

1. Name: Hermon Presbyterian Church

2. Planning Area/Site Number: 29/37

3. M-NCPPC Atlas Reference: Map 20
Coordinate D-10

Address: 7801 Persimmon Tree Lane
Bethesda, Md.

5. Classification Summary

Category building
Ownership private
Public Acquisition N/A
Status occupied
Accessible yes; restricted
Present use religious

Previous Survey Recording MNCPPC
Title and Date: Historic Sites Inventory
1976

Federal State x County x Local

6. Date: 1874

7. Original Owner: Hermon Presbyterian Church
congregation

8. Apparent Condition

a. excellent b. altered c. original site

9. Description: The building is a clapboard, Gothic Revival style country church. It is three-bays deep with a very steep pitched roof that rises to meet a two-story tower that projects from the south (entrance) facade. The tower is capped with an open porch type of belfry that features bracketed posts and a bracketed cornice. Other features of the tower are a wooden bull's-eye medallion, long, narrow stained glass windows with peaked mouldings, and a hood supported by brackets over the entrance. There is a small cemetery to the north of the church.

10. Significance : This handsome country Church, over 100 years old, stands today as a vital representative of the Presbyterian movement in Montgomery County. The Hermon Presbyterian Church was founded in 1874 by Presbyterians from various congregations in the area, tired of long journeys to churches in Rockville, Bethesda, and Georgetown. Land was donated by Thomas and Amanda Dowling and construction funds were borrowed from the Presbytery Board of Church Election. Originally the church had a tall (100 foot) steeple, but it was damaged by a storm in 1902 and replaced by the present belfry. A cemetery to the rear has been in use since 1909. In 1930, the church was in need of repair and a new church was considered. It is to the credit of the congregation at that time that they recognized the beauty and history of their church and voted to restore it instead.

11. Researcher and date researched: Mary Charlotte Crook 2/79

12. Compiler: Gail Rothrock

13. Date Compiled: 2/79

14. Designation
Approval

15. Acreage: 3/4 acre

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME
 HISTORIC Hermon Presbyterian Church
 AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION
 STREET & NUMBER 7801 Persimmon Tree Lane
 CITY, TOWN Bethesda VICINITY OF CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 8
 STATE Maryland COUNTY Montgomery

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	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"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY
 NAME Hermon Presbyterian Church Telephone #:
 STREET & NUMBER 7801 Persimmon Tree Lane
 CITY, TOWN Bethesda VICINITY OF STATE, zip code Maryland

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION
 COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Montgomery County Courthouse Liber #: EBP 12
 STREET & NUMBER Folio #: 423
 CITY, TOWN Rockville STATE Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS
 TITLE "Locational Atlas and Index of Historic Sites in Montgomery County Md."
 DATE October 1976 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL
 DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Montgomery County Planning Board
 CITY, TOWN Rockville STATE Maryland

7 DESCRIPTION

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

The building is a clapboard, Gothic Revival style country church. It is three-bays deep with a very steep pitched roof that rises to meet a two-story tower that projects from the south (entrance) facade. The tower is capped with an open porch type of belfry that features bracketed posts and a bracketed cornice. Other features of the tower are a wooden bull's-eye medallion, long, narrow stained glass windows with peaked mouldings, and a hood supported by brackets over the entrance. There is a small cemetery to the north of the church.

Although the interior of the church was changed considerably by these renovations, there are still some reminders of how it looked in earlier days. The original pews were arrayed in three sections separated by two aisles; some of the old, shorter pews are still in use today in the Sunday School in the basement. Today the pews are in two sections separated by a center aisle. In the early days there were two stoves in the church, one on each side. The locations of their chimneys are still evident in the interruptions in the facing boards along the top of the inside walls of the church. Before the installation of electricity, the church was lit by a central chandelier holding a dozen kerosene lamps. The chandelier was suspended from a hook in the center of the ceiling so that it could be lowered for lighting, filling, or cleaning. The large hook is still in the ceiling.



CONTINUE ON

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 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 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 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 1874

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Mr. Nowell

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Hermon Presbyterian Church, named for Mount Hermon, a high peak in the Holy Land, was founded in 1874 by Presbyterians from various congregations, including some from the historic Captain John's Church. When that church ceased to exist in 1850 because of the migration of many of its members to the population centers of Rockville and Bethesda, the people in the area of Cabin John and Potomac were forced to travel long distances to churches in Rockville, Bethesda, and Georgetown. In the early 1870's two pastors from the Bridge Street Presbyterian Church (now Georgetown Presbyterian Church) occasionally held services in private homes and in the Friendship School on Persimmon Tree Road. One of these homes was that of Mrs. Mary Catherine Holmes Magruder Carter, also on Persimmon Tree Road. It was in Mrs. Carter's home, in early 1874, that the Hermon Presbyterian Church was organized. Significantly, Mrs. Carter was a direct descendant of Ninian Beall who is fittingly called the father of Presbyterianism in Maryland.

