

Property Address <u>6016 Allentown Road, Camp Springs, Prince George's County</u>
Owner Name/Address <u>Trustees of Bells Methodist Church, 6016 Allentown Road, Camp Springs, MD 20746</u>
Year Built <u>1909-1910</u>

**Description:**

Old Bells Methodist Church was previously surveyed by the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) in 1973 and by the Prince George's County Historic Preservation Commission in 1985 and 1987. Since the time of the previous survey, the property is unaltered. However, previous surveys did not note a circa 1950 brick residence on the property. The structure is located south of the new church building and southwest of the old church.

**National Register Evaluation:**

The Old Bells Methodist Church is not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. The property is not eligible under Criterion A, as research conducted indicates no association with any historic events or trends significant in the development of national, state or local history. Historic research indicates that the property has no association with persons who have made specific contributions to history, and therefore, it does not meet Criterion B. The property is not eligible under Criterion C, as it is an undistinctive example of rural church architecture, which is undistinguished by any stylistic features or details. The cemetery does not meet Criteria Consideration D, as historic research indicates that the site does not contain graves of persons of transcendent importance, nor does it contain grave markers of distinctive design. In addition, the site has no association with historic events or broad patterns of history and has no potential to yield important information. Finally, the property has no known potential to yield important information, and therefore, is not eligible under Criterion D.

MHT COMMENTS: MHT believes this property is eligible under Criterion C as a good example of rural church architecture, but more importantly, the property appears to have potential historical significance (Criterion A)--topics which should be explored include the development of Methodism during this period, the role of the church in the rural community, and whether this building may be a "stock" plan provided by the Methodist organization. Site plan does not show the newly identified ca. 1950 house and there are no photos of the 50s buildings.

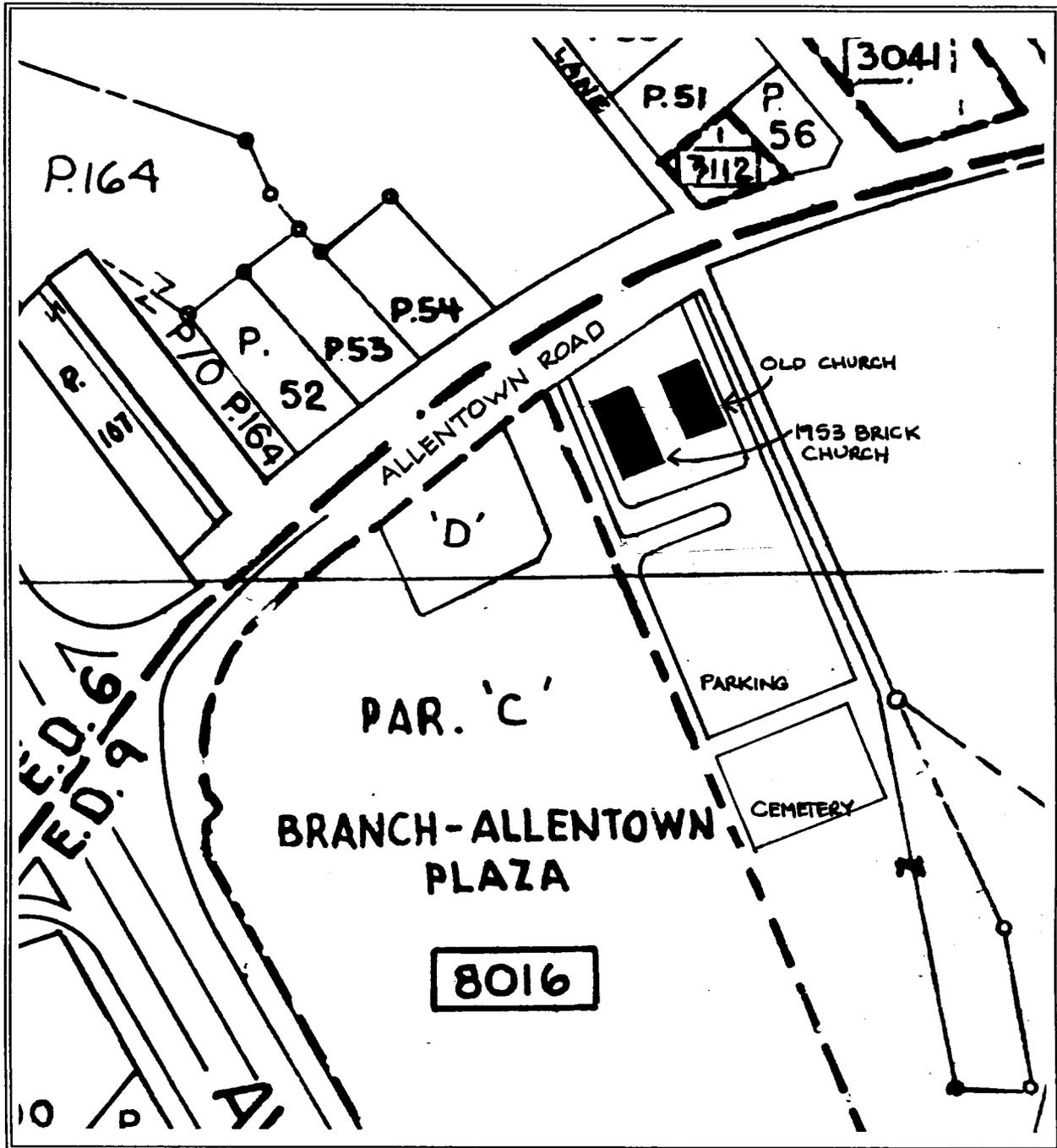
<b>MHT CONCURRENCE:</b>			
Eligibility	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> recommended	<input type="checkbox"/> not recommended	
Criteria	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A	<input type="checkbox"/> B	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D
Considerations	<input type="checkbox"/> 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: _____			
_____			
_____			
Suzanne Pickens	07/21/1997	<i>P. Kuntz</i>	7/21/97
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services	Date	Reviewer, NR program	Date

