CONTRIBUTING RESOURCE
MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
INTERNAL NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM

Property Name: Mt. Zion Church Survey Number: AA-892

Property Address: Bacontown, Md.

Project: CDBG Bacontown Sewer Installation (9203650) Agency: Anne Arundel Co.

Site visit by MHT Staff: X no ___ yes Name _____ Date _____

District Name: Bacontown Historic District Survey Number: AA-

____ Listed X Eligible _____ Comment

Criteria: A A ___B ___C ___D Considerations: ___A ___B ___C ___D ___E ___F ___G ___None

The resource X contributes/___ does not contribute to the historic significance of this historic district in:

X Location ____ Design X Setting ____ Materials

____ Workmanship ____ Feeling X Association

Justification for decision: (Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map)

Mt. Zion Church is the second or third chirch on this site. An earlier log building stood just east of the present church and dated to the late 19th century. The present church may date to 1909. It has veen added to several times and covered in stucco. This church contributes to the National Register eligible Bacontown Historic District as part of the collection of three buildings that hold local significance in the history of African-Americans in Anne Arundel County. It is significant under Criterion A as part of a group of structures that possess symbolic historical significance that represent the development of African-American communities in Anne Arundel County.

Documentation on the property is presented in: Project Review and Compliance Files and Maryland Inventory Files

Prepared by: Donna M. Ware, Anne Arundel County

Jo Ellen Freese 12/17/92

Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services Date

NR program concurrence: X yes ___ no ___ not applicable

R Rudolph 12.21.93

Reviewer, NR program Date

Jmg

Survey No. AA-892

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA - HISTORIC CONTEXT

I. Geographic Region:

___	Eastern Shore	(all Eastern Shore counties, and Cecil)
X	Western Shore	(Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, Prince George's and St. Mary's)
___	Piedmont	(Baltimore City, Baltimore, Carroll, Frederick, Harford, Howard, Montgomery)
___	Western Maryland	(Allegany, Garrett and Washington)

II. Chronological/Developmental Periods:

___	Paleo-Indian	10000-7500 B.C.
___	Early Archaic	7500-6000 B.C.
___	Middle Archaic	6000-4000 B.C.
___	Late Archaic	4000-2000 B.C.
___	Early Woodland	2000-500 B.C.
___	Middle Woodland	500 B.C. - A.D. 900
___	Late Woodland/Archaic	A.D. 900-1600
___	Contact and Settlement	A.D. 1570-1750
___	Rural Agrarian Intensification	A.D. 1680-1815
___	Agricultural-Industrial Transition	A.D. 1815-1870
X	Industrial/Urban Dominance	A.D. 1870-1930
___	Modern Period	A.D. 1930-Present
___	Unknown Period (___ prehistoric	___ historic)

III. Prehistoric Period Themes:

___	Subsistence
___	Settlement
___	Political
___	Demographic
___	Religion
___	Technology
___	Environmental Adaption

IV. Historic Period Themes:

___	Agriculture
___	Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Community Planning
___	Economic (Commercial and Industrial)
___	Government/Law
___	Military
X	Religion
X	Social/Educational/Cultural
___	Transportation

V. Resource Type:

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Rural Village

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

Known Design Source: None

AA-892 **built 1913**

Mount Zion Methodist Church

Bacontown community of Laurel, Anne Arundel County

Private

Mt. Zion Methodist Church is significant for its important role in the social development of the predominately African-American community of Bacontown. Bacontown was established by free and enslaved blacks prior to the Civil War and continues to retain its distinctive sense of place.

Architecturally, this building is a center-steeple example of Gothic Revival style architecture. The Gothic Revival style was widely used in ecclesiastical architecture from the second quarter of the 19th century well into the 20th century.

Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. AA-892

Magi No.

DOE ____ yes ____ no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Mt. Zion Methodist Church

and/or common Mt. Zion United Methodist Church

2. Location

street & number 3592 Whiskey Bottom Road ___ not for publication

city, town Laurel ____ vicinity of congressional district

state Maryland county Anne Arundel

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
____ district	____ public	x occupied	____ agriculture	____ museum
x building(s)	x private	____ unoccupied	____ commercial	____ park
____ structure	____ both	____ work in progress	____ educational	____ private residence
____ site	**Public Acquisition**	**Accessible**	____ entertainment	x religious
____ object	____ in process	x yes: restricted	____ government	____ scientific
	____ 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 Mt. Zion United Methodist Church

street & number 3592 Whiskey Bottom Road telephone no.:

city, town Laurel state and zip code: Maryland 20724

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Anne Arundel County Courthouse liber 3236

street & number Franklin Street folio 47

city, town Annapolis state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

___ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. AA-892

Condition		Check one	Check one
____ excellent	____ deteriorated	____ unaltered	x original site
____ good	____ ruins	x altered	____ moved date of move ____
____ fair	____ unexposed		

