

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM**

NR Eligible: yes \_\_\_  
no X

Property Name: Ebenezer Church Cemetery Inventory Number: SM-135  
 Address: Chancellor's Run Road City: Great Mills Zip Code: 20634  
 County: Saint Marys USGS Topographic Map: Solomon's Island  
 Owner: Ebenezer Church Cemetery Is the property being evaluated a district? \_\_\_ yes  
 Tax Parcel Number: 279 Tax Map Number: 43 Tax Account ID Number: 011842  
 Project: MD 237 from MD 235 to Pegg Road Agency: State Highway Administration  
 Site visit by MHT staff: X no \_\_\_ yes Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Is the property is located within a historic district \_\_\_ yes X no

*If the property is within a district* District Inventory Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
 NR-listed district \_\_\_ yes Eligible district \_\_\_ yes Name of District: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Preparer's Recommendation: Contributing resource \_\_\_ yes \_\_\_ no Non-contributing but eligible in another contex \_\_\_ yes

*If the property is not within a district (or the property is a district)* Preparer's Recommendation: Eligible \_\_\_ yes X no

Criteria: \_\_\_ A \_\_\_ B \_\_\_ C \_\_\_ D Considerations: \_\_\_ A \_\_\_ B \_\_\_ C \_\_\_ D \_\_\_ E \_\_\_ F \_\_\_ G \_\_\_ None

Documentation on the property/district is presented in

Description of Property and Eligibility Determination *(Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map and photo)*

The Ebenezer Church Cemetery is located on the east side of MD 237/Chancellor's Run Road, north of Military Lane. The land is characteristically flat with large hardwood trees shading the drive. The location of the church is memorialized by the steps that formerly lead into the building. The markers are irregularly spaced in relation to each other as well as unevenly dispersed throughout the lot. The funerary art is modest with common stylistic elements consisting of lambs for babies, a few obelisks, but mainly tablet headstones and flushed markers.

Historically the land currently occupied by the Ebenezer Cemetery was originally part of a larger tract, Matthew's Folly, which was originally surveyed in 1790. By 1820, the land was in possession of Joshua Cullumber who donated a one-acre tract, called Ebenezzer, for the Methodist Episcopal Church. Local tradition considered Ebenezer Church to be the earliest Methodist Church in St. Mary's County. While the records are inconclusive, as to whether it predates the northern counterparts, Mt. Zion and Bethel Methodist Church, it is the earliest Methodist Church in the southern part of St. Mary's County.

The earliest surviving grave marker dates to 1847 and is located on what is the west side of the former church. With the nearby construction of the Patuxent Naval Air Station in 1941, another Methodist Church, Cedar Point, was torn down and approximately 100 burials from the Cedar Point cemetery were moved to land adjoining the east edge of the Ebenezer

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW**

Eligibility recommended \_\_\_ Eligibility not recommended X  
 Criteria: \_\_\_ A \_\_\_ B \_\_\_ C \_\_\_ D Considerations: \_\_\_ A \_\_\_ B \_\_\_ C \_\_\_ D \_\_\_ E \_\_\_ F \_\_\_ G \_\_\_ None

MHT Comments

Jim Tomlinson ✓  
 Reviewer, Office of Preservation Service

10/6/03  
 Date

[Signature]  
 Reviewer, NR Program

10/14/03  
 Date

NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM

Ebenezer Church Cemetery

Page 2

SM-135

Church.

In January 1946, Ebenezer held its last regular service, although it was used periodically for special events. In December 1963, the church had deteriorated to the extent it was a fire hazard and was burned by the Lexington Park Volunteer Fire Department. The cemetery is still used and contains many burials from the 1950s through the 1970s. There are some markers as recent as 2001.

It is SHA's determination that the Ebenezer Church Cemetery does not meet the requirements of Criteria Consideration (d) for cemeteries. Without the Church building, it lacks sufficient integrity to convey an association with the founding of the Methodist Church in St. Mary's County. It is not associated with persons of transcendent importance in history. The burial of Ms. Nellie Quirk, the first woman photo engraver is noteworthy. However, it is probable that there are examples of her engraving which would better exemplify her contributions to women's history. Furthermore, the funerary art is typical of its time period, and the few examples of artistic or unusual markers are greatly outnumbered by the more standardized markers.

Archeological evaluation has not been conducted to determine whether the cemetery is eligible under Criterion D. Based on historical research, grave sites are likely to be present in the cemetery as early as 1820, when the Ebenezer M.E. Church was founded. This church is considered the mother church of the St. Mary's Circuit. The church was integrated up through and following the Civil War.

