NPS Form 10-900
(Oct. 1990)

OMB No. 10024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word process, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Chapel of the Incarnation

other names PG: ~~85A-32-37~~ 85A-27

2. Location

street & number 14070 Brandywine Road ☐ not for publication

city or town Brandywine ☒ vicinity

state Maryland code MD County Prince George's code 033 zip code 20631

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments).

Signature of certifying office/Title — Date 11-14-00

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments).

Signature of certifying office/Title — Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

I hereby, certify that this property is:
- ☐ entered in the National Register.
  - ☐ See continuation sheet.
- ☐ determined eligible for the National Register.
  - ☐ See continuation sheet.
- ☐ Determined not eligible for the National Register.
- ☐ removed from the National Register.
- ☐ other (explain): _____

Signature of the Keeper — Date of Action

Chapel of the Incarnation
Name of Property

Prince George's County, Maryland
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- ☒ private
- ☐ public-local
- ☐ public-State
- ☐ public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- ☒ building(s)
- ☐ district
- ☐ site
- ☐ structure
- ☐ object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		Buildings
		Sites
		Structures
		Objects
1	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

N/A

number of contributing resource previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Religious facility/church

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Religious facility/church

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19TH & 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS
Mission/Spanish Colonial Revival

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE
walls STUCCO
roof ASBESTOS
other

Narrative Description
(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets)

Chapel of the Incarnation
Name of Property

Prince George's County, Maryland
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria
(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- ☐ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad pattern of our history.
- ☐ B Property associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ D Property as yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations
(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply)

Property is:

- ☒ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ B removed from its original location.
- ☐ C a birthplace or grave.
- ☐ D a cemetery.
- ☐ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ F a commemorative property.
- ☐ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Area of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1916-1950

Significant Dates

1916

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/a

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

William J. Palmer, architect

Narrative Statement of Significance
(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography
(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets)

Previous documentation on files (NPS):

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #_____
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #_____

Primary location of additional data:

- ☒ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Name of repository:

Chapel of the Incarnation
Name of Property

Prince George's County, Maryland
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 0.33 acre

UTM References
(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet) Brandywine, MD quad

	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	18	338980	4384620
2			
3			
4			

☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description
(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet)

Boundary Justification
(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Susan G. Pearl, Research/Architectural Historian
organization M-NCPPC date July, 2000
street & number 14741 Gov. Oden Bowie Drive telephone (301) 952-3521
city or town Upper Marlboro state MD zip code 20772

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional Items
(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO)

name
street & number telephone
city or town state zip code

Paperwork Reduction Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et. seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

DESCRIPTION SUMMARY

The Chapel of the Incarnation is an L-shaped church building of the Mission style, constructed of poured-in-form concrete covered with a coarse pebble-filled stucco to resemble adobe. It is a one-story cross-gabled building with entrance through a lower gabled narthex on the south. Both the gable front of the narthex and of the nave are highlighted by a shaped Mission-style parapet; that of the narthex is surmounted by a cross, while that of the nave is surmounted by an arched bell tower. The nave is four bays long; the window in each bay consists of three slim vertical awning-type windows filled with opaque milky glass. In the lower east corner of the south gable front of the nave is a cornerstone that reads "1916." At the north end of the nave, a two-bay wing extends to the east at right angles. It extends across the back (north) of the sanctuary, and forms a connected parish hall. Its east gable front ends in another shaped Mission-style parapet. Windows in the parish hall wing are of the same opaque milky glass, and of the same three-part awning type as in the nave. The interior is distinguished by original altar balustrade and pulpit, and an ancient stone baptismal font brought from a church in England.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The Chapel of the Incarnation is an L-shaped church building of the Mission style; it is constructed of concrete poured in forms, and has a rough surface resembling adobe. It stands on a corner lot in the village of Brandywine.

The chapel is a one-story cross-gabled building with entrance through a projecting lower gabled narthex on the south. Both the gable front of the narthex and of the nave are highlighted by a shaped Mission-style parapet. That of the narthex is surmounted by a cross, while that of the nave is surmounted by an arched bell tower. This arch was originally open; only after the sister chapel of the Atonement closed (in 1925) was the bell removed from the Chapel of the Atonement and hung at the Chapel of the Incarnation.

Entrance to the narthex of the Chapel of the Incarnation is through double panelled doors, each leaf having six panels in cross-and-bible pattern. These doors have replaced the original five-panel doors.[1]

Flanking the narthex, the south gable front of the nave is lighted on each side by a slim vertical window, four panes of opaque milky glass hinged at the top. The nave is four bays long. The window in each bay consists of three of the same slim vertical awning-type windows, arranged side-by-side. The windows are now protected on the exterior by a translucent covering, installed in the 1970s when air conditioning was installed in the church. In the lower east corner of the south gable front of the nave is a cornerstone that reads "1916."

[1] The present exterior doors were brought to the Chapel from Mount Lubentia.

At the north end of the nave, a two-bay wing extends to the east at right angles. It extends across the back (north) of the sanctuary, and forms a connected parish hall. Its east gable front ends in another shaped Mission-style parapet. Entrance at its east gable front is through modern double doors. The doors are sheltered by a gabled entry portico, of dark stained wood, exposed rafter ends, and arts-and-crafts design elements. Windows in the parish hall wing are of the same opaque milky glass, and of the same three-part awning type as in the nave. The roofs of the nave and the wing are covered with red asbestos shingles.

A small sacristy room fills the southeast corner where the nave and parish hall adjoin. Entrance to the sacristy is sheltered by a small shed-roof porch with exposed rafter ends.

There are several later shed-roof additions built on the north side of the parish hall; the line of additions forms kitchen and bathrooms. The additions are constructed of concrete block painted white, and lighted by standard double-hung-sash windows.

The south double doors lead into the narthex which is lighted by a handsome copper lantern fixture which was originally hanging in the chancel. One continues through a second set of double doors into the nave. The interior doors have glazing (four panes of opaque milky glass) over wood panels. (The original exterior south doors, now replaced, were of the same type as these surviving interior doors.)

The nave is lighted by hexagonal metal lantern-type fixtures, hanging from the ceiling. (They differ from the single fixture in the narthex, in that the lanterns in the nave are tapered.) The central aisle runs between two banks of pews; each pew end is slightly arched and incised with a cross. In 1975, these pews were installed to replace the original Mission-style, straight-backed pine pews. (One of the original pews has been retained, and is located on the west side of the chancel behind the pulpit.)

Above the altar, high in the (north) sanctuary wall is a small gothic-arched stained glass window, a gift from the architect, William J. Palmer. It is illuminated with interior light from the parish hall beyond it. In the chancel to the west is a pulpit of golden oak. The pulpit stands in an ogee-arched opening into the chancel, balanced on the east by a similar arched opening that frames the door into the sacristy. A rear door leads from the sacristy to the parish hall wing, and thence to the kitchen and service spaces to the north. All interior doors have four panes of opaque glass over wood panels.

At the front of the nave, before the pulpit and the entrance to the chancel, stands an ancient stone baptismal font, brought from St. Mary Magdalene Church in Writhlington Parish, England. The heavy octagonal bowl, incised with a Tudor Rose pattern, is said to date from 1422 A.D., while the molded base is said to date from 1000. The font was transported from England in the 1980s, and placed in the chapel as a gift from a parishioner.