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

Mt. Zion United Methodist Church is located on the south side of Whiskey Bottom Road in the small and predominately African-American community of Bacontown. It neighbors St. Jacobs Lodge and cemetery (AA-894) and is across the street from the Mary Elizabeth Henson House (AA-893). The building sits on a one-half acre lot. A gravel parking area, shared by both the church and lodge building, is located directly east of the church, while a smaller, paved parking area is located on the church's west side

Facing northeast, this small, modest church is one-story tall with walls covered with white stucco. The building is defined by its square center steeple, which projects from the middle of the three-bay façade. The steeple, which lacks a bell tower, rises above the main body of the church and is capped by a pyramidal roof. Its eaves, as well as those on the main building, display very little overhang. A narrow fascia board is present. The main entrance is in the front steeple wall and consists of a pair of modern, heavy metal doors. Bricks set flush into the wall above the entrance form a cross. Fenestration is symmetrical and evenly spaced. Three tall and one short stained glass lancet windows are located in the west wall. Brick spandrels are used to give the effect of square frames. Conversely, the front façade features a square-framed, stained-glass window on either side of the steeple. Each square frame has a pointed arch cap, created by regular and herringbone-patterned bricks set flush into the wall. Original east side fenestration is obscured by additions to the church.

Periodizing the building is complicated by the presence of stucco. At least two building episodes are represented i east-side wing. This wing currently serves as the Sunday school and church hall.

The building's interior was not examined.

8. Significance

Survey No. AA-892

Period	Areas of Significance----Check and justify below			
____ prehistoric	____ archeology-prehistoric	____ community planning	____ landscape architecture	x religion
____ 1400-1499	____ archeology-historic	____ conservation	____ law	____ science
____ 1500-1599	____ agriculture	____ economics	____ literature	____ sculpture
____ 1600-1699	x architecture	____ education	____ military	____ social/ humanitarian
____ 1700-1799	____ art	____ engineering	____ music	____ theater
____ 1800-1899	____ commerce	____ exploration/settlement	____ philosophy	____ transportation
x 1900-	____ communications	____ industry	____ politics/government	____ other (specify) (recreation)
		____ invention		

Specific dates 1913 **Builder/Architect**

Check: Applicable Criteria: x A ____ B x C ____ D

and/or

Applicable Exception: ____ A ____ B ____ C ____ D ____ E ____ F ____ G

Level of Significance: ____ national ____ state x local

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

This small vernacular church is important for its association with the social development of the African-American community of Bacontown. Furthermore, it is a fair example of center-steeple type, Gothic-Revival style church architecture. The Gothic Revival enjoyed immense popularity in ecclesiastical architecture from the second quarter of the 19th century well into the 20th century. The center steeple configuration is one of the most common of the style (1).

The building was constructed in 1913, but according to a boundary description for a neighboring parcel, a church was standing on this property by 1890. The community of Bacontown was established by free and enslaved blacks prior to the Civil War and developed on property owned by the Dorsey family. The church is built on land willed in 1880 by Acsah Dorsey to Mary Virginia "Jerry" Moore. Moore was the daughter of Maria (sometimes Moriah) Bacon, and a member of the family for whom the community is named. Moore, Bacon, and another woman named Lou Scott were manumitted by Dorsey in 1860 and shared a 30 acre inheritance after Dorsey's death. Acsah Dorsey's will indicates the three women were already living on the property at the time that document was written. While a church was standing on Moore's property by at least 1890, title was not legally conveyed until after Moore's death in 1907. St. Jacob's Lodge of the Sons and Daughters of Abraham, which stands directly adjacent Mt. Zion Church, is also built on land that belonged to Moore (2).

Mt. Zion United Methodist Church and St. Jacobs Lodge were important social institutions and helped to forge a cohesive and enduring community. Bacontown's survival in a highly developed suburban setting is a testament the people and the institutions that exist here.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No AA-892

(1) Jennings, Jan and Herbert Gottfried. American Vernacular Interior Architecture: 1870-1840, Iowa State University Press, 1993.

(2) Guida, Patricia. *Mt. Zion United Methodist Church*, unpublished report prepared for Anne Arundel County Historic Sites Survey. Anne Arundel County Department of Planning and Code Enforcement, Annapolis, Maryland, 1[illegible].

