

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY

HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey #: P.G. #81B-11 Building Date: 1903

Building Name: Providence Methodist Church

Location: 10610 Old Fort Road, Fort Washington, Maryland 20744

Private/Religious/Occupied/Good/Restricted

Description:

The Providence United Methodist Church is situated east of Allentown Road. It is a one story gable roofed frame structure, roofed with diamond shaped asphalt shingle and sided with wood-grained white asbestos shingle, resting on a cement foundation. It is rectangular in plan with a number of additions to the east (rear) facade. It has a boxed cornice with cornice returns and wide overhanging eaves. The entrance facade is in the west gable end. Centered on the facade is a two two-story bell-tower with the church entrance on the first story. The entrance has double doors and a round arch fanlight. The door and fanlight have a wide, plain wood surround. Flanking the door are two large 9/9 sash windows, with round- arch heads, radial muntins, and plain wood surrounds. The tower has a round louvred opening centered between the first and second story and an open bell- cote with double, round-arch openings at the second story level. The tower is surmounted by a boxed cornice with crown molding and a pyramidal roof with a cross at its apex. A cornerstone on the southwest corner reads "Providence M.E. Church". The north and south facades are three bays, marked by three windows identical to those on the entrance facade. The east (rear) gable end has had a number of additions to it. The additions approximately double the length of the church building. All are one story, painted white. The sanctuary is lit by the large windows, which have some stained glass lights. The interior window and door surrounds are banded, with bull's eye corner blocks. There is a pressed tin coved ceiling. There are graves in a tree shaded area southwest of the church building. Grave dates range from 1905 to 1979. North of the church, across the parking lot, is a large modern brick church.

Significance:

The Providence Methodist-Episcopal Church was built on one and one half acres of land deeded to church Trustees by Matilda Sansbury in 1870. The church appears on the 1878 Hopkins Atlas, located on Old Fort Road. The 1871 Handbook of the Baltimore Methodist Episcopal South Conference lists a Providence Church on the County circuit. Around 1900 the congregation decided to move the church closer to Friendly, Maryland, near Allentown and Old Fort Roads. One and one quarter acres of land was deeded to church Trustees by Mary E. Sorrels in June 1901. The present church building was completed by December 1903. The first addition was constructed in 1940. The property on which the earlier church stood was sold at this time and the cemetery enclosed with a fence. The cemetery is now overgrown. The one remaining gravestone is that of James E. Sansbury, dated 1871.

Acreage: 1.5 acres

Magi No.

DOE yes no

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Providence Methodist Episcopal Church

and/or common Providence Methodist Church

2. Location

street & number 10610 Old Fort Road not for publicationcity, town Fort Washington 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 Providence Methodist Church

street & number 10610 Old Fort Road telephone no.: 292-2523

city, town Fort Washington, state and zip code MD. 20744

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Prince George's County Courthouse liber 4

street & number Main Street folio 311

city, town Upper Marlboro, state MD. 20772

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Historic Sites and Districts Plan for Prince George's County, Maryland

date 1981 federal state county local

depository for survey records M-NCPPC History Division

city, town Riverdale, state MD. 20737

7. Description

Survey No. P.G. #81B-11

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.

The Providence United Methodist Church is situated directly east of Allentown Road. It is a one-story gable-roofed frame structure, roofed with diamond shaped asphalt shingle and sided with wood-grained white asbestos shingle, resting on a cement foundation. Originally rectangular in plan, it has had a number of additions to the east (rear) facade. The building has a boxed cornice with cornice returns in the east and west gable ends. There are wide overhanging eaves on the north and south facades.

Entrance is into a two-story projecting bell tower, centered in the west gable end. The entrance has double doors of 2 panels each, with small cross-shaped windows centered in the upper panels and a round arch fanlight above the door. The door and fanlight have a wide, plain wood surround. Flanking the door, on the main block are two large 9/9 sash windows, having round-arch heads with radial muntins, and plain wood sills and surrounds. The bell-tower has a round louvred opening centered between the first and second story levels. The second story level of the tower has an open bell-cote with double, round-arch openings facing south, west and north. The tower is surmounted by a boxed cornice with crown molding and a pyramidal roof with a cross at its apex. A cornerstone on the south corner of the west facade reads "Providence M.E. Church". There is a date, but it is illegible due to weathering.

The south facade is three bays, marked by three windows identical to those on the entrance facade. There is a corbelled brick exterior stove chimney between the first and second bays, partially covered by a shed roof, one story one bay cement block addition with an entrance door. The north facade of the building is identical to the south facade except that there is no chimney.

