

## **CAPSULE SUMMARY**

**BA- 570**

**Grave Run Methodist Episcopal Church**

**19108 Falls Road**

**Upperco, Baltimore County**

**1908**

**Private**

The Grave Run Methodist Episcopal Church was constructed in the 19th century village of Grave Run Mills. The cemetery, original church, and congregation date to a period of growth in the community that continued through the late 19th century into the early 1900s. By 1850, Grave Run Mills was established around the Grave Run Factory. A schoolhouse was also centrally located in the village. Additionally, grist, saw, paper and fulling mills were located in and around the community. To the south, the Grave Run Methodist Episcopal Church had not yet been constructed, for the congregation didn't form until 1856. Shortly thereafter, they established the associated cemetery. By 1877, Grave Run Mills, which had a population of 160 inhabitants, was a thriving community developed with numerous dwellings, industrial buildings, commercial structures and other buildings. This growth appears to have diminished after the turn-of-the-20th century, for the 1915 county atlas reveals that the community did not expand beyond its borders or density through that period. The 19th century church was replaced in 1908 by the extant structure, which was used through the mid-20th century but now stands vacant.

Constructed in 1908, the Grave Run Methodist Episcopal Church is a one-and-a-half-story building of stretcher bond brick construction with a solid random rubble stone foundation and front gable roof clad in standing seam metal. Rising from the front of the roof ridge is the remnant of an historic spire that was struck by lightning in 1988 and then renovated by the placement of pressed vertical board and sheet metal cladding on its exterior. The façade, or northeast elevation of the building features a one-story, one-bay-square projecting central entry bay with a paneled double-leaf wood door with a molded wood surround, three-light transom and triangular stone nameplate above the transom. The façade features a raking arcaded corbel table. A reconstructed stretcher bond brick exterior gable end chimney rises on the rear gable end of the building. To the south and east of the church is a cemetery of approximately 100 to 150 graves that dates to 1860 and is still in use as a burial ground. A one-story, one-bay-square privy that dates to circa 1950 is located to the southwest of the church and cemetery.

# Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. BA- 570

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

historic Grave Run Methodist Episcopal Church

other \_\_\_\_\_

## 2. Location

street and number 19108 Falls Road \_\_\_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Upperco \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity

county Baltimore County

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

name Grave Run Methodist Episcopal Church

street and number 19108 Falls Road telephone Not Available

city, town Upperco state MD zip code 21155

## 4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore County Courthouse liber Not Available folio Not Available

city, town Towson tax map 10 tax parcel 74 tax ID number 0507058125

## 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
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	Contributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	<u>2</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<u>1</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input type="checkbox"/> domestic	
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> funerary	<u>3</u>
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	
		<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	Noncontributing
		<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	<u>      </u> buildings
		<input type="checkbox"/> religion	<u>      </u> sites
		<input type="checkbox"/> social	<u>      </u> structures
		<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	<u>      </u> objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<u>      </u> Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	
		<input type="checkbox"/> other:	
			<b>Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory</b>
			<u>1</u>

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## 7. Description

Inventory No. BA- 570

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### Condition

excellent       deteriorated  
 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.

Constructed in 1908, the Grave Run Methodist Episcopal Church is a one-and-a-half-story building of stretcher bond brick construction with a solid random rubble stone foundation and front gable roof clad in standing seam metal. Rising from the front of the roof ridge is the remnant of an historic spire that was struck by lightning in 1988 and then renovated by the placement of pressed vertical board and sheet metal cladding on its exterior. The roof of the small, square tower has been re-clad in asphalt shingles. The façade, or northeast elevation of the building features a one-story, one-bay-square projecting central entry bay with a paneled double-leaf wood door with a molded wood surround, three-light transom and triangular stone nameplate above the transom. A pointed-arched two-course rowlock hood surmounts the entry. On the main block directly above the entry is a six-light fixed window with a molded wood surround and round-arched two-course rowlock hood. Two 5/4 pentoid lancet windows with molded wood surrounds, square-edged wood sills and pointed-arched two-course rowlock hoods flank the entry. The façade features a raking arcaded corbel table. A small one-bay-square apse projects from the rear elevation beside a reconstructed stretcher bond brick exterior gable end chimney.

To the south and east of the church is a cemetery of approximately 100 to 150 graves. The cemetery, which dates to 1860, is still in use as a burial ground. The graves are arranged into approximately ten rows that face northeast, parallel with the road and the façade of the church. The majority of the markers are upright granite and marble slabs; however obelisks are also plentiful in the cemetery.

A one-story, one-bay-square privy that dates to circa 1950 is located to the southwest of the church and cemetery. The building features solid concrete block construction, a shed roof clad in corrugated sheet metal, and a flush-vertical-board single-leaf wood door.

