

Capsule Summary
SM-484
Park Hall True Holiness Church
Park Hall
Private

1960

Park Hall True Holiness Church, the only active Holiness congregation in St. Mary's County, has served the African American community of Park Hall as a place of worship since 1954. The church is significant because of its importance as a focus of community life and because of its history as the site of a nineteenth century Methodist church and a twentieth century schoolhouse. Constructed in 1960, both the interior and exterior of the concrete block church building are in good condition.

During much of the nineteenth century, this site was occupied by Mount Pisgah Methodist Church. According to research conducted by Patricia Biondi, Mount Pisgah Meeting House already stood on the site when the property was sold to the Methodist Episcopal Church in 1850. The congregation remained active until the late 1800s when the church was dismantled and rebuilt at Hermanville for the use of an African American Methodist congregation.

Once the church was removed from this site, a one-room schoolhouse was built here. Originally a school for white children, the school later served the local African American population. The school was demolished prior to the construction of Park Hall True Holiness Church.

Prior to the construction of the Park Hall True Holiness Church, the congregation met at the clubhouse of the Morning Glory Club. In the winter of 1960, the congregation began holding services in the newly completed church building. Park Hall True Holiness Church has also been known as The House of God, Gate of Heaven Church, Mission No. 2. Both of these names are reflected in the two corner stones located in the southwest corner of the church's south elevation.

SM-484, Park Hall True Holiness Church
St. Mary's County
Maryland Comprehensive State Historic Preservation Plan Data

Historic Context

Geographic Organization: Western Shore

Chronological/Developmental Period: Modern Period, 1930 - Present.

Historic Period Theme: Religion

Resource Type

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Village

Historic Function and Use: Church

Known Design Source: None

7. Description

Survey No. SM-484

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.

Contributing Resource Count: 1

Park Hall True Holiness Church is located on the north side of Route 489 in Park Hall, St. Mary's County, Maryland. The church stands on a ridge and is bordered by a cemetery to the west. Houses are located south and east of the building. The church faces south with the roof oriented on a north/south axis.

Completed in 1960, Park Hall True Holiness Church is a one-story, cinderblock structure. The roof is covered with asphalt shingles.

The south (main) elevation has a two-story, gable roof entrance vestibule as its central bay. The first floor of this projecting bay is pierced by modern glass doors on the south and by a one-over-one sash window on the east and west. The second floor is pierced by a one-over-one sash window on all three sides. The central bay of this elevation is flanked by one one-over-one sash window on either side. An exterior stairwell and a modern entrance door provide access to the church basement on the east side of the entry bay.

The west elevation is pierced by five one-over-one sash windows and one small single-light window as the northern bay. Two cinderblock buttresses support the church wall. An exterior stairwell and modern door provide access to the basement here as well. The stair is protected by a portico that extends out over the stair from the main block of the church and is supported by metal posts. The basement is lighted by five small six-light windows.

The north elevation is pierced by two modern doors and two one-over-one sash windows which open into the church restrooms. An exterior cinderblock chimney stands against this elevation. A stairwell and modern entrance door provide access to the basement from this side of the church.

The east elevation is pierced by five one-over-one sash windows and three six-light basement windows. Two cinderblock buttresses support the east wall of the church as on the west elevation.

The interior of the church is finished with wood paneling and a wood floor. Twenty-one pews fill the worship area. Pews set aside for the choir and an altar are located at the north end of the building. Interior entrances to the men's and women's restrooms are located against the north wall. Mounted on the wall is a portrait of the church founder, Bishop John Clifton. Against the south wall of the church are portraits of Mother Mable Jones, the first church mother, and Deacon Hayward Jones, the first chairman of the Deacon Board. A walk-in storage area is located in the southeast

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

Specific dates 1960 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

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.

Park Hall True Holiness Church, the only active Holiness congregation in St. Mary's County, has served the African American community of Park Hall as a place of worship since 1954. The church is significant because of its importance as a focus of community life and because of its history as the site of a nineteenth century Methodist church and a twentieth century schoolhouse. Constructed in 1960, both the interior and exterior of the concrete block church building are in good condition.

During much of the nineteenth century, this site was occupied by Mount Pisgah Methodist Church. According to research conducted by Patricia Biondi, Mount Pisgah Meeting House already stood on the site when the property was sold to the Methodist Episcopal Church in 1850. The congregation remained active until the late 1800s when the church was dismantled and rebuilt at Hermanville for the use of an African American Methodist congregation.

