BA-40

Stone Chapel United Methodist Church

Architectural Survey File

This is the architectural survey file for this MIHP record. The survey file is organized reverse-chronological (that is, with the latest material on top). It contains all MIHP inventory forms, National Register nomination forms, determinations of eligibility (DOE) forms, and accompanying documentation such as photographs and maps.

Users should be aware that additional undigitized material about this property may be found in on-site architectural reports, copies of HABS/HAER or other documentation, drawings, and the "vertical files" at the MHT Library in Crownsville. The vertical files may include newspaper clippings, field notes, draft versions of forms and architectural reports, photographs, maps, and drawings. Researchers who need a thorough understanding of this property should plan to visit the MHT Library as part of their research project; look at the MHT web site (mht.maryland.gov) for details about how to make an appointment.

All material is property of the Maryland Historical Trust.

Last Updated: 06-23-2004

Survey No. BA 40

Magi No. 0300405508

DOE ___yes x no

Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Stone Chapel United Methodist Church

and/or common Stone Chapel in Garrison Forest

2. Location

street & number 18 Stone Chapel Road ___ not for publication

city, town Pikesville ___ vicinity of congressional district Councilmanic District - 3rd 3rd

state Maryland county Baltimore County

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
___ district	___ public	x occupied	___ agriculture	___ museum
x building(s)	x private	___ unoccupied	___ commercial	___ park
___ structure	___ both	___ work in progress	___ educational	___ private residence
___ site	**Public Acquisition**	**Accessible**	___ entertainment	x religious
___ object	___ in process	x yes: restricted	___ government	___ scientific
	___ being considered	___ yes: unrestricted	___ industrial	___ transportation
	x not applicable	___ no	___ military	___ other:

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

name Trustees of Stone Chapel Methodist Church

street & number 18 Stone Chapel Road telephone no.: 265-6054

city, town Pikesville state and zip code Maryland 21208

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. County Courts Building liber WMI 133

street & number 401 Bosley Avenue folio 225

city, town Towson, state Maryland 21204

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title MHT Inventory

date July 29, 1965 ___ federal x state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records 100 Community Place

