

S-152  
Upper Fairmount M.E. Church  
Upper Fairmount  
Public Workship

1891

The first Methodist church on Potato Neck, known originally as Maddox's Church, was located on the east side of Cecil Ford's store on the northwest corner of MD 361 and Miles Road. The c. 1825 Greek Revival church was sold in 1874 and subsequently used by Daniel Miles, Josiah Avery and John T. Ford as a store building (LW 15/217). At the west end of town the Methodists erected their new church on the old parsonage lot in 1873. This acre-and-a-half parcel had been purchased from Lazarus Maddox in November of 1844, for the purpose of providing a residence for the ministers of the Methodist Episcopal church on the Annemessex circuit. However, the 1873 building burned to the ground in 1891 and was replaced by the present structure.

The Upper Fairmount M.E. Church is the largest and most architecturally elaborate structure in this rural village. Aside from a capping of the broach spire due to lightning, this Gothic Revival board and batten church has not been significantly altered inside or out. The interior pressed tin walls and ceilings are especially noteworthy. Due to the prominent size and interesting detail of the building, it serves as a strong visual anchor at the west end of the village.

S-152  
Upper Fairmount M. E. Church  
Upper Fairmount  
Public Worship

1870

The first Methodist Church on Potato Neck, known originally as Maddox's Church, was located on the east side of Cecil Ford's store on the northwest corner of MD 361 and Miles Road. The c. 1825 Greek Revival Church was sold in 1874 and subsequently used by Daniel Miles, Josiah Avery and John T. Ford as a store building. At the west end of town the Methodists had apparently erected their new Gothic Revival board and batten church on the old church parsonage lot. This acre and a half parcel had been purchased from Lazarus Maddox in November of 1844, for the purpose of providing the ministers and preachers of the Methodist Episcopal Church on Annemessex circuit a residence.

The Upper Fairmount M. E. Church is the largest and most architecturally distinctive structure in this rural village. Aside from a capping of the broach spire, this Gothic Revival board and batten church has not been altered inside or out. The interior pressed tin wall and ceiling coverings are especially noteworthy. Due to the building's prominent size and interesting detail, it serves as a strong visual anchor at the west end of the village.



# 7. Description

Survey No. S-152

<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.

The Upper Fairmount M. E. Church is located at the west end of the village on the south side of MD 361. The large Gothic Revival, board and batten church faces north with the gable running on a north/south axis. A three-story bell tower with broach spire rises on the northeast corner.

Built in 1870, the buttressed frame structure rests on a rusticated granite foundation and is covered by a steeply pitched asphalt tile roof. The first floor of the building, between the buttresses is covered with horizontal weatherboards while the second floor is sheathed with board and batten siding. The perimeter of the roof is trimmed with brackets.

The north facade of the church has a center buttressed and gabled entrance bay which projects from the main wall surface of the church. The steeply pitched gable roof has a bracketed eave which covers a Gothic-arched door opening. A paired set of paneled doors is topped by a colored-glass transom. Flanking the entrance are small lancet windows. The upper level of the church body has a tri-partite colored-glass window in the center with flanking lancet windows. The windows are surrounded by board and batten siding.

The three-story bell tower rises on the northwest corner and contains a separate entrance. Like the main body of the church, the tower has a buttressed first floor with weatherboard siding. The tower contains a separate Gothic-arched double-door entrance. The second floor of the tower is sheathed with board and batten siding and pierced by small lancet windows with a round window above. Stretching around the mid-level of the tower is a molded cornice with dentiled bed molding. The third floor is pierced by paired and louvered lancet-shaped vents and trimmed with simple corner pilasters. The broach spire tops the three levels with each side marked by a small gabled dormer window. During this century the spire was topped by an octagonal cap.

The east side of the church is divided into five evenly-spaced bays. Each first floor bay is flanked by buttresses. An entrance with gabled hood occupies the north bay, while the others have paired lancet windows. The upper level is pierced by five colored-glass lancet windows.

The south gable end is a relatively plain board and batten wall with a two-story apse with similar lancet windows and exterior features.

