

Laurel #2

St. Mark's M. E. Church  
601 Eighth Street, Laurel, Md.  
Priv/Occ/Rel/Exc

Circa 1921

The original structure of St. Mark's Church is built of white "formstone" cement blocks, molded to form an attractive pattern. It is a rectangular gable-roofed building, with its main facade being the east gable end. A two-story tower with pyramidal roof and finial is set into the northeast corner of the building, and entrance is through a porch on the east side of this tower. There is a tri-partite stained-glass pointed-arch window in the center of the east gable end. The north and south facades are three bays long, with pointed-arch windows, with slim buttresses between the windows. Extending west from the west (rear) gable end is a somewhat lower gable-roofed apse. The upper portion of each gable end is covered with dark wooden shingles, making an attractive contrast with the bright white of the formstone.

In 1891, James Hebron and two other men acquired a lot of land in the town of Laurel, onto which they moved a small frame building belonging to Hebron and began to hold worship services. In its new location, this simple church building stood directly across the street from the recently (1884) constructed Laurel "colored" school, and these two buildings became the focal point of the Black community of Laurel.

In 1921, construction began on a new church building; George Levi, a local laborer experienced in masonry, is credited with molding the patterned cement blocks of which the church was built. The old frame "Hebron Hall" was carried a short distance south to another lot, where it served as a social hall.

St. Mark's is significant because it has since its beginning been the center of the long-standing Black population of Laurel, many of whom worked at the Laurel Mills or the Muirkirk Iron furnace. It is a strikingly handsome landmark on the main west-bound street through present day Laurel.

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic St. Mark's Methodist Episcopal Church

and/or common St. Mark's United Methodist Church

## 2. Location

street & number 601 Eighth Street \_\_\_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Laurel \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ congressional district 5

state Maryland \_\_\_\_\_ county P. G.

## 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"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

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

name Trustees of St. Mark's U. M. Church

street & number 601 Eighth Street telephone no.: 776-8885

city, town Laurel state and zip code Md., 20810

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. P. G. Co. Courthouse liber JB #2

street & number Main Street folio 343

city, town Upper Marlboro state Md.,

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title P.G. Co. Inventory of Historic Sites

date 1974 \_\_\_\_\_ federal \_\_\_\_\_ state  county \_\_\_\_\_ local

depository for survey records History Division - M-NCPPC

city, town Riverdale state Md.

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" 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 original structure of St. Mark's Church is built of white "formstone" cement blocks, molded to form an attractive pattern. It is a rectangular gable-roofed building, with its main facade being the east gable end. A two-story tower with pyramidal roof and finial is set into the northeast corner of the building, and entrance is through a porch on the east side of this tower. There is a tri-partite stained-glass pointed-arch window in the center of the east gable end. The north and south facades are three bays long, with pointed-arch windows, with slim buttresses between the windows. Extending west from the west (rear) gable end is a somewhat lower gable-roofed apse. The upper portion of each gable end is covered with dark wooden shingles, making an attractive contrast with the bright white of the formstone. All of the windows

In 1979, an addition was built, extending west from the rear of the church, and enclosing the original apse. This is the present Fellowship Hall.

**8. Significance**

Survey No. Laurel #2

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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) Black History

**Specific dates** 1921 **Builder/Architect** George Levi

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.

For a short time before a group of Black Methodists in Laurel acquired a lot of ground on which to establish their church, they had been worshipping in private homes. Then in July 1891, James Hebron and two other men acquired as trustees a lot of land on the west side of Church Street (now 8th Street) from the Jenkins family (of Montpelier), owners of the Laurel Mills. James Hebron owned a simple frame building just north of this lot, in which the group had been holding services, and this building was now moved and stabilized on the new church lot. In its new location, the simple church building stood directly across the street from the recently (1884) constructed Laurel "Colored" school. These two buildings became the focal point of the old and stable Black community of Laurel.

In 1895, this new church became part of the Laurel Charge of the Methodist Conference; Reverend S. A. Lewis served both St. Mark's (as it came to be known) and Queen's Chapel (cf #62-21) in Rossville.