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property .535 acres

Quadrangle name Laurel

Quadrangle scale 1: 24,000

UTM References Do NOT complete UTM references

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
A				B			
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

Boundary as indicated on Anne Arundel County tax map 19, block 12, parcel 68, which is the legal boundaries associated with this property.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Sherri Marsh		
organization	Anne Arundel County Historic Sites Survey	date	Sept. 1998
street & number	Department of Planning, 2664 Riva Road		
city or town	Annapolis	state	MD

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory 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
DHCP/DHCD
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600

AA-892 **Built 1913**
Mt. Zion Methodist Church
Bacontown community of Laurel, Anne Arundel County
Private

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Western Shore

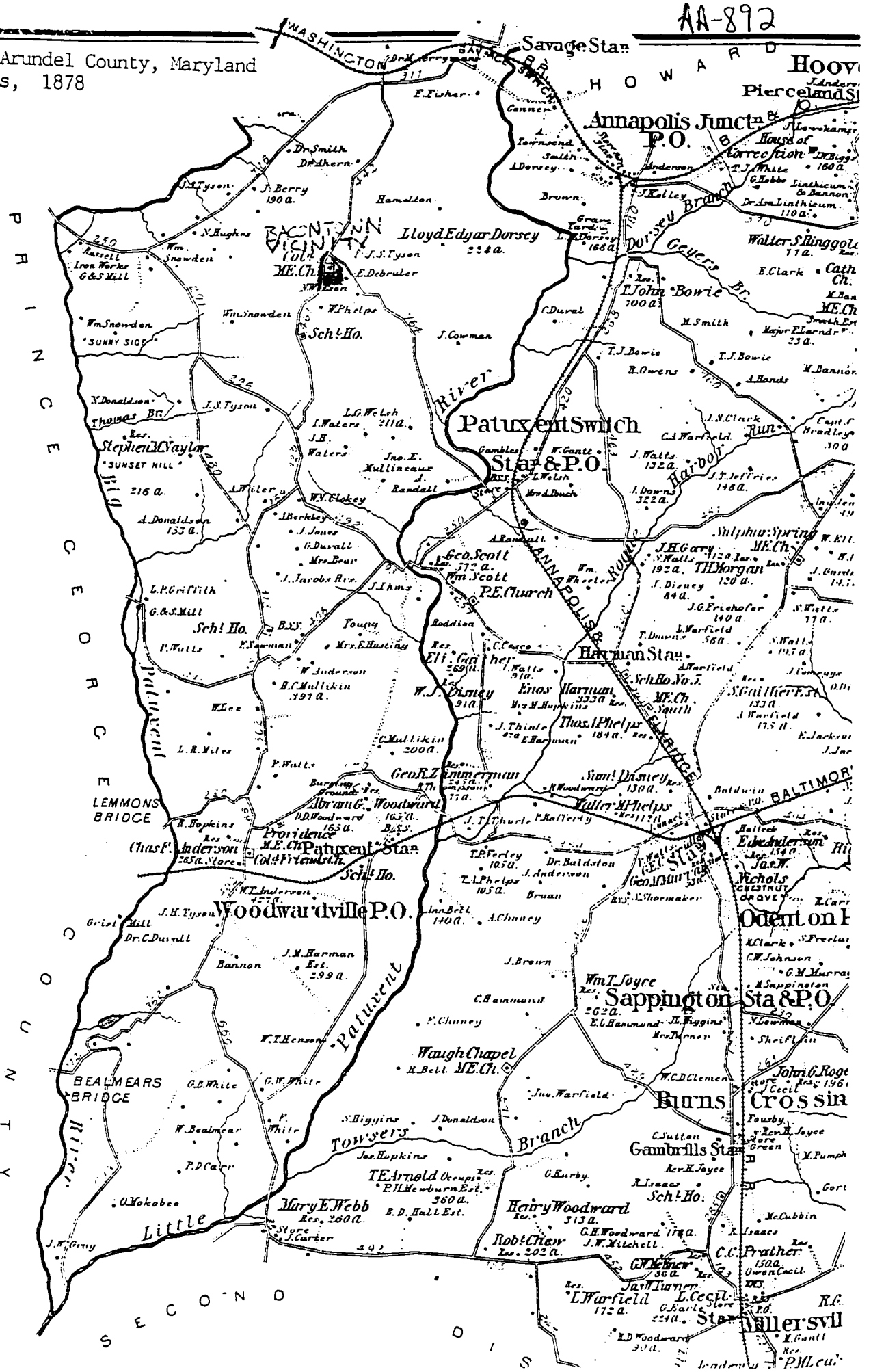
Chronological/Development Period(s): Industrial/Urban Dominance (1870-1930)

