M:27-10

Capsule Summary
for
Lay Hill M.E. Church

June 1991

Mont. Co. survey prefix : 27
Site number : 10
Approx. building date : 1887
Town/town vicinity : Silver Spring
Access : _ **Public** √ **Private**

Short Description of Site:

This three-bay by one-bay gable roofed church is representative of late nineteenth century rural vernacular church architecture; it has been vinyl sided. The church yard in front with its flanking line of trees and adjacent open land, and grave yard to the side, with its mature trees, also help retain the nineteenth century atmosphere. The additions at the rear of the church have been sensitively placed so as to be minimally disruptive.

Analysis of Evaluation
for
Lay Hill M.E. Church

M:27-10

June 1991

Value Descr.			
Outstanding			
Considerable	✔	✔	✔
Moderate			
Minor			
Evaluation Criteria	Arch. Signif.	Arch. Integrity	Historical Signif.

Procedure:

Rating = $\frac{\text{\# of Boxes Selected}}{12} \times 100$

0 - 25 % = Unqualified
25 - 50 % = Minimal
50 - 75 % = Mid-level
75 - 100% = Good
90 - 100% = Natl. Reg. (with possible exceptions)

Rating for this site: Good

Criteria:

Arch. Significance - that quality which embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose component may lack individual distinction.

Historical Significance - that quality present in sites associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or that are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past; or that have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in history.

Arch. Integrity - determined by the number of architectural changes to the site...using the following list as a guide...(and) noting other unusual changes.

Detrimental Changes (depending on the quality of its original character):

___ new or relocated chimney
___ rebuilt foundation
___ new porch
___ original windows changed (at a later, but still historical, date)
___ modern windows in original frames
___ original windows intact but extra ones added
___ change in shape or size of window openings
___ lack of outbuildings
___ aluminum siding (unless original architraves and trim are retained)
___ asphalt or asbestos siding (over original siding)
___ recent change of location

Critical Changes:
___ aluminum siding added; architraves eliminated
___ additions engulfing or removing portions of original building

Value Descriptions

Outstanding - distinguished; of particular import. to Md. historic & arch. past.

Considerable - deserving of recognition; contributes to the understanding of history or architectural heritage represented in Maryland

Moderate - commonality...lack of historic signif. or arch. style, except if scarce

Minor - unimportant or inferior; little arch. worth and absence of hist. importance

Site Information Summary

M:27-10

June 1991

Name of site : Lay Hill M.E. Church
Site number : 27/10
Co. tax account number : 974124
Street address : 14500 Layhill Road
Silver Spring, Maryland
Name of property owner : Board of Trustees of Oak Chapel United Methodist Church
Addr. of property owner : same as above

Historic Preservation Master Plan Recommendation:

Historic Preservation Ordinance Criteria

(1) *Historical and cultural significance.* The historic resource:

- √ a. Has character, interest or value as part of the development, heritage or cultural characteristics of the county, state or nation;
- __ b. Is the site of a significant historic event;
- __ c. Is identified with a person or group of persons who influenced society;
- √ d. Exemplifies the cultural, economic, social, political or historic heritage of the county and its communities.

(2) *Architectural and design significance.* The historic resource:

- √ a. Embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction;
- __ b. Represents the work of a master;
- __ c. Possesses high artistic values;
- __ d. Represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or
- √ e. Represents an established and familiar visual feature of the neighborhood, community or county due to its singular physical characteristic or landscape.

Environmental Setting Recommendation:

The environmental setting should include the entire parcel (P364) of 3.5 acres.

Survey No. M:27-10

Magi No.

DOE __yes __no

Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Lay Hill Methodist Episcopal Church, South

and/or common Oak Chapel United Methodist Church

2. Location

street & number 14500 Layhill Road ___ not for publication

city, town Silver Spring ___ vicinity of **congressional district**

state Maryland **county** Montgomery

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 Board of Trustees of the Oak Chapel United Methodist Church

street & number 14500 Layhill Road **telephone no.:** (301) 598-0000

city, town Silver Spring **state and zip code** Maryland 20906

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Montgomery County Courthouse **liber** JA 3

street & number **folio** 361

city, town Rockville **state** Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) Inventory of Historic Sites

date 1976 ___ federal X state X county ___ local

depository for survey records M-NCPPC

city, town Silver Spring **state** Maryland 20910

M:27-10

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.

Significance: The church building itself is a good example of late nineteenth century rural vernacular church architecture. The church yard in front with its flanking line of trees and adjacent open land, and grave yard to the side, with its mature trees, also help retain the nineteenth century atmosphere. The additions at the rear of the church have been sensitively placed so as to be minimally disruptive.

Description: This is a three-bay by one-bay gable roofed church facing south. The windows have stationary transoms with four narrow horizontal rectangular lights over 9/9 double hung windows. The church has a field stone foundation and has been covered with white vinyl siding. Built in a simple, rural style with few exterior decorative elements, no trim was removed when the siding was added in the early 1970s; a small window over the entrance may have been covered at the time, however.[1]

The steeply pitched roof has green asphalt shingles. A small gabled entry pavilion contains the front door. A 1951 photograph in Our First One Hundred Years (p.8) shows a small, four pane, diamond-shaped window over the entrance; it may be covered by siding. The wooden door, which is stained, not painted, has architrave with asymmetrical molding, and a transom which has been filled in with boards. Mounted on a low stand outside the door of the church is a large bell bearing the words, "McShane Bell Foundry, Henry McShane and Co., Baltimore, Maryland, Trademark 1887".

The original interior of the church featured "plastering over wooden lath...broad floor boards and tongue-in-grove wainscotting" as well as a wood burning stove.[2] The church was electrified in 1939.

In 1969, the congregation renovated the interior of the sanctuary, removing the chimney in the middle of the east wall that served the stove, replacing the original pine pews with old oak benches, adding metal lathing and plasterboard to the wall behind the altar, and installing a lowered ceiling of acoustical tile. The double white-painted doors at the entrance to the chapel were replaced by stained oak.

