

Capsule Summary
SM-530
Wesley Chapel
Leonardtown
Private

c. 1852

Wesley Chapel represents a building with a significant history of adaptive reuse. Located at 316 Washington Street in Leonardtown, Maryland, the chapel was built in c. 1852 to replace the first Methodist Episcopal Meeting House (SM-67). Ever since its initial construction, the two-story, brick chapel has been modified to fit the needs of subsequent owners. Originally one-story with only one room on the interior and a gable brick front that featured two bays (two doors below two windows) on the west elevation, the interior has now been subdivided into apartments and office space. Although altered, the building still retains much of its character defining architectural elements making it a significant building in Leonardtown's streetscape.

While constructed in 1852, the building was listed in 1875 as being "unsafe and dilapidated so that services can no longer be held there." Spared from demolition, the St. Mary's Reading Room and Debating Society purchased the building that same year. In 1895, the Debating Society sold the building to the Town Hall Company for use as a governmental facility. During this time it served as a silent movie theater and center for town meetings. Roland B. and Lillian Drury Duke eventually bought the building in 1936 and made several modifications. This included adding a second and attic story, modifying the gable roof, and constructing several shed dormers and cross gables.

SM-530, Wesley Chapel
St. Mary's County
Maryland Comprehensive State Historic Preservation Data

Historic Context

| | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| Geographic Organization: | Western Shore |
| Chronological/Developmental Period: | Agricultural/Industrial Transition, 1815-1870 |
| Historic Period Theme: | Architecture Social Religion |

Resource Type

| | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Category: | Building |
| Historic Environment: | Town |
| Historic Function and Use: | Church, Town Hall, Library, Residence |
| Known Design Source: | None |

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES
Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. SM-530

Magi No.

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Wesley Chapel

and/or common Town Hall, Col. Duke House

2. Location

street & number 316 Washington Street not for publication

city, town Leonardtown vicinity of congressional district 3

state Maryland county St. Mary's

3. Classification

| Category | Ownership | Status | Present Use | |
|---|--|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> district | <input type="checkbox"/> public | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> museum |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private | <input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied | <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence |
| <input type="checkbox"/> site | Public Acquisition | Accessible | <input type="checkbox"/> entertainment | <input type="checkbox"/> religious |
| <input type="checkbox"/> object | <input type="checkbox"/> in process | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted | <input type="checkbox"/> government | <input type="checkbox"/> scientific |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> being considered | <input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted | <input type="checkbox"/> industrial | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation |
| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable | <input type="checkbox"/> no | <input type="checkbox"/> military | <input type="checkbox"/> other: |

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

name Billy Parks Price

street & number PO Box 808 telephone no.: (301) 475-3661

city, town Leonardtown state and zip code Maryland 20650

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Saint Mary's County Courthouse liber EWA 685

street & number folio 116

city, town Leonardtown state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date federal state county local

pository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

| | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|---|--------------------|
| Condition | | Check one | Check one | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated | <input type="checkbox"/> unaltered | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> good | <input type="checkbox"/> ruins | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered | <input type="checkbox"/> moved | date of move _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair | <input type="checkbox"/> unexposed | | | |

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

Contributing Resource Count: 1

Wesley Chapel is located at 316 Washington Street in the municipality of Leonardtown, Maryland. Bordered by residences on the north and south sides, Washington Street on the west, and a steep slope to the east, this building is situated on a small town lot. The building is set back about 25 feet from Washington Street.

The Chapel is a two-and-a-half story, three-bay, brick building with a significantly altered gable roof. Since its initial construction in 1860, the building has undergone several alterations to its exterior and interior. The most profound of these changes occurred on the west elevation.

