Capsule Summary
SM-585
Hollywood Methodist Church
Hollywood
Public 1946

On November 14, 1868, the first Joy Chapel located near Hollywood, Maryland was dedicated. On that date Miley Jones and James Joy, co-founders of the chapel, made religious worship for local Methodists a tangible reality. As part of the Leonardtown Circuit, Joy Chapel represented just one of four other stops for Methodist ministers in St. Mary's County in the mid-nineteenth century. The modest, frame, one story building featured a gable front entrance and a center transept plan. This first chapel, however, fell into disrepair and a second chapel was erected in 1895. In 1931, however, this second chapel was destroyed by fire with only the pulpit, pews, and hymn books saved. The third Joy Chapel was constructed in 1933 on the present site of the educational building just northeast of Mervell Dean Road. With the burgeoning of the county's population by the late-1940's, however, this third church was deemed inadequate and on December 29, 1946 a corner stone for a new cinder block and brick church was laid with the new congregation's minister Reverend Warren Firth presiding. With the construction of the new church, the "Joy Chapel" name was dropped in favor of the "Hollywood Methodist Church" and the status was changed from a circuit site to a full station church.

As a significant example of the Romanesque-style, designed by Fred Dominic and built by Mervell Dean, the church codified a more permanent and enduring vision of Methodist worship in the Hollywood area for the second half of the twentieth century. The church features quoined window and door openings and an interior dominated by large exposed roof trusses, elaborately decorated stained glass windows an a paneled communion rail made by local carpenter

Paul Joy. The church is also important for its association with nationally renowned radio personality Fulton Lewis, Jr. who featured the church's choir on his Christmas show in 1947.

SM-585, Hollywood Methodist Church
St. Mary's County
Maryland Comprehensive State Historic Preservation Data

Historic Context

Geographic Organization:	Western Shore
Chronological/Developmental Period:	Break with the Past, 1930-present
Historic Period Theme:	Architecture Religion

Resource Type

Category:	Building
Historic Environment:	Town
Historic Function and Use:	Church
Known Design Source:	Frederick Dominic, architect Mervell Dean, contractor

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. SM-585

Magi No.

DOE __yes __no

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common Hollywood Methodist Church

2. Location

street & number 24422 Mervell Dean Road ___ not for publication

city, town Hollywood _x_ vicinity of congressional district 6

state Maryland county St. Mary's TM-26, P-371

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
___ district	_x_ public	_x_ occupied	___ agriculture	___ museum
_x_ building(s)	___ 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
	_x_ not applicable	___ no	___ military	___ other:

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

name Hollywood Methodist Church

street & number 24422 Mervell Dean Road telephone no.: 301-373-2500

city, town Hollywood state and zip code 20636

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. St. Mary's County Courthouse liber 23

street & number folio 499

city, town Leonardtown state Md

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ___ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. SM-585

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.

Contributing Resource Count: 3

The Hollywood Methodist Church is located on the east side of Mervell Dean Road about 0.2 miles north of the intersection of Beck and Mervell Dean Roads. The church and its attached Sunday school are oriented on an east/west axis and situated on a northeast sloping parcel. The property is bounded to the east by a lumber yard, to the south by a fraternal organization, to the north by a warehouse, and to the west by the road. A parking access road wraps around the church and school on the east and south sides. A children's playground is also located on the south side.

Constructed in 1946, the Hollywood Methodist Church is an excellent example of a mid-twentieth century church with Romanesque and Rural English stylistic elements. The church was constructed of machine made brick laid in a twelve-to-one common bond. The gable roof is covered with patterned asphalt shingles. The interior is arranged in a cruciform or cross-axial plan. The attached two-story Sunday School, erected in 1961, is a brick and cinder block building erected with an L-shape plan and a flat roof. The west and north sides of the building were erected using machine made brick laid in a five-to-one common bond while the other two elevations were constructed using cinder block. The building is built into an embankment so that only one floor is visible on the west and north elevations and two floors are visible on the east and south elevations.

The west or primary elevation of the church features a gable front vestibule that lies directly in front of the church's main section. The vestibule is pierced by a pair of panelled doors. The entry is recessed with a panelled reveal and highlighted by a banded or quoined architrave of concrete. The vestibule wall extends beyond the surface of the roof to form a false parapet that is topped with concrete capstones. The main section features a similar false parapet with concrete capstones. The Sunday School is attached to the church on the south elevation. A modern metal and glass door permits entry into a glass-enclosed vestibule that attaches the two buildings together. The east elevation of the Sunday School is pierced by five, four light "hopper" windows. The projecting L-shape section of the school does not feature any openings but exhibits a metal cross and the words "Hollywood Methodist Church."

