

SM-67
St. Paul's Methodist Church Cemetery
Leonardtwn

Note to file:

A remote sensing survey was conducted on the cemetery between October 23 and 30, 2007 by R. Christopher Goodwin & Associates. Analyses of gradiometer data resulted in the identification of twenty anomaly clusters that may represent unmarked graves. Seventeen of these are located near and east of the former cemetery entrance in the vicinity of known marked graves. These anomalies share attributes similar to those recorded in the vicinity of marked graves that date from between 1916 and 1930, and were recorded in the vicinity of the presumed location of the potter's field, or pauper's cemetery, attested to by members of St. Paul's Methodist Church.

Three anomaly clusters that may represent unmarked graves were identified west of the former cemetery entrance. These include a possible unmarked vault burial, or cluster of vault burials, that shares attributes similar to marked graves that date from between 1952 and 1990.

Nowack, Troy J., Benjamin Riggle, Nathan S. Workman, and Kathryn Ryberg (2007) *Archival and Remote Sensing Investigations of St. Paul's Methodist Church Cemetery, St. Mary's County, Maryland*. SHA Archeological Report Number 383 (R. Christopher Goodwin & Associates, Inc.) MHT # ST 236

J.K. Cosham 3/27/2008

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM

NR Eligible: yes ___
no ___

Property Name: Methodist Meeting House Site and Cemetery Inventory Number: SM-67

Address: 25550 Point Lookout Road (MD 5) Historic district: ___ yes no

City: Leonardtown Zip Code: 20650 County: Saint Mary's

USGS Quadrangle(s): Leonardtown

Property Owner: St. Paul's United Methodist Church Tax Account ID Number: 03-038084

Tax Map Parcel Number(s): 82 Tax Map Number: 127

Project: MD 5: MD 243 to MD 245 Agency: SHA

Agency Prepared By: EHT Traceries, Inc.

Preparer's Name: Saleh Van Erem Date Prepared: 10/31/2007

Documentation is presented in: _____

Preparer's Eligibility Recommendation: ___ Eligibility recommended Eligibility not recommended

Criteria: ___ A ___ B ___ C ___ D Considerations: ___ A ___ B ___ C ___ D ___ E ___ F ___ G

Complete if the property is a contributing or non-contributing resource to a NR district/property:

Name of the District/Property: _____

Inventory Number: _____ Eligible: ___ yes Listed: ___ yes

Site visit by MHT Staff ___ yes no Name: _____ Date: _____

Description of Property and Justification: *(Please attach map and photo)*

The Methodist Meeting House Site and Cemetery, also known as St. Paul's United Methodist Cemetery, is located at 25550 Point Lookout Road. The site is located on the northeast side of Point Lookout Road (MD 5). The property is northwest of the central business district of Leonardtown. The site is surrounded by mature trees and shrubs. A paved parking lot and St. Paul's United Methodist Church are located to the northeast of the cemetery.

The cemetery contains approximately 130 grave markers, arranged in rows. Grave markers consist of tablets, slants, crosses, and obelisks. The oldest grave marker in the cemetery dates from 1832 and the most recent grave marker dates from 2007. The majority of the grave markers date from the mid-twentieth century. Prominent Leonardtown residents are buried in the cemetery including members of the Tippet, Foxwell, Bennett, Mattingly, and Moakley families.

The cemetery was established in 1832 on property improved circa 1828 by the construction of the Methodist Meeting House. The one-story wood-frame meetinghouse was abandoned in 1851 when the Methodists purchased a parcel of land near the center of Leonardtown where they constructed a new church, Wesley Chapel.(1) In 1851, the meetinghouse was sold to the adjacent property owner who used the structure as a barn.(2) In 1858, a second deed was executed between the owners of the meetinghouse

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended ___ Eligibility not recommended

Criteria: ___ A ___ B ___ C ___ D Considerations: ___ A ___ B ___ C ___ D ___ E ___ F ___ G

MHT Comments:

Jim Paulanne
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

2/7/08
Date

[Signature]
Reviewer, National Register Program

2/7/08
Date

site, Henry G.S. Key and his wife Maria L. Key, and the trustees of the Methodist Meeting House to change the use of the property. The deed stated that "formerly a church had been erected on this property but is now used as a burying ground."(3)

Wesley Chapel was sold in 1875 in order for a new Methodist church to be built. In 1877, the first church to be called St. Paul's was constructed on Stephen Foxwells land along Ellenborough Hill Road. (4) By the early twentieth century the church was in poor condition and a new church was built northeast of the Methodist Meeting House Site and Cemetery. The cornerstone for the second St. Paul's Church was laid on July 26, 1914.(5) The 1914 church was replaced in 1991 when St. Paul's United Methodist Church was built northeast of the cemetery. Despite the loss of the historic meetinghouse and churches, the cemetery has continued to serve members of the Methodist congregation in Leonardtown.

