

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY
HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey #: P.G. #74A-4 Building Date: 1890

Building Name: Holy Family Roman Catholic Church

Location: 12010 Woodmore Road, Mitchellville, Maryland

Private/Religious/Occupied/Excellent/Accessible

Description:

Holy Family Church is a five-bay, one-and-one-half story frame church, ca. 74 feet by 41 feet, with a long, steeply-pitched gable roof. Entrance is through two gabled porches on the south gable end; each porch has a double-door surmounted by a gothic-headed transom, the glass in the transom being decorated with rosette-pattern tracery. High in this south gable end is a round window with the same rosette tracery. Between the porches is a triple-lancet, stained-glass window. Stick style motifs with pendants adorn the apex of the south gable end, as well as those of the two entrance porches. The side walls of the church have five double-hung windows with gothic pointed-arches. There is an open pyramidal-roofed bell tower astride the ridge at the south gable end. The exterior is German siding. A small graveyard adjoins the church on the northwest. To the northeast is a two-story frame rectory, built ca. 1940. Directly east of the church is a one-story, frame parish hall. This complex is set back from Woodmore Road at the end of a long lane of trees.

Significance:

Holy Family Church is a fine example of late Victorian ecclesiastical architecture with gothic and stick style decorative elements. It was erected in 1890 on land deeded in 1889 by Isaac and Willie Ann Wood to the Roman Catholic Church; it served as a mission of Ascension Church (Bowie) for the black Catholic community of the Woodmore-Mitchellville area. In 1938, Holy Family was established as a parish, and its administration was turned over to the Josephite Fathers, an order which had as one of its principal purposes the ministry of black parishes. With the recent development in the area of new residential subdivisions, the congregation of Holy Family has become a nearly even mix of black and white families. Since 1972, it has been pastored by the Secular Fathers of the Diocese of Washington. The church building has been well maintained, and retains its rural historical setting.

Acreage: 1.8 acre

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Holy Family Roman Catholic Church

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 12010 Woodmore Road not for publication

city, town Mitchellville vicinity of congressional district 5

state Maryland 20716 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 Holy Family Parish, Diocese of Washington

street & number 12010 Woodmore Road telephone no.: 249-2266

city, town Mitchellville state and zip code MD. 20716

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Prince George's County Courthouse liber 1184

street & number Main Street folio 191

city, town Upper Marlboro, state MD. 20772

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Prince George's County Inventory of Historic Sites

date 1974 federal state county local

pository for survey records History Division, M-NCPPC

city, town Riverdale, state MD. 20737

7. Description

| | | | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|---|---|--------------------|
| Condition | | Check one | Check one | |
| <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.

Holy Family Church is located on the north side of Woodmore Road, set back from the road at the end of a long lane of trees. It is a five-bay one-and-one-half-story frame structure, ca. 74 feet by 41 feet, with a long, steeply-pitched gable roof. Entrance is through two gabled porches on the south gable end. Each porch has a double-door surmounted by a gothic-headed transom, the glass in the transom being decorated with rosette-pattern tracery. High in this south gable end is a round window with the same rosette tracery. Between the porches is a triple-lancet, stained-glass window. Stick-style motifs with pendants adorn the apex of the south gable end, as well as those of the two entrance porches. There is an open pyramidal-roofed bell tower astride the ridge at the south gable end.

The side walls of the church have five double-hung windows with gothic pointed-arches. On the east side, a small (ca. 17' by 15') one-bay sacristy addition has been constructed, blocking the fifth bay and forming a small ell. This Sacristy has in its east gable end a round-headed window.

There is a projecting gable-roofed apse at the north end of the building which serves as the altar.

The exterior of the church is German siding, painted white. The roof has new composition shingles, and the foundations are concrete. A chimney on the west slope of the roof between third and fourth bays once served a woodstove.

The interior of the church is dominated by large exposed beams in the high steeply-pitched ceiling. The gothic-shaped windows along the sides of the sanctuary are filled with panes of colored glass; all are memorials. The interior of the sanctuary was renovated in the 1960's and 1970's. The floor has been carpeted, the original cedar pews have been replaced, and a lighted ceiling-canopy has been installed in the altar.

A small graveyard adjoins the church on the northwest. To the north-east is a two-story frame rectory, built in 1940. Directly east of the church is a one-story, frame parish hall.

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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement | <input type="checkbox"/> philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> theater |
| <input 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) Local history |

Specific dates 1890 **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.