Preparer:  
**P.A.C. Spero & Company**  
 September 1996

*233*

Property Address 6016 Allentown Road, Camp Springs, Prince George's County
Owner Name/Address Trustees of Bells Methodist Church, 6016 Allentown Road, Camp Springs, MD 20746
Year Built 1909-1910

Resource Sketch Map:



Preparer:  
P.A.C. Spero & Company  
September 1996

U.S. 301 South Corridor  
Transportation Study

Survey # A179, PG:76B-17

Property Name Old Falls Methodist Church

Town/County Camp Springs/Prince Georges Co.

Quadrangle Anacostia

Gravel Pit

Gravel Pits

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Auth 2

ton Farm

RA

Camp Springs

W

randall Sch

Gravel Pit

Morningside

Morningside Sch

INTERCHANGE

Douglas Patterson Park

BM 269

Andrews Manor

Princeton Sch

Manchester Estates

ANDREWS AIR FORCE BASE

Golf Course

Inkers Cleft Park

Jenkins Corner

ALEXANDER FERRY

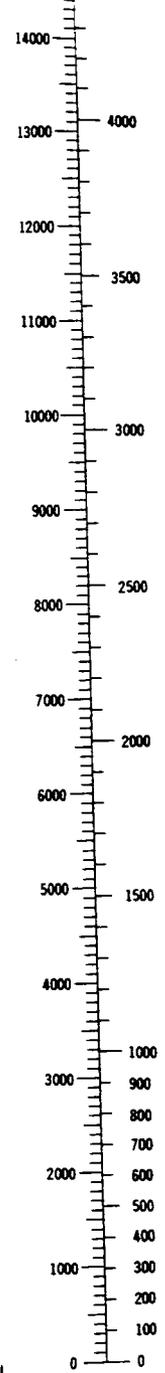
INTERCHANGE 31 (U.S. 301) & MI

(UPPER MARLBORO) 5661 (V SE)

47'30"

495

494

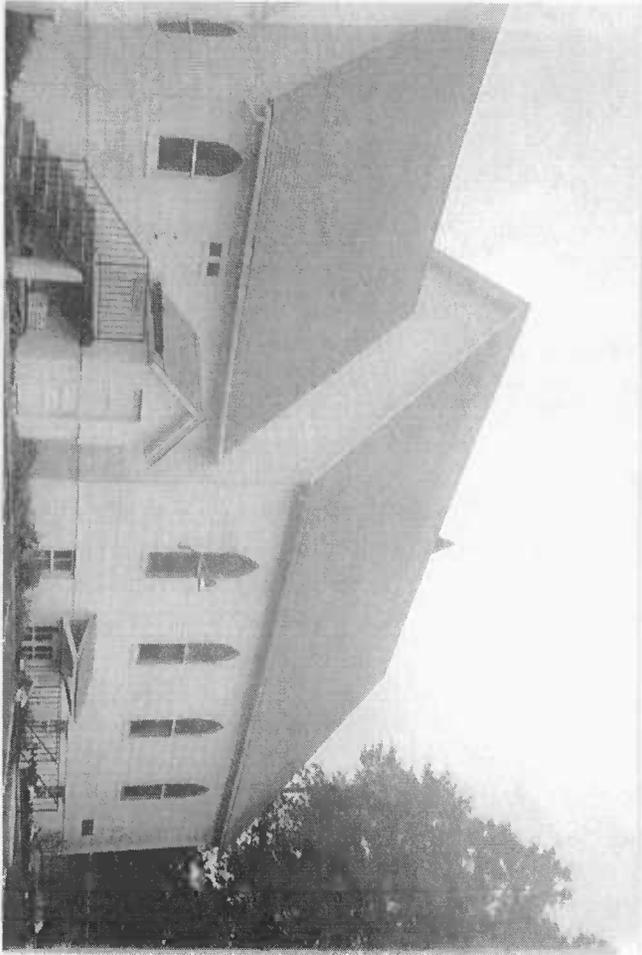


Feet	Meters
1	.3048
2	.6096
3	.9144
4	1.2192
5	1.5240
6	1.8288
7	2.1336
8	2.4384
9	2.7432
10	3.0480

