

Property Address 1900 Bonifant Road, Silver Spring vicinity (Layhill), Montgomery County, MD 20906
Owner Name/Address Trustees of the Layhill Free Methodist Church, 1900 Bonifant Road, Silver Spring, MD 20906
Year Built 1945/1959/1988

**Description:**

The Layhill Community Free Methodist Church, constructed circa 1914, was previously surveyed by Sugarloaf Regional Trails in 1979. The church building described in the previous survey form was demolished and replaced by a new church building in 1988. The 1-story, 3-bay, flat-roof education annex building, built in 1959 and described in the prior survey form, remains on the property. Not mentioned in the prior survey form, is the 1-story, 3-bay parsonage. Constructed circa 1945, the cross-gable cottage has a concrete-block foundation, asbestos shingle siding and an asphalt shingle roof.

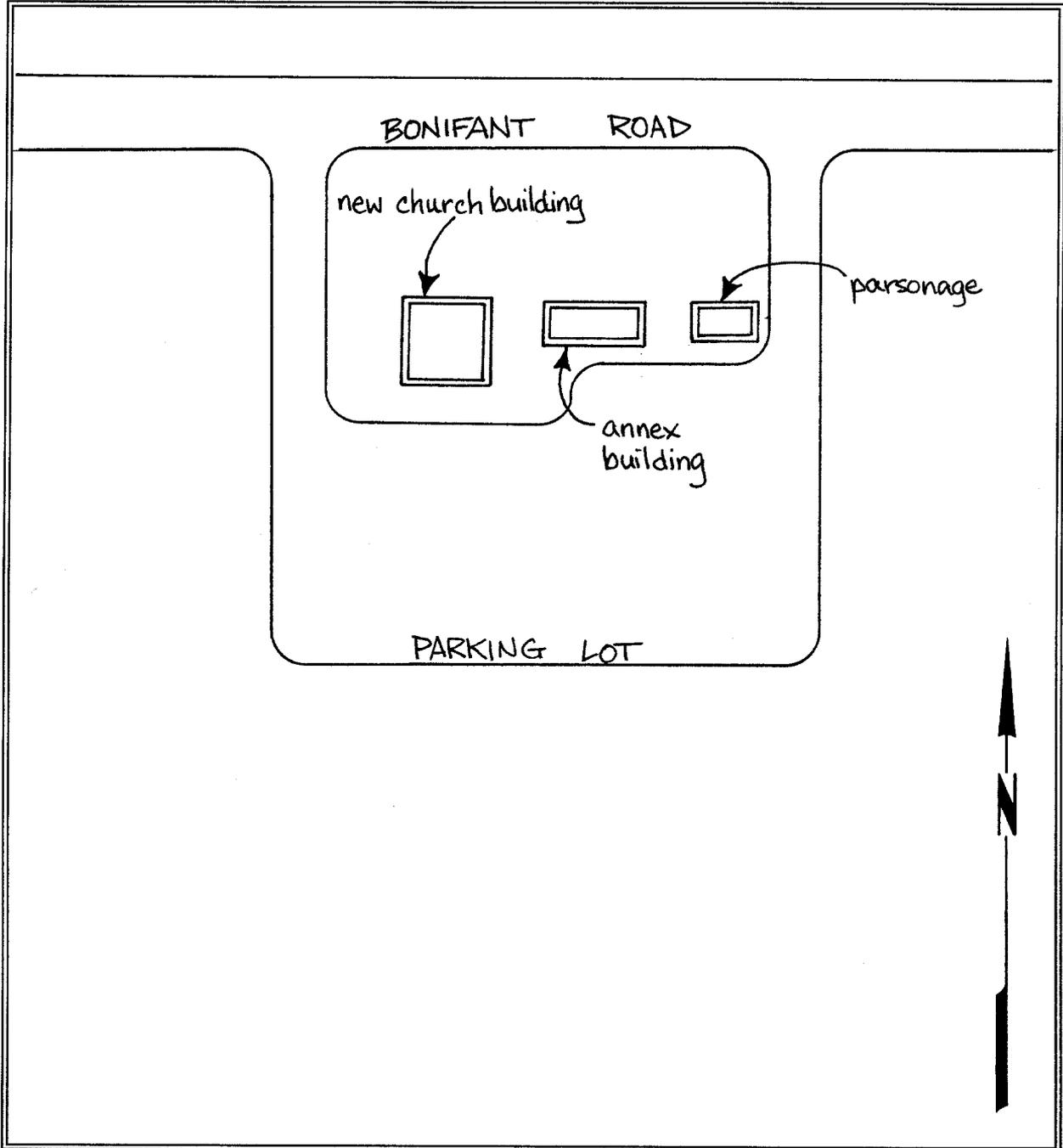
**National Register Evaluation:**

The Layhill Community Free Methodist Church, constructed circa 1914, was previously surveyed by Sugarloaf Regional Trails in 1979. The property is not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, due to the demolition of the original church building. The property does not meet Criterion A or B, as it has no known association with historically significant persons or events. It does not meet Criterion C since the parsonage lacks architectural distinction and the annex building is less than fifty years old and does not meet Criteria exception G. Finally, the property has no known potential to yield important information, and therefore, does not meet Criterion D.

<b>MHT CONCURRENCE:</b>													
Eligibility	<input type="checkbox"/> recommended	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not recommended											
Criteria	<input type="checkbox"/> A	<input type="checkbox"/> B	<input type="checkbox"/> C	<input type="checkbox"/> D	Considerations	<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	<input type="checkbox"/> None
Comments: _____													
_____													
_____													
E. Hannold/K. Williams				11/25/1996		<i>B. Kuntz</i>				6/13/03			
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services				Date		Reviewer, NHP program				Date			

Property Address 1900 Bonifant Road, Silver Spring, Montgomery County, MD 20906  
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Resource Sketch Map:



7.5 MI

**Intercounty Connector Project  
Upgrade Existing Roads Alternative  
Quad Kensington**

Survey No. M:27-16 (PACS C3.6)

Property Name Layhill Community Free  
Methodist Church Property

323 2'30" 324 790 000 FEET SANDY SPRING 1.9 MI.