The west side is similar to the east side with the same number of bays and exterior finish.

Inside, the church is divided into two levels with a small sanctuary and Sunday school rooms on the first floor and the main sanctuary on the second floor. The main stair is located in the northeastern corner and has a heavily turned newel post. Two turned balusters to each tread support a molded and continuous handrail. The stringer is decorated with a scrolled trim. The first floor sanctuary has two fluted iron support columns and a pressed tin ceiling.

The second floor walls and ceiling, on the other hand, are fully sheathed with pressed tin. Portions of the wall are differentiated by various tin patterns. A molded chair rail separates a smaller check pattern from a larger square design. The cornice and

# 8. Significance

Survey No. 5-152

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/humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

**Specific dates** 1870 **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.

The Upper Fairmount Methodist Episcopal Church is the largest and most architecturally distinctive structure in this rural village. Aside from a capping of the broach spire, this Gothic Revival board and batten church has not been radically altered inside or out. The interior pressed tin wall and ceiling coverings are especially unusual. Due to the building's prominent size, it serves as an important community center as well as a strong visual anchor at the west end of the village.

History and Support

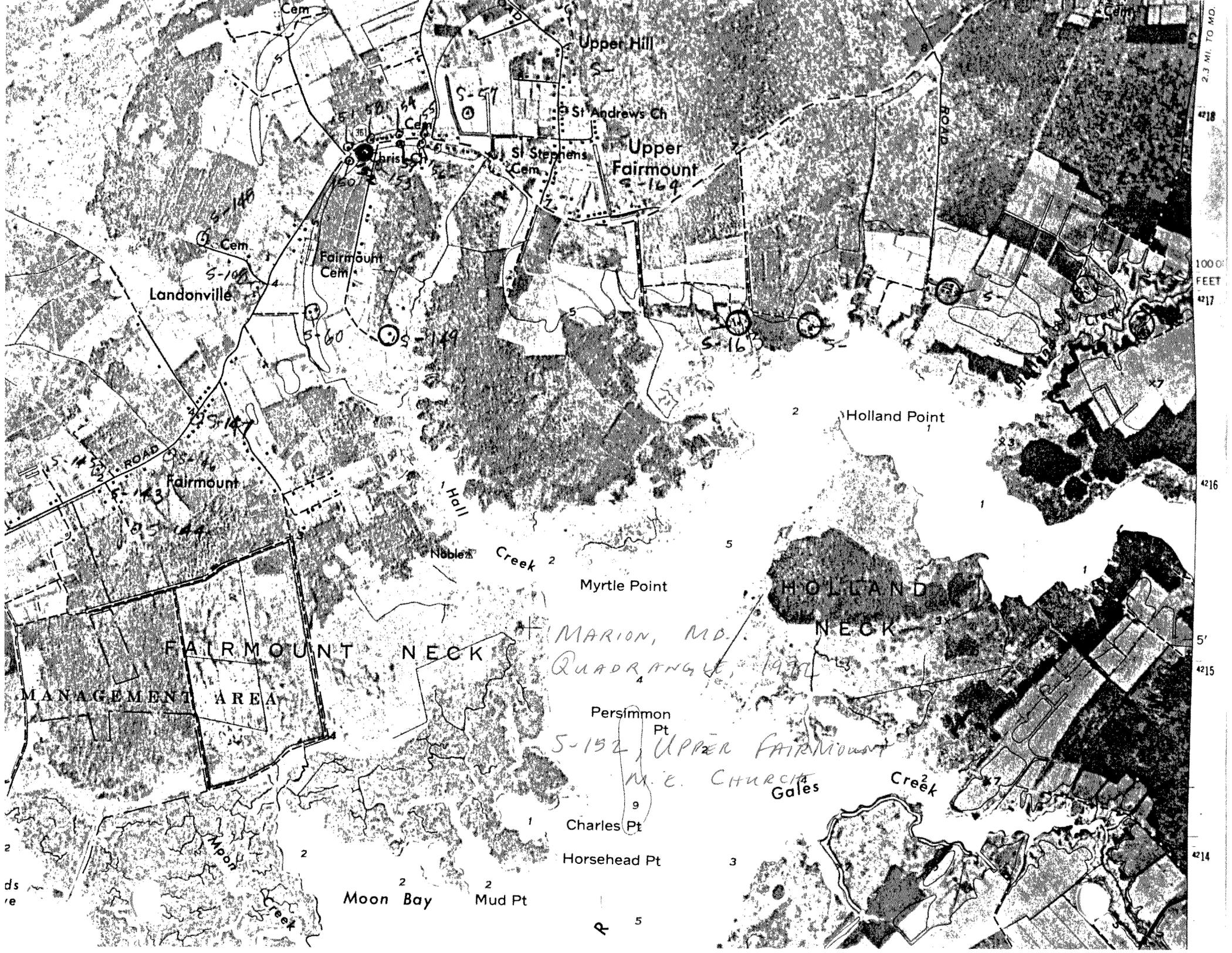
The first Methodist Church on Potato Neck, known originally as Maddox's Church, was located on the east side of Cecil Ford's Store on the northwest corner of MD 361 and Miles Road. The c. 1825 Greek Revival Church was sold in 1874 by the church trustees to Daniel W. Miles, Josiah Avery and John T. Ford, trading under the name of Miles, Avery and Company. Under its new ownership the old church was converted into a store. At the west end of town the Methodists had apparently erected their new Gothic Revival board and batten church on the old parsonage lot. This acre and a half had been purchased from Lazarus Maddox in November of 1844, for the purpose of providing the ministers and preachers of the Methodist Episcopal Church on Annamessex Circuit a residence. Around 1870 the congregation decided to build a new church on the old parsonage lot.



