

SITE NUMBER: WA-II-932

ADDRESS: Between 27 and 35 Potomac Street, Boonsboro, MD

OWNER/LOT NUMBER/ACCESS: Trinity Reformed United Church of Christ

BUILDING DATE: 1870

This is a south-facing, vertically massed, two-story, three-bay, brick, freestanding, ecclesiastical structure. The German Gothic Revival building is set slightly back from the public-right-of-way, rests on a stone foundation, and is laid in a running bond. The architectural elements of the generally flat facade are articulated in brick through the use of corbelling. The center bay projects slightly from the facade and holds the principal entrance and the bell tower. The entrance is approached from the street by a sidewalk that ends in a marble stoop. The entry is composed of a set of heavy, six-panel double-doors set into a round arch. Windows are tall, round-arched, with one in each bay on the front facade. The first floor windows on the front facade are double-hung, six-over-six sash, above those are double-hung, 15-over-15 sash windows. The two-story bell tower has a pair of round-arched windows at each level. The side-gable roof is covered with tin. The cornerstone reads: Trinity Reformed Church, August the 20th 1870, The Lord is in his Holy Temple, Psalm 11:4; Jackson & Stouffer, arch. Mt. Pleasant, Maryland." There is cemetery directly behind the church that is believed to hold the remains of the Boone family.

The church is noted on the 1877 map of Boonsboro as the Trinity Reformed Church and Cemetery. The 1910 and 1924 Sanborns both note the building as the Trinity Reformed Church and indicate that the structure was heated by a furnace, had electric lights, and was 24' to the eaves. The 1940 Sanborn indicates that the

church was heated by steam radiators.

The building is within the Western Maryland Geographic Organization, the Development Period of Agricultural-Industrial Transition, and falls within the Historic Period Themes of Religion; and Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Community Planning.

See Maryland Historic Sites Inventory Form for additional information.

Prepared by Julianne Mueller, July 1992

CONTINUATION SHEET
7. DESCRIPTION

SURVEY NO. WA-II-932

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN:

STATEWIDE HISTORIC CONTEXT

Geographic Organization: Western Maryland

Chronological/Development Periods: Agricultural-Industrial
Transition

Historic Period Theme: Religion; and Architecture, Landscape
Architecture, and Community Planning

Resource Type:

Category: building

Historic Environment: small, rural town

Historic Function and Use: church

Known Design Source: Jackson & Stouffer, architects

**Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form**

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. WA-II-932

Magi No.

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Trinity Evangelical and Reformed Church (United Church of Christ)

and/or common

2. Location

street & number Between 27 and 35 Potomac Street not for publication

city, town Boonsboro vicinity of congressional district

state Maryland county Washington

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 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 As Above

street & number telephone no.:

city, town Boonsboro state and zip code MD 21713

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Washington County Courthouse liber

street & number Summit Ave. & W. Washington St. folio

city, town Hagerstown state MD

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Survey of Boonsboro

date October 1991 - August 1992 federal state county local

depository for survey records Maryland Historical Trust

city, town Crownsville, MD state

7. Description

Survey No. WA-II-932

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site of building, but not congregation
 moved date of move _____

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

See attached

8. Significance

Survey No. WA-II-932

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/ 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 1870 **Builder/Architect** Stouffer & Jackson or Gettier

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.

See attached

The Setting

Trinity Evangelical and Reformed Church (United Church of Christ) is sited on the north side of Potomac Street located in Washington County in Boonsboro. Potomac Street is one of the town's principal thoroughfares and is the road leading to Keedysville and Sharpsburg. The street is lined with 19th century houses set at the public-right-of-way. The church, which is set back from the street is one of the only non-residential structures on the street. Its tall bell tower provides Boonsboro with one of its few visual landmarks that can be seen from a distance.

The church property also includes a cemetery at the back of the church. The tombstones pre-date the construction of the extant structure. Graves include members of the town's founding family, the Boones, as well as other prominent Boonsboro families.