4332

ASHTON 3.6 MI  
SUNSHINE (MD 97) 10 MI

4330

4329

4328

4327

4326





1 M: 27-16

2 Layhill Community Free Methodist Church

3 Montgomery County Property

4 Tim Tamburino

5 June 1996

6 PAC Spelo + Co, 40 W. Chesapeake Ave, Suite  
412, Tawson MD 21204

7 1900 Bonfant Rd., modern church

8 1 of 2



1 M27-16

2 Layhill Community Free Methodist Church  
Property

3 Montgomery County

4 Tim Tamburino

5 June 1996

6 PAC Speco + Co, 40 W. Chesapeake Ave, Suite  
412 Towson MD 21204

7 19100 Benifant Road,

8 2 of 2

1. Name Layhill Community Free Methodist Church

2. Planning Area/Site Number 27/16\*

3. MNCPPC Atlas Reference Map 16:j-11

\*(new designation--not originally on Atlas)

4. Address 1900 Bonifant Road  
Silver Spring, Md. 20906

5. Classification Summary

Category building

Ownership Layhill Community Free Methodist Church

Public Acquisition \_\_\_\_\_

Status occupied

Accessible yes; restricted

Present use Religious

Previous Survey Recording \_\_\_\_\_ Federal \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ County \_\_\_\_\_ Local \_\_\_\_\_

6. Date 1914-1959

7. Original Owner

8. Apparent Condition

a. Good

c. Original Site

b. Altered

9. Description

This three bay by four bay, one and a half story church faces north. It has white clapboarded exterior walls. There is a two and a half story projecting pavillion on the north elevation which was built in three successively smaller sections. There is an apse on the south elevation. There are one over one double hung windows flanked by green wooden louvered shutters. The church has a hipped roof covered with green asbestos shingles. At the peak of the roof is a hipped bell cupola with louvered sides.

10. Significance - Religion and Local History

The Layhill Church serves as a firm witness to the shifting expressions of religious beliefs in the Layhill community. Built as a community church in 1915 from wood cut on the property, nailed together by church members, directed by a carpenter-pastor, the chapel is plain and simple. The Prohibition Years, 1918-33, passed these worshippers by, safe inside their haven. In 1959, however, a shift toward temporal virtues was shown. The congregation hired a commercial firm to construct a cement block Christian Education building. Finally, parking lots have recently been installed, and plans are underway to replace the hand-crafted building.

Date researched 11/27/78

by Lawrence Hippshman

Candy Reed - Architectural Description

12. Compiler Peg Coleman

13. Date Compiled 11/78

14. Designation

15. Acreage .65 acre

Approval \_\_\_\_\_

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC Layhill Community Free Methodist Church

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER 1900 Bonifant Road

CITY, TOWN CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Silver Spring — VICINITY OF

STATE Maryland COUNTY Montgomery 20906

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input 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 type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<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"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME Pastor: Wayne M. Lawton  
Layhill Community Free Methodist Church Telephone #: 460-3110

STREET & NUMBER 1900 Bonifant 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 #: 252  
Folio #: 229-231

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN Rockville STATE Maryland

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE NONE

DATE

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION**

M:27-16

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

---

**DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**

This early twentieth century church sits ten feet south of Bonifant Road facing north. It is a frame structure, one and a half stories high, three bays across, four bays deep.

Built on concrete foundations, the church has white clapboarded exterior walls. There is a two and a half story projecting pavilion on the north elevation which was built in three successively smaller sections. The church is on grade on the north elevation and five feet above grade on the south where the land falls sharply away. The altar is contained within a simple clapboarded one story, rectangular pavilion with a shed roof on the south elevation. The north and south pavilions were both built on brick foundations.

The north (front) door is composed of two wooden paneled doors set into the pavilion. Poured concrete steps lead from the east and west to a central stoop before the doorway. The steps have a wrought iron hand-railing on the north elevation. There is a glass and wooden paneled door at the southwest corner of the south elevation. Six wooden steps with a simple handrail lead to a small porch outside the south door.

There are one over one double hung windows throughout the church. These are flanked by green wooden paneled shutters. The church has a hipped roof and is covered with green asbestos shingles. The projecting pavilion has a half hipped roof at the first level and again at the second level. A cupola with square louvered windows on each elevation is surmounted by a low hipped roof which is hidden behind a decorative balustrade. The church bell is contained within the cupola, its peals may be heard through the louvered windows.

On the east elevation there is an exterior stove chimney.

Upon entering the church from the north, one comes into a large open room. There are eight rows of pews set at an angle along the east and west walls. There is a center section of eight rows of pews. Two side aisles, one on the east and one on the west, lead to the altar platform. This platform is defined by an altar rail. At the center is a communion table. Centered beyond this and raised another step is the pulpit. Behind the pulpit are three chairs. On the east side of the altar is the glass and wooden paneled door which leads to the south porch. On the west side of the altar is a door which leads to the basement. There is tongue and groove wainscoting around the church walls. Above this, the walls and ceilings are plastered and have been painted blue. The altar area has been covered by gold and white fleur-de-lis wallpaper. Four glass light fixtures are suspended by chains from the ceiling.

South of the church is an annex building which was erected in 1958. This one story, four bay by three bay structure has a flat roof. It is used for Sunday school and various community group meetings.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

M:27-16

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/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input 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"/> 1900-1914-1959	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES Chapel 1915

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Layhill Church is significant in three ways. First it is an excellent example of American rural Protestant religious values during the first half of the twentieth century. The church's small size and plain design reflect the belief that worship should be simple and unaffected by extensive ritual or ceremony, but that it should be comprehensible to the ordinary layman. Because of liturgical simplicity, the layman was supposed to be more able to participate actively on a personal level in the service of worship. The fact that the chapel building is a single auditorium reflects the belief that the primary function of worship is preaching, listening and responding to the Bible. The fact that a special building, devoted to teaching, was constructed in 1959 (the chapel was completed in 1915) reflects a growing interest in teaching as a function of worship, and the role of the church in family life. The importance of children is also indicated by the practice of decorating the building on holidays and at other times especially for children.

The second reason that Layhill Church is significant is because its two main structures reflect the change from traditional to modern industrial methods in the construction of small buildings during the twentieth century. The chapel is constructed almost entirely of wood, and the framing material was made from the lumber which was cleared from the property. It was built by the men of the church, under the direction of a former pastor who was also a carpenter by trade. The annex is constructed of mass-produced concrete blocks and standardized steel window components. Not very much of the building is composed of wood crafted by a carpenter. The annex also shows a change in attitudes about who should be responsible for building the house of worship. A construction firm was in charge of constructing it.

Layhill Church is also significant for the local history of the metropolitan Washington, D.C. area. It shows the slow development of Montgomery County from farming to suburban way of life. The successive addition of facilities to the property reflects the changing values of the congregation; first from simple worship to education, then with the addition of the parsonage to a desire for a full time professionally trained pastor. Finally, with the installation of parking lots the congregation showed its recognition that members could be commuters from a wide area.

(Continued on Attachment Sheet A)

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

See attachment sheet A

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .65 acre

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

From a point in Bonifant Rd., 330' East, then 162.3' SSW, then 331.08' WNW, then 16.8 to beginning point. More professional description is in surveyor's description by C.J. Maddox, May 27, 1914 in Book 252, page 231, Montgomery Land Records, Montgomery County Courthouse, Rockville, Md.