In April of 1979, a fire in the basement of the education building caused smoke damage to the chapel and shattered its old windows. Because it was difficult to find replacement windows of the same size, small stationary

(cont.)

[1] Conversation with Lala Garritty, June, 1991.

[2] Marion B. Hastings and Lala H.Garritty, Our First One Hundred Years, p.3, 5.

transoms were added to each window so that the original opening could be retained. Existing walls of lath and plaster were covered with wallboard and the acoustical ceiling tile was removed. In addition, existing interior steel rods were encased in wood to look like beams.[3] In 1985, the sanctuary roof was replaced using the same type of material which had been previously used.

The church yard to the east is filled with large trees and retains its grave yard with original head stones. Prominent local families, such as the Van Horns, are buried here. Argyle Club Drive has been closed off by new construction, but still leads to the church, with a row of mature trees dividing it from an adjacent golf course. From the front approach, the setting for the church still retains much of its original character.

The rear of the building has had a series of additions to accommodate growing needs. These additions are built lower on the hill so that they do not overwhelm the church. A two-story gabled addition has been placed perpendicular to the church at its rear, connected by a two-bay hallway with a shed roof. Added in 1940 and used for educational purposes, the cinder block addition has metal casement windows and a large rectangular chimney through the low-pitched roof. A second addition, added in 1970 to provide classroom and kitchen facilities, is perpendicular to the first and has a cinder block first story which is partially in the ground and an aluminum sided upper story. It also has awning windows with three horizontal lights and a stove pipe protrudes through the low-pitched roof.

Beside these attached additions, there is a portable classroom in the fenced play yard for the school, as well as a storage shed. An asphalted parking lot abuts the buildings in the rear.

The congregation plans to erect a new church and education building at the same location, but the existing chapel will be retained; the more recent additions to the chapel may be demolished, however.

[3] Hastings and Garritty, p.9.

8. Significance

Survey No. M:27-10

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	___ architecture	___ education	___ military	___ social/ humanitarian	
___ 1700–1799	___ art	___ engineering	___ music	___ theater	
_X_ 1800–1899	___ commerce	___ exploration/settlement	___ philosophy	___ transportation	
___ 1900–	___ communications	___ industry	___ politics/government	_X_ other (specify) Local History	
		___ invention			

Specific dates 1887 **Builder/Architect** ---

check: Applicable Criteria: __A __B __C __D
and/or
Applicable Exception: __A __B __C __D __E __F __G

Level of Significance: __national __state __local

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

The Oak Chapel United Methodist Church (which celebrated it centennial in 1986) is significant because it is representative of the small vernacular late nineteenth century country churches which once dotted the Montgomery County landscape and it has been a center of community life in the Layhill area for over a hundred years.

1. Historic Period Theme(s): Religion
2. Geographic Organization: Piedmont (Montgomery County)
3. Development Period: Industrial/Urban Dominance 1870-1930 A.D.
4. Resource Type(s): Church

The church is located on part of an original land grant called "Lahill" given to James Beall by Archibald Edmonston on August 6, 1716.[1] As an earlier survey noted:

"Oak Chapel began its life as the Lay Hill Methodist Episcopal Church, South, at a time when many Montgomery County M.E. Churches were fragmenting locally over the issues which had caused a schism in the national churches a generation earlier. A structure was already on the property when the Lay Hill Church recorded its incorporation papers on October 26, 1886.[2] The original Board of Trustees was composed of George Bonifant, Andrew Johnson Cashell, John George Yewel Cashell, James William Godfrey, and Bennett Rufus Wilkerson. Immediately afterward, Basil Mullican conveyed to the Board of Trustees, for the sum of five dollars, 107 square perches of land together with the improvements thereof

(cont.)

[1] Marion B. Hastings and Lala H. Garritty, Our First One Hundred Years, p.3.

[2] Montgomery County Corporation Records, Book 1, folio 65.

> 'for proper use and benefit in fee simple so long as it shall be used as a place of divine worship; but to revert to the grantor, his heirs or assigns when or as soon as its (sic) ceases to be so used.'"[3,4]

An additional three acres was purchased in 1955.

According to the accounts of a descendant of Basil Mullican, the building of the church was a community effort, with fieldstone for the foundation collected by ox cart from nearby fields, timber felled and donated by George Bonifant Sr. from his land, and the boards made at a local saw mill. The cornerstone was laid on April 10, 1887.[5]

The church has been a center of community life for area residents since its establishment and is still used for community and organizational meetings. In the early years,

> "People came to worship from near and far - as far away as Derwood - by horse and buggy, team and wagon, horseback or on foot. Often the entire...Sunday was spent going around to the different churches...for preaching, singing, or meetings. Attending church, then as now, was a social opportunity as well as spiritual nourishment."[6]

Church membership reflected the growth of the surrounding community as well as certain national trends, like the economic depression of the 1930s. Attendance was very low in the late 1930s, but the church was never officially closed. Membership grew in the years after World War II, as the surrounding community changed from rural to suburban in character.

At the time of the incorporation of the Lay Hill Church in 1886, the ME Church at Colesville was already 20 years old, having been established in 1866 as the Andrew Chapel Methodist Episcopal Church South. The Lay Hill and Colesville churches were part of a circuit of approximately twelve ME Churches which were served by a horseback-riding pastor until 1904, when the three-point "Colesville Charge" was established, with Lay Hill, Four Corners (now Marvin Memorial) and Colesville sharing a minister. From 1943 until 1947, Lay Hill was part of a two-point "Colesville Charge", and, in 1947, a student minister was appointed to serve the church.[7]

In 1968, the Lay Hill Methodist Church recorded Articles of Amendment to change its name to Oak Chapel Methodist Church.[8] The actual vote to change had been taken 20 years earlier, in 1948, when the congregation became concerned that it would be confused with the Lay Hill Free Methodist Church on Bonifant

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[3] Land Records of Montgomery County, Md., JA 3/361, Nov. 4, 1886

[4] Bonnie Hum & Eileen McGuckian, Maryland Historical Trust, "State Historic Sites Inventory Form", Sugarloaf Regional Trails, February, 1979.

