

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Hull Memorial Christian Church

AND/OR COMMON

Lansdowne Christian Church

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

101 Clyde Avenue

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Lansdowne

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Third

STATE

Maryland

VICINITY OF

24

COUNTY

Baltimore

CODE

005

**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"/> 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 type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

c/o Mr. Vernon Neilson, 502 Oak Grove Road,  
Linthicum Heights, Maryland 21090 (301) 789-7390

NAME

Lansdowne Christian Church Council

STREET & NUMBER

101 Clyde Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Lansdowne

VICINITY OF

STATE

Maryland 21227

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Baltimore County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Chesapeake Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Towson

STATE

Maryland 21204

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION**

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 _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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

Located on the southeast corner of the intersection of Clyde and Baltimore Avenues in Lansdowne, Baltimore County, Maryland, is the Lansdowne Christian Church.

The north facade is made up of two square towers on either side of a two-story, slightly projecting bay. The entrance, in the face of the west tower, has plain wood double doors topped with a pointed arch, three-light transom of frosted, colored glass. The window in the face of the east tower is of the same glass and has two lights topped with the same treatment as the entrance. In the central section are two three-part windows, one above the other. The bottom one is a memorial window similar in design to the other windows in the body of the church; it is situated directly behind the altar. The second window is taller and has a round-arched pane in the center. Commemorative of the Grand Army of the Republic, the central panel has an eagle above a vertically placed American flag above a "bronze" star.

The two towers are presently identical, with mansard roofs with small spires with heart-shaped decorations on the corners. There is a cross atop the peak of the gable roof between the towers.

Built with white clapboard siding, the church is presently covered with light gray asphalt shingle. The second floor of the central projection has been boxed in and the commemorative window moved forward. A railing that formerly ran between the towers is gone. The west tower had a belfry with pointed roof originally. Weakened by a storm in 1952, it was removed; the bell is now perched on a stone base in front of the church.

The body of the church extends for five bays behind the towers. The ground slopes away from the front of the building and a full basement exists under the church. A small, shed-roofed addition on the rear was made later.

The cornerstone of the church reads: "Hull Memorial Christian Church, November 26, 1903." The bell, purchased of Meneely, Troy, New York, in 1904, is inscribed "Lansdowne Christian Church, Lansdowne, Maryland."

On the interior of the church the pews are arranged with two side aisles. The benches are of dark wood with pointed-arch designs and simply scrolled arms on the ends. The walls are of plaster with beaded wainscoting around three sides below the windows. The windows are simple, stained glass ones, each dedicated to one or two of the first parishioners. At the rear (south) of the church, on either side of a door, are two more elaborate windows. Both have "Dushane Post No. 3" at the bottom. The east one is of the Women's Relief Corps and reads, "In Memoriam of Our Deceased Members." The west one is of the Grand

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Baltimore County  
Maryland

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Army of the Republic and reads, "In Memoriam of Our Deceased Comrades." Each shows an open book on an American flag draped over a podium, with the seals of the groups above.

The organ, built in 1930, stands in the northeast corner. When it was installed, the pipes were placed above the chancel, blocking the inside view of the three-part window commemorating the Grand Army. The area around the altar has been changed somewhat, whereas the rest of the interior remains largely unaltered. The chancel is surrounded by a tall cornice ending in pilasters facing the congregation. Modern wood paneling was recently added to the wall behind the altar. A pool (with cover) for baptisms is located behind the altar. An old photograph shows that the walls of the church were originally stenciled just below the narrow strip of molding at their top.

Entrance to the nave is gained through stairs up from the west tower. Stairs to the basement are found in both towers. The basement has been remodeled. It contains a Sunday School room and a mini-museum of the Grand Army of the Republic. Included in this collection are books, newspaper clippings, medals and other artifacts of the Army.

**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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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 1903-1904

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Lewis Reeser & Sons  
(William D. & Burton W. Reeser)

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Lansdowne Christian Church was organized on March 1, 1903. The group wanted to erect a building which would give their congregation a place to worship and would make for the betterment and upbuilding of the community. Mr. Charles Wesley Hull, a former member of the Union Army of the Civil War, felt it was his duty to leave behind him a memorial of some kind that would mark his esteem of his comrades who remained loyal to the government of the United States and sustained the Union. He decided to give the ground and some funds to build a church to the glory of God, and in memory of the Grand Army of the Republic of the United States.