The Exterior

The Trinity Reformed Church is a south-facing, vertically massed, two-story, three-bay, brick, freestanding, ecclesiastical structure. The German Gothic Revival building is set slightly back from the public-right-of-way, rests on a stone foundation, and is laid in a running bond. The architectural elements of the generally flat facade are articulated in brick through the use of corbelling. The center bay projects slightly from the facade and holds the principal entrance and the bell tower. The entrance is approached from the street by a sidewalk that ends in a marble stoop. The entry is composed of a set of heavy, six-panel double-doors set into a round arch. Windows are tall, round-arched, with one in each bay on the front facade. The first floor windows on the front facade are double-hung, six-over-six sash, above those are double-hung, 15-over-15 sash windows. The two-story bell tower has a pair of round-arched windows at each level. The side-gable roof is covered with tin. The cornerstone reads: Trinity Reformed Church, August the 20th 1870, The Lord is in his Holy Temple, Psalm 11:4; Jackson & Stouffer, arch. Mt. Pleasant, Maryland."

The Interior

The interior is divided into two stories. Upon entering the building, there are sets of stairs to the right and left which lead to the second floor where the sanctuary is located. On the ground floor, below the sanctuary is a large assembly room that is used for Sunday School and meeting purposes. The room can be divided into smaller areas through the use of sliding partition walls. The space has been extensively remodeled and has dropped ceilings. There is a large kitchen addition to the west at the back of the room. Aside from the assembly room and the kitchen, there is a restroom under the east set of stairs, and a small room under the west set. There are secondary doors leading outside at either end of the entry hall.

The stairs turn at a landing. Upon arriving to the second floor

there is a hall which leads into the sanctuary. Entry into this space is through a set of swinging double doors that lead to the center aisle, or through single doors that flank the double doors. These lead down the side aisles. All doors are padded with leather that is kept in place by brass tacks. The sanctuary is laid out with seating in two V-shaped rows of pews. The altar is slightly raised. The apse is round-arched and slightly recessed to create a niche. The choir is seated to the east of the altar and an organ is located in the northeast corner of the space. The organ was originally a pump organ and there is a closet immediately behind it where the pump was located. The walls of the sanctuary are plastered and painted with the four evangelists--one in each corner. A balcony or gallery is located at the back of the church. It is reached by a set of stairs in the hallway. A door at the back of the gallery leads up into the bell tower.

8. SIGNIFICANCE

Although the exact date of the founding of the Trinity Reformed Church congregation is not known, it is believed to have been established sometime between 1750 and 1770. The first church was of log construction and was located about one-half mile north of Boonsboro.

The site of the second was purchased in January 1789 from Peter John by Conrad Nicodemus and Michael Thomas, wardens of the church (Liber F, Folios 83 and 84). The site already contained a graveyard that had been established by the church. However, it was not until after 1802 that a decision was made to build a third church on what is the site of the extant building. The Lutheran and Reformed congregations joined together to build the new structure. A lottery was held to raise funds and, upon the collection of \$2800, the construction of a limestone structure was commenced on the site of the extant church. The lot was acquired and deeded to the Reformed and Lutheran Congregations, possibly by the Boone family. The new church, completed in 1810, had a tall spire and round-arched windows on the front of the building and rectangular windows on the side to appease to factions within the congregation who could not agree on what shape the windows should take. The church was consecrated and became known as the Stone Church. In 1812, a bell was imported from England at the cost of \$400 and was placed in the belfry.

By 1859, the Lutheran and Reformed congregations had outgrown its church and decided to construct a larger edifice. However, the Civil War interrupted their plans. As with many churches, this one served as a hospital during nearby battles such as at Antietam and South Mountain.

Following the war, the Reformed congregation renewed their decision to build a new church and purchased the Lutheran's share of the interest in the church.

