

WO-436

1905

Coolspring United Methodist Church  
Girdletree vicinity  
Public worship

The Coolspring United Methodist Church, located between Snow Hill and Girdletree, is a well-preserved Gothic Revival frame structure erected for the black Methodist Episcopal congregation in 1905. Gothic arched windows light the single-story structure, which has a marble datestone in the southwest corner of the foundation. The original front entrance and flanking lancet windows were reused when a single-story addition was attached to the front of the church. Rising atop the gable roof is pyramidal roofed belfry distinguished by a square base sheathed with fishscale shingles. The open belfry is decorated with brackets and a wooden finial.

HISTORIC CONTENT INFORMATION

Resource Name: COOLSPRING UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

MHT Inventory Number: WO-436

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA:

- 1) Historic Period Theme(s): ARCHITECTURE  
RELIGION
- 2) Geographic Orientation: EASTERN SHORE
- 3) Chronological/Developmental Period(s):  
Urban-Industrial Dominance  
1870-1930
- 4) Resource Type(s):  
Rural African-American  
Methodist Church

Maryland Historical Trust  
State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF  
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. WO-436

Magi No.

DOE \_\_\_yes \_\_\_no

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

historic COOLSPRING METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

and/or common COOLSPRING UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

**2. Location**

street & number East side of MD Route 12 \_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Girdletree \_\_\_x vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Worcester

**3. Classification**

|                  |                           |                       |                    |                       |
|------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>Category</b>  | <b>Ownership</b>          | <b>Status</b>         | <b>Present Use</b> |                       |
| ___ district     | ___ public                | ___x occupied         | ___ agriculture    | ___ museum            |
| ___x building(s) | ___x private              | ___ unoccupied        | ___ commercial     | ___ park              |
| ___ structure    | ___ both                  | ___ work in progress  | ___ educational    | ___ private residence |
| ___ site         | <b>Public Acquisition</b> | <b>Accessible</b>     | ___ entertainment  | ___x religious        |
| ___ object       | ___ in process            | ___x yes: restricted  | ___ government     | ___ scientific        |
|                  | ___x being considered     | ___ yes: unrestricted | ___ industrial     | ___ transportation    |
|                  | ___ not applicable        | ___ no                | ___ military       | ___ other:            |

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

name Trustees of Coolspring United Methodist Church

street & number c/o Reverend Sherrol James telephone no.: 632-1892

city, town Dukes Road, Girdletree state and zip code Maryland 21829

**5. Location of Legal Description**

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

street & number Worcester County Courthouse folio

city, town Snow Hill state MD 21863

**6. Representation in Existing** Historical Surveys

title

date \_\_\_ federal \_\_\_ state \_\_\_ county \_\_\_ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

# 7. Description

Survey No. WO-436

|                                          |                                       |                                             |                                                   |                    |
|------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| <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.

Coolspring United Methodist Church stands on the east side of MD Route 12 between the towns of Snow Hill and Girdletree, Worcester County, Maryland. The single-story, gable front frame church faces west with the roof oriented on an east/west axis. Standing behind the church is a two-story frame meeting hall.

Built in 1905, the single-story, three-bay by four-bay frame church, supported by a brick pier foundation infilled with concrete block, is sheathed with asbestos shingles and it is covered by a steeply pitched asphalt shingle roof. Rising atop the gable roof is a pyramidal roofed belfry. Attached to the front of the original 1905 structure is a slightly shorter gable roofed addition that includes the principal entrance.

The west (main) facade is a three-bay elevation with a center pointed arch entrance and flanking pointed arch sash windows. The pointed arch entrance has a four-light colored glass transom and replacement doors. The window openings to each side are filled with colored glass. A diamond shaped window marks the upper gable. The door and window frames were evidently moved forward when the single-story addition was attached to the front of the original church. Fixed in the southwest corner of the church is a marble datestone inscribed, "Coolspring M. E. Church, 1905."

Fixed atop the original main block is a square belfry topped by a pyramidal roof with flared eaves. The open frame belfry, trimmed with decorative brackets, rests on a base that is sheathed with fishscale shingles. Fixed atop the pyramidal roof is a wooden finial.

The sides of the church are marked by four pointed arch sash, and an exterior single-flue stove stack rises through the extended eave. A single-story frame addition has been attached to the back of the church.

The meeting hall that stands behind the church is a two-story rectangular frame structure resting on a concrete block foundation and sheathed with plain weatherboards. The medium pitched roof is covered with asphalt shingles. Dating from around the same time as the church (1905) the building is lighted by six-over-six sash windows.

