

WI-488

1839, 1875, 1956

Jerusalem Methodist Church  
Parsonsburg  
Public worship

One of the landmarks in the town of Parsonsburg is the Jerusalem Methodist Church, perched atop a sandy knoll in the center of town. Organized in 1839, the congregation erected a single-story, gable-front frame church in 1875. The weatherboard frame structure, designed with a pediment front like many lower Shore churches, was embellished with a series of decorative brackets that trim the perimeter of the roof and rear apse. The original temple-front structure has been modified over the years with the introduction of memorial colored glass windows, a corner entrance tower as well as a raised concrete block foundation with full basement. The church cemetery, located on the south side of the church, contains many nineteenth- and twentieth-century markers. Several family plots are distinguished by decorative metal fences.

The land on which the church stands was conveyed by George Perdue in 1840. The church lot was transferred to the trustees at the time; Henry Mills, Levin Hayman, William W. Layfield, George K. Perdue, Elijah L. Perdue, George W. Riggan, and Isaac H. Parsons.

# Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. WI-488

## 1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Jerusalem Methodist Church

other \_\_\_\_\_

## 2. Location

street and number 7131 Zion Road not for publication

city, town Parsonsborg vicinity

county Wicomico

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

name Trustees of Jerusalem Methodist Church

street and number \_\_\_\_\_ telephone \_\_\_\_\_

city, town Parsonsborg state MD zip code 21849

## 4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Wicomico County Clerk of Court tax map and parcel

city, town Salisbury, Maryland liber JTT 34 folio 273

## 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	
			Contributing	Noncontributing
district	public	agriculture		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	commerce/trade	1	buildings
structure	both	defense		sites
site		domestic	1	structures
object		education		_ objects
		funerary	2	Total
		government		
		health care		
		industry		
		landscape		
		recreation/culture		
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion		
		social		
		transportation		
		work in progress		
		unknown		
		vacant/not in use		
		other:		
			<b>Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory</b>	

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. WI-488

Name Jerusalem Methodist Church  
Continuation Sheet

Number 7 Page 1

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### 7. Description

Inventory No. WI-488

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#### Condition

	excellent	deteriorated
x	good	ruins
	fair	altered

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

Jerusalem Methodist Church is located on the southeast corner of the intersection of MD Route 346 (Old Ocean City Road) and Forest Grove Road in Parsonsburg, Wicomico County, Maryland. The single-story frame church, perched atop a sandy knoll is joined on the lot by a nineteenth- and twentieth-century cemetery. The church faces east with the principal gable roof oriented on an east/west axis.

Built in 1875, the single-story gable front frame building is supported on a raised concrete block foundation, and the exterior is clad with aluminum siding. The medium pitched gable roof is covered with asphalt shingles. Attached to the northwest corner of the 1875 structure is an entrance tower, which was erected in 1889. The church rests on a fully high foundation with a fully excavated basement that was added in 1956. A marble stone, fixed in the foundation, documents the 1875 and 1956 construction dates as well as the founding of the congregation in 1839.

Attached to the northwest corner of the 1875 church is the entrance tower which is defined by an arched double door entrance sheltered by a Colonial Revival portico. The double doors are topped by an arched transom filled with radiating muntins. Above the entrance is a four-pane window. The tower is accented with a bracketed eave, and a pyramidal roofed tower. Louvered vents and a small block cornice define the sides of the tower. The gable end of the 1875 building is pierced by a large round arched window filled with leaded colored glass. Trimming the gable end pediment is series of heavy cornice brackets. The gable end pediment is pierced by a round window also filled with colored glass.

The sides of the church are marked by three pointed arch, colored glass windows. A concrete walk and cellar entrance are located on the south side of the church. The main block is served by an interior brick stove chimney.

Attached to the back of the main block is a shorter single story apse finished with a pediment end and a bracketed eave.

The nineteenth- and twentieth-century cemetery is distinguished by several decorative iron fences. One of the oldest markers is the grave for Isaac H. Parsons (1819-1899) and his wife Katie, founding members of the congregation.