[5] Hastings and Garritty, p.3.

[6] Hastings and Garritty, p.4,5.

[7] Hastings and Garritty, p.5.

[8] Corporation Records, 137/389.

Road, established in 1915.

The Methodist Episcopal Church, the Methodist Episcopal Church South, and the Methodist Protestant Church united in 1939, and the words "Episcopal" and "South" were dropped from the Church name at that time. The word "United" was added in 1965 to mark the unification of the Methodist and Evangelical United Brethren Churches.[9]

The date of establishment of the church cemetery is unknown, and no records of the grave sites have been located; the oldest grave marker is dated 1873. It appears that the cemetery site was dedicated by the Mullican family for use by the poor. The cemetery was closed in the 1950's.[10] Tombstone inscriptions include:

Sacred
to the
Memory
of
Richard C. Nicholson
Born
Dec. 29, 1820
Died
June 30, 1898
erected by his children

Blanche VanHorn
Died
Mar. 26, 1878

Oliver VanHorn
Died
Dec. 6, 1877

(mother)
Sarah VanHorn
Born
May 5, 1844
Died
Apr. 14, 1924

For many years, Lay Hill Academy stood just to the north of the church. The Academy was one of several schools opened in the area after the passage of the Primary School Act of 1839, which established the first statewide guidelines for education. In 1859, the one-room school house which had been erected on the half-acre property was deeded to the Montgomery County School Board. In 1890, the existing building was demolished and a new school house, approximately 22 by 36 feet in size, was built at a cost of $450. The school was closed in 1926 when Glenmont Elementary opened, and the building and land was sold to the Willson family. In February, 1945, both were purchased by the church. The school was used as a church kitchen until 1957, when it was demolished. "Local residents recall the school and the church in their setting of large oak trees, to which students and worshipers hitched their horses."[11]

The Lay Hill Community Hall also figured prominently in the history of the church. The Hall was a log structure which stood opposite the church on the other side of Layhill Road; the exact dates of its construction and demolition are unknown. The Ladies Aid and Missionary Society (later the WSCS) used the building for church dinners from approximately 1914 to 1923.[12]

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[9] Hastings and Garritty, p.5.

[10] Hastings and Garritty, page 11

[11] Hum and McGuckian

[12] Hastings and Garritty, p.7.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. M:27-10

Land and Corporation Records, Montgomery County, Maryland
Hopkins Map, 1894.
Hum, Bonnie and McGuckian, E., Maryland Historical Trust "Inventory Form for State Historic Sites Survey", Sugarloaf Regional Trails, February, 1979. (cont.)

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 3.5 acres

Quadrangle name Kensington **Quadrangle scale** 1:24000

UTM **References** do NOT complete UTM references

		Zone	Easting	Northing
A				
B				
C				
D				
E				
F				
G				
H				

Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundaries of the property are the lot lines which define parcel 364, west of Layhill Road, and which are boldly delineated on the accompanying tax map.

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	Lois Snyderman and Susan Escherich, Historic Preservation Consultants		
organization		**date**	June 1991
street & number	8804 Spring Valley Road	**telephone**	(301) 654-6423
city or town	Chevy Chase	**state**	Maryland 20815

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

Hastings, Marion B. and Garritty, Lala H., Our First One Hundred Years, 1886-1986, Oak Chapel United Methodist Church, Silver Spring: Oak Chapel United Methodist Church, 1986.

Interviews with Rev. Richard Bauman and Lala H. Garritty, June, 1991.

ACHS SUMMARY FORM

1. Name Lay Hill Methodist Episcopal Church, South (Oak Chapel)

2. Planning Area/Site Number 27/10 3. MNCPPC Atlas Reference Map 16 J-11

4. Address 14511 Argyle Club Road, Silver Spring

5. Classification Summary

Category building
Ownership private
Public Acquisition NA
Status occupied
Accessible yes: restricted
Present use religious
Previous Survey Recording M-NCPPC Federal ___ State X County X Local ___
(Title and date: Inventory of Historical Sites - 1976)

6. Date between 1879-1886

7. Original Owner: Board of Trustees, Lay Hill Methodist Episcopal Church, South

8. Apparent Condition

a. good

b. altered

c. original site

Description: This one bay by three bay, one and a half story chapel sits on a triangular piece of land between two roads surrounded by oak trees, facing south. The church has white aluminum siding. The south gabled projecting pavilion is one story. There is a large north addition built into the side of a hill. This has underblock foundations and white aluminum siding. A small lean-to addition on the east elevation at the north corner has a glass and wooden paneled door with access to the north addition and the chapel. There are six-over-six double hung windows and intersecting gable roofs with green asbestos shingles.

10. Significance: The Oak Hill/Layhill Church is representative of the small Victorian country churches which once dotted Montgomery County's landscape. Oak Chapel began its life as the Lay Hill Methodist Episcopal Church, South. A structure was already on the property when the Lay Hill Church Board of Trustees recorded its corporation papers in 1886. For many years (approximately 1865-1925), Lay Hill School (now demolished) stood just to the north of the church. Local residents recall the school and church in their setting of large oak trees, to which students and worshippers hitched their horses. An annual ham-and-oyster church supper in the fall and the presence of long-time members add to the continuity of community traditions. In 1968, the Lay Hill Methodist Church changed its name to Oak Chapel Methodist Church.

