

WI-392  
Charity M. P. Church  
Salisbury vicinity  
Public worship

1897

Historically known as the "Jersey Road," this north-south rural road was once a principal route between the west side of Salisbury and the small mill communities located along the feeder creeks of the Wicomico River. The feeder stream from the northwest, known as Little Burnt Branch, sponsored a saw mill operation during the fourth quarter of the nineteenth century. A small rural community known as Charity developed in an around this saw mill as well as the rural crossroads defined by what is known currently as Naylor Mill and Jersey roads.

One nineteenth-century remnant of this crossroads community is the Charity Methodist Protestant Church, a single-story, gable-front frame building dated to 1897 by a marble cornerstone. The gable end entrance is accented with a gable-roofed hood supported on large triangular brackets, and to each side are two-over-two colored glass windows. The small rural Methodist church is joined on the shaded lot by a separate church hall and a nineteenth and twentieth century cemetery.

The Charity M. P. Church is similar to many small rural chapels erected in crossroads communities across the lower Eastern Shore. This church, with its cemetery, is one of the last reminders of this small community that developed around Little Burnt Branch and the intersection of Jersey and Naylor Mill roads.

MARYLAND HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN INFORMATION

RESOURCE NAME: Charity M. P. Church

MHT INVENTORY NUMBER: WI-392

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN DATA

1. Historic Period Theme(s): Architecture  
Religion
  
2. Geographic Orientation: Eastern Shore
  
3. Chronological/Development Period(s): Industrial/Urban Dominance  
1870-1930
  
4. Resource Type(s): Church  
Cemetery

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF  
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. WI-392

Magi No.

DOE  yes  no

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

**1. Name** (indicate preferred name)

historic Charity M. P. Church

and/or common Charity Methodist Church

**2. Location**

street & number Jersey Road  not for publication

city, town Salisbury  vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Wicomico

**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	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<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 Charity Methodist Church c/o Rev. Dean Perdue

street & number Jersey Road telephone no.:

city, town Salisbury state and zip code MD

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Wicomico County Clerk of Court liber

street & number Wicomico County Courthouse folio

city, town Salisbury state MD 21801

**6. Representation in Existing** Historical Surveys

title

date  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records

city, town state

# 7. Description

Survey No. WI-392

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>	
<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.

Charity Methodist Church, historically known as Charity M. P. Church, stands north of the intersection of Naylor Mill Road and Jersey Road north of Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland. The single-story gable-front, frame church faces west with the gable roof oriented on an east/west axis.

Built in 1897, the single-story, three-bay by three-bay rectangular frame church is supported on an infilled brick pier foundation and the exterior is clad with aluminum siding. The steeply pitched gable roof is sheathed with asphalt shingles. Standing northeast of the church is a single-story rectangular frame church hall. A nineteenth and twentieth century cemetery is located on the north side of the two buildings.

The west (main) facade of the church is a symmetrical three-bay elevation with a center double-door entrance flanked by two-over-two colored glass windows. The entrance is sheltered by a gable roof hood supported on triangular brackets that are sheathed with aluminum. Piercing the gable end above the entrance is a two-over-two sash window. The eaves of the roof are extended and sheathed with aluminum. Fixed under the eave at each corner is a bracket decoration. A marble datestone, inscribed "Charity M. P. Church, 1897" is fixed in the southwest corner of the brick foundation. Recently added to the front of the building is a brick and concrete handicapped ramp.

The north and south side elevations are essentially alike. Three two-over-two colored glass sash windows define each wall. The north wall is also defined by an exterior brick stove chimney that rises between the first and second bays.

The east (rear) gable end is marked by a shed roofed apse that is pierced by a round colored glass window in its east side and narrow colored glass windows in the north and south side walls.

The interior of the church was not seen.

The church hall, probably dating to the second quarter of the nineteenth century, is a single-story rectangular gable roofed structure with an entrance in the west wall. The adjacent cemetery is defined by nineteenth and twentieth century grave markers.

# 8. Significance

Survey No. WI-392

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** 1897 **Builder/Architect**

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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.

Historically known as the "Jersey Road," this north-south rural road was once a principal route between the west side of Salisbury and the small mill communities located along the feeder creeks of the Wicomico River. The feeder stream from the northwest, known as Little Burnt Branch, sponsored a saw mill operation during the fourth quarter of the nineteenth century.<sup>1</sup> A small rural community known as Charity developed in an around this saw mill as well as the rural crossroads defined by what is known currently as Naylor Mill and Jersey roads.

