

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
'HISTORIC PROPERTIES'

Survey No. T-926

Magi No.

DOE ___yes ___no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Harmony M.E.Church

and/or common Royal Oak Community Church

2. Location

street & number Bellevue Road _____ not for publication

city, town Royal Oak _____ vicinity of _____ congressional district 2

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 Harmony Methodist Church

street & number _____ telephone no.:

city, town Royal Oak _____ state and zip code Md 21662

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Talbot County Courthouse _____ liber 107

street & number _____ folio 100

city, town Easton _____ state MD

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title _____

date _____ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

repository for survey records _____

city, town _____ state _____

7. Description

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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.

The Royal Oak Community Church is located on the west side of Bellevue (Ferryneck) Road in Royal Oak, Talbot County, Maryland. The church faces east with the principle gable oriented on an east/west axis.

Built by 1877, this two-story, frame structure is sheathed in white, wood grain, german vinyl siding. The roof is covered with asphalt shingles and the foundation is brick.

The east (main) elevation is a gable end with a boxed cornice and cornice returns. This facade is lit by a large, gothic, colored glass window as its central bay flanked on either side by a smaller one-over-one sash, colored glass window. The upper story of this elevation is pierced by a round, colored glass window. To the south of this facade stands a slightly projecting two-story bell tower. The first floor of this tower is pierced by a set of two red two-light over two-panel doors. This entrance door has a gothic transom window of colored glass which reads "Methodist Community Church." This square bell tower is pierced on each side at the second story by a gothic window cut-out with a square baluster. The tower has a heavy italiante roof overhang with decorative brackets and is capped by a gracefully tapered steeple roof with a metal finial and cross.

The south elevation is lit by three rectangular one-over-one sash colored glass windows with narrow surrounds. The heavy roof overhang of this elevation is finished with decorative brackets. The south side of the bell tower is lit by one gothic one-over-one sash colored window with wide surrounds. A modern, gable roof, one-and-a-half story addition extends to the west. This addition is lit by seven one-over-one sash windows and one six-over-six sash window. Three six-panel doors pierce this elevation. The upper half story is lit by three gable roof dormers with one-over-one sash windows.

The west elevation has a central, red, six-panel door. The first floor of this gable end is lit by three one-over-one sash windows. The upper half story is lit by two one-over-one sash windows.

The north elevation of the church's main body is lit by three rectangular, one-over-one sash, colored glass windows with narrow surrounds. The modern, two-story, gable roof addition which extends to the west is lit by one six-over-six sash window and four one-over-one sash

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 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 **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.

Bernice Leonard writes about this property in Twig and Turf III. The Royal Oak Community Church began as the "Harmony Methodist Episcopal Church South" sometime after the Civil War when a rift in the Methodist congregation lead to a split between Methodists with northern and southern sympathies. In 1866 the Trustees of this church had acquired property in Royal Oak from Thomas Bruff Leonard and P. T. Pastorfield as the site for their new church. By 1877 the church building was in place.

In 1898 a Sunday School room was added onto the rear of the church. Further changes were made in 1911 and in 1929 a second addition was made to the Sunday School room on land donated by Catherine T. and Olin A. Leonard. In 1940 the Methodist Church North, the Methodist Church South and the Methodist Protestant Churches joined to become a single body. At that time the name of the church was changed to "The Royal Oak Community Church" which became a member of the Peninsula Conference. Between 1950 and 1960 further additions were made onto the Sunday School room which included a modern kitchen used for the annual church suppers.

Despite ongoing improvements made to the church over the years, by 1990 the building was suffering from serious structural problems. The church then began a large scale renovation program which is practically complete today. This renovation included the stabilization of the existing structure and the addition of a one-and-a-half story structure on the rear of the church which enveloped the one-story standing structures there.

