

P.G. #80-18

1902, 1927, 1975

Grace Methodist Church

11700 Old Fort Road, Chapel Hill, Md.

Priv/Occ/Relig/Good

Only the main part of the old Grace Methodist Church remains: until 1975 it was a gable-roofed four-bay frame structure with a bell tower at the northwest corner, and entrance through a double door in the west side of the tower. When the new brick church was built to the north, the bell tower was demolished (the bell is now housed in a lattice cote), the pointed-arch windows were squared off, and the old church building was completely sheathed with aluminum siding.

As early as 1874 a school for Black children was built in a small Black community in the Piscataway District, and Methodist services were also held there. Within a few years, a small church building was erected just north of the school, and in 1883, the two acres upon which it stood were deeded to six Black trustees of the "Methodist Episcopal Church on Chapel Hill." These two structures were the focal point of the Chapel Hill community. In 1902, immediately south of the original church, a new church was built (the original form of the present frame church). This church was renovated in 1927, and, in 1975, the modern brick church was built on the site of the original 19th Century church structure. A breezeway was constructed to connect the new church with the old. Although the 1902 building is now greatly altered, and the original church and school buildings are gone, the site was an important focal point in a still-surviving post-Civil War Black community.

Maryland Historical Trust

State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Grace Methodist Church (and school site)

and/or common Church and School at Chapel Hill

2. Location

street & number 11700 Old Fort Road not for publication

city, town Chapel Hill vicinity of congressional district 5

state Maryland county P.G.

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 checked="" 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 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 Grace Methodist Church

street & number 11700 Old Fort Road telephone no.: 292-9807

city, town Chapel Hill state and zip code Maryland 20744

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. P.G. County Courthouse liber JWB #3

street & number Main Street folio 190

city, town Upper Marlboro state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title P.G. Co. Inventory of Historic Sites

date 1974 federal state county local

depository for survey records History Division M-NCPPC

city, town Riverdale state Md.

7. Description

Survey No. P.G. #80-18

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 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.

Only the main part of the Church building remains. Up until 1975 this was a gable-roofed 4-bay frame church structure with a bell tower at the northwest corner. Entrance was through a double door (with pointed-arch transom window) in the west side of the tower. There were four pointed-arch windows in the north and south sides, ^{and} three bays in the west gable end (the center, taller, window with rounded arch flanked by two pointed arch windows). The whole building was covered with asphalt shingle.

When the new (modern, one-story, brick) church was built to the north, the bell tower of the old church was demolished (the bell is now housed in a lattice cote just north of the entrance to the new church), the windows were squared off, and the old church building was completely sheathed with aluminum siding.

8. Significance

Survey No. P.C. #80-18

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> 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 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 1902, 1927, 1975 **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.

As early as 1874, a school for Negro children was built in a small black community in the Piscataway District and under the leadership of "Father" Jeremiah Brown, Methodist services were held either in this school building or in nearby homes. Some time before 1883, a small church building was erected. Gable roofed, frame, with a belfry at the ridge and entry through a small vestibule at the gable end, it stood just a short distance north of the school building. In October 1883, Jesse Edelen deeded the 2 acres on which it stood to six Black trustees (William H. Shorter, Jeremiah Brown, Jeremiah Butler, Henry Thomas, Henry Hemsly, and John Marshall) of the "Methodist Episcopal Church on Chapel Hill", which the community had come to be called. These two structures were the focal point of the Chapel Hill community.

In 1902, immediately south of the original structure, a new church was built, i.e., the original form of the present frame church. It was a gable-roofed structure, four bays wide, and served the congregation (now known as Grace Methodist) for 25 years. At that time (ca. 1927), money was raised to redesign and repair the church. (It was probably at this time that the bell tower was added at the northwest corner, and entry shifted to the west side of the bell tower; the bell which went into the tower came from the Fort Foote elementary school.) The reconstructed church was rededicated in 1928.