# 8. Significance

Inventory No. BA- 570

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

**Specific dates** 1908-present **Architect/Builder** Unknown

**Construction dates** 1908

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

The Grave Run Methodist Episcopal Church was constructed in 1908 in the 19<sup>th</sup> century village of Grave Run Mills. The cemetery, original church, and congregation date to a period of growth in the community that continued through the late 19<sup>th</sup> century into the early 1900s. By 1850, Grave Run Mills was established around the Grave Run Factory. A schoolhouse was also centrally located in the village.<sup>1</sup> Additionally, grist, saw, paper and fulling mills were located in and around the community.<sup>2</sup> To the south, the Grave Run Methodist Episcopal Church had not yet been constructed, for the congregation didn't form until 1856. Shortly thereafter, they established the associated cemetery. By 1877, Grave Run Mills, which had a population of 160 inhabitants, was a thriving community developed with numerous dwellings, industrial buildings, commercial structures and other buildings.<sup>3</sup> This growth appears to have diminished after the turn-of-the-20<sup>th</sup> century, for the 1915 county atlas reveals that the community did not expand beyond its borders or density through that period. The 19<sup>th</sup> century church was replaced in 1908 by the extant structure, which was used through the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century but now stands vacant after being struck by lightning in 1988. Few structures remain in this 19<sup>th</sup> century manufacturing village.

<sup>1</sup> J.C. Sidney, *Map of the City and County of Baltimore, Maryland, from Original Surveys* (Baltimore, MD: James M. Stephens, 1850).  
<sup>2</sup> S. B. Clemens and C. E. Clemens, *From Marble Hill to Maryland Line: An Informal History of Northern Baltimore County* (np: C. E. Clemens and S. B. Clemens, 1976), p. 21.  
<sup>3</sup> *Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland* (Philadelphia, PA: G.M. Hopkins, 1877); see also S. B. Clemens and C. E. Clemens, *From Marble Hill to Maryland Line: An Informal History of Northern Baltimore County* (np: C. E. Clemens and S. B. Clemens, 1976), p. 21.

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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Inventory No. BA- 570

*Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland.* Philadelphia, PA: G. M. Hopkins, 1877.

Baltimore County Historic Inventory.

Brooks, Neal A. and Eric G. Rockel. *A History of Baltimore County.* Towson, MD: Friends of the Towson Library, Inc., 1979.

Clemens, S.B. and C. E. Clemens, *From Marble Hill to Maryland Line: An Informal History of Northern Baltimore County.* C. E. and S. B. Clemens, 1976.

*Map of Baltimore County.* Philadelphia, PA: G. W. Bromley, 1915.

Scharf, J. Thomas. *History of Baltimore City and County From the Earliest Period to the Present Day: Including Biographical Sketches of Their Representative Men.* Philadelphia, PA: Louis H. Everts, 1881. Reprinted by Higginson Book Company, Salem, MA.

Sidney, J. C. *Map of the City and County of Baltimore, Maryland, from Original Surveys.* Baltimore, MD: James M. Stephens, 1850.

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## 10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of surveyed property .10 Acre

Acreage of historical setting Unknown

Quadrangle name Lineboro

Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

Since its construction in 1908, the Grave Run Methodist Episcopal Church has been associated with the one acre of land known as tax parcel 74 of map 10 located in the Baltimore County Tax Assessor's office.