According to Sharf's History of Western Maryland and to a history of the church (which may have been based on Sharf or on church records, it is not known), the congregation retained John L. Gettier of Baltimore to design the new building in 1870. The stone church was demolished in 1870 and cornerstone-laying ceremonies were held that same summer. The cornerstone is believed to contain papers on the early history of Boonsboro, its founders, and the original stone church. In addition, a list of the donors, contractors, masons, and carpenters was included. It should be noted that the cornerstone does not bear the name of Gettier, but, rather lists Jackson & Stouffer of Mount Pleasant, Maryland as the architects.

The extant church building was designed to seat five- to six-hundred worshipers in the chapel and three-hundred students in the Sunday School assembly room on the ground floor. The contractor was William Brashears of Sharpsburg, who completed the construction

of the building for \$14,100. Memorial windows were privately purchased from Brownholtz and Aiskin, a Philadelphia firm. At the time of its dedication on May 14, 1871 it had a spire topped by a cross--neither are extant today.

In 1908, the auditorium of the church was remodeled and refurnished at a cost of \$4,200. The refurnishing included two manual organs, a walnut altar and reredos, a walnut lectern, pulpit stalls, several new Bibles, altar cloths, and cathedral windows. The entrance doors to the auditorium were covered in leather. Electricity was installed and with it appropriate lighting fixtures such as wall sconces and a 40-lamp chandelier. A new heating system was also installed. The new heating and lighting systems are noted on the 1910 Sanborn map of Boonsboro. A new standing seam metal roof was put on the church in 1913.

A second major renovation program took place in 1948. The exterior of the church was repaired and improved, according to the church history. The sanctuary was redecorated, a new lighting system was installed, and walnut paneling was extended across the front of the church.

During the 1950s, the Sunday School assembly room was divided into smaller rooms and the kitchen addition was built.

Significance

A preliminary evaluation of the church was made in November 1991 by Julianne Mueller during a survey of Boonsboro. At that time a survey site number WA-II-932 was assigned and it was determined that the site is a contributing element to Boonsboro's historic character. A summary sheet on the building with photographs was submitted to the Maryland Historical Trust in August 1992. The summary provides a basic description of the site and places it within the Maryland Comprehensive State Historic Preservation Plan: State Historic Context (Western Maryland Geographic Organization; the Development Period of Agricultural-Industrial Transition; the Historic Period Themes of Religion; and Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Community Planning).

Upon the suggestion of the Boonsboro Historical Society, the general history of the church was researched. It was concluded that the site is a good example of ecclesiastical architecture in Boonsboro and that the church's role in the development of the town is an important and vital one. The building qualifies for listing on the National Register as a contributing element to the overall historical character of the town, and meets eligibility Criteria A and C for listing on the Maryland Register.

Criterion A -- The property is associated with significant historical events. The church is one of the early congregations in Boonsboro and has played a significant role in the history of the town.

Criterion B -- The property is not associated with a significant person.

Criterion C -- The building exhibits exceptional architectural design, method of construction, or craftsmanship, or is the product of a trained architect. The church is an example of the Mount Pleasant, Maryland architectural firm of Jackson and Stouffer or, possibly, the Baltimore office of John Gettier. In addition, it is a good example of German Gothic Revival architecture.

Criterion D -- The property may provide important information about history or prehistory. The property has not been assessed for its archeological potential. However, the likelihood of finding objects associated with the history of the site are high in the graveyard and, possibly, under the paving of the parking lot.