ceiling has a different treatment. The sanctuary contains its period Gothic-inspired pews, altar rail and altar furniture.

The tower stair has been partitioned off from regular use. An open stair with turned newel post and balusters rises to the second floor and from there is enclosed to the bell room.

A small single story block congregational hall stands immediately west of the church. To the east is a two-story "foursquare" frame parsonage.



MARION, MD.  
QUADRANGLE, 1974  
5-152, UPPER FAIRMOUNT  
N.E. CHURCH

FAIRMOUNT NECK  
MANAGEMENT AREA

Landonville

Upper Fairmount

Holland Point

Myrtle Point

Persimmon Pt

Charles Pt

Horsehead Pt

Moon Bay

Mud Pt

HOLLAND NECK

Upper Hill

St Andrews Ch

St Stephens Ch

Fairmount Cem

Cem

Fairmount

Noble Creek

Gales Creek

Moon Creek

2.3 MI. TO MD.  
1000 FEET  
4218  
4217  
4216  
5'  
4215  
4214

ds  
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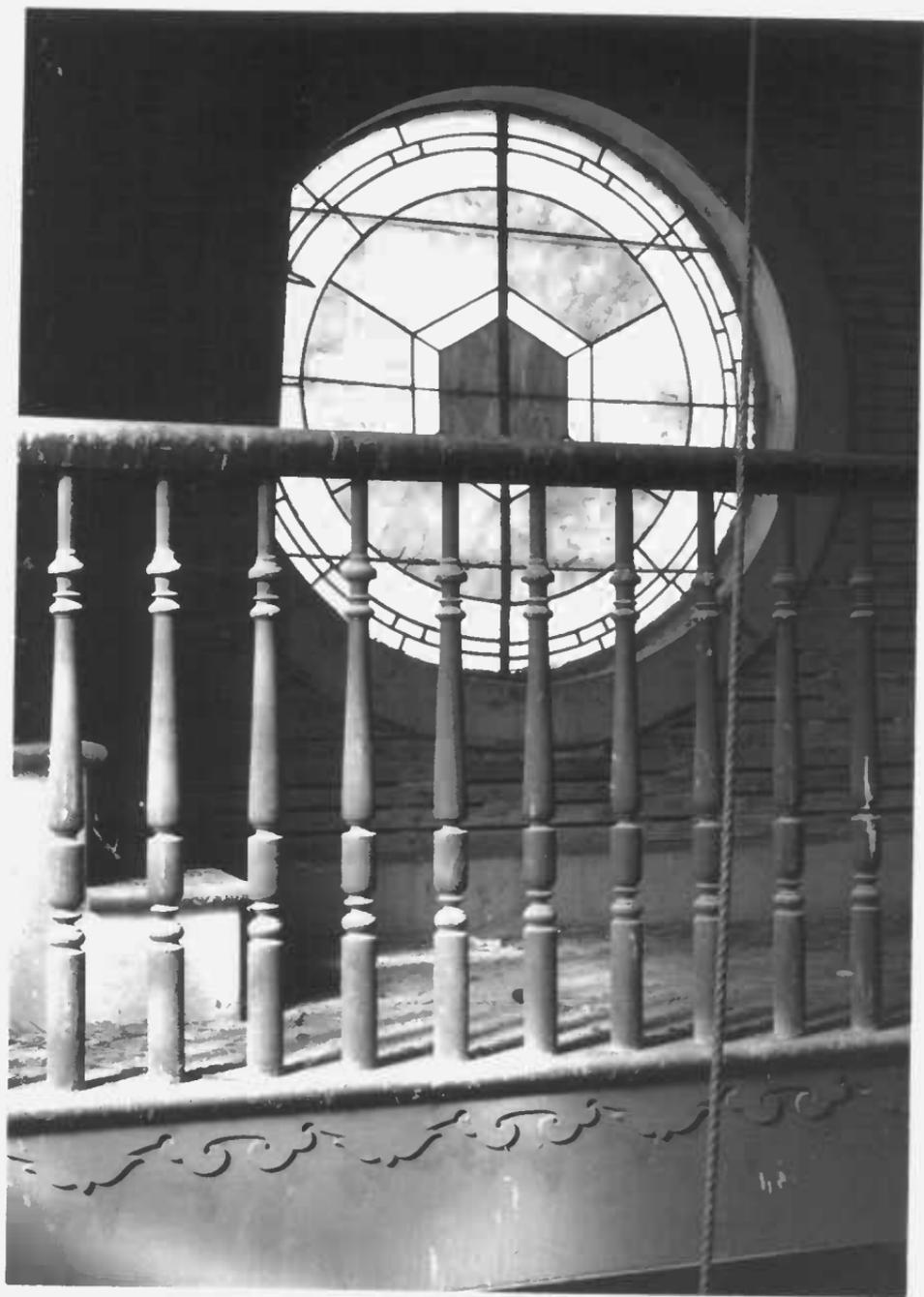
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Upper Fairmount M. E. Church  
Upper Fairmount, Somerset County  
Documentary Photograph - Undated  
Original - Fairmount Academy Hist. Assoc.  
Copied 10/83 Paul Touart  
Neg./Md. Historical Trust