The west facade represents the most decorated elevation. Rubbed bricks arranged in an all stretcher bond were laid using thin, paste mortar joints. The elevation also exhibits three symmetrically placed bays. A pedimented Colonial Revival door surround highlights a central six-panel door. The surround also features a dentilated cornice, a plain frieze, and a pair of plain, engaged pilasters. One large-pane, six-over-six, double-hung sash with lintels and sills flank the door on each side. A modern, glass pane, bay window has been placed over the northernmost window. On the second floor, a smaller two-over-two window is flanked on either side by one three-over-three, double-hung sash window. Together, they mimic the first floor fenestration. A wide, plain frieze is interrupted by sawn brackets that support the cornice. A cross-gable with a set of paired six-over-six windows tops this elevation, but it springs from a hipped roof covered with pressed-metal shingles. Originally, this elevation consisted of only two bays. Two panelled doors on the first floor (now windows) and two, three-over-three windows on the second floor. This elevation also featured a gable front with the cornice outlined by low brackets, cornice returns, and a stone sign above the windows.

The bricks of the south elevation (as well as the east and north elevations) are laid in a five-to-one common brick bond and exhibit a more diverse range in color--from a light salmon to a brownish-black. The brickwork also features wider mortar joints. This elevation is comprised of four bays. On the first floor, four large-pane, six-over-six windows are symmetrically placed. A similar rhythm of openings occurs on the second floor except all of the windows are three-over-three sash. Notably, the mortar joints for the bricks between the first and second floor windows has been repointed with a more modern portland cement (as they are on the east and north elevations). The roof of this elevation is pierced by two shed dormers--one exhibits a set of paired six-over-six windows and the other features three six-over-six windows--and a cross gable with a set of paired six-over-six sash. Finally, a single interior chimney can be seen on this elevation.

The east elevation has been extensively altered. Two modern brick buttresses were constructed on this gable end to support a wooden fire escape that extends up to a third floor apartment. While featuring three, six-over-six, double-hung sash with lintels and sills on the first floor, one bay on the second floor and a bay on the half story above have become modern fire doors. Besides the new door, the second floor contains two, six-over-six, double-hung sash. One similar sash is on the half-story above.

8. Significance

| Period | Areas of Significance—Check and justify below | | | |
|---|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> community planning | <input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499 | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic | <input type="checkbox"/> conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> law | <input type="checkbox"/> science |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599 | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> economics | <input type="checkbox"/> literature | <input type="checkbox"/> sculpture |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> education | <input type="checkbox"/> military | <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> philosophy | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> theater |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1900– | <input type="checkbox"/> communications | <input type="checkbox"/> industry | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> invention | | <input type="checkbox"/> other (specify) |

| Specific dates | Builder/Architect |
|--|-------------------|
| check: Applicable Criteria: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D and/or | |
| Applicable Exception: <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 | |
| Level of Significance: <input type="checkbox"/> national <input type="checkbox"/> state <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> local | |

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Wesley Chapel represents a religious building that not only chronicles the restlessness of its Methodist Episcopal congregation but also has a significant association with a local family and a history of adaptive reuse. Located at 316 Washington Street in Leonardtown, Maryland, the Chapel was built in c. 1852 to replace an earlier Methodist Episcopal Meeting House (SM-67). Since its initial construction, this two-story, brick building, has been subsequently modified to fit the needs of several organizations and individuals. Originally one-story with only one room on the interior with two bays on its primary elevation, the interior has since been divided into several apartments and a central bay has been added to the west elevation.

The chapel, however, rapidly fell into disrepair. As early as 1875, the brick building was listed as being "unsafe and dilapidated so that services can no longer be held there." The congregation chose a site for a new church on the outskirts of town but spared the chapel from demolition. The trustees of the church sold the building to the St. Mary's Reading Room and Debating Society in 1875. In 1895, the Debating Society sold the building to the Town Hall Company for use as a governmental facility. A 1928 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map notes, however, that the building was also used as a movie theater. Oral histories from local informants such as Charlie Fenwick, Betty Wise, and others note that the building also served as a show stage for one of Al Jolson's first performances. The building's role as a center for entertainment, however came to an end in the 1930s.

