MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM

NR Eligible: yes X
no ___

Property Name: Mt. Vernon Methodist Protestant Church Inventory Number: WI-121

Address: Church & Railway Streets City: Sharptown Zip Code: _____

County: Wicomico USGS Topographic Map: Sharptown

Owner: _____ Is the property being evaluated a district? ___ yes

Tax Parcel Number: _____ Tax Map Number: _____ Tax Account ID Number: _____

Project: Section 106 Agency: DOT/FHWA

Site visit by MHT staff: X no ___ yes Name: _____ Date: _____

Is the property is located within a historic district? ___ yes ___ 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 context ___ yes

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

Criteria: ___ A ___ B ___ C ___ D Considerations: ___ A ___ B ___ C ___ D ___ E ___ F ___ G ___ None

Documentation on the property/district is presented in:
Federal files

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

Prepared by: Emil Elinsky DOT/FHWA Date Prepared: 06/09/1981

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended X **Eligibility not recommended** ___

Criteria: ___ **A** ___ **B** ___ **C** ___ **D** **Considerations:** ___ **A** ___ **B** ___ **C** ___ **D** ___ **E** ___ **F** ___ **G** ___ **None**

MHT Comments

Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services	**Date**
Susan Minogue (keeper)	**June 29, 1981**
Reviewer, NR Program	**Date**

WI-121 1885, 1916, 1963
Mt. Vernon M. P. Church
Sharptown
Public worship

Originally known as Harmony Chapel, the Mt. Vernon Methodist Protestant Church is located on the northwest corner of Church and Railway streets in Sharptown. The congregation traces its organization to the second quarter of the nineteenth century. By the summer of 1844 the members of Harmony Chapel has erected a single story frame church on the northwest corner of Main and Church streets. On July 20, 1844 Thomas ~~Decile~~ D ASHWELL transferred a ½-acre parcel of "Robertson's Delight" to John Cooper, John Nicols, Hambleton B. Benitt (sic), Goldsborough W. Phillips, and Isaac Collins, the "Trustees of Harmony Chapel at Sharp Town." The deed for the half-acre parcel identified the bounds of the property *"whereon now stands the aforesaid chapel."* A faint photograph of the early church indicates that it was a plain gable roofed frame building similar to early Methodist churches erected elsewhere on the lower Shore.

By the late nineteenth century the congregation had outgrown their original church and decided to relocate on the corner of Church and Railway streets. On May 21, 1885 Albert W. Robertson transferred 18 1/4 square perches of property to the Trustees of Harmony M. P. Church for $60. The congregation erected rectangular Gothic Revival frame church dominated by a centrally placed entrance and bell tower. In 1916 the church was significantly enlarged and transformed into a large ell-shaped building dominated by tripartite colored glass windows in the principal gable ends. Lastly, in 1963 an educational building was stretched across the north side of the church and the entire structure, aside from the belfry, was sheathed with a brick veneer.

MARYLAND HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN INFORMATION

RESOURCE NAME: Mt. Vernon M. P. Church

MHT INVENTORY NUMBER: WI-121

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN DATA

1. Historic Period Theme(s): Architecture
Religion

2. Geographic Orientation: Eastern Shore

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

4. Resource Type(s): Church

WI-121
Mt. Vernon M. P. Church
Church and Railway Streets
Sharptown, Wicomico County, Maryland
Chain of title

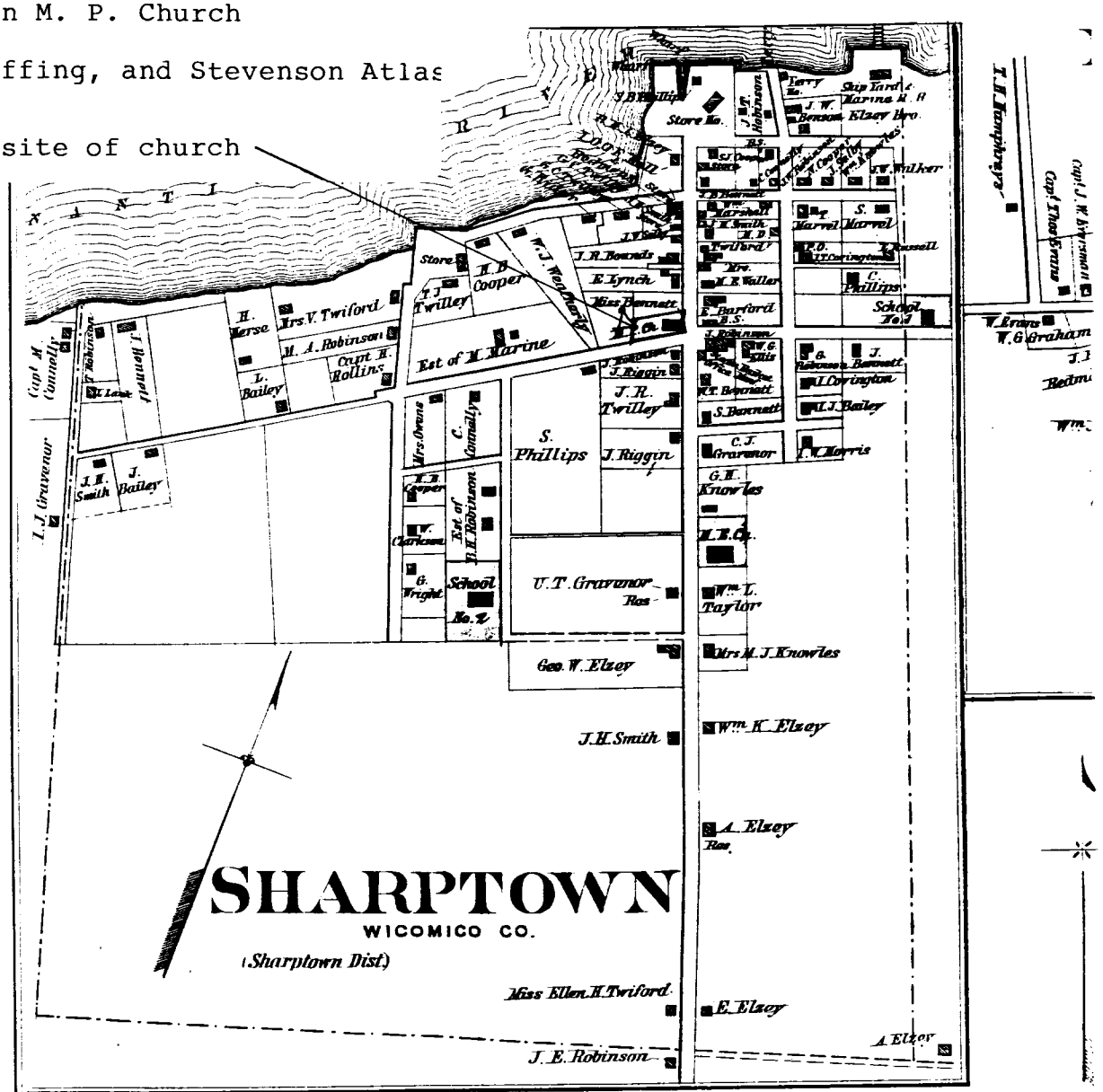
SPT 7/388	Albert W. Robertson
	to
5/21/1885	Goldsborough W. Phillips William I. J. Phillips Samuel J. Cooper John N. Selby
	Trustees of Harmony M. P. Church
	$60.00 18 1/4 square perches

Somerset County Land Record BH 321	Thomas Dashiell and wife
	to
7/20/1844	John Cooper, John Nicols, Hambleton B. Benitt (sic) Goldsborough W. Phillips, Isaac Collins, Trustees of Harmony Chapel at Sharp Town
	½ acre....whereon now stands the aforesaid chapel
	$25.00 "Robertson's Delight"

WI-121
Mt. Vernon M. P. Church

Lake, Griffing, and Stevenson Atlas
1877

Original site of church



SHARPTOWN BUSINESS REFERENCES.

JOHN H. SMITH, Dealer in Dry Goods, Groceries, Hats, Caps, Boots, Shoes, Notions and a General variety of Goods.

THOS. J. TWILLEY, Dealer in Dry Goods, Groceries, Hats, Caps, Boots, Shoes, Notions and all Goods usually kept in a country store.

J. R. TWILLEY, Dealer in Dry Goods, Groceries, Hats, Caps, Boots, Shoes, Notions, and a variety of Goods too tedious to mention.

S. J. COOPER, Dealer in Dry Goods, Groceries, Hats, Caps, Boots, Shoes, Notions and all Goods usually kept in a country town.

JNO. ROBINSON AND BRO., Manufacturers of Fruit Crates and Baskets, Grape and Peach Baskets and Boxes, Deck Plugs, Trunnel Wedges, &c. Also Wood and Iron Turning, Scroll Sawing, Surface Planing, &c., done to order.

EDWARD SURFORD, Blacksmith. Ship and Country Smithing done to order.

WESLEY CLARKSON, Dealer in Groceries and Whiskies at the Wharf, Sharptown.

JOHN B. TAYLOR AND SON, Dealers in Dry Goods, Groceries, Notions and general Merchandise, Riverton Wicomico Co., Md.

JOHN W. ROBINSON, Ship-carpenter and Proprietor of Smith-shop. All kinds of work both ship and country, done to order.

R. M. L. ELZEY AND BRO., Proprietors of the Sharptown Marine Railway. Ship-building, Repairing, Graving, &c., done at the shortest notice. All kinds of Material furnished at reasonable rates.

C. J. GRAVENOR, Ship-carpenter and Sail-maker.

W. I. J. PHILLIPS, Ship-carpenter.

JOSEPH H. MANN, Physician and Surgeon.

RICHARD P. DARBY, County Commissioner, Riverton.

J. B. & J. E. TAYLOR, Dealers in Dry Goods,

BARREN CREEK BUSINESS REFERENCES.

LEVIN M. WILSON, Farmer and Tax Collector for Wicomico Co.

THOMAS B. TAYLOR, Dealer in Dry Goods, Groceries and all Kinds of Goods usually kept in a Country Store.

J. B. ARMSTRONG, Dealer in Dry Goods, Groceries, Boots, Shoes, Hats, Caps, Notions, &c.

L. M. VINCENT, Wheelwright. All Works in his line done to order.

E. S. BOSTON, Blacksmith. All Work in his line done neatly and to order.

JOHN H. BACON, Dealer in Dry Goods, Groceries, Hardware, Boots, Shoes, Hats, Caps, Notions, and all goods usually kept in a country store.

J. W. PHILLIPS, Proprietor of "Barren Creek Springs Hotel."

W. C. MARSTERS, Physician and Surgeon.

W. J. WEATHERLY, Carpenter, Contractor and Builder.

THOS. J. WINDSOR, Carpenter, Contractor and Builder.

A. E. ACWORTH, Teacher and Farmer.

A. H. CALLAWAY, Dealer in Dry Goods, Groceries, Notions and all Goods usually kept in a country store.

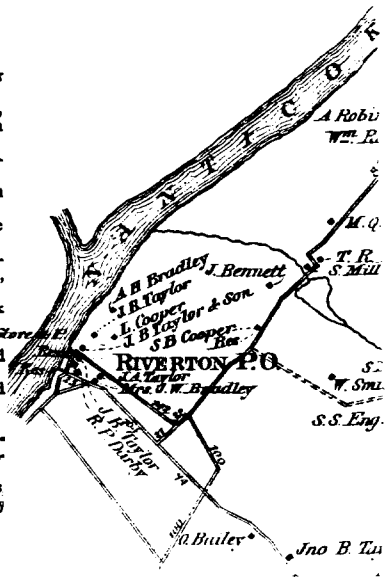
J. W. BRADLEY, Dealer in Dry Goods, Groceries Notions and all Goods usually kept in a country store.

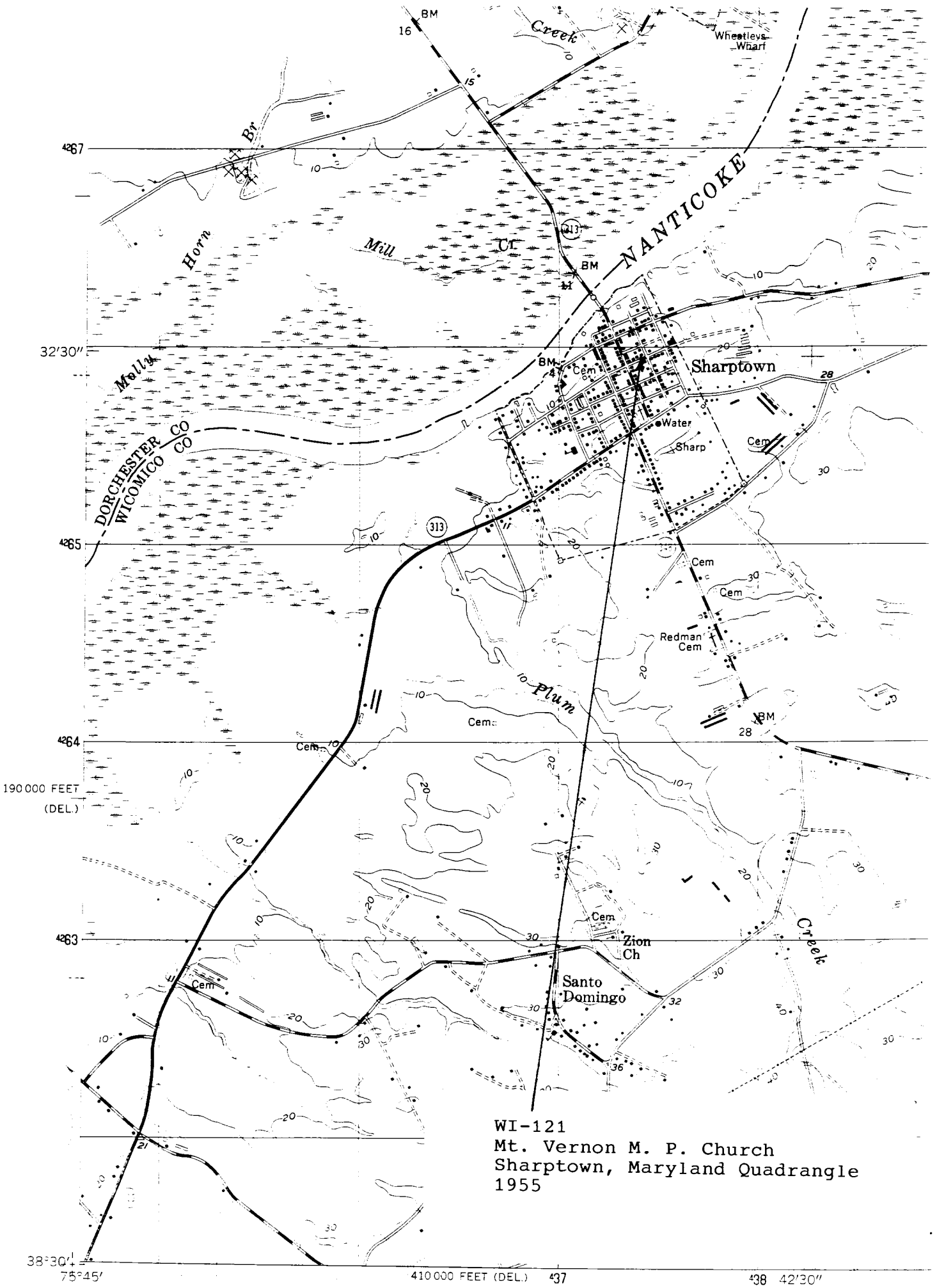
ISAAC L. ENGLISH, Teacher and Farmer.

ALBERT M. BOUNDS, School Commissioner.

ROBERT L. LLOYD, Ship-Carpenter.

ROBERT W. HOWARD, Saloon-Keeper.





WI-121
Mt. Vernon M. P. Church
Sharptown, Maryland Quadrangle
1955

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, NOS/NOAA, and USCE

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WI - 121
MAGI # 2301214608

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

part of Sharptown Multiple Resource Area declared eligible 6/9/81

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Mt. Vernon Methodist Protestant Church

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

NW Corner of Railway and Church Streets

CITY, TOWN — CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Sharptown — VICINITY OF

STATE — COUNTY

Maryland — Wicomico

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
		_NO	_MILITARY	_OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mt. Vernon Methodist Episcopal Church — Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

Railway and Church Streets

CITY, TOWN — STATE, zip code

Sharptown — VICINITY OF — Maryland 21861

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Wicomico County Courthouse — Liber #: Folio #:

STREET & NUMBER

North Division Street

CITY, TOWN — STATE

Salisbury — Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE — _FEDERAL _STATE _COUNTY _LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN — STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

WI-121

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Mt. Vernon Methodist Protestant Church is a frame church building constructed in 1885, altered in 1917, and covered in brick veneer after 1920, and located on the northwest corner of Railway and Church Streets in Sharptown, Maryland.

The building is formed by two intersecting gable-roofed sections with a belfry and entrance tower in the eastern angle of the two sections. Each section has a three bay elevation with stained glass windows. A rose window and pointed arch transom are in the entry bay of the belfry.

Originally, the church was a single gable roof volume oriented north-south with the entry through the bell tower. In 1917, the present configuration was formed. Both structures had weatherboard exteriors and the 1917 building may have had patterned shingled gables. At some date after 1920, the present brick veneer was built.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

WI-121

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
__PREHISTORIC	__ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	X 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 1885, 1917

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Mount Vernon Methodist Protestant Church (originally known as Harmony Church) was the only religious institution in Sharptown from the 1840's to 1876 when the Methodist Episcopal Church was built.

Interest in Methodist Protestantism spread to Sharptown in the 1830's, but no church existed before 1845. Prior to that year, the Phillips and Cooper families held services in local homes. In 1845, a small frame building was built on the corner of Main and Church Streets. A cemetery which was associated with the church remains at this site. The building was called Harmony Church. By 1885, the congregation had outgrown the building and a new site at Railway and Church Streets was purchased. The original structure was built that year and in 1917, the present church was built.

The church has been closely associated with the development of Sharptown and its second building reflects the architectural expertise of local carpenters and craftsmen in the late ninteenth and early twentieth century.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

WI-121

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
Janet L. Davis

ORGANIZATION
MHT/SHA Surveyor

DATE
October 8, 1980

STREET & NUMBER
21 State Circle

TELEPHONE
269-2438

CITY OR TOWN
Annapolis

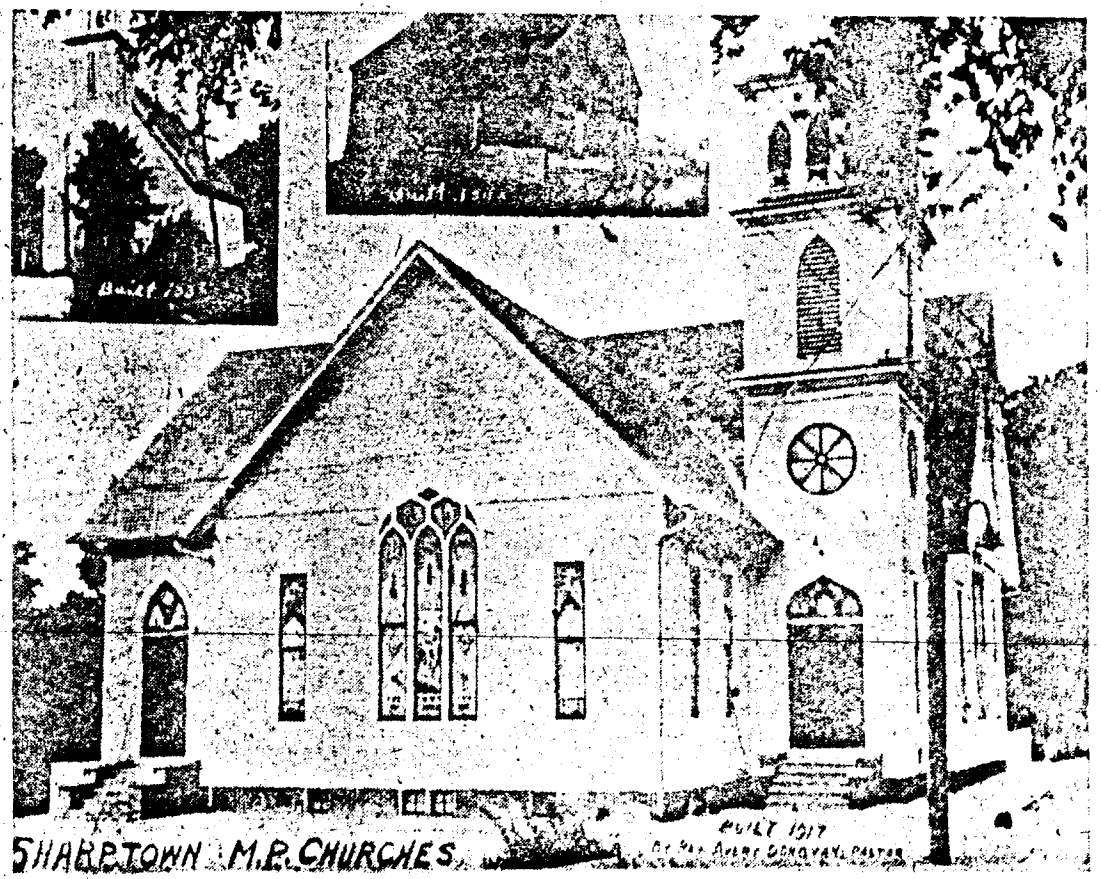
STATE
Maryland, 21401

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.

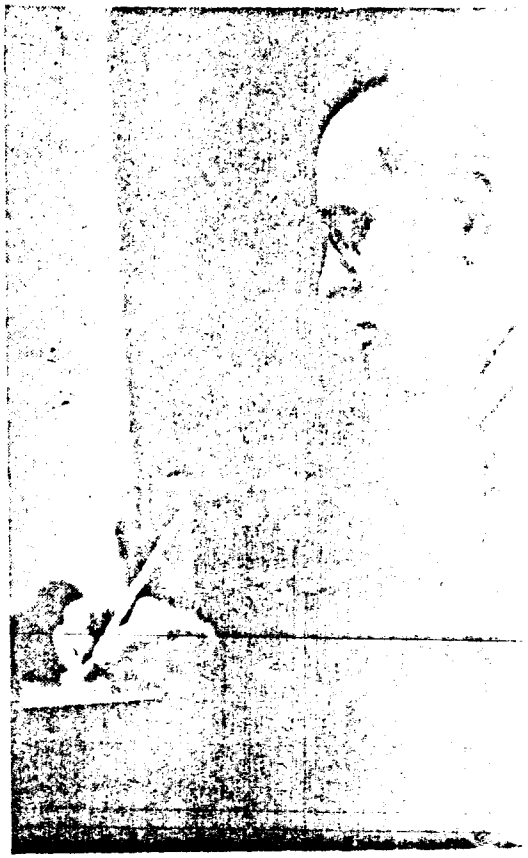
The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

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

Mt. Vernon Methodist Church Is Oldest In Sharp



These old photographs illustrate the history of this church, which has played such an important part in the character of the people of Sharptown.



H. Norman Nicklas is pastor of the Mt. Vernon in Sharptown

A little unpainted frame building, now boarded up and falling into disrepair, stands on a back street of Sharptown. Built in 1845, it is the first house of organized worship within the town.

The Methodist Episcopal people had a building some distance out of town in 1832, but, because of the distance it had never been too popular.

A considerable interest in the Methodist Protestant faith had sprung up around Portsville about 1930 and this influence soon spread to Sharptown. Through the work of the Phillips and Cooper families, services were held in homes here, and in 1845 Harmony church building was erected. Until 1876, when a Methodist Episcopal building was erected, it was the only church in Sharptown.

As Harmony Church continued to grow with the increase in population, a new and better structure was needed. In 1885, under the ministry of the Rev. G. R. McCready, a lot was purchased at the corner of Railway and Church Sts., and a new building erected. In 1916 this building was enlarged into the present edifice.

-:-

WHETHER THROUGH luck, or the presence of some unusually tasteful designer, the interior of Mt. Vernon Church now stands as one of the more beautiful and dignified houses of worship on the Shore. It is not very large, but the congregation has put loving

[illegible] Bennett, Mr. [illegible] Mrs. Annie St[illegible] White, Mrs. M[illegible] Sadie Mumford [illegible] ler and Mr. [illegible] organist is Mrs. [illegible] Superintendent [illegible] Robert Haw[illegible] of 10 [illegible]

MR. NICKLA[illegible] continued growi[illegible]

WI-121

Survey No. WI-121

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Magi No.

DOE __yes __no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic: Mt. Vernon Methodist Protestant Church, Harmony Chapel

and/or common:

2. Location

street & number: Intersection of Church and Railway Streets ___ not for publication

city, town: Sharptown ___ vicinity of congressional district: First

state: Maryland county: Wicomico

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 Mt. Vernon M. P. Church

street & number: Railway and Church Streets telephone no.:

city, town: Sharptown state and zip code: MD 21861

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc.: Wicomico County Clerk of Court liber SPT 7

street & number: Wicomico County Courthouse folio 388

city, town: Salisbury state: MD 21801

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title: Maryland Invetory of Historic Properties

date: 1980 ___ federal X state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records: Maryland Historical Trust

city, town: Crownsville state: MD 21032

7. Description

Survey No. WI-121

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.

Mt. Vernon Methodist Protestant Church, orginally known as Harmony Chapel, is located on the northwest corner of the intersection of Church and Railway streets in Sharptown, Wicomico County, Maryland. The single-story, ell-shaped frame church faces south.

Built in stages in 1885 and enlarged in 1916, the large ell-shaped frame building is sheathed with a brick veneer and the steeply pitched gable roofs are covered with asphalt shingles. Rising in the southwest corner of the ell-shaped church is a four-story entrance and bell tower. An "educational building" was added in 1963.

The south (main) elevation is an asymmetrical facade with the four-story tower juxtaposed against a gable end of the ell-shaped church. The entire exterior aside from the belfry is covered in stretcher bond brick. Fixed in the southeast corner of the church is a large marble datestone inscribed "Mt. Vernon M. P. Church, Built 1845, Rebuilt 1885, 1916, 1963, Educational Building 1963." The gable end wall is pierced by a large tripartite Gothic arched window colored glass, and narrow and rectangular colored glass windows are located to each side. The edge of the roof is finished with an extended eave and open soffit. The south wall of the tower is pierced by a large double door entrance topped by a pointed arch, colored glass transom. The second floor of the tower is pierced by a round window of opaque bubbled glass divided in pie-shaped panes. The third floor is distinguished by a pointed arch louvered vent. Fixed atop the brick sheathed portion of the tower is a frame belfry defined by three pointed arch openings on each side. The east side of the tower is defined with a long rectangular colored glass window on the first floor and the same openings as the front wall on the second, third, and fourth levels. The tower is covered with aluminum siding.

The east elevation of the ell-shaped main block is another gable end facade pierced by a large pointed arch, tripartite window of colored glass. To each side of the Gothic window are narrow rectangular windows of colored glass and the upper gable end is pierced by a round window with pie-shaped panes of opaque bubbled glass. The eaves are extended and the soffits are open.

Stretching across the north side of the main block is a two-story shed roofed addition that engulfed the single-story apse. Modern paired windows light the addition on the first and second floors.

Attached to the west side of the ell-shaped main block is a gable roofed lateral wing that has a double entrance on the Church Street elevation and a row of five rectangular colored glass windows across the west gable end. The gable end of the main block is pierced by a large tripartite colored glass window that lights the sanctuary.

The interior was not seen.

8. Significance

Survey No. WI-121

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
X 1900–	___ communications	___ industry	___ politics/government	___ other (specify)
		___ invention		

Specific dates 1885, 1916 **Builder/Architect**

check: Applicable Criteria: __A __B x C __D
and/or
Applicable Exception: __A __B __C __D __E __F __G

Level of Significance: __national __state x local

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

Originally known as Harmony Chapel, the Mt. Vernon Methodist Protestant Church is located on the northwest corner of Church and Railway streets in Sharptown. The congregation traces its organization to the second quarter of the nineteenth century. By the summer of 1844 the members of Harmony Chapel has erected a single story frame church on the northwest corner of Main and Church streets. On July 20, 1844 Thomas Decile transferred a ½-acre parcel of "Robertson's Delight" to John Cooper, John Nicols, Hambleton B. Benitt (sic), Goldsborough W. Phillips, and Isaac Collins, the "Trustees of Harmony Chapel at Sharp Town."[1] The deed for the half-acre parcel identified the bounds of the property *"whereon now stands the aforesaid chapel."* A faint photograph of the early church indicates that it was a plain gable roofed frame building similar to early Methodist churches erected elsewhere on the lower Shore.

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The church is significant to the architecture and history of Sharptown and deserves listing in *Category A*.

---

[1] Somerset County Land Record, BH 321, 20 July 1844.

[2] Wicomico County Land Record, SPT 7/388, 21 May 1885.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. WI-121

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	date	5/29/98
street & number	P. O. Box 5	telephone	410-651-1094
city or town	Westover	state	Maryland 21871

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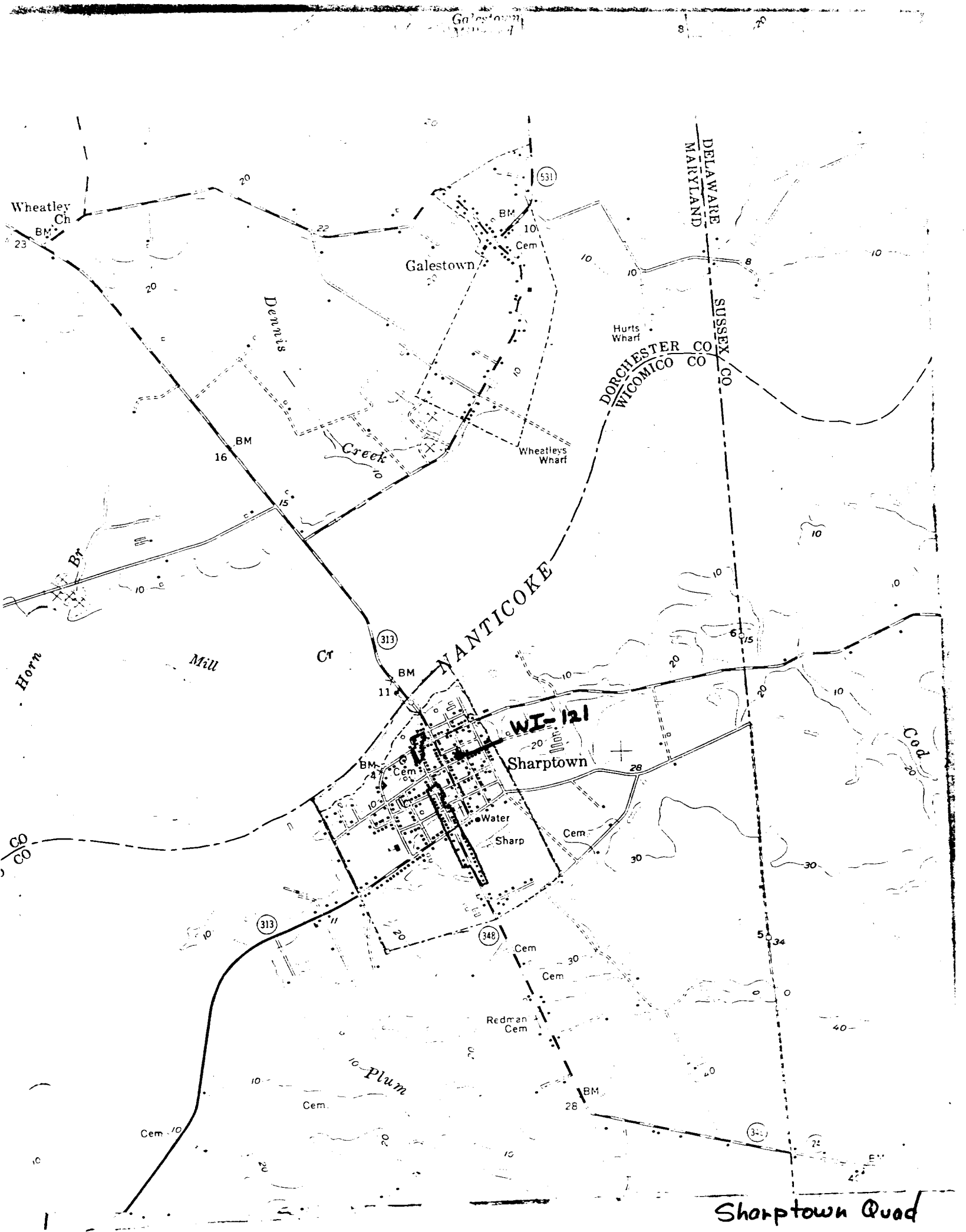
return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

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

PS-2746



Wheatley Ch
BM
Galestown
Cem
Dennis
Creek
Hurts Wharf
DELAWARE
MARYLAND
SUSSEX CO
DORCHESTER CO
WICOMICO CO
Wheatleys Wharf
NANTICOKE
Horn
Br
Mill
Cr
WI-121
Sharptown
Water
Sharp
Cod
Redman Cem
Plum
Cem.
Sharptown Quad