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

STATE	COUNTY
STATE	COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE	<u>Candy Reed - Architectural Description</u>	
	<u>Lawrence E. Hibpsman</u>	
ORGANIZATION	<u>Sugarloaf Regional Trails</u>	DATE <u>11/27/78</u>
STREET & NUMBER	<u>Box 87</u>	TELEPHONE <u>926-4510</u>
CITY OR TOWN	<u>Dickerson</u>	STATE <u>Maryland 20753</u>

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  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438~~

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

## Layhill Community Free Methodist Church

Another aspect of the church's significance for local history is its relationship to the community of Layhill at the turn of the century. Several of the local families (notably the Parsleys, who were involved in Democratic and Prohibitionist politics) were members. The building, along with the Victorian Parker Mansion, the Hull's and Red Door Stores (all still extant), the Oak Chapel United Methodist Church (much altered from its original form), Layhill Hall and the one room Layhill School (both now demolished) was one of the several public buildings which served this community before 1925. The buildings and records about it therefore are valuable sources about the people of the area and their way of life at the turn of the century.

The congregation plans to replace the building in the near future.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Annual Minutes of Free Methodist Church of North America, Winona Lake, ID: Free Methodist Publishing House, 1906 - 1914, 1917 - 1958, 1956 - 1964.

Clark, Elmer T., The Small Sects in America. Revised ed. New York: Abingdon - Cokesbury Press, 1944.

Doctrines and Discipline of the Methodist Episcopal Church. New York: B. Waugh & T. Mason, 1832.

Doctrines and Discipline of the FMCNA. Winona Lake, 1947.

Drummond, Andrew Landale. The Church Architecture of Protestantism: An Historical and Constructive Study. Edinburgh: T. & T. Clark, 1934.

Eastman, Fred, and Morse, and Monahan, A.C., An Educational Survey of a Suburban and Rural County. United States Bureau of Education Bulletin #32. Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1913.

Unpublished historical pamphlet produced by Layhill Church, 1974.

Interviews.

Layhill Church

NORTH

M: 27/16

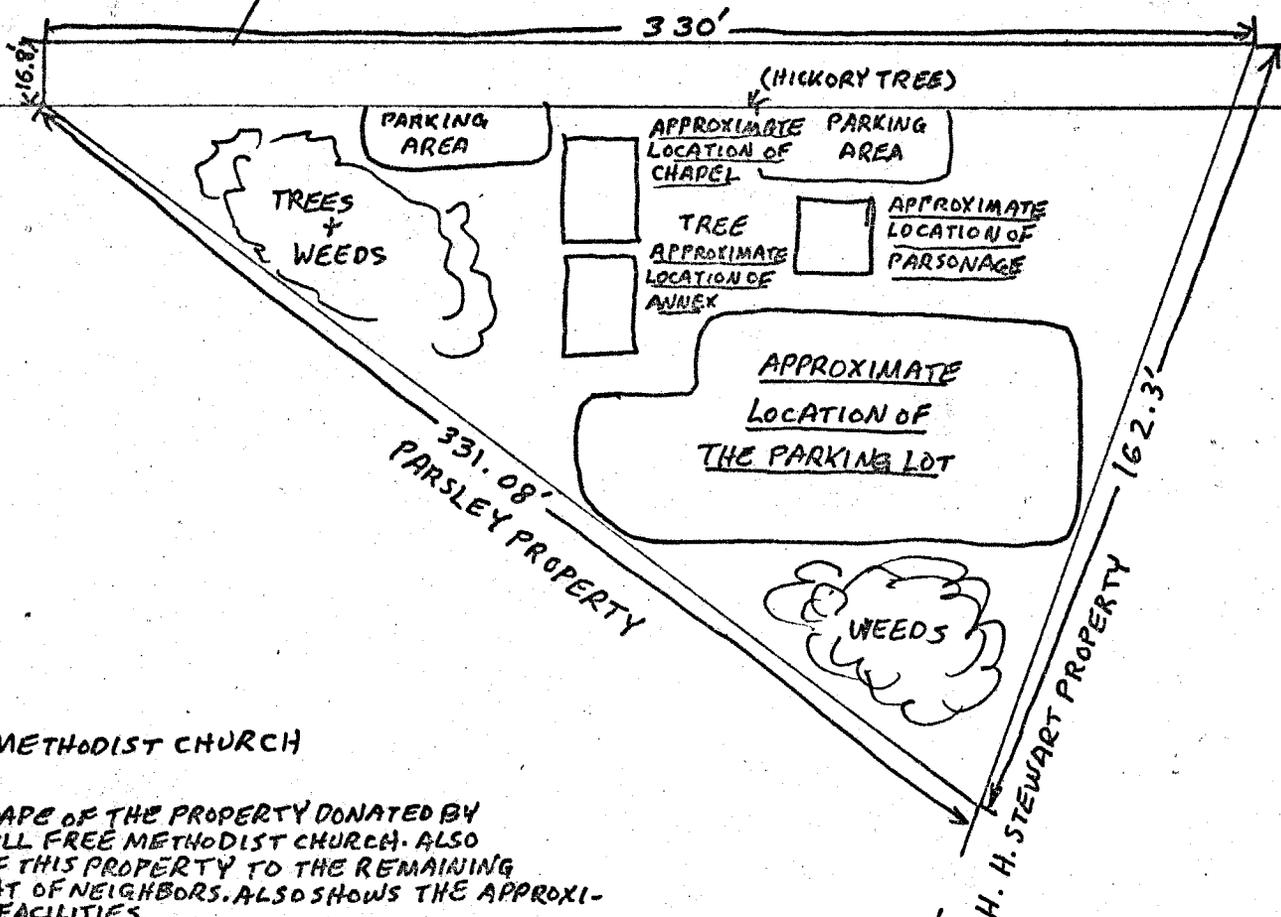
TO THE INTERSECTION OF LAYHILL, BELPRE + BONIFANT  
ROADS; @ 100 YARDS.

PARSLEY PROPERTY  
W.C. KISNER PROPERTY

KISNER PROPERTY  
WATKINS PROPERTY

PARSLEY PROPERTY

BONIFANT ROAD



LAYHILL COMMUNITY FREE METHODIST CHURCH  
SILVER SPRING, MD.

MAP # 3: DIMENSIONS + SHAPE OF THE PROPERTY DONATED BY  
CHRISTINA PARSLEY TO LAYHILL FREE METHODIST CHURCH. ALSO  
SHOWS THE JUNCTAPOSITION OF THIS PROPERTY TO THE REMAINING  
PARSLEY PROPERTY + TO THAT OF NEIGHBORS. ALSO SHOWS THE APPROXI-  
MATE LOCATION OF CURRENT FACILITIES.

