

WI-503  
Calvary M. E. Church  
Pittsville vicinity  
Public worship

1909

Perched atop a sandy knoll along Glass Hill Road is the Calvary M. E. Church, a Gothic Revival, tee-plan frame structure erected in 1909. The marble datestone fixed in the brick foundation is inscribed with a second date, 1872, which documents when this African-American congregation was established. The single-story frame church follows in the prevailing taste for Methodist church architecture during the late nineteenth and twentieth centuries with a tee-shaped plan and pointed arch colored glass windows. Rising within the front corner of the tee plan is an entrance tower topped by a tapered octagonal spire. According to the 1877 Pittsburg Election District map the 1870s church stood on the south side of the road across the road from the Glass Hill School. (See WI-496) A nineteenth- and twentieth century cemetery joins the church on this sandy knoll.

# Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. W I-503

## 1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Calvary M. E. Church

other \_\_\_\_\_

## 2. Location

street and number Glass Hill Road not for publication

city, town Pittsville vicinity x

county Wicomico

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

name Trustees of Calvary Church

street and number Glass Hill Road telephone

city, town Pittsville state MD zip code 21850

## 4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Wicomico County Clerk of Court tax map and parcel Map P.

city, town Salisbury, Maryland liber folio

## 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	
			Contributing	Noncontributing
district	public	agriculture		
x building(s)	x private	commerce/trade	1	buildings
structure	both	defense		sites
site		x domestic		structures
object		education		objects
		funerary	1	Total
		government		
		health care		
		industry		
		landscape		
		recreation/culture		
		religion		
		social		
		transportation		
		work in progress		
		unknown		
		vacant/not in use		
		other:		
			<b>Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory</b>	

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Continuation Sheet

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### 7. Description

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#### Condition

	excellent	deteriorated
x	good	ruins
	fair	altered

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

The Calvary M. E. Church is located on the north side of Glass Hill Road west of Pittsville, Wicomico County, Maryland. The single-story, tee-shaped frame church faces south with the principal gable roof oriented on a north/south axis. A nineteenth and twentieth century cemetery is located across the road.

Built in 1909, the single-story, tee-shaped, Gothic Revival frame church is supported on a brick foundation covered partially with stucco. Fixed in the southeast corner of the foundation is a marble datestone inscribed with the date 1909 and the name "Calvary M. E. Church." The east side of the cornerstone is inscribed "Founded 1872." The tee-shaped main block is covered with a steeply pitched asphalt shingle roof, and the exterior is clad with a combination of asbestos shingles and decorative fishscale shingles. Rising in the southwest corner of the tee plan is an entrance tower topped by a tapered octagonal spire. The double door entrance is fitted with replacement doors. A triangular, colored glass transom is fixed atop the entrance doors. The west side of the tower is pierced by a pointed arch window. Rising atop the entrance tower is an open belfry and tapered octagonal spire. The belfry consists of four columns wrapped with asphalt shingles. The belfry columns support the octagonal spire, which features shallow pitched cross gables on each elevation.

The south facade of main block is a gable-front elevation with pointed arch colored glass windows defining the first floor. Piercing the gable end is a round, colored glass window set within a field of fishscale shingles. The edge of the roof has an extended eave with an open soffit. The rafter ends are exposed and decorated.

The east side of the church is defined by four pointed arch colored glass windows, and a single flue brick stack pierces the roof. The west side of the church is a gabled elevation with pointed arch colored glass windows on the first floor and a round window within the gable end. Extending from the north side of the tee-plan main block is a shorter single-story apse defined by rectangular colored glass windows on each side.

The interior was not seen.

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## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

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## 8. Significance

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

**Significance dates** Founded 1872

**Architect**

**Specific dates** 1909

**Builder**

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 reports, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

Perched atop a sandy knoll along Glass Hill Road is the Calvary M. E. Church, a Gothic Revival, tee-plan frame structure erected in 1909. The marble datestone is inscribed with a second date, 1872, which documents when this African-American congregation was established. The single-story frame church follows in the prevailing taste for Methodist church during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries with a tee-shaped plan and pointed arch colored glass windows. Rising within the front corner of the tee plan is an entrance tower topped by a tapered octagonal spire. According to the 1877 Pittsburg Election District map the 1870s church was located on the south side of the road across the street from the Glass Hill School. (See WI-496). A nineteenth- and twentieth-century cemetery joins the church on this sandy knoll.

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### HISTORIC CONTEXT:

#### MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Eastern Shore

Chronological/Developmental Period(s): Industrial/Urban Dominance 1870-1930

Historic Period Theme(s): Architecture

Resource Type: Standing Structure

Category: Church

Historic Environment: Rural Residential Neighborhood

Historic Function(s) and Use(s): Religious

Known Design Source:

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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WI-503

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## 10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of project area  
Acreage surveyed  
Quadrangle name

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

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**Verbal boundary description and justification**

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## 11. Form Prepared by

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name/title Paul B. Touart, Architectural Historian

organization Private Consultant

street & number P. O. Box 5

city or town Westover, Maryland 21871

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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.