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

inventory No. WI-488

Name Jerusalem Methodist Church  
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 1

### 8. Significance

Inventory No. WI-488

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
1600-1699	agriculture	economics	health/medicine	performing arts
1700-1799	archeology	education	industry	philosophy
X1800-1899	X architecture	engineering	invention	politics/government
1900-1999	art	entertainment/ recreation	landscape architecture	Xreligion
2000-	commerce	ethnic heritage	law	science
	communications	exploration/ settlement	literature	social history
	community planning		maritime history	transportation
	conservation		military	other:

<b>Significance dates</b>	1839, 1875, 1956	<b>Architect</b>
<b>Specific dates</b>		<b>Builder</b>

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 reports, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

One of the prominent landmarks in the town of Parsonsburg is the Jerusalem Methodist Church, perched atop a sandy knoll in the center of the town. Organized in 1839, the congregation erected a single-story, gable-front frame church in 1875. The weatherboard frame structure, designed with a pediment front like many lower Shore churches, was embellished with a series of decorative brackets that trim the perimeter of the roof and the rear apse. The original temple-front structure has been modified over the years with the introduction of colored glass memorial windows, a corner entrance tower as well as a raised concrete block foundation with a full basement. The church cemetery, located on the south side of the church, contains many nineteenth- and twentieth-century markers. Several individual family plots are distinguished by decorative metal fences.

(Continued)

# Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. WI-488

Name Jerusalem Methodist Church

Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 2

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The land on which the church stands was conveyed by George Perdue in 1840.<sup>1</sup> The church lot was transferred to the trustees at the time; Henry Mills, Levin Hayman, William W. Layfield, George K. Perdue, Elijah L. Perdue, George W. Riggin, and Isaac H. Parsons.

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<sup>1</sup> Wicomico County Land Record, TF, Jr. 3/256, 21 November 1872. (The 1840 transfer is described in this later conveyance between George K. Perdue and W. W. Layfield & others)

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. WI-488

Name Jerusalem Methodist Church  
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 3

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### HISTORIC CONTEXT:

#### MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Eastern Shore

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

Historic Period Theme(s): Architecture

Resource Type: Standing Structure

Category: Church  
Cemetery with decorative iron fences around family plots

Historic Environment: Rural village

Historic Function(s) and Use(s): Religion

Known Design Source:

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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WI-488

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## 10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of project area

Acreage surveyed

Quadrangle name

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

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Verbal boundary description and justification

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## 11. Form Prepared by

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name/title Paul B. Touart, Architectural Historian

organization Private Consultant

street & number P. O. Box 5

city or town Westover, Maryland 21871

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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  
410-514-7600

WI-488  
Jerusalem Methodist Church  
Parsonsborg, Wicomico County, Maryland  
Chain of title

JTT 34/274

J. George, W. Perdue, and Amelia E. Perdue

to

7/10/1902

Trustees of Jerusalem M. E. Church (Benjamin F. Jackson,  
John W. Wimbrow, Eben H. Parker, S. P. Parsons, and  
others)

