

Capsule Summary  
SM-866  
Bethel Church Cemetery  
Budds Creek  
Private

circa 1820-1960s

This 2.75 acre cemetery, called the Bethel Church Cemetery, is all that remains from a small Methodist community that had its origins in the early nineteenth century. In 1820, the lot containing the present cemetery was purchased by Methodist congregants who desired a place to worship in the northern end of St. Mary's County near present day Budds Creek, Maryland. At least three different church buildings occupied the lot between the 1820s and 1960s. The last church, constructed in 1892, was demolished after the congregation was joined with a Charles County church in the 1940s (Methodist Churches, 8, 15). The cemetery contains headstones that range in date from the nineteenth to the twentieth centuries. Most of the markers are modest although at least two obelisk monuments and a table tomb are presently visible.

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. SM-866

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

historic Bethel Church Cemetery

other \_\_\_\_\_

### 2. Location

street and number S side of Bethel Church Rd, just E of its int. w/Thompsons Corner Rd.     not for publication

city, town Budds Creek     vicinity

county St. Mary's

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

name United Methodist Church Inc. Trustees for La Plata RFD

street and number \_\_\_\_\_ telephone N/a

city, town Mechanicsville state Md zip code 20659

### 4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. St. Mary's County Courthouse tax map and parcel TM-11, P-15

city, town Leonardtown liber 72 folio 343

### 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
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	Contributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	_____ buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input type="checkbox"/> domestic	<u>1</u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	_____ structures
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> funerary	_____ objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	<u>1</u> Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	
		<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	
		<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion	
		<input type="checkbox"/> social	
		<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	
		<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	
		<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	
		<input type="checkbox"/> other:	
			<b>Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory</b>
			<u>0</u>

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## 7. Description

Inventory No. SM-866

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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 Bethel Church Cemetery is located on the south side of Bethel Church Road just east of its intersection with Thompsons Corner Road in the vicinity of Budds Creek, Maryland. With a majority of the stones oriented on an east/west axis, the cemetery lot is characterized by a number of headstones, a few obelisk monuments, and at least one table tomb. The graves range in date from the nineteenth to the twentieth centuries. The lot consists of 2.75 acres and once included the church that has since been demolished. The property is flat and is presently surrounded on three sides by agricultural fields. A few mature trees shade the graves, but the plot is largely overgrown with grass.

# 8. Significance

Inventory No. SM-866

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input 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**

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.)

This 2.75 acre cemetery, called the Bethel Church Cemetery, is all that remains from a small Methodist community that had its origins in the early nineteenth century. In 1820, the lot containing the present cemetery was purchased by Methodist congregants who desired a place to worship in the northern end of St. Mary's County near present day Budds Creek, Maryland. At least three different church buildings occupied the lot between the 1820s and 1960s. The last church, constructed in 1892, was demolished after the congregation was joined with a Charles County church in the 1940s (Methodist Churches, 8, 15). The cemetery contains headstones that range in date from the nineteenth to the twentieth centuries. Most of the markers are modest although at least two obelisk monuments and a table tomb are presently visible.

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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Inventory No. SM-866

Hammett, Regina Combs. History of St. Mary's County, Maryland: 1634-1990. Ridge, Md: Self-published, 1994.

N.a. A History of Methodist Churches in St. Mary's County, Maryland. Leonardtown, Md: Printing Press, 1984.

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## 10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of surveyed property 2.75 acres  
Acreage of historical setting same  
Quadrangle name Charlotte Hall                      Quadrangle scale: 1:24 000

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

The property is bounded to the east, south, and west by agricultural fields and to the north by Bethel Church Road. A more specific description of the properties boundaries can be found in St. Mary's County Land Records Liber 72, Folio 343.