AREA = .065 Acre

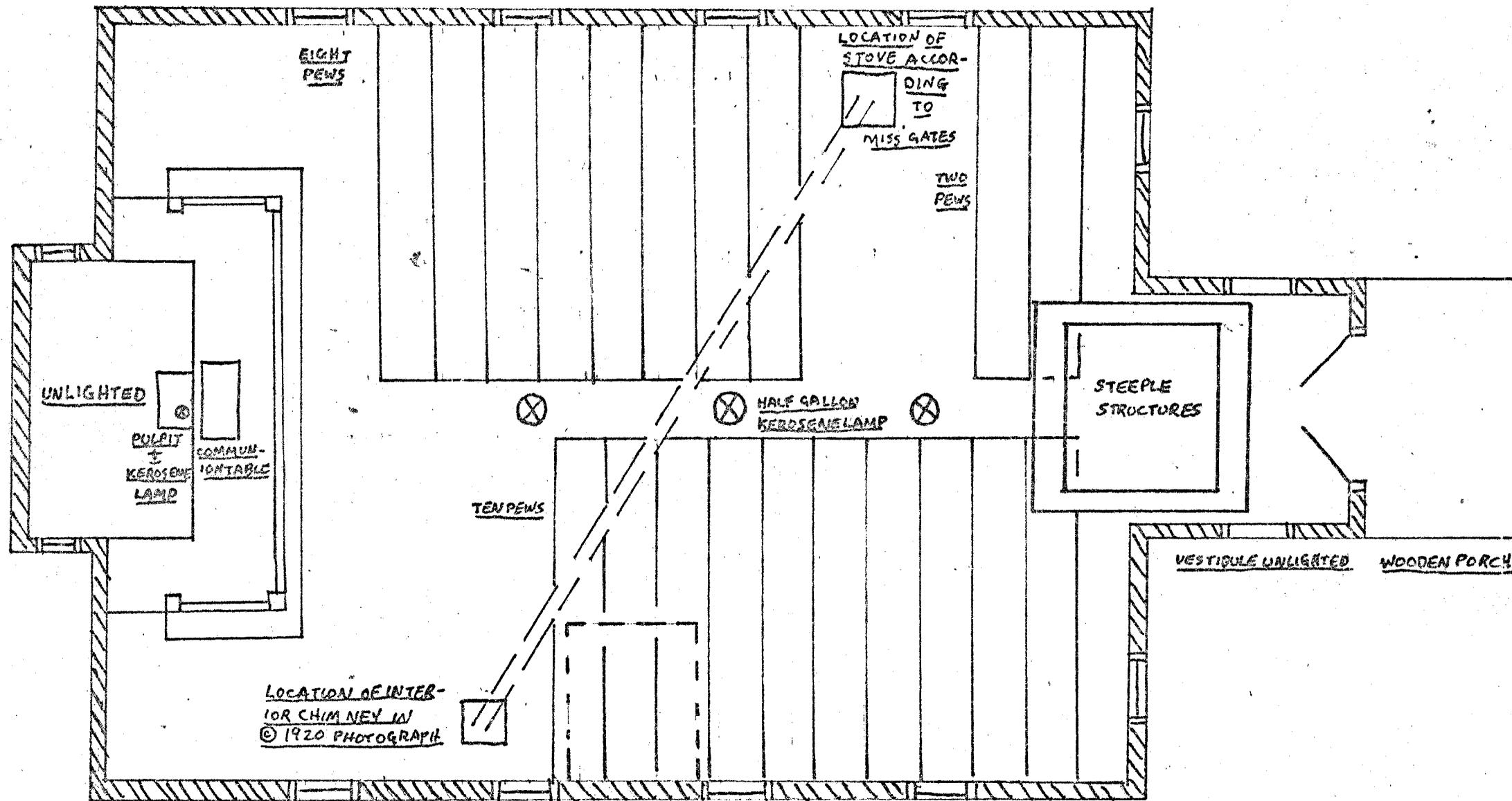
SURFACE FALLS TOWARD THE EAST AND SOUTH AT AN APPROXIMATE  
AVERAGE OF 1 VERTICAL FOOT FOR EVERY 30 HORIZONTAL FEET.

NOT DRAWN TO SCALE

(ADAPTED FROM A SKETCH OF THE SURVEY DONE BY C.J. MADDOX,  
MAY 27, 1914. MONTGOMERY COUNTY LAND RECORDS. BOOK 252, PAGE 131)

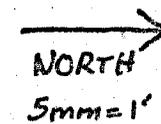
LAWRENCE E. HIBBSHMAN APR 10, 1978.

M:27/16



LAYHILL COMMUNITY FREE METHODIST CHURCH  
SILVER SPRING, MD

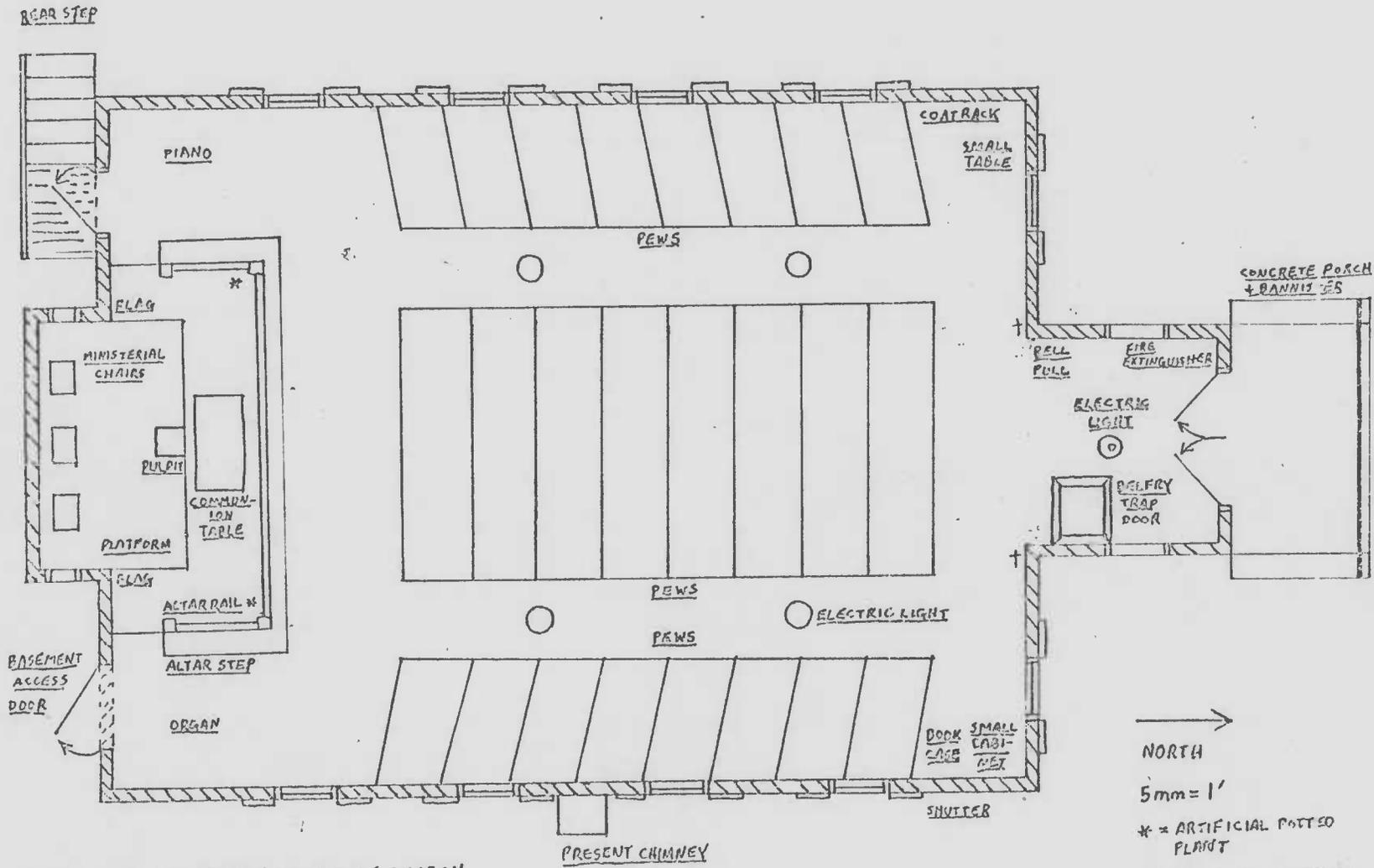
PLAN #2: THE CHURCH AND ITS ACCESSORIES AS THEY APPEARED ABOUT 1920; AND THE LOCATION OF THE STEEPLE STRUCTURE  
LAWRENCE E. HIBPSHMAN APR 10, 1978.



