

CAPSULE SUMMARY

BA- 590

Gorsuch Chapel

21301 West Liberty Road

Gorsuch Mills, Baltimore County

Ca. 1850

Private

The Gorsuch Chapel, constructed circa 1850, dates to a period of significant growth in Gorsuch Mills. The small village of Gorsuch Mills is located at the crossroads of West Liberty, Bond, and Harris Mills Roads near Deer Creek in the seventh election district of Baltimore County. The prosperous town typified the pattern of small mill related settlement. David Gorsuch built the gristmill in 1798 and sold it to J.V. Winemiller, who was also the postmaster, in the late 1840s. Gorsuch Mills, by 1877, boasted the Methodist Episcopal Church (Gorsuch Chapel), the G and S Mill, a number of farms, a general store, a blacksmith shop run by Joseph McCoy, and a school building. The atlas of 1895 reveals the population of Gorsuch Mills was listed as forty residents.

Located at 21301 West Liberty Road in the small community of Gorsuch Mills, the Gorsuch Methodist Episcopal Church is a small chapel of one-and-a-half stories. The five-course American bond brick building is one-bay wide and three-bays deep and sits on a random rubble stone foundation that is only visible above grade on the northeast elevation. The building has a front gable roof clad in standing-seam metal, and an offset exterior end chimney rises along the rear, or southeast elevation. This panel-faced concrete block chimney was added to the structure in the mid-20th century. The church fronts northwest and features a central flush double-leaf wood door with a square-edged wood surround and splayed rowlock lintel. One tall, round-arched six-light fixed window pierces the gable peak of the façade. This opening has a square-edged wood surround, sill, and round-arched rowlock lintel. Two non-historic outbuildings—a circa 1980 shed and circa 1970 shed—are located to the south of the church.

7. Description

Inventory No. BA- 1590

Condition

excellent deteriorated
 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.

Located at 21301 West Liberty Road in the small community of Gorsuch Mills, the Gorsuch Methodist Episcopal Church is a small, circa 1850 chapel of one-and-a-half stories. The five-course American bond brick building is one-bay wide and three-bays deep and sits on a random rubble stone foundation that is only visible above grade on the northeast elevation. The building has a front gable roof clad in standing-seam metal, and an offset exterior end chimney rises along the rear, or southeast elevation. This panel-faced concrete block chimney was added to the structure in the mid-20th century. The church fronts northwest and features a central flush double-leaf wood door with a square-edged wood surround and splayed rowlock lintel. One tall, round-arched six-light fixed window pierces the gable peak of the façade. This opening has a square-edged wood surround, sill, and round-arched rowlock lintel. The three window openings on the southwest elevation and the two windows on the northeast elevation are filled with 2/2 sash with square-edged wood surrounds and sills and brick jack-arched lintels. One opening on the northeast elevation has been retrofit for a modern flush-and-lighted single-leaf wood door with a square-edged wood surround. Above the door there is brick-infill that is surmounted by a brick jack-arched lintel.

Two non-historic cinderblock outbuildings—a circa 1980 shed and circa 1970 shed—are located to the south of the church. The first has a front gable roof clad in asphalt shingles with plywood cladding in the gable peak. The second shed has a hipped roof clad in asphalt shingles and features plywood cladding over the structural system.

8. Significance

Inventory No. BA- 590

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 checked="" 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 1850 ca. **Architect/Builder** Unknown

Construction dates 1850 ca.

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 small village of Gorsuch Mills is located at the crossroads of West Liberty, Bond, and Harris Mills Roads near Deer Creek in the seventh election district of Baltimore County. The district was the largest and most populated region of the county in latter part of the 19th century. Located near the Pennsylvania and Harford County lines in the northeast part of the county, the area historically consisted of rolling hills, transversed by major transportation corridors. The cultivation of wheat, corn, oats, fruit, dairy, and the breeding of cattle supported the residents and neighboring towns of West Liberty, located near the Northern Central Railway. The communities are located less than twenty-five miles north of Baltimore City. The prosperous town typified the pattern of small mill related settlement. The Gorsuch Chapel, constructed circa 1850, dates to a period of significant growth in Gorsuch Mills. David Gorsuch built the gristmill in 1798 and sold it to J.V. Winemiller, who was also the postmaster, in the late 1840s. Gorsuch Mills, by 1877, boasted the Methodist Episcopal Church (Gorsuch Chapel), the G and S Mill, a number of farms, a general store, a blacksmith shop run by Joseph McCoy, and a school building. The atlas of 1895 reveals the population of Gorsuch Mills was listed as forty residents. Rural agricultural farms devoted primarily to dairy production surrounded the villages. The railroad and their close proximity to York Road, the major north-south transportation artery, rendered the small towns as centers of trade.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. BA- 590

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

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

Maryland Historical Trust Inventory

Scharf, Thomas J. *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.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 0.237 acre

Acreage of historical setting Unknown

Quadrangle name Norrisville

Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

Since its circa 1850 construction, the Gorsuch Methodist Episcopal Church has been associated with the 0.2 acre known as parcel 43 of tax map 8 located in the Baltimore County Tax Assessor's office.

11. Form Prepared by

name/title	A. McDonald and J. Bunting, Architectural Historians		
organization	EHT Tracerics, Incorporated	date	April 11, 2001
street & number	1121 5th Street NW	telephone	202.393.1199
city or town	Washington	state	DC

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

150 000 FEET
(PA.)