city, town Crownsville state Maryland 21032-2032

7. Description

Survey No. BA 40

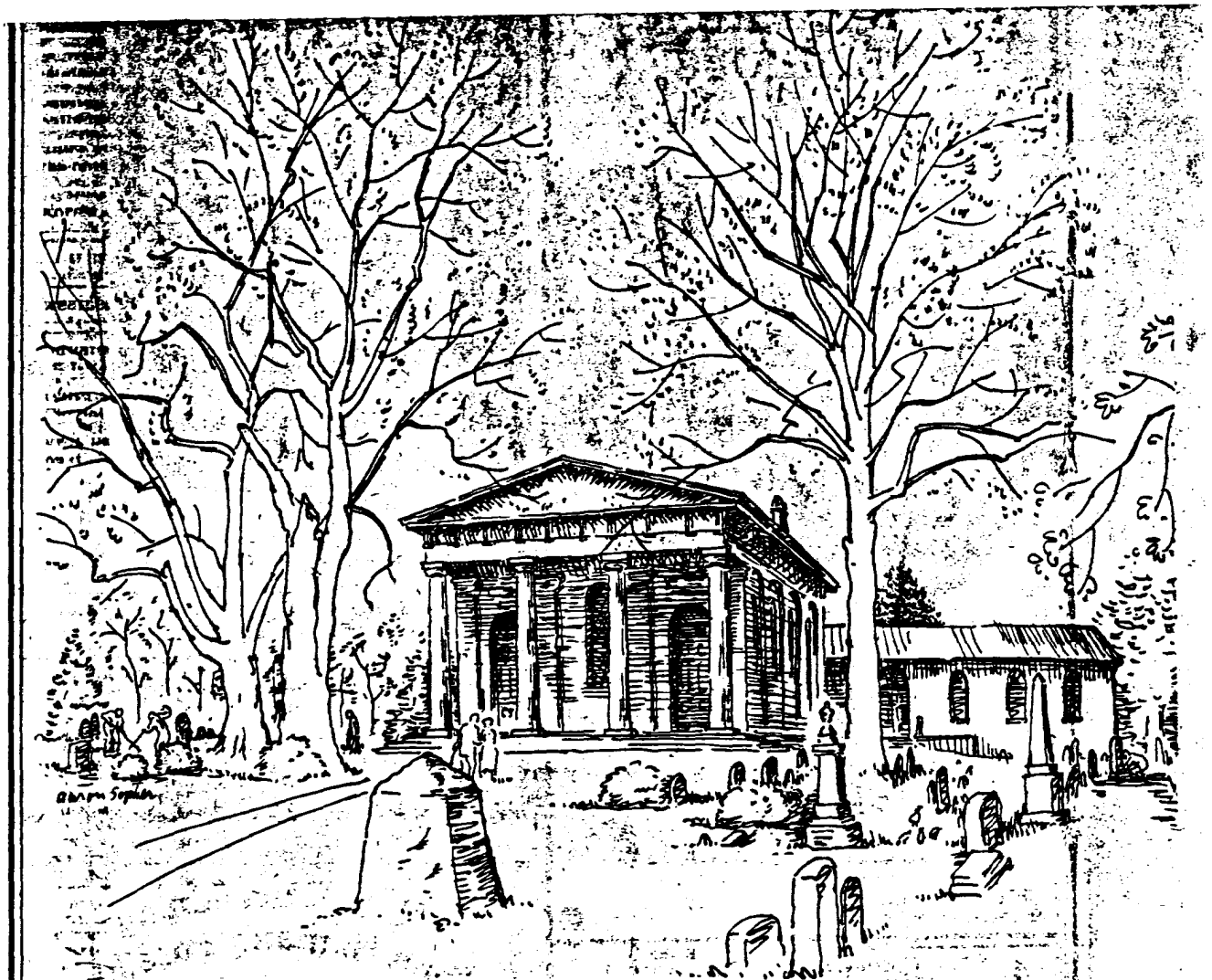
Condition		Check one	Check one
___ excellent	___ deteriorated	___ unaltered	_x_ original site
_x_ good	___ ruins	_x_ altered	___ moved date of move _____
___ fair	___ unexposed		

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

Stone Chapel is one of the few Greek Revival places of worship in Baltimore County, a well designed and well crafted structure in a pleasing setting but its revivalism only extends to the portico. The temple-like porch originally had fluted columns, stucco coated over brick, but in 1979 the fluting was filled in during repairs. The portico has four columns, a frieze decorated with triglyphs, and a plain pediment. Four pilasters are set in the front wall.

Greek Revival motifs are not followed by the doors and windows, which are round-topped and their frames set in shallow, round-topped recesses. The main part of the chapel is four bays deep. A small extension at the back contained the original Sunday School rooms and is a miniature temple form, with its rear wall treated in Greek Revival style with a pediment and four pilasters. There is a plain center door flanked by two windows. The former meeting rooms were converted to a kitchen in 1954. The same 1954 expansion added a east wing that provides the present meeting rooms, resulting in an L-shaped layout. The newer wing has a basement and a large meeting room. The entire structure is gable-roofed and stuccoed on the outside, blending into the original building of 1862.

The interior of the church is entirely clear and open space from the front doors to the rear wall. There are no internal supports. The ceiling is flat, gradually curving from the inside walls. The four windows on each side of the aisle are of an amber colored opalescent glass which admit a soft glowing light. The panes date from the 1911 renovations; they contain no figures or symbols, but the glass has a mixture of tones. The pews are dark wood, richly carved and highly polished. The sanctuary is enclosed by rails with turned mahogany ballusters. The wall surfaces are plain, painted in solid tones of light brown. The gilded stars once painted on the ceiling were lost in one of the mid-20th century redecorations. An antique band of Victorian-era stencilling survives along the boundary between the walls and the curved surface that blends into the ceiling. The tall front doors are widely separated and heavily paneled on the outside surface, well polished on the inside. The two doors are formed of two leaves each and are remarkably tall. The weathering on the outside of the doors suggests that they are original. The hardware has an antique look. The large portable desk-pulpit used by Bishop Francis Asbury is kept in the large meeting room of the modern wing.