Once the church was removed from this site, a one-room schoolhouse was built here. Originally a school for white children, the school later served the local African American population and became known as "Park Hall Colored School." The school continued to be active until about 1943, when the students began to be bussed to Jarboesville (now Lexington Park). The school was demolished prior to the construction of Park Hall True Holiness Church.

Prior to the construction of the Park Hall True Holiness Church, the congregation met at the clubhouse of the Morning Glory Club. In the winter of 1960, the congregation began holding services in the newly completed church building. Park Hall True Holiness Church has also been known as The House of God, Gate of Heaven Church, Mission No. 2. Both of these names are reflected in the two corner stones located in the southwest corner of the church's south elevation. One of these reads "Park Hall True Holiness Church, No. 1, Founder and Pastor, Bishop John Clifton, Founded 1954." The second one reads, "The House of God, Gate of Heaven Church, Mission No. 2, Park Hall, MD 1960, Founder - Bishop Joshua Jones, Assistant Chief Overseer - Bishop Leroy James, Bishop and Pastor - Bishop John Clifton."

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. SM-484

Biondi, Patricia, "Research Findings on the Methodist Churches in St. Mary's County, Md." (N.p.: Ridge, MD, 1984) Unpublished manuscript.

Clifton, Mrs. John. Telephone Interview, January 1995.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 2 Acres

Quadrangle name St. Mary's City

Quadrangle scale 1:24 000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

B	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

C	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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D	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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E	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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F	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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G	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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H	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Elizabeth Hughes, Historic Sites Surveyor

organization St. Mary's County Planning & Zoning

date February 1995

street & number

telephone (301) 475-4662

city or town Leonardtwn

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
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DHCP/DHCD
100 COMMUNITY PLACE
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023
514-7600

SM-484, Park Hall True Holiness Church
St. Mary's County
7.1 Description

corner of the church. Stairs to the basement are located in the southwest corner of the church interior.

The interior of the church basement consists of a large open space filled with tables and chairs used for meetings and church breakfasts. A kitchen and serving area are located at the north end of the basement. Two rooms, used for Sunday School classes, are located along the east wall of the basement. One of these rooms contains the church's original altar furniture.

SM-484, Park Hall True Holiness Church
St. Mary's County
8.1 Significance

Chain of Title

TO: John Clifton, Hattie M. Clifton, Louis Marshall Brooks, Rebecca Hills, Julie Dorothy Courtney, Andrew Richard Courtney, Rose Rebecca Brooks, Lottie Cecelia Dove, Trustees for Park Hall True Holiness Church, No. 1.

FROM: Louis Brooks, Hattie Clifton, Rachel Hills, John Clifton, Andrew Richard Courtney successor Trustee in place of Jessie Dove, Trustees of the House of God, Gate of Heaven Church, Mission 2.

RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber MRB 201, folio 179.

DATE: November 23, 1984.

NOTES: Transfer of three parcels: 1.) .661 acres being CBG 66/527. 2.) 1 acre being DBK 172/308. 3.) being CBG 108/273.

Parcel 1

TO: Louis Brooks, Jessie Dove, Hattie Clifton, Rachel Hill, and John Clifton, Trustees of the House of God, Gate of Heaven Church, Mission No. 2.

FROM: Ernest L. Stone and Dorothy E. Stone

RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber CBG 66, folio 527.

DATE: December 8, 1956.

NOTES: Transfer of .661 acres. No deed reference.

Parcel 2

TO: House of God, Gates of Heaven Church

FROM: Ernest L. Stone, widower.

RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber DBK 172, folio 308.

DATE: November 2, 1971.

NOTES: Transfer of 1 acre being part of CBG 12/343.

TO: Ernest Stone and Dorothy E. Stone

FROM: F. Donovan Bohanan, Mary H. Lloyd Bohanan, and Ignatius Y. McKay, widower.

RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber CBG 12, folio 343.

DATE: October 31, 1940.

NOTES: Property located partly in the first district and partly in the eighth district now generally known as "Park Hall Property" but formerly called "New Port Grove," "Part of Snow Hill," and "New Port" being 132 2/3 acres. See JAC 6/261, BC 1/110, EBA 17/108, and EBA 17/109.

Parcel 3

TO: Louis Brooks, Jessie Dove, Hattie Clifton, Rachel Hill, and John Clifton, Trustees of the House of God, Gate of Heaven Church, Mission No. 2.

