

WI-506

1898

Eden United Methodist Church

Willards

Public worship

At the close of the nineteenth century the town of Willards emerged along the course of the Baltimore, Chesapeake & Atlantic Railroad east of the mill village known as New Hope where a Methodist Protestant church had been established around 1870. Centered in the new town was a Methodist Episcopal congregation organized in 1898, and a Gothic Revival church was erected the next year. The ½-acre lot on which the church was built was conveyed by Ebenezer G. and Ella S. Davis to trustees, Wesley D. Truitt, Elijah Lewis, and Handy Adkins for \$40.

The single-story, gable-front frame church has an off-axis entrance and bell tower similar to the Ayres Methodist Church in Pittsville. Pointed arch windows filled with figurative colored glass light the sanctuary. The Eden United Methodist Church is one of the oldest structures to remain standing in the town, and it is a principal landmark for the community with its distinctive Gothic features and its tall entrance and bell tower.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. W I-506

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Eden Methodist Episcopal Church
 other Eden United Methodist Church

2. Location

street and number Main Street not for publication
 city, town Willards vicinity
 county Wicomico

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

name Trustees of Eden United Methodist Church
 street and number c/o Pastor Paul H. Sherwood telephone
 city, town Willards state MD zip code 21874

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Wicomico County Clerk of Court tax map and parcel Map 600, P. 440
 city, town Salisbury, Maryland liber JTT 22 folio 489

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		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	commerce/trade	<u>1</u>	buildings
structure	both	defense		sites
site		domestic		structures
object		education		objects
		funerary	<u>1</u>	Total
		government		
		health care		
		industry		
		landscape		
		recreation/culture		
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion		
		social		
		transportation		
		work in progress		
		unknown		
		vacant/not in use		
		other:		
			Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory	

Name Eden United Methodist Church
Continuation Sheet

Number 7 Page 1

7. Description

Condition

	excellent	deteriorated
<u>x</u>	good	ruins
	fair	altered

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

The Eden United Methodist Church, historically known as the Eden Methodist Episcopal Church, stands on the east side of Main Street in the center of Willards, Wicomico County, Maryland. The single-story frame church faces west with the principal gable roof oriented on an east/west axis.

Built in stages between 1899 and the mid twentieth century, the single-story Gothic Revival frame church is supported on a low brick foundation, and the exterior is clad vinyl siding, and the steeply pitched roof is covered with asphalt shingles. Attached to the southwest corner of the main block is a corner located entrance and bell tower. Extending southward from the main block is a tee wing and to the east is another single story gable roofed wing. During the mid twentieth century a large frame addition was built to the rear of the church.

The west (main) elevation is an asymmetrical facade with a gable-front elevation pierced by a large Gothic arched window filled with figurative colored glass. The gable end of the main block is finished with a pediment end, and the line of the lower cornice is coincidental with a cornice that wraps around the corner entrance and bell tower. The edge of the eave is enclosed with vinyl soffit. The corner entrance tower is pierced by a Gothic arched window which has a colored glass transom and a modern glass door. The upper story of the tower is pierced by open, Gothic arched openings for the belfry, which retains its bell. Atop the belfry is a tapered spire with a flared base. A wooden finial is fixed atop the spire.

The south side of the main block is largely covered by the tee wing that extends to the south. The west face of the wing is pierced by pointed arch windows as well. The south gable end of the tee wing is less elaborately finished with rectangular windows and a side entrance.

Extending eastward from the main block is a shorter single-story gable roofed wing that has pointed arch colored glass windows. Attached to the east side of the church is a large gable roofed church hall erected during the mid twentieth century.

The interior was not seen.

Name Eden United Methodist Church

Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 1**8. Significance**

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

Significance dates**Architect****Specific dates**

1898, 1899

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.)

At the close of the nineteenth century the town of Willards emerged along the course of the Baltimore, Chesapeake & Atlantic Railroad east of the mill village known as New Hope where a Methodist Protestant church had been established around 1870. Centered in the new town was a Methodist Episcopal congregation organized in 1898, and a Gothic Revival church was erected the next year.¹ The ½-acre lot on which the church stands was conveyed by Ebenezer G. and Ella S. Davis to church trustees Wesley D. Truitt, Elijah Lewis, and Handy Adkins for \$40.²

The single-story gable front frame church has an off-axis entrance and bell tower similar to the Ayres Methodist Church in Pittsville. Pointed arch windows filled with figurative colored glass light the sanctuary. The Eden Methodist Church is one of the oldest structures to remain standing in the town, and it is a principal landmark for the community with its distinctive Gothic Revival architectural features and its tall entrance and bell tower.