"Colonel" Roland B. and Lillian Drury Duke bought the building in 1936 and made several modifications in making the building their residence. This included adding a second and attic story, constructing several shed dormers and cross-gables, and finally adding a central bay on the west elevation and removing the other two doors once located on the first floor. The open interior was also subdivided into several rooms.

While considerably altered since the 1850s, Wesley Chapel represents yet another example of the continual reuse of public buildings in Leonardtown. The building is a testament to the tradition of reusing, rehabilitating, and retrofitting older buildings in Leonardtown to serve constantly changing needs. It is significant, therefore, for its architectural changes, association with the town government, local recreational and social activities, as well as a prominent local family.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. SM-530

A History of Methodist Churches in Saint Mary's County, Maryland. Leonardtown, MD: Printing Press, Inc., 1984.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name Leonardtown, MD

Quadrangle scale 1:24 000

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"/> |
|---|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|

| | | | |
|---|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| D | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> |
|---|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|

| | | | |
|---|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| E | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> |
|---|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|

| | | | |
|---|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| F | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> |
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| | | | |
|---|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| G | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> |
|---|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|

| | | | |
|---|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| H | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> |
|---|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|

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 Kirk E. Ranzetta, Historic Sites Surveyor

organization St. Mary's County Planning and Zoning

date October 1996

street & number 328 Washington Street

telephone (301) 475-4662

city or town Leonardtown

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

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
 DHCP/DHCD
 100 COMMUNITY PLACE
 CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023
 514-7600

SM-530, Wesley Chapel
St. Mary's County
7.1 Description

The north elevation consists of five bays on the first floor and four on the second. Like the south elevation, this facade consists of four six-over-six, double-hung sash windows--two of these windows exhibit modern awnings. A modern door has been added as well. The basement can also be entered by walking down concrete steps found below the first floor fenestration. The second floor consists of four bays--each exhibiting three-over-three sash. Like the south elevation, two shed dormers extend from the roof. Each contains sash arrangements similar to those found on the south facade.

The interior of the building has been extensively altered. While originally containing a large open space, the interior has been subdivided into several separate rooms for apartments and commercial space.

SM-530, Wesley Chapel
St. Mary's County
8.1 Significance

Chain of Title

(All deeds are located at the Land Records Office, St. Mary's Courthouse, Leonardtown, Maryland unless otherwise noted.)

Reference: Liber EWA 685, Folio 116

Grantee: Billy Parks Price

Grantor: Patrick J. O'brien et al

Date: June 5, 1992

Note: The purchase price is listed as \$78,000. In the description of the property, a reference to the site of a blacksmith's shop to the north of the Church is given.

Reference: Liber DBK 271, Folio 53

Grantee: Sandra J. O'brien et al

Grantor: Estate of F. Patrick O'brien

Date: April 19, 1977

Note: Sandra J. O'brien is also the personal representative of the estate.

Reference: Liber DBK 252, Folio 105

Grantee: F. Patrick O'brien

Grantor: Judith M. O'brien

Date: March 4, 1976

Reference: Liber DBK 208, Folio 134

Grantee: Judith M. O'brien

Grantor: F. Patrick O'brien

Date: March 29, 1974

Reference: Liber DBK 192, Folio 129

Grantee: Judith M. O'brien and F. Patrick O'brien

Grantor: Betty D. Lashley

Date: June 13, 1973

Reference: Liber DBK 192, Folio 126

Grantee: Judith M. O'brien and F. Patrick O'brien

Grantor: Roland B. Duke, et al

Date: May 7, 1973

Note: Roland B. Duke et al represent the heirs to Lillian Drury Duke's estate--wife of Roland B. Duke, Sr.

Reference: JMM 10, Folio 37

Grantee: Roland B. Duke

Grantor: St. Mary's Council Club, Incorporated

Date: September 18, 1936

Note: As a part of the agreement Roland B. Duke agrees to retire the balance of the mortgage owed to the County Trust Company of Maryland.