The chapel stands on a 1/3-acre corner lot, facing south and fronting on Brandywine Road, with the parish hall opening to the east onto Missouri Avenue, in the village of Brandywine. Just outside the south entrance stands a round-arched stone marker with the words "Chapel of the Incarnation." Much of the south front of the chapel and narthex is covered with ivy. In the southeast corner, at the entrance to the sacristy is a large old cedar tree. On the adjoining lot (a separate parcel, not part of this nomination) to the north, and fronting on Missouri Avenue, is a front-gabled frame cottage, recently acquired by the church and now a tenant residence.

SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY

The Chapel of the Incarnation is significant under Criterion C for its architectural character. It is unique in Prince George's County in its application of the early 20th century Mission/Spanish Colonial Revival style to an ecclesiastical building. The Mission style may have been deemed appropriate to the church's status as a "mission chapel," or offshoot, of St. Thomas' Church in Croom. The Chapel of the Incarnation is constructed of poured concrete, with a stucco surface that resembles adobe, and is highlighted by a shaped parapet and bell-tower. Architect William J. Palmer, who had designed numerous residences and churches in Washington, D.C., prepared the plans and specifications for the church and attached Parish Hall. The cornerstone was laid in September 1916, and the chapel opened for services by early 1917.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Early in the nineteenth century the region around Brandywine was a rural area, dotted with small farms and large plantations; tobacco was the principal crop, and the economy was based upon agriculture and slave labor.

There was a small village at Brandywine by the early years of the nineteenth century, at the intersection of the old road from Woodville (Aquasco) with the road to Indian Head in Charles County.[2] The first store and post office were established by 1846, approximately one mile east of the present village.[3] On the eve of the Civil War, the store and post office were operated by William H. Early. His farm and dwelling house (recently demolished) adjoined the store.[4]

The construction of the Baltimore and Potomac Railroad after the Civil War changed the face of Prince George's County. Planters of the eastern and southern section of the County had long felt a need for transport of their produce to market in volume, and by the early 1850s a movement had begun to establish a railroad line between Baltimore and Southern Maryland. A group headed by members of the Bowie family succeeded in obtaining a charter to form the Baltimore and Potomac Railroad Company, but plans for construction were

[2] Road Survey, Prince George's County, Levy Court Records, July 16, 1828 - "An Act relative to the public Roads in Prince George's County."

[3] Table of Post Offices in the United States, 1846, Library of Congress

[4] Martenet Map of Prince George's County, 1861

brought to an abrupt halt with the beginning of the Civil War. Finally, in 1868, construction began on the 73-mile line from Baltimore to Pope's Creek on the Potomac in Charles County. The first trains ran in 1872.[5]

The construction (between 1868 and 1872) of the Pope's Creek line through the Nottingham and Aquasco Election Districts created a substantial increase in population, and a new (11th) Election District called *Brandywine* was established in 1872 from parts of the Nottingham, Aquasco and Piscataway districts.[6] The new railroad line also opened up new business opportunities, and early in 1872 William H. Early, merchant and postmaster, purchased 42 acres of land which lay along the tracks on both sides of the public road between Washington and Woodville. It was this parcel of land which was to become the nucleus of the railroad village of Brandywine.[7]

At approximately this time, 1872, Early constructed a new general store immediately west of the tracks, fronting onto the north side of the public road. This building served as the general store and post office until a separate small post office was built across the road around the turn of the century. Early's business prospered, and he bought up more and more of the neighboring land. By the time of his death in 1890, he owned 3000 acres in the Brandywine area, constituting most of the village itself.[8]

By 1870 a second railroad line was already planned for this area. The Southern Maryland Railroad Line was constructed in the early 1880s; it curved southeast from Brandywine into Charles and St. Mary's Counties, and brought more business to the junction village. During the construction of this second line, the population of Brandywine reached its peak, circa 250.[9]

In the mid 1870s, Robert A. Bowie, a surveyor and civil engineer who in 1876 married William H. Early's daughter, Margaret, surveyed and drew a plat for the planned Brandywine City. The plan showed a large grid centering on the junction of the Pope's Creek line of the Baltimore and Potomac Railroad with the (then proposed) Southern Maryland Line. According to the plat, the old TB, Woodville, Brandywine and Washington Stage Road, renamed Sabine Street, was to constitute the main street running east and west through

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[5] Pearl, Susan G., "Railroads in Prince George's County, 1835-1935," from *Historic Contexts in Prince George's County (Short papers on Settlement Patterns, Transportation and Cultural History)*, M-NCPPC, 1991.

[6] Prince George's County Tax Assessments; Federal Census for Prince George's County, 1870, 1880.

[7] Prince George's County Deeds HB#5:566, HB#10:564

[8] *Ibid.*, cf. also Prince George's County Equity #1904.

[9] Pearl, *op.cit.*, G. M. Hopkins *Atlas of Prince George's County, 1878*; Federal Census for Prince George's County, 1870, 1880, 1900; see also Maryland Gazetteers, 1870s, 1880s.

the village; twelve north-south cross streets, which bore names of some of the prominent local families (e.g., Early, Bowie, Wilson, Townshend and Osborn) defined the 56 blocks of 34 building lots each. Three of these blocks were laid out as formal parks, and one oversize block was reserved for the passenger and freight depot just southwest of the junction of the two railroad lines.[10]

The envisioned development of this land, however, never materialized. The population of the railroad village peaked in the early 1880s, as high as 250 in 1882, including four merchant establishments, several saw mills and grist mills, wheelwright and blacksmith shops; the town included also several railroad agents and foremen, carpenters, physicians, etc.[11] By the end of the 1880s, however, after the railroad construction was completed, the population had dropped to 60. It remained at approximately this size well into the twentieth century.

After the death of William H. Early in 1890, his approximately 3000-acre estate was divided among his heirs. Surveyor Thomas H. Latimer surveyed and platted all of Early's land holdings, and an appointed commission allotted all parts of the land to Early's children and grandchildren. A few of the fine houses built by these children and grandchildren still stand, as well as the general store and the later (1912) bank building. Members of the Early family continued to be active in many aspects of the village development - e.g., Charles S. Early, Jr., was one of the Directors of the bank, which was incorporated in 1912, and was chairman of the building committee of the Chapel of the Incarnation, certainly one of the most noticeable pieces of architecture in the village.

The bustling city envisioned by Robert Bowie in his plat of the 1870s never materialized, and Brandywine remained a small residential crossroads village. The hotel at the railroad junction housed many traveling businessmen and laborers, but by the turn of the twentieth century, there were still only about a dozen buildings clustered around the junction.[12] During the second decade of the twentieth century the small bank and the substantial brick schoolhouse were built, as well as the Episcopal chapel, a mission chapel for St. Thomas' Parish. During the 1920s and 1930s a few bungalow style dwellings filled in the spaces between the older dwellings, and finally, in the 1950s and 1960s, areas around the junction were subdivided for modern residences. A few more commercial buildings have appeared along the main street, and a new bank and post office were constructed in the 1970s, but Brandywine remains a quiet, principally residential rural community.

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[10] Plat of Brandywine City by Robert Bowie, mid 1870s, filed with Prince George's County Equity #1904.

[11] *Maryland Directory, 1882*, entry on Brandywine, page 418

[12] Map of Prince George's County showing Topography and Election Districts, U.S.G.S., 1903.

PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE

The period of significance of the Chapel of the Incarnation extends from 1916 with the building of the chapel to 1950 and the beginning of the modern period.