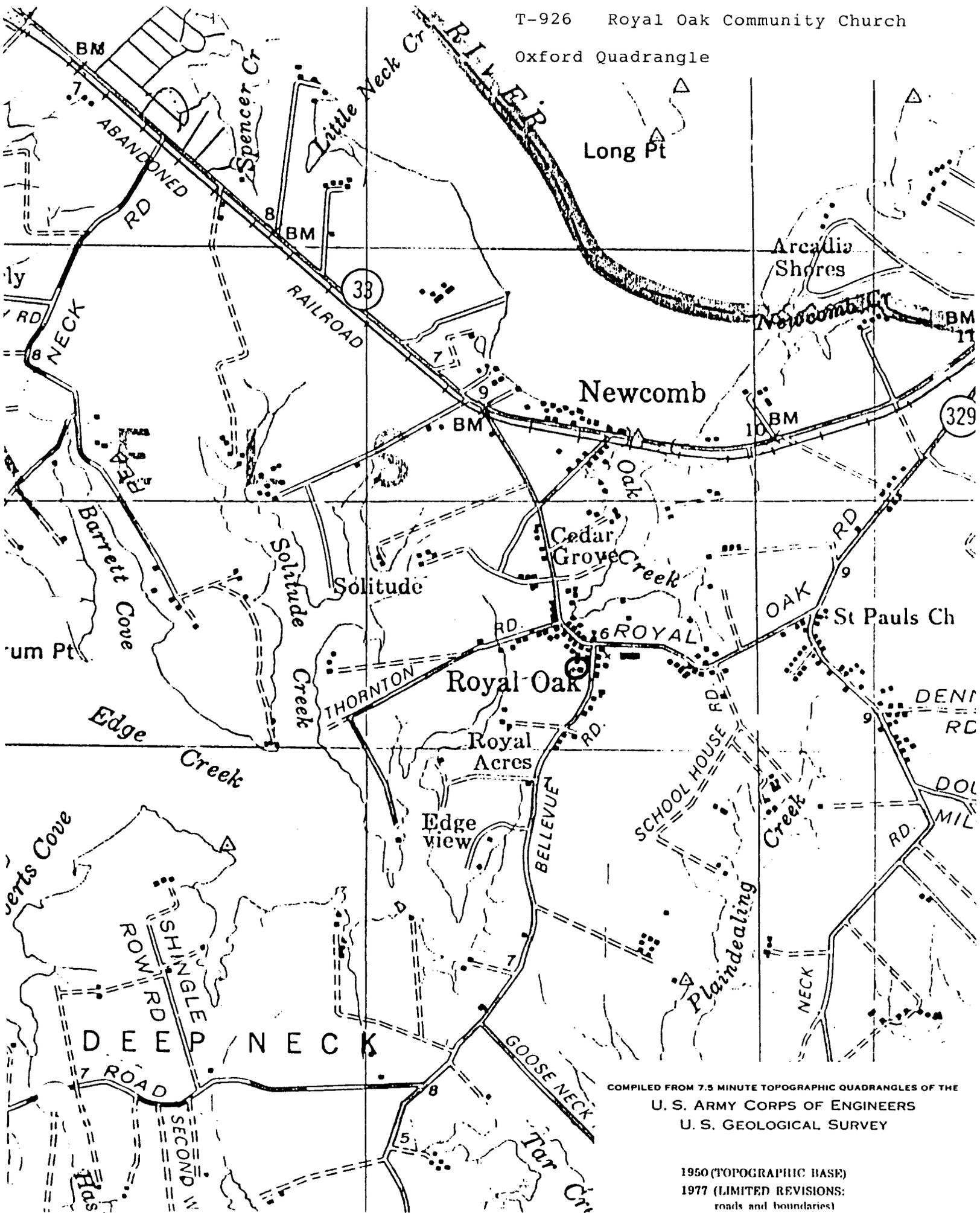
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Royal Oak Community Church Description cont'd.

windows and is pierced by two six-panel entrance doors. A one-story projection extends to the north from the center of the addition lit on the north side by two one-over-one sash windows, on the east side by one one-over-one sash window, and on the west end by a nine-light over four-panel door.

The interior of the sanctuary has carved wooden pews, a pressed tin ceiling, and pressed tin walls. The wood altar rail is said to be original to the church.

A white, gable roof outbuilding clad in vertical wood siding and roofed with asphalt shingles stands on the church property. Although this structure has no windows, it has two garage doors.



COMPILED FROM 7.5 MINUTE TOPOGRAPHIC QUADRANGLES OF THE
 U. S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
 U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

1950 (TOPOGRAPHIC BASE)

1977 (LIMITED REVISIONS:

roads and boundaries)



T-926

ROYAL OAK COMMUNITY CHURCH

SE ELEVATION