The charter members of the congregation were John D.W. Moore, Mrs. Sarah B. Moore, Mrs. Eliza H. Baker, Mrs. M.C.H. Carter, Miss Rebecca Magruder, Mrs. M.E. Offutt, Robert G. Davidson, Mrs. Anna C. Davidson, Miss Mary Harrison, Miss Alice Harrison, Miss Elizabeth G. Dodge, Miss Lilly C. Moore, Mrs. Sarah R. Pennifill, William Canning, Mrs. Eliza Canning, and James Harrison.

The church was erected in 1874 on 3/4 acre of land donated by Thomas and Amanda Dowling. The people raised about \$1000 and borrowed \$500 without interest from the Presbytery Board of Church Erection. The white frame church was dedicated on Sunday, November 8, 1874. The original church had a tall (100 feet), slender steeple. That steeple was damaged by a storm in 1902 and replaced by the present belfry.

The original deed by which the Dowlings gave the land for the church provided that the land was "under no circumstances to be used for the purpose of a burying ground." By 1909, however, the land in the rear of the church was set apart and laid out for a burying ground with the cooperation of the Dowling family. The land was officially released from the conditions imposed in the original deed in 1911 when the heirs of Amanda Dowling recorded her intentions in Montgomery County Deed Book 222. The cemetery is still known as the Dowling Memorial Cemetery.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

(Continued on Attachment Sheet A)

Hermon Presbyterian Church

In 1930, when the church was in need of repairs, a new building was considered. However, the congregation voted to repair the existing building. Some of the timbers of the church were reinforced, the roof was repaired, and the interior was replastered and repainted. More extensive work took place in 1963 and 1964. The ground beneath the church was excavated, and a new concrete foundation and basement were installed to provide room for Sunday School and social functions. A reinforced concrete slab was built over the basement as the floor of the church. A new heating system and new plumbing and wiring were installed. During this period of restoration, church services were held at "Glenmore" the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. Dunbar Stone. Mr. Stone was the grandson of John D.W. Moore, the first Elder of Hermon Church.

Fortunately the exterior of the church and its setting, which is so striking to the passer-by, has not changed even though the land in the vicinity of the church has been developed. The plain little white chapel sits today among the "Wind-singing pines and cedars" exactly as it is described by The Rambler in The Sunday Star (Washington, D.C.) of March 2, 1919. Posterity can thank the small but devoted congregation (some of whom are the fourth generation of their families to have worshipped at Hermon Church) for preserving the original church.

Hermon Church, "Outline of the History of Hermon Presbyterian Church on its One Hundredth Anniversary, 1874-1974".

M:29-37

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Montgomery County Deeds, Book EBP 12, page 423 and Book 222, page 253.
Montgomery County Sentinel, October 9, 1874.

Duncan, Rev. George S., "Outline History of Captain John, Hermon and Cropley Presbyterian Churches in Montgomery County, Maryland", Printing House of Jos. C. Wood, Washington, D.C., 1926.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 3/4 acre

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

Mary Charlotte Crook

Michael Dwyer/Arch. Description

ORGANIZATION

Sugarloaf Regional Trails

DATE

2/79

STREET & NUMBER

Box 87

TELEPHONE

926-4510

CITY OR TOWN

Dickerson

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

1607844608

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON:

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Hermon Presbyterian Church

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
7800 Block Persimmon Tree Road

CITY OR TOWN:
Potomac

STATE: Maryland COUNTY: Montgomery

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____ _____
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: STATE: Rockville Maryland Title Reference of Current Deed (Book & Pg. #):			
6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS TITLE OF SURVEY: DATE OF SURVEY: <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: STREET AND NUMBER: CITY OR TOWN: STATE:			

7. DESCRIPTION	
CONDITION	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/> Ruins <input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed (Check One)
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered <input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered <input type="checkbox"/> Moved <input type="checkbox"/> Original Site (Check One)
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE	
<p>The building is a clapboard, Gothic-Revival style country church. It is three bays deep with a very steep-pitched roof that rises to meet a two-story tower that projects from the south (entrance) facade. The tower is capped with an open porch-type of belfry that features bracketed posts and a bracketed cornice. Other features of the tower are a wooden bull's-eye medallion, long, narrow stained glass windows with peaked mouldings and a hood supported by brackets over the entrance. There is a small cemetery to the north of the church.</p>	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

B. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi- | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | losaphy | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human- | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | itarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

M:29-37

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

Acreage Justification:

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Michael F. Dwyer, Park Historian

ORGANIZATION: M-NCPPC DATE: 4/21/75

STREET AND NUMBER:
8787 Georgia Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: Silver Spring STATE: Maryland

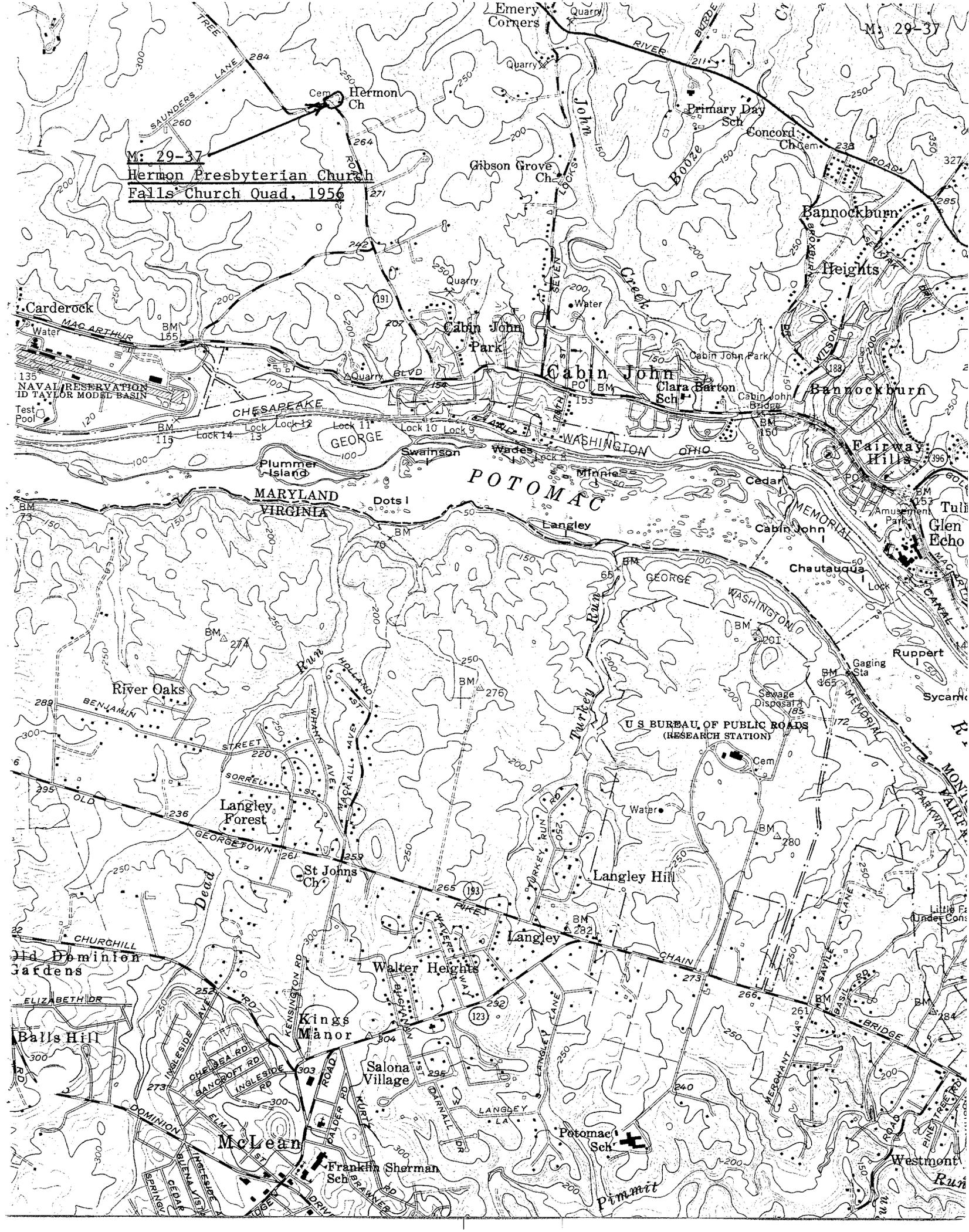
12. State Liaison Officer Review: (Office Use Only)

Significance of this property is:
 National State Local

Signature _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

M: 29-37
Hermon Presbyterian Church
Falls Church Quad, 1956





#29-37

NAME HERMON PRESBY. CHURCH

LOCATION 7800 BLOCK PERSIMMON TREE RD

FACADE S POTOMAC, MD

PHOTO TAKEN 4/21/75 MDWYER