11. Date researched and researcher 2/79 - Bonnie Hum/Eileen McGuckian
Candy Reed - Architectural Description

12. Compiler Gail Rothrock 13. Date Compiled 2/79 14. Designation Approval ___

15. Acreage 3.5 acres

M: 27/10
Magi #

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC
Lay Hill Methodist Episcopal Church, South

AND/OR COMMON
Oak Chapel

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
14511 Argyle Club Road

CITY, TOWN
Silver Spring __ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
8

STATE
Maryland

COUNTY
Montgomery

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
		__NO	__MILITARY	__OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Oak Chapel United Methodist Church Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER
14511 Argyle Church Road

CITY, TOWN
Silver Spring __ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code
Maryland 20906

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Montgomery County Courthouse

Liber #: JA 3
Folio #: 361

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN
Rockville

STATE
Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
MNCPPC Inventory of Historical Sites

DATE
1976 __FEDERAL X STATE X COUNTY __LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS
Park Historian's Office

CITY, TOWN
Rockville

STATE
Maryland 20855

7 DESCRIPTION

M:27-10

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
__EXCELLENT	__DETERIORATED	__UNALTERED	X ORIGINAL SITE
X GOOD	__RUINS	X ALTERED	__MOVED DATE_____
__FAIR	__UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This one bay by three bay, one and a half story chapel sits on a triangular piece of land between two roads, surrounded by oak trees, facing south.

Built on fieldstone foundations, the church now has white aluminum siding. The south gabled projecting pavilion is one story. The double wooden paneled south doors open into the pavilion. There is a large addition on the north elevation built into the side of a hill. This addition has cinderblock foundations and white aluminum siding. There is a small lean-to addition on the east elevation at the north corner. A glass and wooden paneled door opens into the lean-to giving access to both the chapel and the north addition.

There are six over six double hung windows. The intersecting gable roofs have green asbestos shingles.

The south door opens into a small entry room. The doorway into the chapel is surmounted by a three light transom. The central aisle is flanked on the east by seven oak pews and on the west by nine oak pews. The altar area is raised up one step at the north end. The simple oak altar is against the north wall. To the east is the organ and on the east side, just south of the organ is the simple oak podium.

There are broad floor boards. There is tongue and groove wainscotting with plaster over lath walls. The ceiling has acoustical tiles with recessed lights.

The present sanctuary is the oldest part of the chapel. There have been two additions. The original window glass, wainscotting and floors have been preserved. One spot on the floor between pews bears the burns from the woodburning stove used to heat the chapel when it was only one room.

Adjacent to the chapel is the cemetery. Sample tombstone inscriptions:

Largest stone of family plot surrounded by old dogwoods....

SACRED
TO THE
MEMORY
OF
Richard C. Nicholson
BORN
Dec. 29, 1820
DIED
June 30, 1898
erected by his children

Blanche VanHorn
DIED
Mar. 26, 1878

(mother)
Sarah VanHorn
BORN
May 5, 1844
DIED
Apr. 14, 1924

Oliver VanHorn
DIED
Dec. 6, 1877

Ella Mae Avancena
1900-1946

8 SIGNIFICANCE

M:27-10

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	__ARCHITECTURE	__EDUCATION	__MILITARY	__SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
__1700-1799	__ART	__ENGINEERING	__MUSIC	__THEATER	
X_1800-1899	__COMMERCE	__EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	__PHILOSOPHY	__TRANSPORTATION	
__1900-	__COMMUNICATIONS	__INDUSTRY	__POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	X_OTHER (SPECIFY) Local History	
		__INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES 1879-1886(or c.1885?) BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Oak Chapel/Layhill Church is representative of the small Victorian country churches which once dotted Montgomery County's landscape.

Oak Chapel began its life as the Lay Hill Methodist Episcopal Church, South, at a time when many Montgomery County M.E. Churches were fragmenting locally over the issues which had caused a schism in the national churches a generation earlier. A structure was already on the property when the Lay Hill Church recorded its incorporation papers on October 26, 1886.[1] The original Board of Trustees was composed of George Bonifant, Andrew Jackson Cashell, John George Yewel Cashell, James William Godfrey, and Bennett Rufus Wilkerson. Immediately afterward, Basil Mullican conveyed to the Board of Trustees, for the sum of five dollars, 107 square perches of land, together with the improvements thereof.

> "for proper use and benefit in fee simple so long as it shall be used as a place of divine worship; but to revert to the grantor, his heirs or assigns when or as soon as its (sic) ceases to be so used."[2]

For many years (approximately 1865-1925), Lay Hill School stood just to the north of the Church. Local residents recall the school and the church in their setting of large oak trees, to which students and worshippers hitched their horses. The Autumn ham-and-oyster Church supper and the presence of long-time members, such as Frank Willson (whose family has lived nearby for seven generations), add to the continuity of community traditions.

In 1968, the Lay Hill Methodist Church recorded Articles of Amendment to change the name of the church to Oak Chapel Methodist Church.[3]

FOOTNOTES:

1 Montgomery County Corporation Records, Book 1, folio 65.
2 Land Records of Montgomery County, Md., JA 3/361 (Nov. 4, 1886).
3 Corporation Records, op. cit., 137/389.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

M:27-10

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Land Records of Montgomery County, Md.
Corporation Records of Montgomery County, Md.
Interview of three members of church, including Mrs. W. Beall, 2703 Bel Pre Rd.
Hopkins Map, 1894 (Berry District #5)

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 3.5 acres

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Immediately north of shopping center at intersection of Bonifant, Bel Pre and Layhill Roads, Church and cemetery are within triangle formed by Layhill Road and driveway to Argyle Country Club.