9. BIBLIOGRAPHY

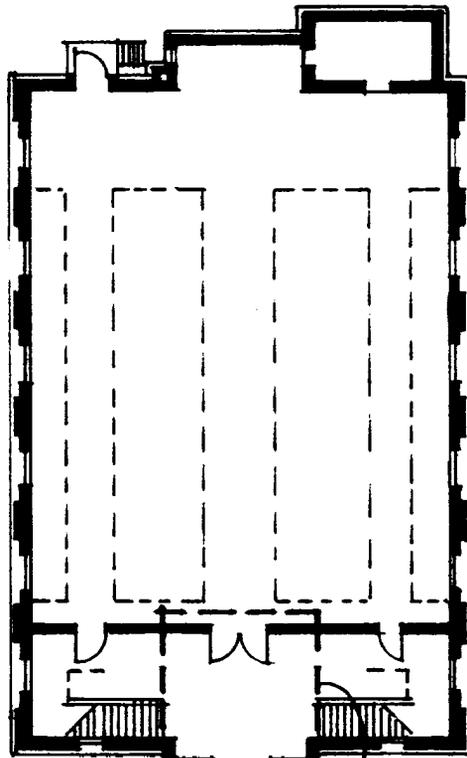
Map of Boonsboro from the 1877 Washington County Atlas.

Sanborn Map Company, maps of Boonsboro: 1897, 1904, 1910, 1924, and 1940.

Rowe, Linda and Sinnesin, Naomi. "Trinity Evangelical and Reformed Church, United Church of Christ, 225th Anniversary, 1750-1975" An uncited history of the church.

Scharf, J.T. History of Western Maryland. Philadelphia: Louis H. Everts, 1912.

Cemetery



Belfry shown
dotted

Sanctuary / Site Plan

Potomac Street



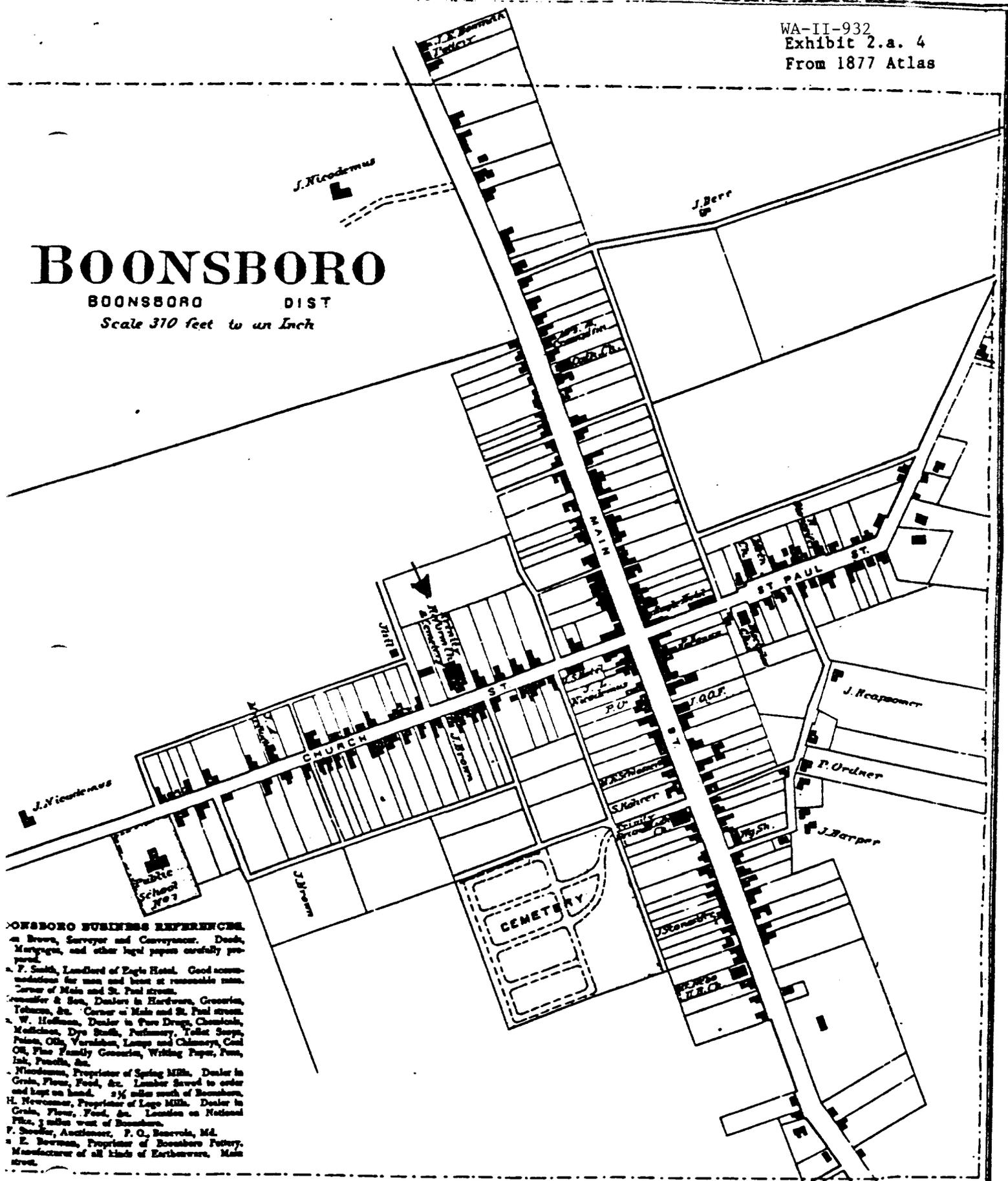
Trinity Reformed Evangelical
Church - Potomac Street
Boonsboro, Washington Co.