RESOURCE HISTORY

The Chapel of the Incarnation is a unique example in Prince George's County of Mission-style church architecture. Highlighted by a shaped parapet and bell-tower, and a surface which resembles adobe, it is a distinctive landmark in the village of Brandywine.

The village of Brandywine came to prominence after the construction (1868-72) of the Baltimore and Potomac Railroad, Pope's Creek line, through southern Prince George's County. Within a few years, a connecting line, the Southern Maryland Railroad, was constructed, making Brandywine the commercial junction of these two railroad lines. Building lots were platted and replatted, and the population grew.[13]

At the beginning of the twentieth century, there was still no church in the village. Brandywine was within St. Thomas' Parish, but the main church, St. Thomas', was in Croom, six miles to the northeast. St. Thomas' itself had been built 1742-1745 as a chapel-of-ease for St. Paul's Parish, but had become its own Parish in 1850. At the beginning of the twentieth century, the nearest mission chapel (Church of the Atonement, built 1874) of St. Thomas' Parish was in Cheltenham, three miles to the north.

As early as 1913, an Episcopal Sunday School was meeting regularly in Brandywine. Several women of the Brandywine community were actively involved in setting up the Sunday school, an effort which subsequently led to the establishment of the chapel itself. Mary P. Early was the wife of James A. Early, one of the William H. Early's grandsons who operated a stable, saloon and warehouse in the village.

Rose Jeannette Smith was the wife of Julius K. Smith, local hotelier; Mrs. Smith was appointed attorney for the Brandywine Sunday School. Both of these women, as well as Margaret Baden and Eleanor Reeve, were instrumental in the establishment of the Chapel of the Incarnation.[14]

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[13] See Maryland Inventory form PG85A-32 (Brandywine Historic Community), and National Register Nomination PG85A-32-9 (William W. Early House).

[14] Prince George's County Deed #120:334; Federal Census for Prince George's County, 1900, 1910, 1920.

Herman Badenhoop, one of the founders of the Bank of Brandywine, had in 1910 acquired a parcel of land on the north side of the Brandywine road. Between 1913 and 1915, he deeded a total of one-third acre of this land to Mary P. Early, trustee of the Brandywine Sunday School.[15] There must have been significant local determination to have a mission chapel in the Brandywine community, because at a meeting at St. Thomas' in July 1915, the Vestry resolved to give "hearty support to the building of a chapel in the Parish at Brandywine."[16] A year later Herman Badenhoop and his wife, together with Mary P. Early, conveyed to the Vestry of St. Thomas' Parish the one-third acre of land on the north side of the Brandywine Road for the building of a mission chapel. Badenhoop joined in the deed for the purpose of "vesting good and sufficient title" to the land, and R. Jeannette Smith signed as attorney for the Brandywine Sunday School.[17] The Vestry mortgaged the land to the Bank of Brandywine, and the Bank loaned $1200 to the Vestry. The mortgage instrument records that "Mary P. Early, R. Jeannette Smith, Margaret M. Baden and Eleanor Reeve . . . executed and passed unto the said Bank of Brandywine their joint and several promissory notes for $1200."[18]

A building committee was appointed consisting of Charles S. Early, Jr., as chairman, as well as Frank A. Robinson and Julius K. Smith, the local hotelier. A contract was drawn up with architect William J. Palmer of Washington, D.C., to build the chapel and parish hall according to already approved plans and specifications, for $3000. In addition to the money loaned by the Bank of Brandywine, which held mortgage, money was borrowed from the Diocesan Church Building Fund in Washington, D.C. During the course of 1916, a series of local fund-raising events were sponsored by the church - oyster suppers, bazaars, "ice cream and parcel post" sales, etc.[19] The establishment of the chapel in Brandywine was supported not only by the Episcopal community, but by the brotherhood of Masons in the area.[20]

The cornerstone was laid, 27 September 1916, and the event was described in the *Prince George's Enquirer* as follows:

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[15] Prince George's County Deeds #97:135, #109:390

[16] St. Thomas' Vestry records, 1915 (M1202 microfilm, Maryland State Archives)

[17] Prince George's County Deed #120:334

[18] Prince George's County Mortgage #120:335

[19] *Prince George's Enquirer*, 28 July, 4 August, and 1 December 1916; Vestry Minutes, St. Thomas' Parish, 30 July 1916.

[20] The close small-town atmosphere of this entire project is reflected in the fact that Charles S. Early, Jr., chair of the Church Building Committee, was also Vice-President of the Bank that held the mortgage; Julius K. Smith, witness to the mortgage, was also a member of the building committee; and Herman Badenhoop, who sold the property to the Church Sunday School and later to the Vestry, was the Notary Public who verified the mortgage agreement.

> "The cornerstone of the Episcopal Church at Brandywine was laid on Wednesday with appropriate ceremonies by the Bishop of Washington, and by Centennial Lodge. . . .There were a number of visiting clergy [and members of several Masonic Lodges] . . . The Bishop made an address in which he laid stress on educating the youth of the country, declaring that upon the intelligence of the community depended its religious and material advancement. . . . The church when completed, will cost about $4,000 and will be constructed of concrete tile. The main auditorium will seat 150."[21]

The "main auditorium" refers to the Parish Hall, part of Palmer's original design. Construction of the chapel continued directly after the laying of the cornerstone, probably supervised by the architect. The first service may have been as early as Christmas of 1916, certainly before Easter 1917.[22] The finished chapel was a fine example of the Mission Style of architecture, highly unusual for this region. The choice of this style is as yet unexplained, although it is clear from Diocesan archives that Palmer's plans had been approved by Bishop Harding before the local building committee had a chance to consider them. Letters between Reverend Haupt (Rector of St. Thomas' Parish) and the Bishop indicate that William W. Early (railroad executive, cousin of the building committee chairman, and owner of the most handsome new house in the village) raised substantial objections to the plans. The building committee, however, approved Palmer's plans by majority vote in July 1916.[23]

William James Palmer (1862-1925) was a lifelong resident of Washington, D.C. He practiced architecture in Washington and nearby communities at least from 1887 to 1916. His earliest designs seem to have been for semi-detached houses and row houses in Washington:

1887, 1400 15th Street, N.W.
1895, 1517 U Street, N.W.
1896, 1827 and 1829 Phelps Place, N.W.
1898, 435 and 437 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W.

He also designed churches in Washington, including the Dumbarton Street Methodist Church in Georgetown, Union Methodist Church and his own home church, the Fifth Baptist. Outside of Washington he designed, in

[21] *Prince George's Enquirer*, 29 September 1916

[22] *Prince George's Enquirer*, issues of September 1916 through April 1917

[23] Letter from Rev. William L. Haupt to Bishop Harding, 24 May 1916; St. Thomas' Vestry minutes, 30 July 1916. See also MIHP PG#85A-32-9, the William W. Early House, listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

addition to the Brandywine chapel, the Park Heights Avenue Methodist Church in Baltimore, and the Frederick Methodist Church in Frederick, Maryland. In fact, the headline of his obituary in the Washington *Sunday Star* labeled him "Church Architect." [24]

Palmer seemed inclined to regional revival types. One of his most outstanding designs is the attached residence at 2344 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W., dating from 1907. For this 3 1/2-story building, Palmer used brick and limestone to produce considerable surface variety, and surmounted the facade with ornately parapetted dormers, recalling Dutch and Flemish guild houses of the Renaissance.[25] Palmer created a somewhat simpler design for a townhouse in the same block (2360 Massachusetts Avenue); dating from 1911, this Classical Revival townhouse was the home of the Palmer family from 1911 to 1914.