# 8. Significance

Survey No. W0-436

| 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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899        | <input type="checkbox"/> commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement | <input type="checkbox"/> philosophy             | <input type="checkbox"/> theater             |
| <input checked="" 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** 1905 **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

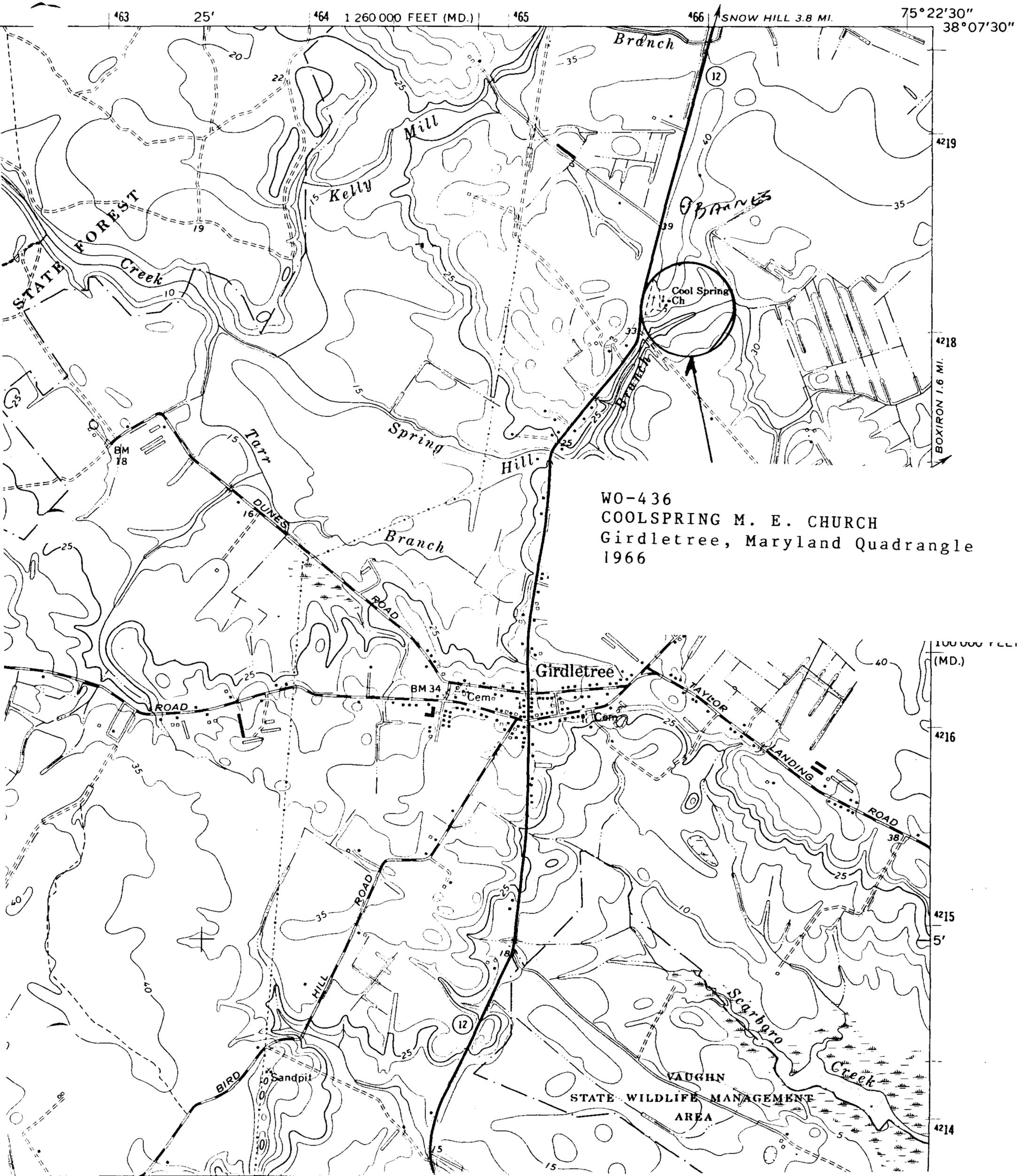
Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

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GIRDLETREE QUADRANGLE  
MARYLAND-VIRGINIA  
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

5960 III NE  
(WESLEY)



WO-436  
COOLSPRING M. E. CHURCH  
Girdletree, Maryland Quadrangle  
1966

10000 FEET  
(MD.)



WO-436

COOLSPRING U. M. CHURCH

Girdletree vic., Worcester Co., MD

West elevation of Meeting hall

10/92, Paul Touart, phototographer

Negative/MD Historical Trust