CT-1238
8914 Chesapeake Avenue
North Beach, Calvert County
Private

Originally known as Community Church, the North Beach Union Church was built in 1921 and is the town's oldest example of civic architecture. Located at 8914 Chesapeake Avenue and directly south of the Town Hall, the Union Church is a simple, one-story, gable-front structure with rear, side gable and shed additions. A pyramidal bell tower is located at the mid-point of the roof. The building rests on a concrete foundation, which is covered on the front with brick veneer. Single windows are present, one either side of the portico, and five windows are present along the church's long walls. Opaque stained glass arched margin lights fill these rectangular openings.

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

North Beach, Calvert County Survey
Survey Number CT-1238
8914 Chesapeake Avenue (Union Church)

Geographic Organization: Western Shore

Chronological/Developmental Period(s): 1870-1930; 1930-Present

Historic Period Theme(s): 2) Architecture, Landscape and Community Planning

7) Social/Education/Cultural

Resource Type:

Category: building

Historic Environment: urban

Historic Function(s) and Use(s): church

Known Design Source: none

Survey No. CT-1238

Magi No.

DOE ___ yes ___ no

Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Union Church

and/or common Union Church

2. Location

street & number 8914 Chesapeake Avenue ___ not for publication

city, town North Beach ___ vicinity of congressional district

state Maryland county Calvert

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
___ district	___ public	___ 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	___ yes: restricted	___ government	___ scientific
	___ being considered	x yes: unrestricted	___ industrial	___ transportation
	___ not applicable	___ no	___ military	___ other:

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

name Trustees of Union Church

street & number 8914 Chesapeake Avenue telephone no.:

city, town North Beach state and zip code: Maryland 20831

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Calvert County Courthouse liber GWD 15

street & number 310 Main Street folio 291

city, town state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Evaluated in *Architectural Survey and Historic District Evaluation: North Beach, Maryland*

te June, 1998 ___ federal ___ state x count ___ local

depository for survey records Maryland Historical Trust

city, town Crownsville state Maryland

7. Description

Survey No. CT-1238

Condition		Check one	Check one
____ excellent	____ deteriorated	x unaltered	x original site
x good	____ ruins	____ 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.

Set back from the street on a wide lot, North Beach Union Church is located on the west side of Chesapeake Avenue, directly south of the Town Hall. Both a low flight of concrete steps and a concrete ramp lead up to the building's main entrance.

This modest, vernacular church is a one-story, gable-front frame structure, with a large rear and south side addition. Walls are covered with artificial siding and rest on a concrete foundation. Brick veneer has been applied to the foundation on the front (east) elevation. The low-pitch roof has overhanging eaves. Artificial siding covers the soffits. A pyramidal roof bell tower sits on the roof's peak at the mid-point of the building. The front facade features an enclosed gable-front portico. The portico's double doors are in the Colonial-Revival style. The upper halves contain an arched window, with multi-light glazing pattern that imitates a Palladian window. Stained glass sidelights flank the doorway.

One rectangular stained glass window is present on either side of the portico. These are the same size and style as the five windows present in the side walls. The stained glass found in these windows has a milky, opaque quality. The panes are large compared with earlier stained glass. An arched affect is given to these rectangular openings through the use of stained glass margin lights.

Section 8: History and Significance

North Beach is a fair to good example of an early 20th century summer resort colony and is a Maryland example of a national trend in community development initiated by the Industrial Revolution. Communities such as North Beach were a result of the growing middle class, mobility and consumerism resulting from the industrial economy that dominated the period. Dozens of beach resorts developed around the Chesapeake Bay in the years between the end of the Civil War and the Great Depression. Some, such as Gibson Island, catered to a rich, white, gentile clientele, while Highland Beach is an example of an African-American summer colony. North Beach was in the middle of the social spectrum. While deed restrictions excluded blacks, Jews were well represented in early North Beach. Excepting this major exclusion, by the standards of the day, North Beach was a heterogeneous middle-class summer community.

North Beach was platted in 1900 (revised in 1908) and incorporated in 1910. The town was developed by a group of principally Washington-based businessmen with ties to railroad, labor and banking. Conceived as a summer residential community and resort, the town was laid out according to a standard grid. In addition to houses, the town featured a variety of tourist and recreation-oriented businesses including theaters, restaurants, dance halls, bingo parlors, amusement arcades, and night clubs--including several gay clubs.

Most surviving historic buildings were constructed in the 1920s and 1930s, and include a good collection of early-20th century vernacular buildings. Represented building types include bungalows, shotguns, American Four Square and gable-front cottages. Most commercial buildings are either destroyed or extremely altered. Many of the town's historic structures were altered in the years immediately following World War II. In the post-war years North Beach completed a transformation begun in the 1930s, from a resort and summer colony to a permanent suburban community.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No CT-1238

Laws of Maryland, various volume 1900-1950, Maryland Law Library, Annapolis, Maryland.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Company Maps; 1923, 1930 and 1932, Maryland Hall of Records, Annapolis, Maryland.