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

STATE	COUNTY
STATE	COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE	Candy Reed Architectural Description
Bonnie Hum/Eileen McGuckian	
ORGANIZATION	DATE
Sugarloaf Regional Trails	2/79
STREET & NUMBER	TELEPHONE
Box 87	926-4510
CITY OR TOWN	STATE
Dickerson	Maryland

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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: [illegible] Historical [illegible]
The Shaw [illegible] State Circle
Annapolis [illegible]
(301) [illegible]-1438

SUGARLOAF REGIONAL TRAILS
Box 87, Stronghold
Dickerson, Md. 20753
(301) 926-4510

PS-1108

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

1607124608
M#37-10

NOMINATION FORM
for the
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON:

AND/OR HISTORIC: Oak Chapel

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: Layhill Road

CITY OR TOWN: Layhill

STATE: Maryland

COUNTY: Montgomery

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
☐ District ☒ Building ☐ Site ☐ Structure ☐ Object	☐ Public ☒ Private ☐ Both	Public Acquisition: ☐ In Process ☐ Being Considered	☒ Occupied ☐ Unoccupied ☐ Preservation work in progress	Yes: ☒ Restricted ☐ Unrestricted ☐ No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Agricultural	☐ Government	☐ Park	☐ Transportation	☐ Comments
☐ Commercial	☐ Industrial	☐ Private Residence	☐ Other (Specify)	
☐ Educational	☐ Military	☒ Religious		
☐ Entertainment	☐ Museum	☐ Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Montgomery County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Rockville

STATE: Maryland

Title Reference of Current Deed (Book & Pg. #):

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: None

DATE OF SURVEY: ☐ Federal ☐ State ☐ County ☐ Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:

M:27-10

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	☐ Excellent	☒ Good	☐ Fair	☐ Deteriorated	☐ Ruins	☐ Unexposed
	(Check One)		(Check One)			
	☒ Altered	☐ Unaltered	☐ Moved	☒ Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (*If known*) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The church is a frame building with an A-roofed nave and an A-roofed enclosed entrance porch. The double doors have heavy Italianate mouldings, with two arched panels per door. The sidewalls have three 6/6 double hung sash. The building has been covered with aluminum siding.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

M:27-10

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD *(Check One or More as Appropriate)*

- ☐ Pre-Columbian
- ☐ 15th Century
- ☐ 16th Century
- ☐ 17th Century
- ☐ 18th Century
- ☒ 19th Century
- ☐ 20th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) *(If Applicable and Known)*

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE *(Check One or More as Appropriate)*

- ☐ Aboriginal
  - ☐ Prehistoric
  - ☐ Historic
- ☐ Agriculture
- ☐ Architecture
- ☐ Art
- ☐ Commerce
- ☐ Communications
- ☐ Conservation
- ☐ Education
- ☐ Engineering
- ☐ Industry
- ☐ Invention
- ☐ Landscape Architecture
- ☐ Literature
- ☐ Military
- ☐ Music
- ☐ Political
- ☐ Religion/Philosophy
- ☐ Science
- ☐ Sculpture
- ☐ Social/Humanitarian
- ☐ Theater
- ☐ Transportation
- ☐ Urban Planning
- ☐ Other *(Specify)* _____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

M:27-10

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUOE AND LONGITUOE COORDINATES OEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY						OR	LATITUOE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES OEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES					
GORNER	LATITUOE			LONGITUOE			LATITUDE			LONGITUOE		
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"						
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"						
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"						

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATEO PROPERTY:

Acreage Justification:

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

STATE:		COUNTY	
STATE:		COUNTY:	
STATE:		COUNTY:	
STATE:		COUNTY:	

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Christopher Owens, Park Historian

ORGANIZATION
M-NCPPC

OATE
22 Apr 74

STREET AND NUMBER:
8787 Georgia Avenue

CITY OR TOWN:
Silver Spring

STATE
Maryland

12. State Liaison Officer Review: (Office Use Only)

Significance of this property is:

National ☐ State ☐ Local ☐

Signature

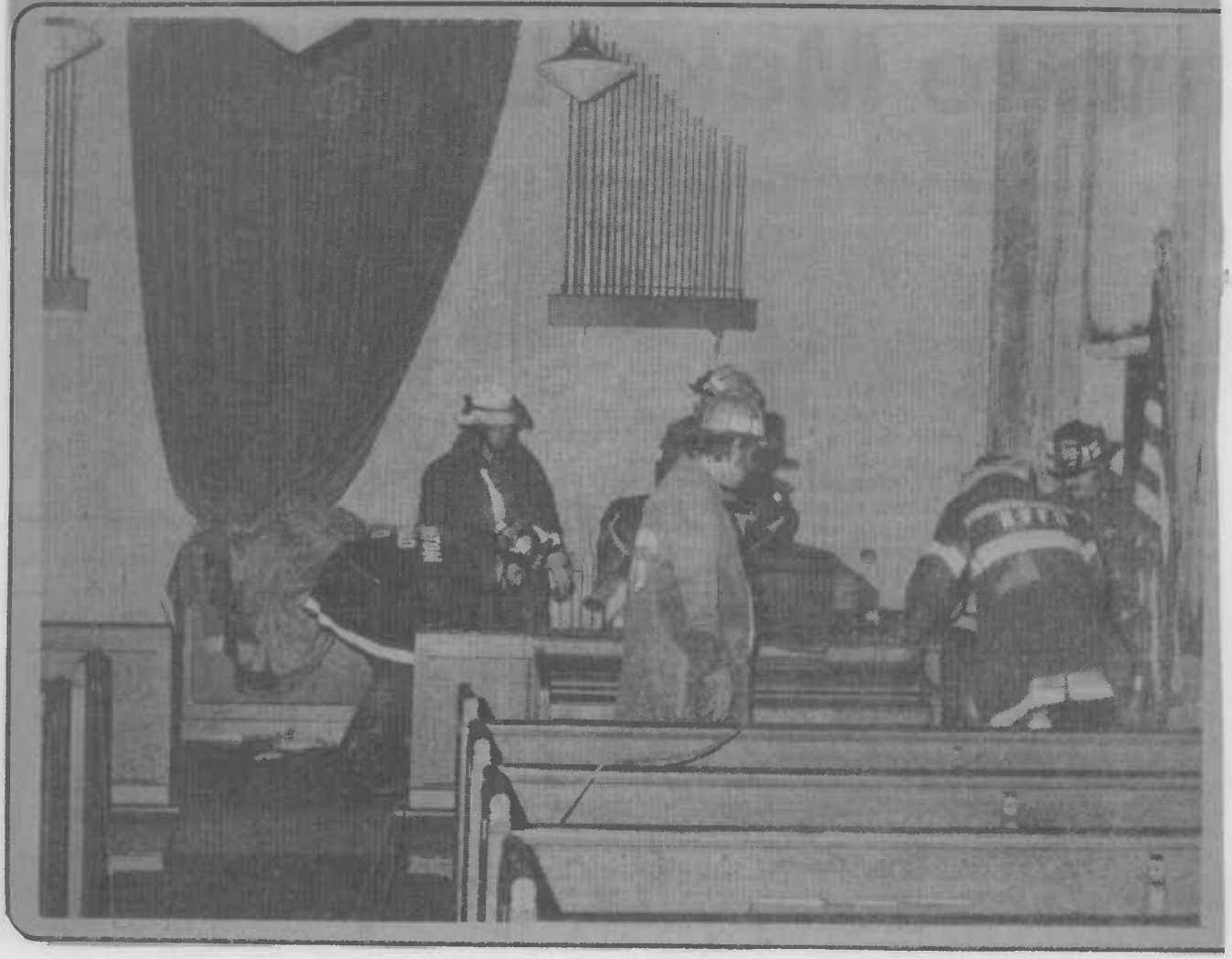
SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Attachment Sheet A

