WI-503 1909
Calvary M. E. Church
Pittsville vicinity
Public worship

Perched atop a sandy knoll along Glass Hill Road is the Calvary M. E. Church, a Gothic Revival, tee-plan frame structure erected in 1909. The marble datestone fixed in the brick foundation is inscribed with a second date, 1872, which documents when this African-American congregation was established. The single-story frame church follows in the prevailing taste for Methodist church architecture during the late nineteenth and twentieth centuries with a tee-shaped plan and pointed arch colored glass windows. Rising within the front corner of the tee plan is an entrance tower topped by a tapered octagonal spire. According to the 1877 Pittsburg Election District map the 1870s church stood on the south side of the road across the road from the Glass Hill School. (See WI-496) A nineteenth- and twentieth century cemetery joins the church on this sandy knoll.

Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of
Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. W I-503

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Calvary M. E. Church

other

2. Location

street and number Glass Hill Road not for publication

city, town Pittsville vicinity x

county Wicomico

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

name Trustees of Calvary Church

street and number Glass Hill Road telephone

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 , P.

city, town Salisbury, Maryland liber folio

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

Contributing Resource in National Register District
X **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		
x building(s)	x private	commerce/trade	recreation/culture	1	buildings
structure	both	defense	religion		sites
site		x domestic	social		structures
object		education	transportation		objects
		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:		

Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. WI-503

Name Calvary M. E. Church
Continuation Sheet

Number 7 Page 1

7. Description

Inventory No. WI-503

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 Calvary M. E. Church is located on the north side of Glass Hill Road west of Pittsville, Wicomico County, Maryland. The single-story, tee-shaped frame church faces south with the principal gable roof oriented on a north/south axis. A nineteenth and twentieth century cemetery is located across the road.

Built in 1909, the single-story, tee-shaped, Gothic Revival frame church is supported on a brick foundation covered partially with stucco. Fixed in the southeast corner of the foundation is a marble datestone inscribed with the date 1909 and the name "Calvary M. E. Church." The east side of the cornerstone is inscribed "Founded 1872." The tee-shaped main block is covered with a steeply pitched asphalt shingle roof, and the exterior is clad with a combination of asbestos shingles and decorative fishscale shingles. Rising in the southwest corner of the tee plan is an entrance tower topped by a tapered octagonal spire. The double door entrance is fitted with replacement doors. A triangular, colored glass transom is fixed atop the entrance doors. The west side of the tower is pierced by a pointed arch window. Rising atop the entrance tower is an open belfry and tapered octagonal spire. The belfry consists of four columns wrapped with asphalt shingles. The belfry columns support the octagonal spire, which features shallow pitched cross gables on each elevation.

The south facade of main block is a gable-front elevation with pointed arch colored glass windows defining the first floor. Piercing the gable end is a round, colored glass window set within a field of fishscale shingles. The edge of the roof has an extended eave with an open soffit. The rafter ends are exposed and decorated.

The east side of the church is defined by four pointed arch colored glass windows, and a single flue brick stack pierces the roof. The west side of the church is a gabled elevation with pointed arch colored glass windows on the first floor and a round window within the gable end. Extending from the north side of the tee-plan main block is a shorter single-story apse defined by rectangular colored glass windows on each side.

The interior was not seen.

Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. WI-503

Name Calvary M. E. Church

Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 1

8. Significance

Inventory No. WI-503

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

Significance dates	Founded 1872	**Architect**	
Specific dates	1909	**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.)

Perched atop a sandy knoll along Glass Hill Road is the Calvary M. E. Church, a Gothic Revival, tee-plan frame structure erected in 1909. The marble datestone is inscribed with a second date, 1872, which documents when this African-American congregation was established. The single-story frame church follows in the prevailing taste for Methodist church during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries with a tee-shaped plan and pointed arch colored glass windows. Rising within the front corner of the tee plan is an entrance tower topped by a tapered octagonal spire. According to the 1877 Pittsburg Election District map the 1870s church was located on the south side of the road across the street from the Glass Hill School. (See WI-496). A nineteenth- and twentieth-century cemetery joins the church on this sandy knoll.

Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. WI-503

Name Calvary M. E. Church

Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 3

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: Rural Residential Neighborhood

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

Known Design Source:

9. Major Bibliographical References

WI-503

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

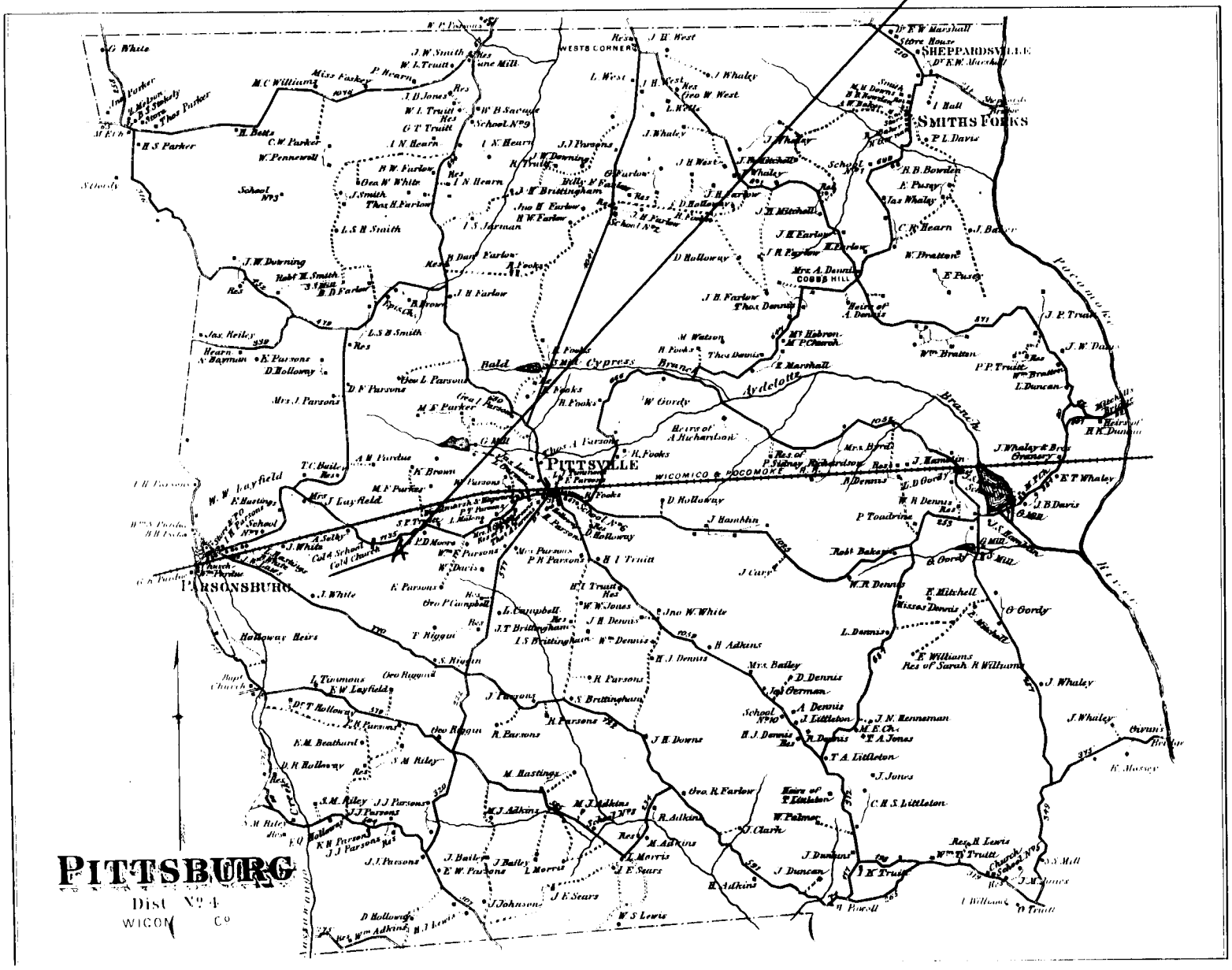
The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

