T-478 1882
St. Luke's Methodist Episcopal Church
Bellevue
Private

St. Luke's Methodist church is one of the most significant sites in Bellevue. Not only is it one of the oldest structures standing in the community, but is has survived relatively intact. Dated by the cornerstone to 1882, the church is similar to many black churches in Talbot County with its asymmetrical design and modest references to the Gothic Revival style. A pointed arch entrance, pointed arch colored glass windows, and the broach spire comprise the most significant exterior features.

Local oral tradition relates that the St. Lukes Methodist congregation was formed from two separate groups worshipping on Deep and Ferry Necks during the second half of the nineteenth century. A "Col'd M. E. Ch" is designated along the Ferry Neck Road on the 1877 atlas map of the St. Michaels district. Evidently, within a few years after the publication of the atlas the congregation decided to relocate in the new community of Bellevue. A formal deed was written between William S. Dawson and St. Luke's M. E. Church on April 4, 1903, for the Poplar Avenue property on which the church stood.(140/407)

Survey No. T-478

Magi No.

DOE ___yes ___no

Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic ST. LUKE'S METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHAPEL

and/or common St. Luke's Methodist Church

2. Location

street & number Poplar Avenue ___ not for publication

city, town Bellevue ___ vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Talbot

3. Classification

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

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

name Trustees of St. Luke's Methodist Church

street & number c/o Reverend Joseph A. Hurley telephone no.:

city, town Royal Oak state and zip code MD 21662

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Talbot County Clerk of Court liber 140

street & number Talbot County Courthouse folio 407

city, town Easton state MD 21601

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Maryland Historic Sites Inventory

date ___ federal x state ___ county ___ local

repository for survey records Maryland Historical Trust

city, town Annapolis state MD 21401

7. Description

Survey No. T-478

Condition		Check one	Check one
___ excellent	___ deteriorated	___ unaltered	x original site
x 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.

St. Luke's Methodist Church is located in the center of Bellevue, Talbot County, Maryland. The single-story frame church faces southeast with the principal gable roof oriented on a northwest/southeast axis.

Dated by a cornerstone to 1882, the single-story, gable-front frame church is supported by an infilled brick pier foundation, and the building is sheathed with a layer of German siding. The steeply pitched roof is covered with asphalt shingles. Attached to the southwest corner of the church is a three-story entrance and bell tower topped by a broach spire. Extending from the southwest side of the church is a congregational hall erected during the past twenty years.

The southeast (main) elevation is an asymmetrical three-bay facade with three pointed arch colored glass windows piercing the gable front elevation. A round colored glass window marks the upper gable. The eaves to the roof are slightly extended beyond the wall surface and the ends of the exposed rafters are decorated. Fixed in the southeast corner of the foundation is the cornerstone with the inscription, "St. Luke M. E. Chapel, 1882." The southeast face of the tower is marked by a double door pointed arch entrance with a colored glass transom. The front doors have been replaced. The second level is undefined, whereas the tower tapers just below the belfry. The belfry walls are enclosed with closely set louvers. Brackets, fixed under the tower eaves, support the flared base of the tower. The top of the steeple is fitted with a metal finial.

The northeast and southwest sides are marked by series of pointed arch colored glass windows. A patch in the roof on the southwest side indicates the former location of an interior side brick stove chimney. A handicapped access ramp has been added to the southside with access through the back of the tower.

Covering the northwest gable (back) end of the main church is a hip roofed apse addition supported on a concrete block foundation. Pointed arch colored glass windows define each side. The concrete block congregational hall extends from the southwest side of the apse.

The sanctuary has been remodeled with the addition of sheet paneling, but several features including the turned baluster altar rail and the period pews are significant nineteenth century features. The choir is located behind the altar on a slightly higher level.