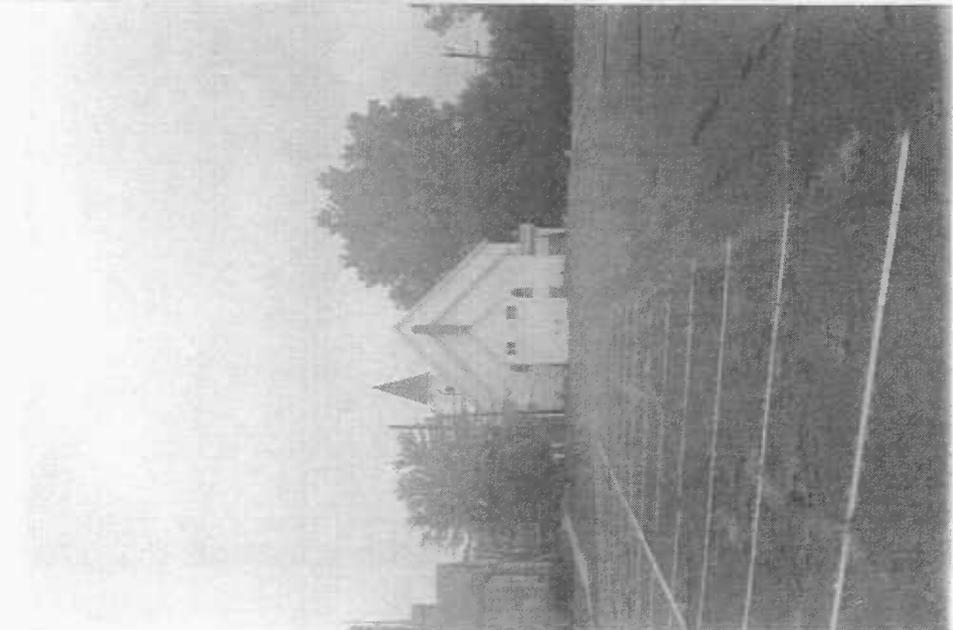
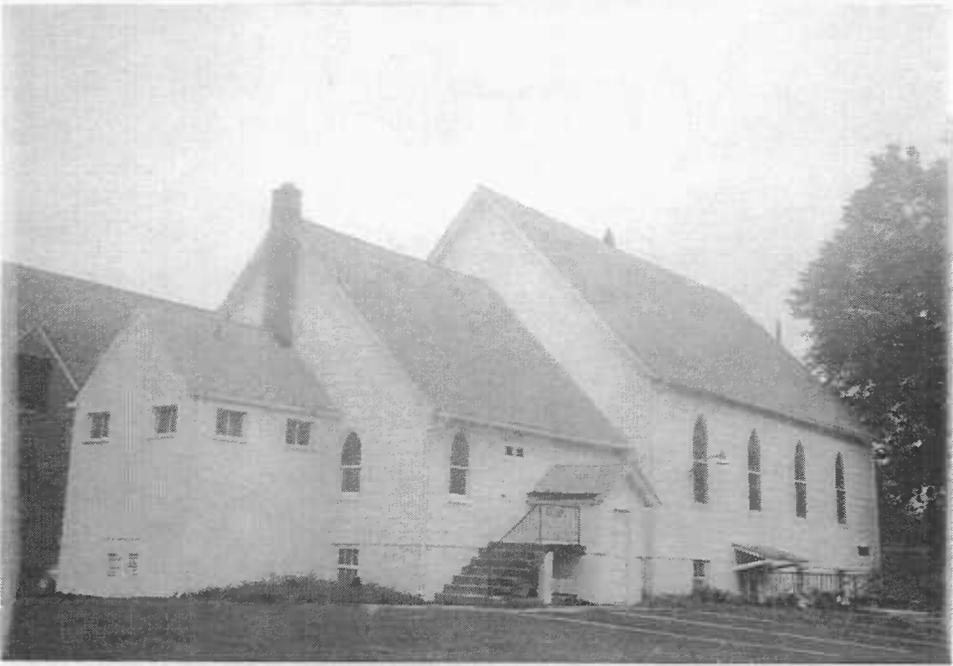
To convert feet to meters multiply by .3048

To convert meters to feet multiply by 3.2808





PG:76B-17



PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY  
HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey #: P.G. #76B-17 (formerly Building Date: 1910  
Old 76A-9)  
Building Name: Bells Methodist Church  
Location: 6016 Allentown Road, Camp Springs, Maryland  
Private/Religious/Occupied/Good/Inaccessible

Description:

Bells Methodist Church is a large frame gable-roofed church building, typical of this early twentieth century type. Entrance is through panelled double doors centrally located in the north gable end. Above the doors is a gothic-arched transom filled with stained glass; and above this a small round stained glass window. On each side of the central doors is a gothic-arched stained glass window. Built into the northwest corner is a tall bell tower, with pointed-arched openings on all four faces. The sides of the church are four bays long; all windows are gothic-arched, double sash, filled with stained glass. The interior features a decorative molded tin ceiling and wainscoting. The building is covered with white asbestos shingle, foundations are of poured concrete. South of the church, is a cemetery with headstones as early as from the mid-nineteenth century.