SM-530, Wesley Chapel
St. Mary's County
8.2 Significance

Reference: Liber JMM 10, Folio 191
Grantee: Roland B. Duke
Grantor: William G. Fenwick (unmarried)
Date: April 9, 1937
Note: This deed is listed as a "straw conveyance."

Reference: JMM 8, Folio 497
Grantee: St. Mary's Council Club, Incorporated
Grantor: Town Hall Company
Date: May 24, 1934
Note: Joseph M. Mattingly is listed as President of the Town Hall Company.

Reference: JJG 2, Folio 465
Grantee: Town Hall Company
Grantor: St. Mary's Reading Room and Debating Society
Date: March 5, 1895
Note: B. Harris Camalier is listed as President and Francis R. Greenwell as Recording Secretary for the Town Hall Company. The property is described as being located between the properties of William A. Loker and J. Parran Grano.

Reference: JFF 1, Folio 391 and 393
Grantee: St. Mary's Reading Room and Debating Society
Grantor: Stephen Foxwell, Benjamin Foxwell, Amos M. Graves, Asa A. Lawrence and J. Sommer field Joy--trustees for the Methodist Episcopal Church
Date: April 16, 1875
Note: Jesse C. Start is the reverend of the Church is listed as a witness to the deed. The trustees determine that the church is "unsafe and dilapidated so that services can no longer be held there." The trustees do relate that they will be moving their congregation elsewhere.

Reference: WTM 1, Folio 390
Grantee: Robert A. Milburn, Francis A. Harding, William J. Yates, James C. Milburn, and Henry Jones--trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church
Grantor: Ann A. Carpenter
Date: October 13, 1847
Note: Here the property is described as starting "at the corner near the blacksmith's shop and East of the main street or Road that leads from the public landing on Breton's Bay through Leonardtown." The deed also describes how the deed will be held by the church and the process by which the church can transfer the property should it deem necessary in the future.