The church's south elevation consists of the side of the vestibule and main body. The vestibule is pierced by a single, plate glass window that features a banded or quoined architrave (all the other windows exhibit a banded architrave as well). The main section is pierced by four pairs of fixed, stained-glass windows. A door leading from the sanctuary to the sunday school also pierces this elevation. The south elevation of the school features two floors. The bottom floor is pierced by three sets of two, four light metal "hopper" windows and three doors. Eight, four light "hopper" windows are located on the top floor.

The east elevation of the church features a cement foundation that projects several inches from the wall surface. It is also pierced by a large circular, stained-glass window located near the eave line. A brick patch indicates that the circular window replaced an earlier rectangular window. This patch is flanked on either side by a two light fixed pane window. A low shed roof dormer projects from the roof surface. This shed dormer is surmounted by another shed roof dormer that

8. Significance

Survey No. SM-585

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

Specific dates 1946–1947 **Builder/Architect** Fred Dominic, architect, Mervell Dean, contractor

check: Applicable Criteria: _x_ A ___ B _x_ C ___ D
and/or
Applicable Exception: ___ A ___ B ___ C ___ D ___ E ___ F ___ G

Level of Significance: ___ national _x_ state _x_ local

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

On November 14, 1868, the first Joy Chapel located near Hollywood, Maryland was dedicated. On that date Miley Jones and James Joy, co-founders of the chapel, made religious worship for local Methodists a tangible reality. As a part of the Leonardtown Circuit, Joy Chapel represented just one of four other stops for Methodist ministers in St. Mary's County in the mid-nineteenth century. This first chapel, however, fell into disrepair and a second chapel was erected in 1895. The modest, frame, one story building featured a gable front entrance and a center transept plan. In 1931, however this second chapel was destroyed by fire with only the pulpit, pews, and hymn books saved. The third Joy Chapel was constructed in 1933 on the present site of the Educational building on property donated to the church by Mervell Dean. With the burgeoning of the county's population by the late 1940s, however, this third church was deemed inadequate and on December 29, 1946 a corner stone for a new brick church was laid with the new congregation's minister Reverend Warren Firth presiding. With the construction of the new church, the "Joy Chapel" name was dropped in favor of the "Hollywood Methodist Church" and the status was changed from a circuit site to a full station church. As a significant example of the ecclesiastical Romanesque-style, the church codified a more permanent and enduring vision of Methodist worship in the Hollywood area for the second half of the twentieth century. The church is also important for its association with nationally renowned radio personality Fulton Lewis, Jr. who featured the church's choir on his Christmas show in 1947.

Designed by architect Fred Dominic and constructed by Mervell Dean, the new church was constructed of cinder blocks with a veneer of brick laid in a common bond. Designed to appear like an English country church, the building featured quioned window and door surrounds, heavy exposed roof framing in the interior, and other Romanesque details. The design for the windows was very similar to that of the Rylan United Methodist Church located at Branch and Pennsylvania Avenues in southeast Washington, D. C. The interior carpentry work was done by Paul Joy and much of the concrete work for the building, but more specifically for the windows, was done by Sherman Joy and Mr. Stroud. Sherman Joy made several concrete casts for the window surrounds while Mr. Stroud finished and smoothed the concrete.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. SM-585

Hollywood United Methodist Church Historical Album. Located in the Library of the Hollywood United Methodist Church.
Noah Callis. Personal Interview, June 10, 1997.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 1.3 acres

Quadrangle name Hollywood, Md **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

Same as per deed description.

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 Dept. of Planning and Zoning **date** 5-19-97

street & number 22740 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

PS-2746

features a louvered vent. The first floor of the school's west elevation is pierced by three small, four light hopper windows, two sets of paired, four light hopper windows, and a single door. The top floor is pierced by six, four light hopper windows and two, two-over-two, double-hung sash windows.

The north elevation of the church's main body is pierced by four, paired, stained-glass windows. Each of the windows feature banded architraves. Another smaller, plain window lights the church's vestibule. The school's north elevation is pierced by four, four-light hopper windows.

The church's interior is organized along a cruciform plan. Entered via a pair of swinging doors and the vestibule, the main sanctuary consists of a long central aisle with panelled-end pews on either side. Side aisles are also present. The center aisle terminates at a raised dias and panelled communion rail. The dias is flanked on the north and south by three rows of pews. The dias, itself, consists of pulpit and lectern, two sets of two facing pews for the choir, and an altar. The roof trusses are exposed to reveal a principal rafter roof. The trusses consist of heavy timbers with two struts that connect the tie beam to the principal rafters. Several purlins lie directly on top of the trusses and also form the ridge beam. Below the sanctuary are a series of meeting rooms and class rooms. The school building was not investigated, but contains several of the church offices, class rooms, and meeting rooms.

