

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY
HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey #: P.G. #64-5 Building Date: 1860's

Building Name: Perkins Chapel

Location: Immediately north west of 8606 Springfield Road, Glenn Dale,
Maryland

Private/Religious/Unoccupied/Fair/Inaccessible

Description:

Perkins Chapel is a four-bay one-and-one-half-story gable-roofed frame meeting house structure, ca. 37 feet by 26 feet. Entrance is through a one-story gabled vestibule at the east gable end, through a panelled double door surmounted by a 12-pane fanlight with plain board surround and "keystone". Above the vestibule in the east gable end is a small round louvered window with a rosette pattern. The east gable end has a boxed cornice with brackets and pendants. The exterior is German siding painted white. Around the chapel on three sides (north, west, and south) is a graveyard with stones dating from 1871 to the present.

Significance:

Perkins Chapel was built during the division in the Methodist Episcopal Church in the 1860's; it was an outgrowth of Pleasant Grove Methodist Church which had been established in 1815. When the issue of slavery divided the church along racial lines, James Turner Perkins, a white farmer with extensive land holdings, offered an acre of his land a mile southeast of Pleasant Grove for the purpose of erecting a new chapel. The building was constructed in the mid-1860's, the deed was executed in 1869 and in the same year the church was dedicated as "Perkins Chapel" in honor of its principal sponsor. The old Pleasant Grove meeting house continued to serve the black congregation until it closed in 1916.

Until 1927, Perkins Chapel was heated by wood stoves; in that year a cellar was dry out under the chapel for installation of a coal furnace. Perkins Chapel became a separate charge in 1958; the parsonage was completed in the following year. At the same time, a 5 1/2-acre adjoining tract was purchased, and a new brick church was completed in 1965. Perkins Chapel is one of few surviving rural chapels from the mid-nineteenth century. Closely associated with the Bladensburg, Whitefield-Lanham, and Pleasant Grove Methodist Churches (none of which stands today), Perkins Chapel has served its rural congregation for a full century, and remains a prominent landmark in its rural setting.

Acreage: 2 acres

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Perkins Chapel

and/or common

2. Location

street & number immediately northwest of 8606 Springfield Road not for publication

city, town Glenn Dale vicinity of congressional district 5

state Maryland county Prince George's

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: not used

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

name Glenn Dale United Methodist Church

street & number 8500 Springfield Road telephone no.: 262-2299

city, town Glenn Dale state and zip code Md. 20769

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Prince George's County Courthouse liber 444

street & number Main Street folio 422

city, town Upper Marlboro, state Md. 20772

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title P.G. County Inventory of Historic Sites

date 1974 federal state county local

pository for survey records History Division, M-NCPPC

city, town Riverdale, state MD. 20737

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input 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 checked="" 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.

Perkins Chapel is a four-bay one-and-one-half-story gable-roofed frame meeting-house structure, ca. 37 feet by 26 feet which faces roughly east. Entrance is through a one-story gabled vestibule at the east gable end. Entrance into this vestibule is a panelled double door surmounted by a 12-pane fanlight, with plain board surround and "keystone". There is a six-light single sash window on each of the north and south side walls of the vestibule. Above the vestibule in the east gable end is a small round louvered window with a rosette pattern. The east gable end has a boxed cornice with brackets with pendants.

The long sides of the building each have four 6/6 double sash windows, with hinges for shutters, though there are presently no shutters attached. At the west gable end is an interior chimney (20th century), and also a small shed-roofed addition which allows access to the cellar.

The exterior is German siding, painted white. The foundations are brick. The roof is new composition shingle; it was preceded by a cypress shingle roof which was installed ca. 1940.

Until 1927 the meeting house was heated by wood stoves. In that year, members of the congregation dug out a small cellar under the building and installed a furnace. At that time the small entry-room was built onto the west gable end to allow access to the furnace room.