Holy Family Roman Catholic Church is a fine example of late Victorian ecclesiastical architecture, with gothic and stick style decorative elements. Although the area to the west, north and east is presently being developed into a country club community, the church property retains its peaceful rural setting.

Holy Family Church was erected in 1890 on land deeded in 1889 by Isaac and Willie Ann Wood to the Roman Catholic Church.¹ Isaac Wood was a carpenter and member of the family which gave its name to Woodmore, a rural area populated largely by mulatto and black families. Wood was a member of Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church, a principally white parish in the Bowie-Collington (Whitemarsh) area. Recognizing a need for a local Catholic mission for blacks in the Woodmore area, Wood deeded an acre of his land "for the erection thereon of a church or chappel". Oral tradition holds that the church was constructed by local parish labor; it served as a mission of Sacred Heart Church at Whitemarsh for the black Catholic community of the Woodmore-Mitchellville area.²

In 1896, Isaac Wood deeded another acre of land (adjoining Holy Family Church to the east), making a total of 2.8 acres. It is on this additional acre that the parish hall now stands.³

After its dedication in 1890, Holy Family mission church was served by the Jesuit fathers from Whitemarsh, and after ca. 1930 by the Diocesan fathers from Ascension Church in Bowie. In 1938 Holy Family was established as a parish, and its administration was turned over to the Josephite fathers, an order which had as its principal purpose the ministry of black parishes. During the service of the Josephite fathers (1938-1972), Holy Family administered two outlying missions: Our Lady of Angels in the northeast sector of the Route 214, Route 301 intersection (now demolished), and St. Matthew's next to the Collington Colored School house on Church Road (now a Masonic lodge).⁴

8. Continued

The will of Amelia Bowie Belt (granddaughter of Marsham Waring of neighboring Warington), probated in 1935, devised three farms (Warington, Heart's Delight, and The Cottage) to the Roman Catholic Church; income from the farms was to be applied to the care and maintenance of the two Catholic Churches in Prince George's County known as "Old Whitemarsh" and "Woodmoor." Although the farms were subsequently sold by the church, Holy Family Church still benefits from the Belt bequest.⁵

With the development since the late 1960's in the Woodmore-Largo area of new residential subdivisions, the congregation of Holy Family has become a nearly even mix of black and white families. Since 1972, Holy Family has been pastored by the secular fathers of the Diocese of Washington. The church building has been well maintained, and essentially retains its rural historical setting.

¹ P.G. County Deed JWB#13:219

² P.G. County Deed JWB#13:219; P.G. County census 1880, 1900; P.G. County Tombstone Records, Sacred Heart Church.

³ P.G. County Deed JWB#36: 485

⁴ Interviews, July 1984, with Father Michael Kidd, Holy Family Church; Lorraine Wright, Holy Family Church historian.

⁵ P.G. County Wills WTD#4:217.

| | |
|---|---|
| 7. DESCRIPTION | |
| CONDITION | <div style="text-align: right; font-size: small;">(Check One)</div> <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/> Ruins <input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed |
| | <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 45%;"> <div style="text-align: right; font-size: small;">(Check One)</div> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered <input type="checkbox"/> Uncltered </div> <div style="width: 45%;"> <div style="text-align: right; font-size: small;">(Check One)</div> <input type="checkbox"/> Moved <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site </div> </div> |
| DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE | |
| <p>The building is a frame structure with a gabled facade. Double entrance porches with gothic-headed doorways flank the triple-lancet central light. In the gable there is a circular window. The gable and the porch gables all have identical stick motifs at the apex. An open bell cote sits astride the roof ridge. The side walls have five gothic headed windows.</p> | |

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian 16th Century 18th Century 20th Century
- 15th Century 17th Century 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1890

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi- | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | losophy | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human- | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | itarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The church was erected as a missionary post by the Jesuits, who served it from 1890 to 1938. In 1938, it became a parish church.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Chain of Title

Holy Family Roman Catholic Church
P.G. #74A-4

#1184:191
17 Dec 1949
Deed

Robert P. Phibbons, et ux, to Patrick O'Boyle, Archbishop of Washington, and successors; 11.8 acres (subject to prior conveyance aggregating 2.8 acres within the bounds of present conveyance); prior conveyances: JWB#13:219; JWB#36:485

JWB#36:485
2 May 1896
Deed

Isaac and Willie Ann Wood to James Cardinal Gibbons, Archbishop of Baltimore, and successors; for \$30, one acre adjoining a tract already conveyed to Archbishop Gibbons in 1889 for the erection of a church or chapel