Mr. Hull gave Lots #25 and #26, Block 1, in the Joshua section of Lansdowne, as the site of the new church. Mr. Burton W. Reeser, the architect, submitted plans which were reviewed, adjusted and approved, and ground breaking took place on November 10, 1903. Those participating were Reverend J. B. DeHoff, Minister; Mr. Charles W. Hull, donor of the property; Mrs. C.J. Hull, president of the Ladies' Aid Society; and Mr. T. W. Ingles, Superintendent of the Sunday School. The ground was turned over to Lewis Reeser & Sons (William D. and Burton W. Reeser), contractors and builders, on November 11, 1903. On November 26, 1903, the cornerstone was laid by Howard Lodge #1 of the Masonic Order. On February 28, 1904, the basement was completed and was occupied by the Lansdowne Christian Church and Sunday School. The building was completed and dedicated on June 12, 1904.

Stipulated in the deed was the desire of Charles W. Hull and his wife, Mary A. Hull, that the church be used for religious worship and services only. It was further specified that the second Sunday in May of each year was to be set apart and observed as memorial day of the Grand Army of the Republic with suitable services conducted. The first memorial service was held on the second Sunday in May 1905, and the tradition continued until the death of the last veteran in 1956. Memorial services have been held off and on since that date but not in the last ten years. Now in 1976, the Bicentennial Anniversary of our nation, a renewal of that Grand Army service was held on May 9, 1976, at 2 P.M.

See Continuation Sheet #2

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A mini-museum has been dedicated in this church which houses mementoes of the Grand Army of the Republic as well as historical items on the church and the community. It is the hope of the Heritage Committee of the Lansdowne-Baltimore Highlands Bicentennial Committee that the museum will become a permanent part of the church. We have the support of the church council who have already given us the use of one room in the basement of their church. Many interesting articles have been donated and we are trying to obtain all of the badges representing the different encampments of the Grand Army of the Republic. The first was held in 1866 and the last in 1949.

The church is thought to be unique because it is the only church that was built to honor the Grand Army of the Republic. Usually church windows depict religious scenes, but the large stained glass window in the front of the church shows the badge of the Grand Army of the Republic (in the interior of the church the G.A.R. emblem is now blocked by the pipe organ). The two stained glass windows in the rear of the church were donated by the Women's Relief Corps and the G.A.R. Dushane Post #3, Department of Maryland, "in memoriam of our deceased comrades." A bronze plaque of the Gettysburg Address, which is seen on the west wall on entering the sanctuary, was donated by the Women's Relief Corps in 1930.

Lansdowne is a small community of houses built around the turn of the century. None of its structures are of particular architectural merit, except for the Christian Church, which is a community landmark, of interest to many residents though they are not members of the church itself. The American Revolution Bicentennial engendered much interest in local history throughout the country. In Lansdowne this interest was directed at the Christian Church, the oldest and most architecturally interesting of the community's buildings.

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

BA-1143

Land records, Baltimore County Courthouse, Towson, Md.  
Personal records from the family of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Wesley Hull

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	1 8	3 5 6 4 6 0	4 3 4 5 0 4 0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C			

B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

JM

NAME / TITLE

Edward H. Olver, Heritage Committee Chairman/Pamela James, Asst. Historian  
ORGANIZATION DATE

Lansdowne-Baltimore Highlands Bicentennial Committee/MHT 4/27/76  
STREET & NUMBER TELEPHONE

2614 Willow Ave./21 State Circle 242-0482 - wk. 962-3750/267-1438  
CITY OR TOWN STATE

Baltimore/Annapolis Maryland 21227/21401

**12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL  STATE  LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