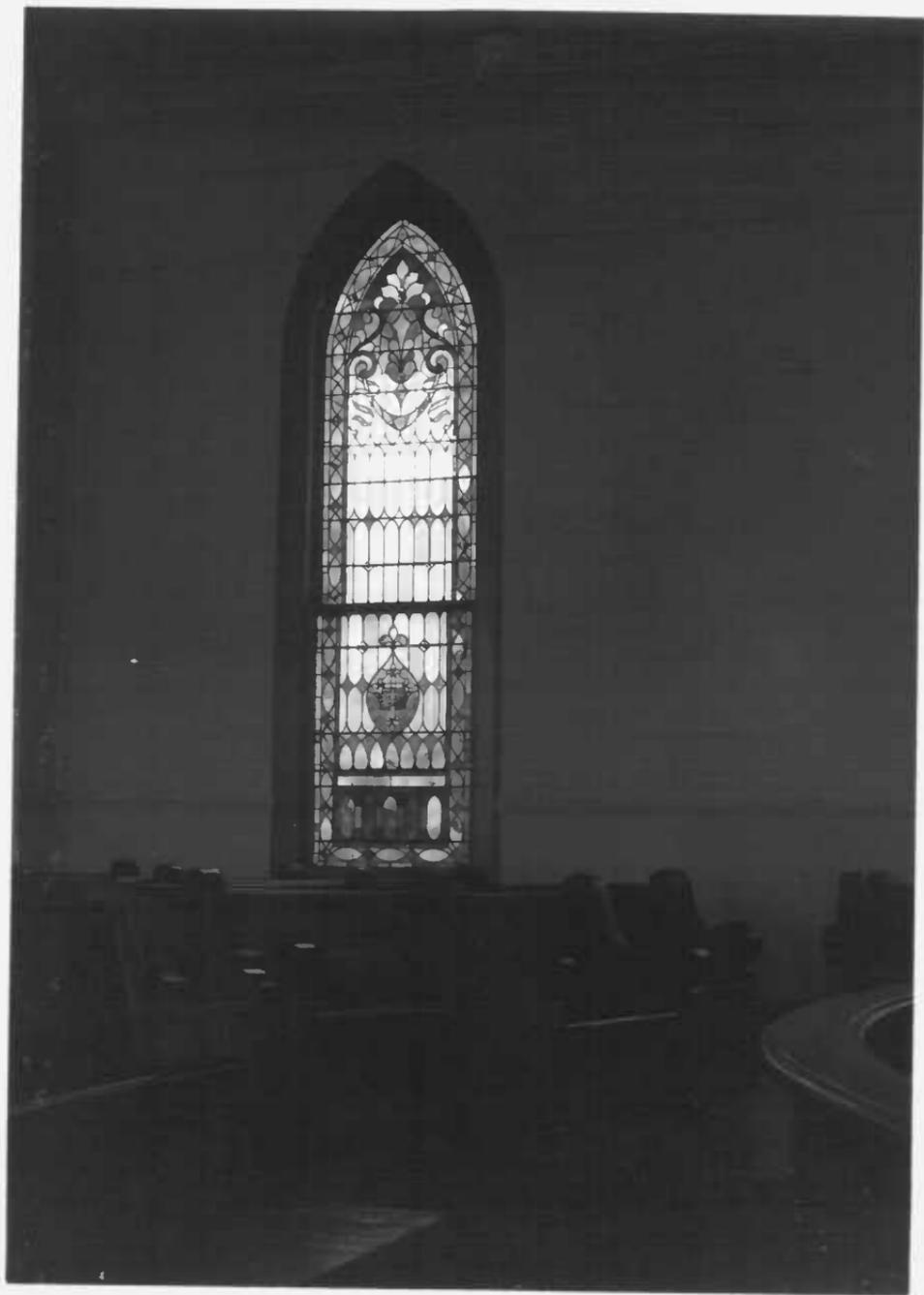
Upper Fairmount M. E. Church  
Upper Fairmount, Somerset County  
North Elevation  
Photographer - Paul Touart - 10/83  
Neg./Md. Historical Trust

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Upper Fairmount M. E. Church  
Upper Fairmount, Somerset County  
Stair Tower  
Photographer - Paul Touart - 10/83  
Neg./Md. Historical Trust

S-152



Upper Fairmount M. E. Church  
Upper Fairmount, Somerset County  
Sanctuary - East Wall Window  
Photographer - Paul Touart - 10/83  
Neg./Md. Historical Trust

