

Capsule Summary
SM-866
Bethel Church Cemetery
Budds Creek
Private

circa 1820-1960s

This 2.75 acre cemetery, called the Bethel Church Cemetery, is all that remains from a small Methodist community that had its origins in the early nineteenth century. In 1820, the lot containing the present cemetery was purchased by Methodist congregants who desired a place to worship in the northern end of St. Mary's County near present day Budds Creek, Maryland. At least three different church buildings occupied the lot between the 1820s and 1960s. The last church, constructed in 1892, was demolished after the congregation was joined with a Charles County church in the 1940s (Methodist Churches, 8, 15). The cemetery contains headstones that range in date from the nineteenth to the twentieth centuries. Most of the markers are modest although at least two obelisk monuments and a table tomb are presently visible.

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. SM-866

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Bethel Church Cemetery

other _____

2. Location

street and number S side of Bethel Church Rd, just E of its int. w/Thompsons Corner Rd. not for publication

city, town Budds Creek x vicinity

county St. Mary's

3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name United Methodist Church Inc. Trustees for La Plata RFD

street and number _____ telephone N/a

city, town Mechanicsville state Md zip code 20659

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. St. Mary's County Courthouse tax map and parcel TM-11, P-15

city, town Leonardtown liber 72 folio 343

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- Contributing Resource in National Register District
 Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
 Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
 Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
 Recorded by HABS/HAER
 Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
 Other: _____

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function		Resource Count	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	<u>1</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion	<u> </u>	<input type="checkbox"/> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input type="checkbox"/> domestic	<input type="checkbox"/> social	<u> </u>	<input type="checkbox"/> structures
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	<u>1</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> objects
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> funerary	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<u> </u>	<input type="checkbox"/> Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> unknown		
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use		
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> other:		
				Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory	
				<u>0</u>	

7. Description

Inventory No. SM-866

Condition

excellent deteriorated
 good ruins
 fair altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Bethel Church Cemetery is located on the south side of Bethel Church Road just east of its intersection with Thompsons Corner Road in the vicinity of Budds Creek, Maryland. With a majority of the stones oriented on an east/west axis, the cemetery lot is characterized by a number of headstones, a few obelisk monuments, and at least one table tomb. The graves range in date from the nineteenth to the twentieth centuries. The lot consists of 2.75 acres and once included the church that has since been demolished. The property is flat and is presently surrounded on three sides by agricultural fields. A few mature trees shade the graves, but the plot is largely overgrown with grass.

8. Significance

Inventory No. SM-866

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

Specific dates

Architect/Builder

Construction dates

Evaluation for:

National Register

Maryland Register

not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

This 2.75 acre cemetery, called the Bethel Church Cemetery, is all that remains from a small Methodist community that had its origins in the early nineteenth century. In 1820, the lot containing the present cemetery was purchased by Methodist congregants who desired a place to worship in the northern end of St. Mary's County near present day Budds Creek, Maryland. At least three different church buildings occupied the lot between the 1820s and 1960s. The last church, constructed in 1892, was demolished after the congregation was joined with a Charles County church in the 1940s (Methodist Churches, 8, 15). The cemetery contains headstones that range in date from the nineteenth to the twentieth centuries. Most of the markers are modest although at least two obelisk monuments and a table tomb are presently visible.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. SM-866

Hammett, Regina Combs. History of St. Mary's County, Maryland: 1634-1990. Ridge, Md: Self-published, 1994.

N.a. A History of Methodist Churches in St. Mary's County, Maryland. Leonardtown, Md: Printing Press, 1984.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 2.75 acres
Acreage of historical setting same
Quadrangle name Charlotte Hall Quadrangle scale: 1:24 000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The property is bounded to the east, south, and west by agricultural fields and to the north by Bethel Church Road. A more specific description of the properties boundaries can be found in St. Mary's County Land Records Liber 72, Folio 343.

