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was a story-and-a-half frame structure with two dormer windows and a roof extending over a front porch. Likely it was part of this settlement, reportedly a school.

This small wooden chapel is composed of a central auditorium with a vestibule entrance at one and a small addition behind the altar large enough to accommodate two large armchairs for the ministers' use during the service. There are three bays along each side; on the left of the building one bay is a door with a large transom window above it, bringing the opening to the same height as the tall windows beside it. The bottom panes of the 2/2 sash are painted red and yellow. The exterior of the building is surmounted by a small wooden steeple with a pyramidal roof. The church is probably built on brick piers but they are now covered by vinyl sheets.

The interior has contemporary synthetic panelling and wooden pews. The altar is free-standing, with a simple wooden railing around the front and sides. Two oil lamps of Victorian design hang from the ceiling near the front of the church. Matching oil lamps are bracketed on each side of the altar.

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Two families were prominent in establishing the church and village. Isaac Cotton and his wife, Nancy, bought two acres along Morgnec Road (Rte. 291), which they mortgaged in 1869 for \$150 with William Ford. 82/ Cotton's land was part of the farm of Hugh Wallis, shown on the Martenet Map of 1860 as lying north of Route 291 on the western side of the old Chesterville Road. Cotton was one of the early trustees of Joshua Church and was a signer of the mortgage the congregation obtained in 1869 from the Church Extension Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church. The mortgage indenture's description indicates that Joshua Church was already there. The beginning stone for the description was "near the Colored People's

Church," and the property consisted of one acre with buildings. 83/ The trustees signing the mortgage were Charles W. Jones (the only signer who could actually sign his name, the others merely making "His Mark"), Marshall Jones, Isaac Cotton, Samuel Gleaves, Isaac S. Jones, Josiah Caulk, John Strickling, Isaac Caulk. The mortgage amounted to \$200 and was to be repaid with 6% interest, and was repaid by 1883. Isaac Caulk, one of the early land owners, had conveyed the church site to the trustees in 1869.

A graveyard, as well as a small separate parish meeting building are near the church. Gravestones for members of the Cotton, Caulk and other families, date from the late nineteenth century. In the yard of one of the village houses are two wooden grave markers, tall wooden columns with human heads carved on the top. Written on the columns are "Father," 1862-1963, and "Mother" 1879-1946.

Joshua Church and the surrounding houses represent an important settlement pattern and history of land ownership as free African-Americans achieved a measure of economic independence and viability in mid-nineteenth century Kent County.

HISTORIC CONTEXT

K-441 JOSHUA CHAPEL and MORGNEC VILLAGE

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization

1) Eastern Shore

Chronological/Developmental Period

10) Agricultural-Industrial Transition

Historic Period Themes

- 2) Architecture
- 7) Social/Cultural

Resource Type

Category - Building, private, occupied, public acquisition, not applicable, not accessible. Historic Environment - Village Historic Functions and Uses - church/dwelling Unknown Design Source

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Magi No. DOE __yes __no

1. Nam	e (indicate	preferred name)		
historic	Joshua Methodis	st Episcopal Church a	nd Morgnec Village	
and/or common	Joshua Me	ethodist Chapel		
2. Loca	ation			
street & number	Joshua Churc	ch Road, off Rte. 291		not for publication
city, town Morgi	nec Village,Ches	tertownx vicinity of	congressional district	0ne
state Mary	land	county	Kent	
3. Clas	sification			
Category district building(s)X structure site object	Ownership public both Public Acquisition in process being considered x not applicable	Status X occupied unoccupied work in progress Accessible X yes: restricted yes: unrestricted no	Present Use agriculture commercial educational entertainment government industrial military	museum park private residence X religious scientific transportation other:
4. Own	er of Prop	erty (give names	and mailing addresse	es of <u>all</u> owners)
name	Joshua Method	ist Chapel		
street & number	Morgne	3	telephone n	
city, town	Millington	state	e and zip code MD 2	21651
5. Loca	ation of Le	gal Descripti	ion	
courthouse, regis	stry of deeds, etc.	Kent County Courtho	use	liber -
street & number	Cross Street			folio -
city, town	Chestertown, 1	MD	state	MD
6. Rep	resentatio	n in Existing	Historical Surv	reys
title	None			
date			federal sta	te county loca
∌pository for su	rvey records			
city, town			state	

7. Description

Survey No. K-441

Condition excellent	deteriorated	Check one unaltered	Check one original site	
good _X_ fair	ruins unexposed	altered	moved date of move	

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

Joshua Methodist Church is the focal point of a mid-19th century Free African-American settlement. The building is a simple one-story frame structure. In the vicinity are several two story frame houses, showing traces of pre-1860 construction.