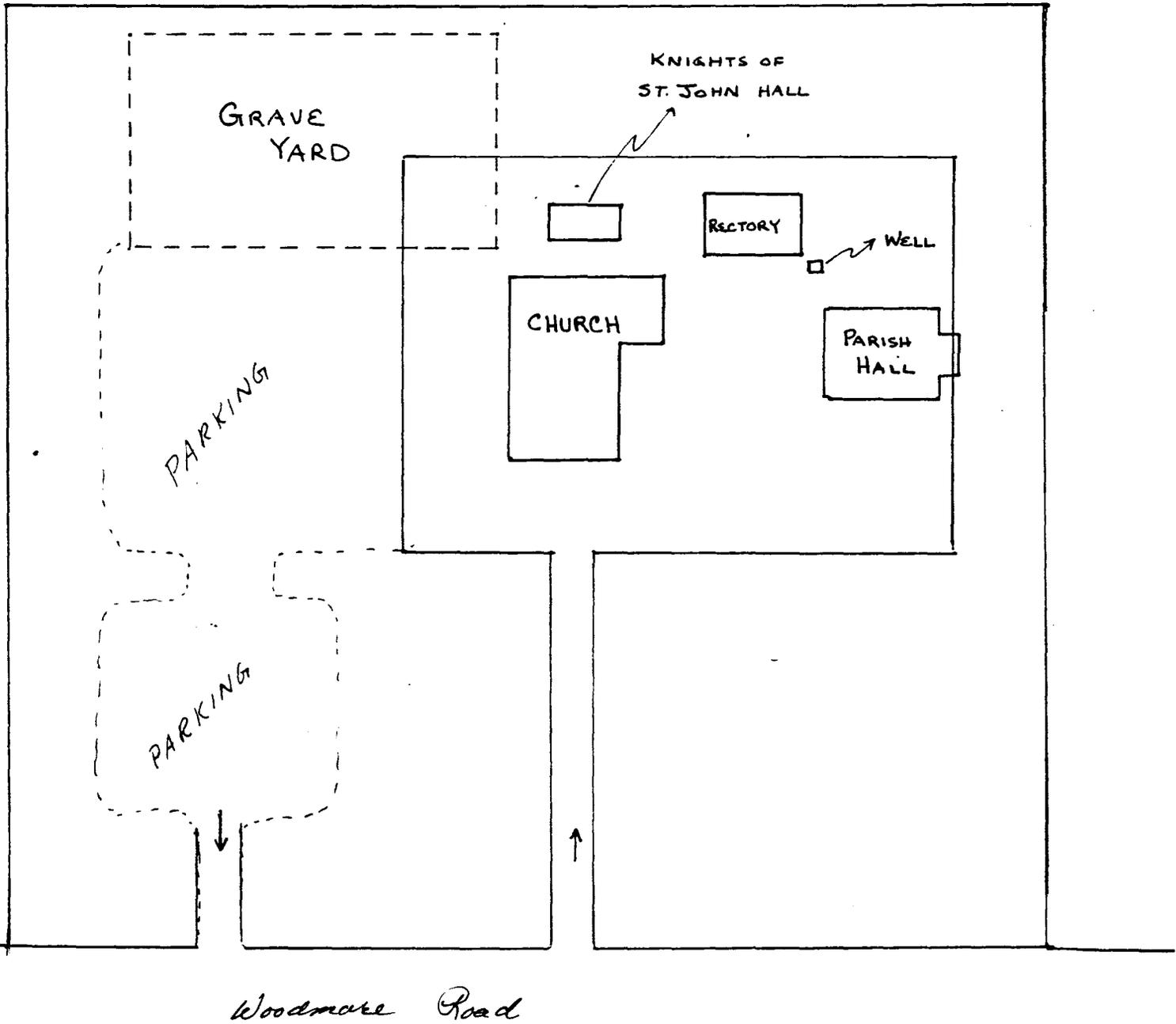
JWB#13:219
8 June 1889
Deed

Isaac and Willie Ann Wood to Rev. James Gibbons, Roman Catholic Archbishop of Baltimore, a lot in Queen Anne District, one acre, three roods and 8 perches; for the erection thereon of a church or chappel.