On the west side of the property located, about twenty feet from the church and the school, is a brick bell tower that is divided into several units. The square shaped tower features four doorways with semicircular arches--one doorway on each side--on the bottom section. These doorways create an open space under the tower. The second section features a metal cross. Above the cross is a louvered vent--vents are located on the other sides of the tower as well. The next section features a steeple topped by another cross. The bell tower contains the original bell from the second Joy Chapel.

SM-585, Hollywood Methodist Church
St. Mary's County
8.1 Significance

By 1961, the educational facilities located beneath the church building no longer proved adequate and a new educational building was erected on the site of the old church/parsonage which was demolished. But while, the congregation at the Hollywood Methodist Church was constantly looking towards the future by enlarging their facilities, they also were constantly aware of their historical origins for in 1966 the New Joy Chapel was erected on Joy Chapel Road to serve as a monument to God as well as to the spiritual journey of their forefathers. More specifically the church was dedicated to the memory of Mervell Dean's parents George Wilson and Effie L. Dean and in honor of Mr. Leola Dean's parents, Noah and Mabel Callis.

In 1983 the Galilee Church near Loveville, Maryland burned and the congregation merged with the Hollywood Methodist Church. Several architectural fragments from the c. 1900 African-American Church survive in the basement of the of the educational building. From the planks of the old pews, a new altar, a panelled backdrop, and a chair rail were built.

In 1987 a bell tower was constructed in the fore court of the church and educational building. Designed after a similar tower seen in Virginia, the structure houses a bell made in 1936 by the McShane Bell Foundry. An automated system was installed so that the bell could be rung at the push of a button.

SM-585, Hollywood Methodist Church
St. Mary's County
8.1 Significance

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

Parcel #1

Reference: Liber 23, Folio 499
Grantee: Hollywood Methodist Church trustees, Mervell M. Dean, H. Eck Jones, Paul Mosher, Noah W. Callis, Humphrey W. Smith
Grantor: Mervell Dean and Leola Dean
Date: October 1, 1949
Notes: According to this deed Mervell Dean transferred/donated this property to the trustees of the Hollywood Methodist Church. This was just one of three parcels that the trustees received for the church. Unfortunately, there is no bean clause.

Parcel #2

Reference: Liber 23, Folio 500
Grantee: Hollywood Methodist Church trustees, Mervell M. Dean, H. Eck Jones, Paul Mosher, Noah W. Callis, Humphrey W. Smith
Grantor: Eck Jones
Date: October 1,1949
Notes: This is the second of three parcels that the trustees received. Again, no bean clause was included in the deed.

Parcel #3

Reference: Liber JMM 8, Folio 146
Grantee: Trustees of the Leonardtown Circuit of the Methodist Episcopal Church (Inc) of St. Mary's County
Grantor: H. Eck Jones and Florence Jones
Date: October 29, 1932
Notes: This parcel includes 6/10 of an acre.

Reference: Liber EBA 19, Folio 166
Grantee: H. Eck Jones and Florence Jones, Van B. Seymour and Leo V. L. Seymour
Grantor: Ellen H. Seymour
Date: May 28, 1920
Notes: The deed notes that when William H. Seymour died, the property reverted to Ellen H. Seymour.

Reference: Liber EBA 16, Folio 306
Grantee: William H. Seymour
Grantor: Emma F. Dean executrix of William C. Dean et al
Date: May 27, 1917
Notes: William C. Dean died in 1915 (PHD 1, 475) leaving the parcel called "Abell's Suffle" to his heirs.