This small wooden chapel is composed of a central auditorium with a vestibule entrance at one end and a small addition behind the altar large enough to accommodate two large armchairs for the ministers' use during the service. There are three bays along each side; on the left of the building one bay is a door with a large transom window above it, bringing the opening to the same height as the tall windows beside it. The bottom panes of the 2/2 sash, are painted red and yellow. The exterior of the building is surmounted by a small wooden steeple with a pyramidal roof. The church is probably built on brick piers but they are now covered by vinyl sheets.

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Period	⊢1499 ⊢1599 ⊢1699 ⊢1799 ⊢1899	arc agr _X_ arc art con	hitecture	ic	con eco edu eng	nmunit eservati enomics ecation pineerin eloratio ustry	y planning ion s ng n/settlem	g ent	_ law _ litera _ milita _ musi _ philo	ary ic	scie scu soc hun thea tran	ence Ipture ial/ nanitarian
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check:	an	d/or	Criteria:	_				E	F	G		
	Leve1	of Si	gnificance:		nation	al _	_state	1	ca1			

Survey No.

K-441

A Significance

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Joshua Church and the surrounding houses represent an important settlement pattern and history of land ownership as Free African-Americans achieved a measure of economic independence and viability in mid-nineteenth century Kent County.

Two families, the Caulks and the Cottons, were prominent in establishing the church and village: Isaac Cotton and his wife, Nancy, bought two acres along Rte. 291. In 1869 they mortgaged this for \$150 with William Ford. Cotton's land was part of the farm of Hugh Wallis, shown on the Martenet Map of 1860 as lying north of Route 291 on the western side of the old Chesterville Road. Cotton was one of the early trustees of

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9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No.K-441

Kent County Land Records

10. Geogra	aphical Data	
Acreage of nominated pr	roperty	Quadrangle scale
UTM References do N	OT complete UTM referer	aces
Zone Easting	Northing	Zone Easting Northing
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E		F L L L L L L L L L L L L L L L L L L L
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state		
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state 11. Form F name/title Di organization Historic	code code repared By avy H. McCall	county code county code

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory 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.

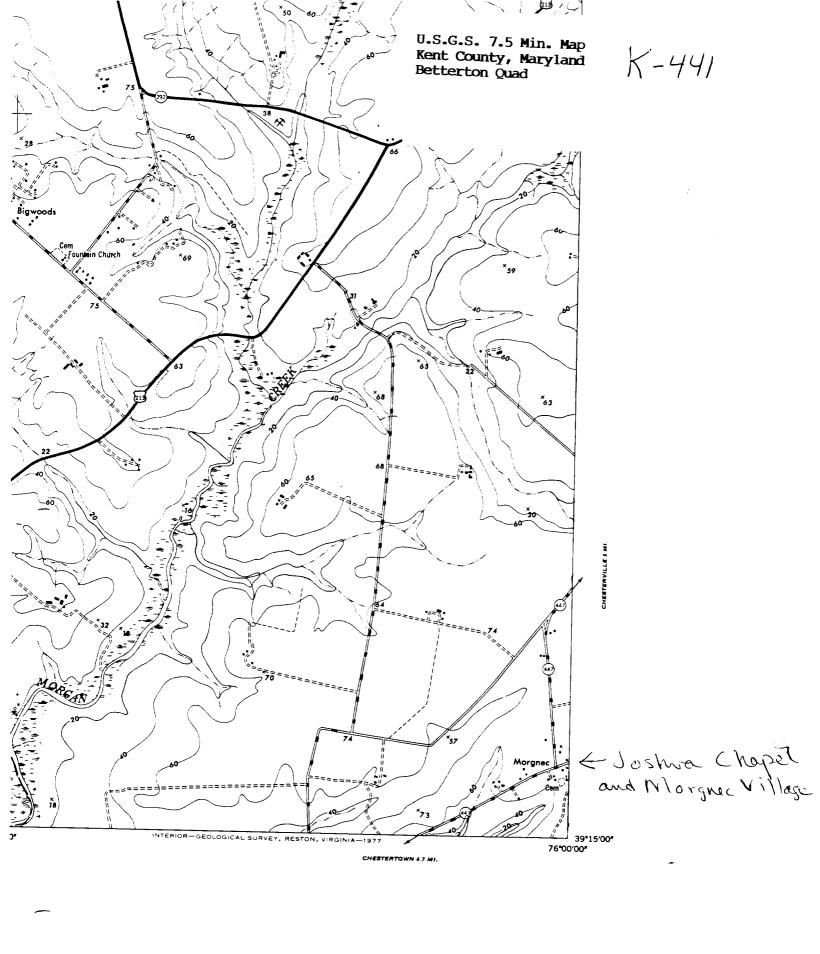
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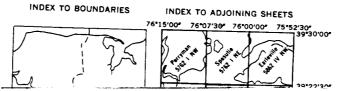
return to:

21 State Circle

Annapolis, Maryland 21401

(301) 269-2438







Joshua M.E. Church K-441 Church Lune Morgnec

N.E.