The east (rear) gable end has had a number of additions to it. The first is a frame, gable-roofed three-bay addition on a cement foundation. The second is rectangular, set perpendicular to the main block and is gable roofed, of cement block. The last is gable roofed, 2x2 bays, also of cement block. The additions approximately double the length of the church building. All are one story, painted white.

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/ 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) local history
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1903 **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.

The first Providence Methodist-Episcopal Church was built on one and one half acres of land deeded to church Trustees by Matilda Sansbury in 1870.¹ The church appears on the 1878 Hopkins Atlas, located in the Oxon Hill District, on the road from Fort Washington, just northeast of its intersection with the road from Piscataway to Broad Creek. The 1871 Handbook of the Baltimore Methodist Episcopal South Conference lists a Providence Church on the Prince George's County circuit.²

Around 1900 the congregation decided to move the church closer to the settlement of Friendly, Maryland, located at the intersection of Allentown and Old Fort Road.³ One and one quarter acres of land was deeded to church Trustees by Mary E. Sorrels in June 1901.⁴ The present church building was completed by December 1903.

The first addition to the church building, for a Sunday School room, was constructed in 1940. The property on which the earlier church stood was sold at this time and the cemetery at that location enclosed with a fence. The cemetery, located across the road from 12008 Old Fort Road, is now overgrown. The one remaining gravestone is that of James E. Sansbury, dated 1871.⁵

Footnotes:

¹ Land Records of Prince George's County, H.B. 3:305, Prince George's County Courthouse, Upper Marlboro, Maryland.

² Handbook of the Baltimore Methodist-Episcopal South Conference. From "Centennial Celebration, Immanuel United Methodist Church, 1979, pg. 3.

³ "A Short History of Providence Methodist Church, Friendly, Maryland, 1903-1953", Sylvia Thorne.

⁴ Ibid #1, 4:311.

⁵ Stones and Bones: Cemetery Records of Prince George's County, Maryland, Prince George's County Geneological Society, Inc., 1984.

7. Continued

The church entrance is through a small vestibule. The sanctuary is lit by the large windows, which have some stained glass lights, colored pink, blue and yellow. The interior window and door surrounds are banded, with bull's eye corner blocks. There is a coved ceiling covered with pressed tin. The walls are covered with modern wood paneling. The altar area is recessed and reached through an elliptical arched opening. Two modern double doors, leading to the east additions, flank the central altar platform.

There are graves in a tree shaded area southwest of the church building. Grave dates range from 1905 to 1979. North of the church, across the parking lot, is a large brick church, rectangular in plan with a central front steeple and a gable slate roof. Its cornerstone reads "Providence United Methodist Church 1978".

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Providence Church

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

10610 Old Fort Road

CITY, TOWN

Friendly

___ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<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

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Trustees of Providence Methodist Church Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

10610 Old Fort Road (parsonage)

CITY, TOWN

Friendly

___ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Prince George's County Courthouse

Liber #:

Folio #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Upper Marlboro

STATE

Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

___ FEDERAL ___ STATE ___ COUNTY ___ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION**CONDITION**

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This is an attractive, frame country church that faces west on Old Fort Road. The entrance is in the base of a slightly-projecting, two-story bell-tower-located on the west gable facade. The door and two flanking windows feature overhead fan-lights. This pattern is repeated in the three, deep side-bays-which consist of 9/9 windows. A steep hip-roof caps the belfry. A cemetery is located in the church yard.

Present siding is asbestos shingle.

81 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 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/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

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This is a very attractive, rural, Gothic Revival church with some Classical and Romanesque features.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

APPROXIMATE ACRES _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION _____

S. 17

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

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Michael F. Dwyer, Senior Park Historian

ORGANIZATION

M-NCPPC

DATE

1/17/74

STREET & NUMBER

8787 Georgia Ave.

TELEPHONE

589-1480

CITY OR TOWN

Silver Spring

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
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

Chain of Title

Providence Church
P.G. #81B-11

4:311
21 June 1901
Deed

Mary E. Sorrels and Columbus M. Sorrels of Washington, D.C., to Samuel C. Thorne, S. E. Ward, G. W. Schaaf, Charles C. Taylor, and George Thorne, The Trustees of Providence Methodist Episcopal Church South, 1 1/4 acres.

H.B. 3:305
12 March 1870
Indenture

Matida Sansbury to William H. Townsend, Clagett Thorne, Willima W. Sansbury, William H. Martin, Alexander Rennoe, Thomas R. Halley, William H. Adams, Trustees. For \$20. the grantor coveys that parcel beginning at the 8th line of Lot #1 of the late R. L. Walker's estate and running with said line to the 7th line at the said estate, hence to the beginning, containing 1 1/2 acres. To build a house of workship for the use of the members of the Methodist Episcopal Church South.