Seven cemeteries are located in the Leonardtown area. Of those seven, four are within the city limits. These include the Methodist Meeting House Site and Cemetery, Old Saint Aloysius Cemetery, New Saint Aloysius Cemetery, and Charles Memorial Gardens.(6) Old Saint Aloysius Cemetery is located north of downtown Leonardtown, just west of Hollywood Road (MD 245), approximately a mile-and-a-half northeast of the Methodist Meeting House Site and Cemetery. The cemetery was founded in the early nineteenth century based on the oldest grave marker, which dates from 1805.(7) Although the cemetery continues to serve the Catholic community of Leonardtown, no church is currently located on the property. New Saint Aloysius Cemetery is located on Point Lookout Road (MD 5), south of downtown Leonardtown, and was established in the mid-twentieth century. The Charles Memorial Gardens, located at 26325 Point Lookout Road, just west of Maypole Road (MD 243), was established in 1977 by Joyce A. and W. Clarke Mattingley.(8)

The Methodist Meeting House Site and Cemetery does not merit the National Register special criteria for burial places. The cemetery is not the oldest in Leonardtown and is no longer associated with its original church. The property is not individually associated with the events and trends that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history, thus disqualifying it for eligibility under Criterion A. The property does contain graves of a number of persons of outstanding importance whose activities determined the course of local history but these citizens contribution to local history can be better represented elsewhere in Leonardtown. Therefore, the Methodist Meeting House Site and Cemetery is not eligible under Criterion B. The grave markers do not embody distinctive characteristics of early-nineteenth-century funerary architecture nor do they represent the work of a master or possess high artistic value, rather they are typical examples of funerary design common to St. Mary's County from the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. They are thus disqualified for eligibility under Criterion C. EHT Tracerics, Inc. was not evaluating the Methodist Meeting House Site and Cemetery under Criterion D. Therefore, it has been recommended that the Methodist Meeting House Site and Cemetery is not eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A, B or C.

- 1) Kirk E. Ranzetta, "Leonardtown Survey District," (SM-592) Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form (1997), 8:11.
- 2) "Dedication Services, St. Paul's Methodist Episcopal Church," St. Mary's Beacon, (8 November 1977).
- 3) Erva Pardoe McKinney, "St. Paul's United Methodist Church, 150th Anniversary," Church booklet, 1983.
- 4) Erva Pardoe McKinney, "St. Paul's United Methodist Church, 150th Anniversary," Church booklet, 1983.
- 5) "Dedication Services, St. Paul's Methodist Episcopal Church," St. Mary's Beacon, (8 November 1977).
- 6) City-Data.com, "District 3, Leonardtown, Maryland," <http://www.city-data.com/city/District-3-Leonardtown-Maryland.html>, (accessed October 30, 2007).
- 7) Find a Grave, "Old Saint Aloysius Cemetery," <http://www.findagrave.com/cgi->

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW	
Eligibility recommended _____	Eligibility not recommended _____
Criteria: ___ A ___ B ___ C ___ D	Considerations: ___ A ___ B ___ C ___ D ___ E ___ F ___ G
MHT Comments:	
_____ Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services	_____ Date
_____ Reviewer, National Register Program	_____ Date

bin/fg.cgi?page=cr&GSIn=Abell&GSSt=22&GRid=20794833&CRid=81329&, (accessed October 30, 2007).
8) Charles Memorial Gardens, <http://www.charlesmemorialgardens.com/>, (accessed October 30, 2007).

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

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MHT Comments:

Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

Date

Reviewer, National Register Program

Date

RESOURCE SKETCH MAP

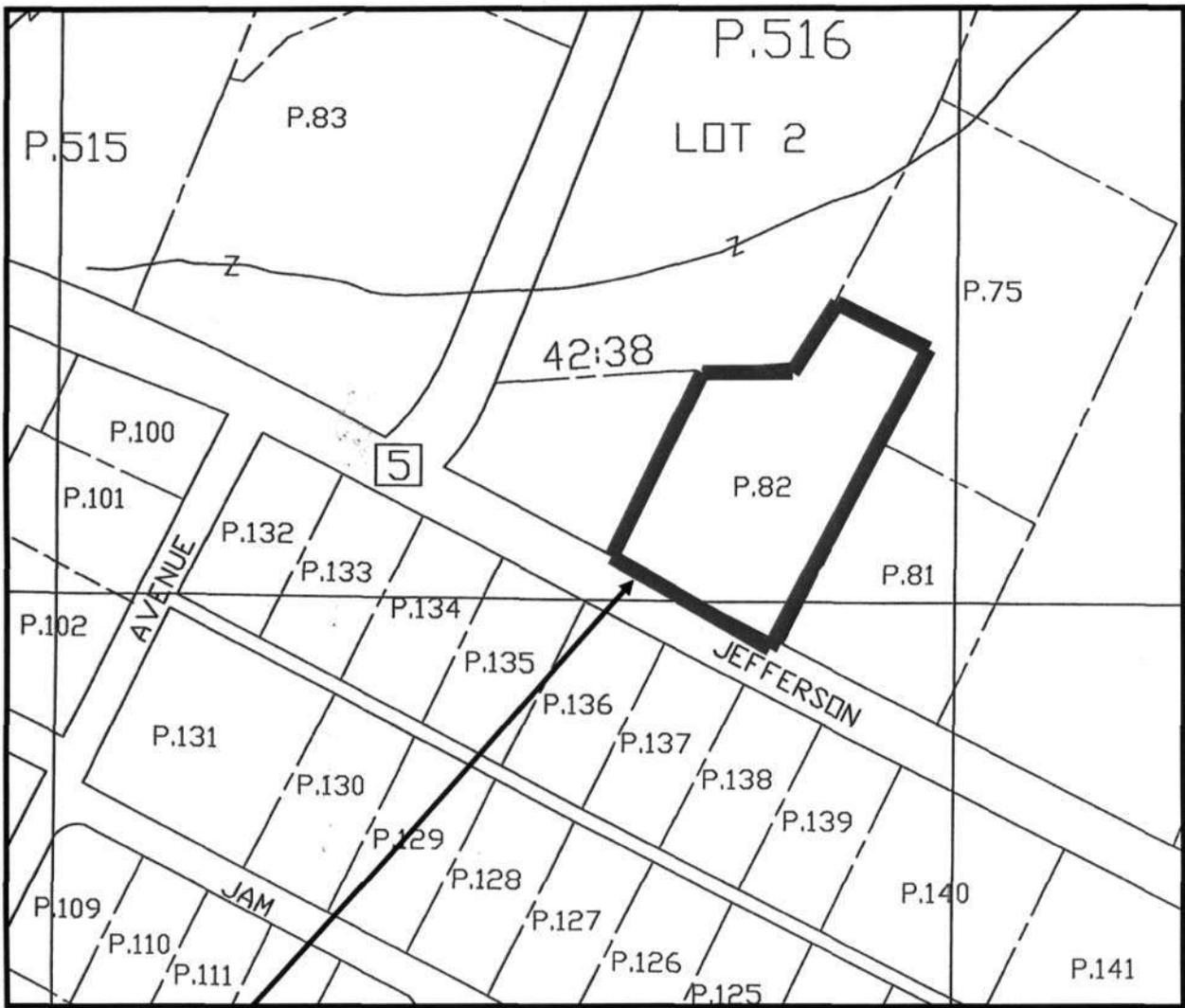


St. Paul's
United
Methodist
Church

Point Lookout Road (MD 5)