SM-585, Hollywood Methodist Church
St. Mary's County
8.2 Significance

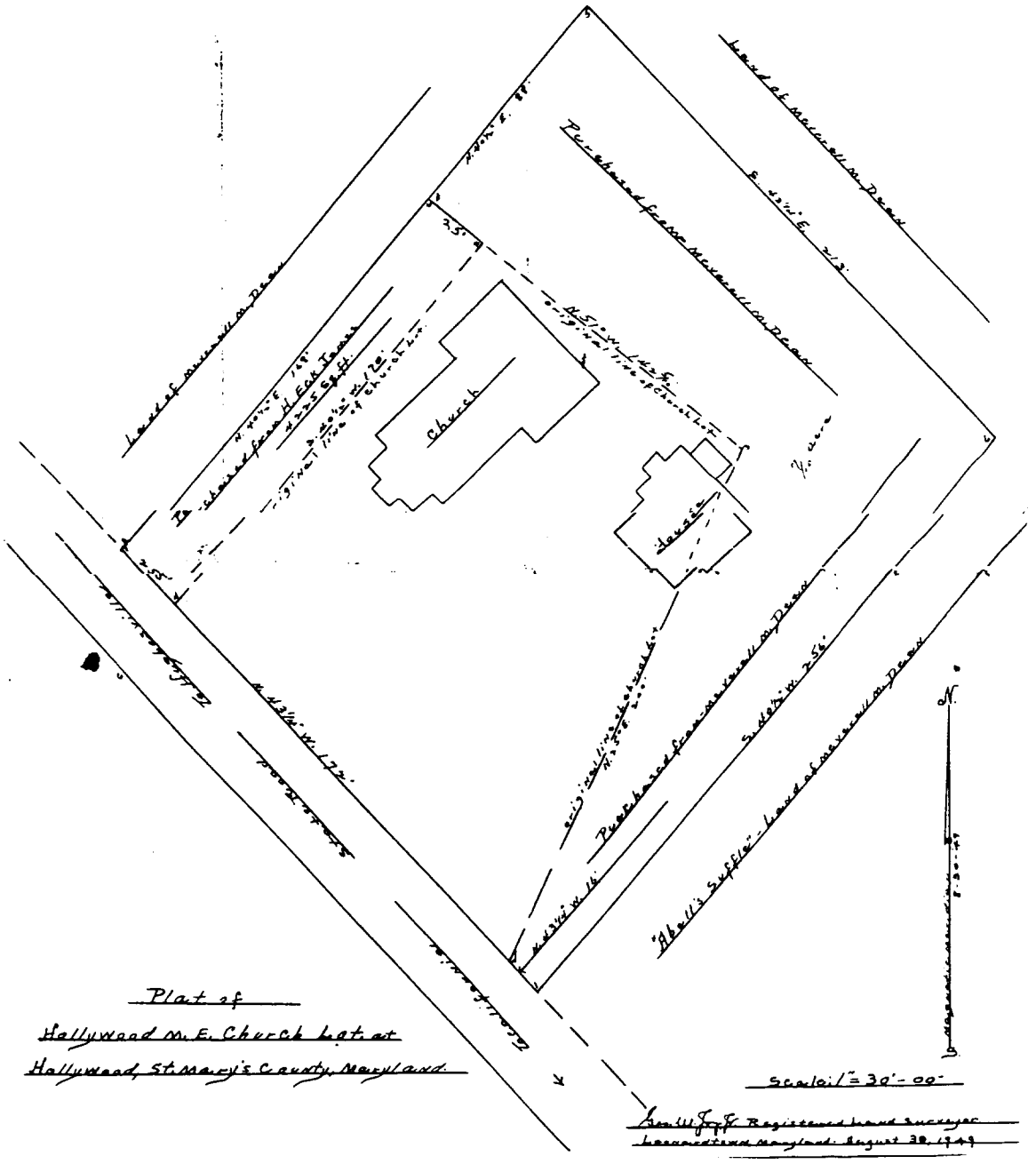
Reference: Liber EBA 9, Folio 475
Grantee: William C. Dean
Grantor: Dorcas E. and John P. Pilkerton
Date: January 7, 1911
Notes: "Abell's Suffle" is listed here as containing 68 acres.

Reference: Liber EBA 6, Folio 367
Grantee: Dorcas E. Pilkerton
Grantor: Annie E. and Samuel E. Jones
Date: June 1, 1907