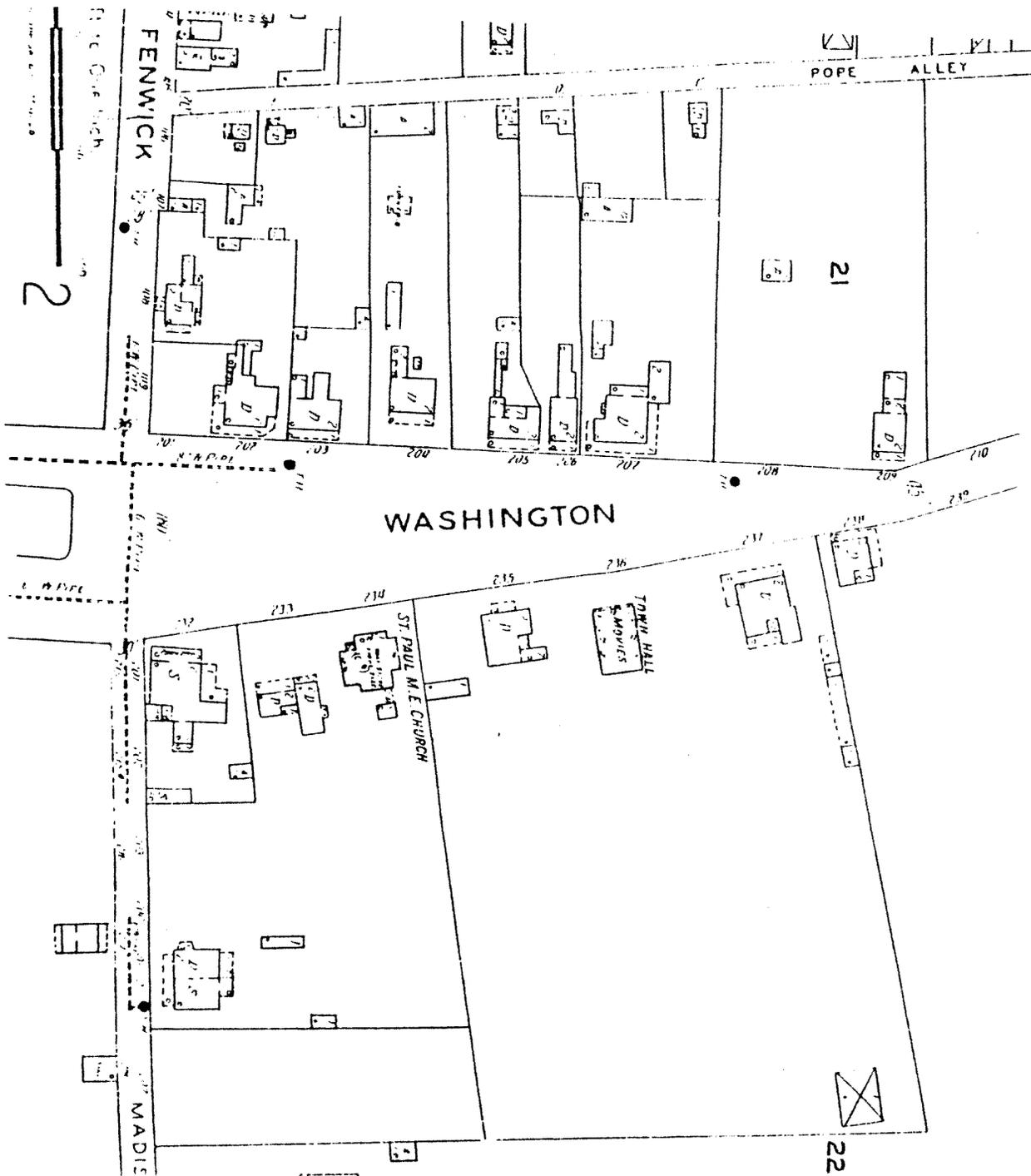
Reference: ?
Grantee: Ann A. Carpenter
Grantor: Richard Forrest, Joseph Forrest, Nicholas Turck and Elizabeth A. Turck his wife
Date: December 18, 1844
Note: This deed is referenced in the previous deed, but does not provide a book or page number. It describes the transfer as "[recorded among land records and made valid by an Act of the Legislature of Maryland, passed at December session, 1844, Chapter 181]."

