

St. Mary's - 348
Bethesda M.E. Church
Cr. of St. Georges Church & Happyland Rds.
Valley Lee, MD 20692

1870, 1911

Access: Public

Bethesda M.E. Church stands 20' from the south side of St. George's Church Rd. across the street from the entrance to Happyland Road. The present church was erected in 1911. In 1891, thirty members of the Bethesda M.E. congregation under the leadership of the Rev. Hezekiah Statesman crossed the road and standing under an oak tree founded St. Mark Union American Methodist Episcopal Church. Bethesda is the oldest black Methodist congregation in this area of St. Mary's County.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Bethesda M.E. Church

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Corners of St. Georges Church & Happyland Rds.

CITY, TOWN

Valley Lee

___ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

St. Marys

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERCIAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Trustees, Bethesda M.E. Church
C/O Rev. Victor O. Johnson

Telephone #: 872-5831

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

St. Inigoes

___ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Md, 20684

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

St. Marys Co. Court House

Liber #:

Unable to

Folio #:

locate

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Leonardtown

STATE

Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

N/A

DATE

___ FEDERAL ___ STATE ___ COUNTY ___ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

SM-348

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE 1911

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Bethesda M.E. Church stands 20' from the south side of St. George's Church Road across the street from the entrance to Happyland Rd. This particular structure dates from 1911. It faces east and is 26' across the front facade and 42' in depth. The building is gabled and runs East-West longitudinally. The top of the east gable is decorated with imbricated shingles. There are 3 concrete steps up to the hollow wooden double doors at the entrance. There are two 2-over-2 4' clear glass windows in the front facade (at either side of the double doors). There are three of these identical windows in the north side of the building and three more on the south side. The structure is covered with wide wooden siding and is painted white. The church has a large concrete hall on the east side. There are cemeteries on the west and south sides.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

UNIVERSITY MICROFILMS INTERNATIONAL

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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input 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 1870-1911

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Bethesda M.E. Church is the oldest black Methodist church in this area of St. Mary's County. At one time it had a large congregation. In 1891, thirty members of the Bethesda M.E. Church under the leadership of the Rev. Hezekiah Statesman crossed the street and standing under an oak formed Saint Mark - Union American Methodist Episcopal Church. Since that time, Bethesda's congregation declined.

UNIVERSITY MICROFILMS INTERNATIONAL



9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE _____ COUNTY _____

STATE _____ COUNTY _____

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

James W. Clark, Historic Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Maryland Commission on Afro-American
History & Culture

