

Montgomery County Historic Site Survey, Site ^{M.}#23-42
Sunshine Historic District
Sunshine, Maryland
Access: Public/Restricted

Description:

The Sunshine Historic District is located in the largely rural region of northwestern Montgomery County, at the intersection of Georgia Avenue (Rt. 97) and Damascus Road (Rt. 650). It consists of four buildings dating from the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. There are two residences dating from the nineteenth century, one vernacular Victorian and one that was once a store building which has undergone extensive remodeling, thus, giving it a twentieth century appearance. There is also an early twentieth century church built in Neo-Classical style and a mid-twentieth century commercial structure- a store and auto service station.

Significance:

Sunshine is a small, rural crossroads community which sprung up during the later part of the nineteenth century with a store, blacksmith shop and a few residences to serve the surrounding farms. Sunshine was formed by a schism in the nearby town of Unity, thus, creating a separate, rival town. A general merchandise store was the heart of Sunshine. The old store ran for many years but has since been remodeled and used for apartments. A newer store and gas station took its place about 1947. In 1928, a church was added to the crossroads. Sunshine remains a small, rural community.

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Sunshine, Maryland

and/or common

2. Location

street & number Georgia Ave. (Rt. 27) & Damascus Rd. (Rt. 650), not for publication

city, town Brookeville vicinity of congressional district 1st

state Maryland county Montgomery

3. Classification

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

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

name Multiple Ownership (see attached listing)

street & number telephone no.:

city, town state and zip code

5. Location of Legal Description

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

street & number folio

city, town Rockville state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title M-NCPPC Historic Sites Inventory

date 1976 federal state county local

depository for survey records M-NCPPC Park Historian's Office

city, town Rockville state Maryland

7. Description

Survey No. M:23-42

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input 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.

The proposed Sunshine Historic District is located in the largely rural region of northeastern Montgomery County, at the intersection of Georgia Avenue (Rt. 97) and Damascus Road (Rt. 650). It consists of four buildings. Two of these date from the nineteenth century although, due to alterations, one of them has a twentieth century look. The other is typical of the vernacular Victorian architecture of late nineteenth century Montgomery County. Both are currently being used as private residences. Next, is an early twentieth century church built in Neo-Classical style. Finally, is a mid-twentieth century store and auto service station which is typical of the plain, commercial structures of that period. Thus, the overall appearance of the Sunshine crossroads is twentieth century.

8. Significance

Survey No. M:23-42

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" 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	Builder/Architect
check: Applicable Criteria: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D and/or Applicable Exception: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> G	
Level of Significance: <input type="checkbox"/> national <input type="checkbox"/> state <input type="checkbox"/> local	

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

Sunshine is a small crossroads community located at the intersection of Routes 650 and 97. It features a church, store & auto service station and two frame, residential structures surrounded largely by farmlands. Although Sunshine was established in the nineteenth century, the present crossroads has, for the most part, a twentieth century appearance.

Sunshine was created about 1870. According to local legend the small crossroads community was formed through a schism in the town of Unity. The easterners, desiring a way to distinguish themselves from Unity, broke away from the larger community. They chose another name, thus forming a somewhat separate village. Myrna Smith, lifetime resident of Unity, explained how her grandfather, John Dwyer, selected the name. "He was walking along with a group of friends and said how hot and sunshiny it was that day and it has been called 'Sunshine' ever since" (Frederick Post, April 24, 1980).

Sunshine did not appear on the 1865 Martenet & Bond map of Montgomery County. In fact, very little appeared here at that time. The map shows only two residences and the M.E. Church on its original location further down the road. Unity, of course, was not far away and the surrounding area was dotted with farms. On the 1879 Hopkin's Atlas the town appears as "Sunshine P.O." Thomas Scharf's History of Western Maryland states that on December 7, 1870, "the name of the Unity post office was changed to Sunshine" (p. 717). It was changed back to Unity on January 30, 1874, back to Sunshine on March 24, 1874 and finally back to Unity on May 22, 1885.

Boyd's History of Montgomery County, Maryland discusses Sunshine but not Unity in 1879, though the list of residents is obviously a combination of Unity, Sunshine and the surrounding farm community. According to Boyd, Sunshine had

See Attachment Sheet

Attachment Sheet

good soil, "susceptible of improvement," selling at \$20 to \$40 per acre. The farms of Sunshine produced mostly wheat, corn and hay. The population was listed as 150 persons. However, despite the fact that Unity and Sunshine was often combined, either name being used to refer to the two towns together on official records, older residents claim that a distinction was made between Unity and Sunshine.

Sunshine, then, was a small crossroads with a few residences and businesses serving the surrounding farm community. Fred O. Gaither's Store & P.O. and residence appear on the 1879 map located on the northeast corner of the intersection. On the Southeast corner was George Cashell's residence and his W.S. shop (blacksmith/wheelwright) which burned down in the early 1970's. The northwest and southwest corner lots were then vacant.

A general merchandise store has always been the heart of Sunshine, beginning with F.O. Gaither's store in the 1870's. According to lifetime resident, John Fletcher Brown, the store was operating here long before he can remember. After Mr. Gaither, Frederick Bowman ran the store until 1890 when he sold it to James E. Harvey (Deed JA 19/372). Mr. Harvey had started out in the mercantile business in a partnership with Joshua Higgins, running the store in Unity. However, Mr. Harvey soon sold his interest to Mr. Higgins and purchased the store in Sunshine. Mr. Harvey died on October 15, 1915 and in June of 1919 his heirs and next of kin sold the store to Thomas A. Ridgely (Deed 284/298). Eventually, Mr. Ridgely's generosity in extending credit to his customers put him out of business. The store was sold in 1941. Marion E. Botterill ran the store for awhile after that. In January of 1949, Forrest S. and Virginia A. Darne purchased the property, selling it in July of 1956 to the current owners, Carl F. and Gladys P. Hurlebaus (Deed 1223/270 & 2236/316). The old general store has since been extensively remodeled and converted into apartments.

Connected with the old Sunshine store is the storekeepers residence next door. The house was probably constructed by the second storekeeper, Frederick Bowman about 1889. With one exception (during the 1950's), the house has been owned and occupied by the owner of the store property. The house is a vernacular Victorian frame residence typical of the rural architecture of Montgomery County dating from the later part of the nineteenth century. It is a two story residence, three bays wide, and has a gable roof with a center gable facade. The centrally located entry is surrounded by sidelights and transom and is covered by a small entry porch. Two over two sash windows light the house. The house remains in good condition.

The second and currently operating store constructed in Sunshine is a cinderblock structure located on the northwest corner. This building is typical of the plain, commercial structures of the mid-twentieth century. Like many built during this period, it is of cinderblock and concrete construction and is devoid of ornamentation. It is box-shaped with a flat roof which is stepped at the south elevation. The building consists of a store and connecting garage (to the north). The entry is located at the front, cut corner of the building. The store was built by Parker T. Oland about 1947 (Mr. John Fletcher Brown and tax assessment records). Mr. Oland built the store on an acre of ground which he purchased from Percy Price in March of 1939 as part of a 128 acre farm (Deed 729/33). The store was referred to as "Friendly Quarters" (Frederick Post, April 24, 1980). Some groceries, gas and oil were sold here (Mr. J.F. Brown). Mr. Oland, however, did not stay long. In September of 1949, he sold the business to Carl F. & Gladys P. Hurlebaus and William Henry Hurlebaus (Deed 1296/525). The business was then known as "Sunshine Service" (Frederick Post) and included a store and service station. William Hurlebaus died on November 14, 1978, leaving his interest in the business to his brother and sister-in-law, Carl and Gladys Hurlebaus (Estate #057 11 78, Montgomery County Register of Wills). They sold it that same year. It was purchased by the present owners, Paul and Emiko Eng in April of 1980. (Deed 5509/840).