M: 27/10

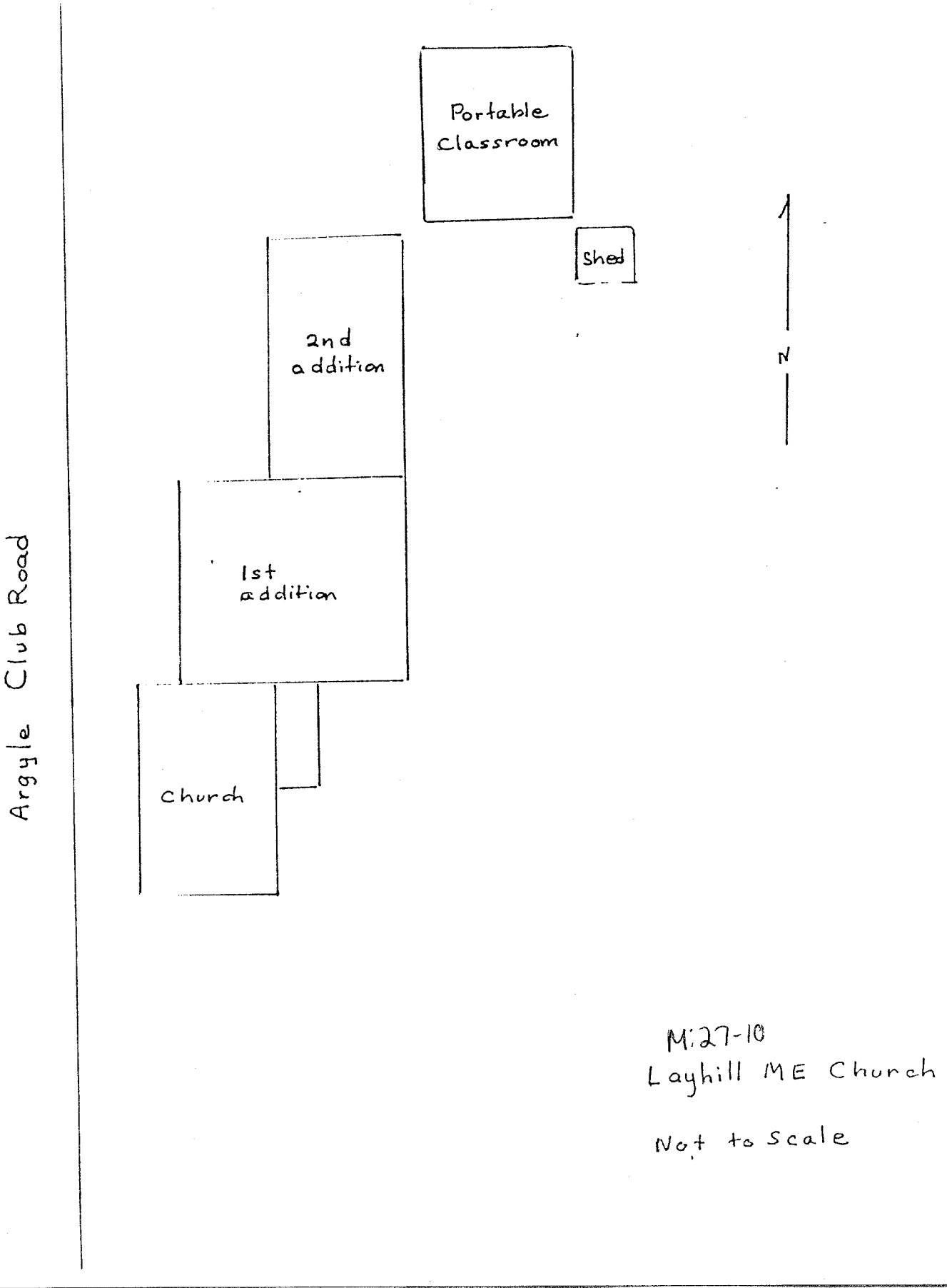
Lay Hill Methodist Episcopal Church, South (Oak Chapel)