Toward the end of his life, William J. Palmer served as architectural engineer for the U.S. Veterans Bureau. He died of a cerebral hemorrhage, 5 June 1925, at his home at 84 V Street, NW. He was buried in the family plot at Congressional Cemetery.[26]

The Chapel of the Incarnation is a unique example in Prince George's County of Mission-Style church architecture; as such it embodies the distinctive characteristics of this type of architecture. With its poured-in-form concrete structure and pebble-filled stucco surface, it also exhibits an unusual method of construction. Built as a mission chapel for the southernmost residents of the St. Thomas' Parish, the Chapel of the Incarnation played an important role in southern Prince George's County; it exemplifies the cultural, historical and religious heritage of the County in its rural village communities. Distinguished by its shaped Mission-Style parapet and bell-tower, and its setting on a prominent corner lot, it is an established and familiar visual feature of the Brandywine community.

RESOURCE ANALYSIS

The Chapel of the Incarnation is a unique example in Prince George's County of Spanish Mission Style church architecture. Other Episcopal churches of this period in the County tend to reflect either Gothic Revival or English Tudor Revival style of ecclesiastical architecture. Examples of Gothic Revival include St. George's in Glenn Dale (1892), and St. James in Bowie (1906); and of English Tudor, Pinkney Memorial in Hyattsville (1915), now destroyed, and St. Mary's in Aquasco (1920).[27] Many of the Methodist churches of this period

[24] Washington *Sunday Star*, 7 June 1925

[25] Washington, D.C., Building Permit #228 (with drawings), 19 July 1907, William J. Palmer, architect, for owner George W. W. Hanger, National Archives

[26] Ibid.; Data sheet, William J. Palmer, Congressional Cemetery, Washington, D.C.

[27] See MIHP Inventory forms PG#70-52-27, 71B-2-5, 68-10-29, and 87B-36-8b.

were of a modified Gothic Revival, such as Bells in Camp Springs (1910), Forest Grove in Centreville (1914), and Union in Upper Marlboro (1916).[28] Others, especially the African-American Methodist churches, were of the simple meetinghouse form, like St. Thomas in Baden (1911) and Ridgely (1921).[29] There is no other known example of Spanish Mission Style church architecture in Prince George's County.

As for the style chosen for the Brandywine chapel, the building committee and Architect Palmer were ahead of their time for rural Southern Maryland. The Spanish Mission Style houses which became so popular in early twentieth-century suburbs did not begin to appear in Prince George's County until the late 1920s. At that time, this type of small dwelling, with shaped parapets and stuccoed, adobe-like surfaces were being built in suburbs like Riverdale Park and Hyattsville.[30] Some were built by the owners from Sears Roebuck or similar plans, others by developers recognizing the popularity of such an economic model.

Examples of the Spanish Mission Style in residential buildings have not been found in Prince George's County before 1920, and there are no other known examples of the style in ecclesiastical buildings. The Chapel of the Incarnation is a unique example, and a very important one in the architectural and cultural history of Prince George's County.

[28] See MIHP Inventory forms PG#76B-17, 77-1, and 79-19-20.

[29] See MIHP Inventory forms PG#87A-10 and 72-5.

[30] *Riverdale Historical Survey*, 1991, M-NCPPC; *East Hyattsville Architectural Survey*, 1998, M-NCPPC.

9. Major Bibliographical References:

See footnotes, Section 8

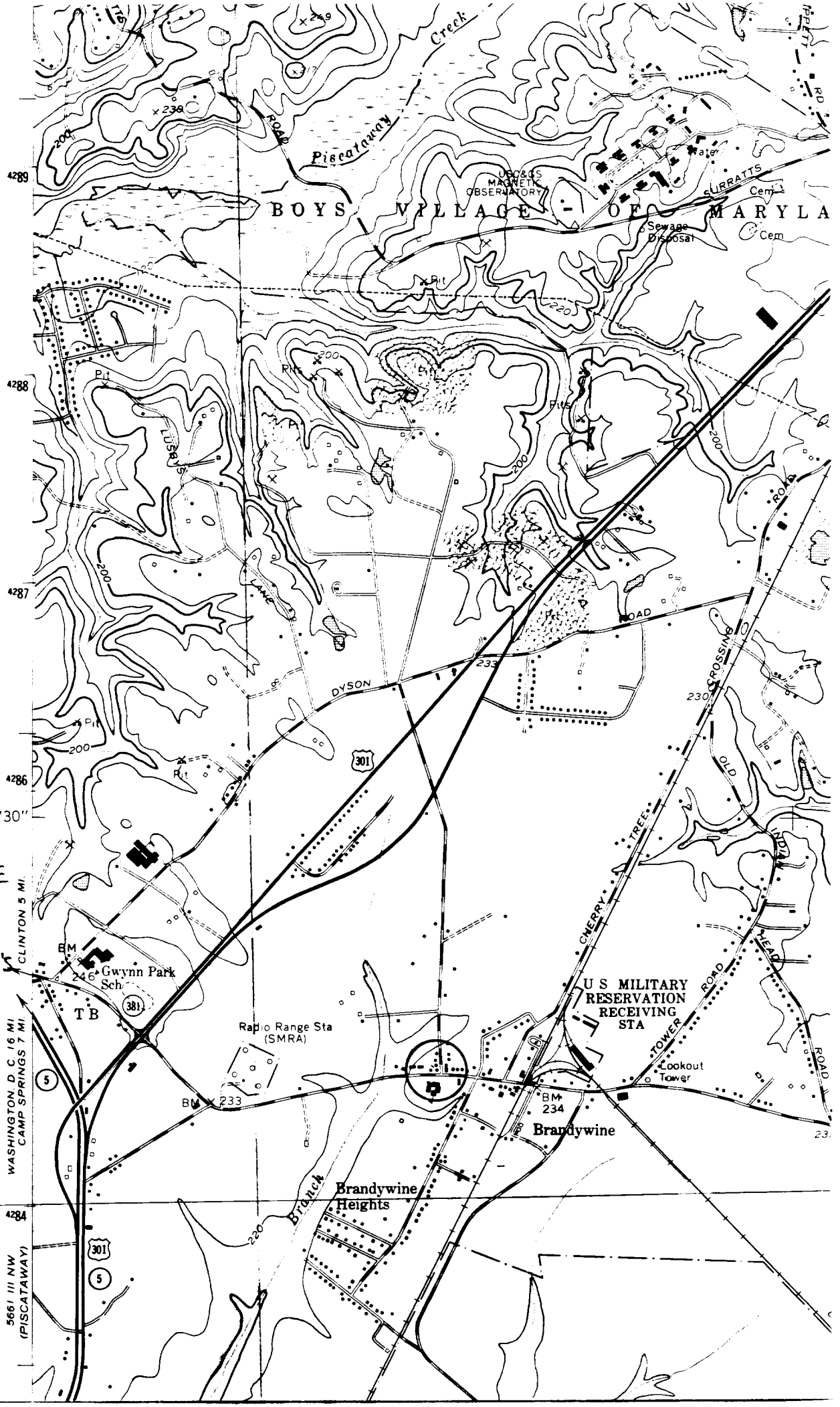
10. Geographical Data:

Verbal Boundary Description:

The nominated property is indicated as Parcel 218 on Prince George's County Tax Map 145.