SM-530, Wesley Chapel
St. Mary's County
8.3 Significance

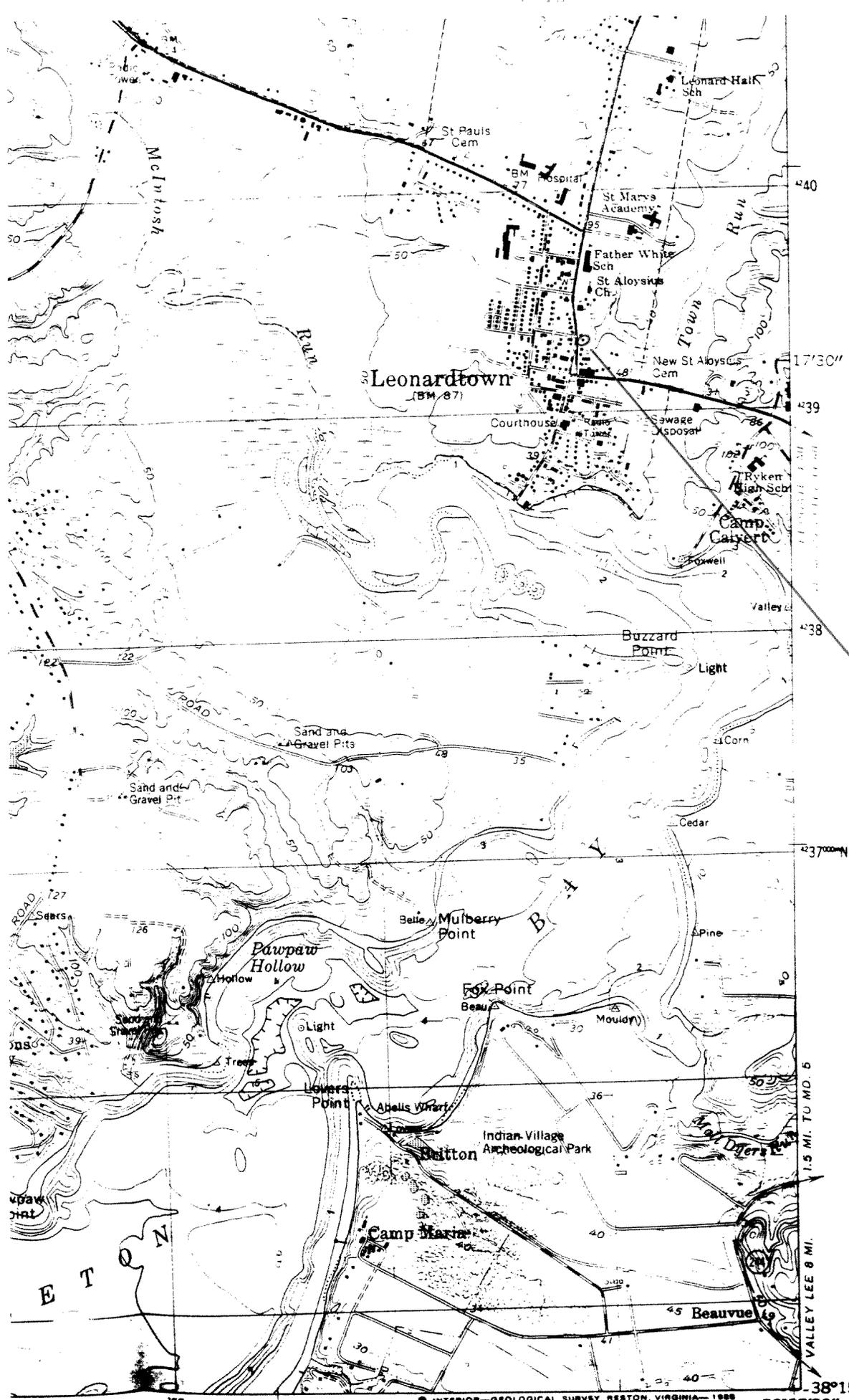


Photograph taken of Wesley Chapel before alterations were made during the Duke ownership in the 1930s. From "150th Anniversary, St. Paul's United Methodist Church, Leonardtown, Maryland: 1828-1978." Booklet published by St. Paul's United Methodist Church, 1978, Revised 1983.

SM-530, Wesley Chapel
St. Mary's County
8.4 Significance



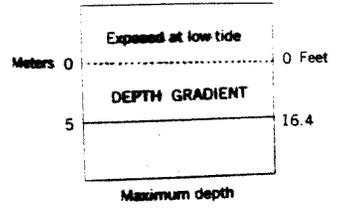
1928 Sanborn Fire Insurance Company map of Leonardtown showing Wesley Chapel as the movie theater.



| Feet | Meters |
|------|--------|
| 1 | 3048 |
| 2 | 5096 |
| 3 | 9144 |
| 4 | 12192 |
| 5 | 15240 |
| 6 | 18288 |
| 7 | 21336 |
| 8 | 24384 |
| 9 | 27432 |
| 10 | 30480 |

To convert feet to meters multiply by 3.048
 To convert meters to feet multiply by 3.2808