¹ E. C. Hallman, *The Garden Methodism*, Peninsula Annual Conference of the Methodist Church, 1948, p. 351.

² Wicomico County Land Record, JTT 22/489, 1 August 1898.

9. Major Bibliographical References

WI-506

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of project area

Acreage surveyed 1/2 acre

Quadrangle name Whaleyville, Maryland

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundary established for property coincides with the metes and bounds of the current lot.

11. Form Prepared by

name/title Paul B. Touart, Architectural Historian

organization Private Consultant

street & number P. O. Box 5

date 10/26/00

city or town Westover, Maryland 21871

phone 410-651-1094

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-506
Eden United Methodist Church
Willards, Wicomico County, Maryland
Chain of title

Map 600, Parcel 440

JTT 22/489

Ebenezer G. Davis
Ella S. Davis

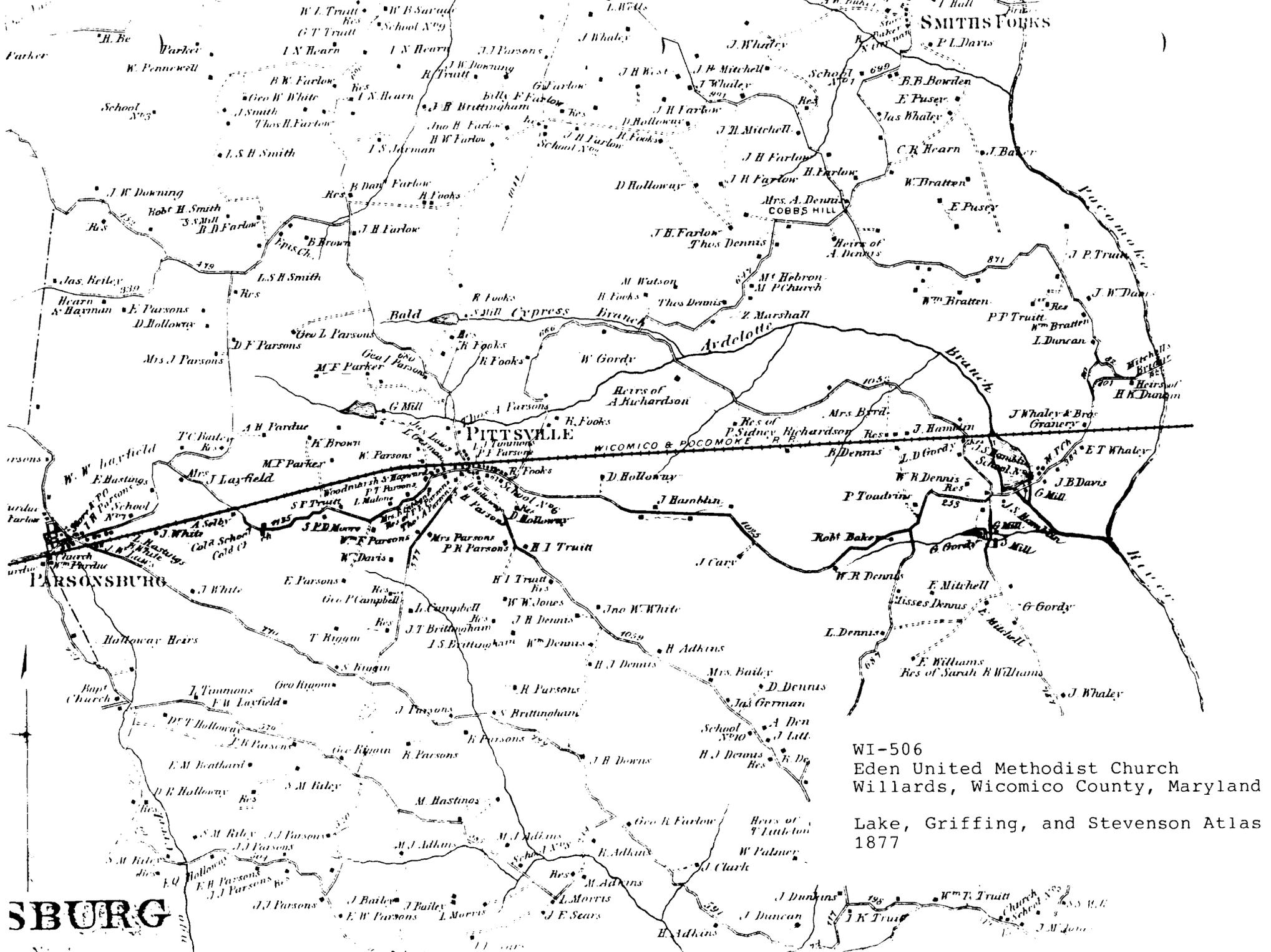
to

8/1/1898

M. E., Williards

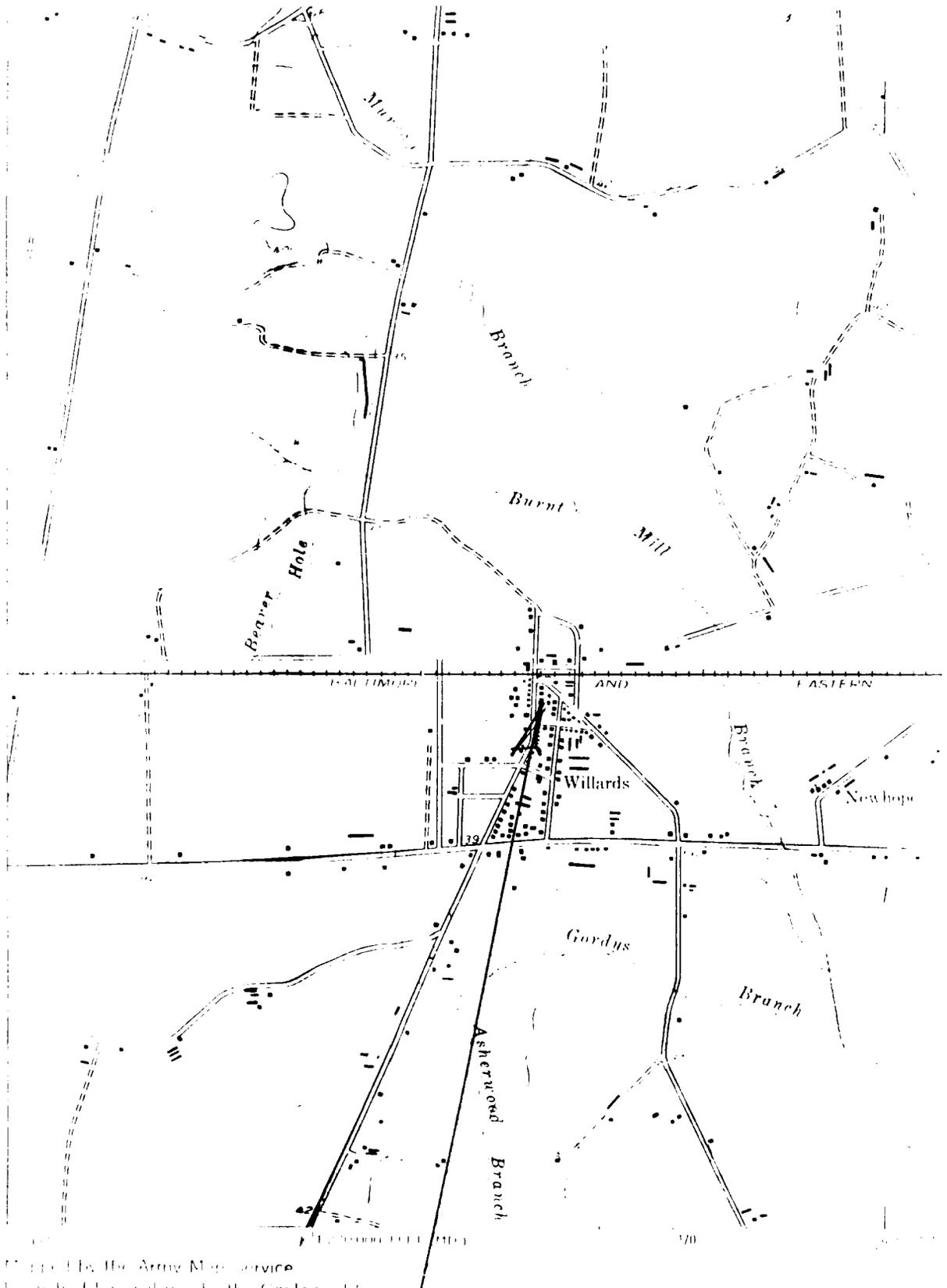
Wesley D. Truitt, Elijah Lewis, Handy Adkins, Trustees
of the Methodist Episcopal Church of Willards

\$40.00 ½ acre



WI-506
 Eden United Methodist Church
 Willards, Wicomico County, Maryland
 Lake, Griffing, and Stevenson Atlas
 1877