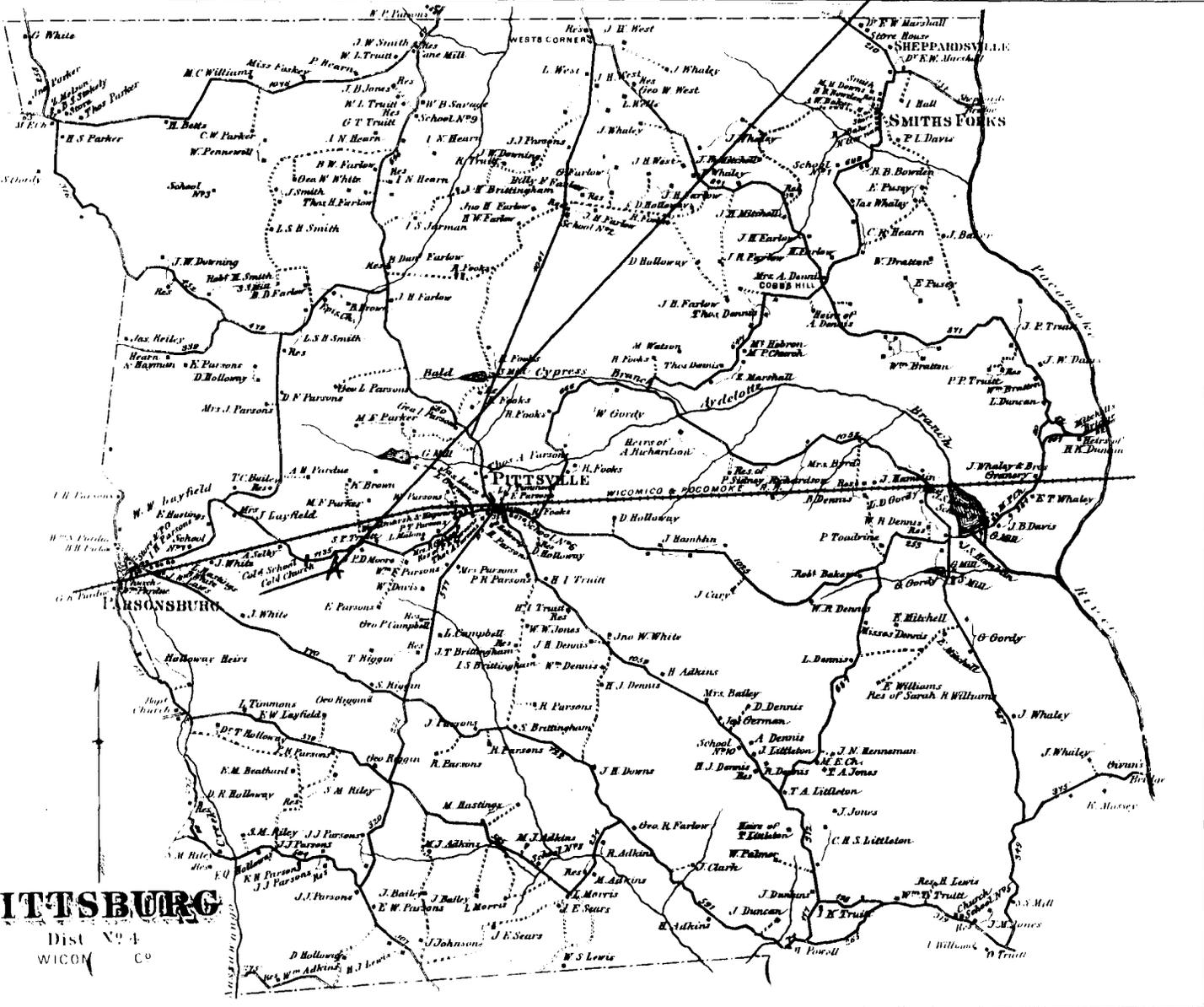
return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
DHCD/DHCP  
100 Community Place  
Crownsville, MD 21032  
410-514-7600

WI-503  
Calvary M. E. Church

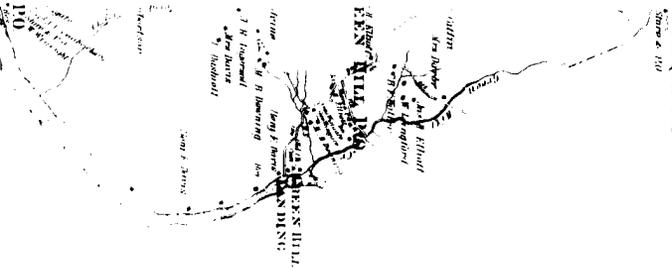
Lake, Griffing, and Stevenson Atlas  
1877