Calvert County Tax Assessments, District 3; various years 1919 through 1947.

A[illegible]es W. Williams, Otto Mears Goes East: The Chesapeake Beach Railway, Calvert County Historical Society, Prince [illegible]erick, Maryland, 1975.

David C. Holley, Chesapeake Steamboats: Vanished Fleet, Tidewater Publishers; Centreville, Maryland, 1994.

Robert H. Burgess, Chesapeake Circle, Cornell Maritime Press; Cambridge, Maryland, 1965.

Mary Corddry, City on the Sand: Ocean City and the People Who Built It., Tidewater Publishers; Centreville, Maryland, 1991.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 7,500 sq. ft.

Quadrangle name North Beach

Quadrangle scale 1: 24,000

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

Calvert County tax map 200, block 11, lot 4

[illegible] all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

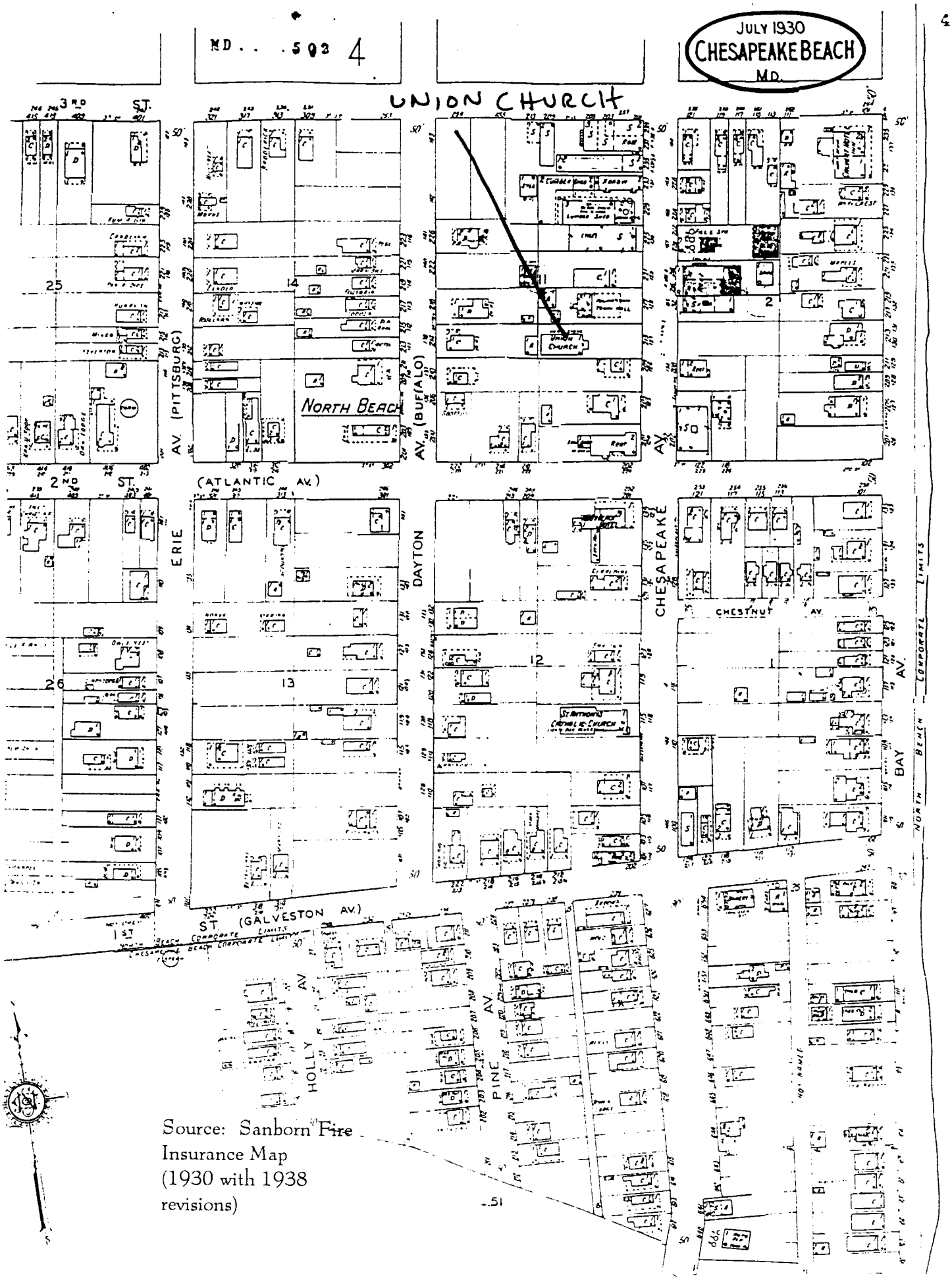
11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Sherri Marsh		
organization	Retrospect Cultural Resource Services	date	May-98
street & number	9 Southgate Avenue		(410) 268-6099
city or town	Annapolis	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.