Boundary Justification:

The nominated property, 0.33 acre, comprises the entire acreage historically associated with the resource.



85A-27
PG ~~85A-32-37~~

CHAPEL OF THE INCARNATION

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

18-338980
4384620

CHAPEL
OF THE
INCARNATION

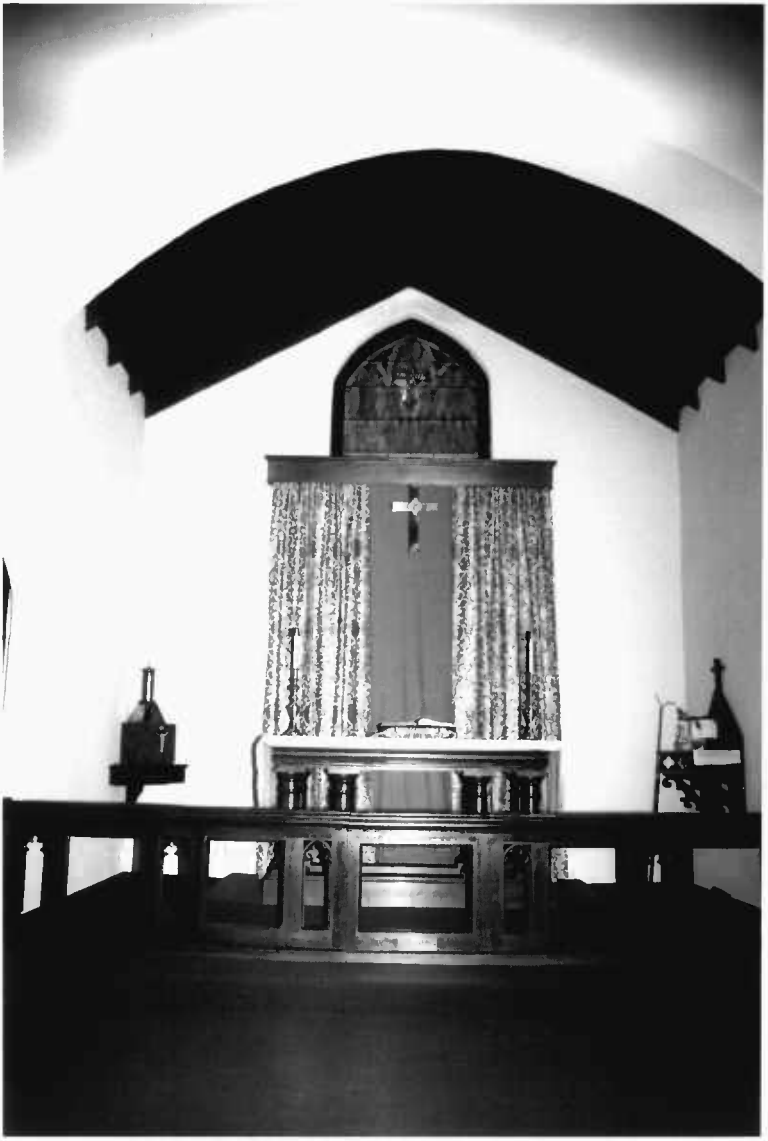
Pl. #[illegible]-27

Chapel of the Incarnation
Brandywine Summit Hosp. Co., PA
[illegible] L. Pearl

May 1979

South parade.

CHAPEL
OF THE
INCARNATION



PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY
HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey #: P.G. #85A-27 Building Date: 1916

Building Name: Chapel of the Incarnation

Location: 14070 Brandywine Road, Brandywine, Maryland

Private/Religious/Occupied/Excellent/Accessible

Description

The Chapel of the Incarnation is an L-shaped church building of the Mission style, constructed of pebble-filled concrete block to resemble adobe. It is a one-story cross-gable building with entrance through a projecting vestibule on the south gable end. Both the vestibule and the gable end itself are highlighted by a shaped mission style parapet; that of the vestibule is surmounted by a cross, that of the gable end by an arched bell tower. Flanking the entry vestibule are slim vertical windows, four panes of opaque milky glass hinged at the top. The nave is four bays, each bay consisting of three of these vertical windows arranged side by side. In the easterly corner of the south gable end is a cornerstone which reads "1916". At the north end of the nave, a two-bay wing extends to the east and ends with another Mission style parapet. Entrance at its east gable end is through modern double doors. There is a modern shed-roof addition built on the north side of the wing.

Significance:

The Chapel of the Incarnation is a unique example in Prince George's County of Mission style church architecture, highlighted by a shaped parapet and bell-tower and a surface which resembles adobe. The village came to prominence when Brandywine became the commercial junction of two railroad lines, the Baltimore and Potomac Railroad and the Southern Maryland Railroad. At the beginning of the twentieth century Brandywine was within St. Thomas Parish, but the main church, St. Thomas, was in Croom, six miles to the northeast, and the nearest mission chapel was in Cheltenham, three miles to the north. At a Vestry meeting at St. Thomas in July of 1915, the Vestry resolved to give "hearty support to the building of a chapel in the Parish at Brandywine." A year later Herman Badenhoop, one of the founders of the Bank of Brandywine, conveyed to the Vestry of St. Thomas' Parish one-third of an acre of land on the north side of the Brandywine Road, for the building of a chapel. The cornerstone for the Chapel was laid in 1916. The finished chapel was a fine example of the Mission style of architecture, highly unusual for this region. The Chapel of the Incarnation still operates as a mission of St. Thomas' Church. Its unique architectural style and its prominent location on the main road through Brandywine make it a distinctive landmark in this area.

Acreage: 1/3 acre

Survey No. PG#85A-27

Magi No.

DOE __yes __no

Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Chapel of the Incarnation

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 14070 Brandywine Rd. (Maryland Route 381) ___ not for publication

city, town Brandywine ___ vicinity of congressional district 4

state Md. county Prince George's

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
___ district	___ public	X occupied	___ agriculture	___ museum
X building(s)	X private	___ unoccupied	___ commercial	___ park
___ structure	___ both	___ work in progress	___ educational	___ private residence
___ site	**Public Acquisition**	**Accessible**	___ entertainment	X religious
___ object	___ in process	X yes: restricted	___ government	___ scientific
	___ being considered	___ yes: unrestricted	___ industrial	___ transportation
	X not applicable	___ no	___ military	___ other:

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

name Vestry of St. Thomas Church

street & number 14300 St. Thomas Church Road telephone no.:

city, town Upper Marlboro state and zip code Md. 20772

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. P.G. Co. Courthouse liber #120

street & number Main Street folio 334

city, town Upper Marlboro state Md.

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title None

date ___ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. PG#85A-27

Condition		Check one	Check one
X excellent	___ deteriorated	___ unaltered	X original site
___ good	___ ruins	X altered	___ moved date of move _____
___ fair	___ unexposed		

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Chapel of the Incarnation is an L-shaped church building of the Mission style, constructed of pebble-filled concrete block to resemble adobe. It is a one-story cross-gable building with entrance through a projecting vestibule on the south gable end. Both the vestibule and the gable end itself are highlighted by a shaped mission style parapet. That of the vestibule is surmounted by a cross, that of the gable end by an arched bell tower.

Flanking the entry vestibule are slim vertical windows, four panes of opaque milky glass hinged at the top. The nave is four bays, each bay consisting of three of these vertical windows arranged side by side. In the easterly corner of the south gable end is a cornerstone which reads "1916".