WA-II-932

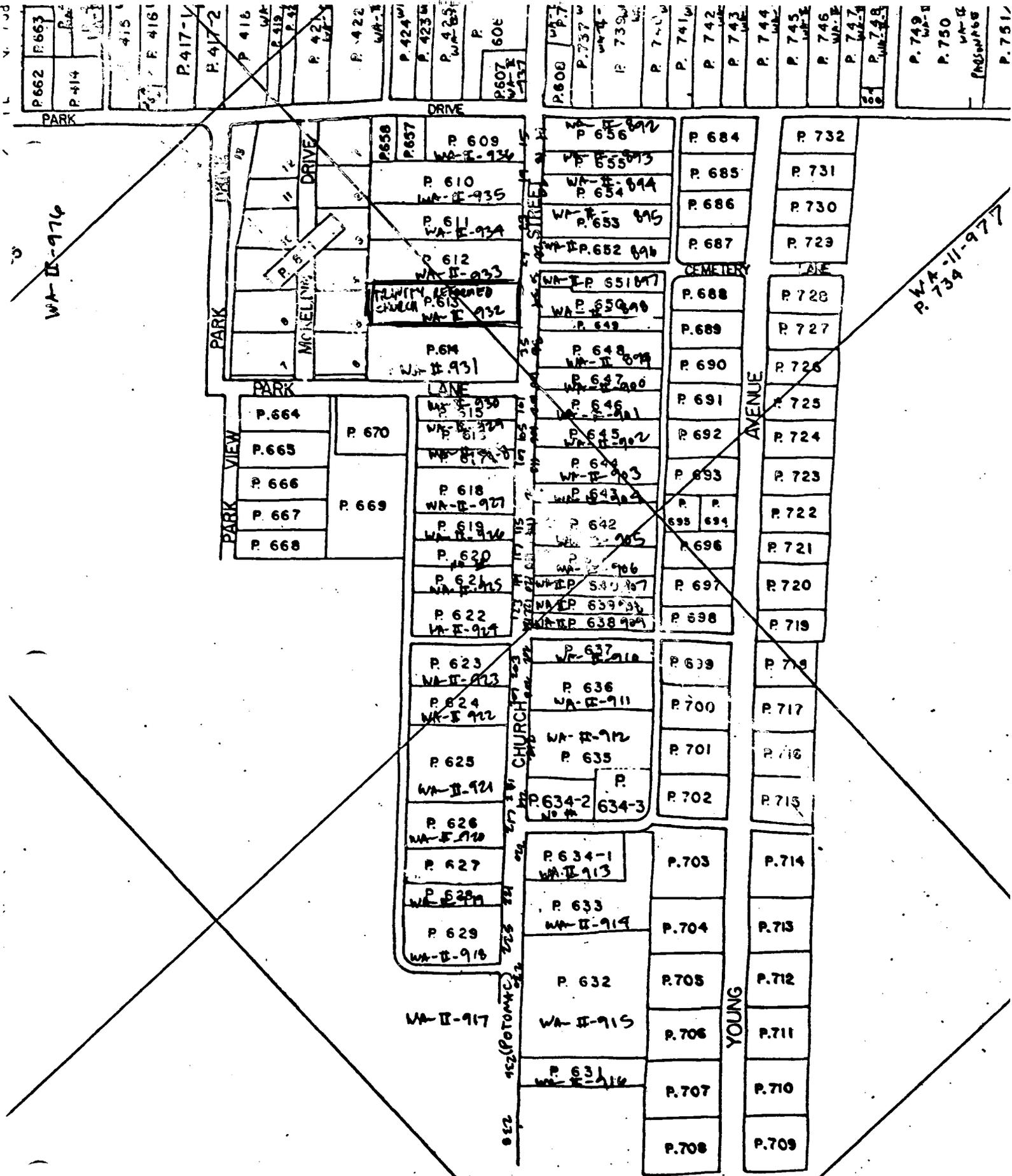
BOONSBORO

BOONSBORO DIST

Scale 370 feet to an Inch



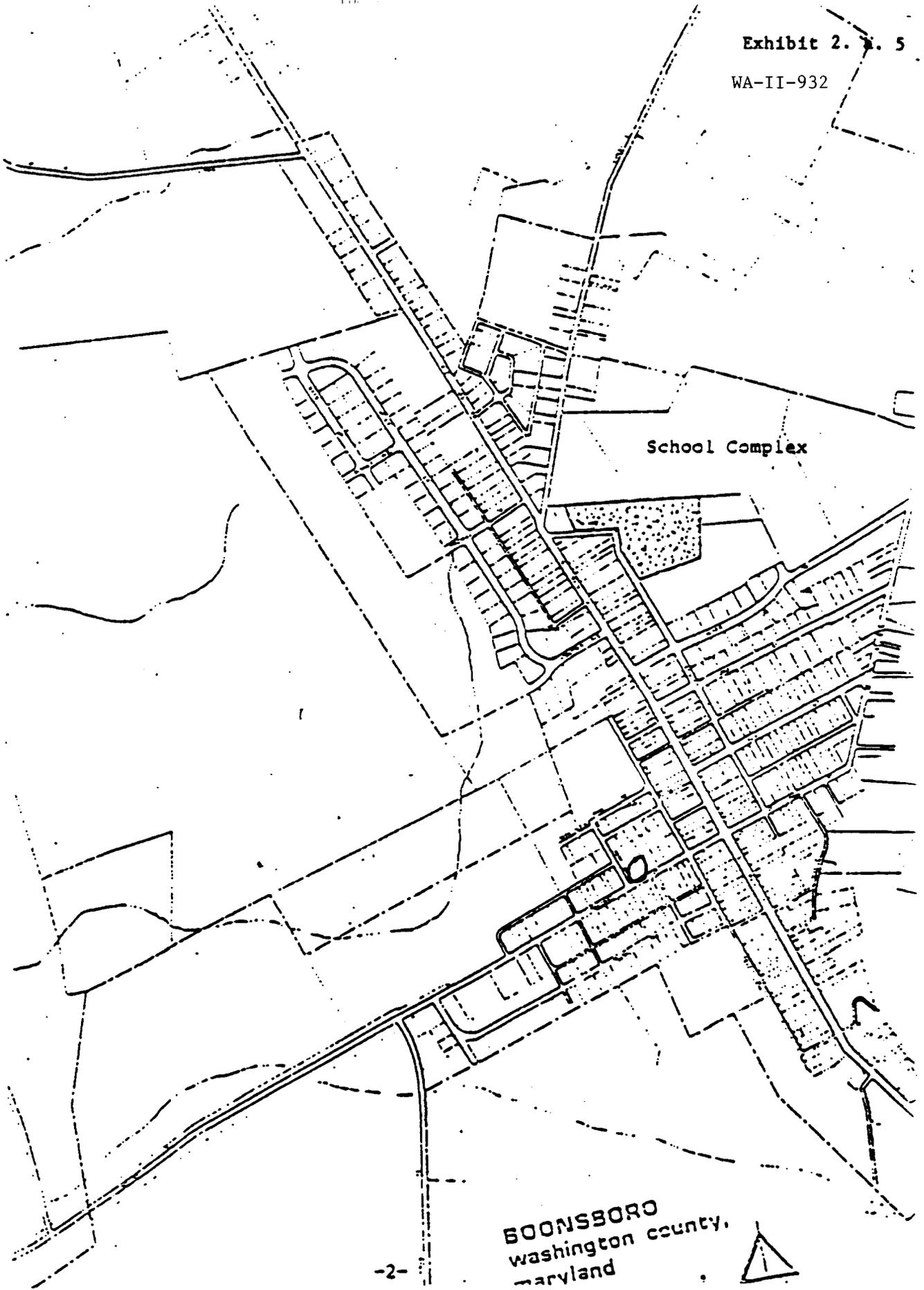
BOONSBORO BUSINESS REFERENCES.
 J. Nicodemus, Surveyor and Conveyancer. Deeds, Mortgages, and other legal papers carefully prepared.
 F. Smith, Landlord of Eagle Hotel. Good accommodations for men and best at reasonable rates. Corner of Main and St. Paul street.
 J. Reapower & Son, Dealers in Hardware, Groceries, Tobacco, &c. Corner of Main and St. Paul street.
 W. Hoffman, Dealer in Fine Drugs, Chemicals, Medicines, Dye Stuffs, Perfumery, Toilet Soaps, Paints, Oils, Varnishes, Lamps