The Mt. Carmel Methodist Protestant Church of Montgomery County, situated on the southwest corner of the intersection, has been a focal point of activity for the Sunshine community. The church was established in 1858 just one mile north at Tridelfia. The original church sat on an acre lot donated by Robert and Cassandra Brown (Deed JGH 7/167). This church was used for the last time on November 13, 1927, while meanwhile, a new church was being constructed in Sunshine (Sandy Spring Museum, File Box, Misc.). Mrs. Carrie Oland had donated an acre lot on which to build the new church in June of 1926 (Deed 404/98). Lumber was brought from Herman Priebe's saw mill located on his farm in Unity (Mr. J.F. Brown) and in June of 1927 the cornerstone was laid. The church was dedicated on August 5, 1928. Later, in 1975, renovation took place at the church. Aluminum siding was added as were storm windows and a new furnace (County Courier, August 6, 1975). The church is a Neo-Classical structure featuring a two story high, pedimented portico supported by Doric columns with pilasters to either side against the facade. It is rectangularly shaped with a three bay, front gabled facade which is symmetrically balanced. The entry has a transom and pediment above. To the front of the gabled roof is a small, open bell tower with a hipped roof. A single story, three bay by one bay addition is located to the eastern side of the church. The church windows are all of stained-glass.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. M:23-42

Montgomery County Land Records, tax records & Register of Wills
Interview with Mr. John Fletcher Brown & Daughter, Gloria Kennedy
"What's in the Name? Sunshine," Frederick Post, 24 April 1980.
Martenet & Bond Map of 1865 and Hopkins Atlas of 1879

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

B	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

C	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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D	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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E	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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F	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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G	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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H	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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Verbal boundary description and justification

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

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Catherine Crawford

organization Mont. Co. Hist. Preservation Comm. date 12/84

street & number telephone

city or town Rockville state Maryland

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

M. #23-42
1605475629

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Sunshine, Maryland

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Georgia Ave. (Rte. 97) & Damascus Road (Rte. 650)

CITY, TOWN

Brookeville

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Montgomery

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERICAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

various owners

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Montgomery County Courthouse

Liber #:

Folio #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Rockville

STATE

Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

M:23-42

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This is a country, crossroads village, that evolved in the 19th Century, and now has mostly an early 20th Century appearance. There is a cinderblock store and several old frame houses on the North side of Damascus Rd., opposite each other on Rte. 97. The most notable building is Mt. Carmel Methodist Church on the SW corner. This is a large, frame, classical revival building with a two-story, pedimented portico on the main (east) entrance facade. There is a short, open bell-tower above this, on the roof of the main block. There are stained-glass windows.

A board-and-batten wheelwright shop on the SE corner was burned down in recent years.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

M:23-42

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 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 type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The present Mt. Carmel Church was built in 1928. An earlier church dated back to the mid-19th Century, and the old cemetery is located just north of here.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

M:23-42

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Michael F. Dwyer, Senior Park Historian

ORGANIZATION

M-NCPPC

DATE

7/16/74

STREET & NUMBER

8787 Georgia Ave.

TELEPHONE

589-1480

CITY OR TOWN

Silver Spring

STATE

Maryland

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RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
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M. 23-42

LAYTONSVILLE 1.2 MI

342
30"

341

LAYTONSVILLE 1.6 MI

0

1/2 MI (MILLSBURG)