A drawing of the Stone Chapel in Garrison Forest by Aaron Sopher

8. Significance

Survey No. BA 40

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
___ prehistoric	___ archeology-prehistoric	___ community planning	___ landscape architecture	x religion
___ 1400–1499	___ archeology-historic	___ conservation	___ law	___ science
___ 1500–1599	___ agriculture	___ economics	___ literature	___ sculpture
___ 1600–1699	x architecture	___ education	___ military	___ social/humanitarian
___ 1700–1799	___ art	___ engineering	___ music	___ theater
x 1800–1899	___ commerce	___ exploration/settlement	___ philosophy	___ transportation
___ 1900–	___ communications	___ industry	___ politics/government	___ other (specify)
		___ invention		

Specific dates 1862 **Builder/Architect** James Curley

check: Applicable Criteria: __A __B __C __D
and/or
Applicable Exception: __A __B __C __D __E __F __G

Level of Significance: __national __state __local

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

Stone Chapel's congregation goes back to November 25, 1772, when Francis Asbury preached not far away at the now extinct Joshua Owings home, Harmony Hall, on Winands Road, giving the impetus to a Methodist group that became permanent. Asbury became the first Methodist bishop in this country and Joshua Owings' son Richard became the first native-born American to serve as a Methodist minister. Maryland has some of the earliest sites related to American Methodism, although some of the famous trees under which early circuit riders preached have been lost over the years. The first Stone Chapel has been replaced, although some of the material is probably in the present building.

In 1785 (May 30) the Methodist Society's trustees acquired one acre of land from Dr. William Lyon under a 99-year lease at a ground-rent of one peppercorn per annum. The tract name here is "Rich Level" and was described in the deed as located on the Great road leading from Baltimore Town to Conowago." (1) The chapel constructed by 1786 was probably fairly small; it was remembered as a rectangular stone structure with gable roof and green shutters. There was an overhead gallery for Black members.

The first trustees were George Steyer, Cornelius Howard, Stephen Shelmerdine, and Charles Carnan. Bishop Asbury visited the completed chapel on September 7, 1787, after preaching to an unresponsive audience in Reisterstown, recording in his diary, "Thence I rode to the new church where I had much more life." The Baltimore Conference met at Stone Chapel on May 1-2, 1800, with Bishop Asbury presiding.

A cemetery was laid out in 1858 on an adjoining parcel acquired from church member Dr. John Fisher of Alto Dale. (2) About that time, the original building was found to be in disrepair

and the plans for a Greek Revival replacement were drawn by James Curley, who charged only $25 for this excellent design. The new church was built in 1862 at a cost of $5,461.98. By December of 1864, the church debt had been reduced to $497.08. (3)

Dr. John F. Goucher, president of the Women's College of Baltimore (now renamed Goucher College in his memory) married Mary Cecelia Fisher of Alto Dale and came to reside at that next-door estate, served on the chapel board, and contributed heavily to the maintenance of the building.

In 1886 the congregation spent $1200 to alter the seats, paint both exterior and interior, and repair the steps and walk. A furnace was installed in 1889. To celebrate the 125th anniversary of forming the congregation, another round of repairs was initialed in 1911. The well-remembered stars were painted on the ceiling, and leaded glass windows were installed along with carpeting and electricity. (4)

A wing containing meeting space was constructed in 1954 and the original rear meeting rooms were converted into a fully equipped kitchen.