Significance:

Bells Methodist Church is a good example of the plain Gothic Revival church style which was popular in Prince George's County early in this century. It is the third building constructed on this site since the church was founded in 1850. In August of that year, five trustees of the Methodist Church (including James Beall, for whom the first church was named) purchased an acre of land near Camp Springs; a small log church was constructed on this land. This log chapel burned in the 1870's, and a second frame chapel was built on its site. In 1909, an adjoining piece of land, extending the property to the county road, and in the following year the third church (known as the "White Church") was built. The "White Church" was used until 1954 when the fourth church was constructed.

Acreage: 4.58 acres

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. P.G.#76B-17  
(formerly 76A-9)  
Magi No.

DOE  yes  no

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Old Bells Methodist Church

and/or common

## 2. Location

street & number 6016 Allentown Road (Maryland Route 337)  not for publication

city, town Camp Springs  vicinity of congressional district 4th

state Maryland county Prince George's

## 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input 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 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 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 Bells Methodist Church

street & number 6016 Allentown Road telephone no.: 899-7521

city, town Camp Springs state and zip code Maryland 20746

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. P. G. County Courthouse liber #48

street & number Main Street folio 451

city, town Upper Marlboro state Maryland

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title P. G. County Inventory of Historic Sites

date 1974  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Historic Preservation Commission c/o M-NCPPC

city, town Upper Marlboro state Maryland

# 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<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 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.

Bells Methodist Church is a three bay by four bay (ca. 36 x 50) frame gable-roof church building, typical of this early twentieth century meeting house type. Entrance is through double doors centrally located in the north gable end; each leaf has five molded panels. Two lateral flights of steps ascend to a central concrete stoop; this entrance, defined by a metal railing, replaces the original central flight of steps to the double doors. Above the doors, a horizontal molded panel with a course of cyma reversa molding separates the doors from the gothic-arch transom; the transom is filled with decorative stained glass. On each side of the central doors is a gothic-arched stained glass window. Built into the northwest corner is a tall bell tower, with pointed-arched openings on all four faces. The tower is surmounted by a tall, steeply pitched pyramidal roof covered with black synthetic shingle.

The sides of the church are four bays long; all windows are gothic-arched, double sash, filled with stained glass. (The windows are currently in the process of being restored and releaded.) The original siding is covered with white asbestos shingle, and the roof with gray synthetic shingle. The poured concrete foundation encloses a full basement. Set into the northeast corner of the foundation is a cornerstone which reads: "Bell's Methodist Episcopal Church 1909." Extending south from the south gable end is a lower two-bay gable-roof addition which encloses the original sanctuary. It has an entrance in the second bay of its east facade. This gable roof addition is lighted by gothic-arched double hung sash windows filled with frosted glass, and has entrance in the second bay of the east facade.

A one-story two-bay concrete block bathroom addition was constructed in 1936. It is lighted by modern two-pane sliding windows.

The interior of the main block is a single room, now devoted to use as a thrift shop. The surrounds of doors and windows are multi-band moldings with bulls-eye corner blocks. The walls are covered with wainscoting below the chair rail. The three-plane coved ceiling is covered with a decorative pressed metal ceiling: rows of square plaques with a floral border, all painted white.

South of the church, on the property where the first church building stood, is a cemetery with headstones from as early as the mid-nineteenth century. Directly west of the old church is the new (1953) church; it is a five bay front-gabled brick building, buttressed between bays, and with slate covered gable roof. Attached to the rear (south) of the church is a (1961) brick office/educational wing.

# 8. Significance

Survey No. P.G.#76B-17

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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1909-1910 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.

Bells Methodist Church is a good example of the modest Gothic Revival church style which was popular in Prince George's County early in this century. It is the third building constructed on this site since a meeting house was built here in 1850.

Even earlier than the first recorded church building on this site, a group of Methodists was meeting in this area under the leadership of James Beall. Be(a)lls Chapel was referred to by Bishop Frances Asbury during his travels through Maryland in 1813, and, at the time of James Beall's death in 1859, his obituary recorded his long life of activity with this congregation. "He was, it is said, the founder of the M.E. Church known as Beall's Meeting House, and was 56 years a member, and 54 years an active class leader at that station."<sup>1</sup> "Bells Meeting House" is described in the 1828 road survey of Prince George's County, on Road #5 in Election District #6; this description places it very close to its present location.<sup>2</sup>

In August of 1850, five trustees of the Methodist Church (including James Beall) purchased an acre of land, part of the tract known as Manchester, from Henry and Mary Tolson.<sup>3</sup> On this land a small log chapel was constructed. This chapel burned down in the 1870's, and a second frame chapel was built on the same parcel of land. In 1909 an adjoining piece of land (extending to the county road) was purchased, and, in the following year, the subject chapel (known as the "White Church") was built on this land. (The second chapel was sold and moved to Padgetts Corner in 1911 to serve as a store building.) Bells Church was on the Bladensburg Circuit until 1862 and part of the Forestville Charge until 1911. At that time Bells Church joined Oxon Hill and composed the Camp Springs Charge.