Early written cemetery records are absent. Remote sensing was conducted on the portion of the Ebenezer Cemetery adjacent to MD 237 to determine the likelihood of unmarked graves in and adjacent to the existing right of way. This study concluded that about 100 unmarked graves are likely to be present within 20 feet of the roadway, some as close as 16 inches from the paved surface.

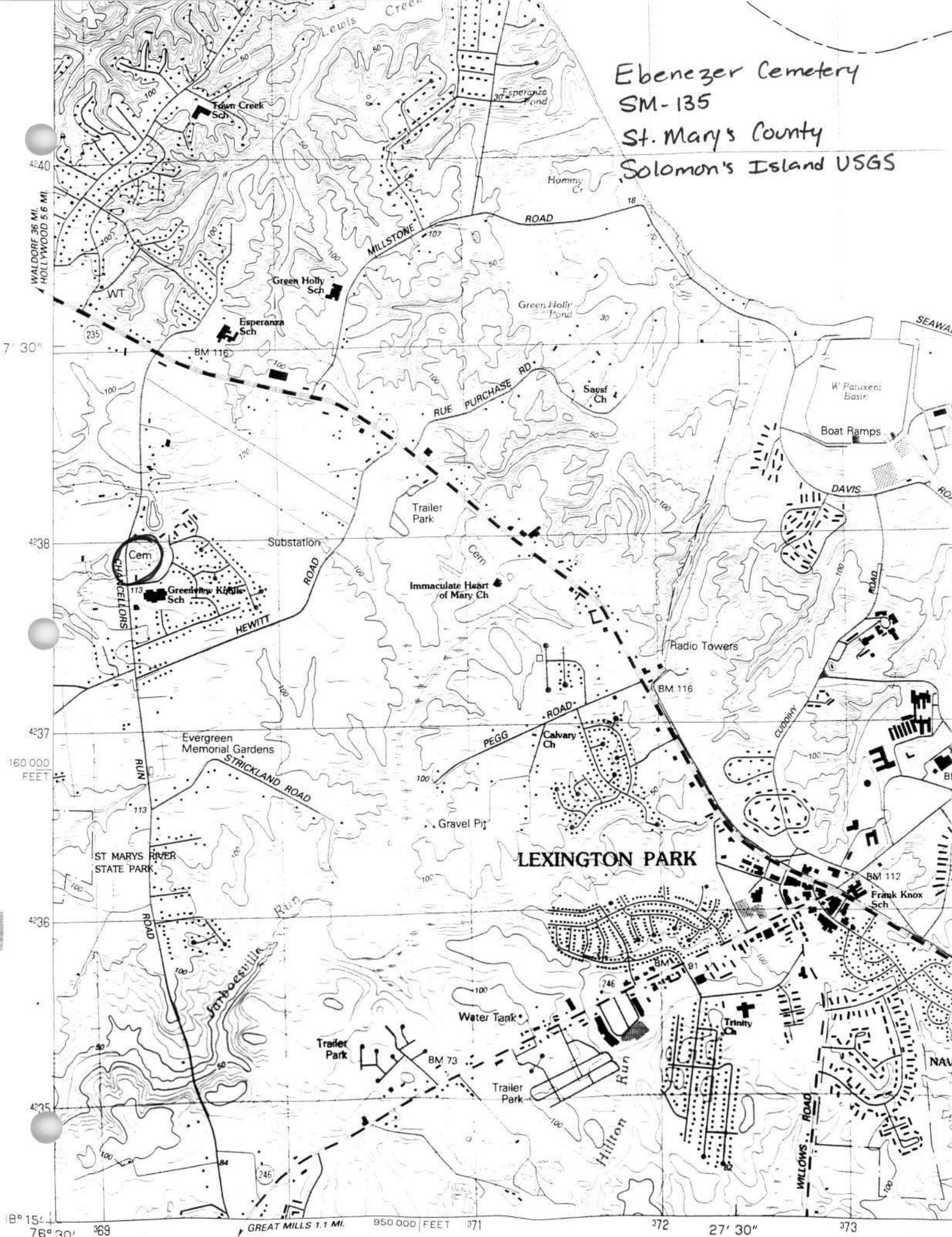
The SHA redesigned plans for the widening of MD 237 to avoid the cemetery completely, including possible unmarked graves within existing right-of-way. No improvements will extend beyond the existing pavement at the cemetery location. Widening will occur to the opposite side of the road. Due to the lack of proposed impacts, the results of the remote sensing have not been ground-truthed. Consequently, although the cemetery is considered potentially significant its eligibility under Criterion D for its information potential has not yet been determined.