M. Bourne March 1996

JOSHUA CHAPEL Chestertown, Maryland (ca 1898)

In the last quarter of the 18th century, Methodist preachers began to organize Maryland Blacks, both slave and free, into small rural congregations. The history of these congregations in Kent County has not been researched, but the pattern here probably resembles that observed elsewhere. Because Blacks had settled on Morgan Neck at least by the early 19th century, Joshua Chapel was probably one of the earliest of these congregations. The Church group was accepted into the Delaware Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church in 1839.

The present building, a simple one story structure with a gable roof, was constructed about 1898 and replaces an earlier structure, the "Old Tabernacle", which stood behind the present structure. The 1877 Atlas also shows the location of a "Camp Meeting Ground" near the location of the Old Tabernacle.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

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CITY, TOWN		gnec)	
STATE	Chestertown	XX VICINITY OF	COUNTY
	Maryland		
CLASSIFIC	ATION	s all profit campy outs o	
CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENTUSE
X_DISTRICT	PUBLIC	XOCCUPIED	AGRICULTUREMUSEUM
BUILDING(S)	X_PRIVATE		COMMERCIALPARK
STRUCTURE	_BOTH	WORK IN PROGRESS	EDUCATIONALXPRIVATE RES
SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISE		ENTERTAINMENTRELIGIOUS
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NAME JOSH STREET & NUMBER CITY, TOWN Mill LOCATION COURTHOUSE. REGISTRY OF DEEDS,	lington Circuit OF LEGAL DE	VICINITY OF ESCRIPTION Court House	Telephone #: STATE, Zip code Maryland 21651 Liber #: SB 4 Folio #: 41
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(-441

CONDITION

CHECK ONE

CHECK ON

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__DETERIORATED __RUINS

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X_ORIGINAL SITE

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__MOVED DATE.....

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Joshua Chapel is located in the village of Morgnec in a kind of town square which includes the church, the annex, and the graveyard; the elementary school (K-445) was also located here when first constructed. The chapel is shaded by tall oak trees and surrounded by thickets.

The building is a three bay by three bay frame structure with a 90° gable roof and a brick foundation. The entry is in its northern gable and the alter is located in a shallow rectangular extension in the rear. There is a low, gable-roofed belfry above the entry, and a tall brick chimney in the east roof slope.

Exterior detailing is very simple. The overhanging eaves of the roof are enclosed and finished with simple moldings. The roof is covered with asphalt shingles. Window and door trim and sills are unmolded and filled with 2 over 2 sash. All extern wooden trim is painted white, and the building is covered with asbestous shingles painted grey.

The interior room is $1\frac{1}{2}$ stories tall with a ceiling which follows the roof slope. Greek ogee and bevel moldings--stock material in the late 19th century--are used to trim out doors and window openings. Simple pews and kerosene lanterns which hang from the ceiling date from the original construction period.

Behind the church is the one-story annex building. It is 2 by 3 bay frame structure built with a shallow gable roof. It rests on brick piers and was moved to its present location in 1917.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

K-441

SPECIFIC DAT	ES ca 1898	BUILDER/ARCH	HITECT Joshua M.E. Ch	apel
		INVENTION		
_1900-	COMMUNICATIONS	_INDUSTRY	POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	OTHER (SPECIFY)
X.1800-1899	COMMERCE	EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	PHILOSOPHY	_TRANSPORTATION
1700-1799	ART	ENGINEERING	MUSIC	THEATER
_1600-1699	ARCHITECTURE	EDUCATION	MILITARY	_SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
1500-1599	AGRICULTURE	ECONOMICS	LITERATURE	SCULPTURE
1400-1499	ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	CONSERVATION	LAW	SCIENCE
PREHISTORIC	ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	COMMUNITY PLANNING	LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	X_RELIGION
PERIOD	AF	REAS OF SIGNIFICANCE CH	ECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW	

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

In the last quarter of the 18th century, Methodist preachers began to organize Maryland Blacks, both slave and free, into small rural congregations. The history of these congregations in Kent County has not been researched, but the pattern here probably resembles that elsewhere.