The modern brick church was built in 1975 on the site of the original 19th century church structure. The bell tower of the preceding building was removed, and a breeze-way was constructed to connect the new church with the old. The pointed arch windows of the old church were squared off and the old structure was sheathed in aluminum; a lattice cote was constructed north of the new church to house the bell from the dismantled bell tower.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

1703364608

*P.A. # 80-18

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME				
COMMON: Grace Methodist Church				
AND/OR HISTORIC: Chapel Hill Methodist Episcopal Church				
2. LOCATION				
STREET AND NUMBER: Old Fort Road				
CITY OR TOWN: Oxon Hill				
STATE Maryland		COUNTY: Prince George's		
3. CLASSIFICATION				
CATEGORY <i>(Check One)</i>	OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE <i>(Check One or More as Appropriate)</i>				
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <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 <i>(Specify)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____ _____ _____
4. OWNER OF PROPERTY				
OWNER'S NAME: Trustees of Grace Methodist Church				
STREET AND NUMBER: Old Fort Road				
CITY OR TOWN: Oxon Hill		STATE: Maryland		
5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION				
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Prince George's County Courthouse				
STREET AND NUMBER:				
CITY OR TOWN: Upper Marlboro		STATE: Maryland		
Title Reference of Current Deed (Book & Pg. #):				
6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS				
TITLE OF SURVEY: None				
DATE OF SURVEY: <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local				
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:				
STREET AND NUMBER:				
CITY OR TOWN:		STATE:		

7 DESCRIPTION	
CONDITION	(Check One) <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/> Ruins <input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div>(Check One) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered <input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered </div> <div>(Check One) <input type="checkbox"/> Moved <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site </div> </div>
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE	
<p>The church is a frame structure with a gable-end main (west) facade and a tower at the northwest corner. The doorway is in the front of the tower; above is a louvered window at the second story. The gable end has a round headed window flanked by pointed-arched windows. In the gable is a circular window.</p>	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

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/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

[Empty space for the Statement of Significance]

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Blank area for Major Bibliographical References.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

Acreage Justification:

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

STATE:	COUNTY:

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Christopher Owens, Park Historian

ORGANIZATION: M-NCPPC DATE: 12 Dec 73

STREET AND NUMBER:
8787 Georgia Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: Silver Spring STATE: Maryland

