

D-586
Wesley-Union M. E. Church
Salem vicinity
c. 1910
Private

The Wesley-Union M. E. Church is a sole surviving historic structure to define the rural crossroads intersection of Drawbridge and Ravenwood roads where an African-American community developed during the period between 1865 and the first quarter of the nineteenth century. The community had developed to the extent that it supported two African-American Methodist congregations; Wesley Methodist and Union Methodist. The Union Methodist Church congregation erected this church at this location where a black school had been sited since the 1870s. The extant church is a gable roofed structure built with the widely popular pointed arch windows that signaled the congregation's approval and interest in the nationally popular Gothic Revival style employed universally by Methodism during the period after the Civil War. This church has a marble datestone inscribed, Wesley Union M. E. Church, May 12, 1935, which documents the date of the merger.

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. D-586

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Wesley Union M. E. Church

other

2. Location

street and number Drawbridge Road not for publication

city, town Salem vicinity

county Dorchester

3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owner)

name Trustees of Wesley Mission Church

street and number RFD telephone

city, town Cambridge state MD zip code 21601

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Dorchester County Clerk of Court liber folio

city, town Cambridge tax map tax parcel tax ID number

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- Contributing Resource in National Register District
 Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
 Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
 Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
 Recorded by HABS/HAER
 Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
 Other:

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	Contributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<input type="checkbox"/> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input type="checkbox"/> domestic	<input type="checkbox"/> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> structures
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	<input type="checkbox"/> objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	
		<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	
		<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion	
		<input type="checkbox"/> social	
		<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	
		<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	
		<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	
		<input type="checkbox"/> other:	

Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory

7. Description

Inventory No. D-586

Condition

excellent deteriorated
 good ruins
 fair altered

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

DESCRIPTION SUMMARY

The Wesley Union M. E. Church stands on the west side of Drawbridge Road a short distance north of its intersection with Ravenwood Road southwest of the village of Salem in Dorchester County, Maryland. The single-story, early twentieth century frame church, supported on a concrete block foundation faces northeast with the gable roof oriented on a northeast/southwest axis. A marble datestone set in the replacement, concrete block foundation, documents the merger of two black congregations on May 12, 1935 under the name Wesley Union M. E. Church.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The Wesley Union M. E. Church is located in the south central section of the Salem Election District on the west side of Drawbridge Road, less than a ten of a mile north of its intersection with Ravenwood Road. Supported on a full modern concrete block foundation, which is a replacement of a rusticated block foundation that survives in small segments, the frame church is sheathed with aluminum siding over plain weatherboards. The gable-front church is covered by a steeply pitched roof of asphalt shingles.

The northeast (main) façade is a symmetrical elevation with a projecting gable roofed vestibule entry pierced by a pointed arch double door opening fitted with replacement doors. The door opening includes a pointed arch transom window of four-lights. The edge of the entry roof is extended and the soffit is enclosed. Each side of the vestibule entrance is marked by a pointed arch window opening fitted with two-over-two sash of pressed, daisy patterned glass. On each side of the vestibule are two-over-two pointed arch sash with the same pressed daisy-pattern glass. The marble datestone inscribed, Wesley Union M. E. Church, May 12, 1935, is fixed in the northeast corner of the concrete block foundation.

Each side of the rectangular shaped church is similar with three evenly spaced pointed arch window openings fitted with two-over-two pressed glass sash. Interior side brick stacks pierce the side slope of the roof. The southwest (rear) elevation is a largely covered by a gable roofed apse. The northwest side of the apse has a door opening fitted with an early twentieth century five-panel door, and it is flanked on its right side by a pointed arch window with a two-over-two sash. The southeast side of the apse is pierced by a single, pointed arch window opening.

The interior was not open for inspection.

8. Significance

Inventory No. D-586

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____

Specific dates

Architect/Builder

Construction dates

Evaluation for:

National Register

Maryland Register

not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY

The Wesley Union M. E. Church is a sole survivor of historic buildings that defined this rural intersection of the Drawbridge and Ravenwood roads. When the Lake, Griffing, and Stevenson atlas was published in 1877, the location is marked by a "Col'd School."¹ The memberships of two local congregations, Wesley Methodist and Union Methodist, merged during the early twentieth century. The rectangular, gable-roofed frame sanctuary is similar to many rural churches with its gable-front orientation and pointed arch windows signaling reference to the uniformly popular Gothic Revival style.