8. Significance

Survey No. T-478

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	x architecture	___ education	___ military	___ social/ humanitarian
___ 1700–1799	___ art	___ engineering	___ music	___ theater
x 1800–1899	___ commerce	___ exploration/settlement	___ philosophy	___ transportation
___ 1900–	___ communications	___ industry	___ politics/government	___ other (specify)
		___ invention		

Specific dates 1882 **Builder/Architect**

check: Applicable Criteria: ___A ___B xC ___D
and/or
Applicable Exception: x A ___B ___C ___D ___E ___F ___G

Level of Significance: ___national ___state xlocal

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

St. Luke's Methodist church is one of the most significant sites in Bellevue. Not only is it one of the oldest structures standing in the community, but is has survived relatively intact. Dated by the cornerstone to 1882, the church is similar to many black churches in Talbot County with its asymmetrical design and modest references to the Gothic Revival style. A pointed arch entrance, pointed arch colored glass windows, and the broach spire comprise the most significant exterior features.

Local oral tradition relates that the St. Lukes Methodist congregation was formed from two separate groups worshipping on Deep and Ferry Necks during the second half of the nineteenth century. A "Col'd M. E. Ch" is designated along the Ferry Neck Road on the 1877 atlas map of the St. Michaels district. Evidently, within a few years after the publication of the atlas the congregation decided to relocate in the new community of Bellevue. A formal deed was written between William S. Dawson and St. Luke's M. E. Church on April 4, 1903 for the Poplar Avenue property on which the church stood.(140/407)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. T-478

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____ **Quadrangle scale** _____

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

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	Paul B. Touart, architectural historian		
organization	Private Consultant/Talbot County	**date**	5/22/90
street & number	P. O. Box 5	**telephone**	301-651-1094
city or town	Westover	**state**	Maryland 21871

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

PS-2746

T-478
ST. LUKE'S METHODIST CHURCH
Bellevue

140/407	William S. Dawson Lutie D. Dawson
	to
4/4/1903	St. Luke's M. E. Church situate, lying and being in the 2nd election district of Talbot Co., MD in the village or hamlet of Bellevue on Poplar Avenue bounded by the lands of William S. Dawson...together with the buildings...

Talbot - 478
St.Luke's U.M.Church
Front St.
Bellevue,MD

1879

St. Luke's U.M. Church stands 15' from the west side of Front St. in Bellevue overlooking the Tred Avon River. The Church faces east and can be described as a late Victorian structure. The church measures 36' across the front facade and is 52' in depth. The present St. Luke's U.M.Church was built in 1886. It is the only church in the community which is populated by black watermen and their families. Bellevue is the western terminal of the Oxford - Bellevue Ferry; the oldest Ferry route in Maryland.

HISTORIC CONTEXT INFORMATION

Resource Name: St. Luke's Methodist Church

MHT Inventory Number: T- 478

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA:

1) Historic Period Theme(s): Architecture
Religion

2) Geographic Orientation: Eastern Shore

3) Chronological/Developmental Period(s):
Industrial - Urban Dominance
1870 - 1930

4) Resource Type(s):
Church

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

T-478
MAGI# 2104784608

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC: St. Luke's United Methodist Church

AND/OR COMMON:

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER: Front Street

CITY, TOWN: Bellevue ___ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: First

STATE: Maryland

COUNTY: Talbot

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
__DISTRICT	__PUBLIC	X OCCUPIED	__AGRICULTURE	__MUSEUM
X BUILDING(S)	X PRIVATE	__UNOCCUPIED	__COMMERCIAL	__PARK
__STRUCTURE	__BOTH	__WORK IN PROGRESS	X EDUCATIONAL	__PRIVATE RESIDENCE
__SITE	**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**	**ACCESSIBLE**	__ENTERTAINMENT	X RELIGIOUS
__OBJECT	__IN PROCESS	X YES: RESTRICTED	__GOVERNMENT	__SCIENTIFIC
	__BEING CONSIDERED	__YES: UNRESTRICTED	__INDUSTRIAL	__TRANSPORTATION
		__NO	__MILITARY	__OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME: Trustees, St.Luke's U.M. Church
C/OGonzalee Matthews

Telephone #: 822-8654

STREET & NUMBER: Dover Rd.