A J SPANO
1170-7
5.04 A
I.M. BAILL
1170-19
5.04 A
7

JOHN E.
SELLNER
5720/439

MORDECAI BAILL
2532-145

B.A. ECKARD P. 92
5310/523 2.74 A,
P. 264

R-E

POSEY,
ETAL
5355/589
5.09 A P.133

MORDECAI
BAILL
3099/444
4.39 A
P.235

CURTIS PROPERTIES INC
4301/229

2.74 A.
P.134

HOLMES
19-20
5.12 A
P.132

2.42 A.
P.200

BA ASSOCIATES
LIMITED PARTNERSHIP
5511/392
21.31 A.
P.201

OLD FORT
HILLS

9220

PROVIDENCE METH. CH
2648-547
3.31 A P.197

PG 81B-11

CURTIS
PROPERTIES, INC
4301/233
8.65 A.
P.172

C THORNE
14.543
70A
131

PARCEL - A
FRIENDLY FARMS
ELEM. SCHOOL

7537

OLD FORT
HILLS

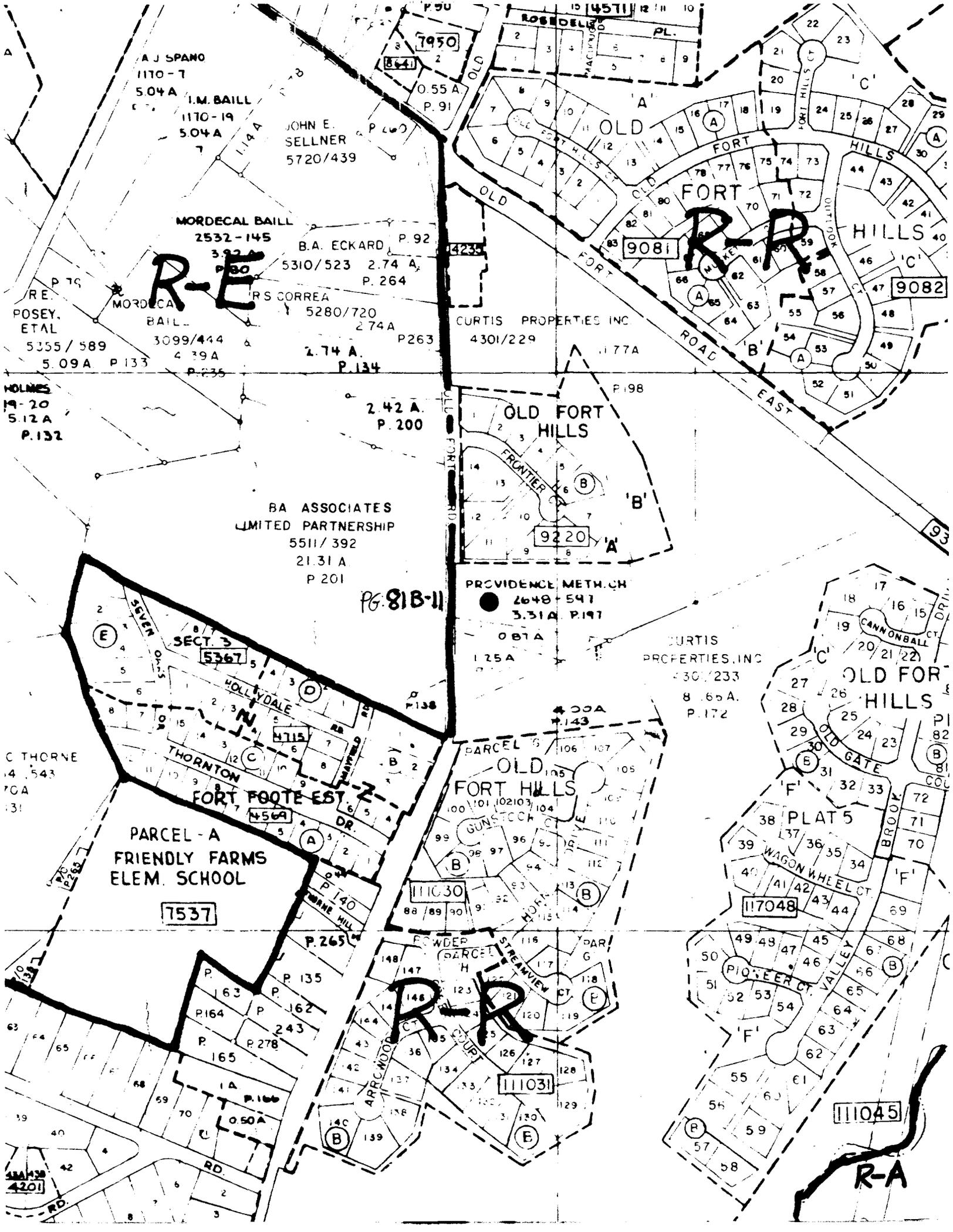
111030

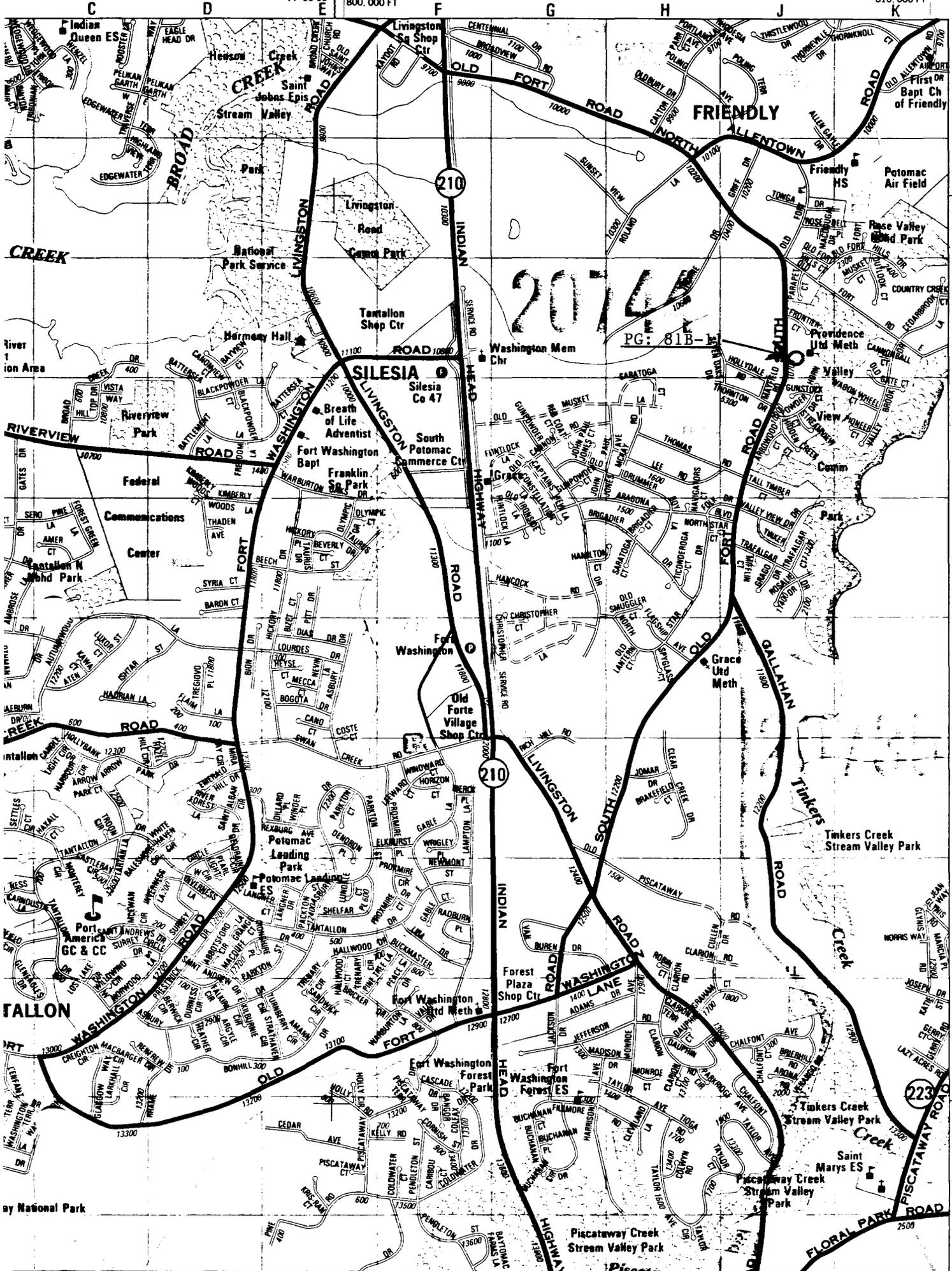
R-R

111031

111045

R-A





38°45'00"