SANDY SPRING

River

BM 518

BM Unity 520

BM 520

Sunshine

Hawlings River

REGIONAL PARK

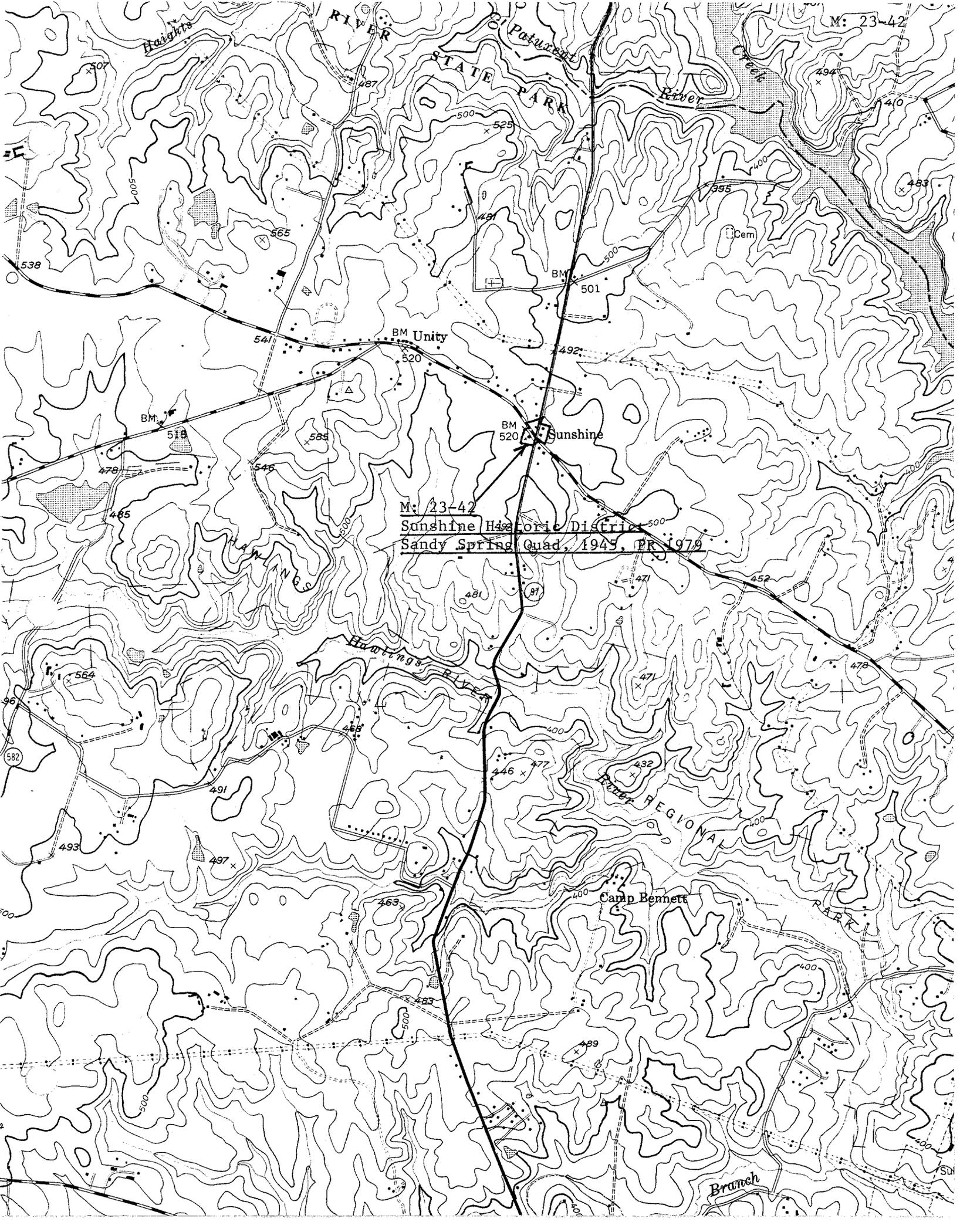
Camp Bennett

Mt Zion

582

23/53





M: 23-42
 Sunshine Historic District
 Sandy Spring Quad, 1945, FR 1979

M: 23-42
Sunshine Historic District
Jennifer K. Cosham
April 21, 2004
Digital color photo on file at MHT



M: 23-42
Sunshine Historic District
(Mt. Carmel U.M. Church)
Jennifer K. Cosham
April 21, 2004
Digital color photo on file at MHT





#23-42 Sunshine Host Diet.
Streetscape



#23-42 Sunshine Nest Dist.

Rt. 650 & Rt 97



Sunshine Hist Dist #23-42
Stone owners residence
Georgia Ave.



#2342 Sunshine Host Dist.

Old Store Bldg.

Ret 650 + ret 97



#23242 Sunshine Nest Dish
Mt. Carmel Methodist Protestant
Church



NAME #23-42 MT. CARMEL CHURCH - SUNSHINE, Md

LOCATION Rt 97 SUNSHINE, Md

FACADE NE

PHOTO TAKEN 7/16/74 MDWYER