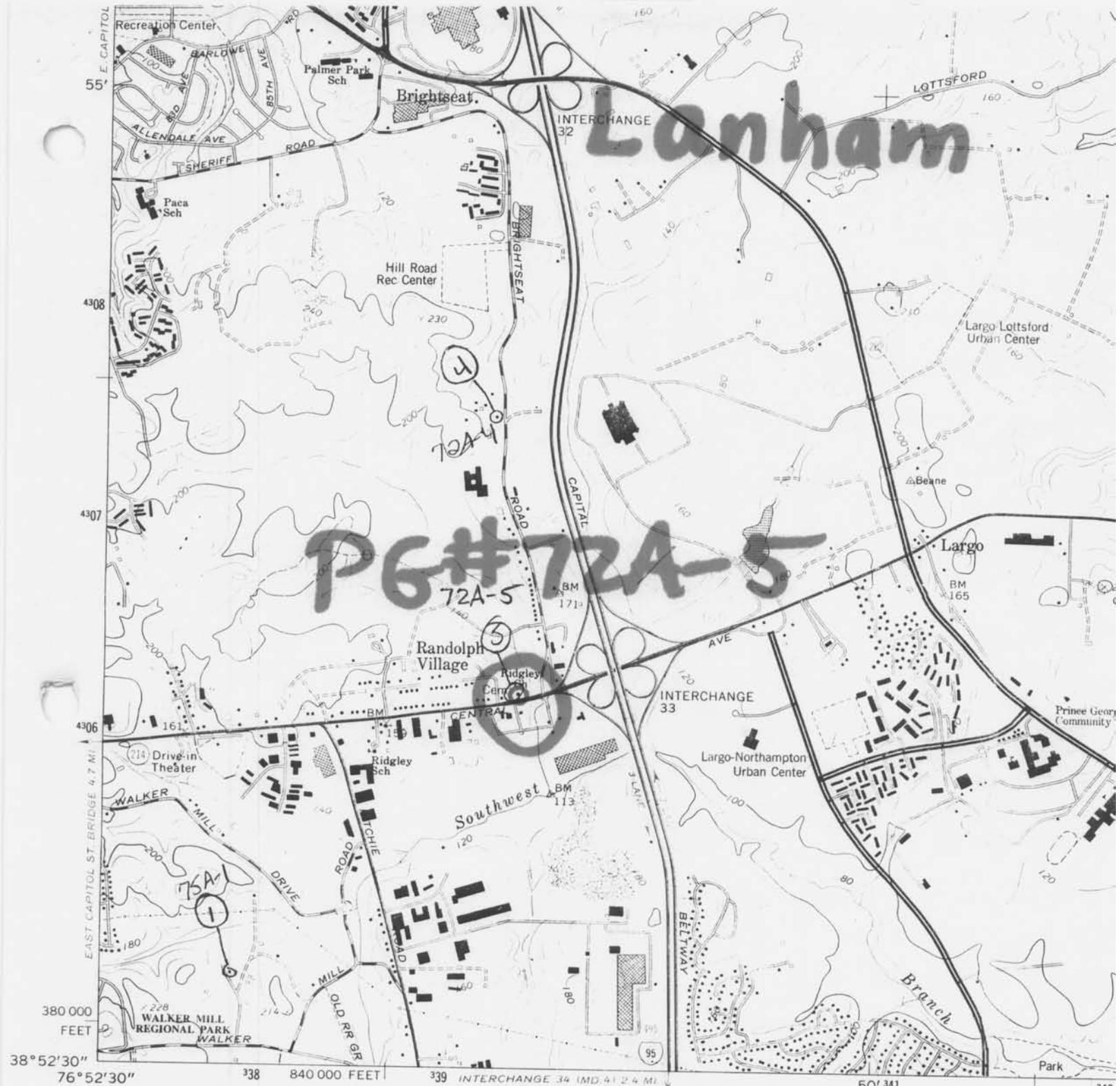
72A-5

C-O
CENTRAL

HAMPTON MALL

9655

C-S-C



MACOSTIA
5667 IV SW

Mapped by the Army Map Service
 Edited and published by the Geological Survey
 Control by USGS and USC&GS

Planimetry by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs
 taken 1938 and 1943. Topography by planetable surveys 1944
 Revised by the Geological Survey 1965

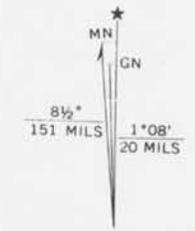
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
 10,000-foot grid based on Maryland coordinate system
 1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 18,
 shown in blue

Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where
 generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked

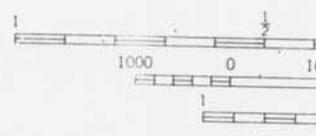
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown

There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of
 the National or State reservations shown on this map

Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas



UTM GRID AND 1979 MAGNETIC NORTH
 DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET



THIS MAP CO
 FOR SALE BY
 A FOLDER DESCRIBING

PG-72-5

† RIDGLEY †
CHURCH OF GOD
IN CHRIST

SUNDAY SCHOOL · 10:00 A.M.

WORSHIP SERVICE · 11:30 A.M.

TUESDAY · 7:30 P.M. · PRAYER

AND · BIBLE STUDY

H. J. RUSSELL · PASTOR

P.G.#72~~X~~-5

Ridgely Church
Prince George's County
Susan G. Pearl
February 1987
South Elevation
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, Md.



P.G. #72A-5

Ridgely Church
Prince George's County
Susan G. Pearl
February 1987
Southwest 3/4 elevation
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, Md.



P.G. #72A-5

Ridgely Church
Prince George's County
Susan G. Pearl
February 1987
East elevation
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, Md.



P.G. #72A-5

Ridgely Church
Prince George's County
Susan G. Pearl
February 1987
Northeast 3/4 elevation
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, Md.

IN MEMORY
OF
EMMANUEL
COOK
BORN JUNE 5,
1845.
DIED OCT. 26,
1923.
WALTER W. COOK

P.G. #72A-5

Ridgely Church
Prince George's County
Susan G. Pearl
February 1987
Gravestone
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, Md.



P.G. #72A-5

Ridgely Church
Prince George's County
Susan G. Pearl
February 1987
Interior
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, Md.



NAME RIDGELY M.E. CHURCH

PG: 72-5

LOCATION RT. 214 NEAR RT. 495 LARGO, Md.

FACADE SW

PHOTO TAKEN 9/13/74 M DWYER



~~72A-5~~ PG: 72-5

Ridgely Church

Prince Georges Co. MD

Margaret Slater

10/24/95

Maryland SH 08

Looking NE + W side
+ front

2 of 3

0305 - 0300 - 0300 - 0300 - 0300



~~72A-5~~ PG. 72-5

Ridgely Church

Prince Georges Co. MD

Margaret Slater

10/24/95

Maryland State

Looking west at cemetery

3 of 3