CITY, TOWN: Easton ___ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code: MD 21601

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Talbot County Court House

Liber #: JCN 23
Folio #: 430

STREET & NUMBER: Court Street

CITY, TOWN: Easton

STATE: Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE: N/A

DATE:

__FEDERAL __STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

CITY, TOWN:

STATE:

7 DESCRIPTION

T-478

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
X EXCELLENT	__DETERIORATED	__UNALTERED	X ORIGINAL SITE
__GOOD	__RUINS	X ALTERED	__MOVED DATE 1879
__FAIR	__UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

St.Luke's U.M. Church stand 15' from the west side of Front St. in Bellevue. It commands a beautiful view of the Tred Avon River . The church faced east and can be described as late Victorian. The front facade measures 36' and the church is 52' in length. There is a short tower at the southeast corner capped by a latticed belfry with a short graceful spire atop. The entrance is at the front of the tower..four brick steps leading to double hollow doors (recent). There is an arc above the door with three panes of colored glass (blue). The gabled building (East-West) has three 2-over-2 lancet windows in the front facade (blue glass, as are all of the windows). These windows are 6' in height. Four of these 6'lancet windows are found on the north side and again on the south side of the structure. The building is made of wheatherboard and painted white. The front door is red and the roof is asphalt composite shingled. There is an addition on the southwest sideof the building that serves as a church hall and Sunday School.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

T-478

8 SIGNIFICANCE

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	X EDUCATION	__MILITARY	__SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
__1700-1799	__ART	__ENGINEERING	__MUSIC	__THEATER
X 1800-1899	__COMMERCE	__EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	__PHILOSOPHY	__TRANSPORTATION
__1900-	__COMMUNICATIONS	__INDUSTRY	__POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	__OTHER (SPECIFY)
		__INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1879 BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The present St.Luke's U.M.Church was built in 1886. It is the only church in Bellevue. Bellevue is a black community and the western terminal of the Oxford-Bellvue Ferry,the oldest Ferry route in Maryland. The village is a black waterman's community. These people have engaged in Bay commercial fishing since before the Civil War. The church is the social,cultural and religious center of Bellevue.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