**PITTSBURG**

Dist No 4  
WICOM CO

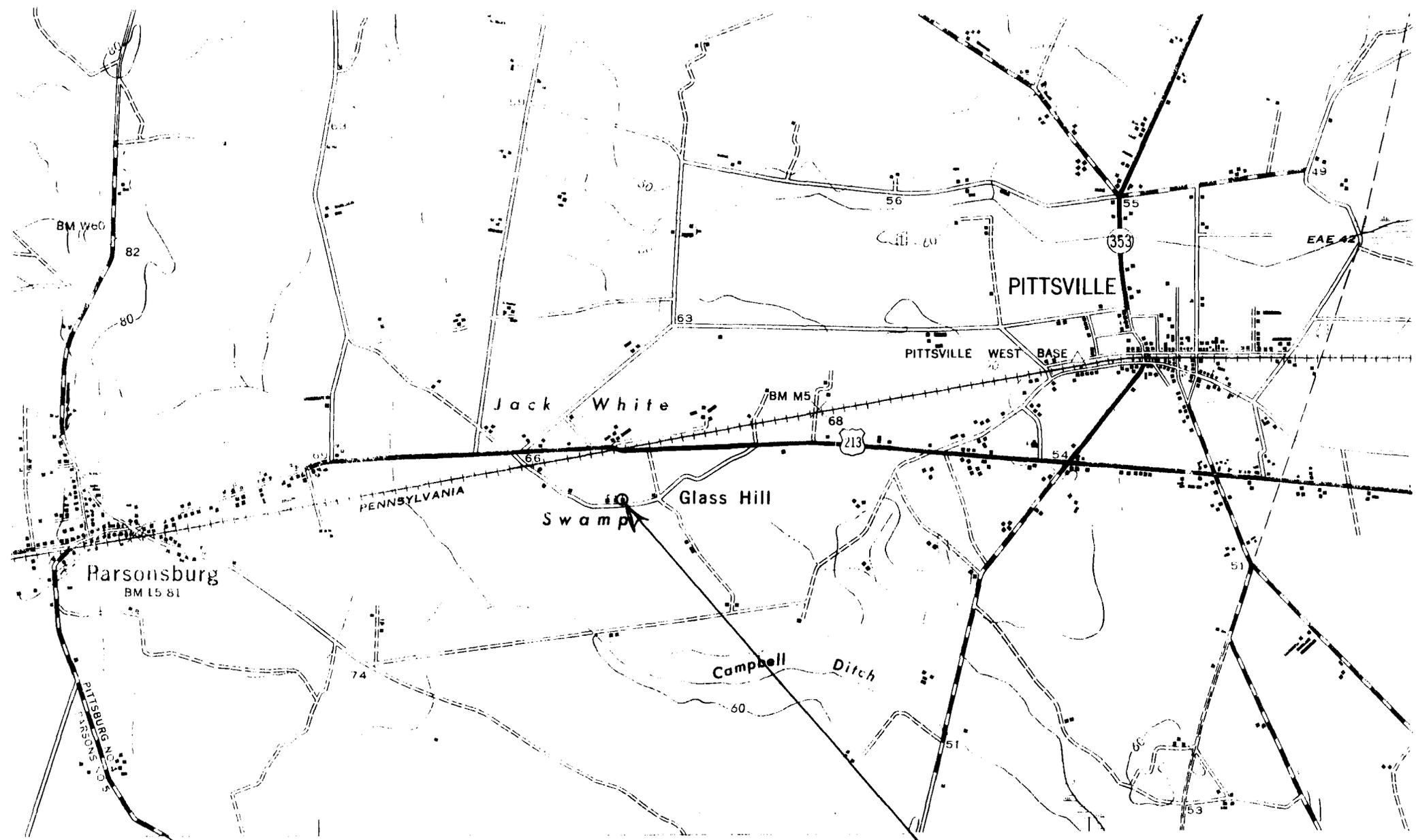


THE WESTERN...  
M. J. Q. STEPHENSON...  
PITTSBURG, WISCONSIN



No. 3  
CO CO

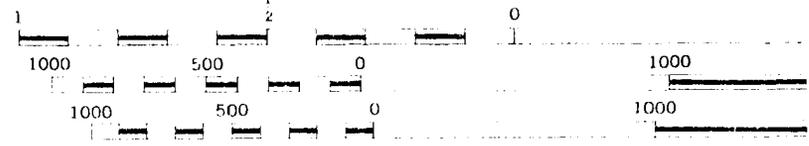




SHAVOX 1.4 MI  
WASTE GATE 2.4 MI

27 30'

SCALE 1:24 000



WI-503  
Calvary M. E. Church  
Pittsville, MD Quadrangle 1942

e (AM), U. S. Army.  
IV NW, 1942.  
phy by plane  
surveys by

CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET

DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL.

POLYCONIC PROJECTION