An addition was built onto the "White Church" in 1936; this building was used until 1954 when the fourth (brick) church was completed.<sup>4</sup>

Although the "White Church" has not been used as a sanctuary since this time, it still serves a distinct purpose for the Bells United Methodist Church congregation. The pews have been removed, and the interior is now set up as a Thrift Shop. The full basement, in addition to its use as a storage area, is presently in use as a workshop for the painstaking restoration of the stained glass windows.

Old Bells Church has long associations with the early spread of Methodism in Prince George's County and is an important part of the cultural heritage of the County. The 1910 church building exhibits distinctive characteristics of early twentieth century Gothic Revival "meeting house" churches, and is a prominent landmark in the fast developing Camp Springs area.

Notes

- 1 planters' Advocate, 18 May 1859; "The Beginnings of Bells United Methodist Church, Camp Springs, Maryland, 1805-1980".
- 2 1828 Road Survey, Prince George's County Levy Court Records, 1828.
- 3 Prince George's County Deed, JBB#6:578
- 4 Prince George's County Deed, #48:451; "The Beginnings of Bells United Methodist Church".



PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY  
HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey #: P.G. # 76B-17 Building Date: 1910

Building Name: Bells Methodist Church

Location: 6016 Allentown Road, Camp Springs, Maryland

Private/Religious/Occupied/Good/Inaccessible

Description:

Bells Methodist Church is a large frame gable-roofed church building, typical of this early twentieth century type. Entrance is through panelled double doors centrally located in the north gable end. Above the doors is a gothic-arched transom filled with stained glass; and above this a small round stained glass window. On each side of the central doors is a gothic-arched stained glass window. Built into the northwest corner is a tall bell tower, with pointed-arched openings on all four faces. The sides of the church are four bays long; all windows are gothic-arched, double sash, filled with stained glass. The interior features a decorative molded tin ceiling and wainscoting. The building is covered with white asbestos shingle, foundations are of poured concrete. South of the church, is a cemetery with headstones as early as from the mid-nineteenth century.

Significance:

Bells Methodist Church is a good example of the plain Gothic Revival church style which was popular in Prince George's County early in this century. It is the third building constructed on this site since the church was founded in 1850. In August of that year, five trustees of the Methodist Church (including James Beall, for whom the first church was named) purchased an acre of land near Camp Springs; a small log church was constructed on this land. This log chapel burned in the 1870's, and a second frame chapel was built on its site. In 1909, an adjoining piece of land, extending the property to the county road, and in the following year the third church (known as the "White Church") was built. The "White Church" was used until 1954 when the fourth church was constructed.

Acreage: 4.58 acres

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Bells Methodist Church

and/or common

## 2. Location

street & number 6016 Allentown Road  not for publication

city, town Camp Springs  vicinity of congressional district 4th

state Maryland county Prince George's

## 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input 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 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 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 Bells Methodist Church

street & number 6016 Allentown Road telephone no.: 899-7521

city, town Camp Springs state and zip code Maryland 20331

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. P. G. County Courthouse liber #48

street & number Main Street folio 451

city, town Upper Marlboro state Maryland

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title P. G. County Inventory of Historic Sites

date 1974  federal  state  county  local

repository for survey records History Division MNCPPC

city, town Riverdale state MD

# 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>	
<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 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.

Bells Methodist Church is a large (ca. 36 x 50) frame gable-roofed church building, typical of this early twentieth century type. Entrance is through panelled double doors centrally located in the north gable end. (Two lateral flights of steps ascend to a concrete porch to form the entrance, replacing the original single direct flight). Above the doors is a gothic-arched transom filled with stained glass; and above this a small round stained glass window. On each side of the central doors is a gothic-arched stained glass window. Built into the northwest corner is a tall bell tower, with pointed-arched openings on all four faces.

The sides of the church are four bays long; all windows are gothic-arched, double sash, filled with stained glass. (The windows are currently in the process of being restored and releaded.) The building is covered with white asbestos shingle, and the roof with synthetic shingles. There is a full basement, with foundations of poured concrete. There are two small additions on the south gable ends.

The interior of the main block is a single room, now devoted to use as a thrift shop. The surrounds of doors and windows are multi-band moldings with bulls-eye corner blocks. The walls are covered with wainscoting below the chair rail. The three-plane ceiling is covered with a decorative molded tin ceiling: rows of square plaques with a floral border.