At the north end of the nave, a two-bay wing extends to the east, and ends with another Mission style parapet. Entrance at its east gable end is through modern double doors.

There is a modern shed-roof addition built on the north side of the wing; it wraps around to the west and encloses part of the west facade of the main block. This six-bay-wide addition is lighted by modern double-sash windows.

8. Significance

Survey No. PG#85A-27

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below				
___ prehistoric	___ archeology-prehistoric	X community planning	___ landscape architecture	X religion	
___ 1400–1499	___ archeology-historic	___ conservation	___ law	___ science	
___ 1500–1599	___ agriculture	___ economics	___ literature	___ sculpture	
___ 1600–1699	X architecture	___ education	___ military	___ social/ humanitarian	
___ 1700–1799	___ art	___ engineering	___ music	___ theater	
X 1800–1899	___ commerce	___ exploration/settlement	___ philosophy	___ transportation	
___ 1900–	___ communications	___ industry	___ politics/government	___ other (specify)	
		___ invention			

Specific dates 1916 **Builder/Architect** William J. Palmer

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.

The Chapel of the Incarnation is a unique example in Prince George's County of Mission style church architecture. Highlighted by a shaped parapet and bell-tower, and a surface which resembles adobe, it is a distinctive landmark in the village of Brandywine.

The village of Brandywine came to prominence after the construction of the Baltimore and Potomac Railroad (1968-72) through Southern Prince George's County. Within a few years, a connecting line, the Southern Maryland Railroad, was constructed, making Brandywine the commercial junction of these two railroad lines. Building lots were platted and replatted, and the population grew.[1]

At the beginning of the twentieth century, there was still no church in the village. Brandywine was within St. Thomas Parish, but the main church, St. Thomas, was in Croom, six miles to the northeast, and the nearest mission chapel of St. Thomas was in Cheltenham, three miles to the north. As early as 1915, an Episcopal Sunday school was meeting regularly in Brandywine. At a Vestry meeting at St. Thomas in July of that year, the Vestry resolved to give "hearty support to the building of a chapel in the Parish at Brandywine."[2] A year later Herman Badenhoop, one of the founders of the Bank of Brandywine, conveyed to the Vestry of St. Thomas' Parish one-third of an acre of land on the north side of the Brandywine Road, part of a tract known as "Brunsbrock", for the building of a chapel.[3] A building committee was appointed, consisting of Charles S. Early, Jr. (Chairman), Frank Robinson and J.K. Smith. A contract was drawn up with architect William J. Palmer of Washington, D.C., to build the chapel and parish hall according to already approved plans and specifications, for $3,000. A mortgage of $1,500 was held by the Bank of Brandywine. The cornerstone was laid in 1916, and the new place of worshiop was called the Chapel of the Incarnation.[4]

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. PG#85A-27

Cf. notes, item #8

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 1/3 acre

Tax Map 145, parcel 218

Quadrangle name Brandywine, Section D

Quadrangle scale _____

UTM **References** do NOT complete UTM references

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
A				B			
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Susan G. Pearl, Research Historian

organization Historic Preservation Commission **date** August 1986

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

city or town Upper Marlboro **state** Md.

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

PS-2746

The finished chapel was a fine example of the Mission Style of architecture, highly unusual for this region. The choice of this style by the building committee is, as yet, unexplained; it is possible that the design was conceived by a member of the Early family after a trip to the American Southwest.

Today, the Chapel of the Incarnation still operates as a mission of St. Thomas' Church. Its unique architectural style and its prominent location on the main road through Brandywine make it is a distinctive landmark in this area.