SM-530



LEONARDTOWN, MD.
 SW/4 LEONARDTOWN 15' QUADRANGLE
 38076-C6-TB-024

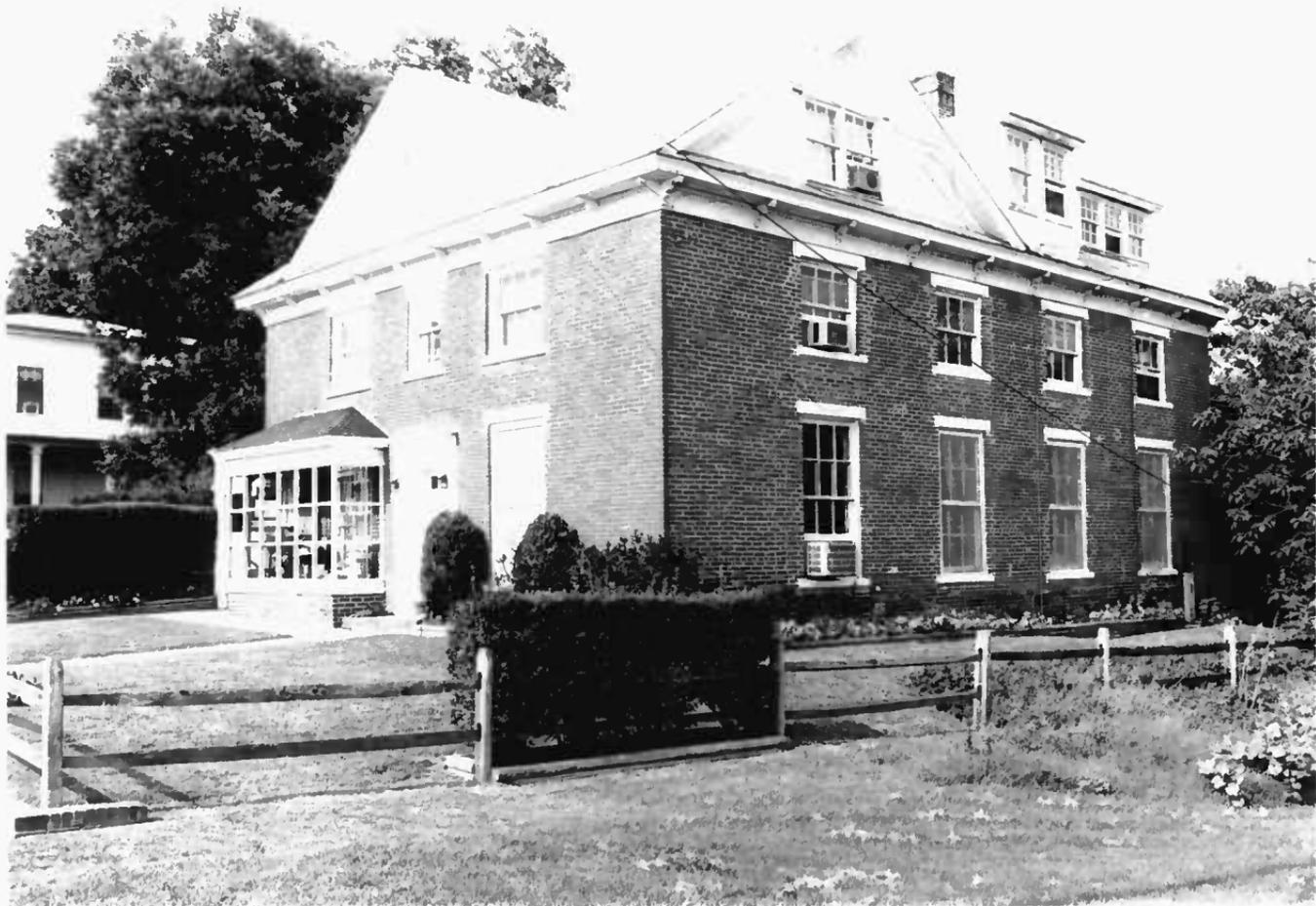
1963
 BATHYMETRY ADDED 1982
 PHOTOREVISED 1984
 DMA 5660 I SW - SERIES V833

INTERIOR—GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA—1988

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy-duty Light-duty

(PIN-Y POINT
 6660 8 1/2)



M-530

Method of Episcopal Church

St. Mary's Church, MS

K. P. 1036

2-1-03

2-1-03

1/3

24 1/2 minutes