Because Blacks had settled on Morgan Neck at least by the early 19th century,

Joshua Chapel was probably one of the earliest of these congregations. The Church

group was accepted into the Delaware Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church in

1839.

The present building was constructed about 1898 and replaces an earlier structure, the "Old Tabernacle", which stood behind the present structure. The 1877 Atlas also shows the location of a "Camp Meeting Ground" near the location of the Old Tabernacle. The one acre was purchased for \$200.00 in 1869. In the deed of sale, the tract was described as one acre "near the col'd peoples' Church." (JKH 8/281.)

^{1.} Tradition holds that the land for the church and cemetary was donated by Joshua Caulk, who's grave stone is shown and for whom the chapel is named. He died in 1867 and may therefore have been involved in the land for the earlier church. No land records have been located to confirm or deny this legend.

Kent County Land Records, Kent County Court House, Chestertown, Maryland

K-44/

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Lake, Griffing & Stevenson. An Illustrated Atlas of Kent and Queen Anne (sic) Counties, Md. (Philadelphia: 27 South Sixth Street, 1877.)

Handbook of the Delaware Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, 1964 Edition.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

GEOGRAPHICAL DAT	ГА	
ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY		
VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION	N	
2		•
LIST ALL STATES AND COU	NTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING	STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES
STATE	COUNTY	
STATE	COUNTY	
STATE	COUNTY	
FORM PREPARED BY	,	
NAME / TITLE		
	Survey Consultant	
ORGANIZATION	Sarvey Compared to	DATE
Kent County Plan	ning Commission	778-4600, ext.67
STREET & NUMBER		TELEPHONE
Court House	·	
CITY OR TOWN		STATE
Chestertown, Mar	yland	

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RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

In 1883 Land records (SB4/41) show that the mortgage debt had been satisfied. The present church was constructed several years later 2 , and the annex building was moved to its site in 1917 for use as a social center.

2. Trustees were Charles W. Jones, Marshall S. Jones, Isaac Cotton, Samuel Gleaves, Isaac S. Jones, Josiah Caulk, Jno. Stricking, Samuel J. Gleaves, and Isaac Caulk.

Kent- WA 444
Joshua Chapel (Methodist)
Morgnec Rd.
Near Chestertown
Morgnec, MD

1879

Access: Public

This small chapel stands 20' from the east side of Morgnec Rd. in rural Kent County. The chapel faces west. It measures 18' across and 22' in depth. Joshua Chapel is used mostly as a mortuary chapel. It was built by black field hands and farmers. When I visited the site there were ten members in the congregation. The chapel is part of the Millington-Pondtown Charge. This charge consists of five small black congregations that are located from Chestertown (Boyer's Chapel) to the Delaware border.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

K - WAN 441 MAGI#150 MAY 4608

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

NAME			
HISTORIC JO	shua Chapel (Morgne	ec)	
AND/OR COMMON			
LOCATIO	N		
STREET & NUMBER			
	Morgnec Rd.		CONCRECCIONAL DICTRICT
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	rary rand		Kent
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	OF PROPERTY es. Joshua Chanel	(Methodist)	
NAME Truste	ees, Joshua Chapel Rev. Phillip A. Hen	(Methodist)	Telephone #: 1-302-378-8
NAME Truste C/O F STREET & NUMBER CITY, TOWN	ees, Joshua Chapel Rev. Phillip A. Hen: Box 282	ry	Telephone #: 1-302-378-8
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7 DESCRIPTION

K-441

CONDITION

__EXCELLENT _GOOD XFAIR

__DETERIORATED __RUINS

__UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

XUNALTERED __ALTERED

CHECK ONE

NORIGINAL SITE _MOVED DATE 1879

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This small chapel stands 20' from the east side of Morgnec Rd. in rural Kent County. The chapel faces west. It measures 18' across and is 22' in depth. The structure is built of Weatherboard. It has a 4-panel front door (wooden-not original) . There are 2 two-over-two clear glass windows in the front facade on either side of the entrance. There are three 2-over-2 clear glass windows on the north and south sides of the building. These windows are rectangular and measure 5'.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

K-441

PERIOD	AF	REAS OF SIGNIFICANCE CH	IECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW	
PREHISTORIC	ARCHEULUGY-PREHISTORIC	COMMUNITY PLANNING	_LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	X _{RELIGION}
1400-1499	ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	CONSERVATION	LAW	SCIENCE
1500-1599	AGRICULTURE	ECONOMICS	LITERATURE	SCULPTURE
1600-1699	ARCHITECTURE	EDUCATION	MILITARY	SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
1700-1799	ART	ENGINEERING	MUSIC	THEATER
X1800-1899	COMMERCE	EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	PHILOSOPHY	TRANSPORTATION
1900-	COMMUNICATIONS	INDUSTRY	POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	_OTHER (SPECIFY)
		_INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

used now mostly as a mortuary chapel. The Chapel was built and attended by black field hands and farmers. When I visited this site there were no more than ten members left in the congregation.