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

20 Dean Street

TELEPHONE

269-2893

CITY OR TOWN

Annapolis

STATE

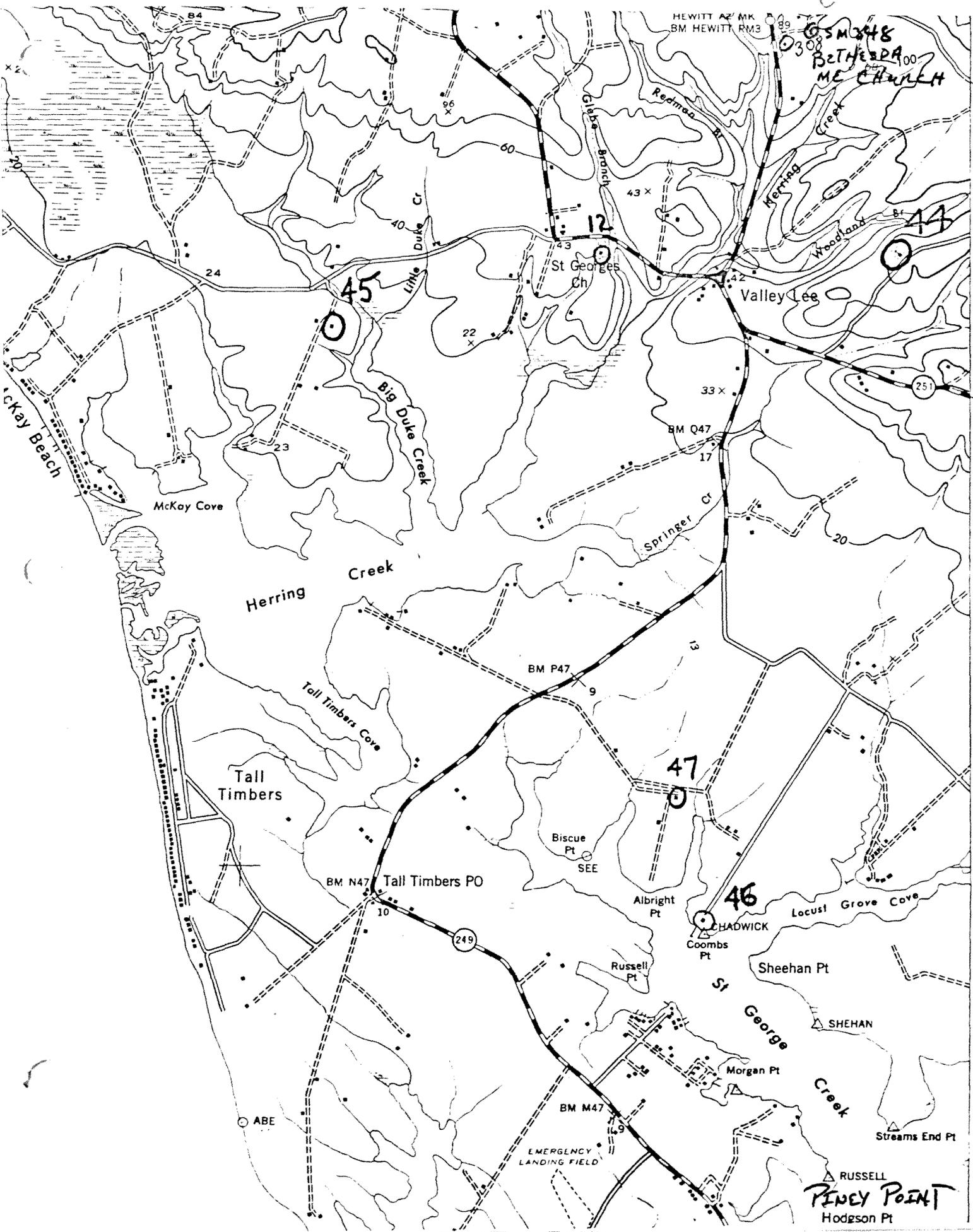
Maryland

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

Included location

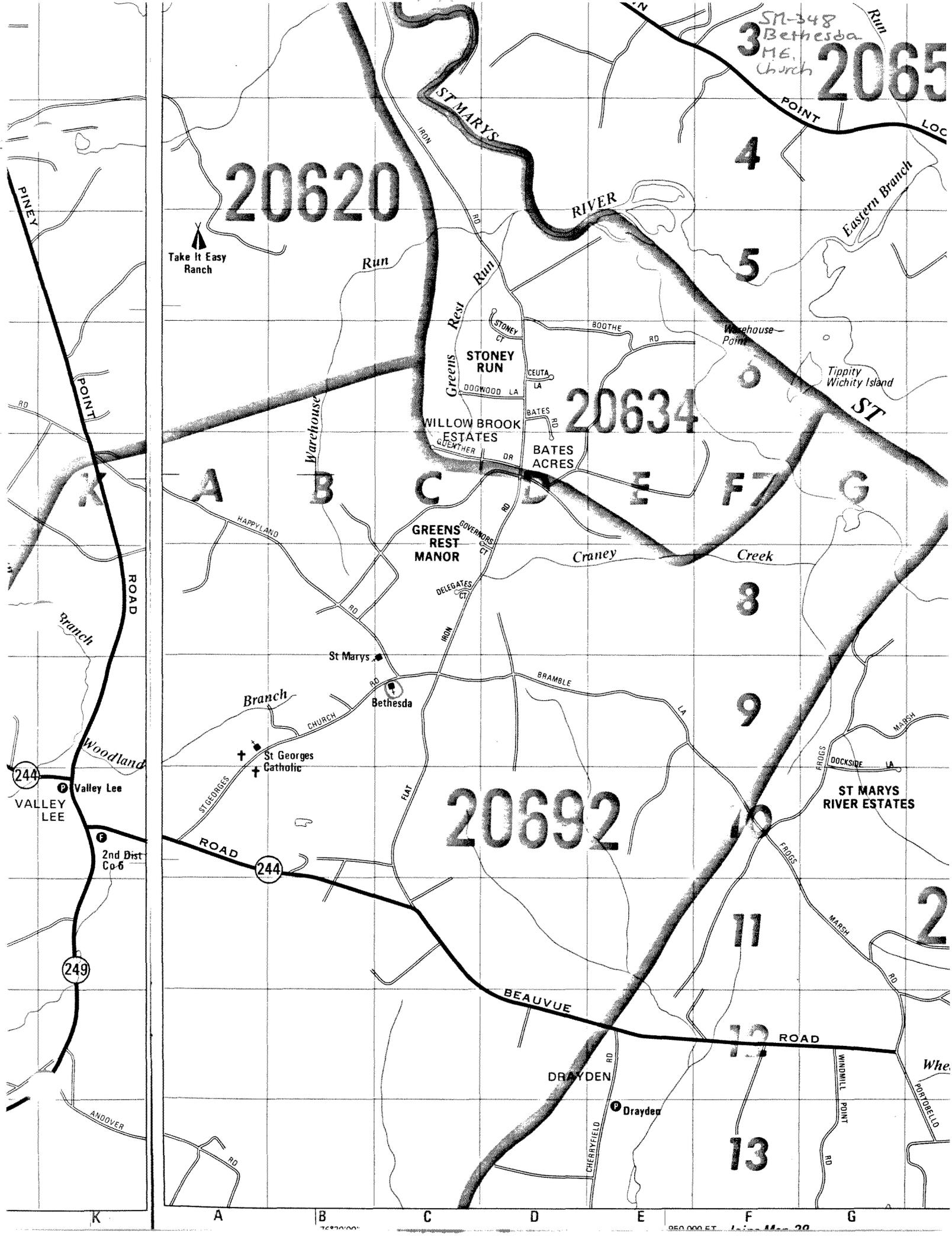


GRAYDEN 1.5 MI

GRAYDEN 1.5 MI

10'00

RUSSELL
PINEY POINT
 Hodgson Pt



SM-348
Bethesda
ME.
Church
3
2065

20620

20634

20692

PINEY

Take It Easy
Ranch

POINT

ROAD

244
VALLEY LEE

2nd Dist
Co-6

249

K

A

B

C

D

E