T-478

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 St. TELEPHONE 269-2893

CITY OR TOWN Annapolis STATE Maryland

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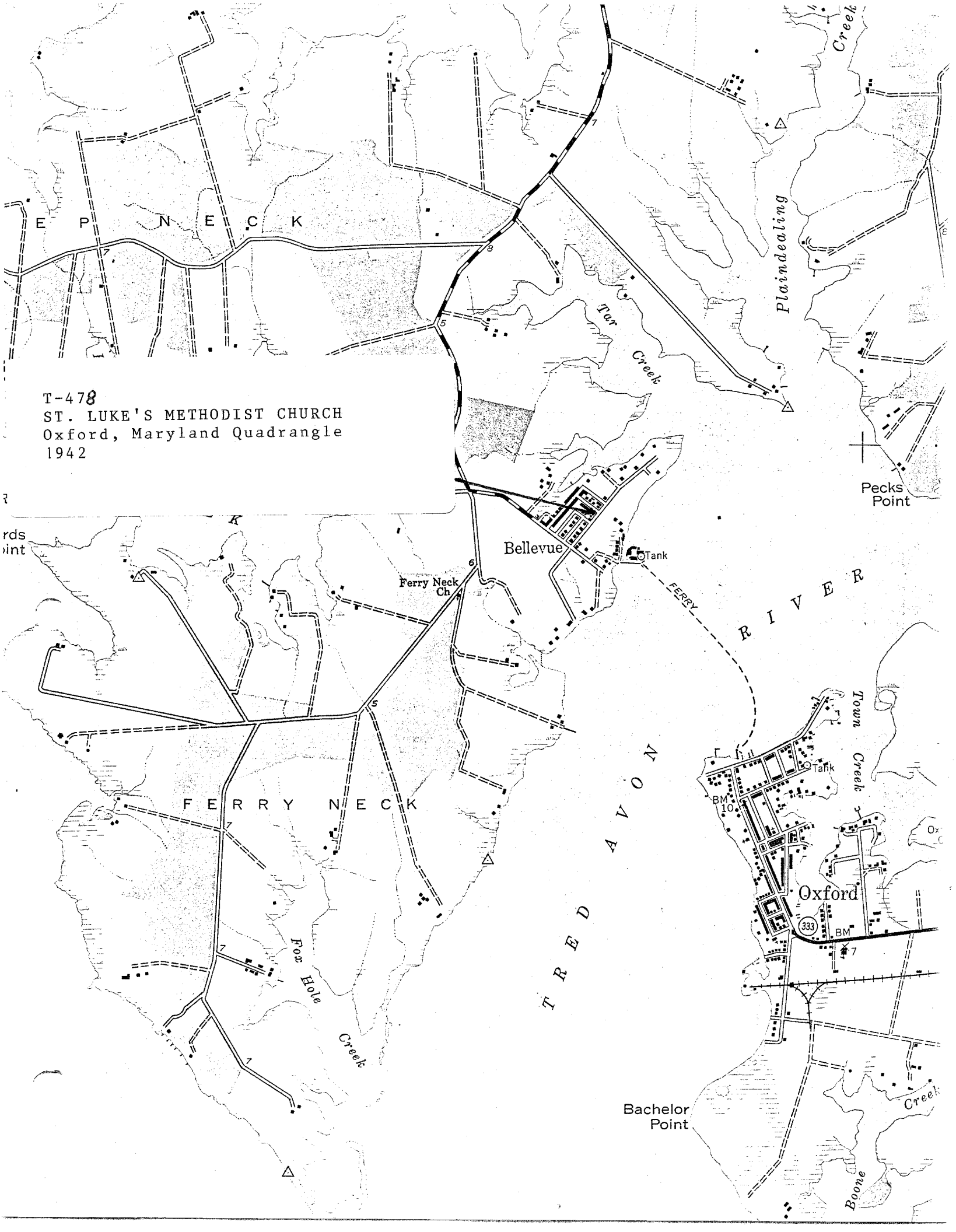
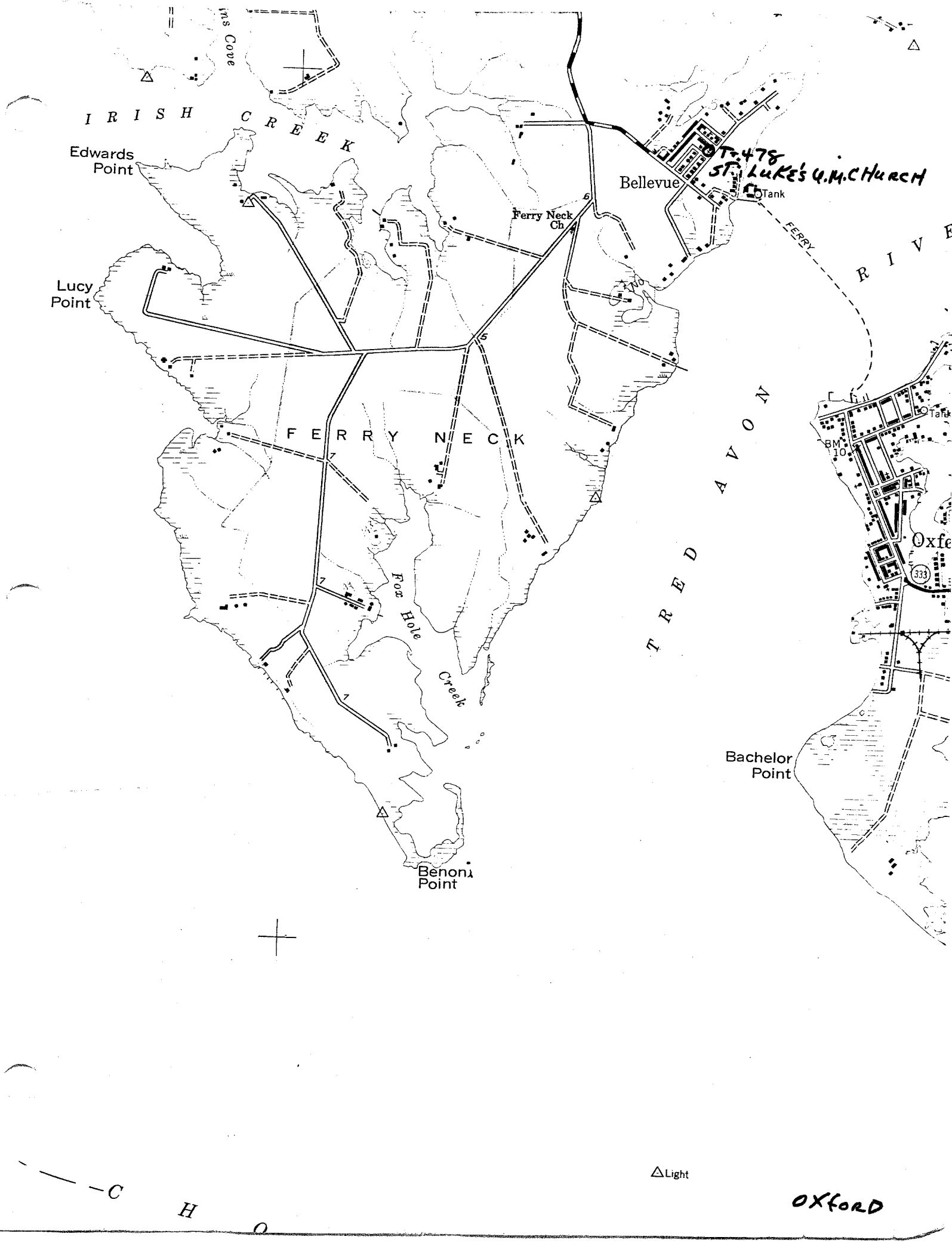
RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438