Quad: NORRISVILLE
Scale: 1:24,000



4399
HREWSBURY

4398
PENNSYLVANIA
MARYLAND

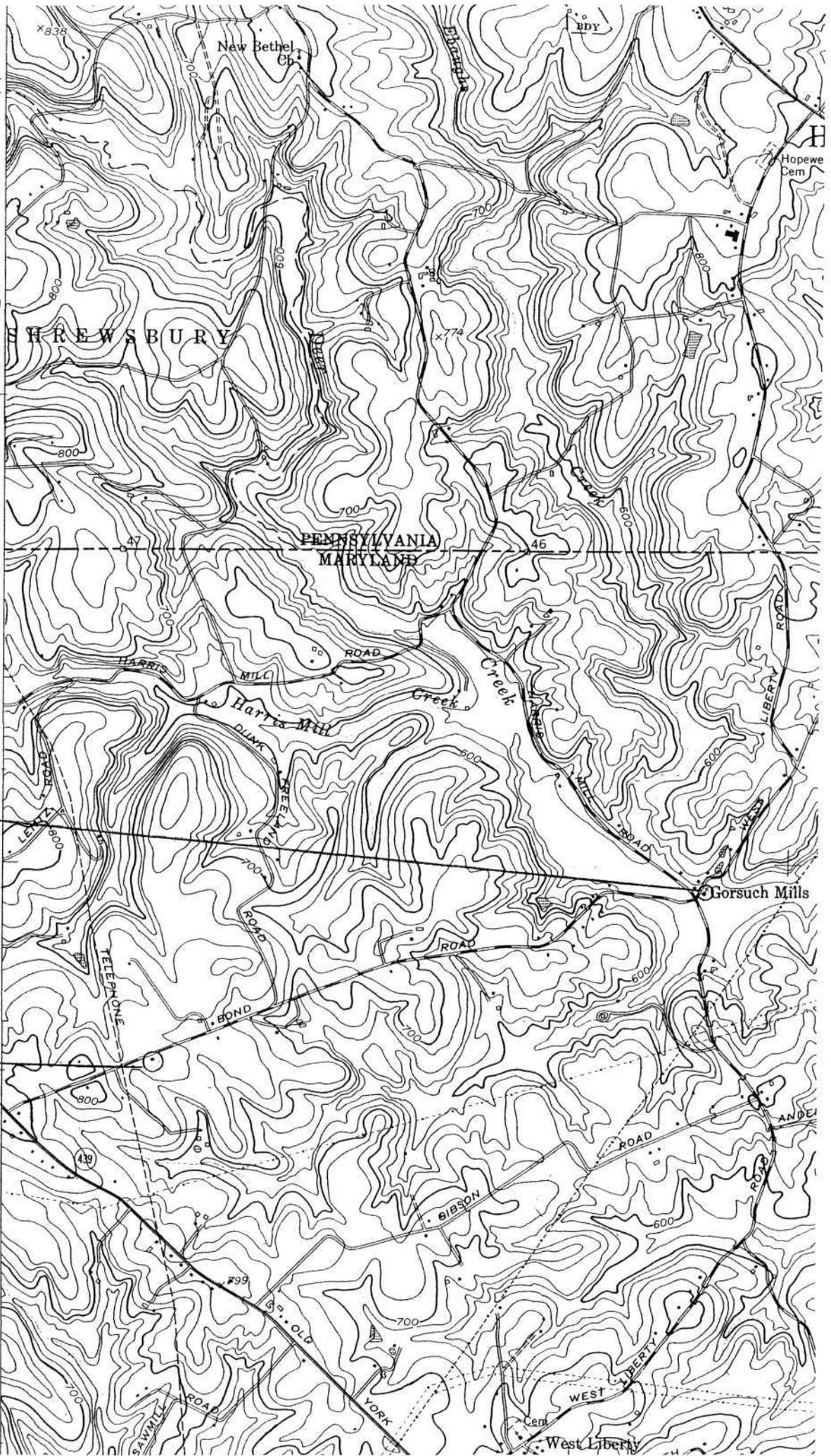
4397
HARRIS MILL
Gorsuch Mills

4396
YORK, PA. 20 MI.
1.7 MI. TO INTERSTATE 83

4395
5663 II NW
(NEW FREEDOM)

BA- 590
GORSUCH CHAPEL
21301 WEST LIBERTY ROAD
GORSUCH MILLS 42'30"
BALTIMORE COUNTY

A-1150
OND SCHOOL
715 BOND ROAD
ARKTON
BALTIMORE COUNTY



5663 II NW
(NEW FREEDOM)



BA-590

GORSUCH METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

21301 WEST LIBERTY ROAD, GORSUCH MILLS
BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND

TRACERIES

3/2001

MD SHPO

WEST CORNER, CAMERA FACING EAST



BA-590

GORSUCH METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
21301 WEST LIBERTY ROAD, GORSUCH MILLS
BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND
TRACERIES

3/2001

MD SHPO

SOUTH CORNER, CAMERA FACING NORTH



BA-590

GORSUCH METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

21301 WEST LIBERTY ROAD, GORSUCH MILLS

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND

TRACERIES

3/2001

MD SHPO

NORTH CORNER, CAMERA FACING SOUTH

BA-590

GORSUCH METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH - 1860s - Southeast corner of Bond Avenue and Harris Mill Road at West Liberty Road, Gorsuch Mills vicinity. Small, plain brick chapel; double doors in front; 3 bays deep. Plain sash windows. Built by Stephen Gorsuch family. Shown as "M.E. Church" in 1877 atlas. Originally called Gorsuch M.E. Church, it was for a time abandoned, but in 1956 was purchased by present congregation under title of "The Lighted Pathway".