F-4-55
St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church 1847; tower 1909
Wolfsville
Private

St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church is a one-story stone hall type church built in 1847 with double entries and a semi-circular gable window. In 1909, a bell tower with a vestibule was added and the double entrances became windows flanking the tower, a single double-doored entrance through a Gothic Revival arch in the tower. The tower has a sloping roof with a Gothic Revival dormer in the east elevation. The side elevations have three bays with 2/2 windows. The roof is covered with composition roofing material. A 1958 education building adjoins the original structure on the south, linked to it by a hall enclosed between the two buildings in 1978. The interior has been much altered over the years and now has plastered walls and ceiling. St. Mark's was established in 1847 by the Funkstown Charge near Hagerstown, illustrating the relative isolation of the Wolfsville vicinity from the Lutheran congregations of Myersville and Middletown. This was short-lived, as St. Mark's was united with St. John's Church of Church Hill in a new charge later joined by St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Myersville. The altered St. Mark's Church is a fair example of a rural vernacular church of the mid-19th century which was given a picturesque Gothic Revival appearance in the early 20th century with the addition of the bell tower.

F-4-55
St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church
Wolfsville
Frederick County

HISTORIC CONTEXT:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Piedmont
(Harford, Baltimore, Carroll, Frederick, Howard, Montgomery Counties, and Baltimore City)

Chronological/Development Period:
Agricultural-Industrial Transition A.D. 1815-1870
Industrial/Urban Dominance A.D. 1870-1930

Prehistoric/Historic Period Themes
Architecture, Landscape Architecture and Community Planning
Religion

Resource Types:

Category: Building

Environment: Rural

Historic Function and Use:
Religion/religious structure/church

Known Design Source: None

M23 P38

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. F-4-55

Magi No.

DOE __yes x no

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 12800 block Wolfsville Road, west side ___ not for publication

city, town Wolfsville x vicinity of congressional district 6th

state Maryland county Frederick

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
	x not applicable	___ no	___ military	___ other:

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

name St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Wolfsville

street & number telephone no.:

city, town Myersville state and zip code Md. 21773

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Frederick County Courthouse liber

street & number 100 W. Patrick Street folio

city, town Frederick state Md. 21701

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ___ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

epository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. F-4-55

Condition		Check one	Check one
_x_ 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.

CONTRIBUTING RESOURCE COUNT: 1

St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church is a stone one story hall plan church built in 1847 with a projecting vestibule and tower with a belfry added in 1909 located on the west side of Wolfsville Road about one mile north of the center of Wolfsville, Frederick County, Maryland. The church is adjoined on the south by a 1958 stone Sunday School building which was freestanding when built and later linked to the original church building by an enclosure of the intervening space between the two structures in 1978. The church cemetery extends west and north of the building.

The original part of the church was built in a similar design to that of St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church at Church Hill (F-4-51), erected in 1830. It had two entrances corresponding to interior aisles with a semi-circular window in the gable above. The side elevations had three bays with 2/2 windows. The 1909 addition to the church included the alteration of the double entrances to windows flanking the projecting tower containing a vestibule. The present entrance is through the base of the tower which has modern double paneled doors with a paneled soffit below a Gothic arched transom with tracery muntins and colored glass. The upper part of the tower is tapered toward the open belfry and sheathed in composition roofing material with a single dormer in the east elevation with a Gothic arched 4/4 window. The belfry has a scroll-sawn balustrade and a hipped composition roof topped by a weathervane. Along the bargeboard of the east elevation is a scroll-sawn edge decoration and the gable is faced with composition siding. The fieldstone walls have raised grapevine pointing, undoubtedly a repair made about the time the tower was built. The three windows on the exposed north elevation have colored glass in 2/2 sash. The cornice is corbeled brick. On the west end of the building is an exterior brick chimney. The three windows on the south elevation which were enclosed by the modern additions remain intact, opening on the connecting hallway. Two windows in the west elevation were closed off in 1959.

The interior of the original section has been altered several times over the years and its general appearance is that of a modern small sanctuary. The change from two aisles to one center aisle occurred during the 1909 alteration. Two of the original pews are retained on the lower level of the education wing, but the current furnishings appear to be of recent installation. The walls are plastered and painted with a coved ceiling replacing the pressed metal ceiling installed in 1912 after storm damage. The church now has central heat and air conditioning. The original heat sources were two wood-burning stoves. Electricity was installed during the period 1937-1943.

8. Significance

Survey No. F-4-55

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
_x_ 1800–1899	___ commerce	___ exploration/settlement	___ philosophy	___ transportation
_x_ 1900–	___ communications	___ industry	___ politics/government	___ other (specify)
		___ invention		

Specific dates 1847 ; tower and vestibule 1909 **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.

St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church is a fair example of a vernacular church building of the mid-19th century given a Gothic Revival character by an early 20th century bell tower. The low cornice line of the tower, which matches that of the original structure, and the sloping, dormered exterior gives a picturesque appearance to the church which was a common feature among small rural churches of the early 20th century. The church is also important in local religious history for its founding as a mission of the Lutheran Charge of Funkstown, Maryland, near Hagerstown. This illustrates the relative isolation of the Wolfsville vicinity from the other Lutheran congregations in the Myersville and Middletown areas. St. John's Lutheran Church at Church Hill was organized as early as 1790, and members traveled from Wolfsville to Church Hill or to the predecessor church at Jerusalem near Myersville until the 1847 founding of St. Mark's. By that time, travel had become relatively easier, and in 1850, St. Mark's and St. John's were united under the name St. John's Lutheran Charge. Later, St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Myersville came into the Charge.

Churches were the most important gathering places for rural communities and their establishment dates became pivotal in local development. St. Mark's Lutheran and St. James German Reformed Church (demolished 1955) were established in the late 1840's, joining the ca. 1820 United Brethren Church (now Salem United Methodist Church) in the vicinity of Wolfsville.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. F-455

Bond, Isaac, Map of Frederick County, 1858.

Martin, Charles S., and Tom Rose. The History of Wolfsville & The Catoctin District. Wolfsville Ruritan Club, 1972.

Titus, C.O. Atlas of Frederick County, 1873.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 1/2 acre

Quadrangle name Myersville, Md. **Quadrangle scale** 1:24000

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

Concurrent with Tax Map 23, Parcel 38.

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 Janet L. Davis, Historic Sites Surveyor

organization Frederick County Planning & Zoning Dept. **date** April 1992

street & number 12 E. Church Street **telephone** 696-2958

city or town Frederick **state** Md. 21701

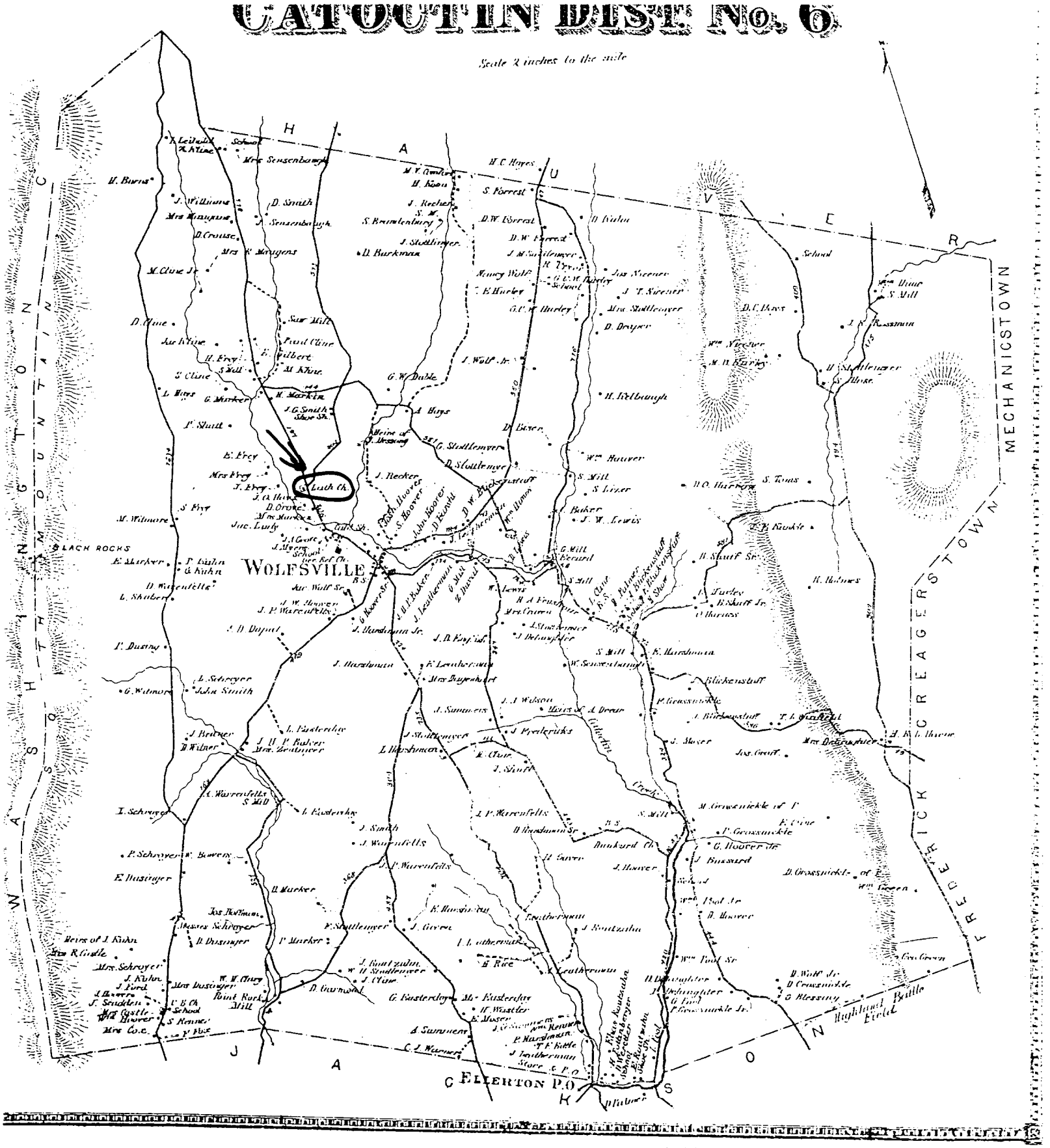
The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