T-478
ST. LUKE'S METHODIST CHURCH
Oxford, Maryland Quadrangle
1942
E P N E C K
Plaindealing
Creek
Tar
Creek
Pecks
Point
Bellevue
Tank
Ferry Neck
Ch
FERRY
R I V E R
T R E D A V O N
Town
Creek
Tank
BM
10
Oxford
333
BM
7
F E R R Y N E C K
Fox Hole
Creek
Bachelor
Point
Boone
Creek


IRISH CREEK
Edwards Point
Lucy Point
Ferry Neck Ch
Bellevue
T-478
ST. LUKE'S U.M.C HURCH
Tank
FERRY
FERRY NECK
TRED AVON
Fox Hole Creek
Bachelor Point
Benoni Point
Light
OXFORD

T-478
St. Luke's M. E. Church
Bellevue, Talbot County, Maryland
Southwest elevation
5/90, Paul Touart, photographer
Negative/Md Historical Trust

T-478
ST. LUKE'S METHODIST CHURCH
Bellevue, Talbot County, Maryland
Southeast elevation
4/90, Paul Touart, photographer
Negative/MD Historical Trust

T-478
ST. LUKE'S METHODIST CHURCH
Bellevue, Talbot County, Maryland
Southwest elevation
4/90, Paul Touart, photographer
Negative/MD Historical Trust

T-478
ST. LUKE'S M. E. CHURCH
Bellevue, Talbot County, Maryland
Interior
4/90, Paul Touart, photographer
Negative/Md Historical Trust

St. Luke's United Methodist Church T-478
Bellevue, Talbot County, MD
Michael Hosford

Maryland Historical Trust, Annapolis, MD
Southeast elevation
1/79

478

.10 x 1.80

68%

St. Luke's United Methodist Church T-478
Bellevue, Talbot County, MD
Michael Hosford

Maryland Historical Trust, Annapolis, MD
East elevation
1/79