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## 11. Form Prepared by

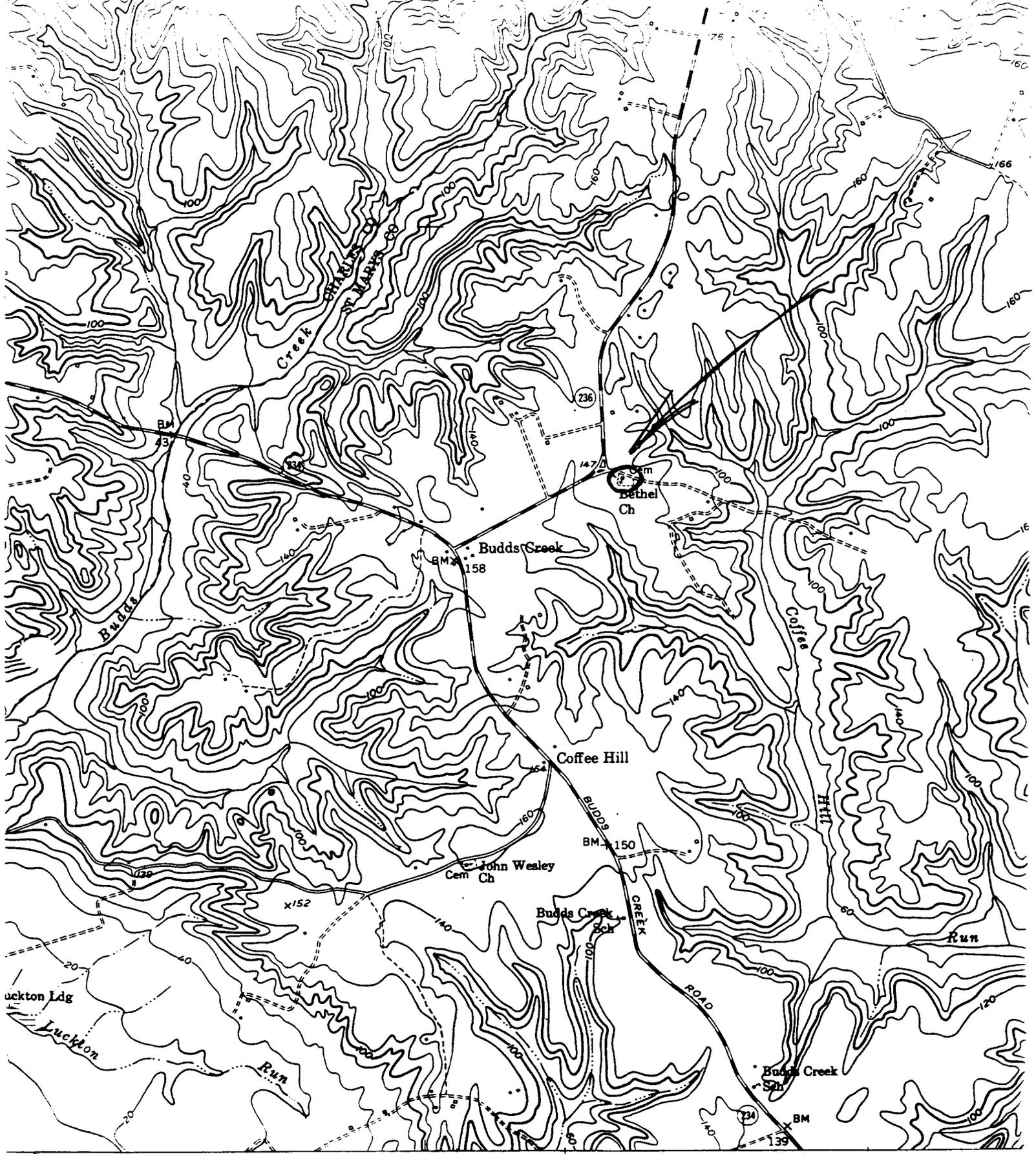
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name/title	Kirk E. Ranzetta, Historic Sites Surveyor		
organization	St. Mary's County Department of Planning & Zoning	date	August, 2000
street & number	22740 Washington Street	telephone	301-475-4662
city or town	Leonardtown	state	Maryland

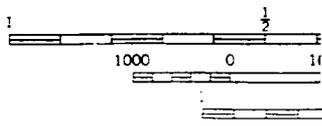
The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

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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SM-866  
Bethel Church Cemetery  
Budds Creek  
St. Mary's County  
Charlotte Hall Quad



SM-866

Bethel Church Cemetery

St. Mary's County

Kirk Ranzetta

Sept/00

M.J. Smith

Looking W

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