SITE PLAN

HOLY FAMILY R. C. CHURCH

P.G. 74 A - 4

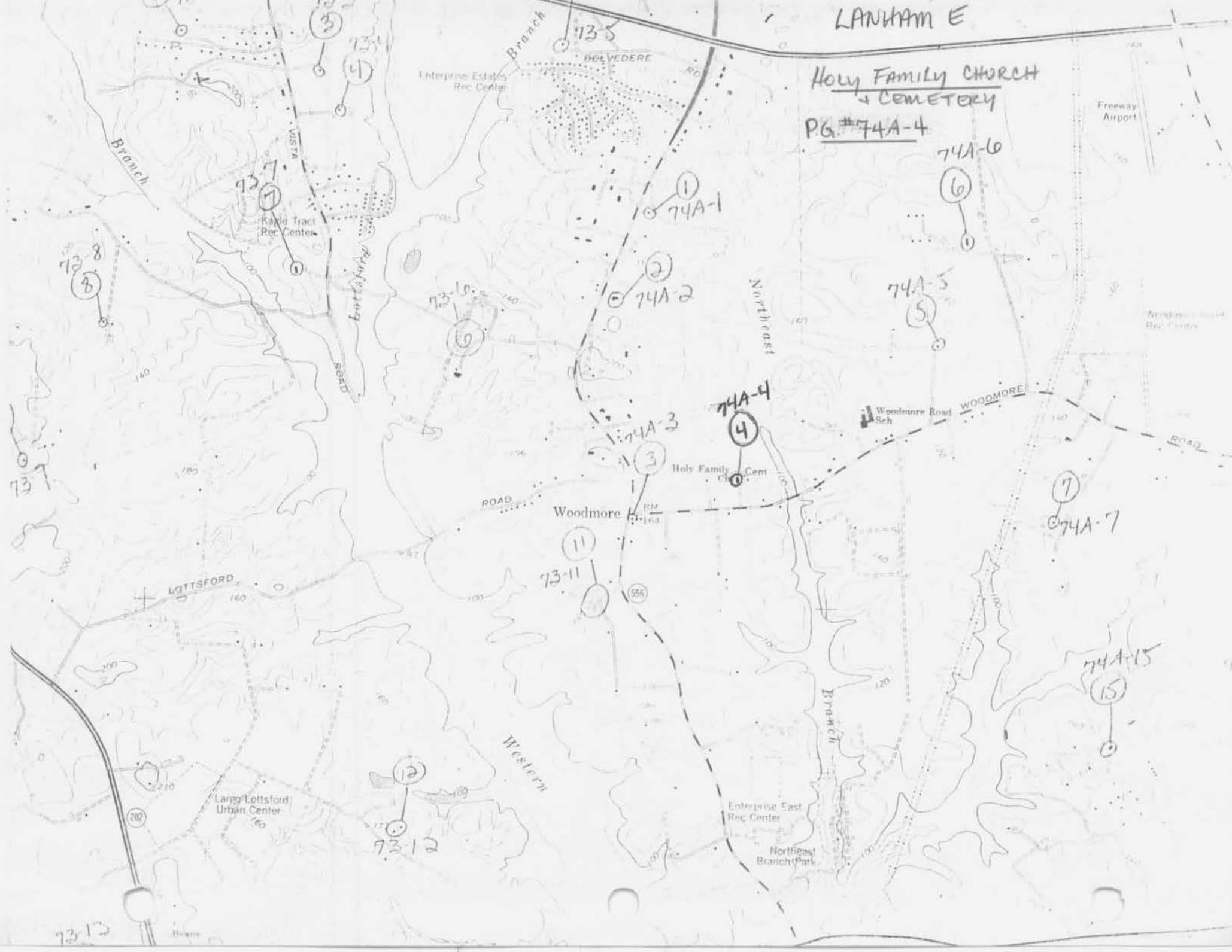


NOT TO SCALE

sgp 8/84

LANHAM E

Holy Family Church
& Cemetery
PG #74A-4



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74A-15
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Freeway Airport