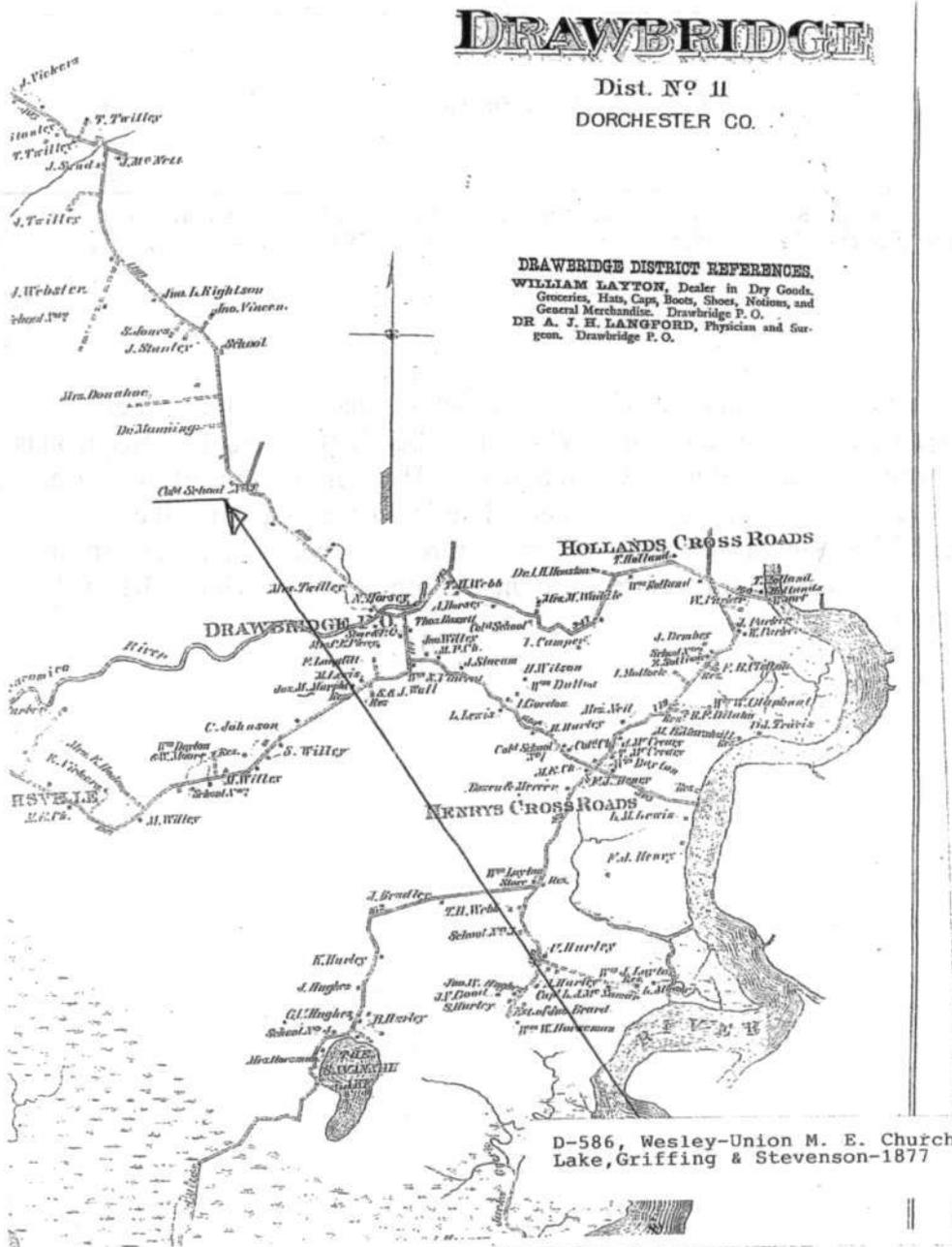
¹ John L. Graham, *The 1877 Atlas and Other Early Maps of the Eastern Shore of Maryland*, Wicomico Bicentennial Committee, 1976, p. 81.