Possible research issues under Criterion D would revolve around the differences in burial practices through time and/or based on the age and sex of specific individuals, and differences resulting from the multi-ethnic population, both before and after the Civil War.

Prepared by: Becky Kermes

Date Prepared: 2/20/2003

Ebenezer Cemetery  
SM-135  
St. Mary's County  
Solomon's Island USGS









IRIS HOPE  
SULLIVAN  
OCT. 29, 1939  
MAY 30, 1967

KENNETH J.  
SULLIVAN

IWONA M.  
HEATH BALFOUR  
1914 - 1982

GROSS

SM-135

Ebenezer Church a. Cemetery

St. Mary's County

B. Kermes, photographer

2003

Negatives @ MD SHPO

View of the "edge" of the cemetery looking west onto MD 237. Note recent dates on headstones

2 of 7

TechLab <No. 5 > 029 BN  
7049 25 N N N N N-23 AC+02 AS+03 SA100 GR00 207/9/100



TRINITY CEMETERY

Trinity Episcopal Church  
Trinity Cemetery  
Trinity Episcopal Church  
Trinity Cemetery

SM-135

Ebenezer Church & Cemetery

St. Mary's County

B. Kermes

2003

Negatives @ MD SHPO

View of cemetery, looking north, ~~northwest~~  
MD 237 in the background.

3 of 7

Techn Lab <NO. B 3-027 BN  
7045 25 N N N N+1-15 AC+02 AS+03 SH 01 1008 2002/01/08







SM-135

Ebenezer Church & Cemetery

St. Mary's County

B. Kermes

2003

Negatives @ MD SHPO

Located in the southwest corner of the  
cemetery, examples of older markers.

5 of 7

Technical  
7649 20 0 N N N N-1-03 AC+02 AS+03 SA11 11 610 0 2022/1/100



SM-135

Ebenezer Church & Cemetery

St. Mary's County

B. Kermes

2003

Negatives @ MD SHPO

Example of funerary art.

6 of 7

Technical <NO. 12 > 023 BN  
7049 10 N N N-1-20 AC+02 AS+03 SA111 GR08 2029/100

GEORGE R. QUIRK



NELLIE E. QUIRK

APRIL 23, 1877

OCTOBER 12, 1959

FIRST WOMAN PHOTO ENGRAVER IN THE U.S.A.

DAWSON QUIRK

MAY 10, 1886

MARCH 18, 1961

GEORGE RUSSELL QUIRK

OCTOBER 12, 1881

APRIL 6, 1962

BUSINESS MAN AND FARMER

SM-135

Ebenezer Church & Cemetery

St. Mary's County

B. Kermes

2003

Negatives @ MD SHPO

Only one mausoleum was present in the cemetery.  
This is the Quirk family.

7 of 7

TECH APP NO. 10 2025 BH  
704325 N N N-2 01 AC+02 AS+03 SA101

Ebenezer Church site

5m-135

mag# 1901357908

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

NOMINATION FORM for the NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: Ebenezer Church site and cemetery
AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: Chancellor's Run Road
CITY OR TOWN: California
STATE: Maryland COUNTY: St. Mary's

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One): Site
OWNERSHIP: Private
STATUS: Unoccupied
ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC: No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate): Religious

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
STREET AND NUMBER:
CITY OR TOWN: STATE:

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: St. Mary's County Courthouse
STREET AND NUMBER: Washington Street and Courthouse Drive
CITY OR TOWN: Leonardtown STATE: Maryland

Title Reference of Current Deed (Book & Pg. #):

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
DATE OF SURVEY:
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
STREET AND NUMBER:
CITY OR TOWN: STATE:

## 7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

See vertical file

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**B. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi-	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	osophy	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human-	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	itarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> Music	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

## 9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

## 10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

SOLOMON ISLAND QUAD

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

Acreage Justification:

## 11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:

ORGANIZATION

DATE

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE

## 12. State Liaison Officer Review: (Office Use Only)

Significance of this property is:

National  State  Local 

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



SM - 135

Ebenezer Church site + cemetery

St. Mary's County, Md

Kirk Ranetta

Md SHPO

Feb/00

Looking E

1 of 1