330,000 FT

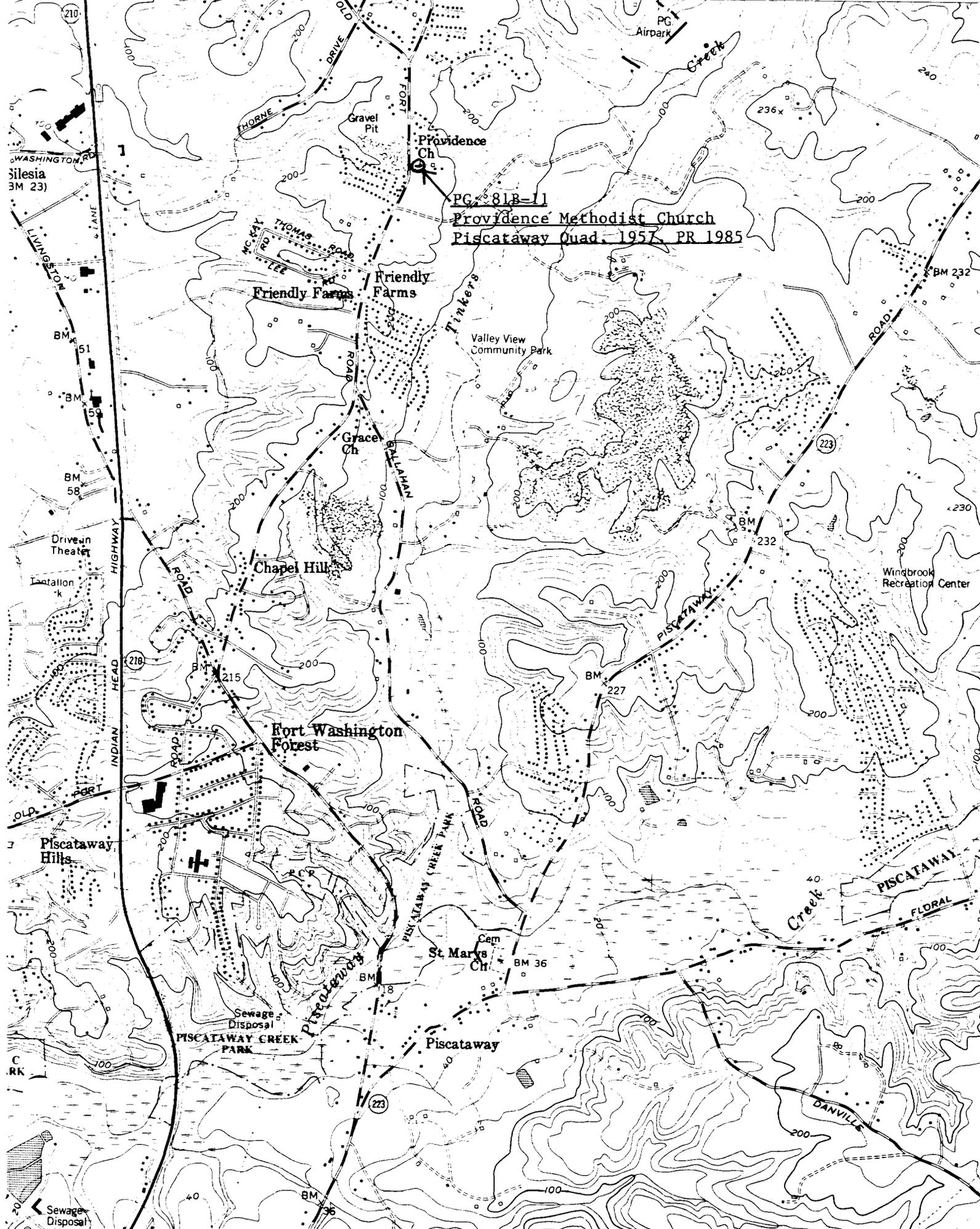
300,000 FT

320,000 FT

38°42'30"

Joins Map 31

by National Park





PG: 81B-11

NAME PROVIDENCE CHURCH

LOCATION OLD FORT Rd FRIENDLY, Md

FACADE NW

PHOTO TAKEN 1/17/74 M. DWYER



NAME PROVIDENCE CHURCH

PG: 81B-11

LOCATION OLD FORT Rd FRIENDLY, Md

FACADE NW

PHOTO TAKEN 1/17/74 M. DWYER



P.G. #81B-11

Providence Methodist Church

Prince George's County, MD.

Marina King

May 1985

East elevation

Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD.



P.G. #81B-11

Providence Methodist Church

Prince George's County, MD.

Marina King

May 1985

South elevation

Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD.



P.G. #81B-11

Providence Methodist Church
Prince George's County, MD.

Marina King

May 1985

West elevation

Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD.