

T-478

1882

St. Luke's Methodist Episcopal Church
Bellevue
Private

St. Luke's Methodist church is one of the most significant sites in Bellevue. Not only is it one of the oldest structures standing in the community, but it has survived relatively intact. Dated by the cornerstone to 1882, the church is similar to many black churches in Talbot County with its asymmetrical design and modest references to the Gothic Revival style. A pointed arch entrance, pointed arch colored glass windows, and the broach spire comprise the most significant exterior features.

Local oral tradition relates that the St. Lukes Methodist congregation was formed from two separate groups worshipping on Deep and Ferry Necks during the second half of the nineteenth century. A "Col'd M. E. Ch" is designated along the Ferry Neck Road on the 1877 atlas map of the St. Michaels district. Evidently, within a few years after the publication of the atlas the congregation decided to relocate in the new community of Bellevue. A formal deed was written between William S. Dawson and St. Luke's M. E. Church on April 4, 1903, for the Poplar Avenue property on which the church stood.(140/407)

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic ST. LUKE'S METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHAPEL

and/or common St. Luke's Methodist Church

2. Location

street & number Poplar Avenue ___ not for publication

city, town Bellevue ___ vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Talbot

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 Trustees of St. Luke's Methodist Church

street & number c/o Reverend Joseph A. Hurley telephone no.:

city, town Royal Oak state and zip code MD 21662

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Talbot County Clerk of Court liber 140

street & number Talbot County Courthouse folio 407

city, town Easton state MD 21601

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Maryland Historic Sites Inventory

date federal state county local

depository for survey records Maryland Historical Trust

city, town Annapolis state MD 21401

7. Description

Survey No. T-478

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.

St. Luke's Methodist Church is located in the center of Bellevue, Talbot County, Maryland. The single-story frame church faces southeast with the principal gable roof oriented on a northwest/southeast axis.

Dated by a cornerstone to 1882, the single-story, gable-front frame church is supported by an infilled brick pier foundation, and the building is sheathed with a layer of German siding. The steeply pitched roof is covered with asphalt shingles. Attached to the southwest corner of the church is a three-story entrance and bell tower topped by a broach spire. Extending from the southwest side of the church is a congregational hall erected during the past twenty years.

The southeast (main) elevation is an asymmetrical three-bay facade with three pointed arch colored glass windows piercing the gable front elevation. A round colored glass window marks the upper gable. The eaves to the roof are slightly extended beyond the wall surface and the ends of the exposed rafters are decorated. Fixed in the southeast corner of the foundation is the cornerstone with the inscription, "St. Luke M. E. Chapel, 1882." The southeast face of the tower is marked by a double door pointed arch entrance with a colored glass transom. The front doors have been replaced. The second level is undefined, whereas the tower tapers just below the belfry. The belfry walls are enclosed with closely set louvers. Brackets, fixed under the tower eaves, support the flared base of the tower. The top of the steeple is fitted with a metal finial.

The northeast and southwest sides are marked by series of pointed arch colored glass windows. A patch in the roof on the southwest side indicates the former location of an interior side brick stove chimney. A handicapped access ramp has been added to the southside with access through the back of the tower.

Covering the northwest gable (back) end of the main church is a hip roofed apse addition supported on a concrete block foundation. Pointed arch colored glass windows define each side. The concrete block congregational hall extends from the southwest side of the apse.

The sanctuary has been remodeled with the addition of sheet paneling, but several features including the turned baluster altar rail and the period pews are significant nineteenth century features. The choir is located behind the altar on a slightly higher level.

8. Significance

Survey No. T-478

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1882 **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.

St. Luke's Methodist church is one of the most significant sites in Bellevue. Not only is it one of the oldest structures standing in the community, but it has survived relatively intact. Dated by the cornerstone to 1882, the church is similar to many black churches in Talbot County with its asymmetrical design and modest references to the Gothic Revival style. A pointed arch entrance, pointed arch colored glass windows, and the broach spire comprise the most significant exterior features.

Local oral tradition relates that the St. Lukes Methodist congregation was formed from two separate groups worshipping on Deep and Ferry Necks during the second half of the nineteenth century. A "Col'd M. E. Ch" is designated along the Ferry Neck Road on the 1877 atlas map of the St. Michaels district. Evidently, within a few years after the publication of the atlas the congregation decided to relocate in the new community of Bellevue. A formal deed was written between William S. Dawson and St. Luke's M. E. Church on April 4, 1903 for the Poplar Avenue property on which the church stood.(140/407)

T-478
ST. LUKE'S METHODIST CHURCH
Bellevue

140/407

William S. Dawson
Lutie D. Dawson

to

4/4/1903

St. Luke's M. E. Church

situate, lying and being in the 2nd
election district of Talbot Co., MD
in the village or hamlet of Bellevue
on Poplar Avenue bounded by the lands
of William S. Dawson...together with
the buildings...

Talbot - 478
St. Luke's U.M. Church
Front St.
Bellevue, MD

1879

St. Luke's U.M. Church stands 15' from the west side of Front St. in Bellevue overlooking the Tred Avon River. The Church faces east and can be described as a late Victorian structure. The church measures 36' across the front facade and is 52' in depth. The present St. Luke's U.M. Church was built in 1886. It is the only church in the community which is populated by black watermen and their families. Bellevue is the western terminal of the Oxford - Bellevue Ferry; the oldest Ferry route in Maryland.

HISTORIC CONTEXT INFORMATION

Resource Name: St. Luke's Methodist Church

MHT Inventory Number: T- 478

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA:

- 1) Historic Period Theme(s): ARCHITECTURE
RELIGION
- 2) Geographic Orientation: EASTERN SHORE
- 3) Chronological/Developmental Period(s):
INDUSTRIAL - URBAN DOMINANCE
1870 - 1930
- 4) Resource Type(s):
CHURCH

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC St. Luke's United Methodist Church
AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER Front Street

CITY, TOWN Bellevue

___ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT First

STATE Maryland

COUNTY Talbot

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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Trustees, St. Luke's U.M. Church
C/O Gonzalee Matthews

Telephone #: 822-8654

STREET & NUMBER Dover Rd.

CITY, TOWN Easton

___ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code
MD 21601

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Talbot County Court House

Liber #: JCN 23
Folio #: 430

STREET & NUMBER Court Street

CITY, TOWN Easton

STATE Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE N/A

DATE

___ FEDERAL ___ STATE ___ COUNTY ___ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT DETERIORATED
 GOOD RUINS
 FAIR UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE 1879

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

St. Luke's U.M. Church stand 15' from the west side of Front St. in Bellevue. It commands a beautiful view of the Tred Avon River . The church faced east and can be described as late Victorian. The front facade measures 36' and the church is 52' in length. There is a short tower at the southeast corner capped by a latticed belfry with a short graceful spire atop. The entrance is at the front of the tower..four brick steps leading to double hollow doors (recent). There is an arc above the door with three panes of colored glass (blue). The gabled building (East-West) has three 2-over-2 lancet windows in the front facade (blue glass, as are all of the windows). These windows are 6' in height. Four of these 6' lancet windows are found on the north side and again on the south side of the structure. The building is made of weatherboard and painted white. The front door is red and the roof is asphalt composite shingled. There is an addition on the southwest side of the building that serves as a church hall and Sunday School.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

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 checked="" 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 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 1879 BUILDER/ARCHITECT _____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The present St. Luke's U.M. Church was built in 1886. It is the only church in Bellevue. Bellevue is a black community and the western terminal of the Oxford-Bellvue Ferry, the oldest Ferry route in Maryland. The village is a black waterman's community. These people have engaged in Bay commercial fishing since before the Civil War. The church is the social, cultural and religious center of Bellevue.

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 St.