An historical pamphlet was printed in 1962 for the 100th anniversary of the present building. The cover illustration was a line drawing by Aaron Sopher. For that celebration the original pulpit-desk used by Bishop Asbury was refurbished; the wide wooden pulpit-and-cabinet combination was stored in a barn for many years before its rescue. (5)

Repairs undertaken in 1979 during the pastorate of the Rev. Edwin Schell, the famous church historian and archivist of the entire denomination, resulted in patching the stucco outer walls and patching the crumbled fluting on the columns; Mr. Schell noted that craftsmen could not be found to sculpt the fluting, so the columns emerged with smooth surfaces. (6)

In 1991, the staff of the Landmarks Preservation Commission conducted a videotape interview with Mrs. Josephine Grinnings (1904-) of 1805 Reisterstown Road, a life-long church member and descendant of Joshua Owings and the Rev. Richard Owings. Mrs. Grinnings recalled counting the gilded stars overhead during services when she was a child. She recalled a Sunday School student who jumped over the sanctuary railing and fled when he couldn't remember what he was supposed to recite to the audience. Mrs. Grinnings recalled that the first electric system had exactly one overhead light bulb to illuminate this rather large interior.

In May, 1991, Stone Chapel was designated a Methodist historic site by the Archives and History office of the United Methodist Church. Massive evidence was collected by church historian Dorothy Langrehr. (7)

NOTES:

1. Anonymous, Stone Chapel in Garrison Forest (Pikesville, 1962), photostat of 1785 indenture, n.p.

2. Baltimore County Deeds, GHC 25:528 (January 17, 1859). The last trustee, Cornelius Howard, conveyed his trust to a newly incorporated board consisting of John L. Gibbons, William Counselman, Thomas Flint, and George H. Elder, on September 25, 1843, recorded Baltimore City Deeds, TK 335:202. The actual incorporation was recorded in the "Land Records," Baltimore City Liber TK 68:192 as recited in Towson deed GHC 25:528.

3. Anonymous, 1962, n.p.

4. Sun, October 23, 1911.

5. Robert A. Erlandson, Baltimore County Methodist Church Opens Weeklong Bicentennnial Celebration," Sun, April 27, 1986.

6. Isaac Rehert, "Church History, Charm, Few Steps Off Highway," Sun, September 14, 1979.

7. Barbara Ramsey, "Rock of Ages, Stone Chapel To Be Designated Historic Site," Owings Mills Times, May 23, 1991.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. BA 40

Anonymous, The Stone Chapel in Garrison Forest, Pikesville, 1962

Barbara Ramsey, "Rock of Ages, Stone Chapel To Be Designated Historic Site," Owings Mills Times, May 23, 1991.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 1.833

Quadrangle name Cockeysville

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM **References** do NOT complete UTM references

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
A				B			
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

See Tax Map 68, Block 13, Parcel 473. Rectangular parcel north of terminus of Stone Chapel Lane, bounded on east by former parcel of Holy Trinity Fathers, on north & west by Hilda K. Blaustein tract.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	N/A	**code**	**county**	N/A	**code**
state		**code**	**county**		**code**

11. Form Prepared By

name/title	John W. McGrain		
organization	Office of Planning	**date**	September 23, 1991
street & number	401 Bosley Avenue	**telephone**	(301) 887-3211
city or town	Towson	**state**	Maryland 21204

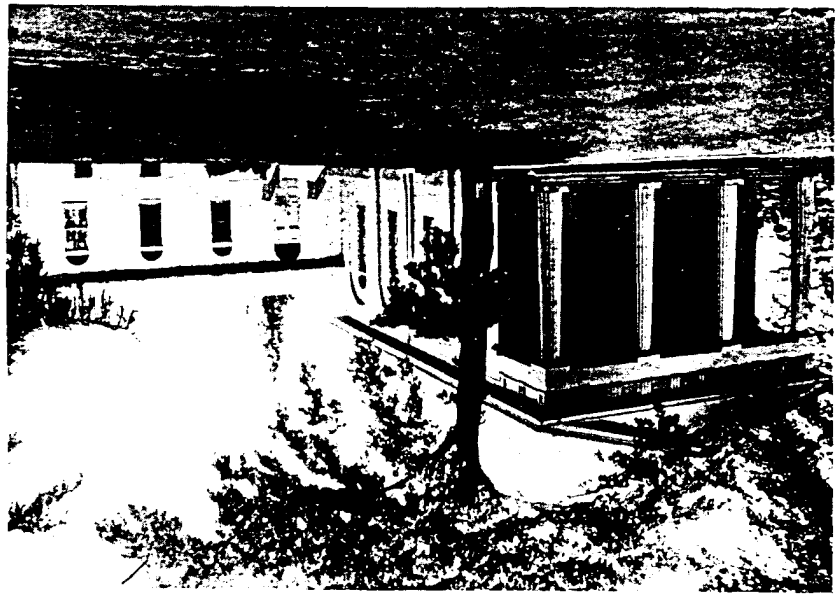
The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

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
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

PS-2746

BA-40



STONE CHAPEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Pikesville, Maryland

BA-40

Stone Chapel
18 Stone Chapel Rd
Balt vicinity

Address from Md

BRIEF HISTORY - STONE CHAPEL IN GARRISON FOREST

"Beautiful for situation stands Stone Chapel in grace and strength. In this place will I give peace, saith the Lord." - Dr. John Goucher, Jr., Preacher, 1869-1872

1772: First known meetings, in Joshua Owings' home.
Nov. 1772: Frances Asbury visited "Methodist Group" in the Owings home.
1786: The Stone Chapel in Garrison Forest was erected, and was dedicated by Richard Owings, son of Joshua; Richard was the first native American Methodist preacher.
Sept. 7, 1787: Asbury preached at the Stone Chapel.
May 1800: Annual Conference was held at the Stone Chapel.
1862: A new structure, of Greek Revival Architecture, containing material from the original chapel, was erected and dedicated. The yard was laid off for cemetery lots.
1875: Trustees of Stone Chapel erected a church in the village of Pikesville. (Now Ames U. M. Church).
1954: The Church Hall was added to The Stone Chapel.

Mrs. Hilda Sullivan
3519 Sussex Rd
Baltimore, Md 21207

301-265-6054

The address for the Church is
18 Stone Chapel Lane
Baltimore, Md 21208

030040508

Form 10-445
(5-62)

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION AND PHOTOGRAPHS MAY BE ADDED ON SHEET OF SAME SIZE

1. STATE Maryland
COUNTY Baltimore
TOWN VICINITY Dist. III
STREET NO. Reisterstown Road

ORIGINAL OWNER
ORIGINAL USE
PRESENT OWNER
PRESENT USE
WALL CONSTRUCTION
NO. OF STORIES

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
INVENTORY BA-40

2. NAME Stone Chapel

DATE OR PERIOD 1786
STYLE
ARCHITECT
BUILDER

3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE

4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION OPEN TO PUBLIC

Land donated by Josiah Owings. Present building dates from 1862. Stone, Greek Revival style, and has great simplicity, especially in exterior design. Considered The Mother Church of the local Methodists.

5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE Endangered Interior Exterior

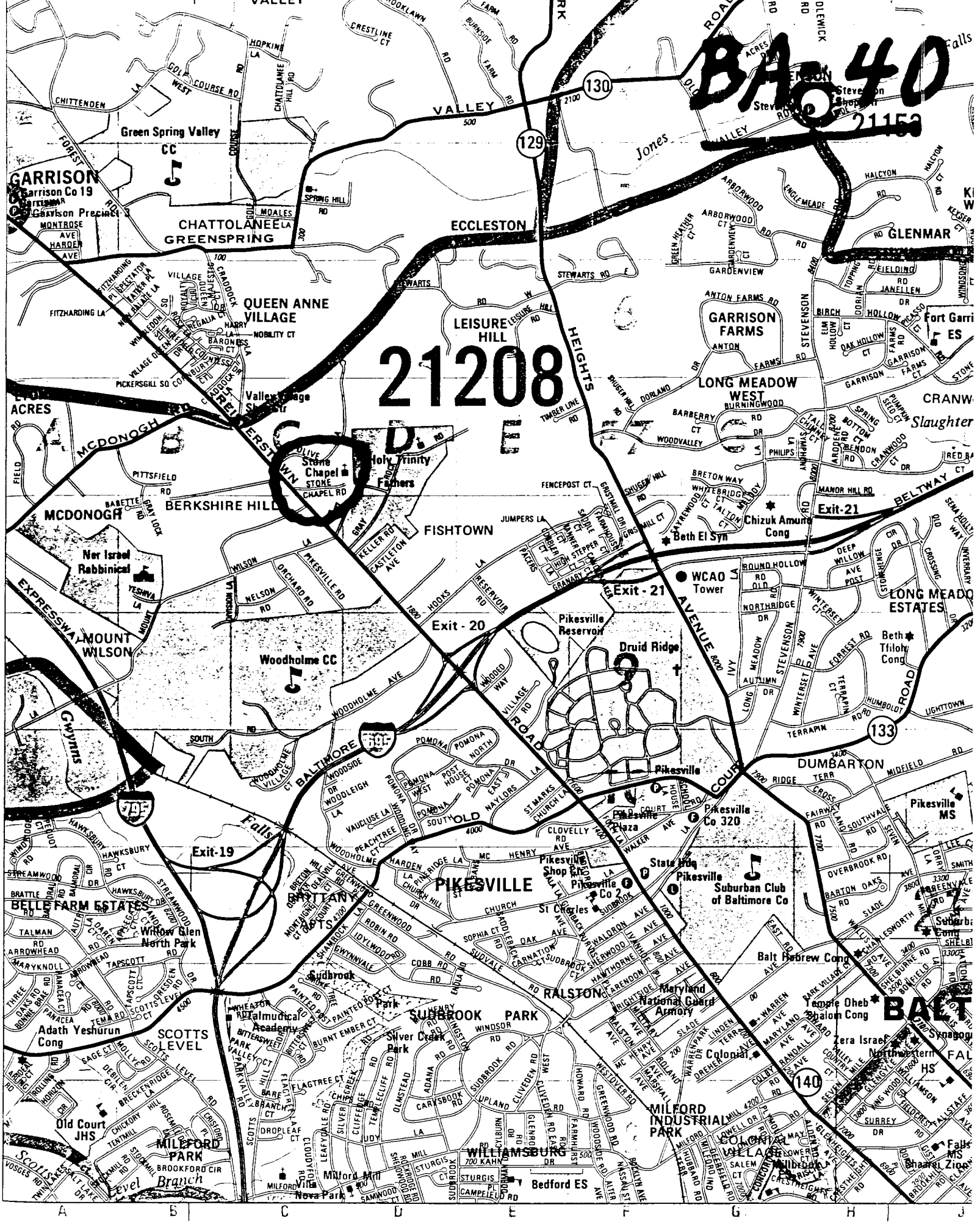
6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional)

7. PHOTOGRAPH

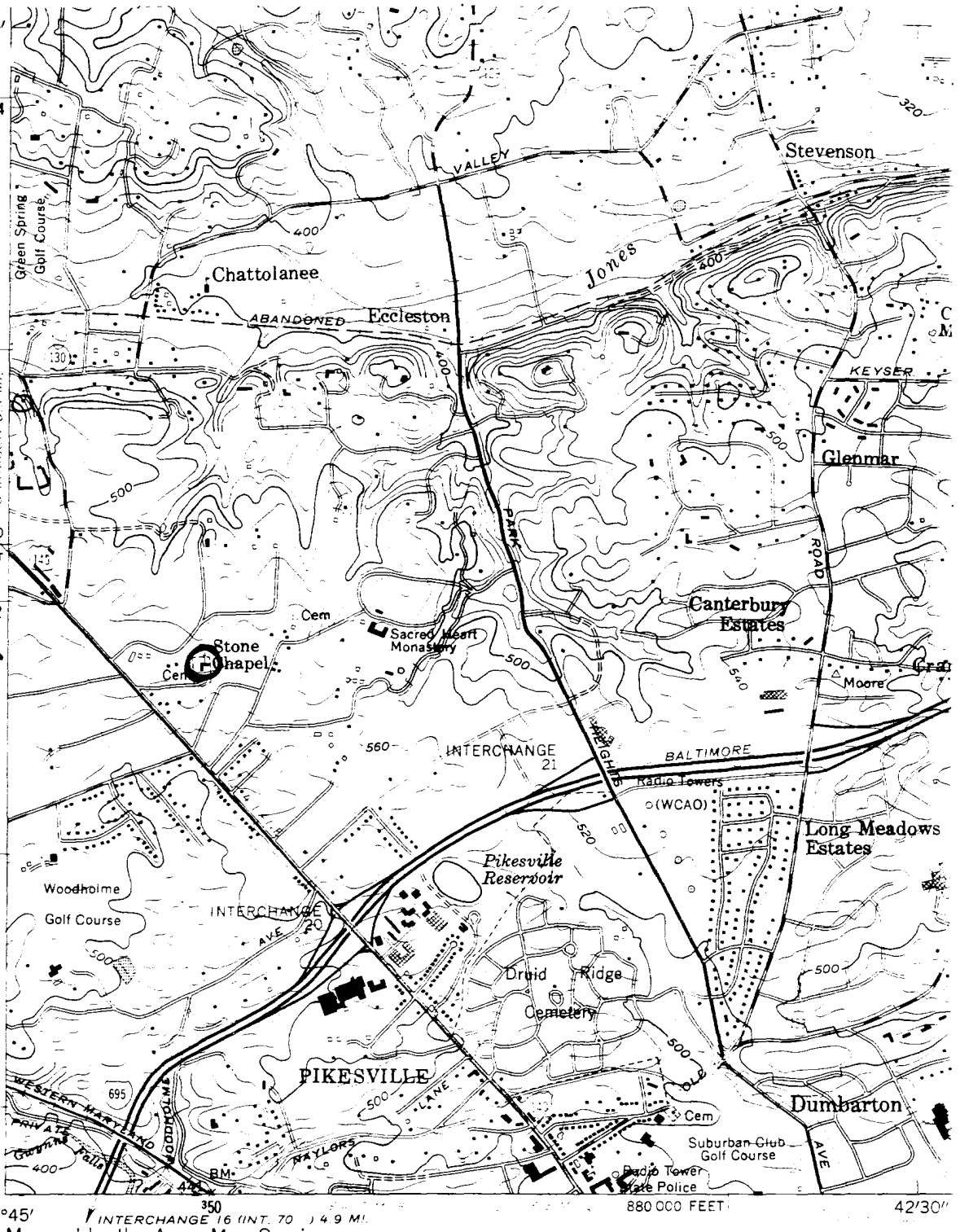
8. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Pages)
INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC.

9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER
(First HABS Report)
E. Frances Offutt
HABS COMMITTEE OF BALTIMORE
COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

DATE OF RECORD July 29, 1965


BA 40
21208
21153
GARRISON
Garrison Co 19
Garrison Precinct 3
Green Spring Valley CC
CHATTOLANEE
GREENSPRING
ECCLESTON
QUEEN ANNE VILLAGE
LEISURE HILL
GARRISON FARMS
LONG MEADOW WEST
GLENMAR
Fort Garri ES
CRANW
Slaughter
Stone Chapel
Holy Trinity Fathers
FISHTOWN
BERKSHIRE HILL
MCDONOGH
Ner Israel Rabbinical
MOUNT WILSON
Woodholme CC
Exit - 20
Exit - 21
Exit-19
Exit-21
WCAO Tower
Pikesville Reservoir
Druid Ridge
Chizuk Amuno Cong
Beth El Syn
LONG MEADOW ESTATES
Beth Tfiloh Cong
DUMBARTON
Pikesville
Pikesville Co 320
Pikesville Plaza
State Hdq
Pikesville
Suburban Club of Baltimore Co
Pikesville Shop Ctr
Pikesville Co 2
St Charles
PIKESVILLE
BRITTANY APTS
BELLE FARM ESTATES
Willow Glen North Park
Adath Yeshurun Cong
SCOTTS LEVEL
Talmudical Academy
Sudbrook Park
SUDBROOK PARK
Silver Creek Park
RALSTON
Maryland National Guard Armory
Colonial
Balt Hebrew Cong
Temple Oheb Shalom Cong
Zera Israel
Northwestern HS
MILFORD INDUSTRIAL PARK
COLONIAL VILLAGE
WILLIAMSBURG
Bedford ES
Milford Mill
Nova Park
Old Court JHS
MILFORD PARK
Scotts Level Branch
Gwynns Falls
Jones Falls
VALLEY
HEIGHTS
AVENUE
BALTIMORE
OLD COURT ROAD
BELTWAY
EXPRESSWAY
MCDONOGH RD
REISTERSTOWN
130
129
133
140
695
795
A
B
C
D
E
F
G
H
J
870,000 FT
76°45'00"
MD GRID 880,000 FT
76°42'30"

Joins Map 33



BA40

(ELLICOTT CITY)
5662 IV SE

Mapped by the Army Map Service
Edited and published by the Geological Survey

Control by USGS and USC&GS

Topography from aerial photographs by photogrammetric methods. Aerial photographs taken 1943. Field check 1944
Culture revised by the Geological Survey 1957

Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Maryland coordinate system
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 18, shown in blue

Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown

MN
GN

8½°
151 MILS

1°04'
19 MILS

UTM GRID AND 1974 MAGNETIC NORTH DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET

COCKEYSVILLE
QUAD

Stone Chapel in Garrison Forest United Methodist Church
BA 40

Pikesville, Baltimore County, Maryland

John Mc Grain

11/91

Baltimore County Landmarks Preservation Commission
Mr. John Mc Grain, Towson, Md.

View West From Frontsidewalk To East Elevation
OF Stone Chapel

1 of 5, 1/5 Photographs

Stone Chapel in Garrison Forest United Methodist Church

BA 40

Pikesville, Baltimore County, Maryland

John McGrain

11/91

Baltimore County Landmarks Preservation Comm.
Mr. John McGrain, Towson, Maryland

View From West To East Right Front Door with Columns

2 of 5, 2/5 Photographs

Stone Chapel in Garrison Forest United Methodist Church

BA 40

Pikesville, Baltimore County, Maryland

John Mc Grain

11/91

Baltimore County Landmarks Preservation Comm.
Mr. John McGrain, Towson, Maryland

Left side Sanctuary, Door to Kitchen and Large Meeting Room

3 of 5, 3/5 Photographs

Stone Chapel in Garrison Forest United Methodist Church

BA 40

Pikesville, Baltimore County, Maryland

John Mc Grain

11/91

Baltimore County Landmarks Preservation Comm.
Mr. John McGrain, Towson, Maryland

Left side Sanctuary, Railing and Ballusters, Door and Framing To Kitchen and Large Meeting Room

4 of 5, 4/5 Photographs

Stone Chapel in Garrison Forest United Methodist Church

BA 40

Pikesville, Baltimore County, Maryland

John McGrain

11/91

Baltimore County Landmarks Preservation Comm.
Mr. John McGrain, Towson, Maryland

Right side of Sanctuary, View From Leftside showing stenciling, Window Bay, Railing with Ballasters, Pulpit and door with Framing

5 of 5, 5/5 Photographs