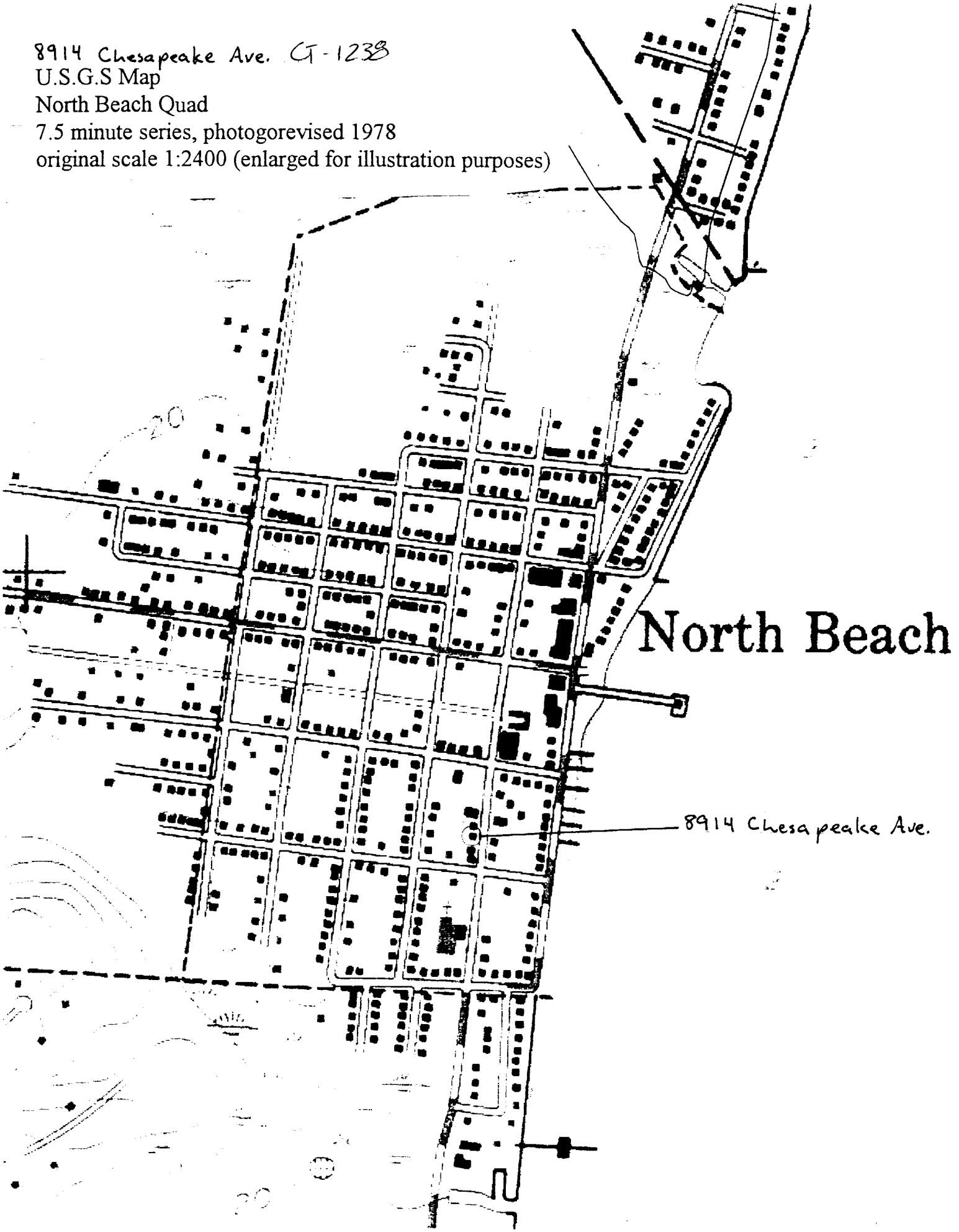
The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCP/DHCD
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600



Source: Sanborn Fire Insurance Map (1930 with 1938 revisions)

8914 Chesapeake Ave. CT-1238
U.S.G.S Map
North Beach Quad
7.5 minute series, photogorevised 1978
original scale 1:2400 (enlarged for illustration purposes)



UNION CHURCH
NORTH BEACH

CT-

8914 Chesapeake Ave (UNION CHURCH), North Beach

CALVERT COUNTY

SHERRI MARSH, photographer

5/10/98

east elevation

1/1