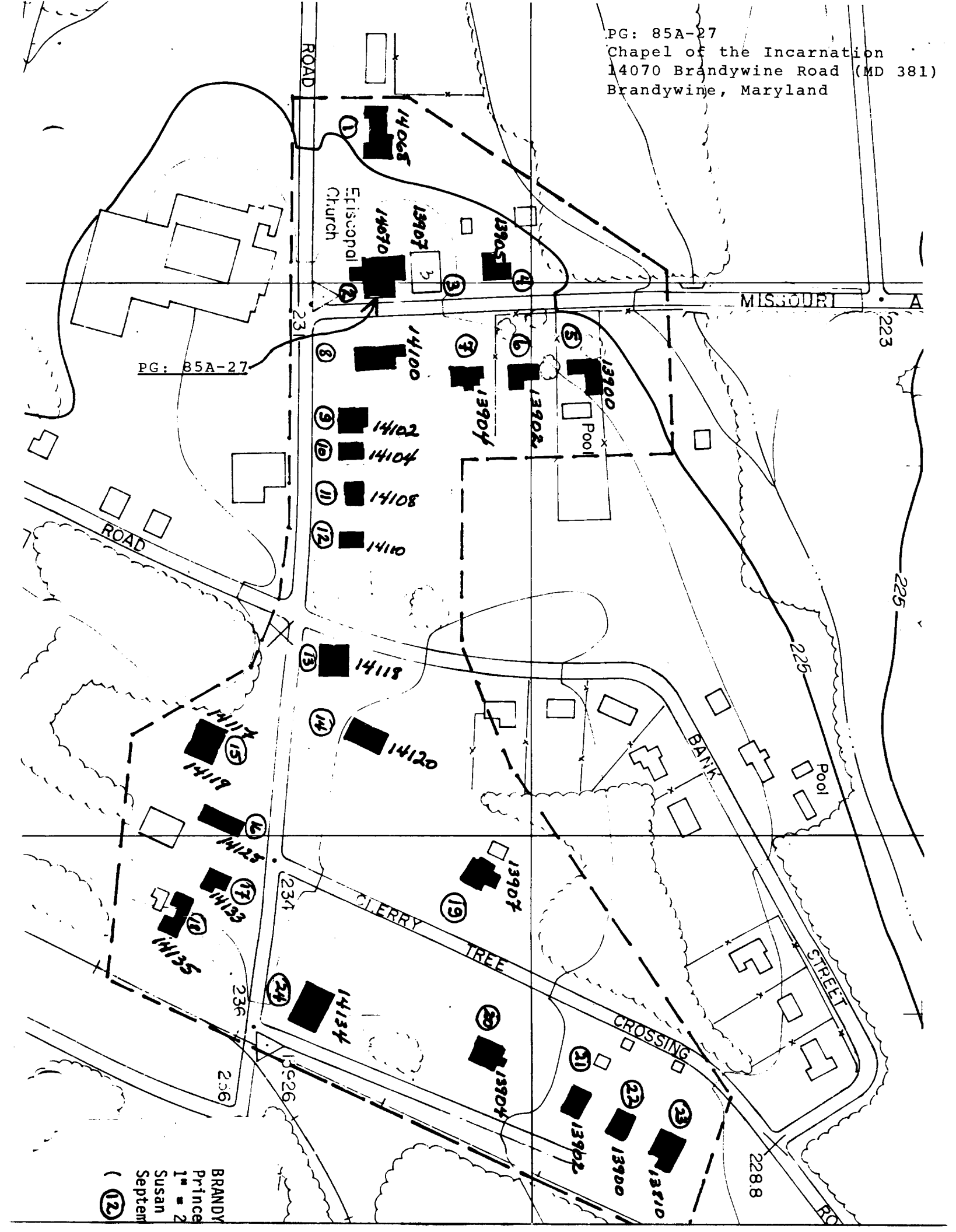
Notes

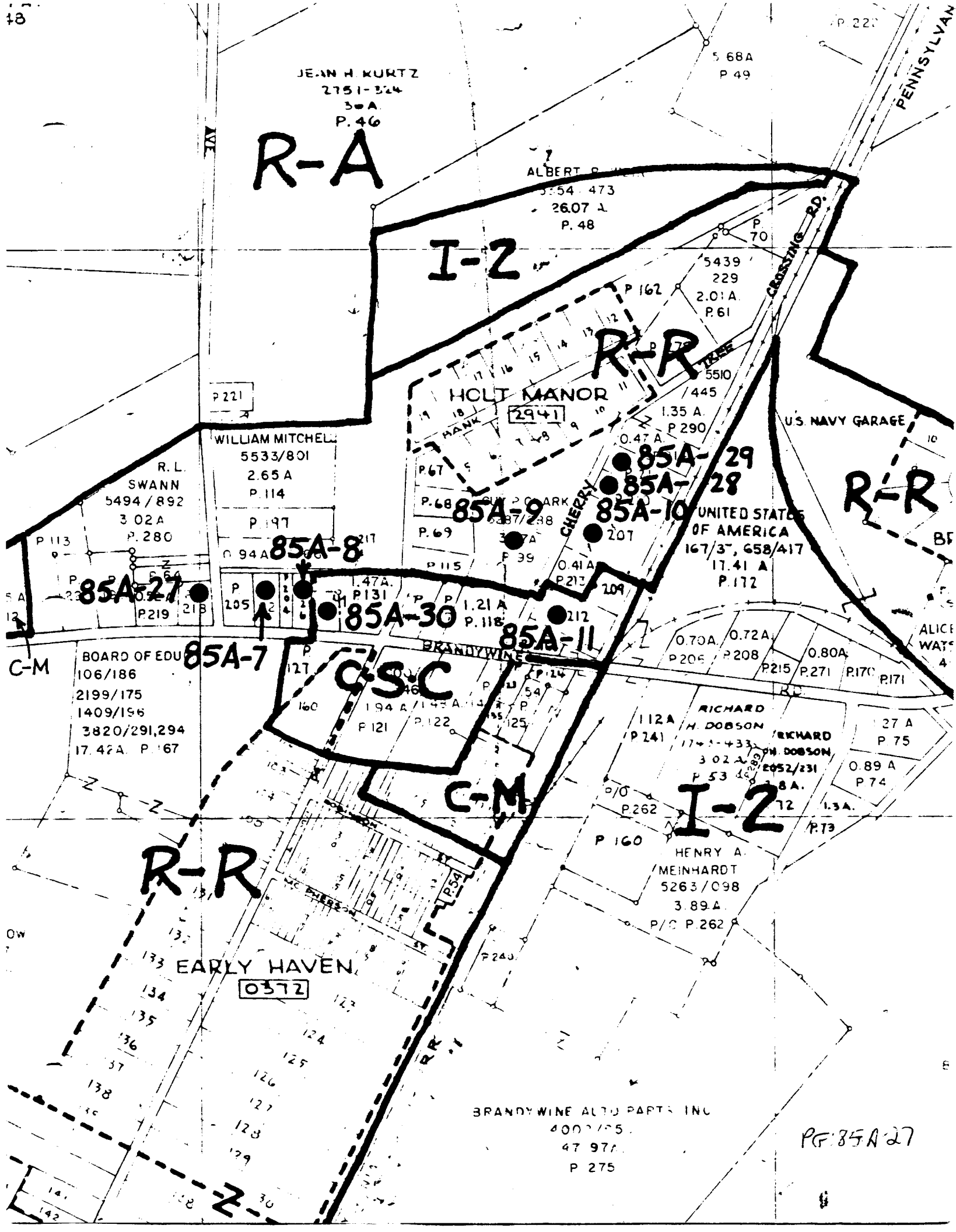
1 cf. MHT forms 85A-9, -10, -11.

2 St. Thomas' Vestry records, 1915; M1202 microfilm, Maryland Hall of Records.

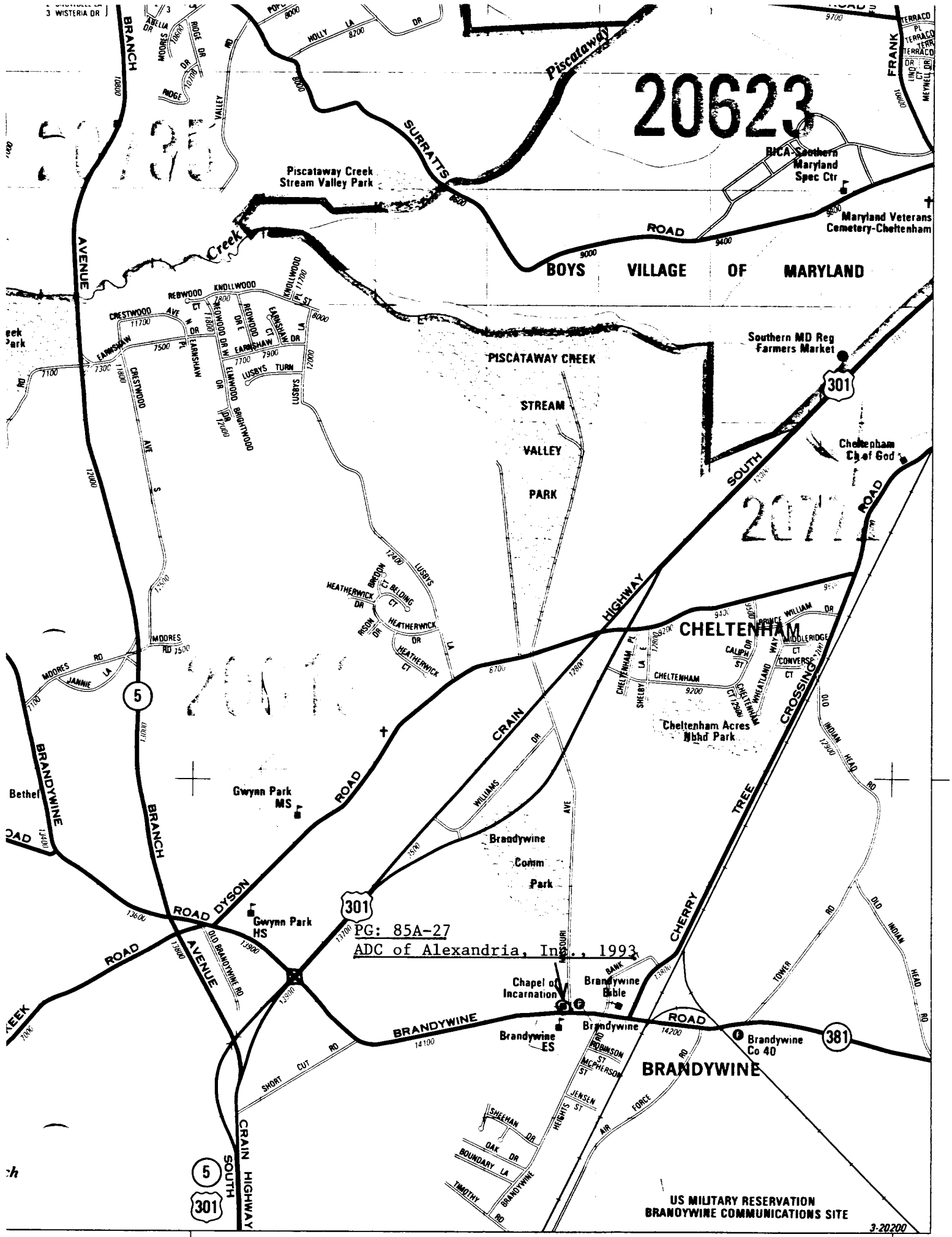
3 Prince George's County Deed #120:334.

