

WI-572

1916

Powellville Methodist Church

Powellville

Public worship

The most idiosyncratic landmark to distinguish the village of Powellville is the twin towered Methodist church standing along Mt. Hermon Road. Both structures were moved to this common location and joined together to use of the two churches as a single facility. The eastern half is the former St. John's M. E. Church, erected in 1916, according to E. C. Hallman's *Garden of Methodism*. The western half was White's Chapel, formerly located between Powellville and Whiton. Both structures were moved to this site and positioned side by side with a Sunday School room, kitchen, and support spaces houses in the building in between. The St. John's church houses the sanctuary, whereas the former White's Chapel serves as a multi-purpose meeting and dining room. Each building is lighted by a series of early twentieth-century colored glass windows. Fixed above the interior door of the St. John's Church is a colored glass transom with the name figured in the design.

# Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. WI-572

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

historic Powellville Methodist Church  
 other St. John's Methodist Episcopal Church, White's Chapel

## 2. Location

street and number Mt. Hermon Road \_\_\_ not for publication  
 city, town Powellville vicinity  
 county Wicomico

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

name Trustees of Powellville Methodist Church  
 street and number Mt. Hermon Road telephone  
 city, town Powellville state MD zip code

## 4. Location of Legal Description

~~courthouse, registry of deeds, etc.~~ Wicomico County Clerk of Court liber folio  
 city, town Salisbury tax map tax parcel tax ID number

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

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## 7. Description

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### Condition

excellent       deteriorated  
 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.

The Powellville Methodist Church is located on the north side of Mt. Hermon Road on the west side of the village of Powellville, Wicomico County, Maryland. The church consists of two early twentieth-century gable-front frame structures moved to this location and joined together as one facility. The church faces southwest with the principal gable roofs oriented on a northeast/southwest axis.

The southwest (main) elevation of the eastern structure, originally known as St. John's, is a single-story gable-front elevation with a two-story entrance and bell tower centered on the wall. The structure rests on a low brick foundation and it clad uniformly with vinyl siding. The steeply pitched gable roof is covered with a layer of metal. The tower is defined by a double-door entrance on the first story and a rectangular louvered vent on the upper story. The tower is topped by a squat broach spire. Flanking the tower are tall colored glass windows of figurative designs. Finishing the edge of the roof is a slightly extended eave with returns at the base of the roof.

The east side elevation of St. John's is defined by three rectangular colored glass windows, and a small cross gable is located atop the gable roof. The west side elevation is defined by rectangular colored glass windows of figurative designs as well and a small cross gable is fixed atop the roof.

The northeast (rear) wall of the church is largely covered by the mid twentieth century addition.

The interior has been remodeled with sheet paneled and beaverboard, but the ceiling retains a cove cornice. An arched opening provides access to an altar area fronted by a semi-circular, turned baluster handrail. Two colored glass windows with figurative designs light the altar.

The western half of the church, originally White's Chapel, is used as a meeting hall, and it is similar in design to St. John's with a projecting two-story entrance tower fronting a single-story gable-front main block. The church hall is supported on a low brick foundation, and the exterior is clad uniformly with vinyl siding. The steeply pitched gable roof is sheathed with asphalt shingles. The entrance tower has a double-door entrance with a rectangular colored glass transom above. Defining the upper level is a diamond-shaped window filled with colored glass as well. The tower is capped by a short broach spire that rises above a square base. The entrance tower is flanked on each side by rectangular colored glass windows. The sides of the church hall are marked by three rectangular colored glass windows. The northeast (rear) wall of the church hall is largely covered by the single-story mid twentieth century addition that houses the kitchen.

## 8. Significance

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Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

Specific dates

Architect/Builder

Construction dates 1916

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

The most idiosyncratic landmark to distinguish the village of Powellville is the twin towered Methodist church standing along Mt. Hermon Road. Both structures were moved to this common location and joined together to make use of the two structures as a single facility. The eastern half is the former St. John's M. E. Church erected in 1916 according to E. C. Hallman's *Garden of Methodism*.<sup>1</sup> The western half was White's Chapel, formerly located between Powellville and Whiton. Both structures were moved to this common location and positioned side by side with a Sunday School room, kitchen, and support spaces housed in the building in between. The St. John's church houses the sanctuary, whereas the former White's Chapel serves as a multi-purpose meeting and dining room. Each building is lighted by a series of early twentieth-century colored glass windows. Fixed above the interior door of the St. John's Church is a colored glass window with the name figured in the design.

<sup>1</sup> E. C. Hallman, *Garden of Methodism*, Peninsula Annual Conference of the Methodist Church, 1948, p. 348.

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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Wicomico County Land Records, various volumes, Wicomico County Courthouse.