South of the church, on the property where the first church stood, is a cemetery with headstones from as early as the mid-nineteenth century.

# 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
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<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) local history

**Specific dates**      1910      **Builder/Architect**

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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.

Bells Methodist Church is a good example of the plain Gothic Revival church style which was popular in Prince George's County early in this century. It is the third building constructed on this site since the church was founded in 1850. In August of that year, five trustees of the Methodist Church (including James Beall, for whom the first church was named) purchased an acre of land near Camp Springs from the Tolson family.<sup>1</sup> On this land a small log church was constructed. The first chapel burned down in the 1870's, and a second frame chapel was built on the same parcel of land.<sup>2</sup> In 1909 an adjoining piece of land (extending to the county road) was purchased, and, in the following year, the third sanctuary (known as the "White Church") was built on this land.<sup>3</sup> (The second chapel was sold and moved to Padgetts Corner in 1911 to serve as a store building.) Additions were built onto the "White Church" in 1936. The "White Church" was used until 1954 when the fourth church (brick) was constructed.<sup>4</sup>

Although the "White Church" has not been used as a sanctuary since this time, it still serves a distinct purpose for the Bells United Methodist Church congregation. The pews have been removed, and the interior is now set up as a Thrift Shop. The full basement, in addition to its use as a storage area, is presently in use as a workshop for the painstaking restoration of the stained glass windows.

Notes

- 1 Prince George's County Deed, JBB#6:578
- 2 "The Beginnings of Bells United Methodist Church"
- 3 Prince George's County Deed, #48:451
- 4 "The Beginnings of Bells United Methodist Church"

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

See notes, item #8  
See chain of title  
Interview with minister and member of congregation, February 1985

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 4.58 acres

Quadrangle name Anacostia quadrangle, Section F

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

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

B	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

C	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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D	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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E	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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F	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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G	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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H	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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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

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Susan G. Pearl/Rod McDonell

organization Historic Preservation Commission date February 1985

street & number c/o County Planning, MNCPPC telephone 952-3521

city or town Upper Marlboro 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  
Shaw House  
21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 269-2438

Chain of Title

Bells Church  
P.G. 76B-17

48:451  
8 March 1909  
Deed

Wallace R. Pyles and Alice J. Pyles to George T. Pyles, Wallace R. Pyles, Samuel H. Wood, William Payne, Joseph Kidwell and James Laing, Trustees of Bells Methodist Episcopal Church; 4.58 acres of land lying along the road leading to the present church between the land of said church and the county road.

JBB#6:578  
27 Aug 1850  
Deed

Henry Tolson and Mary Tolson to James Beall, Francis Miliken, Judson Pumphrey, Thomas Piles and William Piles, Trustees; 1 acre and 32 poles from the tract called "Manchester".



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)			(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

The building is a frame structure with a three bay, gable end main (north) facade. The openings, windows flanking a doorway, have pointed-arched heads. The windows are glazed with stained glass; the door is square-headed with a pointed-arched tympanum, glazed with stained glass. The sidewalls have four pointed-arched windows. At the northwest corner is a square bell tower, with pointed-arched openings on all four faces.

South of the church is a cemetery with headstones dating to the early to mid-nineteenth century.

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One)

Pre-15th C

15th C

SPECIFIC DATE(S)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE

- Aboriginal
- Prehi
- Histo
- Agricul
- Archite
- Art
- Comme
- Commu
- Conse

STATEMENT OF S

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 checked="" 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) 1909 (date on cornerstone); cemetery earlier

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	losophy	_____
<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	itorian	_____
<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

**9. 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	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

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: MNCPPC DATE: 10 Dec 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



**BELLS METHODIST CHURCH**  
 6016 Allentown Road, S.E.  
 Washington, D.C.

**BELLS METHODIST CHURCH**

**RALPH W. WOTT, MINISTER**

In 1814, Asbury writes that "I preached at Bells Chapel." This may mark the beginning of Methodism in this area. However, in the year 1849, the religious interests of the community quickened and a Methodist Society was formed. The present sanctuary is the fourth built on the same grounds. Bells began as a small rural church; Bells is now in the midst of suburbia, serving people from many avenues of life.

**THE ARLINGTON METHODIST CHURCH**

**ERROL G. SMITH, MINISTER**

The church known as the Arlington Methodist Church, at 5268 Reisterstown Road, was formed by a merger of three Methodist churches in the Reisterstown Road and Park Heights Avenue area.

The first service for the Arlington Methodist Episcopal Church South was held Sunday, October 10, 1869.

The Whatcoat Methodist Episcopal Church was dedicated December 16, 1906.

The McKendree Methodist Episcopal Church was incorporated February 28, 1903. The merger was consummated on May 20, 1944.