*John H. Pearce* 4/14/77

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

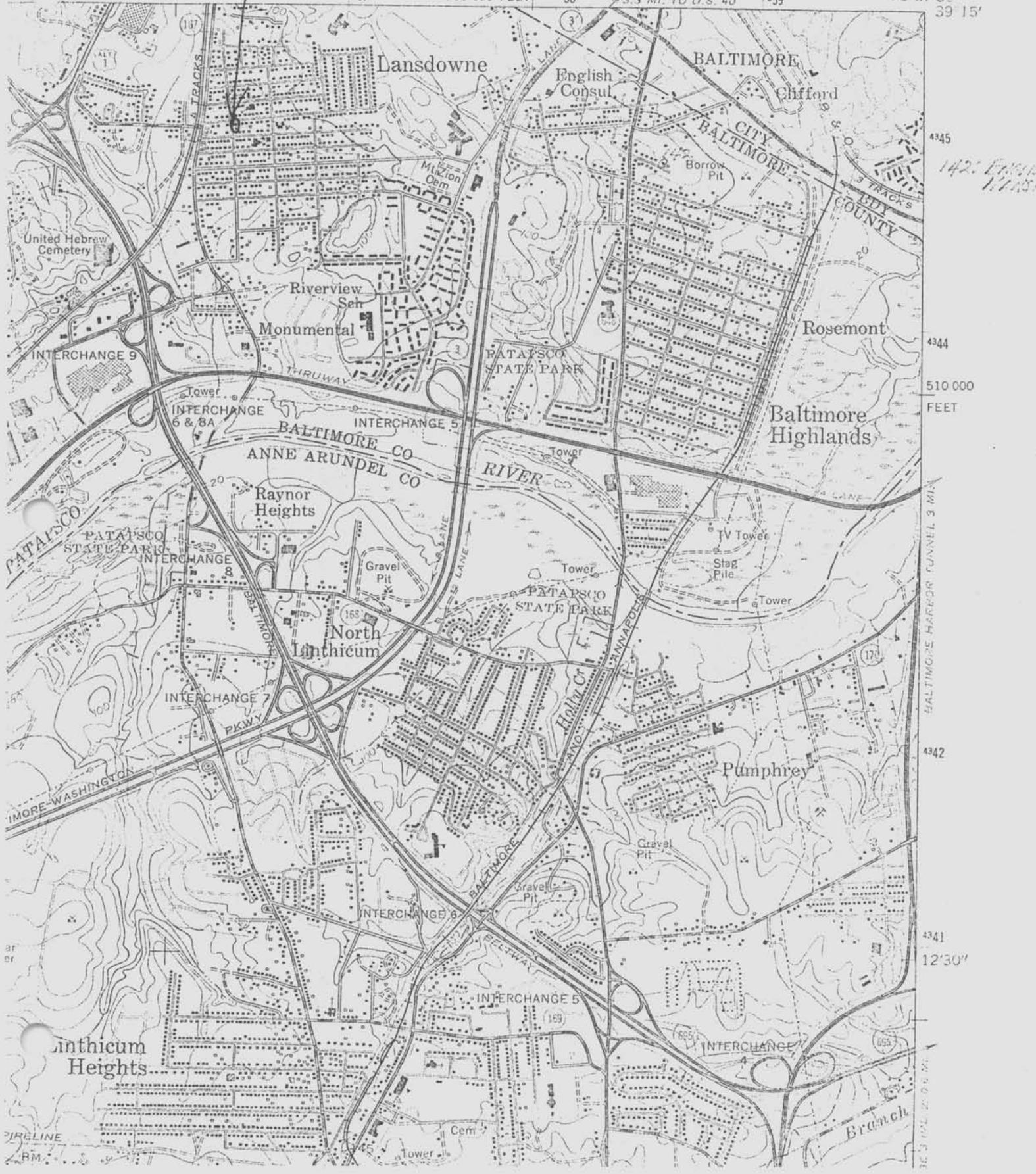
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

*Lansdowne  
Christian  
Church*

RELAY QUADRANGLE BA-1143  
MARYLAND  
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)  
NW/4 RELAY 15' QUADRANGLE

5662 1 SE  
(BALTIMORE E)

1356 40' 1357 900 000 FEET 1358 3.3 MI. TO U.S. 40 1359 76° 37' 30" 39 15'