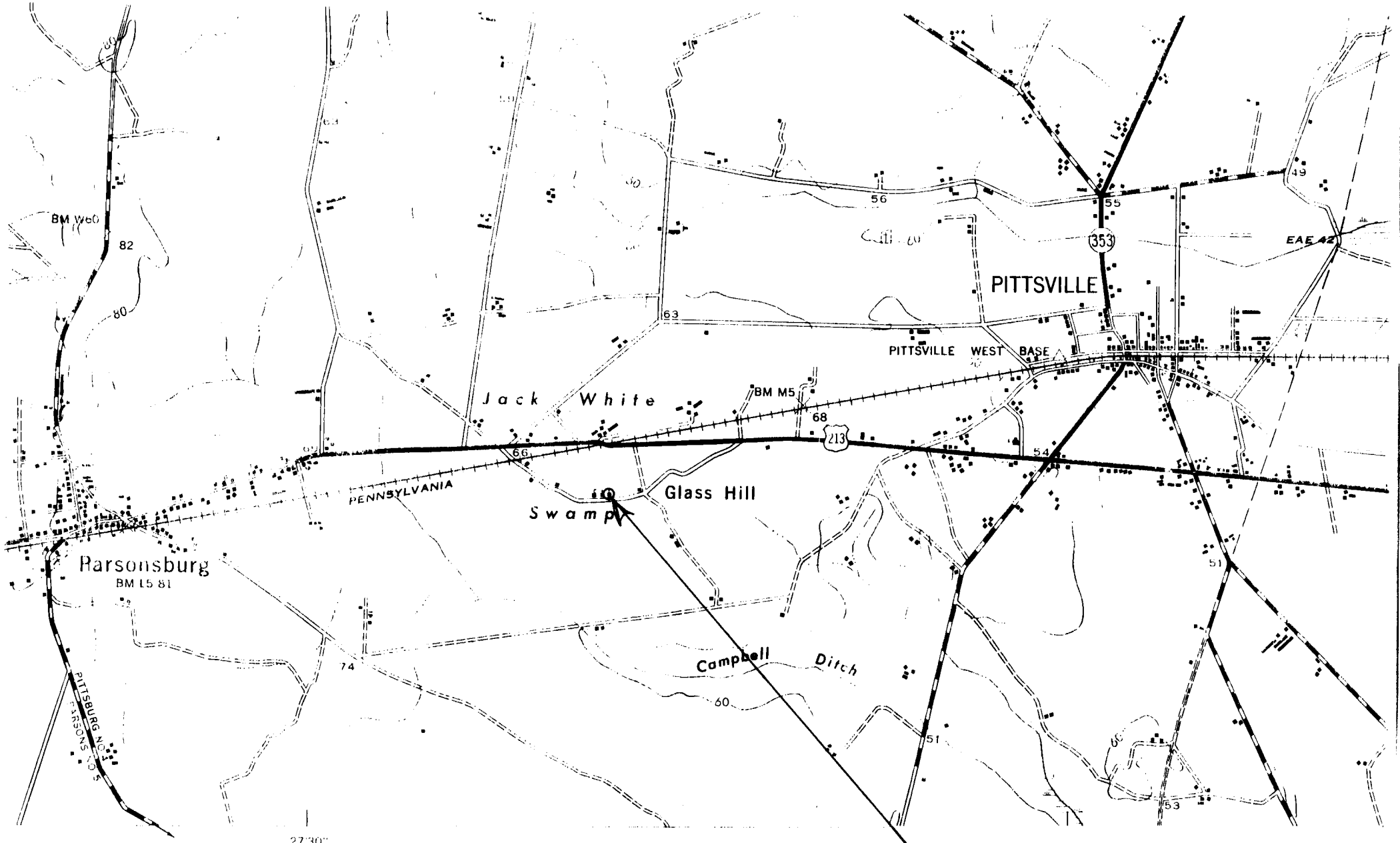
The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

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

WI-503
Calvary M. E. Church

Lake, Griffing, and Stevenson Atlas
1877





SCALE 1:24000

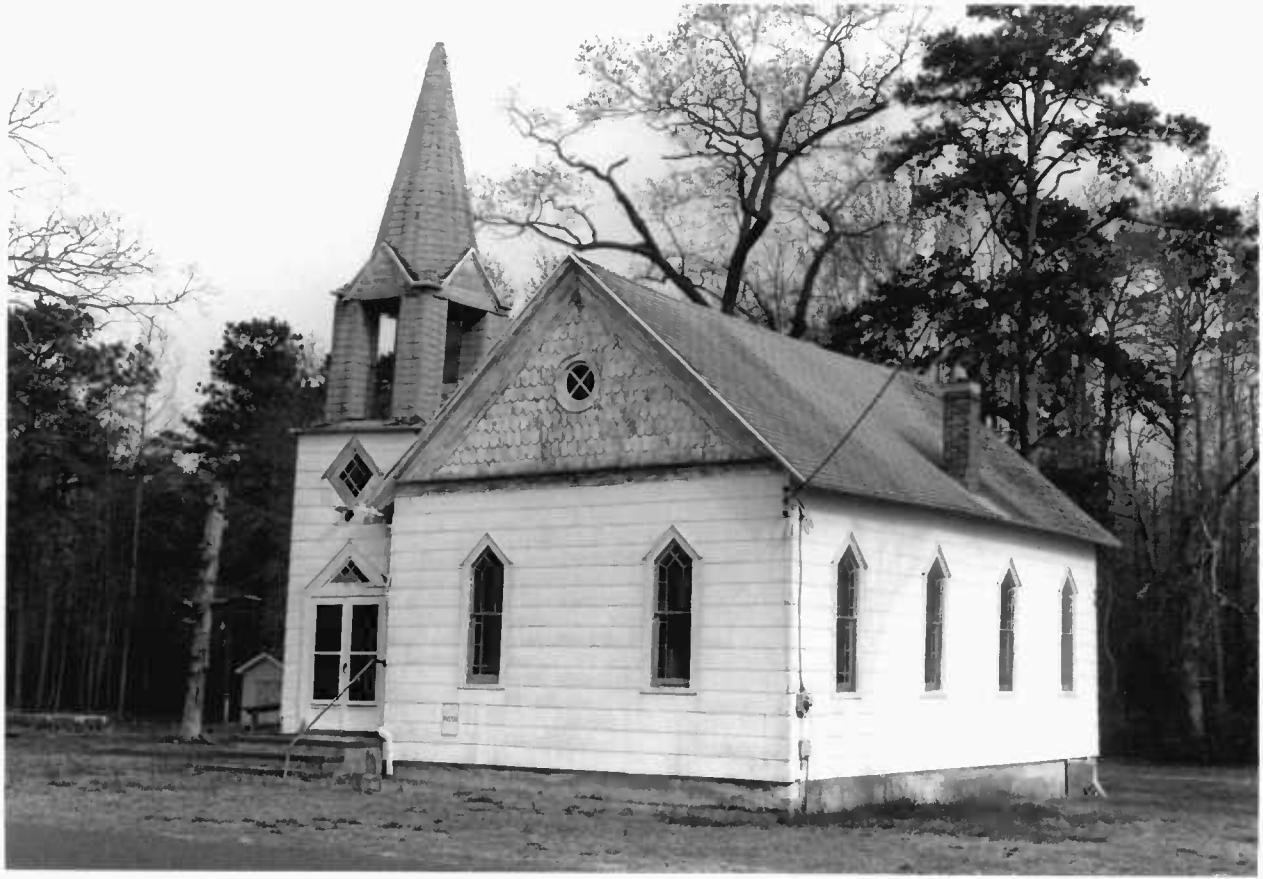
1000 500 0 1000

1000 500 0 1000

CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET

DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL

POLYCONIC PROJECTION

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

WI-503
Calvary M. E. Church
Pittsville, MD Quadrangle 1942