and Chimneys, Coal Oil, Fine Family Groceries, Writing Paper, Pens, Ink, Pencils, &c.
 Nicodemus, Proprietor of Spring Mills. Dealer in Grain, Flour, Feed, &c. Lumber sawed to order and kept on hand. 2 1/2 miles south of Boonsboro.
 H. Newcomer, Proprietor of Ledge Mills. Dealer in Grain, Flour, Feed, &c. Location on National Pike, 2 miles west of Boonsboro.
 F. Shaffer, Auctioneer, P. O., Beardsville, Md.
 E. Beerman, Proprietor of Boonsboro Pottery. Manufacturer of all kinds of Earthenware, Main street.



WA II-917

WA II-932

BOONSBORO
DETAIL



School Complex

BOONSBORO
Washington county,
Maryland



1. A-1111
2. NEW EVANGELICAL REFERENCE TO ALL PERSONS
3. SUBSTANCE, WASH. DC.

12/1

NEW PAPER

LOOK TO E



10
MEMBER EVANGELICAL REFORMED CHURCH OF AMERICA,
MOONSBORO, N.J.

1937
L. S. MILLER
LEWIS, S.



W.A. - 11
TRINITY EVANGELICAL REFORMED CHURCH, PHOENIX, AZ;
POONCHROO, WA. D.C.

12/31

JULIE MUELLER
LOOKING IN

CEMETERY 3000 E. ...



VIA - I - 1942
TRINITY EVANGELICAL REFORMED CHURCH POTSDAM, NY
BOOKERLY WASH DC

IS 91

WILE MUELLER

LOOKING SE



WA - II - 927.

BETWEEN S AND 35 HATOMAC ST, BOONSPARK, WASH. CO.
TRINITY REFORMED UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

12/71

JULIE MUELLER

LOOKING N.W.