G-1-009

Open Number

Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of
Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. WI-502

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Ayres Methodist Episcopal Church

other Ayres United Methodist Church

2. Location

street and number 7515 Gumboro Road not for publication

city, town Pittsville vicinity

county Wicomico

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

name Trustees of Ayres United Methodist Church

street and number 7515 Gumboro Road telephone 410-835-3422

city, town Pittsville state MD zip code 21850

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Wicomico County Clerk of Court tax map and parcel Map 301, P. 509

city, town Salisbury, Maryland liber 7 folio 288

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	landscape		buildings
x building(s)	x private	commerce/trade	recreation/culture	1	sites
structure	both	defense	X religion		structures
site		domestic	social		objects
object		education	transportation		
		funerary	work in progress	1	Total
		government	unknown		
		health care	vacant/not in use	**Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory**	
		industry	other:		

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7. Description

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Condition

	excellent	deteriorated
x	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.

The Ayres Methodist Episcopal Church, now commonly known as the Ayres United Methodist Church, is located at 7515 Gumboro Road in the center of Pittsville, Wicomico County, Maryland. The single-story frame church faces southeast with the principal gable roof oriented on an east/west axis.

Built in stages beginning in 1888, the single-story, gable roofed frame church is supported on a low brick foundation, and the exterior is clad with vinyl siding. The steeply pitched roof of the original building is covered with asphalt shingles. Attached to the southeast corner of the church is a three-story entrance and bell tower. In 1948 a single-story three-bay by two bay frame addition was erected on the south side of the 1888 structure. Ten years later, in 1958, a single-story concrete block wing was attached to the south end of the 1948 addition.

The east elevation of the 1888 church is distinguished by the corner entrance and bell tower, which is set at an angle to the main block. A double-door entrance is topped by a pointed arch transom. Fixed at the second level is a diamond shaped window and small single-pane sash windows are located in each side. The third level or belfry is marked by louvered openings and a crenelated parapet wall. On the right (north) side of the tower is a pair of colored glass lancet windows that light the sanctuary and a clover-leaf shaped window that pierces the gable end. The edge of the roof is finished with an extended eave encased in vinyl. Fixed in the northeast corner of the brick foundation is a marble datestone inscribed, "Ayres M. E. Church, 1888."

The north side of the 1888 church is defined by four colored glass lancet windows with pointed arches. Centered on the north roof slope is a cross gable. The south side of the church is largely covered by the 1948 single-story frame addition, but two bays of the nineteenth century church are marked by colored glass lancet windows. The 1948 addition is lighted by colored glass windows. A marble datestone fixed in the east foundation is inscribed, "May 12, 1948." Attached to the south gable end of the 1948 wing is a single-story concrete block addition that carries a bronze date plaque.

The interior was not seen.

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8. Significance

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Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
1600-1699	agriculture	economics	health/medicine	performing arts
1700-1799	archeology	education	industry	philosophy
x 1800-1899	x architecture	engineering	invention	politics/government
x1900-1999	art	entertainment/ recreation	landscape architecture	x religion
2000-	commerce	ethnic heritage	law	science
	communications	exploration/ settlement	literature	social history
	community planning		maritime history	transportation
	conservation		military	other:

Significance dates		**Architect**	
Specific dates	1840, 1888, 1948, 1958	**Builder**	

Evaluation for:

National Register x 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.)

The history of Ayres Methodist Episcopal Church began in 1840 in the community then known as Derrickson's Crossroads. The congregation actually went by the name the "Crossroads Church" in its early years.[1] Between 1874 and the mid 1880s, the congregation disbanded over slavery issues.[2] A new Methodist Episcopal congregation was organized, and in 1885 land was acquired by John W. Wimbrow, Jacob W. Riggin, Elijah H. Parsons, Isaac N. Hearn, and Samuel W. Riley for the purposes of erecting a new structure. For $75, Eliza W. Fooks, widow of Ritchie Fooks, sold "...a certain lot or parcel of ground in or in the suburbs of Pittsville...being part of the same lands James Laws purchased of John Connelly

[1] Louis Parsons, "Pittsville: An Eastern Shore Town's History," privately printed, no date, p. 6.

[2] Parsons, p. 6.

and wife...."[3] On this lot the congregation financed the construction of a single-story Gothic Revival frame church in 1888. Eighteen years later the church was modified with the construction of the corner entrance and bell tower as well as the introduction of the colored glass windows. Later additions enlarged the building in 1948, in 1958, and lastly in 1975.[4]

[3] Wicomico County Land Record, 7/288, 7 May 1885.

[4] Parsons, p. 8.

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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

Historic Environment: Residential Neighborhood

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

Known Design Source:

9. Major Bibliographical References

WI-502

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of project area
Acreage surveyed
Quadrangle name

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Paul B. Touart, Architectural Historian
organization	Private Consultant
street & number	P. O. Box 5
city or town	Westover, 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.