4345

4344

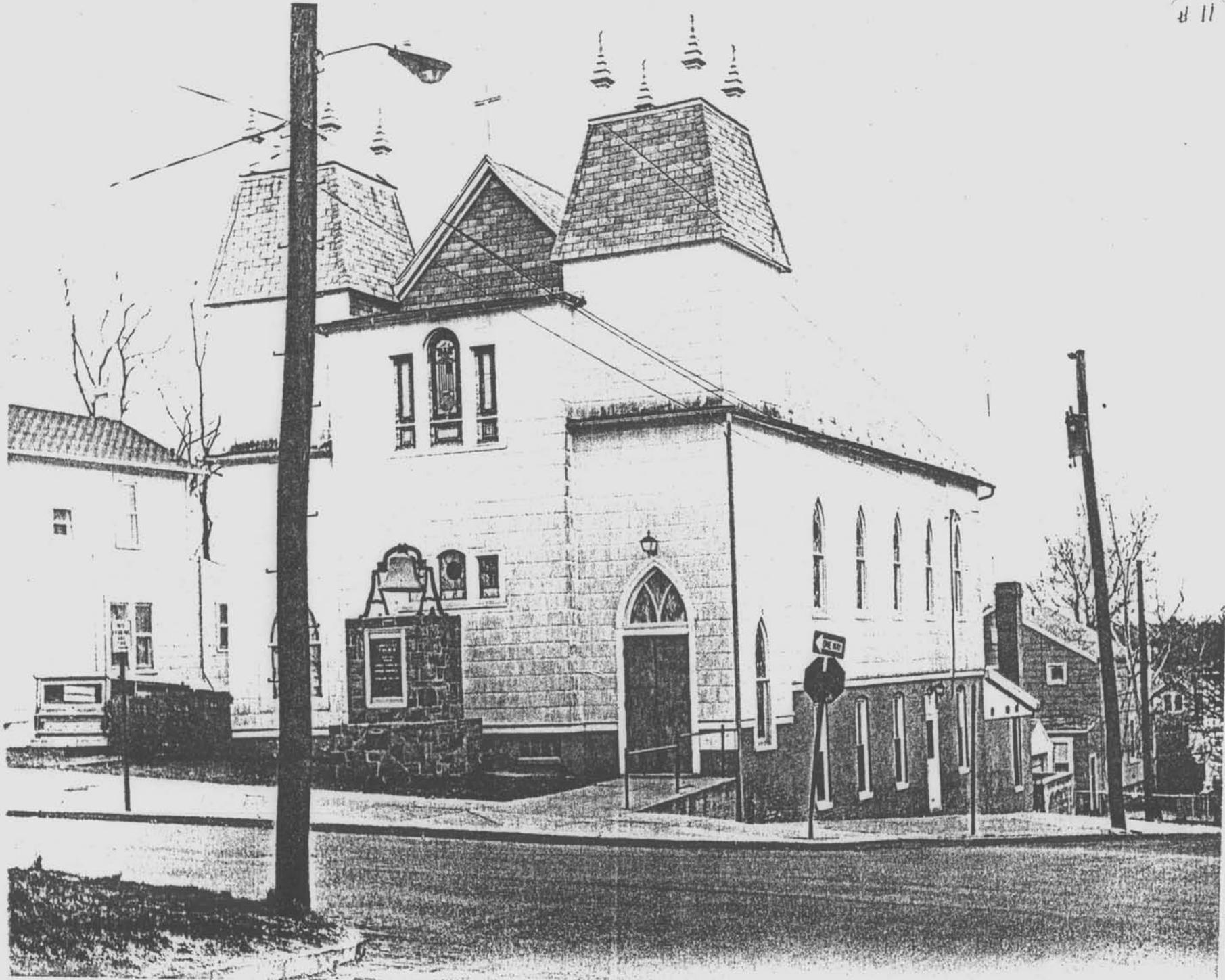
510 000  
FEET

4342

4341

12' 30"

36 3 102 20 0 5 W





Hull Memorial Christian Church

BA-1143

Landsdown Christian Church



BA-1143

Lansdowne Christian Church



BA-1143

Lansdowne Christian Church