12. State Liaison Officer Review: (Office Use Only)

Significance of this property is:
 National State Local

Signature _____

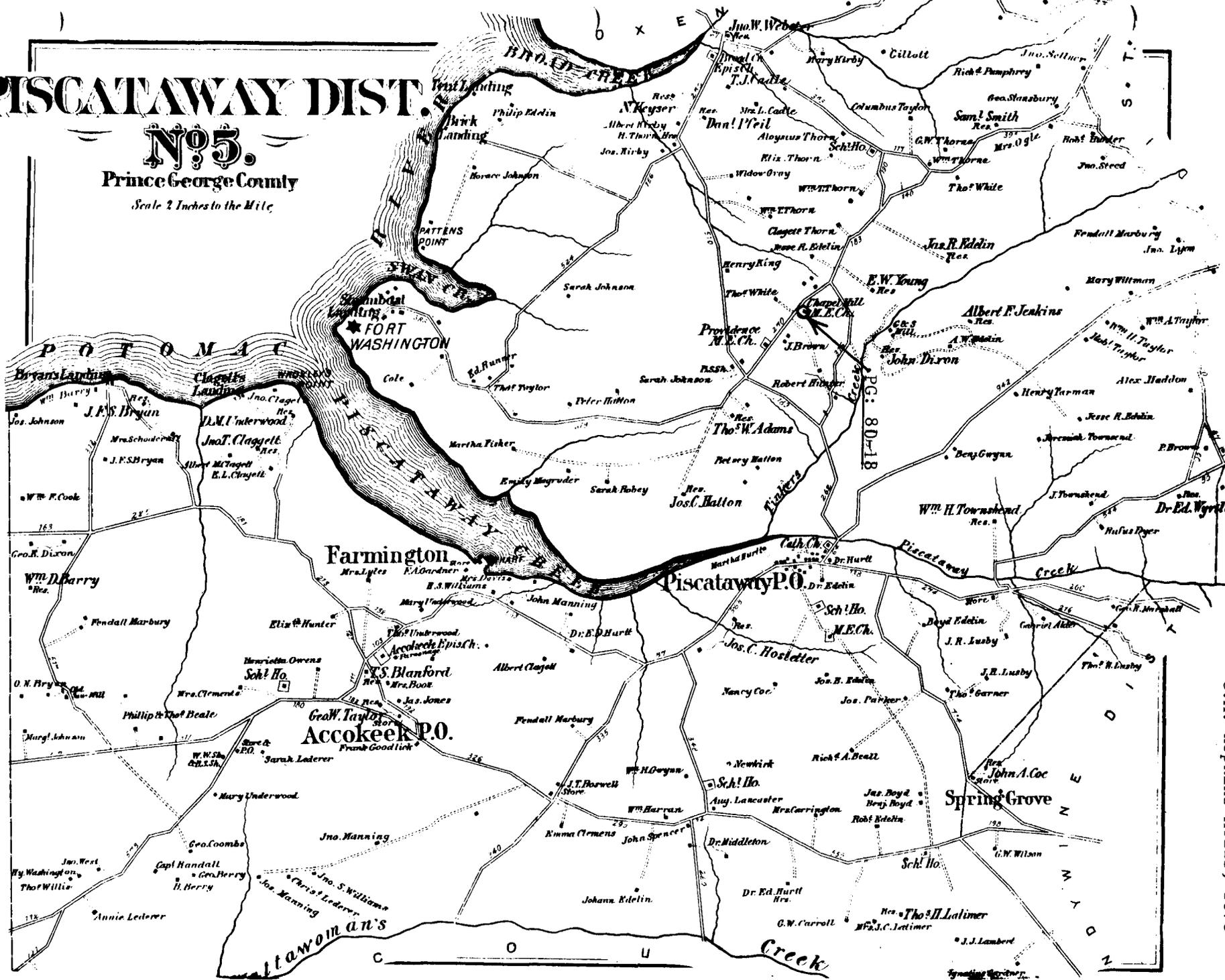
SEE INSTRUCTIONS

PISCATAWAY DIST.