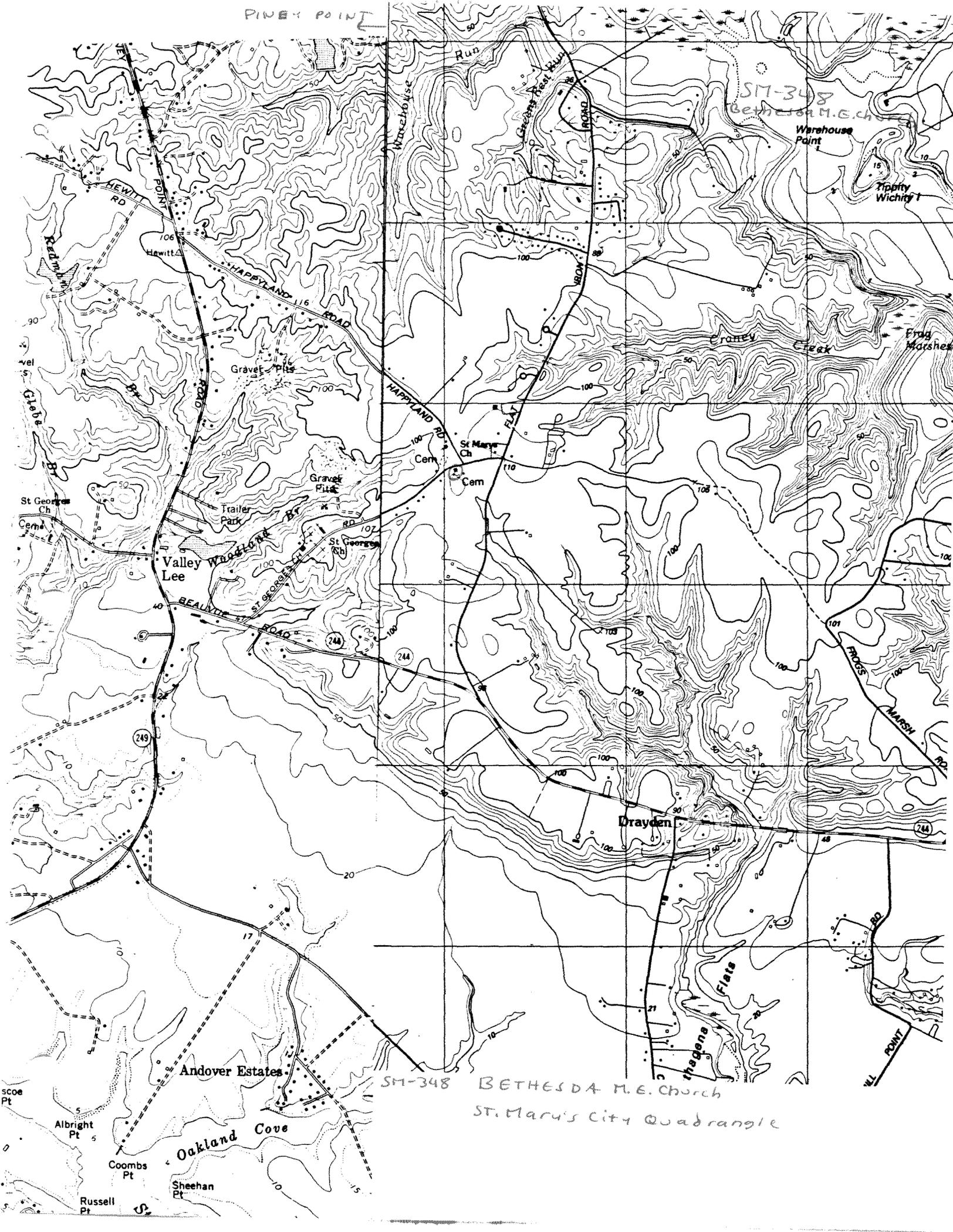
F

G

950,000 FT. May 20

PINEY POINT

SM-348
Bethesda M.E. Ch.



St George's Ch
Cema

Valley Lee

Andover Estates

Oakland Cove

Scoe Pt
Albright Pt
Coombs Pt
Russell Pt
Sheehan Pt

SM-348 BETHESDA M.E. Church
ST. Mary's City Quadrangle

Drayden

Drayden Flats

W. POINT



Bethesda Methodist Episcopal Church SM-348
Valley Lee, St. Mary's County, Maryland
Michael Hosford

Maryland Historical Trust, Annapolis, MD
Southeast elevation
1/81



Bethesda m.E

Valley Lee

St. Mary's Co.