Around the chapel on three sides (north, west and south) is a graveyard with gravestones dating from 1871 to the present. Southeast of the graveyard is the brick parsonage. Further to the southeast, at the corner of Springfield and Good Luck Roads, is the new brick church building. The original small frame chapel stands at the highest and westernmost point of the church property, which is surrounded by U.S. Department of Agriculture lands. It faces the old country road from Vansville to Springfield and is a prominent landmark in an undeveloped rural area.

8. 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input 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) Local history

Specific dates 1860's **Builder/Architect** Samuel Anderson, carpenter

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.

Perkins Chapel was built during the division in the Methodist Episcopal Church in the 1860's; it was an outgrowth of the Pleasant Grove Methodist Church which had been established in 1815. Pleasant Grove was part of the Bladensburg Circuit of the Baltimore Conference of the Church. When the issue of slavery divided the Methodist Church, the formerly mixed congregation of Pleasant Grove was divided along racial lines. James Turner Perkins, a white-farmer who had extensive land holdings in the Vansville district, offered an acre of his land a mile southeast of Pleasant Grove, for the purpose of erecting a new chapel. The building was constructed in the mid-1860's, the deed was executed in 1869, and in the same year the church was dedicated as "Perkins Chapel" in honor of its principal sponsor.¹ The old Pleasant Grove meeting house continued to serve the black congregation until it closed in 1916, at which time many of its members joined the then newly built Ross Memorial Methodist Church in Bowie.²

Within a few years (1875) Perkins Chapel had joined Whitefield Chapel in Lanham (established in 1837) and the new (1874) Bowie Methodist Church, as a charge of the Bladensburg Circuit, served by a single pastor.³

There is some evidence that renovation of Perkins Chapel took place in the last decade of the nineteenth century; it may be at this time that the present German siding was added.

Until 1927 Perkins Chapel was heated by two pot-bellied wood stoves. In that year, the Junior Missionary Society raised money⁴ to buy a coal furnace, and then dug out a cellar under the chapel in which to install it. They built piers to support the floor and a small entry-room at the rear (west) of the building to provide access to the furnace room. The furnace was functioning in time for the Christmas service of 1927.⁴

In 1936, J.T. Perkins' son sold 115 acres of the Perkins farmland to the Department of Agriculture. At this time he reserved two acres for the church and burial grounds, thus doubling the original one-acre lot which his parents had deeded in 1869.⁵

8. Significance (Continued)

In the 1950's there began a movement in Perkins Chapel to form a single charge; this came about in 1958. In the same year Perkins Chapel Methodist Church purchased from the U.S. Department of Agriculture 5 1/2 acres adjacent to the old chapel, and a new building program was initiated. The parsonage was completed in the following year. The new brick church building was begun in 1964 and completed in 1965.⁶ The old chapel has been virtually unused for nearly a decade.

Perkins Chapel is one of few surviving rural chapels from the mid-nineteenth century. Closely associated with the Bladensburg, Whitefield-Lanham and Pleasant Grove Methodist Churches (none of which stands today), Perkins Chapel has served its rural congregation for a full century, and remains a prominent landmark in its rural setting.

Footnotes

1 Prince George's County Deeds HB#3:425, AB#7:236. Bladensburg Circuit Quarterly Conference Minutes. Prince George's County Census, 1870

2 Fourteenth Session of Washington District Conference, 1953: "Ross Methodist Church, Bowie, Maryland."

3 "A History of Perkins Chapel"; Bladensburg Circuit Quarterly Conference Minutes, 1842-1880.

4 Interview with member John Jones, former president of Junior Missionary Society, July 1984.

5 Prince George's County Deed #444:422

6 Prince George's County Deed #2208:423; interview with pastor, July 1984.

Chain of Title

Perkins Chapel P.G. #64-5

#444:422
9 Apr 1936
Deed

E.E. Perkins et al to U.S.A., 114.69 acres except next described portion specifically reserved for use as church plot and family burial ground, 2 acres.

#9:476
3 July 1902
Deed

James N. Knowles, James B. Knowles, Milton Brickerd, Thomas B. Middleton, Charles R. Chappel, Edward E. Perkins and Clay D. Perkins, to the trustees of Perkins Chapel Methodist Episcopal Church and their successors, for \$1.00, 1 acre of land, same as deeded by James and Susan Perkins to Middleton et al, trustees, in HB#3:425.