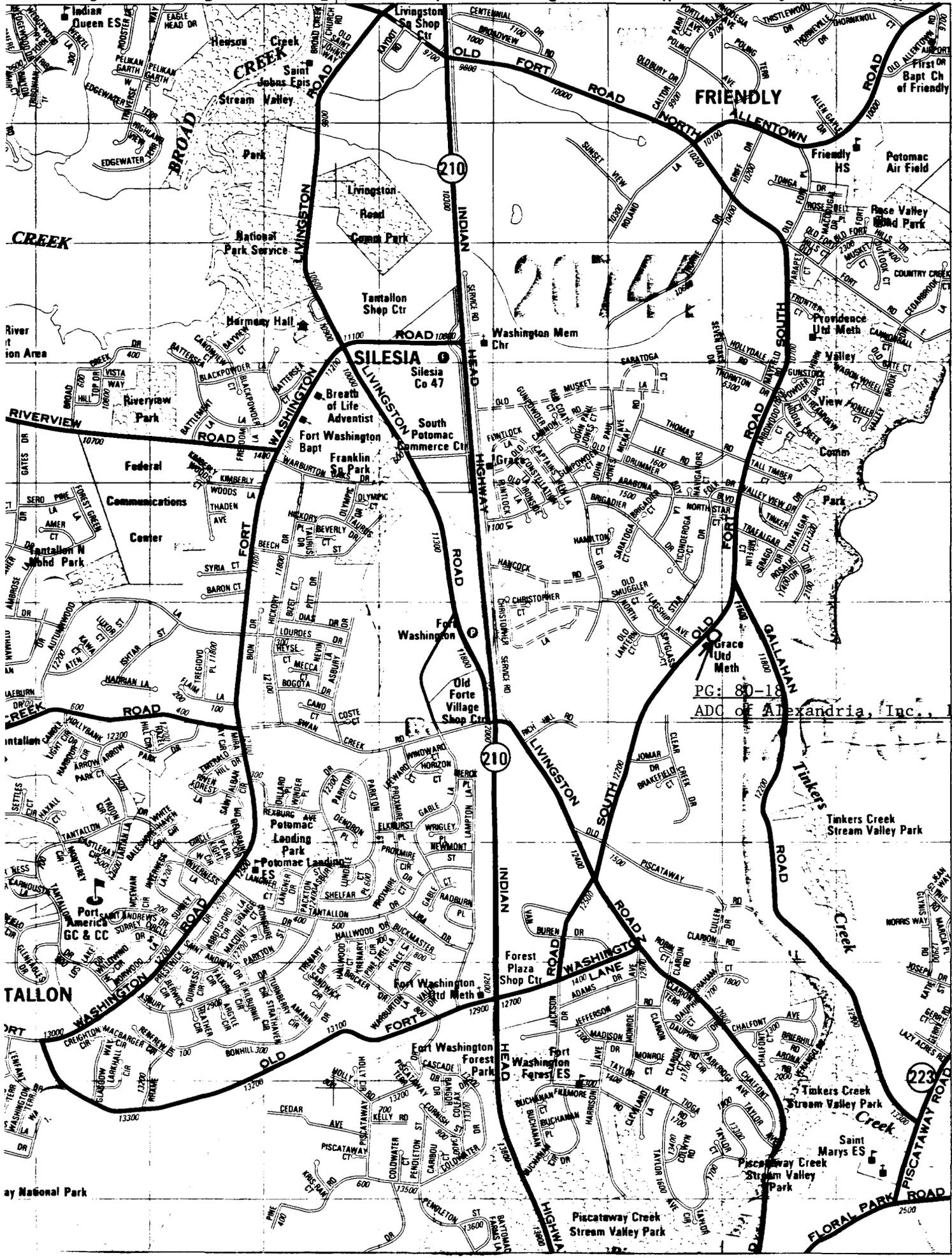
No. 5.