The Chapel is part of the Millington-Pondtown Charge. This charge consists of five small black congregations that are located from Chestertown (Boyer's Chapel) to the Delaware border.

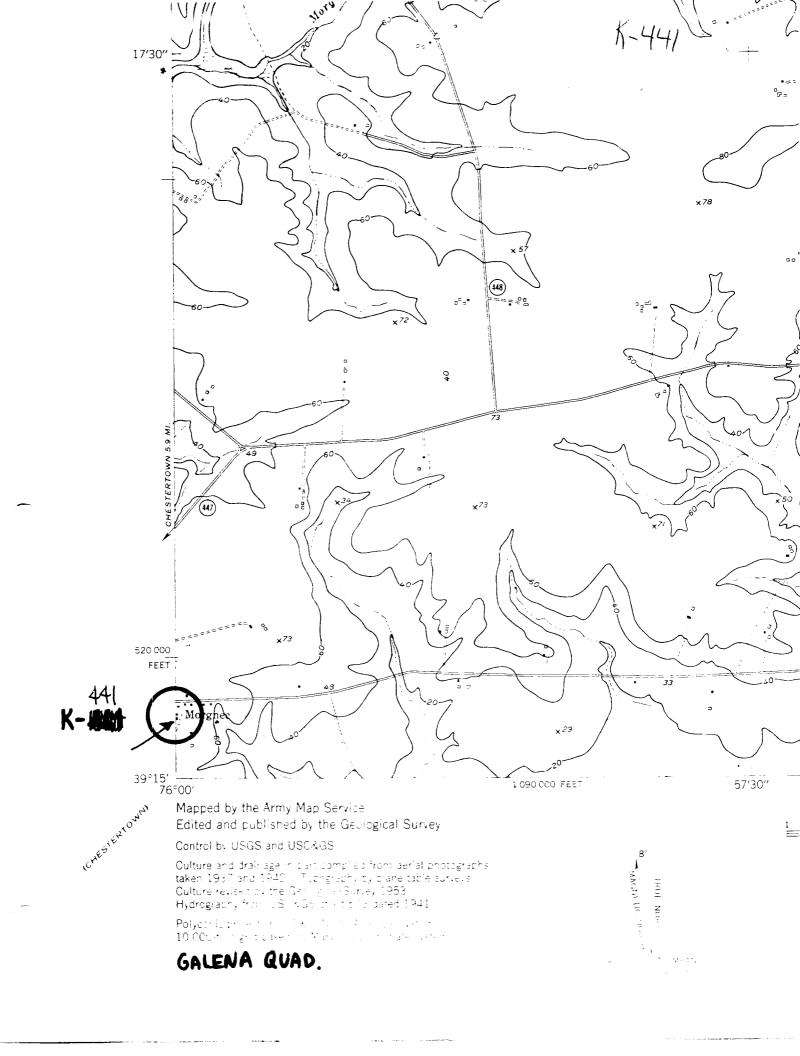
9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY	
JNDARY DESCRIPTION	
LL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAP	PING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES
COUNTY	
COUNTY	
REPARED BY	
James W. Clark, Historic Sites S	urveyor
Maryland Commission on Afro-Ame: History & Culture	
ER .	TELEPHONE 269-2893
	STATE Maryland
	JNDARY DESCRIPTION LL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAP COUNTY COUNTY REPARED BY James W. Clark, Historic Sites S. Maryland Commission on Afro-Ame:

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory 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
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438





Joshua Chapel (Morgnec) K-WW Morgnec Road, Kent County, Maryland Michael Hosford

Maryland Historical Trust, Annapolis, MD Southwest elevation 6/82



Joshua Chapel (Morgnec)
Morgnec Road, Kent County, Maryland
Michael Hosford

K-WE

Maryland Historical Trust, Annapolis, MC Northwest elevation 6/82



K-44/ Josh va Chapel View to southwest chestertown Hent Co, Transis Manual Manual M.L. Fritz 6/1980



K-44/ Joshua Chapel cemetery Joshua & Martha Caulic Gravestone M.L.Fr, tz 6/1980