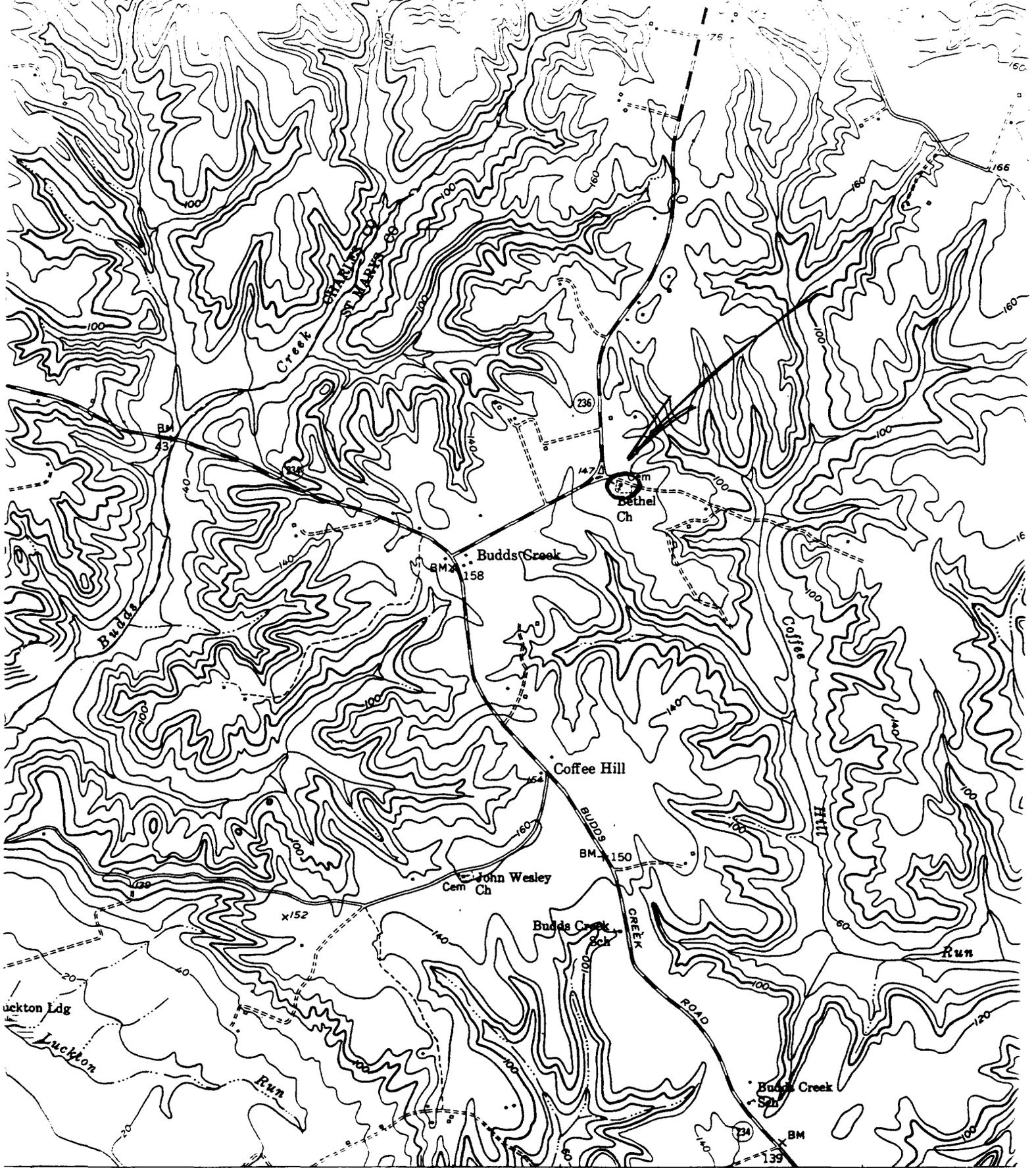
11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Kirk E. Ranzetta, Historic Sites Surveyor		
organization	St. Mary's County Department of Planning & Zoning	date	August, 2000
street & number	22740 Washington Street	telephone	301-475-4662
city or town	Leonardtown	state	Maryland

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties 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
 DHCD/DHCP
 100 Community Place
 Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
 410-514-7600



y
 y
 otographs

MN
 GN

1 1/2 1
 1000 0 11
 1 1/2 1

SM-866
 Bethel Church Cemetery
 Budds Creek
 St. Mary's County
 Charlotte Hall Quad

BACK POINT
 139
 140
 141
 142

338 339 340 341

CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET



SM-866

Bethel Church Cemetery

St. Mary's County

Kirk Ranzetta

Sept/00

MJ SHP

Looking W

1 of 1