- = PRESENT LOCATION OF THE FURNACE (BASEMENT)
- = STOVE PIPE THAT MISS GATES SAYS CONNECTED STOVE TO CHIMNEY



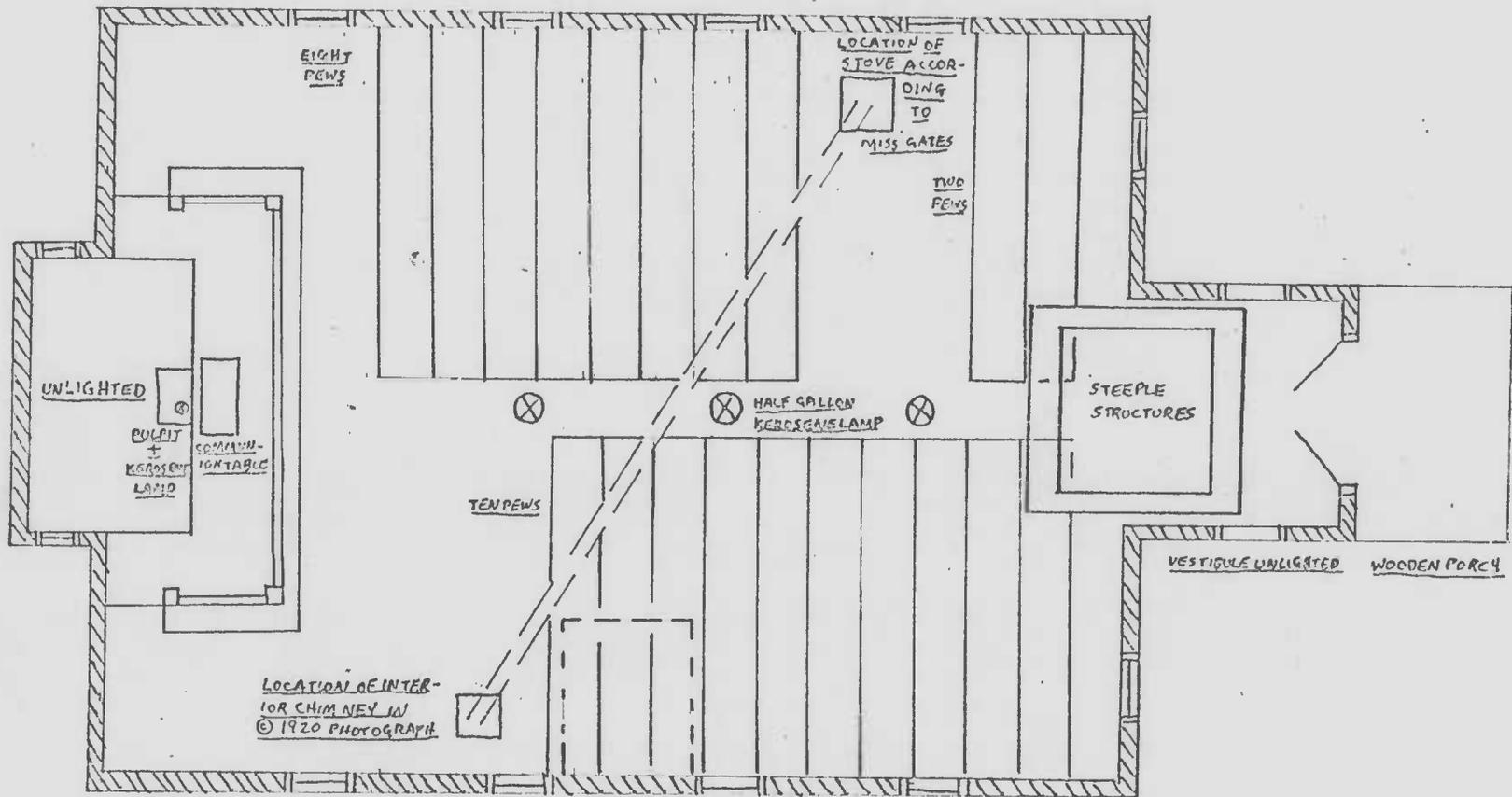
M: 27/16



LAYHILL COMMUNITY FREE METHODIST CHURCH  
 SILVER SPRING, MD (1916)  
 PLAN #1: PRESENT SANCTUARY LAYOUT  
 LAYMAN E. HERRMAN: APR 10, 1978

→  
 NORTH  
 5mm = 1'  
 \* = ARTIFICIAL POTTED PLANT  
 † = SMALL BULLETIN BOARD

M:27/16



LAYHILL COMMUNITY FREE METHODIST CHURCH  
SILVER SPRING, MD

PLAN #2: THE CHURCH AND ITS ACCESSORIES AS THEY APPEARED ABOUT 1920; AND THE  
LOCATION OF THE STEEPLE STRUCTURE  
LAWRENCE E. HIBPSHMAN APR 10, 1978.

NORTH  
5mm=1'

--- = PRESENT LOCATION OF THE FURNACE (CHASEMENT)

--- = STOVE PIPE THAT MISS GATES SAYS CONNECTED STOVE + CHIMNEY

Layhill Church



Picture 1. Sanctuary building; east elevation. This picture illustrates the siting of the building, and the rapid fall of the land surface.