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
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DHCP/DHCD
100 COMMUNITY PLACE
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023
514-7600

PS-2746



F-4-55
St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church
Frederick County
C.O. Titus, Atlas of Frederick County, 1873

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M — Methodist
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: Mount Pleas-
of Rocks, 13¼;
: Wolfsville 16
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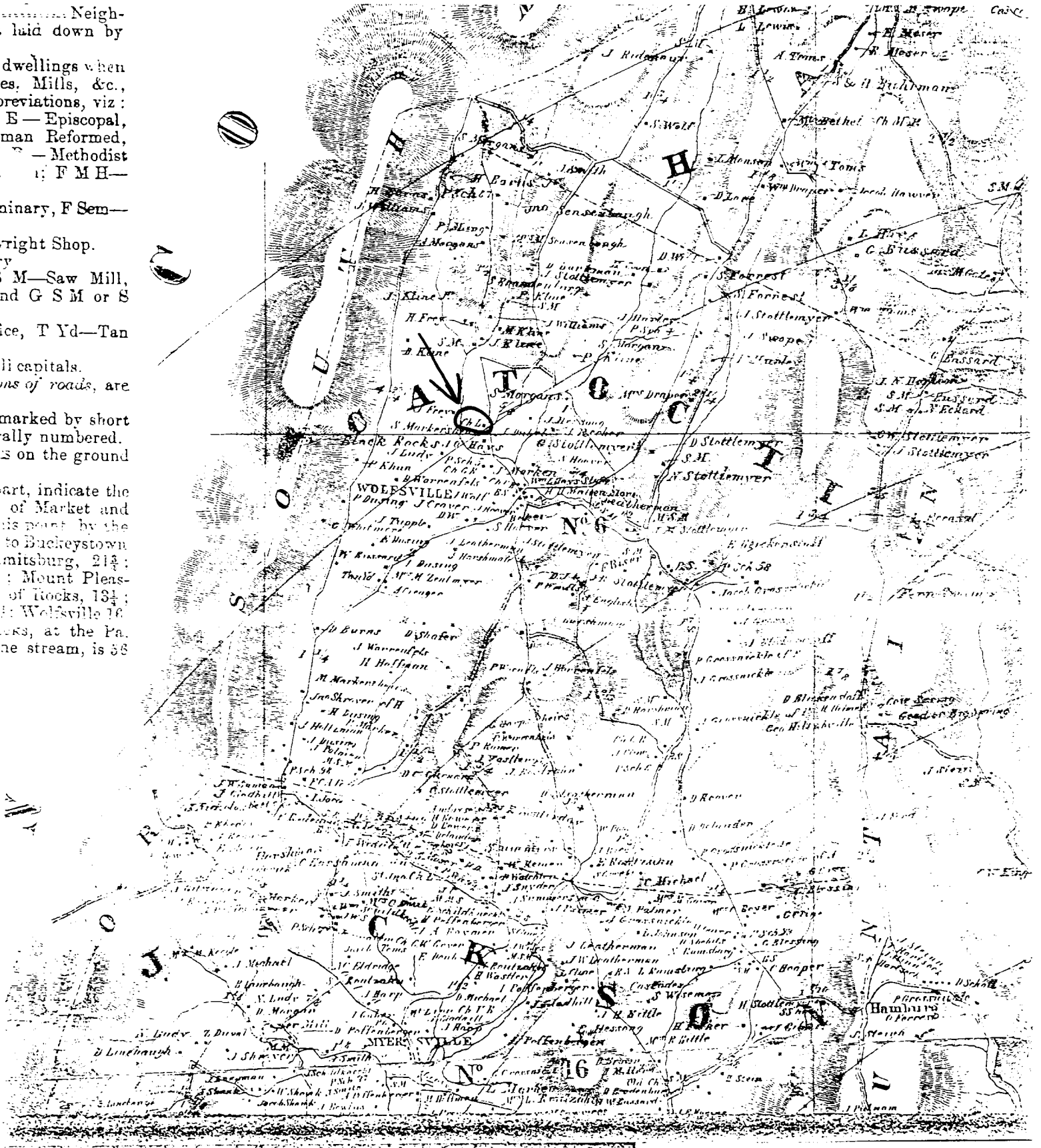