Prince George County

Scale 2 Inches to the Mile



PG: 80-18
G.M. Hopkins Atlas, 1878



360,000 FT

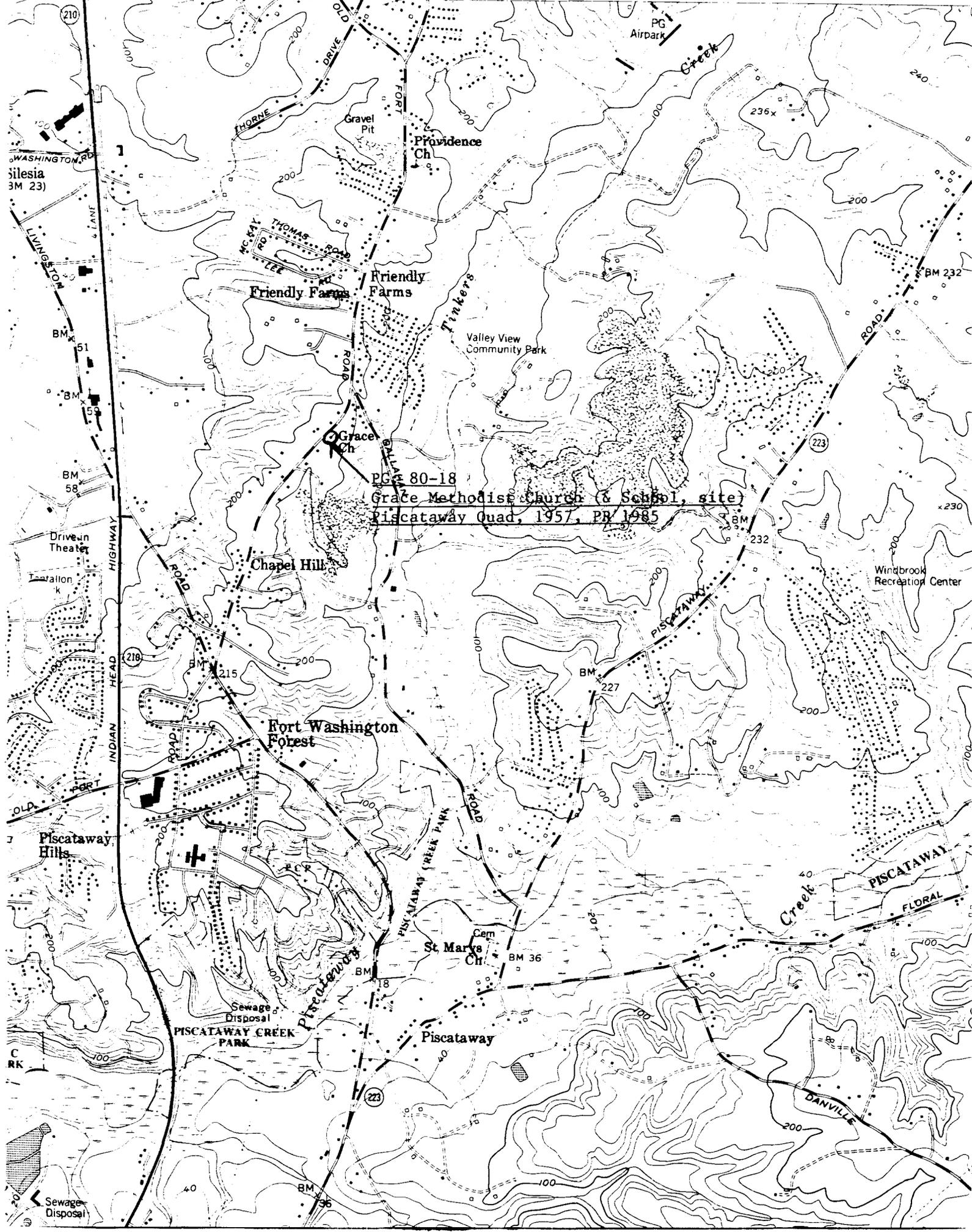
7 Joins Map 31

MD GRID 320,000 FT

38°42'30"