HB #3:425
16 Jan 1869
Deed

James T. and Susan Perkins for spirtual interest and wellbeing of community, to F.W. Middleton, Basil Talbert, Robert Morrison, James W. Middleton, and Thomas Bond, trustees for Methodist Episcopal Church; 1 acre, to be kept and maintained and disposed of a place of divine worship for the Methodist Episcopal Church.

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Perkins Chapel P.G. #64-5

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7. DESCRIPTION	
CONDITION	(Check One) <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/> Ruins <input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered <input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered <input type="checkbox"/> Moved <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE	
<p>The building is a late 19th century structure with four square windows along each side and an enclosed porch with an arched window above the transom over the double door. A small rosette motif decorates the gable. The siding is tongue-and-groove. Under the eaves on the main (east) facade are brackets. The foundation is brick. There is a small chimney on the west end.</p> <p>There is an adjoining cemetery.</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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	
SPECIFIC DATES (If Applicable and Known)			
AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric <input type="checkbox"/> Historic <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture <input type="checkbox"/> Art <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce <input type="checkbox"/> Communications <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> Education <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering <input type="checkbox"/> Industry <input type="checkbox"/> Invention <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture <input type="checkbox"/> Literature <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Music	<input type="checkbox"/> Political <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy <input type="checkbox"/> Science <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian <input type="checkbox"/> Theater <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE			

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Blank area for major bibliographical references.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES 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	0	'	"	0	'	"	0	'	"	0	'	"
NE	0	'	"	0	'	"	0	'	"	0	'	"
SE	0	'	"	0	'	"	0	'	"	0	'	"
SW	0	'	"	0	'	"	0	'	"	0	'	"

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

Acreage Justification:

Blank area for acreage justification.

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

STATE:		COUNTY:	

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Christopher Owens, Park Historian

ORGANIZATION: M-NCPPC DATE: 2/15/73

STREET AND NUMBER:
8787 Georgia Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: Silver Spring STATE: Maryland