PARSONSBURG



Map prepared by the Army Map Service
 from the field notes of the Geological
 Survey, 1880-1882

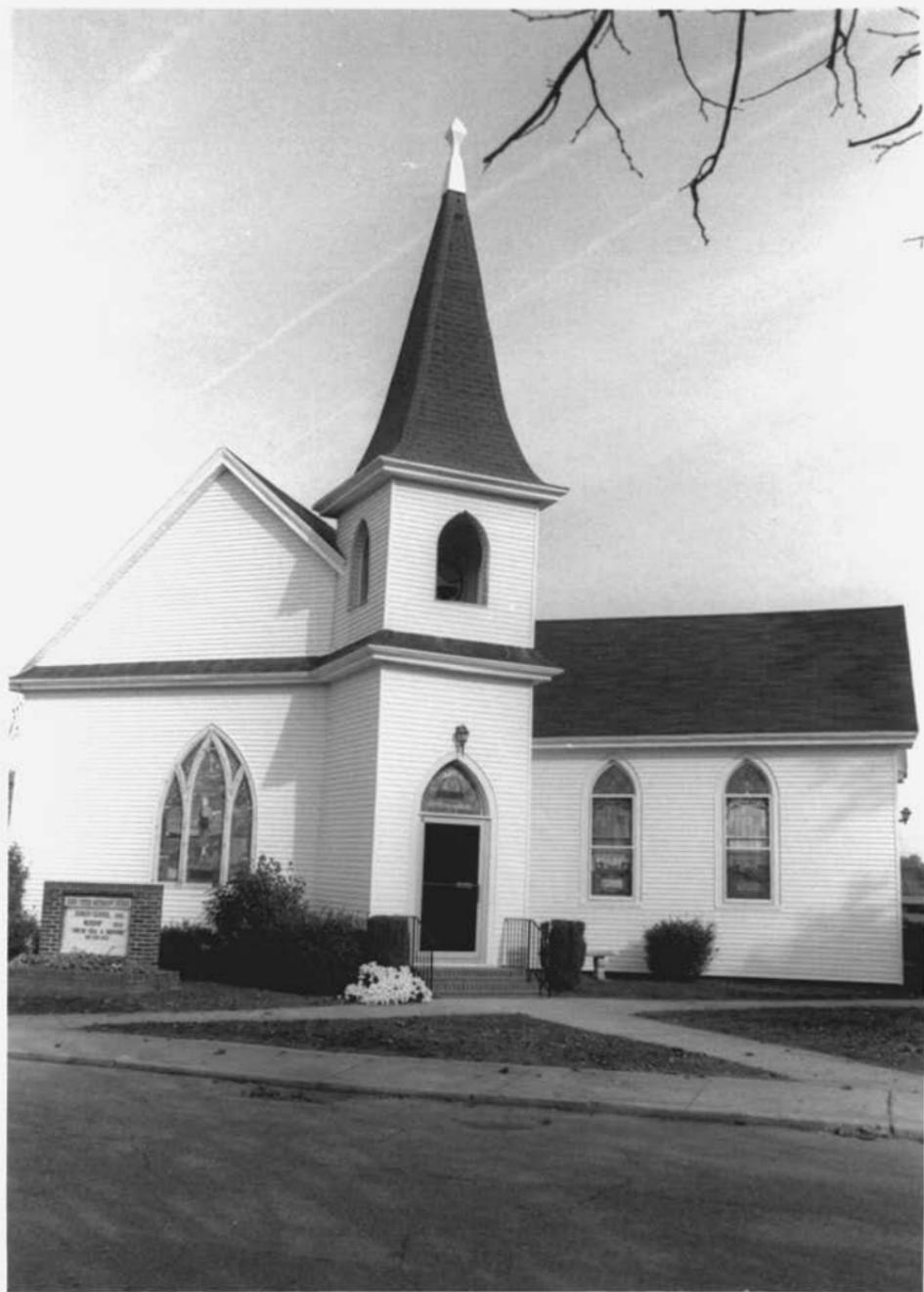
Topography by photogrammetric methods from
 aerial photographs of the Air Corps, 1942

Projection - 1927 North American
 datum and projection of Maryland
 and the same coordinate system

Projection for Universal Transverse Mercator grid
 not shown in blue

WI-506
 Eden United Methodist Church
 Willards, Wicomico County, Maryland

Whaleville, MD Quadrangle
 1942



WI-506

EDEN METHODIST CHURCH

WILLARDS, WICKES CO., MD.

SOUTHWEST DISTRICT

10/60, PAUL TOWNE, PASTOR.

NEZ. / MD SIMPO

1 of 1