The Montgomery Journal, Wednesday, April 18, 1979



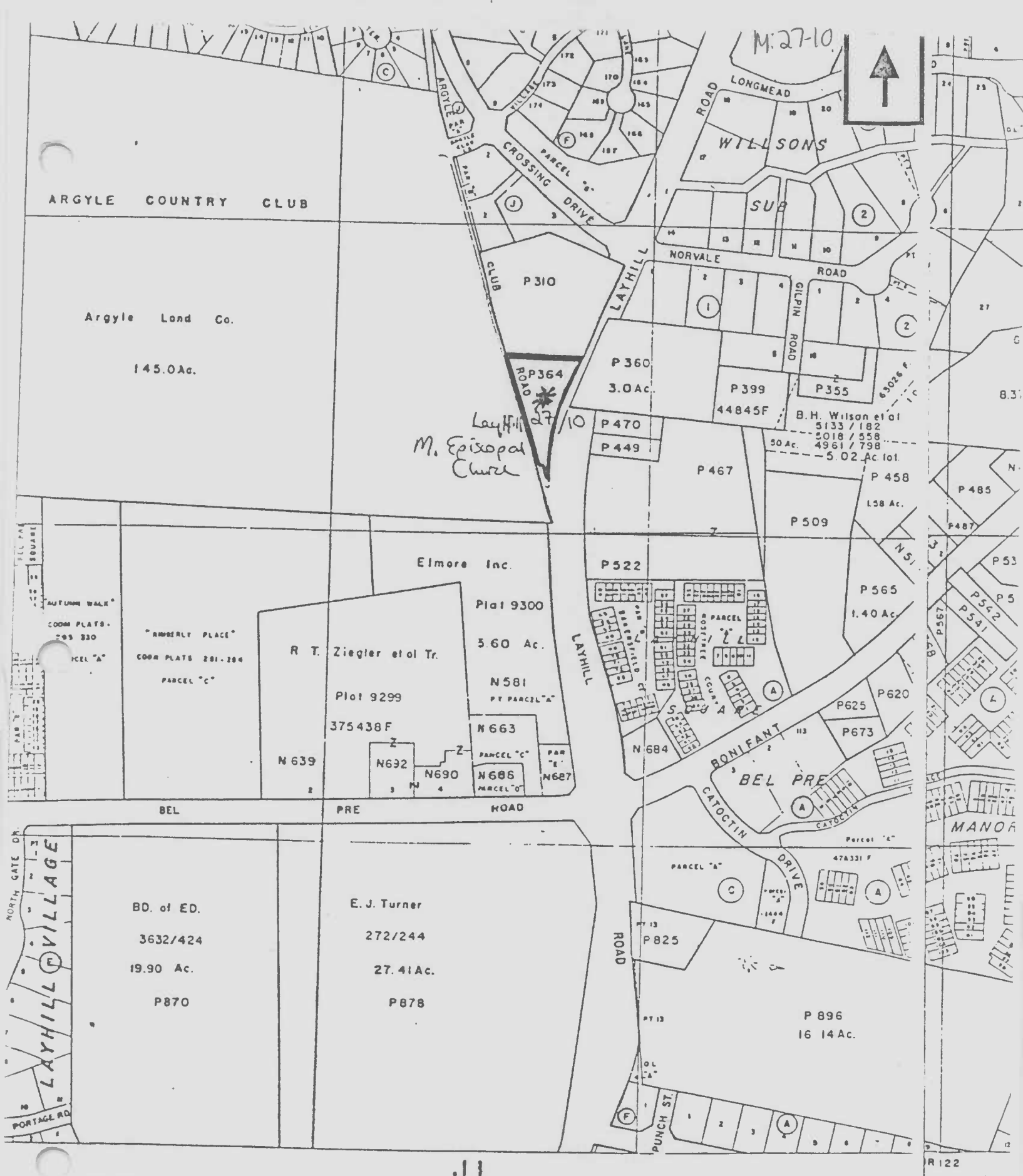
Fire Damages Old Oak Chapel Church

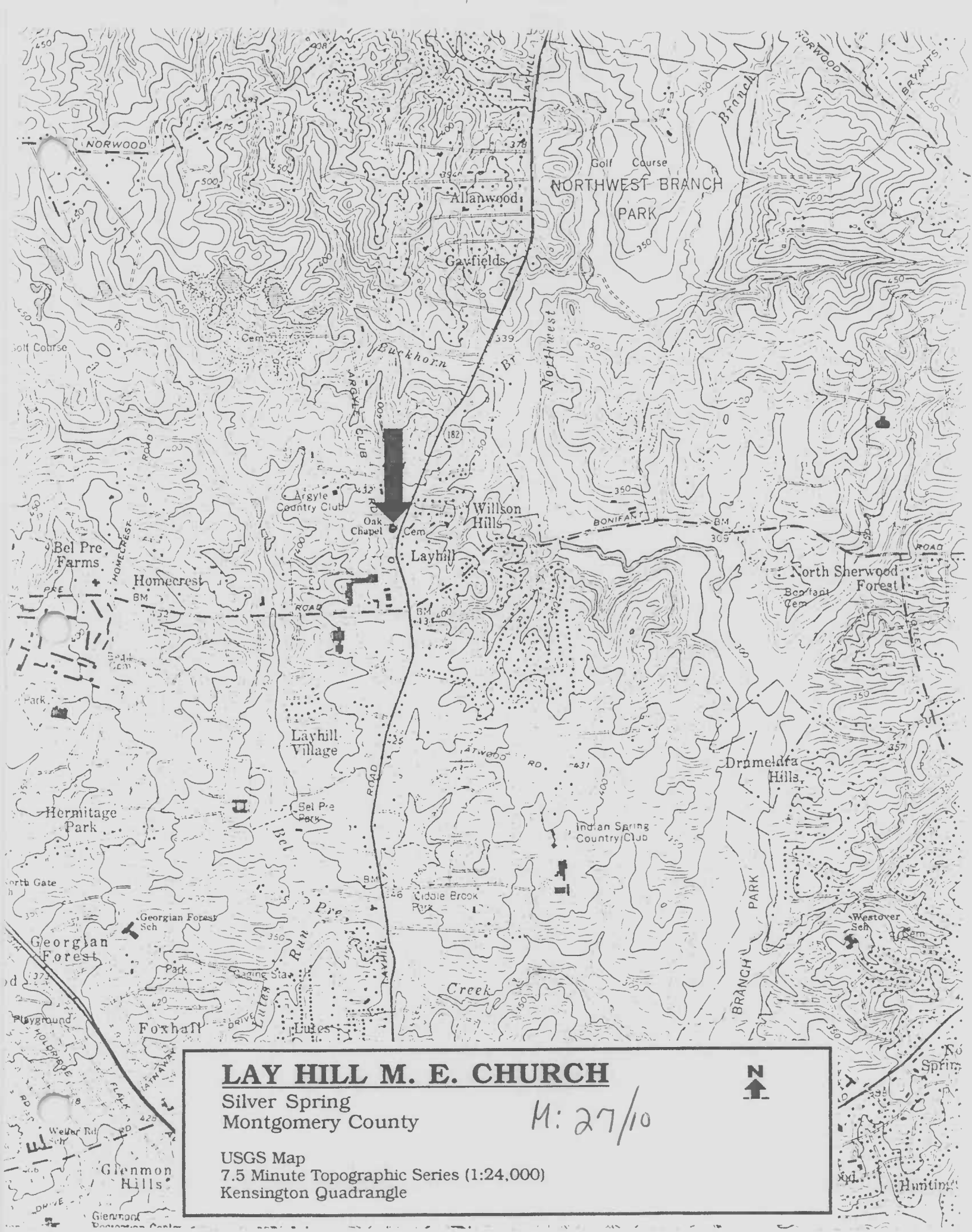
Firefighters (left) check out the pews in the historic Oak Chapel United Methodist Church in Layhill early Saturday following a two-alarm blaze that damaged mostly the basement and ceiling. At right, Glen Dameron, the pastor, watches the fire which may have begun with a short circuit. Easter services moved to the nearby Wheaton Seventh-Day Adventist Church because of extensive smoke and water damage to the sanctuary. The church, which is next to the Argyle Country Club, will celebrate its 100th anniversary in 1986. Estimates put the damage at $50,000. Firemen from the Kensington, Hillandale and Sandy Spring fire departments responded shortly before 5:30 a.m. and had the situation under control before 6 a.m.