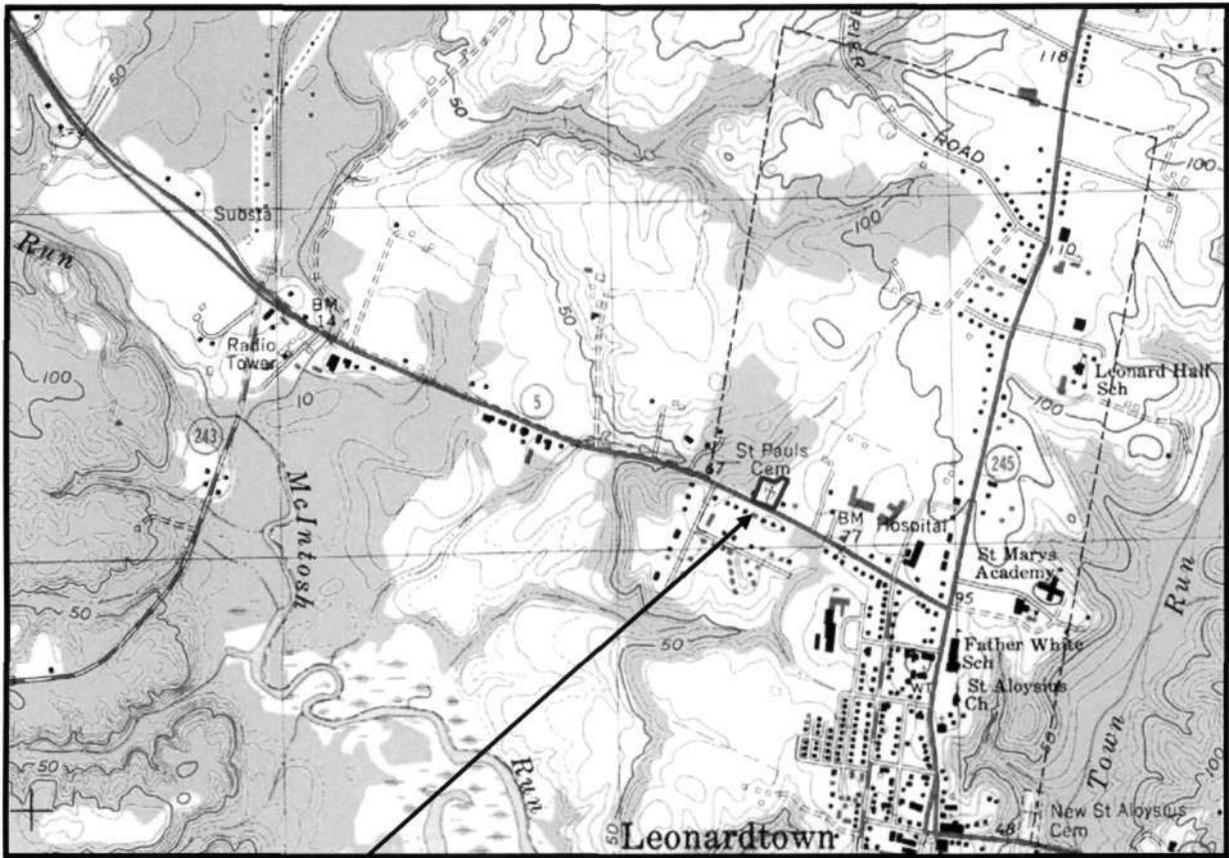


ID#: SM-67	Name: Methodist Meetinghouse Site and Cemetery
	Address: 25550 Point Lookout Road
Town/Town Vicinity: Leonardtown	County: St. Mary's



Methodist Meeting House Site and Cemetery (SM-67), 25550 Point Lookout Road
 Leonardtown, St. Mary's County, MD
 Tax Parcel Map 127, Parcel 82
 Prepared by EHT Tracerics, Inc., 2007





Methodist Meeting House Site and Cemetery (SM-67), 25550 Point Lookout Road
 Leonardtown, St. Mary's County, MD
 Leonardtown Quad, USGS Topographic Map, 1963, Revised 1984
 Prepared by EHT Tracerics, Inc., 2007





SM-67

Methodist Meeting House Site and Cemetery

25550 Point Lookout Road (MD 5)

Saint Mary's County, Maryland

EHT Traceries, Inc.

October 2007

MP SHPO

Looking north

#1 of 2



SM-67

Methodist Meeting House Site and Cemetery

25550 Point Lookout Road (MD 5)

Saint Mary's County, Maryland

EHT Traceries, Inc.

October 2007

MD SHPO

Looking west

#2 of 2

STMA-67

ARCHEOLOGICAL SITE

METHODIST MEETING HOUSE CHURCH SITE & CEMETERY

LEONARDTOWN

1828

Jefferson Street (MD 5)

Leonardtwn Quad

This small, attractively maintained cemetery is situated on the north side of Maryland Route 5, near the entrance to Buena Vista (STMA-52). On May 20, 1828, the property was deeded to the Methodist Episcopal Church as a site for the erection of a church on the St. Mary's Circuit. The site had both a church and cemetery until the construction of Wesley Chapel in 1847 in the center of Leonardtown village. Since that date, "Meeting House Hill" has been used as the parish cemetery. The oldest extant gravestone dates from 1832.

DR

SH-67

Methodist
Meeting House
Church site &
Cemetery



(HOLLYWOOD) 5660 / SE
4242
4241
4240
17'30"
4239
REDGATE 3 MI.
ST. MARYS CITY 14 MI.
4238
4237000m N.
1.5 MI. TO MD 5

LEONARDTOWN
QUAD



SM-67

Methodist Meeting House (site) $\frac{1}{1}$ Cemetery

St. Mary's County, Md

Kirk Ranzetta

Md SHPO

Nov/99

Looking NW

1 of 1