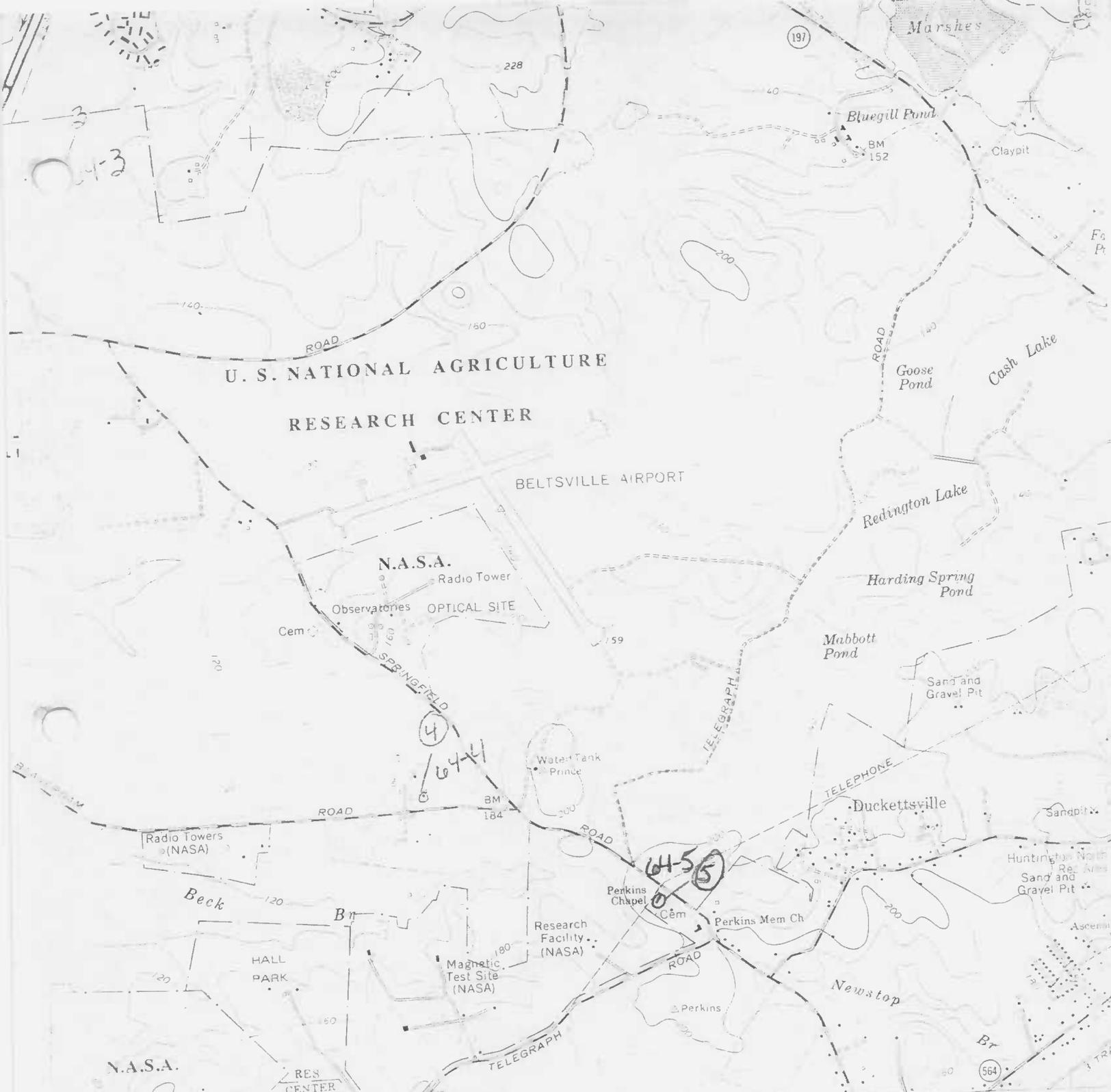
12. State Liaison Officer Review: (Office Use Only)

Significance of this property is:

- National
- State
- Local

Signature _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



U. S. NATIONAL AGRICULTURE
RESEARCH CENTER

BELTSVILLE AIRPORT

N.A.S.A.

Radio Tower
Observatories OPTICAL SITE
Cem

Radio Towers (NASA)

Beck

HALL PARK

N.A.S.A.

RES CENTER

Research Facility (NASA)

Magnetic Test Site (NASA)

Perkins Chapel

Perkins Mem Ch

Newstop

Duckettsville

Huntington North
Sand and Gravel Pit

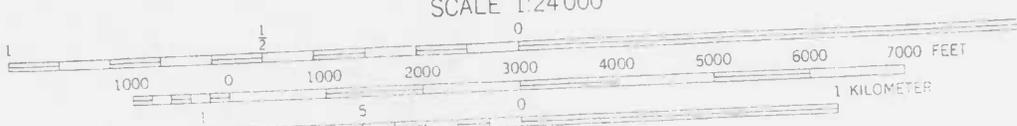
Ascension

(LANHAM)
5661 IV NE

SCALE 1:24 000

5 MI TO INTERSTATE 95

47° 30'



CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929

LAUREL H

Perkins Chapel

P.G. # 64-5



64-5
58

P.G. #64-5

Perkins Chapel

Prince George's County, MD

Susan G. Pearl

July 1984

Southeast elevation

Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD



64-5 - (W)

P.G. #64-5

Perkins Chapel

Prince George's County, MD

Susan G. Pearl

July 1984

Southwest 3/4 elevation

Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD



64-5
E

P.G. #64-5

Perkins Chapel

Prince George's County, MD

Susan G. Pearl

July 1984

East elevation

Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD



64-5
E
P.G. #64-5

Perkins Chapel

Prince George's County, MD

Susan G. Pearl

July 1984

East elevation

Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD



NAME PERKINS CHAPEL METH
LOCATION SPRINGFIELD Rd BOWIE, Md
FACADE NW
PHOTO TAKEN 2/15/73 M.DWYER

PG: 64-5