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## 11. Form Prepared by

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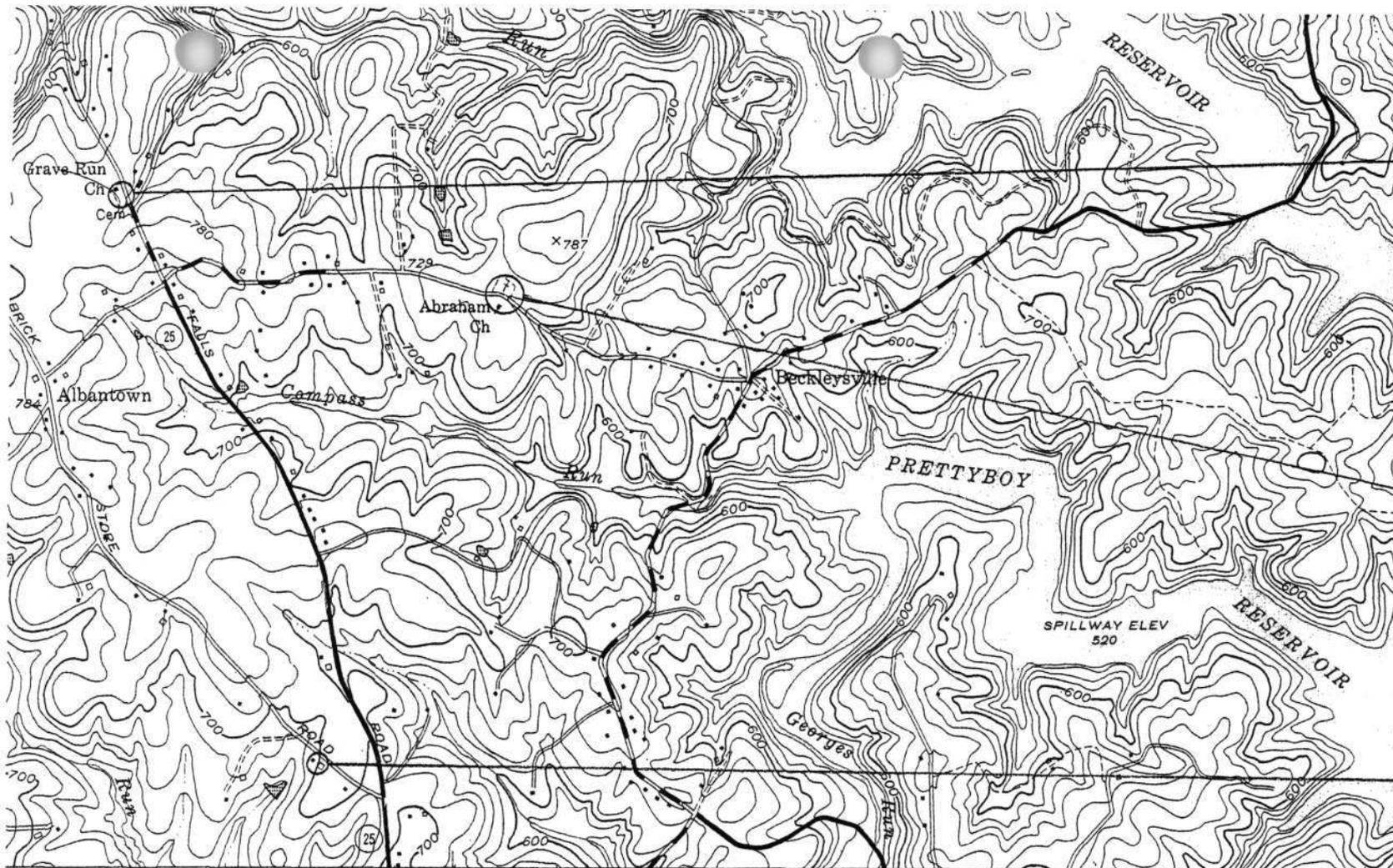
name/title	A. McDonald and A. Didden, Architectural Historians		
organization	EHT Traceries, Incorporated	date	May 17, 2001
street & number	1121 5th Street NW	telephone	202.393.1199
city or town	Washington	state	DC

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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 21032-2023  
410-514-7600

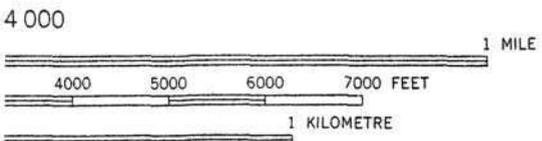


BA-1570  
GRAVE RUN M. E. CHURCH  
19108 FALLS ROAD  
ALBANTOWN  
BALTIMORE COUNTY

BA-0569  
ST. ABRAHAM'S LUTHERAN  
CHURCH  
4029 BECKLEYSVILLE ROAD  
BECKLEYSVILLE  
BALTIMORE COUNTY

BA-1851  
18310 BRICK STORE ROAD  
BECKLEYSVILLE  
BALTIMORE COUNTY

EAD) SE 345 WHITE HOUSE 2.1 MI. 346 BUTLER 7.3 MI. 47°30' 347 FORESTON 1.3 MI. 2.7 MI. TO MD. 137 INTERIOR—GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA—1975—84 2 280 000 FEET (PA.) 349000m.E. 76°45'



1/4" = 20 FEET  
NAD 83 DATUM OF 1929



QUADRANGLE LOCATION

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy-duty ——— 4 LANE | 6 LANE Light-duty ———  
 Medium-duty ——— 4 LANE | 6 LANE Unimproved dirt - - - - -  
 U. S. Route (shaded rectangle) State Route (circle)

LINEBORO, MD.—PA.

N3937.5—W7645/7.5

1953  
PHOTOREVISED 1974  
AMS 5663 III NE—SERIES V833

Revisions shown in purple compiled by the Geological Survey from aerial photographs taken 1 This information not field checked.

(HEREFORD)  
5663 III SW



BA 570  
19108 FALLS ROAD  
ALBANTOWN  
BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD  
TRAILERES  
3/2001  
MD-SHPD  
N CORNER

1 of 4



BA-0570

1908 FALLS ROAD

ALBANTOWN

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRACORIES

3/2001

MO-SHO

W CORNER

2 of 4



BA-570

19108 FALLS ROAD

ALBANTOWN

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRAILER

3/2001

MD-SHPD

SORNER

3 of 4



BA--570

19108 FALLS ROAD

ALBANY TOWN

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES

3/2001

MD-51100

CEMETERY

40f4

BA- 570

**GRAVE RUN M.E. CHURCH** - 1856 - 19108 Falls Road just north of Resh Mill Road. Brick church in Gothic style with central entrance spire, and ribbed-metal gable roof. Corbelled cornices and window frames. Built 1856 and enlarged or rebuilt in 1908. On the Hampstead circuit, it was closed in 1958 and is only occasionally opened for memorial services and burials in the adjoining cemetery. Struck by lightning, May 20, 1988. Spire demolished. Capped off.