In 1921, construction was begun on the new church. George Levi, a laborer experienced in masonry, is credited with molding the cement block "formstone" of which the new church was constructed. At the same time, the old frame structure (Hebron Hall) which had served for 30 years as the sanctuary, was carried a short distance south to a new location on the east side of 8th Street, where it served as a social hall.

St. Mark's has maintained a large and active membership, largely because of the long-standing stable Black population of Laurel, many of whom worked at the Laurel Mills or the Muirkirk Iron Furnace. Late in the 1940's this membership set up a building fund, and thirty years later, in 1979, the west addition was constructed, expanding the sanctuary, and providing a pastor's study and Fellowship Hall. The very

8 - SIGNIFICANCE (Cont'd)

Laurel #2

attractive appearance of the 1921 formstone church was only slightly compromised by this addition, and St. Mark's is a strikingly handsome landmark on the main west-bound street through present day Laurel. It is significant, not only because of its unusual appearance, but because it represents the religious center of a long-standing urban Black community.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. Laurel #2

P.G. Co. Deeds: JB #2:343; JWB #19:499  
 History of St. Mark's U.M. Church  
 Laurel News Leader: 29 July 1976; 13 Dec. 1979  
 Laurel Centennial Booklet 1970, p. 59  
 W.P.A. Records, 1937; Interview with Rev. Geo. DeFord, and Margaret Moore (church secretary)

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle scale \_\_\_\_\_

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

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 Zone Easting Northing

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 Zone Easting Northing

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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 Susan G. Pearl

organization History Division, M-NCPPC

date May 1983

street & number 4811 Riverdale Road

telephone 779-2011

city or town Riverdale

state Maryland 20737

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

City of Laurel  
(#2)

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

2  
1700025708

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

St. Mark's Methodist Church

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

8th St. & Talbott Ave.

CITY, TOWN

Laurel

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Prince George's

**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
- MUSEUM
- COMMERCIAL
- PARK
- EDUCATIONAL
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ENTERTAINMENT
- RELIGIOUS
- GOVERNMENT
- SCIENTIFIC
- INDUSTRIAL
- TRANSPORTATION
- MILITARY
- OTHER

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Trustees of St. Mark's Church

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Laurel

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Prince George's County Courthouse

Liber #:

Folio #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Upper Marlboro

STATE

Maryland

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

\_\_\_ FEDERAL \_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_ COUNTY \_\_\_ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

# 7 DESCRIPTION

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

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This is an unusual, attractive church, built in 1921 of form-stone blocks. It is a rectangular-shaped structure, with a steep A-roof. A two-story bell-tower is set into the SW (entrance) corner. This is capped with a tall, pyramidal roof that features a "kick up" at its base. The main block of the building is 3 bays in length, and the bays are marked with slim, false buttresses. The windows in each bay have pointed arches. A one-bay apse, to the rear of the church, is of similar styling to the main building-except for its smaller size and circular stain-glass window over the altar. (Both gable-ends here are covered with dark wooden shingles.) Every window and corner of the entire building is trimmed with light-colored quoin blocks, which greatly accentuate the stylishness of the structure.

**78 SIGNIFICANCE**

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 type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input 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-	<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

This building is one of the most sophisticated Negro community landmarks in the area. It shows a surprising amount of detail for a building constructed of form-stone, a substance usually reserved for foundations and dairy barns.

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

- 1) LAUREL, MD. CENTENNIAL BOOKLET, 1870-1970, by the LAUREL NEWS LEADER, (1970), p. 59.

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

4/14/75

STREET & NUMBER

8787 Georgia Ave.

TELEPHONE

589-1480

CITY OR TOWN

Silver Spring

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.