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. D-586

Name Wesley-Union M. E. Church
Continuation Sheet

Number 9 Page 2



9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. D-586

Dorchester County Land Records, various volumes, Dorchester County Courthouse

Graham, John L., *The 1877 Atlases and other Early Maps of the Eastern Shore of Maryland*, Wicomico Bicentennial Committee, 1976.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 43,560 square feet
Acreage of historical setting Unknown
Quadrangle name Chicamacomico, Maryland Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The metes and bounds of this property are coincidental with the current boundary of the lot.

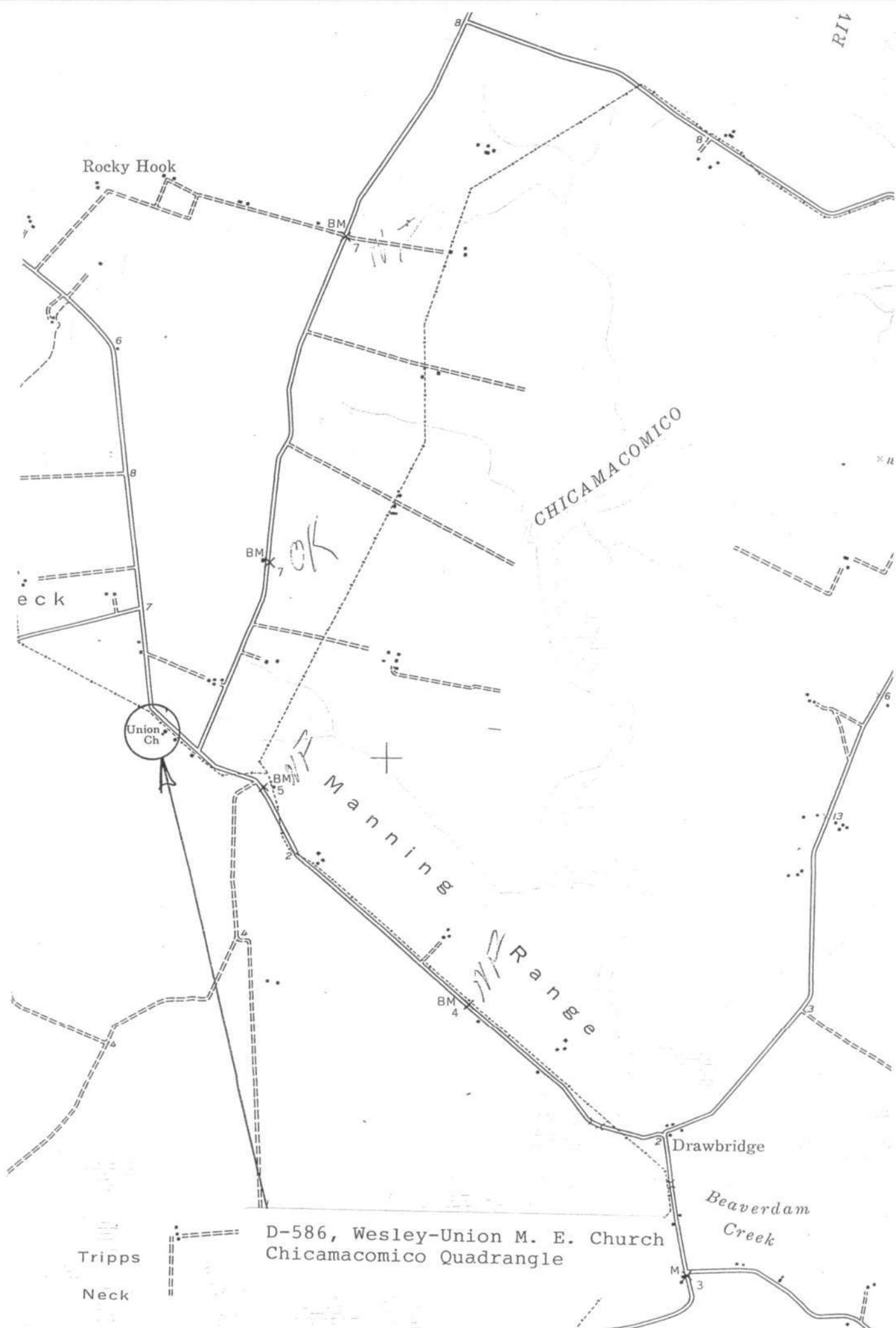
11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Paul B. Touart, Architectural Historian		
organization	Chesapeake Country Heritage & Preservation	date	3.17.2011
street & number	Cedar Hill, P. O. Box 5	telephone	410-651-1094
city or town	Westover	state	Maryland 21871