M:27-10
Layhill ME Church

Not to scale


M:27-10
ARGYLE COUNTRY CLUB
Argyle Land Co.
145.0Ac.
ARGYLE CLUB ROAD
CROSSING DRIVE
PARCEL "B"
LONGMEAD ROAD
WILLSONS SUB
NORVALE ROAD
LAYHILL ROAD
GILPIN ROAD
P310
P364
P360
3.0Ac.
P399
44845F
P355
P470
P449
P467
P458
P509
B.H. Wilson et al
5133 / 182
5018 / 558
4961 / 798
50 Ac.
5.02 Ac. lot.
Layhill 27/10
M. Episcopal Church
Elmore Inc.
Plat 9300
5.60 Ac.
N581
PT PARCEL "A"
R T. Ziegler et al Tr.
Plat 9299
375438F
N639
N692
N690
N686
PARCEL "C"
N663
N687
P522
P565
1.40 Ac.
P542
P541
P620
P625
P673
N684
BONIFANT ROAD
BEL PRE ROAD
CATOCTIN DRIVE
PARCEL "A"
P825
P896
16.14 Ac.
BD. of ED.
3632/424
19.90 Ac.
P870
E. J. Turner
272/244
27.41Ac.
P878
LAYHILL VILLAGE
NORTH GATE DR.
PORTAGE RD.
PUNCH ST.
J1
DIST. CURRENT TO
5 7-1-88
13 7-1-88
NORTH
SCALE 1" = 200'
200 0 200 400 600
Map JR123
W S S C 219 NW 2
Location LAYHILL



LAY HILL M. E. CHURCH

Silver Spring
Montgomery County

M: 27/10

USGS Map
7.5 Minute Topographic Series (1:24,000)
Kensington Quadrangle

MI:27/10

Long Hill ME Church

Mont Co. MD

by L Snyderman 6/91
Neg - Mont. Co. Hist. Pres. Comm.
Setting - 100 King N

M:27/10

Lay Hill ME Church

Mont. Co. MD

by L. Snyderman 6/91

Neg Mont. Co. Hist Pres. Comm.

Admin Bldg (for school) - Main (W) elev

NAME M:#27-10 OAK CHAPEL

LOCATION LAYHILL RD., LAYHILL, MD.

FACADE SW

PHOTO TAKEN 4/22/74 M. DWYER

mi: 27/10

Layhill ME Church

Mont Co. MD

by L. Snyderman 4/91

Neg - Mont Co Hist Pres. Comm

Church - Main - (S) elev.

M: 27/10

Layhill ME Church

Mont Co. MD

by L. Snyderman 4/91

Neg - Mont Co. Hist Pres. Comm.

Church & addition - east elev

M:27/10

Hay Hill ME Church
Mont Co MD
by L. Snyderman 4/91
Neg - Mont Co. Hist. Pres. Comm
Cemetery - looking east

M:27/10

Layhill ME church

Mont Co MD

by L. Snyderman 4/91

Neg - Mont Co. Hist. Pres Comm.

school - east elev

M: 27/10

Layhill ME church

Mont Co MD

by L. Snyderman 4/91

Neg - Mont Co Hist Pres Comm

School - north + west elev

M:27/10

Layhill ME Church

Mont Co MD

by L. Snyderman 4/91

Neg - Mont Co Hist Pres. Comm

School church - west elev

M: 27/10

Long Hill ME Church
Mont Co MD
by L Snyderman 4/91
Neg - Mont Co Hist Pres Comm
Church w elev.

M:27/10

Lay Hall ME church

Mont Co MD

by L. Snyderman 6/91
Neg - Mont. Co. Hist. Pres. Comm.
Parsonage - Main(W) elev