PG: 80-18
ADG of Alexandria, Inc., 1993

ay National Park

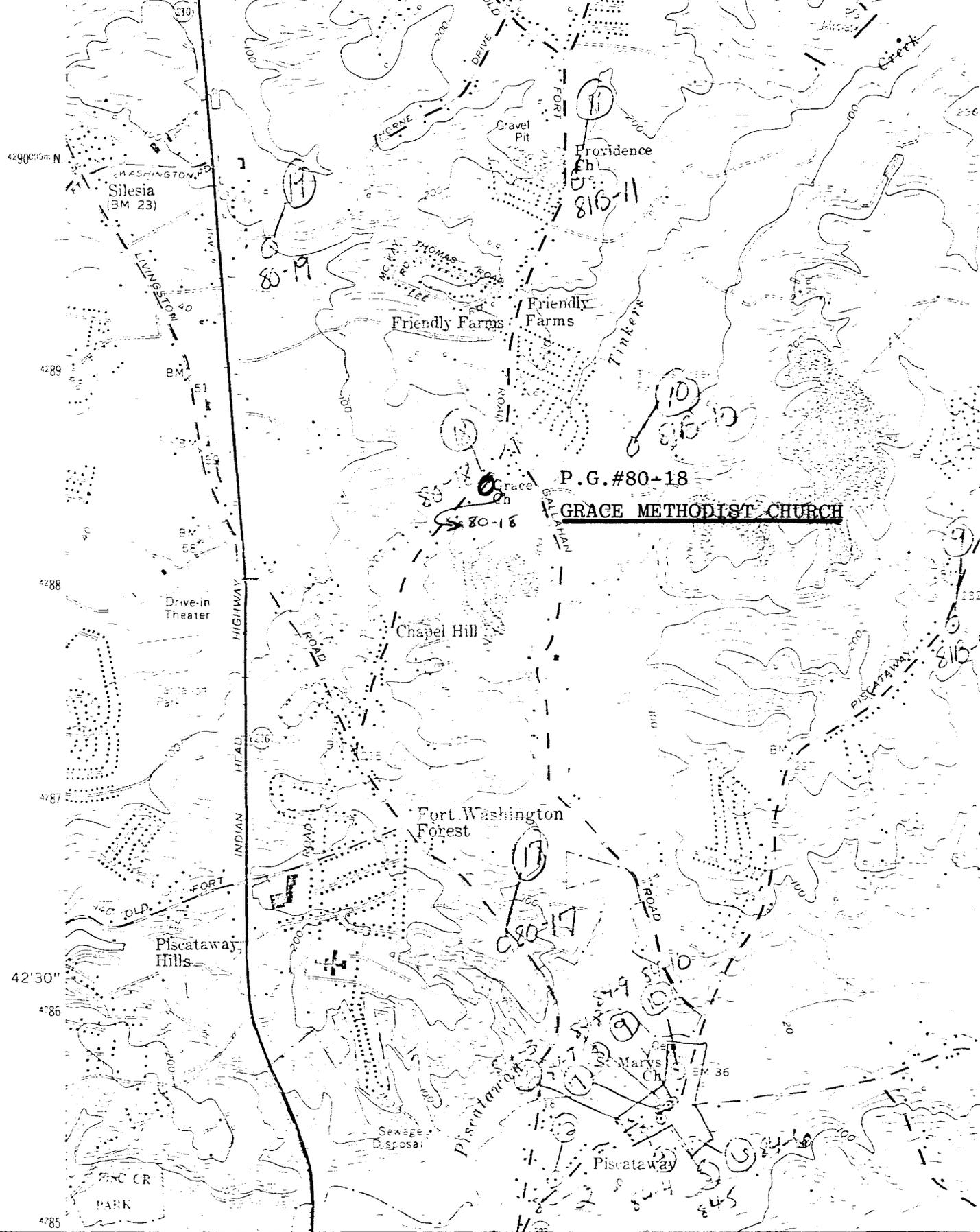


2201 1 SE
(ALEXANDRIA)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

SOUTH CAPITOL ST BRIDGE, D C 83 MI
±27000m E

77°00' 38°45' 329 57'30" 330





NAME CHAPEL HILL M.E. CHURCH

LOCATION OLD FORT Rd. FRIENDLY, Md

FACADE SW

PHOTO TAKEN 1/17/74 M. DWYER



P. G. #80-18

Grace Methodist Church
Prince George's County, Md.
Susan G. Pearl
March 1983
Southwest 3/4 elevation
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, Md.



P. G. #80-18

Grace Methodist Church
Prince George's County, Md.
Susan G. Pearl
March 1983
West elevation
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, Md.



P. G. #80-18

Chapel Hill Cemetery
Prince George's County, Md.
Susan G. Pearl
March 1983
View to east
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, Md.



NAME OLD SCHOOL HOUSES AT CHAPEL HILL M.E. CHURCH

PG: 80-18

LOCATION OLD FORT Rd FRIENDLY, Md

FACADE SW

PHOTO TAKEN 1/17/74 M. DWYER