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## 10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of surveyed property ¼ acre  
Acreage of historical setting ¼ acre  
Quadrangle name Salisbury, Maryland Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

The metes and bounds of this property are coincidental with the current boundary of the lot.

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## 11. Form Prepared by

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name/title	Paul B. Touart, Architectural Historian		
organization	Private Consultant	date	10/31/2001
street & number	P. O. Box 5	telephone	410-651-1094
city or town	Westover	state	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.

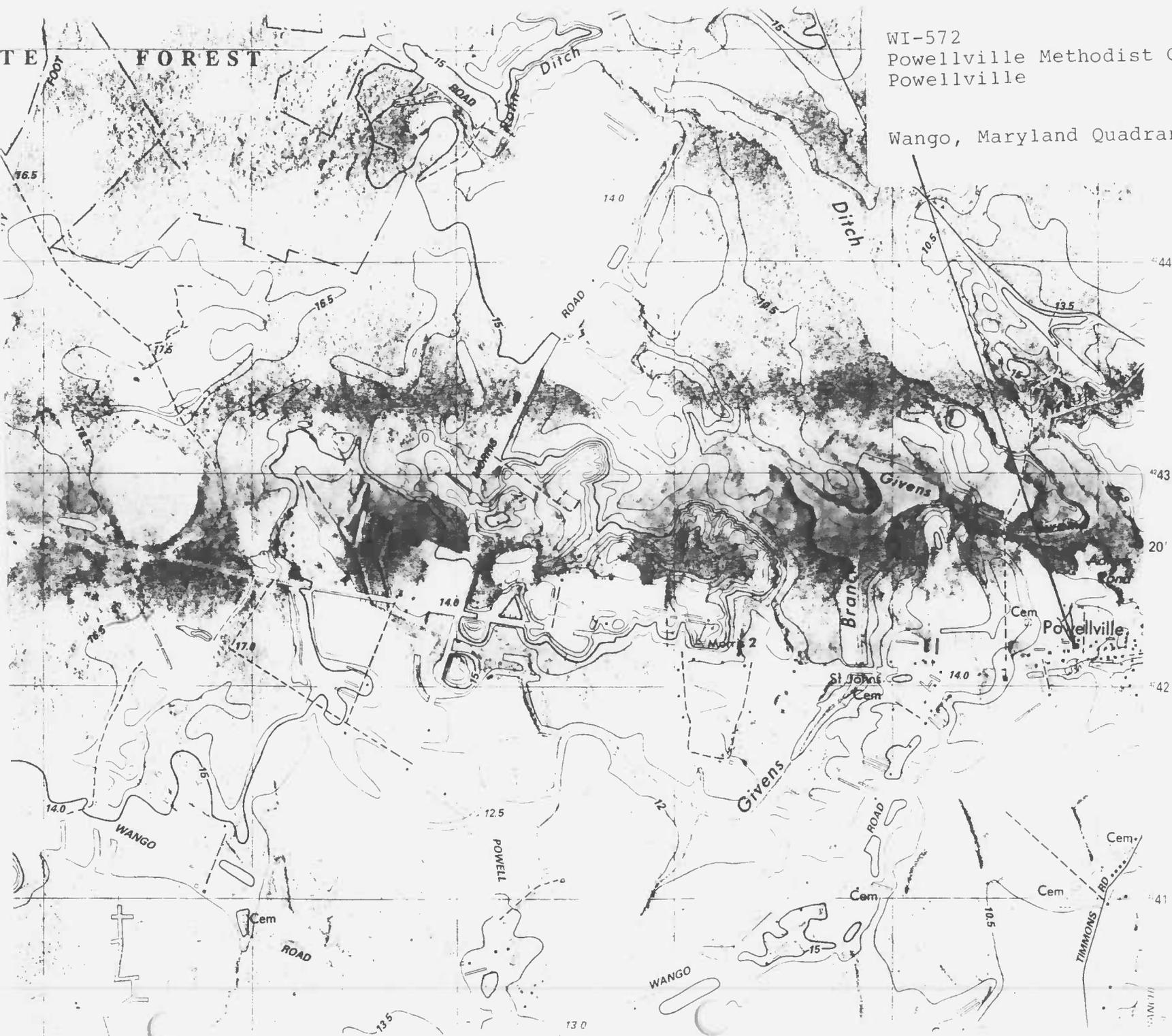
The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
DHCD/DHCP  
100 Community Place  
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023  
410-514-7600

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WI-572  
Powellville Methodist Church  
Powellville

Wango, Maryland Quadrangle, 1982



CONVERSION  
SCALES





WI-572

POWERSVILLE METHODIST CHURCH  
POWERSVILLE, WISCONSIN Co. WIS.  
SOUTHWEST EDUCATION

10/01, PAUL TOURNET, ~~PHOTOGRAPHER~~

NEZ. / AND HISTORICAL TRUST

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