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RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438

LAUREL #2  
ST. MARK'S CHURCH

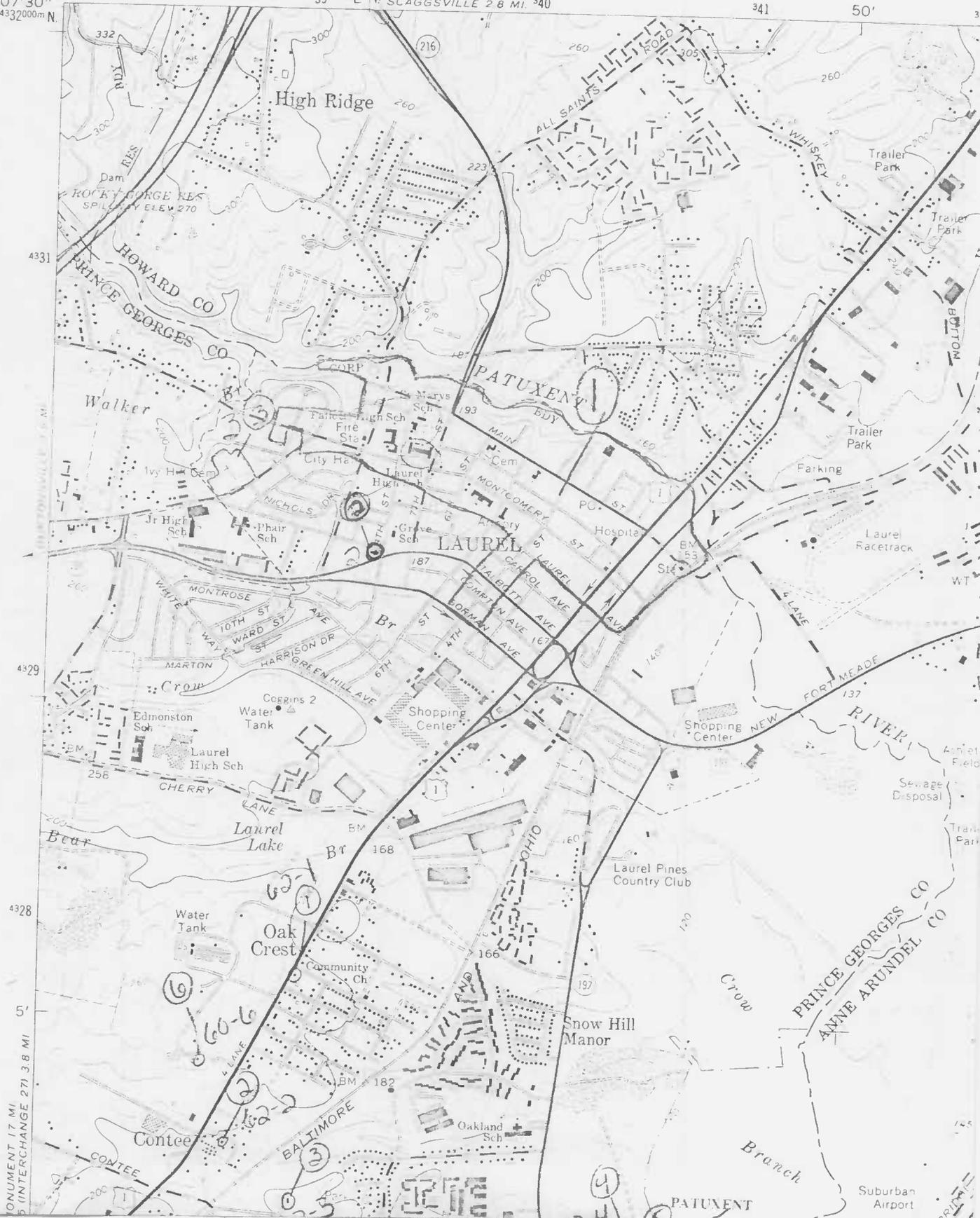
UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY



5662 1/4 NW  
(CLARKSVILLE)