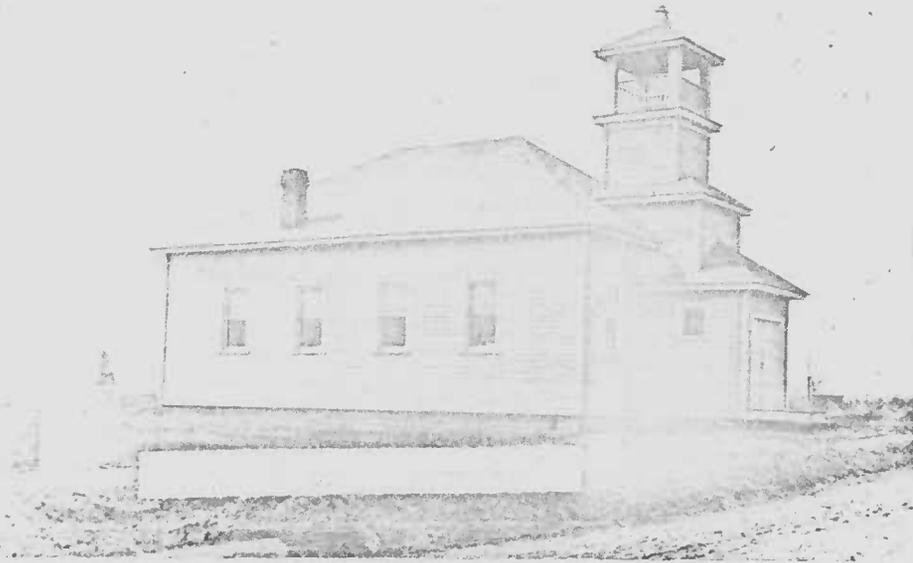


Picture 2. North elevation. This picture shows how close the building is to the right of way of Bonifont Road, and the front elevation of the lobby and steeple structure.

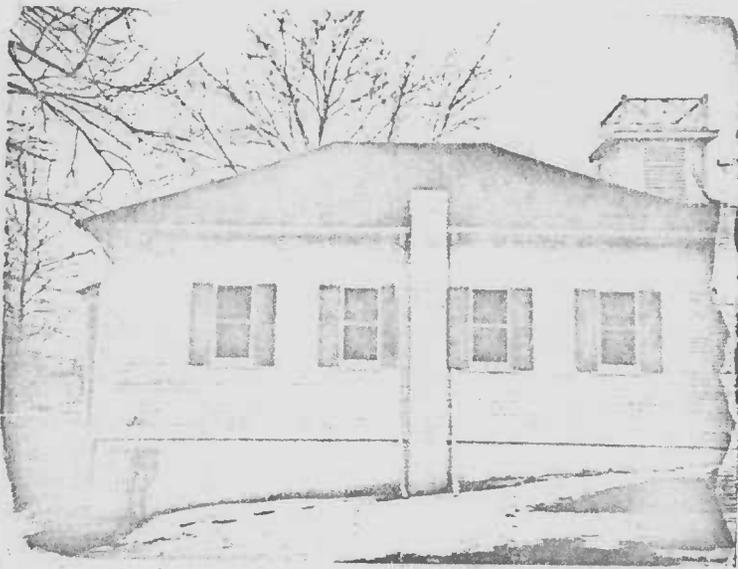


Picture 3. West elevation. The nearness to the road is again clearly visible.

Layhill Church



Picture 4. Sanctuary building, east elevation, about 1920.  
Photograph courtesy of Wayne D. Lawton.



Picture 5. Detail; east elevation, showing roof,  
chimney and drainage spouts.

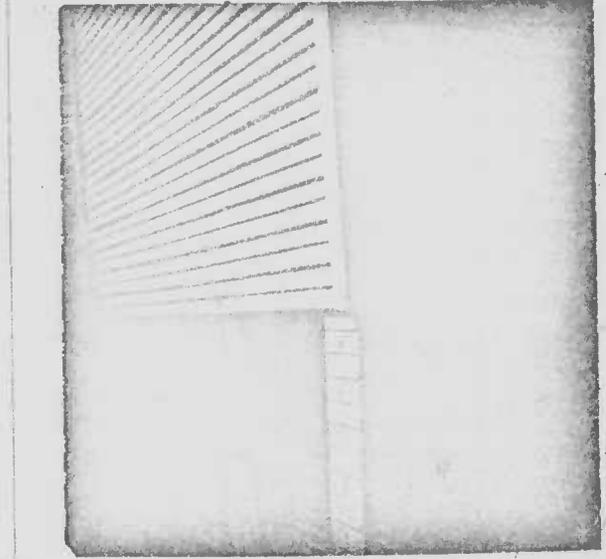


Picture 6. Detail; west elevation. The  
side of the steeple structure.

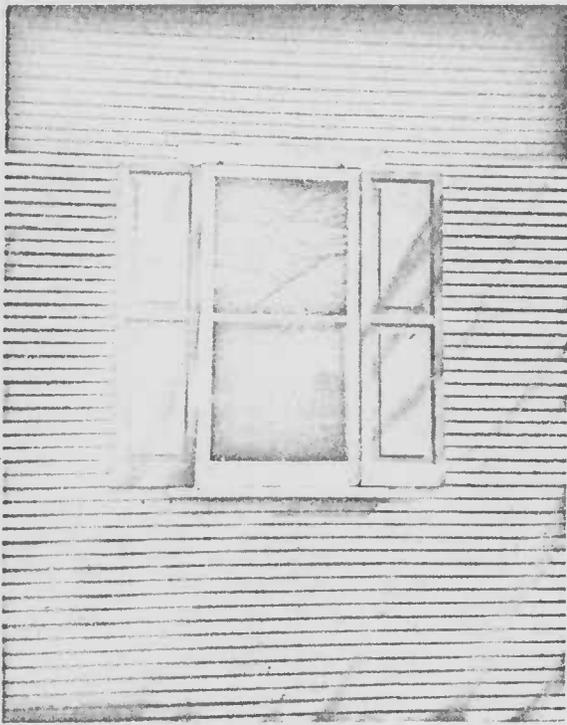
## Layhill Church



Picture 7. Detail; south facade. This picture shows the rear door and the back wall of the leanto.



Picture 8. Detail of the southeast corner of the leanto. This picture shows the clapboarding, the vertical corner mullion, and the brick pillar that supports the leanto.