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per Fairmount M. E. Church  
per Fairmount, Somerset County  
rth Elevation  
otographer - Paul Touart - 10/83  
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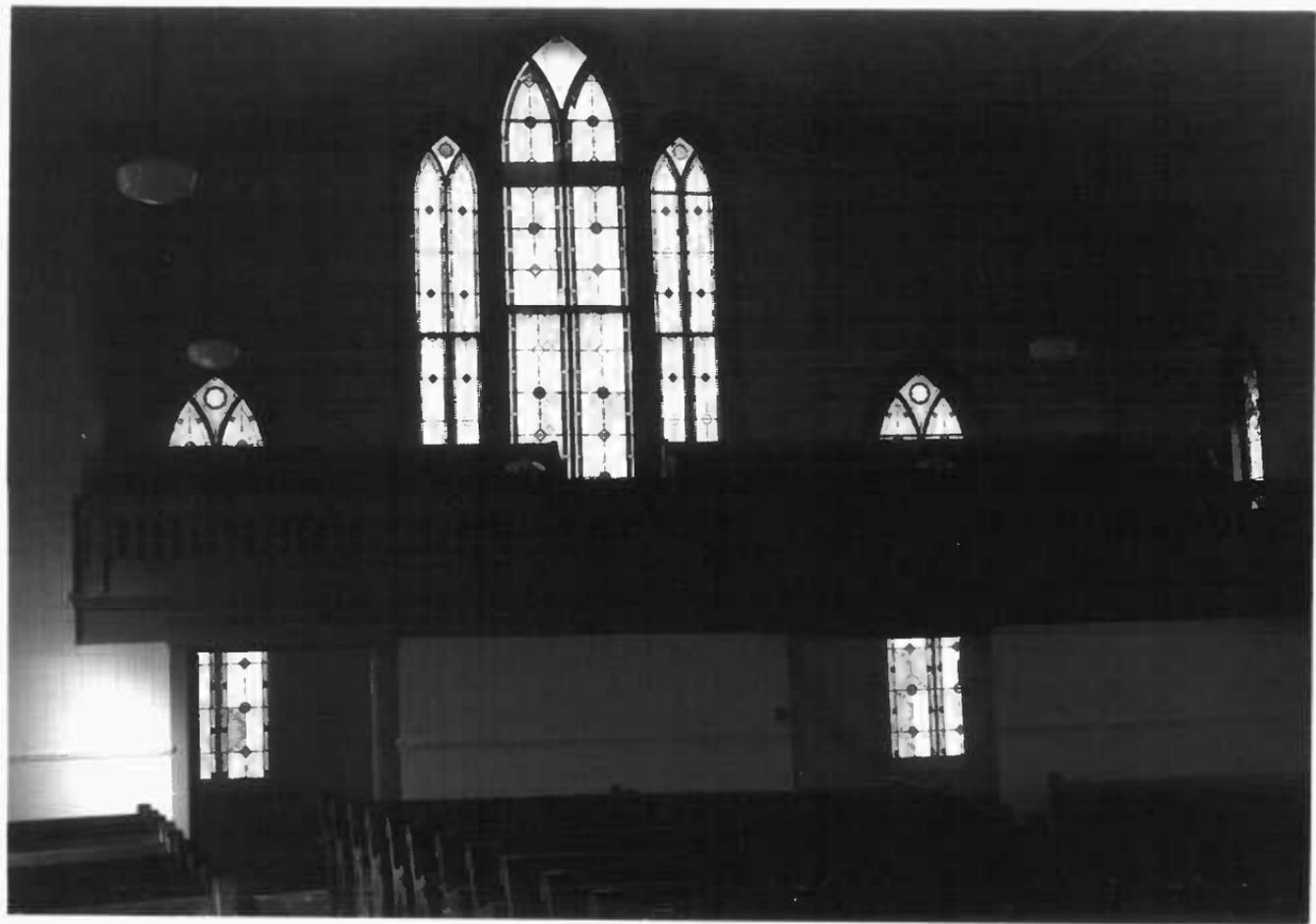
Upper Fairmount M. E. Church  
Upper Fairmount, Somerset County  
Stair  
Photographer - Paul Touart - 10/83  
Neg./Md. Historical Trust

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Upper Fairmount M.E. Church  
Upper Fairmount, Somerset County  
2nd Floor Sanctuary  
11/83 Paul Touart  
Neg./Md. Historical Trust

S-152



Upper Fairmount M. E. Church  
Upper Fairmount, Somerset County  
Sanctuary - North Wall  
Photographer - Paul Touart - 10/83  
Neg./Md. Historical Trust

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