4 acres....south side of railroad leading through the village  
of Parsonsborg

TF, Jr. 3/256

George K. Perdue

to

11/21/1872

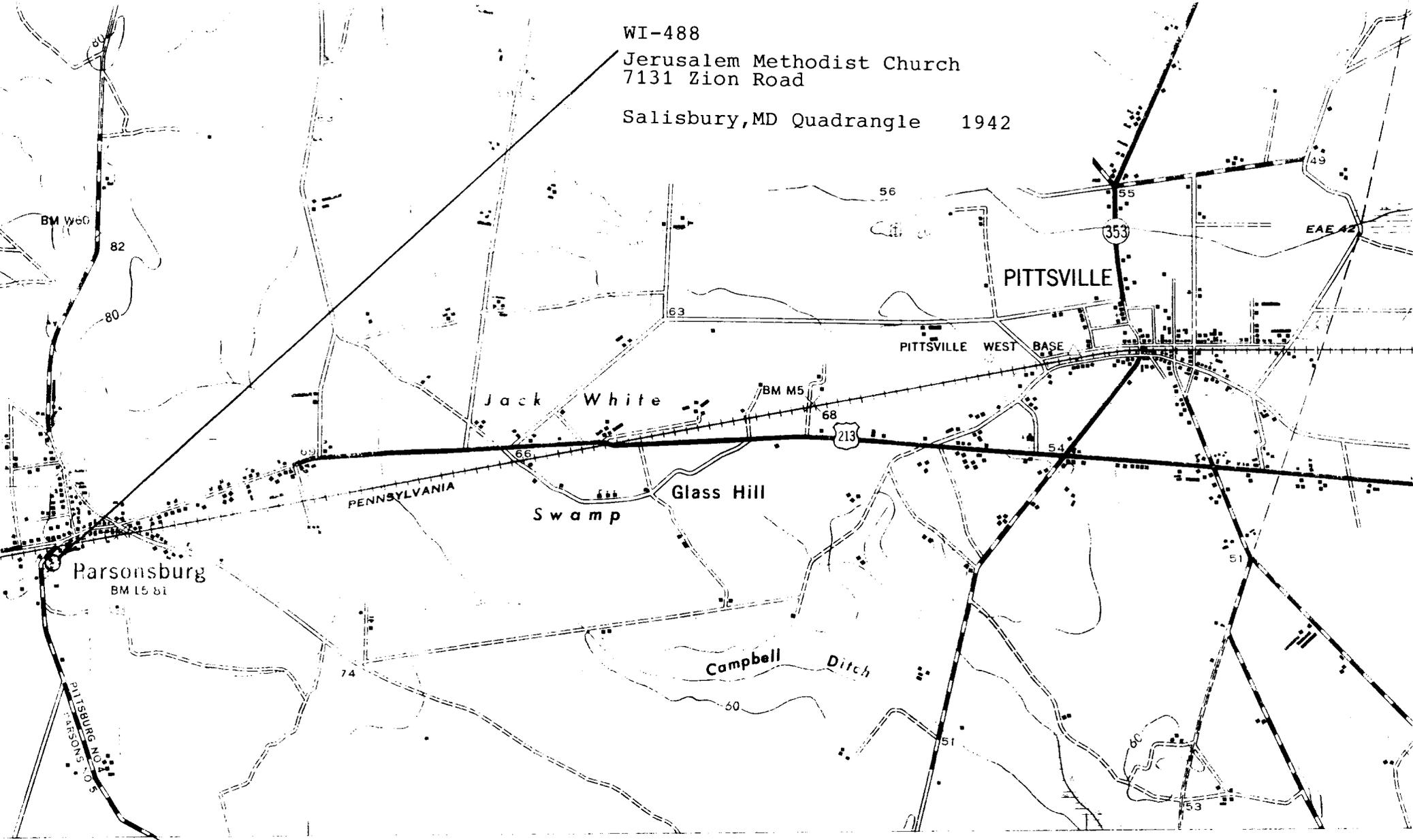
W. W. Layfield & others (George K. Perdue, Elijah L.  
Perdue, Benj. Jackson, Isaac H. Parsons, George W. Riggin,  
and Minos B. Brown

In consideration of one half acre of ground deeded by the  
said George K. Perdue in 1840 to Henry Mills, Levin  
Hayman, William W. Layfield, George K. Perdue, Elijah L.  
Perdue, George W. Riggin, and Isaac H. Parsons

Church lot



WI-488  
 Jerusalem Methodist Church  
 7131 Zion Road  
 Salisbury, MD Quadrangle 1942

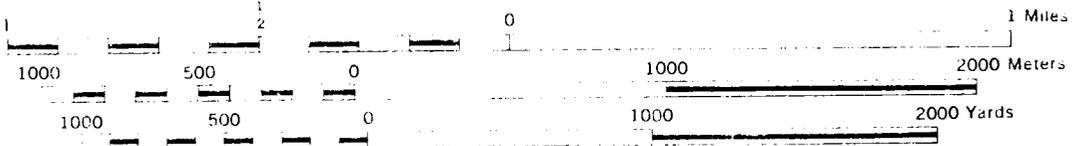


SHAVOX 1.4 MI  
 WASTE GATE 2.4 MI.

27 30

SCALE 1:24 000

25'



e (AM), U. S. Army.  
 IV NW, 1942  
 ropy by plane-  
 surveys by

CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET  
 DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL

POLYCONIC PROJECTION















CAROLINE PARSONS  
Born  
1850  
Died 1882

GEORGE E. PARSONS  
BORN  
Aug 3 1834  
DIED  
April 10 1892

MARIA E. PARSONS  
Born  
Geo. E. PARSONS  
Born Jun 1 1856  
Died Mar 1 1892

BY THE SIDE OF  
DIED 1891