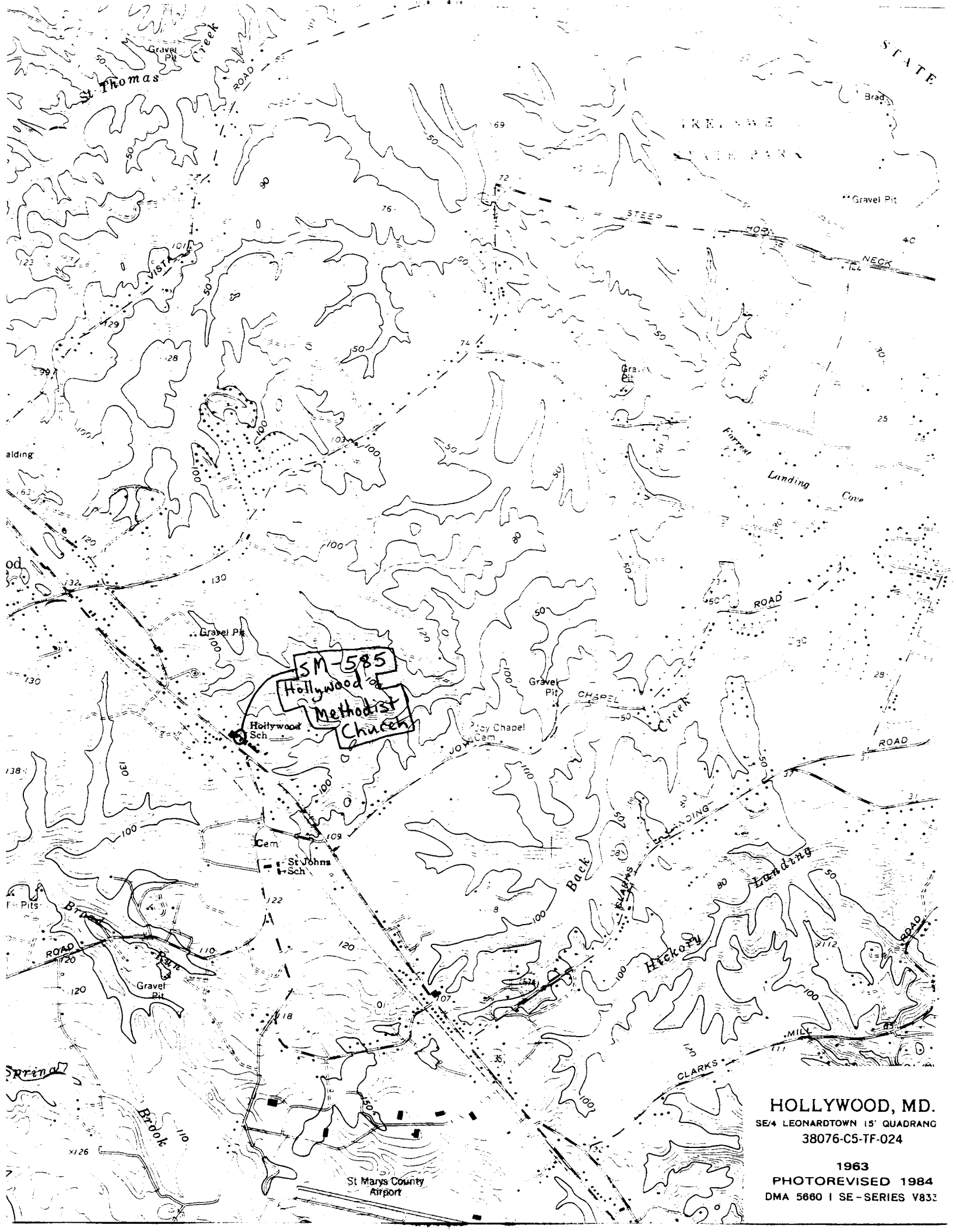
Reference: Liber EBA 2, Folio 202-203
Grantee: Annie E. Jones
Grantor: Asa L. and Joseph H. Ching
Date: August 27, 1901
Notes: Here the property is listed as containing 164 1/2 acres.

Reference: Liber EBA 2, Folio 201
Grantee: Ada L. Ching
Grantor: Jennie S. Maguire and V. Lee Maguire--trustees to Jennie S. Maguire
Date: June 14, 1901
Notes: The deed notes that Samuel E. Jones resides on the property. The property had been bequethed by Richard Colton to Fannie Colton who then transferred the property to F. Garrett Colton. Reference to an Orphans Court record dated November 23, 1875 is made.

SM-585, Hollywood Methodist Church
St. Mary's County
8.2 Significance



Plat of the Hollywood M. E. Church Lot made by George W. Joy, Jr. on August 30, 1949. The map shows the modern church as well as the c. 1933 church which was temporarily used as a parsonage. Copy of map courtesy of Noah Callis.



HOLLYWOOD, MD.
SE/4 LEONARDTOWN 15' QUADRANG
38076-C5-TF-024

1963
PHOTOREVISED 1984
DMA 5660 I SE-SERIES V833

HOLLYWOOD
METHODIST
CHURCH

SM-225
Wolfgang Methodist Church
St. Mary's County
Kirk Fanzetta
May 1997
Hd 2040
Wk 2 alterations
of 4

SM-595

Hollywood Methodist Church

St. Mary's County

Kirk Lancetta

May 1997

Md SHPO

E + S elevations

2 of 4

SM-525

Hollywood Methodist Church

St. Mary's County

Kirk Ravenite

May 1977

MD 5400

Interior - looking E

2 of 4

SM-535
Hollywood Methodist Church
St. Mary's County
Kirk Ranzetta
May 1997
Md SHPO
Interior - looking NW
4 of 4