4 St. Thomas' Vestry records, 1916; M1202 microfilm, Maryland Hall of Records.


PG: 85A-27
Chapel of the Incarnation
14070 Brandywine Road (MD 381)
Brandywine, Maryland
ROAD
Episcopal Church
14068
14070
13907
13905
MISSOURI
223
PG: 85A-27
14100
13904
13902
13900
Pool
14102
14104
14108
14110
ROAD
225
14118
14120
14111
14119
14125
14133
14135
BANK
Pool
13907
234
CHERRY TREE
STREET
CROSSING
236
14134
13904
13902
13900
13910
228.8
BRANDY
Prince
1" = 2
Susan
Septem
12

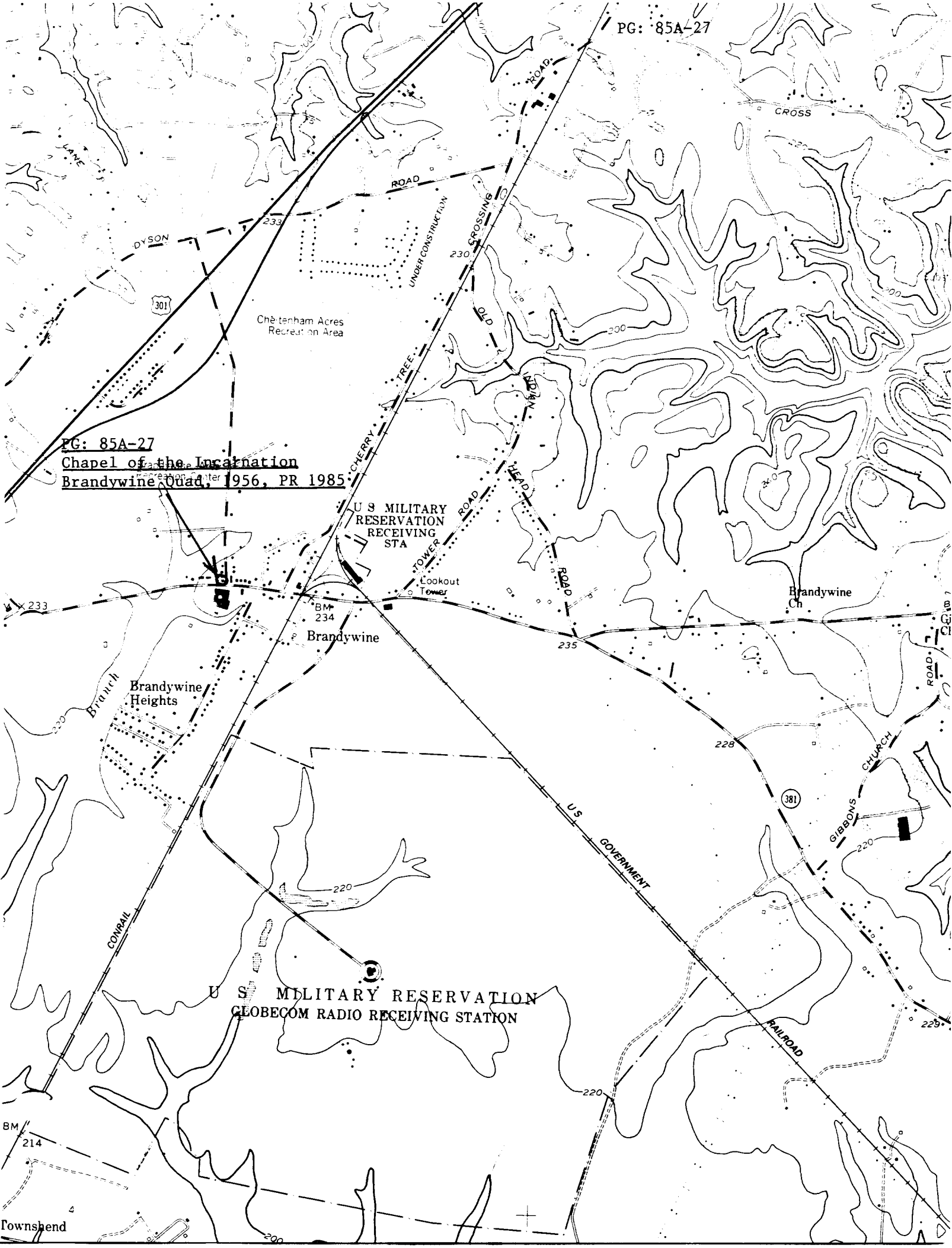


R-A
I-2
R-R
HOLT MANOR
2941
85A-29
85A-28
85A-10
85A-9
85A-8
85A-27
85A-30
85A-11
85A-7
C-M
CSC
C-M
I-2
R-R
R-R
EARLY HAVEN
0372
JEAN H. KURTZ
2751-324
P. 46
ALBERT
26.07 A
P. 48
5439
229
2.01 A
P. 61
5510
/445
1.35 A
P 290
0.47 A
WILLIAM MITCHELL
5533/801
2.65 A
P. 114
R. L. SWANN
5494/892
3.02 A
P. 280
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
167/3-, 658/417
17.41 A
P. 172
U.S. NAVY GARAGE
BOARD OF EDU
106/186
2199/175
1409/196
3820/291,294
17.42A P. 167
RICHARD H. DOBSON
RICHARD H. DOBSON
2052/231
HENRY A. MEINHARDT
5263/098
3.89 A
P/O P. 262
BRANDYWINE AUTO PARTS INC
47.97A
P 275
PENNSYLVAN
CROSSING RD.
CHERRY
BRANDYWINE
PG 85A-27



PG: 85A-27
ADC of Alexandria, Inc., 1993

© ADC OF ALEXANDRIA, INC.


PG: 85A-27
Chapel of the Incarnation
Brandywine Quad, 1956, PR 1985
ROAD
CROSS
LANE
ROAD
DYSON
233
UNDER CONSTRUCTION
CROSSING
230
301
Chèltenham Acres
Recreation Area
OLD
200
TREE
CHERRY
INDIAN
HEAD
ROAD
TOWER
ROAD
U S MILITARY
RESERVATION
RECEIVING
STA
Lookout
Tower
Brandywine
Ch
233
BM
234
Brandywine
235
Brandywine
Heights
Branch
230
228
CHURCH
ROAD
381
US
GOVERNMENT
GIBBONS
220
CONRAIL
220
U S MILITARY RESERVATION
GLOBECOM RADIO RECEIVING STATION
RAILROAD
229
220
BM
214
Townshend
200

PG#85A-27

Chapel of the Incarnation
Prince George's County, MD
Susan G. Pearl
January 1986
East elevation
Neg: MD Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD

PG#85A-27

Chapel of the Incarnation
Prince George's County, MD
Susan G. Pearl
January 1986
Southeast 3/4 elevation
Neg: MD Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD

PG#85A-27

Chapel of the Incarnation
Prince George's County, MD
Susan G. Pearl
January 1986
South elevation
Neg: MD Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD