WI-140
Friendship Methodist Church
Allen vicinity
Public worship

1923

The Friendship Methodist Church prominently stands in the center of a historic black community identified on area maps as the "Ferry Road Settlement." Built in 1923, the imposing frame building was built on an ambitious scale with a cruciform or cross-shaped plan and a two-story entrance tower. Dominating two of the four elevations are tripartite Palladian style windows. The sash feature colored glass panes fitted around the perimeter of an opaque and dimpled center glass panel. Distinguishing the center sash is a round headed arch top window. The upper gable on three elevations has a diamond-shaped window also featuring colored glass perimeter panes. The asymmetrical design of Friendship Church is not uncommon for rurally sited black churches, but very few were designed with a cruciform plan.

This congregation traces its organization back to 1864 with the aid of community leaders Samuel Solomon, Jacob Cottman, and Aaron Gale. The construction of the first church followed shortly thereafter and its location is documented by the 1877 Lake, Griffing, and Stevenson atlas, which indicates the site of a "Col'd Ch" on the road between "Upper Trappe" (now the village of Allen) and the Upper Ferry crossing of the Wicomico River. Stretched along the road in the immediate vicinity of the church were slightly more than a dozen dwellings.

MARYLAND HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN INFORMATION

RESOURCE NAME: Friendship Methodist Episcopal Church

MHT INVENTORY NUMBER: WI-140

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
Church hall
Cemetery

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. WI-140

Magi No.

DOE __yes __no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic: Friendship Methodist Episocopal Church

and/or common: Friendship United Methodist Church

2. Location

street & number: Upper Ferry Road ___ not for publication

city, town: Allen x 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 Friendship United Methodist Church

street & number: Upper Ferry Road telephone no.:

city, town: Allen state and zip code MD 21810

5. Location of Legal Description

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

street & number: Wicomico County Courthouse folio

city, town: Salisbury state MD 21801

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title: Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties

date: 1983 ___ federal x state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records: Maryland Historical Trust

city, town: Crownsville state MD 21032

7. Description

Survey No. WI-140

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.

Friendship Methodist Episcopal Church, currently known as Friendship Methodist Church, is located on the east side of Upper Ferry Road northeast of the village of Allen in a community identified as the Ferry Road Settlement in Wicomico County, Maryland. The cruciform shaped frame church faces southwest with the principal gable roof oriented on an northeast/southwest axis. Subordinate roofs of the cross wings are oriented on a northwest/southeast axis.

Built in 1923, the cruciform-shaped building is supported on a rusticated concrete block foundation, and the exterior is sheathed with aluminum siding. The steeply pitched gable roofs are covered with asphalt shingles. Rising in the southwest corner of the cruciform plan is a two-story entrance tower.

The southwest (main) elevation is an asymmetrical facade with the two-story entrance tower juxtaposed against a gable end of the church. The double door entrance is filled with replacement doors, but the pointed arch transom retains colored glass perimeter panes that surround a pebbled glass triangular center pane. The second floor of the tower is pierced by a double-hung sash window, and the sash features colored glass perimeter panes as well. Capping the tower is a low pyramidal roof. The gable end of the church is defined by a tripartite Palladian window with an arched center sash flanked by rectangular double-hung sash windows. Each sash is distinguished by colored glass perimeter panes. Fixed in the upper gable is diamond-shaped window with the colored glass panes set in the perimeter of the window. The edge of the roof is finished with an extended eave, and the soffits are open. The undecorated ends of the rafter feet are exposed. A later shed addition has been attached to the northwest corner of the cruciform plan.

The southeast side of the cruciform plan is defined by a Palladian style tripartite window featuring an arched center window. Colored glass panes distinguish the perimeter of each window sash. Fixed in the upper gable is a diamond shaped window of colored glass panes.

The northeast (rear) wall is the least elaborate of the four elevations with a pair of rectangular windows lighting the sanctuary. Colored glass panes are fitted around the perimeter of each sash. Attached to the southeast corner of the cruciform plan is another shed roofed addition that dates from the mid twentieth century.

Extending from the northwest side of the main block is the fourth arm of the cruciform plan. A series of four adjoining colored glass windows are joined by a diamond window in the upper gable. Piercing each side of the north wing is a single colored glass window. A single flue, concrete block flue rises against the east wall of this wing.

The interior was not seen. On the northwest side of the church is a nineteenth and twentieth century cemetery.

Standing on the west side of Upper Ferry Road is a single-story, ell-shaped frame structure that is used as the church hall. Supported on a low brick foundation, the exterior is covered with asbestos shingles, and the steeply pitched roof is sheathed with asphalt shingles.

8. Significance

Survey No. WI-140

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
___ 1800–1899	___ commerce	___ exploration/settlement	___ philosophy	___ transportation
X 1900–	___ communications	___ industry	___ politics/government	___ other (specify)
		___ invention		

Specific dates 1923 **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.

The Friendship Methodist Church prominently stands in the center of a historic black community identified on area maps as the "Ferry Road Settlement." Built in 1923, the imposing frame building was built on an ambitious scale with a cruciform or cross-shaped plan and a two-story entrance tower. Dominating two of the four elevations are tripartite Palladian style windows. The sash feature colored glass panes fitted around the perimeter of an opaque and dimpled center glass panel. Distinguishing the center sash is a round headed arch top window. The upper gable on three elevations has a diamond-shaped window also featuring colored glass perimeter panes. The asymmetrical design of Friendship Church is not uncommon for rurally sited black churches, but very few were designed with a cruciform plan.

This congregation traces its organization back to 1864 with the aid of community leaders Samuel Solomon, Jacob Cottman, and Aaron Gale. [1] The construction of the first church followed shortly thereafter and its location is documented by the 1877 Lake, Griffing, and Stevenson atlas, which indicates the site of a "Col'd Ch" on the road between "Upper Trappe" (now the village of Allen) and the Upper Ferry crossing of the Wicomico River. Stretched along the road in the immediate vicinity of the church were slightly more than a dozen dwellings. [2]

The Friendship Methodist Church is an important landmark in the Trappe Election District since it is the principal fixture in an historic black community for the immediate region. It qualifies for listing in *Category A*, which signifies buildings that must be preserved due to their architectural and historic merit.

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[1] George R. Shivers, *Changing Times: Chronicle of Allen, Maryland, An Eastern Shore Village*, Gateway Press: Baltimore, 1998, pp. 150-51.

[2] John L. Graham, ed. The 1877 Atlases and Other Early Maps of the Eastern Shore of Maryland, Bicentennial Edition, Wicomico County Bicentennial Commission, 1976, p. 16.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. WI-140

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	6/9/98
street & number	P. O. Box 5	telephone	410-651-1094
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

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

PS-2746

WI-140
Friendship Methodist Church

Lake, Griffing, and Stevenson Atlas
1877

ERENCES.

Rev. SAMUEL WEE [illegible]aler in Dry Goods, Groceries, Hats, Ca[illegible]s, Shoes, Hardware, Queensware, Glassware, Ready-made Clothing, Fruit and Berry Baskets in season, Notions, &c. All kinds of Merchandise usually kept in a country store. Fruitland, Md.

J. W. GUNBY, Dealer in Dry Goods, Groceries, Hats, Caps, Boots, Shoes, Hardware, Queensware, Glassware, Notions, &c. Eden, Md.

I. H. A. DELANY AND SONS, General Dealers in, and Shippers of all kinds of Domestic Fruits and Vegetables. Also dealers in all kinds of Merchandise adapted to a village store. Fruitland, Md.

J. & W. ALLEN, Dealers in Dry Goods and Groceries, Patent Medicines, Boots, Shoes, Hardware and Crockery, Paints, Oils, Dye-stuffs, Glass, Drugs and Medicines, Fancy Goods, Hats and Caps, and all other Goods usually kept in a country store. Cheap for cash or Produce. Upper-Trappe, Md.

TRAPPE

Dist. No. 7

WICOMICO CO.

WI-140
Friendship Methodist Church

Eden, Maryland Quadrangle
1983

SCALE 1:24 000

WI-140

Wicomico - 140
Friendship ME Church
Upper Ferry Rd.
Fruitland,MD 21826 1882, 1928

Access:Public

The present Fruitland ME Church stands 20' from the east side of Upper Ferry Rd. in a black area west of Fruitland called Allen. It faces west and was built in 1928. It was built on the site of an older black chapel that dated from 1882. Blacks in this area were engaged for some years in the packing industry. With the decline of that industry many blacks moved or took jobs in Salisbury. The cemetery is located on the west side of the property.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

WI - 140
MAGI# 2301404808

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC
Friendship ME Church

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER Upper Ferry Road. (rt 364)

CITY, TOWN Fruitland ___ VICINITY OF Allen

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
		__NO	__MILITARY	__OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Trustees, Friendship ME Church
C/O Rev. William T. Wallace, Sr. Telephone #: 742-9042

STREET & NUMBER Anderson St.

CITY, TOWN Fruitland ___ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code MD, 21826

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Wicomico County Courthouse

Liber #: FMS 1
Folio #: 177

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN Salisbury

STATE Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
N/A

DATE

__FEDERAL __STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

WI-140

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
__EXCELLENT	__DETERIORATED	__UNALTERED	X ORIGINAL SITE
X GOOD	__RUINS	X ALTERED	__MOVED DATE 1928
__FAIR	__UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The present Friendship ME Church stands 20' from the east side of Upper Ferry Road in a black area west of Fruitland called Allen. It 80' across the front and 60' in depth. It rests on a concrete block foundation. It was built in 1928 on the site of the old chapel. I have included photographs.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

WI-140

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
X 1800-1899	__COMMERCE	__EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	__PHILOSOPHY	__TRANSPORTATION
X 1900-	__COMMUNICATIONS	__INDUSTRY	__POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	__OTHER (SPECIFY)
		__INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1882-1928 BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The present Frienship ME Church was built in 1928. It was built on the site of an older black chapel that stood on this site in 1882. The church is located in Allen a black community on the westside of Fruitland. Blacks in this area usually engaged in the local packing industry . When that industry declined most of the blacks in this area found jobs in Salisbury.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

WI-140

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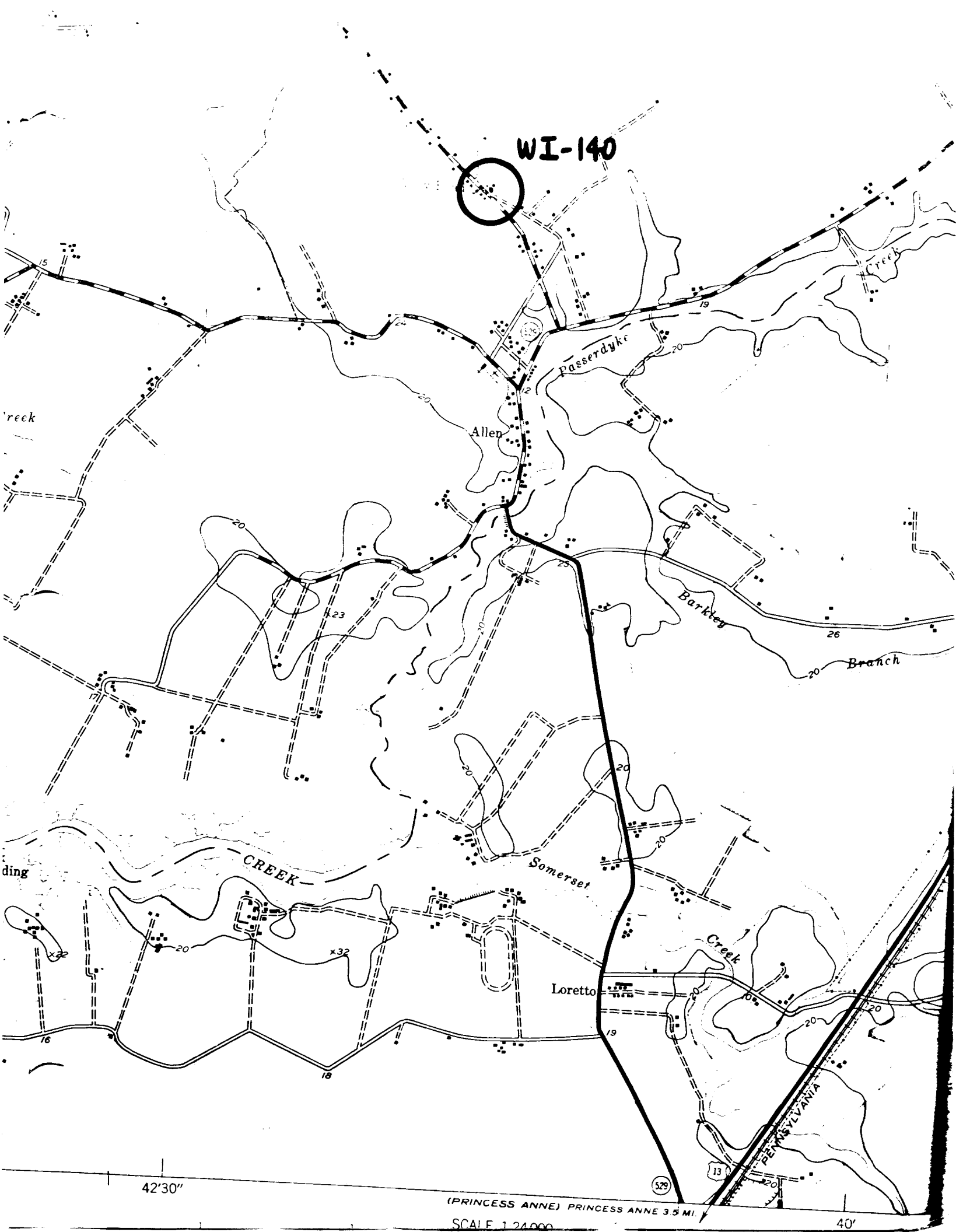
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438


WI-140
Allen
Passerdyke
Creek
Barkley
Branch
Somerset
Creek
CREEK
Loretto
PENNSYLVANIA
42'30"
(PRINCESS ANNE) PRINCESS ANNE 3.5 MI.
SCALE 1:24000
40'

WI-140

Friendship M.E. Church

Fruitland Wicomico Co

Michael Hosford 2/81

WI-140

[illegible]

[illegible]

Michael Hosford 2/81