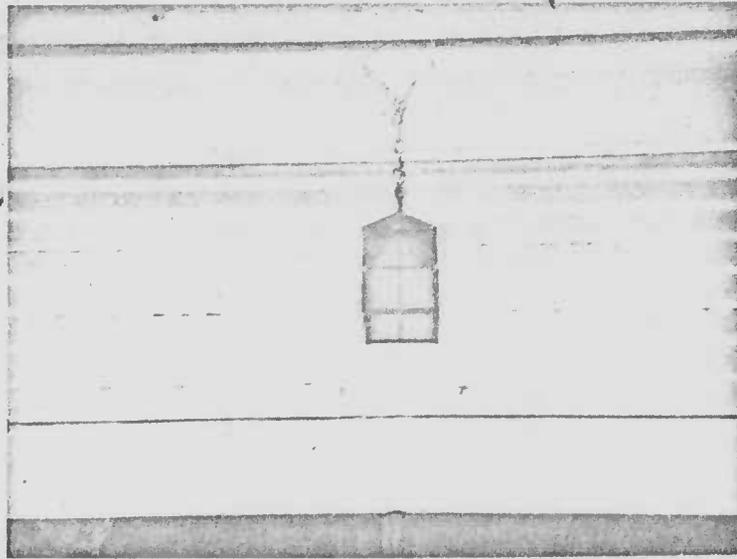


Picture 9. Detail of the north window in the west wall. All windows in the longitudinal walls, and those in the main wall of the front elevation are identical to this one.

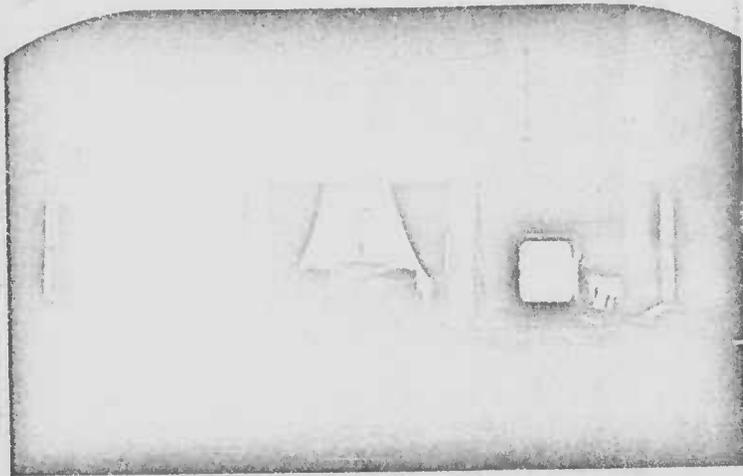


Picture 10. Detail of the back step. This picture also shows one of the narrow leanto windows. The hinges of the storm window are visible at the extreme upper margin.

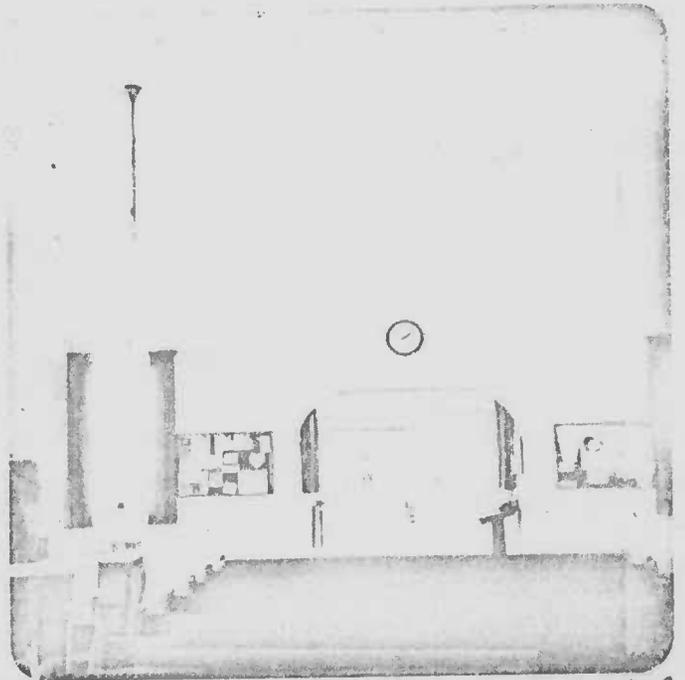
Layhill Church



Picture 11. Detail of the decorative light fixture over the front door.

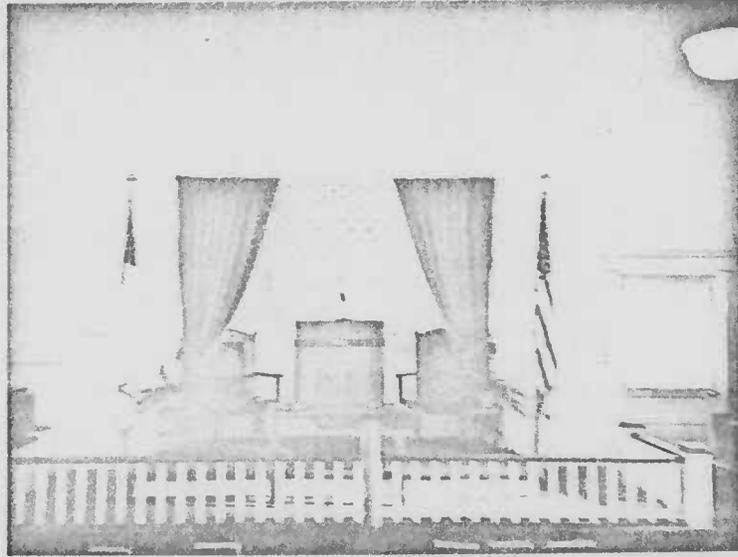


Picture 12. Sanctuary building; view toward the platform at the south end of the room. The light curved area at the top of the photograph is the arch which separates the vestibule from the auditorium. This picture illustrates the extra illumination that the narrow side windows give the lean-to-ministerial platform.

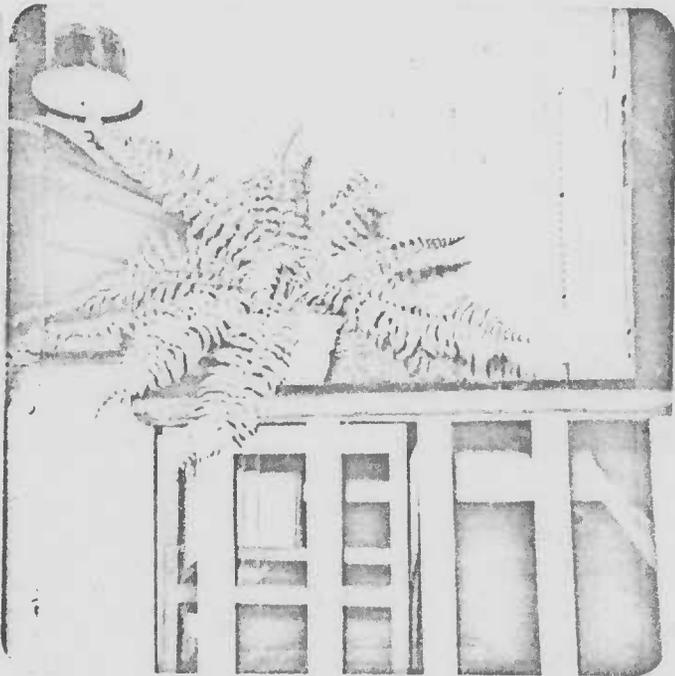


Picture 13. Detail of the north wall of the auditorium and the vestibule. This picture shows the form of the light fixture.