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties 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
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600



Rocky Hook

Union Ch

Manning

Range

Drawbridge

Beaverdam
Creek

D-586, Wesley-Union M. E. Church
Chicamacomico Quadrangle

Tripps
Neck

CHICAMACOMICO

RIV

OK

eck

13

+



D-586

WESLEY-UNION M. E. CHURCH
SALEM VIC., WORCHESTER CO., MS.
NORTHEAST ELEVATION

3. 2011, PAUL B. TOWERS, PHOTO.
N.H./M.D. HISTORICAL TRUST

1 of 2



D-586

WESLEY-UNION M. E. CHURCH
SALEM VIC. DORCHESTER CO., MD.

SOUTHWEST ELEVATION

3. 2011, PAUL B. TOWANT, PITON.

NEZ. / MD. HISTORICAL TRUST

2 of 2

Dorchester - 586
Wesley-Union ME Church
Trippe's Neck Rd.
Andrews, MD

1896, 1932

Access: Public

Wesley-Union ME Church is located on Trippe's Neck Rd. a short distance from that road's junction with Ravenwood Road. The church is 20' from the south side of the road and faces north. Wesley-Union ME Church is the combined congregations of two very small rural congregations. Wesley dated from 1878 and combined with Union after the turn of the present century.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC Wesley-Union ME Church
AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER Trippe's Neck Road (Draubridge Road) 3/15/20/93
CITY, TOWN Mission VICINITY OF Andrews CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT First
STATE Maryland COUNTY Dorchester

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input 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 type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Trustees, Wesley-Union ME Church
C/O Rev. R.L. Riddleburger Telephone #: 847-8242
STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN Crapo VICINITY OF STATE, zip code MD, 21626

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Dorchester Co. Court House
STREET & NUMBER

Liber #: CL 26
Folio #: 399

CITY, TOWN Cambridge STATE Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE N/A

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" 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
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		DATE 1898-1932

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Wesley-Union ME Church is located on Trippe's Neck Rd. a short distance from that road's junction with Ravenwood Rd. The church is 20' from the south side of the road and faces north. The building rests on cinder block piers. It is 32' across the front facade and 50' in depth. The building is gabled (North-South). There are 2 concrete steps at the entrance. The double wooden doors are 6-paneled and painted red. There is a triangular window above the double-doors (4 panes-clear-glass). There are 2 lancet windows in the front facade (on either side of the door) 4' clear-glass 2-over-2. There are three of these identical lancet windows in the east side of the building and again on the west side. There are no windows on the south side of the church. The building has a composite shingle roof and is built of weatherboard and covered with aluminium siding.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

D-586

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 type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" 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 checked="" 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 1896-1932

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Wesley-Union ME Church is the combined congregations of two very small rural congregations. Wesley dated from 1878 it combined with Union after the turn of the present century. The church is located in a very isolated region of Dorchester County and is attended by black agricultural workers and small farmers.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE _____ COUNTY _____

STATE _____ COUNTY _____

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

James W. Clark, Historic Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION Maryland Commission on Afro-American
History & Culture