One nineteenth-century remnant of this crossroads community is the Charity Methodist Protestant Church, a single-story, gable-front frame building dated to 1897 by a marble cornerstone. The gable end entrance is accented with a gable-roofed hood supported on large triangular brackets, and to each side are two-over-two colored glass windows. The small rural Methodist church is joined on the shaded lot by a separate church hall and a nineteenth and twentieth century cemetery.

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<sup>1</sup> John L. Graham, ed. *The 1877 Atlases and other Early Maps of the Eastern Shore of Maryland*, Wicomico County Bicentennial Commission, p. 20.



Leonard Pond

WI-392  
Charity M. P. Church

Delmar, Maryland-Delaware Quadrangle

SHA (MD-50)

P A R S O N S

Brewington Branch

Middle Neck

Salisbury Airport

I S B U R Y

Branch

N O 9

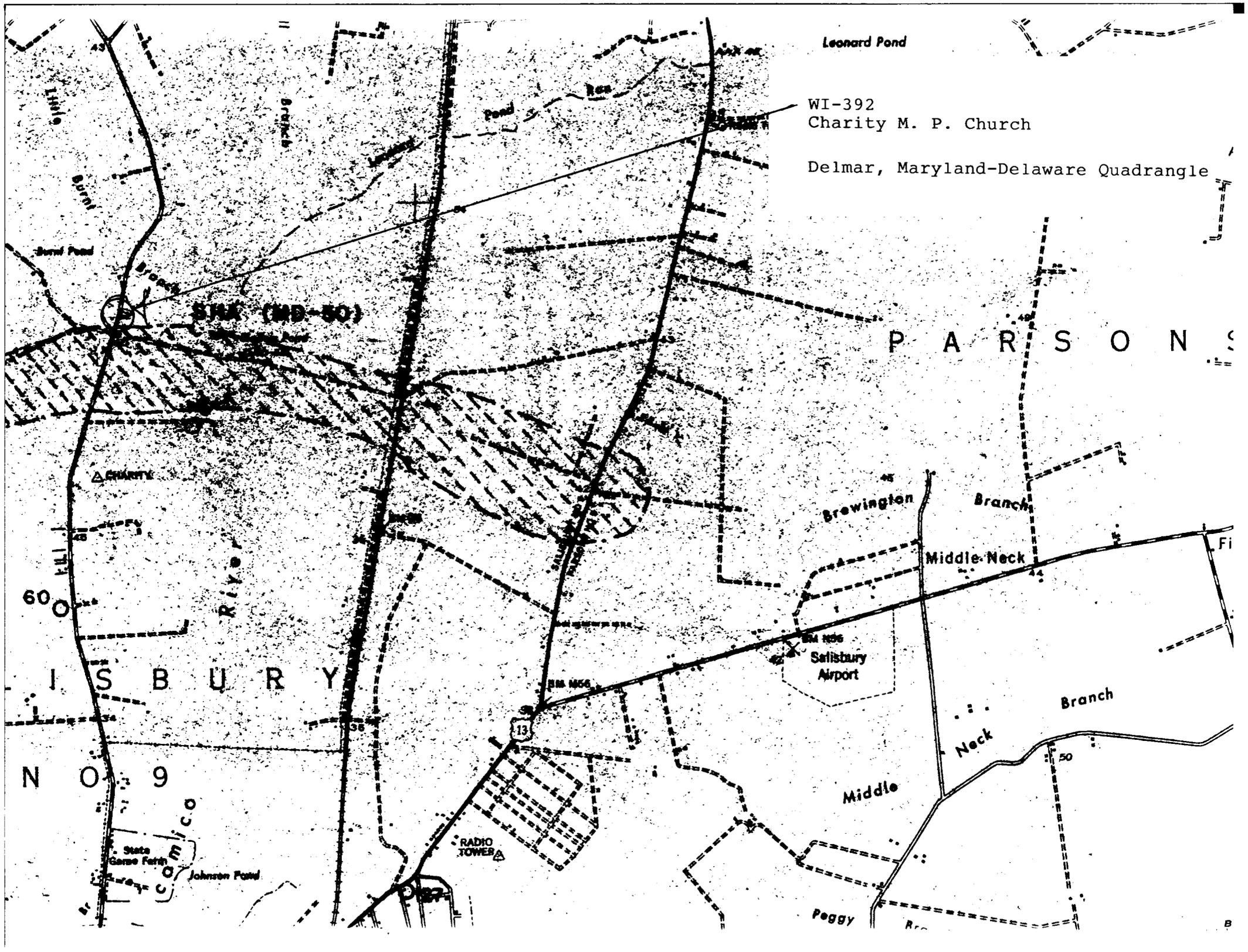
Middle

Neck

State Game Farm  
Johnson Pond

RADIO TOWER

Peggy





161-392

Chas. W. D. Conover

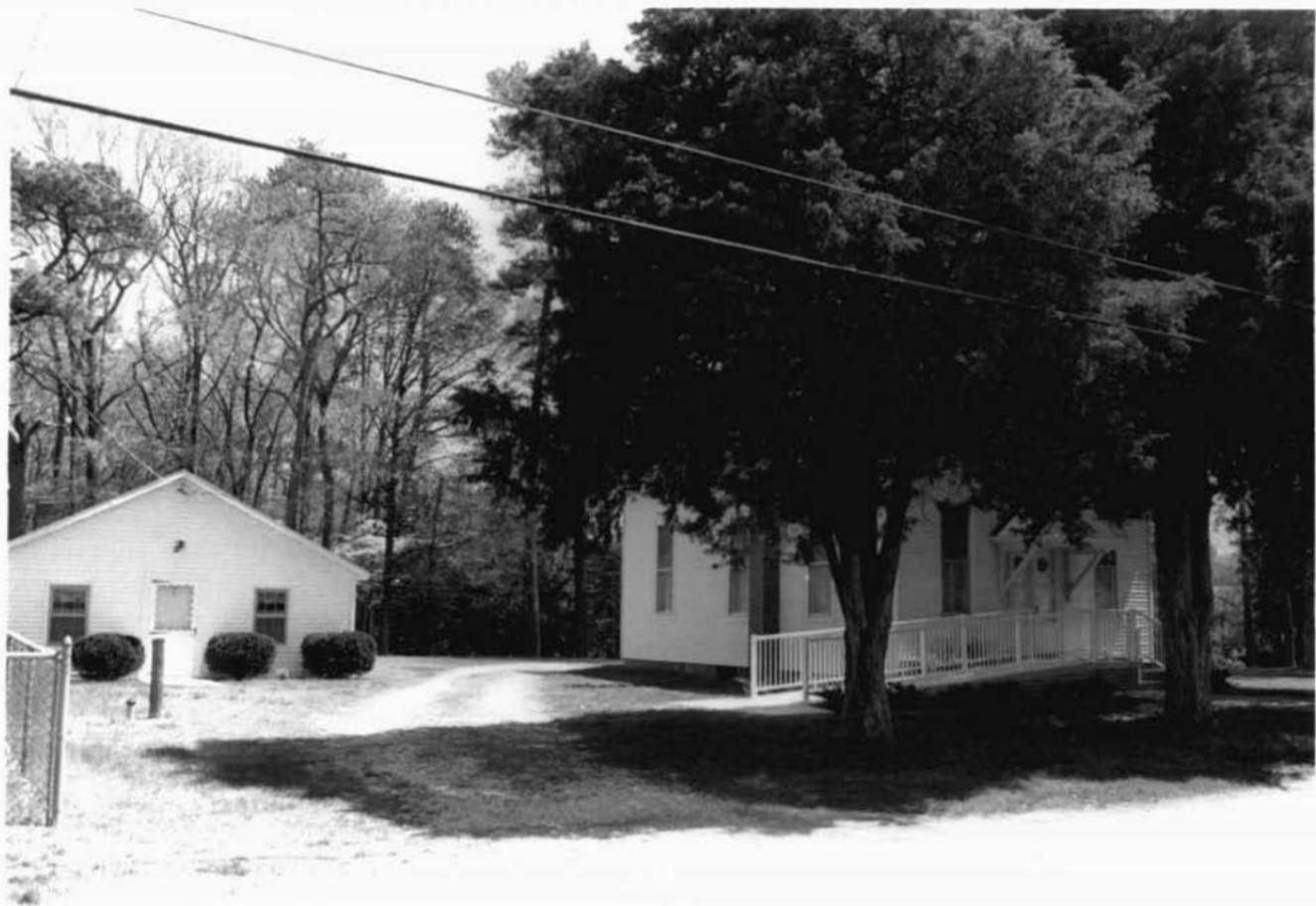
500 Broadway, New York

1000

1900 P.M. Tuesday

McC. 1802. 1802. 1802. Trust

1802. 3







M. P. Church  
1897.