TELEPHONE

269-2893

CITY OR TOWN

Annapolis

STATE

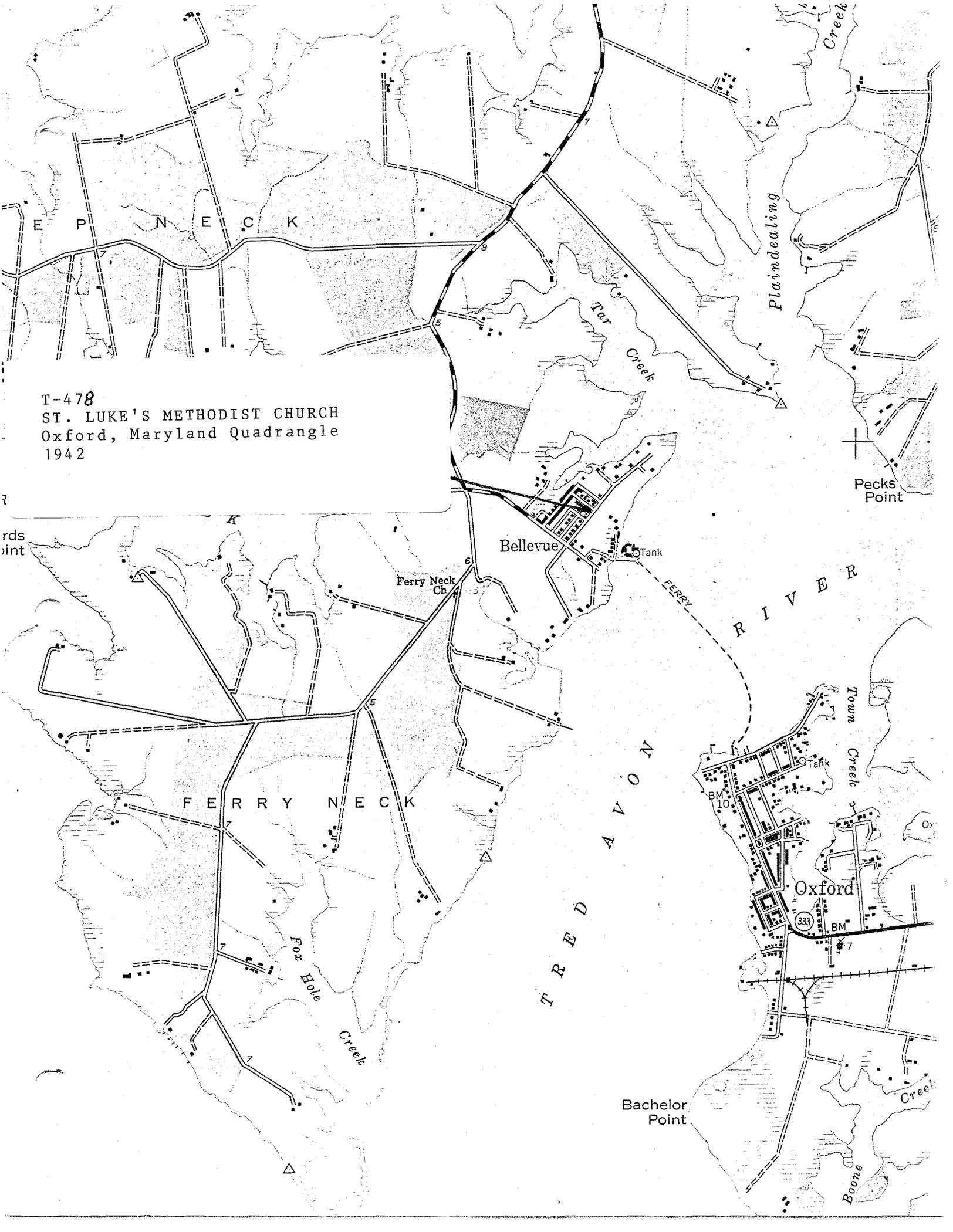
Maryland

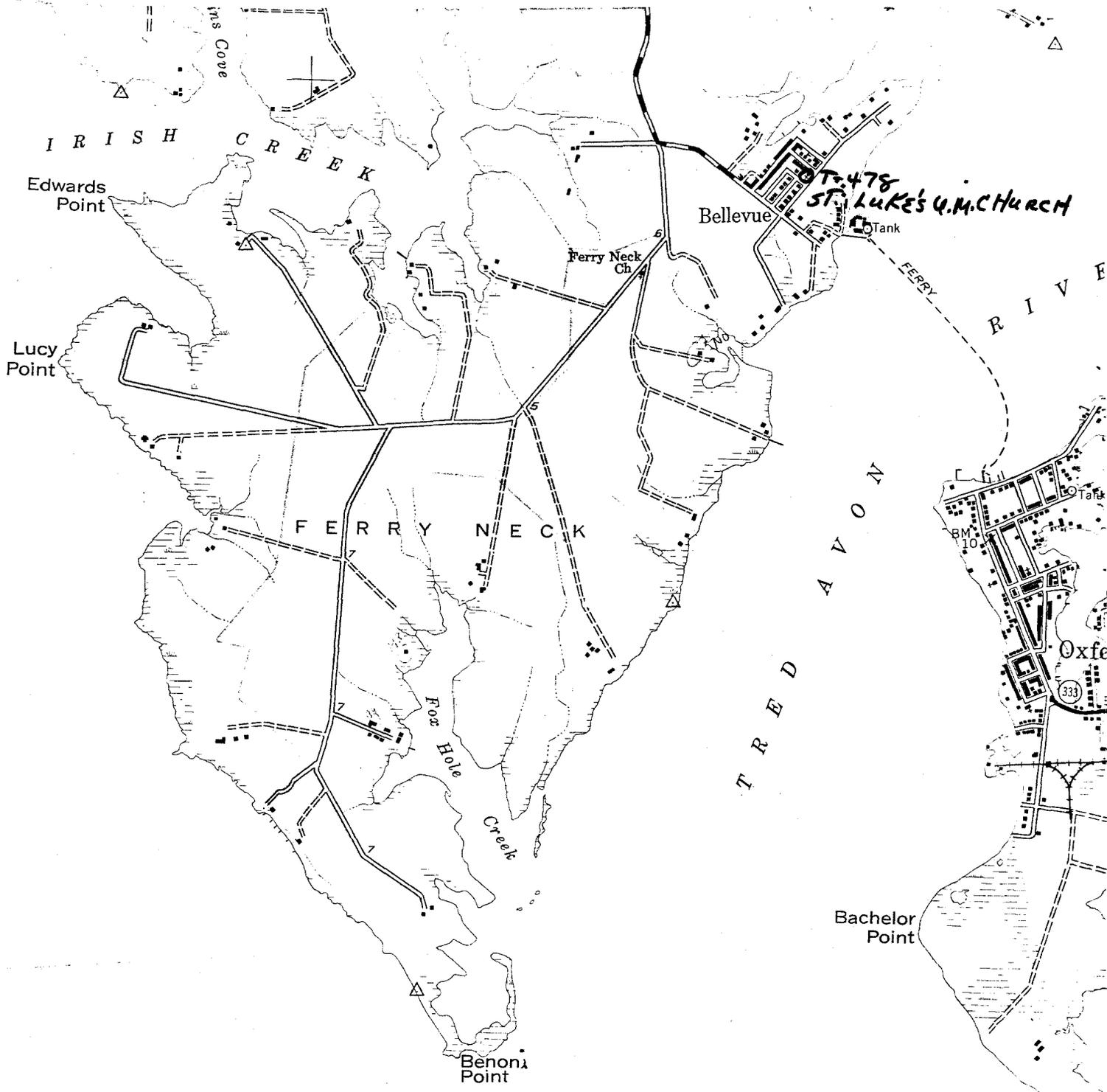
The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

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

T-478
ST. LUKE'S METHODIST CHURCH
Oxford, Maryland Quadrangle
1942





△Light

C
H

OXFORD



T-478

St. Luke's M. E. Church

Bellevue, Talbot County, Maryland

Southwest elevation

5/90, Paul Touart, photographer

Negative/Md Historical Trust



T-478

ST. LUKE'S METHODIST CHURCH

Bellevue, Talbot County, Maryland

Southeast elevation

4/90, Paul Touart, photographer

Negative/MD Historical Trust



T-478

ST. LUKE'S METHODIST CHURCH

Bellevue, Talbot County, Maryland

Southwest elevation

4/90, Paul Touart, photographer

Negative/MD Historical Trust



T-478

ST. LUKE'S M. E. CHURCH

Bellevue, Talbot County, Maryland

Interior

4/90, Paul Touart, photographer

Negative/Md Historical Trust



St. Luke's United Methodist Church
Bellevue, Talbot County, MD
Michael Hosford

T-478

Maryland Historical Trust, Annapolis, MD
Southeast elevation
1/79



478

10 x 1.80

68%

St. Luke's United Methodist Church
Bellevue, Talbot County, MD
Michael Hosford

T-478

Maryland Historical Trust, Annapolis, MD
East elevation
1/79