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme(s): architecture
Resource Type:
- Category Type: Building
- Historic Environment: village
- Historic Function(s) and Use(s): church

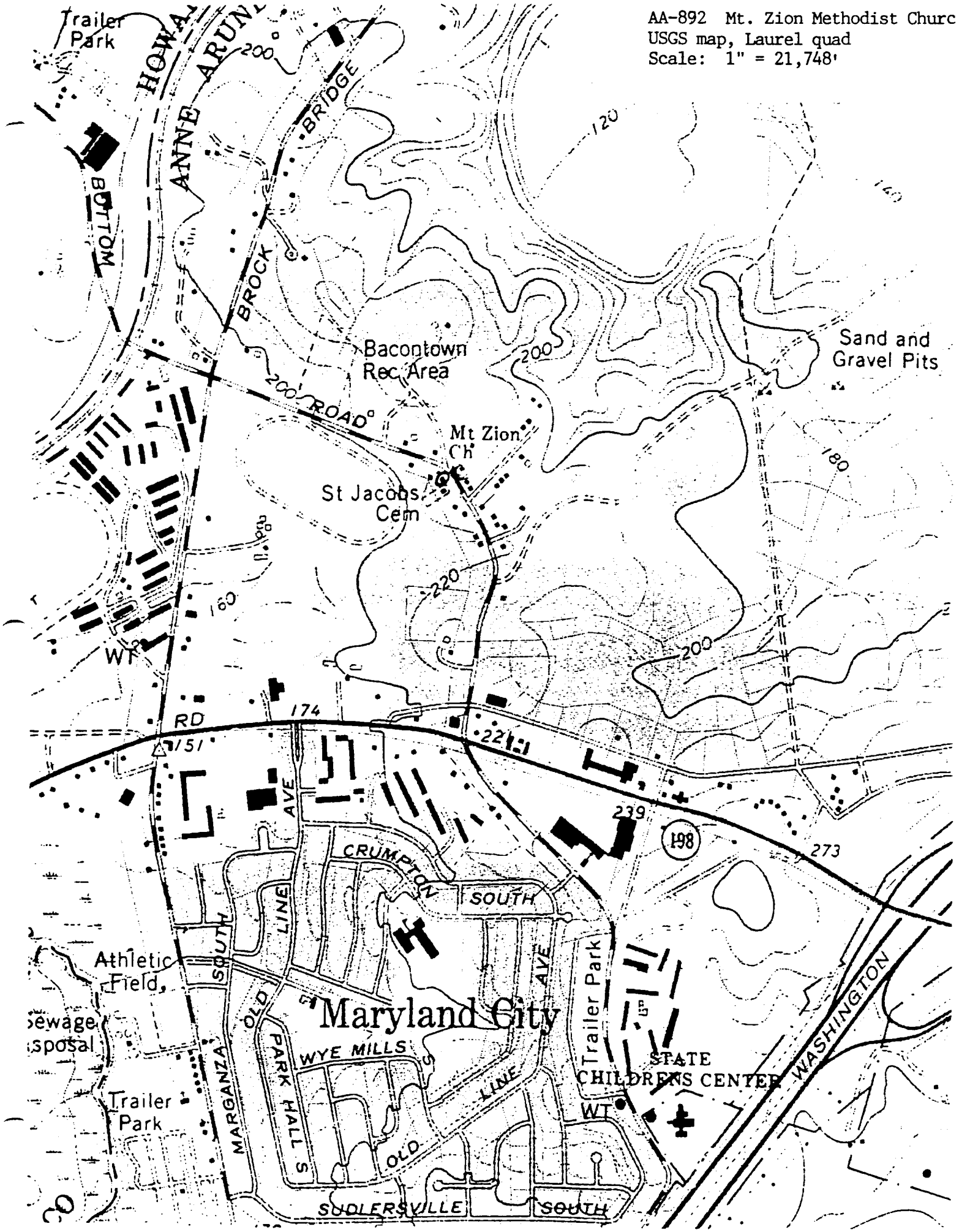
Known Design Source: none

AA-892

Atlas of Anne Arundel County, Maryland
by G.M. Hopkins, 1878



AA-892 Mt. Zion Methodist Churc
USGS map, Laurel quad
Scale: 1" = 21,748'



AA-892
Mt. Zion Methodist Church
Baroontown Community, Laurel, Anne Arundel Co.
by Sherri Marsh
October 1997
Negative at Maryland SHPO
Camera facing S/SE
Photo 1 of 1

AA-892