DATE

STREET & NUMBER 20 Dean Street

TELEPHONE

269-2893

CITY OR TOWN Annapolis

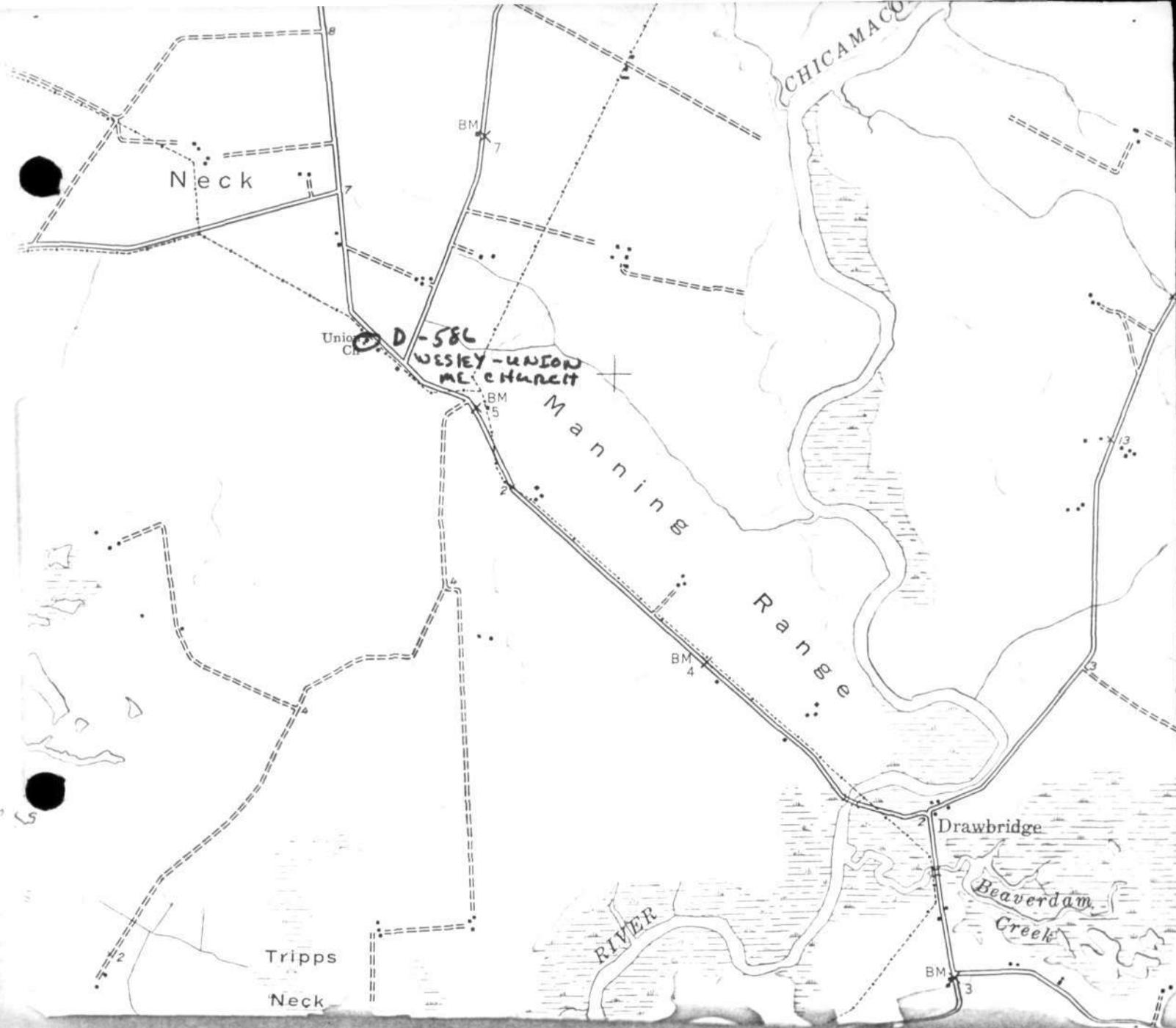
STATE

Maryland

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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
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438



D-586

CHICAMA COMECO



586

47%

Wesley-Union Methodist Episcopal Church
Mission, Dorchester County, MD P-586
Michael Hosford

Maryland Historical Trust, Annapolis
Northwest elevation
2/81



Wesley-Union Methodist Episcopal Church
Mission, Dorchester County, MD D-586
Michael Hosford

Maryland Historical Trust, Annapolis, MD
North elevation - detail
2/81