76° 52' 30"  
39° 07' 30"  
4332000m N

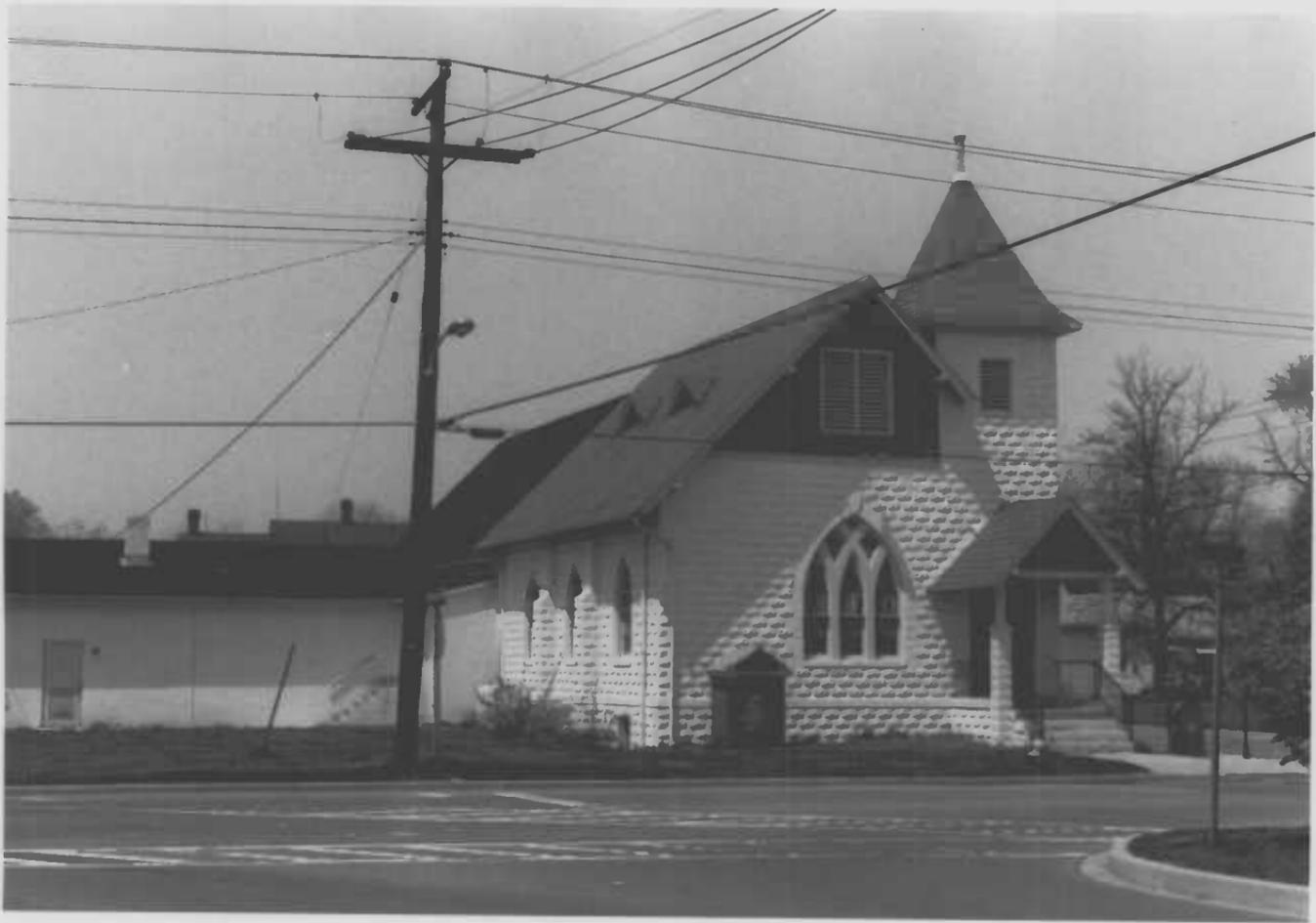
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MONUMENT 17 MI  
INTERCHANGE 271 3.8 MI

PATUXENT

Suburban Airport



P.G. Laurel #2

PG:LAU-2

P. G. Laurel #2

St. Mark's Methodist Church  
Prince George's Co., Maryland  
Susan G. Pearl  
April 1983  
East Elevation  
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, Md.



P.G. Laurel #2

PG: LAU-2

P. G. Laurel #2

St. Mark's Methodist Church  
Prince George's Co., Maryland  
Susan G. Pearl  
April 1983  
Northeast 3/4 Elevation  
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, Md.



P. G. Laurel #2

PG: LAU-2

P. G. Laurel #2

St. Mark's Methodist Church  
(Laurel "Colored" School)  
Prince George's County, Md.  
Susan G. Pearl  
April 1983  
Southeast 3/4 Elevation  
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, Md.