**THE ARLINGTON METHODIST CHURCH**  
 5268 Reisterstown Road  
 Baltimore, Md.

Chain of Title

Old Bells Methodist Church  
P.G. #76B-17  
(formerly 76A-9)

48:451  
8 March 1909  
Deed

Wallace R. Pyles and Alice J. Pyles to George T. Pyles, Wallace R. Pyles, Samuel H. Wood, William Payne, Joseph Kidwell and James Laing, Trustees of Bells Methodist Episcopal Church; 4.58 acres of land lying along the road leading to the present church between the land of said church and the county road.

JBB#6:578  
27 Aug 1850  
Deed

Henry Tolson and Mary Tolson to James Beall, Francis Milliken, Judson Pumphrey, Thomas Piles and William Piles, Trustees; 1 acre and 32 poles from the tract called "Manchester".

R-R

R-R

8698

PAR 'A'

THOMAS A. EDISON  
SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

7992

ANDREWS  
FEDERAL  
CREDIT  
UNION

A. L.  
MAY  
198  
5

C-O

9178

BRANCH

ANGELO  
ARAGONA  
3534/773  
3.47A.  
P.174

PERRIE'S  
1048

2.71A.  
P.149

1.03A.  
P.150

Q4TA  
P.151

Q52A  
P.152

Q53A  
P.153

Q54A  
P.154

Q55A  
P.155

Q56A  
P.156

Q57A  
P.157

Q58A  
P.158

Q59A  
P.159

Q60A  
P.160

Q61A  
P.161

Q62A  
P.162

Q63A  
P.163

Q64A  
P.164

Q65A  
P.165

Q66A  
P.166

Q67A  
P.167

Q68A  
P.168

Q69A  
P.169

Q70A  
P.170

Q71A  
P.171

Q72A  
P.172

Q73A  
P.173

Q74A  
P.174

Q75A  
P.175

Q76A  
P.176

Q77A  
P.177

Q78A  
P.178

Q79A  
P.179

Q80A  
P.180

Q81A  
P.181

Q82A  
P.182

Q83A  
P.183

Q84A  
P.184

Q85A  
P.185

Q86A  
P.186

Q87A  
P.187

Q88A  
P.188

Q89A  
P.189

Q90A  
P.190

Q91A  
P.191

Q92A  
P.192

Q93A  
P.193

Q94A  
P.194

Q95A  
P.195

Q96A  
P.196

Q97A  
P.197

Q98A  
P.198

Q99A  
P.199

Q100A  
P.200

Q101A  
P.201

Q102A  
P.202

Q103A  
P.203

Q104A  
P.204

Q105A  
P.205

Q106A  
P.206

Q107A  
P.207

Q108A  
P.208

Q109A  
P.209

Q110A  
P.210

LTD. PTRNSHP. OF  
CAMP SPRINGS  
3958/919  
9.48 A.  
P. 55

ANGELO  
ARAGONA  
4718/634  
411A  
P.164

3795

P 57

P. 58

ALLENTOWN  
ASSOCIATES  
PROFESSIONAL  
CENTER

111060

ALLENTOWN

C-2

55A  
P.34

8077

CSC

4573

BELLES  
METH.  
CHURCH

PG:  
76B-17

8.57A.  
R.113