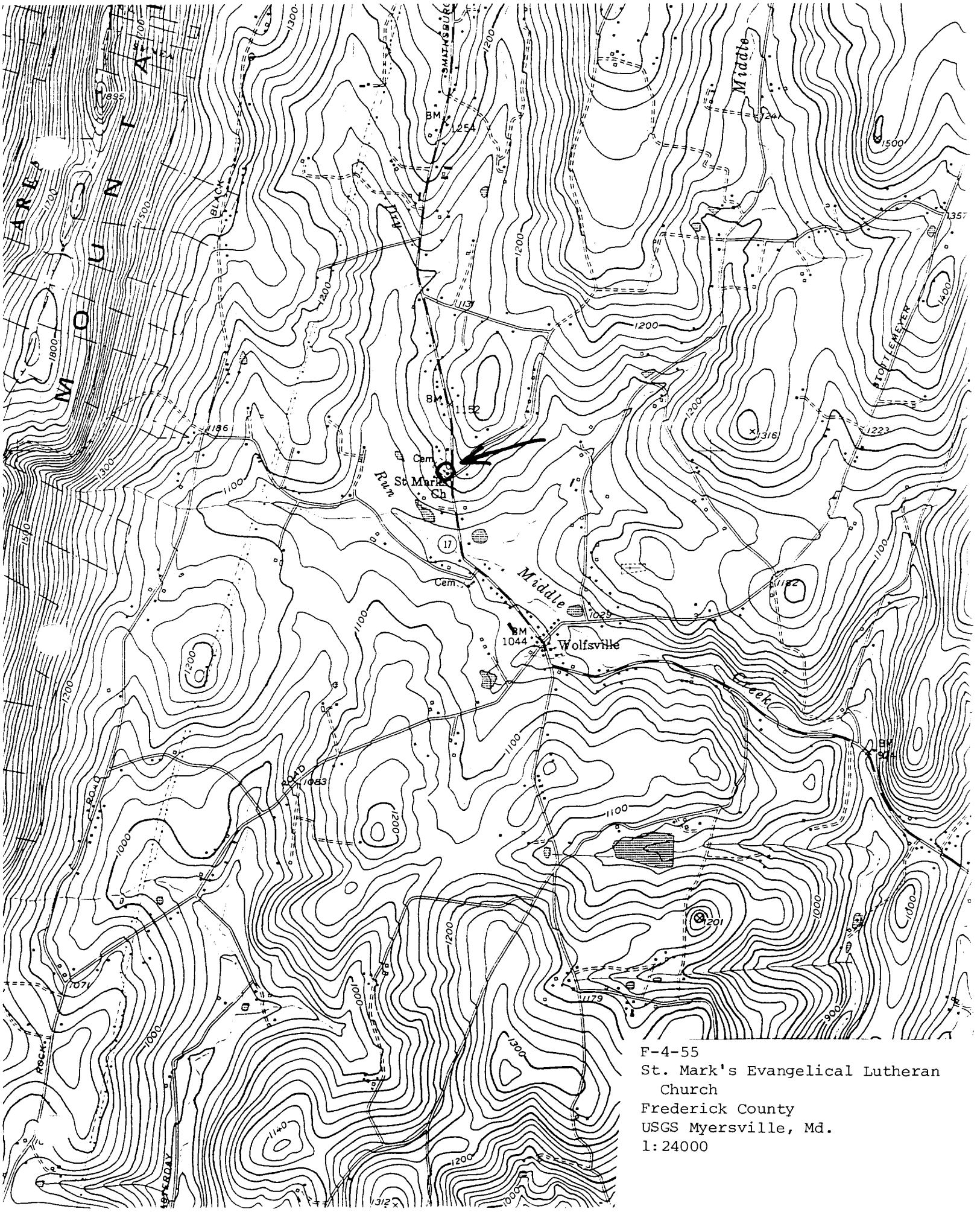


F-4-55
St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church
Frederick County
Isaac Bond, Map of Frederick County, 1858.



F-4-55
St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church
Frederick County
USGS Myersville, Md.
1:24000

T. 2 55
St. Mark's Lutheran Church
Frederick County
Title: Janet Davis
April 1972
Near loc. Md. State, Crownsville, Md.
Foot elevation
1/2

F-4-56
St. Mark's Lutheran Church
Frederick County
Photo: Janet Davis
April 2012
Negative: Md. SHPO, Crownsville, Md.
Northwest corner view
2/2