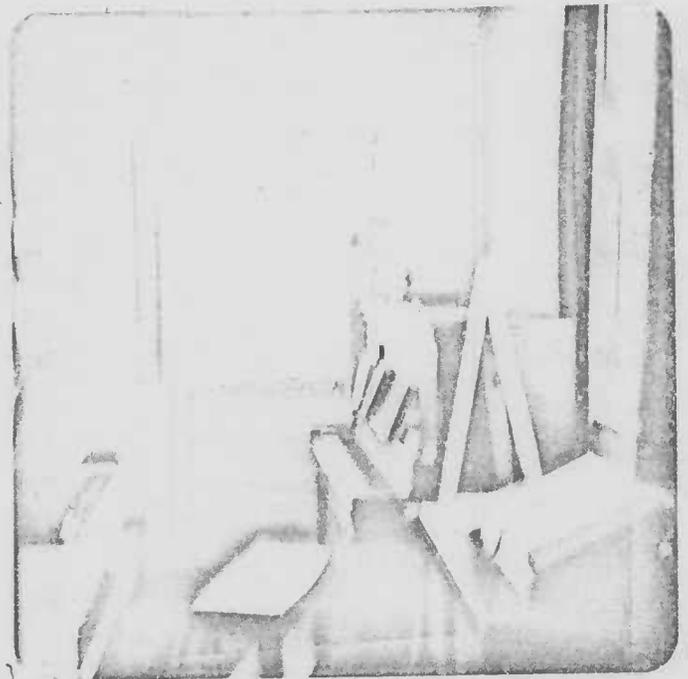
## Layhill Church



Picture 14. Detail of the leanto, platform and altar railing. The fluer-de-lis design of the wallpaper can be seen.

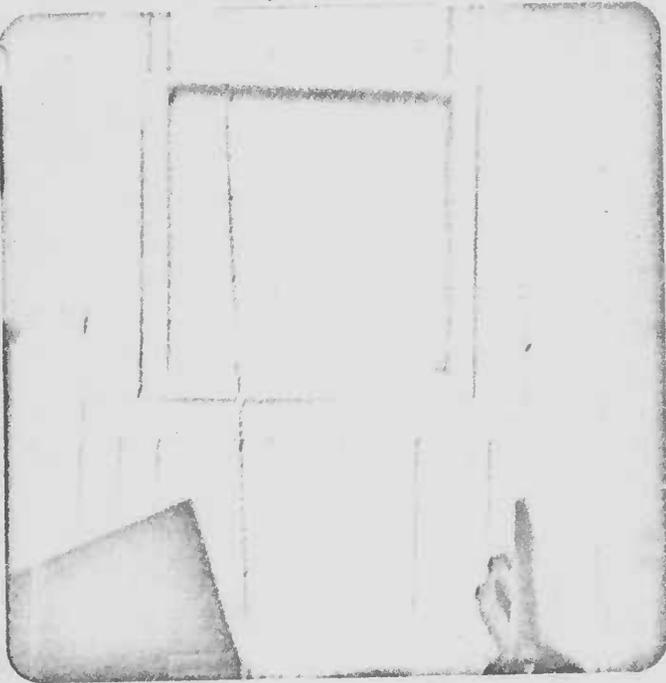


Picture 15. Detail of the east corner of the altar rail, with one of the potted plants used to decorate it. The wainscoting can be seen, illustrating how its upper margin rises next to the leanto.

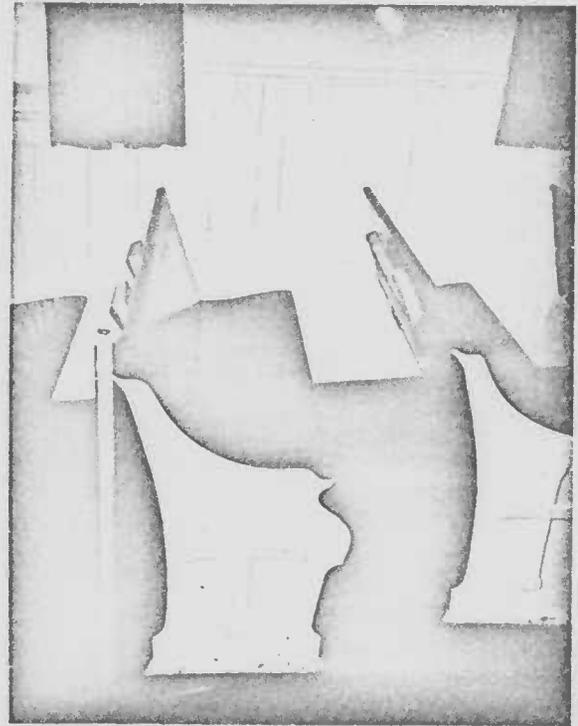


Picture 16. Detail of the southwest corner of the auditorium.

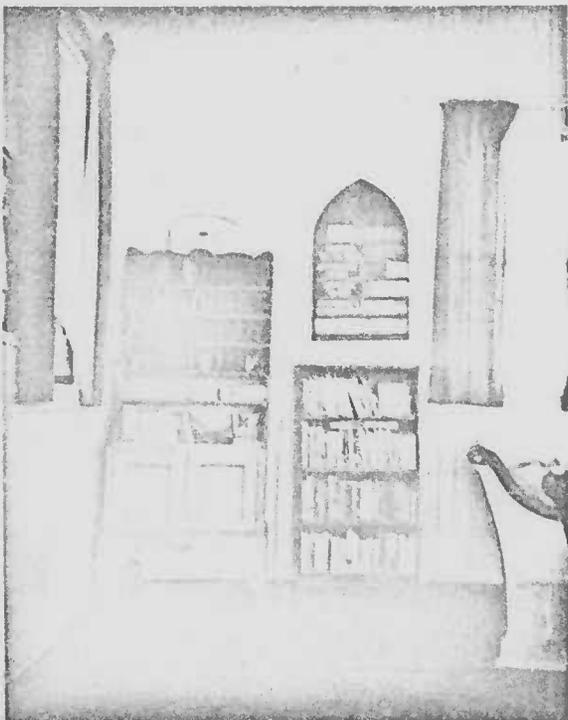
Layhill Church



Picture 17. Detail of the north window in the east wall. This picture illustrates the relationship between the bottom of the window and the wainscoting. The glass is frosted.



Picture 18. One of the pews in the east section. The outside end is nailed to the wall.



Picture 19. Detail of the northwest corner of the auditorium and typical auxiliary furnishings.