P 197  
76.64 A

PAR 'C'  
CSC  
BRANCH-ALLENTOWN  
PLAZA

8016

R-R

I-1

EMAN HTS  
3177

5950

R-80

2210

8005

725/488  
1.53A.  
P.100

4727

4905

4921

4937

4953

4969

4985

4991

5007

5023

5039

5055

5071

5087

5103

C-S-C

1.86 A.  
P.92

2.53 A.  
P.93

8335

892 A.  
P.176

5172

7868

113057

6903

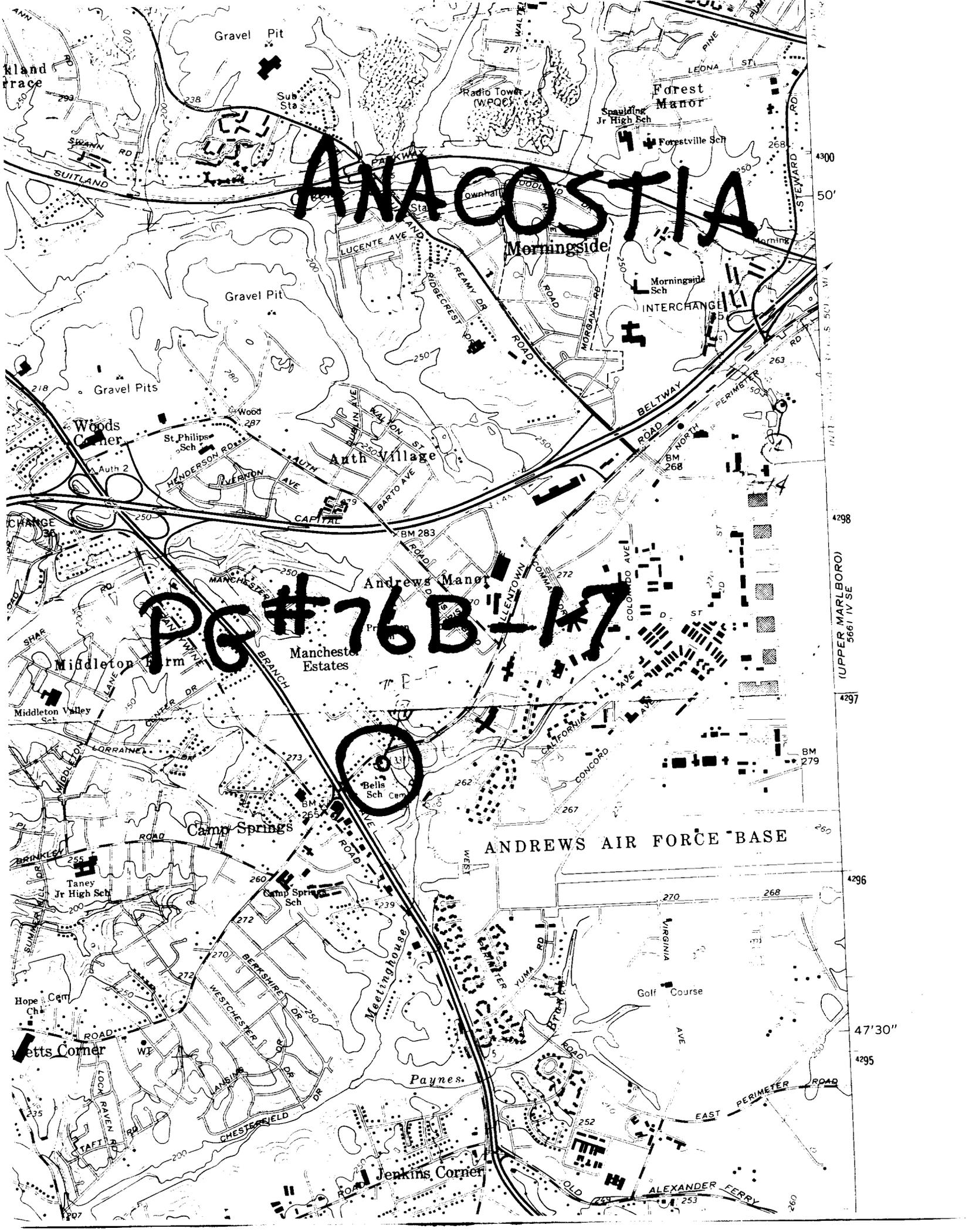
113077

ALLENTOWN  
PLAZA

ALLENTOWN

RR  
ARD OF ED.  
6.27 A.  
P. 216





**ANACOSTIA**

**PG # 76B-17**

**O**

4300  
50'  
4298  
4297  
4296  
47'30"  
4295

(UPPER MARLBORO)  
5661 IV SE



PG: 76B-17

Bells Methodist Church  
Prince George's County, MD.  
Susan G. Pearl  
January 1985  
North elevation  
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD.



PG: 76B-17

Bells Methodist Church  
Prince George's County, MD.  
Susan G. Pearl  
January 1985  
East elevation  
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD.



PG: 76B-17

Bells Methodist Church  
Prince George's County, MD.  
Susan G. Pearl  
January 1985  
Northwest 3/4 elevation  
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD.



NAME BELL'S U.M. CHURCH

P6: 70B-17

LOCATION ALLENTOWN Rd NEAR RT. 5 CAMP SPRINGS, Md

FACADE S

PHOTO TAKEN 12/10/73 M. DWYER



NAME BELL'S U.M./M.E. CHURCH PG 768-17  
LOCATION ALLENTOWN RD. NEAR RT. 5 CAMP SPRINGE  
FACADE N Md  
PHOTO TAKEN 12/10/73 M. DWYER



NAME PYLES TOMBSTONES - BELL'S U.M. CHURCH CEMETERY

LOCATION ALLENTOWN Rd. NEAR Rt. 5 CAMP SPRINGS, Md

FACADE

PHOTO TAKEN 12/10/73 M. DWYER

P6: 76B-17



In  
Memory  
of  
Martha  
daughter of  
& Mary Ann  
who by a mysterious  
residence was  
in  
18

NAME MARDEN TOMBSTONE - BELL'S U.M. CHURCH CEMETERY

LOCATION ALLENTOWN Rd NEAR RT. 5 CAMP SPRINGS, Md

FACADE

PHOTO TAKEN 12/10/73 M. DWYER

P6: 76B-17

BELL'S

METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

1909

NAME BELLS U.M./M.E. CHURCH - CORNERSTONE P6:76B-17

LOCATION ALLENTOWN Rd NEAR Rt. 5 CAMP SPRINGS, Md

FACADE N

PHOTO TAKEN 12/10/73 H. DWYER



NAME BELL'S UM/ME CHURCH

PG: 76B-17

LOCATION ACCENTOWN Rd NEAR RT. 5 CAMP SPRINGS, Md

FACADE N

PHOTO TAKEN 12/10/73 M. DWYER