Woodmore Road Rec Center

Woodmore Rd Sch

Holy Family Ch. Cem

Woodmore H

Largo Lottsford Urban Center

Enterprise East Rec Center

Northeast Branch Park

Western Branch

Woodmore Branch

Lottsford Branch

Belvedere

Enterprise Estates Rec Center

Kaiser Tract Rec Center

Vista

Lottsford Branch

Northeast

Woodmore Road

ROAD

ROAD

LOTTSFORD

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74A-4
SCW

P.G. #74A-4

Holy Family Church

Prince George's County, MD

Susan G. Pearl

July 1984

Southwest 3/4 elevation

Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD



74A-4
E

P.G. #74A-4

Holy Family Church

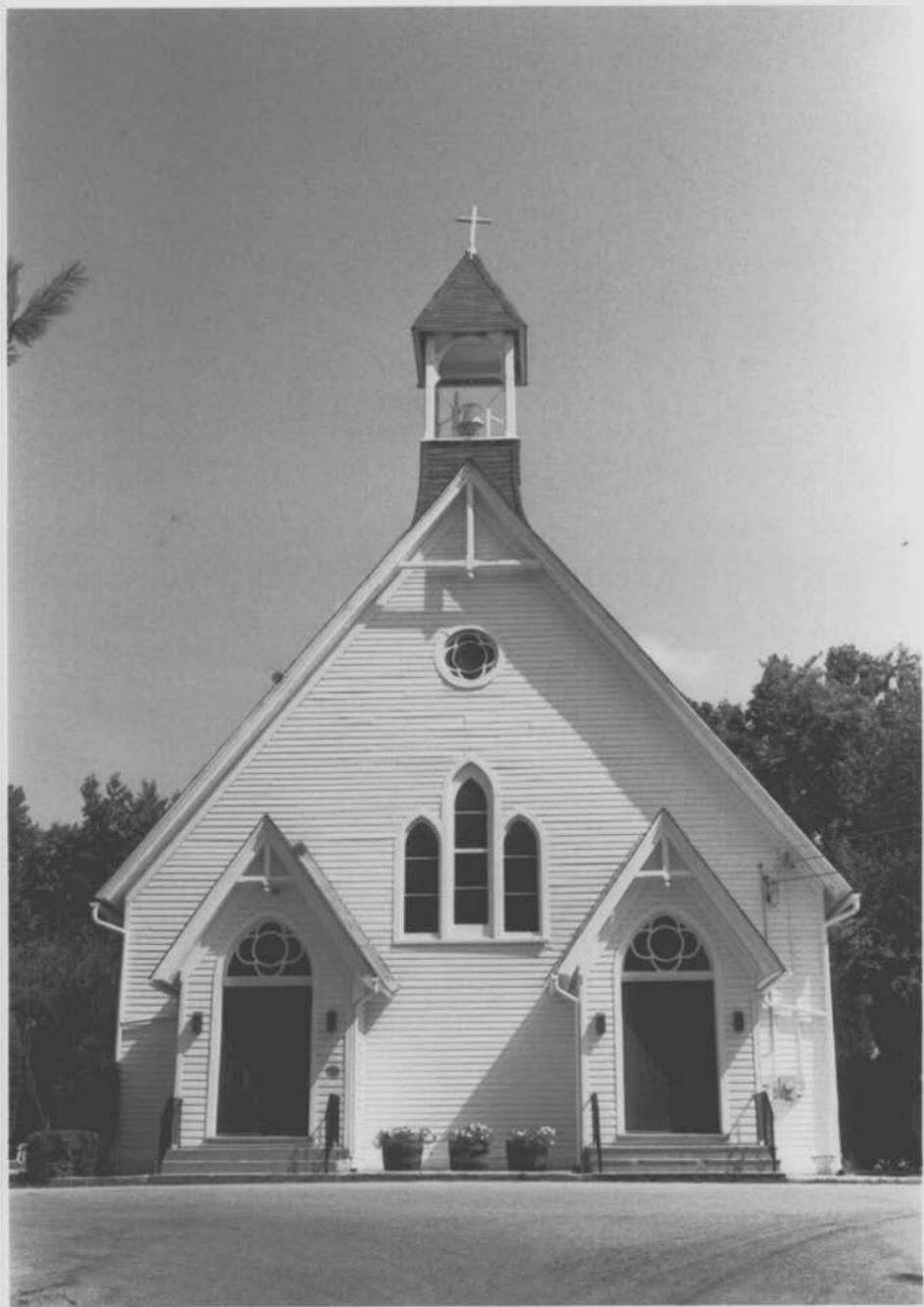
Prince George's County

Susan G. Pearl

July 1984

East elevation

Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD



74A-4
5

P.G. #74A-4

Holy Family Church

Prince George's County, MD

Susan G. Pearl

July 1984

South elevation

Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD



NAME HOLY FAMILY R.C. CH.

LOCATION WOODMORE Rd., WOODMORE, Md.

FACADE SW

PHOTO TAKEN 10/7/74 M DWYER

P6:74A-4