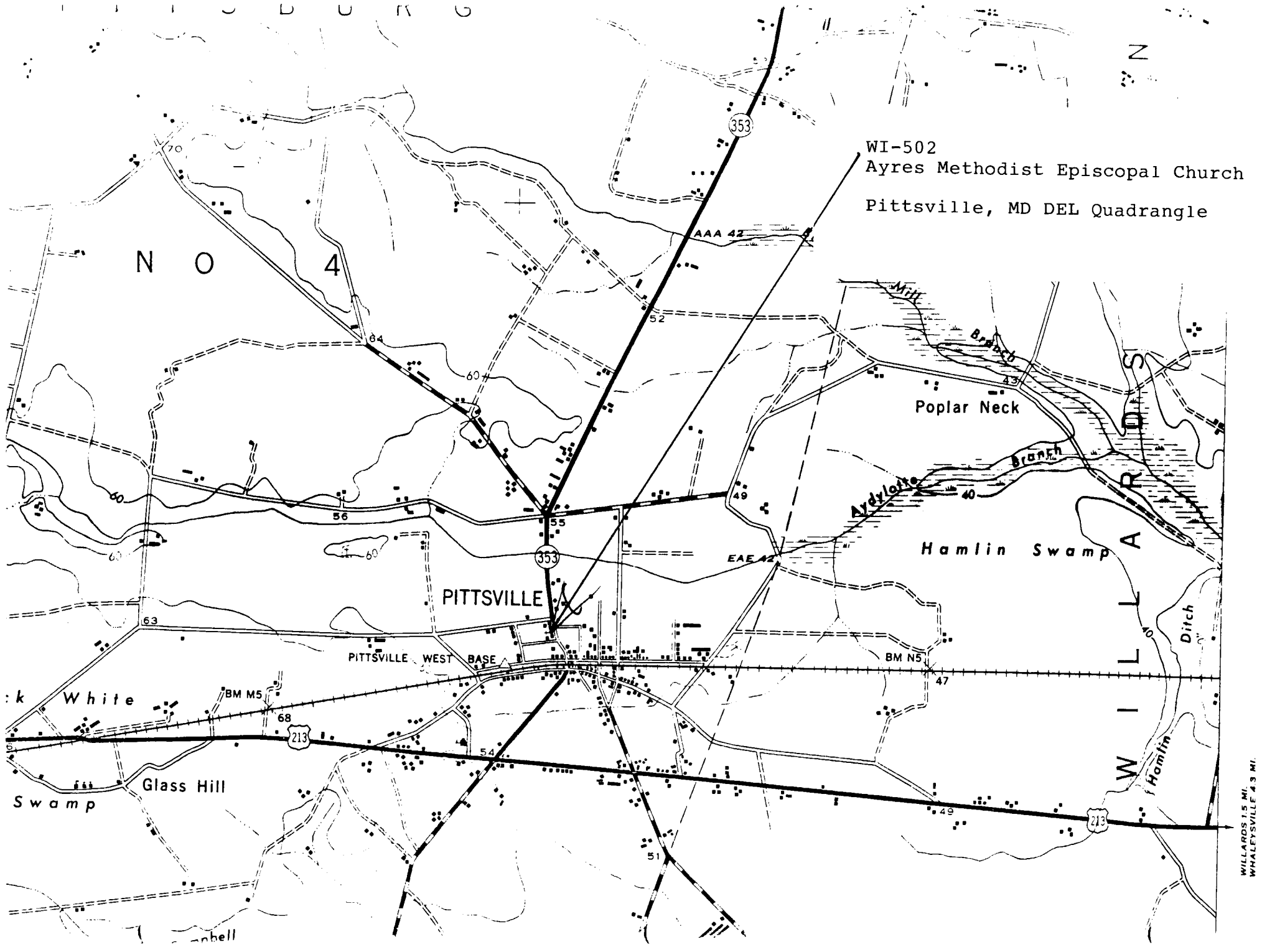
The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032
410-514-7600

WI-502
Ayres Methodist Episcopal Church
7515 Gumboro Road
Pittsville, Wicomico County, Maryland
Chain-of-title

Map 301, Parcel 509

7/288	Eliza W. Fooks, widow of Ritchie Fooks
	to
5/7/1885	John W. Wimbrow, Jacob W. Riggin, Elijah H. Parsons, Isaac N. Hearn, Samuel W. Riley
	$75.00 ...a certain lot or parcel of ground in or in the suburbs of Pittsville...being a part of the same lands James Laws purchased of John Connelly and wife


WI-502
Ayres Methodist Episcopal Church
Pittsville, MD DEL Quadrangle
N O 4
PITTSVILLE
PITTSVILLE WEST BASE
Poplar Neck
Hamlin Swamp
Aydylotte Branch
Mill Branch
Hamlin Ditch
Glass Hill
Swamp
White
BM M5
BM N5
AAA 42
EAE 42
353
213
WILLARDS 1.5 MI.
WHALEYSVILLE 4.3 MI.

No. 502

Agnes [illegible]

Pittsville [illegible]

Southwest [illegible]

5/2001 [illegible] Pittsburgh [illegible]

[illegible]

1 of 2

No. 502

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]