FROM: Ernest L. Stone and Dorothy E. Stone

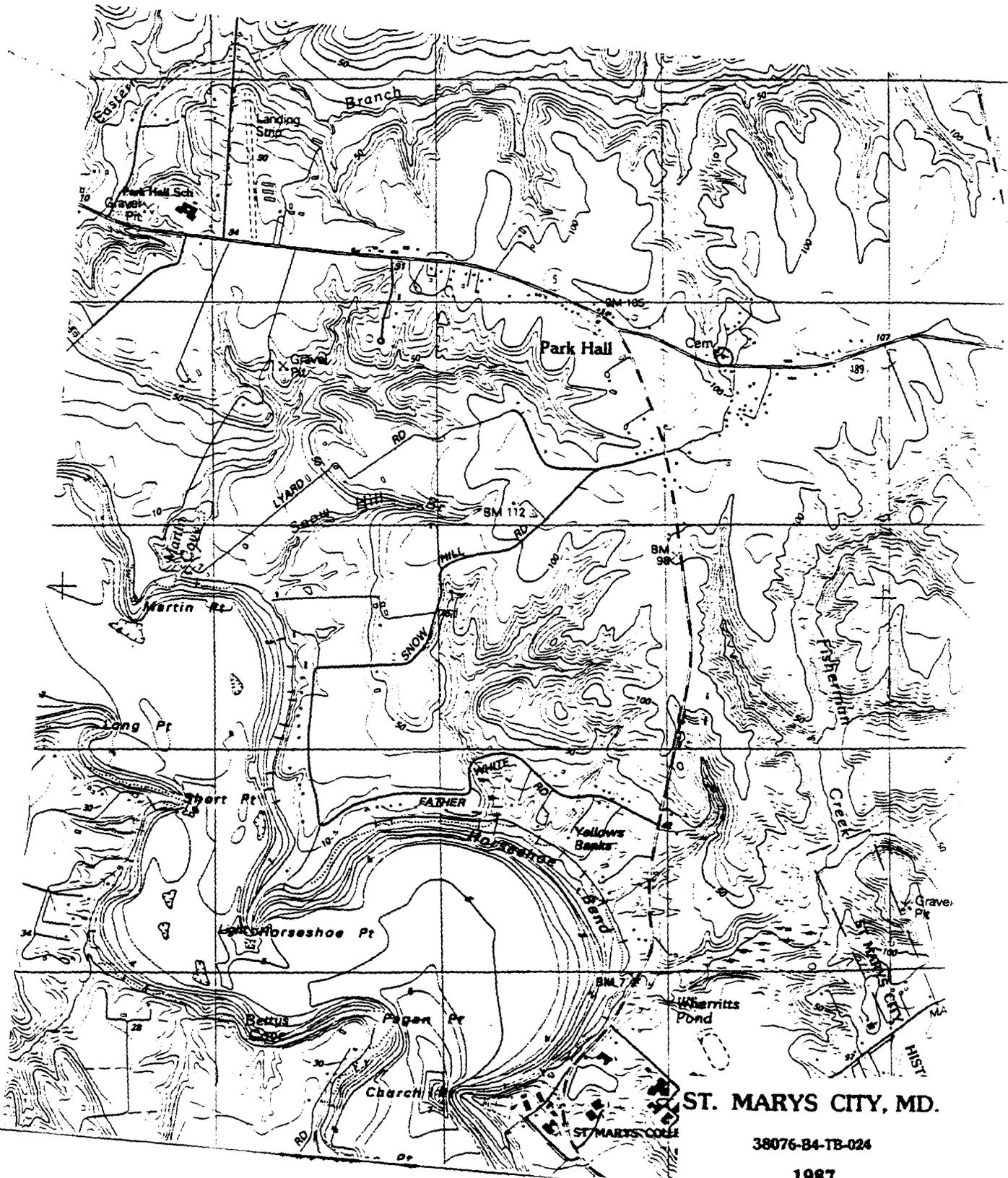
SM-484, Park Hall True Holiness Church
St. Mary's County
8.2 Significance

RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber CBG 108, folio 273.

DATE: July 12, 1963.

NOTES: No acreage or being clause given.

SM-484
Park Hall True Holiness Church
Park Hall
St. Mary's City Quad



ST. MARYS CITY, MD.

38076-B4-TB-024

1987



SH-184

Park Hall True Holzer's woods

St. Mary's County, MD

E. Hughes

February, 1995

MD SHPO

1/2

SW Elevation

" WELCOME "
TO THE 8th
MEMORIAL SERVICE
IN HONOR OF OUR



DECEASED PASTOR
BISHOP JOHN CLIFTON
S... M... 5, 1995
... .. 11:00 ...



IN REMEMBRANCE OF ME



SM- 484

Park Hall True Historic Church

St. Mary's County, MD

E. Hughes

February 1995

MS 5492

4/2

Tolson