CH-500

Old Shiloh Church & Cemetery, (Old Shiloh Shop)

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: 11-21-2003

CH-500 **circa 1881 (present church)**
Old Shiloh Church & Cemetery
Bryans Road
Private

Consisting of a 1-story, 1-bay frame chapel, Old Shiloh Church is typical of the many small vernacular church buildings erected in Charles County during the 19th century. The church is located on Old Shiloh Church Road approximately one tenth of a mile northwest of Indian Head Highway (MD Route 210), and stands on a one-acre parcel. A small cemetery surrounds the chapel.

Shiloh Methodist Episcopal Church, constructed circa 1881, housed one of the earliest Methodist congregations in Charles County. The historic church building is typical in form and adornment of the many "circuit" churches that dot the rural landscape of southern Maryland. The building was in continuous use as a church for approximately 80 years, and has, since 1968, been occupied by the church's thrift shop.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST Inventory No. CH-500
MD INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

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1. Name of Property

==========

historic name Old Shiloh Church & Cemetery
common/other name Old Shiloh Shop

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2. Location

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street & number 2780 Shiloh Church Rd. not for publication _____
city or town Bryans Road vicinity X state Maryland code MD
county Charles code 017 zip code 20616

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3. State/Federal Agency Certification N/A

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4. National Park Service Certification N/A

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5. Classification

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Ownership of Property (Check all that apply)

X private
____ public-local
____ public-State
____ public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

X building(s)
____ district
____ site
____ structure
____ object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
1	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
2	0	Total

Is this property listed in the National Register?
Yes ____ Name of Listing _____
No X

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET Inventory No. CH-500

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6. Function or Use

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Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat:	Sub:
RELIGIOUS	Church
FUNERARY	Cemetery

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat:	Sub:
COMMERCIAL	Thrift shop
FUNERARY	Cemetery

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7. Description

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Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Vernacular

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation pier: poured concrete (originally brick)
roof front gable: asphalt shingles
walls frame: asbestos shingles
other

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property.)

See Continuation Sheet No. 7-1

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8. Statement of Significance

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Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

_X_ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

____ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

____ C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

____ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

_X_ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

____ B removed from its original location.

____ C a birthplace or a grave.

_X_ D a cemetery.

____ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

____ F a commemorative property.

____ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. CH-500

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Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION
ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance circa 1835-1963

Significant Dates circa 1835
circa 1881

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation Undefined

Architect/Builder Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property.)

See Continuation Sheet No. 8-1

CH-500

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9. Major Bibliographical References
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(Cite the books, articles, legal records, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Brown, Jack D., et al. *Charles County, Maryland, A History*. Charles County Bicentennial Committee, 1976.

Charles County Land Records, Charles County Courthouse, La Plata, Maryland.

Klapthor, Margaret Brown. *The History of Charles County, Maryland*. La Plata, MD: Charles County Tercentenary, Inc., 1958.

"Centennial Celebration: May 17, 1981, Shiloh United Methodist Church," Unpublished pamphlet.

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10. Geographical Data
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Acreage of Property 1 acre

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The property at 2780 Shiloh Church Road is designated as Parcel 0000 on Map 6, Grid 13 on the Charles County Property Map.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The church has been associated with Parcel 0000, Map 6 since its construction circa 1881.

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11. Form Prepared By
==========
name/title Kathryn Gettings Smith, Architectural Historian
organization Charles County Planning Dept. date Oct.14,1998
street & number P.O. Box B telephone 301-645-0689
city or town La Plata state MD zip code 20646
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12. Property Owner
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name Old Shiloh Shop
street & number P.O. Box 182 telephone 301-375-7208
city or town Bryans Road state MD zip code 20616
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Consisting of a 1-story, 1-bay frame chapel, Old Shiloh Church is typical of the many small vernacular church buildings erected in Charles County during the 19th century. The church is located on Old Shiloh Church Road approximately one tenth of a mile northwest of Indian Head Highway (MD Route 210), and stands on a one-acre parcel. A small cemetery surrounds the chapel.

The church sits atop a small rise and is surrounded by its cemetery on all sides. Forested areas surround the property. The cemetery is organized into parallel plots and contains approximately 100 graves marked with headstones.

The chapel itself consists of a small 1-story, front gable frame chapel standing on poured concrete piers that replaces an original brick pier foundation. Displaying few architectural adornments, the building is 1-bay wide and three deep with an open cornice. A projecting gable-roofed apse extends off the rear, and a single brick chimney flue extends above the south roof slope. The building has been altered by the addition of asbestos shingle cladding, re-roofing with asphalt shingles, and the replacement of the original door. The building's under structure consists of unhewn joists lapped to a central hewn beam and to the building's outer sill.

This simple building is pierced by a double-leaf door opening that is centered on its facade. The doors have been replaced by flush metal doors. A wooden sign lettered with "Old Shiloh Shop" is set above the entrance. Each of the side walls of the church contain three original 6/6 double-hung wood sash windows. The exterior trim of these has been encased in aluminum. Two small 4/4 wood sash windows pierce the north and south walls of the projecting rear apse. The building has no other windows or doors.

INTERIOR:

The church's interior consists of a single open space with an apse at the west end that has been converted into a closet. A single step rises to the semi-circular stage set at the west end of the room in front of the apse. The original interior features include square-edged window casings with an extra striated panel set below the sill, the aforementioned stage, and matchstick wainscotting. Alterations include the lowering of the ceiling with dropped acoustical tiles, the installation of florescent lighting, and

removal of one stove flue.

The church has retained a few examples of the building's original furnishings. Located in the new Shiloh Church building on MD Route 210 in Bryans Road, these include a scrolled pew, a curving Colonial Revival style communion rail, and the 1881 pulpit.

CEMETERY:

The cemetery contains approximately 100 graves and extends along the north and south sides of the property. The graves are marked with engraved headstones that are set in roughly parallel rows. The oldest grave located at the time of the survey was that of Mary D.A. Lacey who died June 3, 1863. Some of the prominent families represented in the cemetery include the Downs family, the Halleys, the Wenk family, the Rowes and the Barrows.

Shiloh Methodist Episcopal Church, constructed circa 1881, housed one of the earliest Methodist congregations in Charles County. The historic church building is typical in form and adornment of the many "circuit" churches that dot the rural landscape of Southern Maryland. The building was in continuous use as a church for approximately 80 years, and has, since 1968, been occupied by the church's thrift shop. Set atop a small rise near the center of its original 1.5 acre lot, the building is surrounded by a small cemetery.

Methodism was spread to Southern Maryland via traveling evangelical preachers who visited private homes and staged impromptu revival meetings. There are few surviving records of early Methodist activities in Charles County. However, it is known that from approximately 1785 throughout the 19th century itinerant apostles traveled the countryside converting residents and preaching at meetings.[1] As the number of believers grew, small groups of converts began to organize into what were called Methodist societies. Some of the earliest of these societies in Charles and St. Mary's counties were located at Bethel (Budds Creek), Mechanicsville, New Town (near La Plata), Pisgah, Shiloh and Chicamuxen.[2]

The origins of Shiloh Methodist Episcopal Church derive from a private chapel known as "Halley's Meeting House," that was erected by Preacher Richard Halley on his lands near Pomonkey circa 1835. Oral history identifies this first house of worship as a small log structure located near to where the present church stands. Around 1881, the log chapel was replaced by the 1-story frame chapel with a single interior room heated by wood-burning stoves. The 1.5 acres of land on which the church stands was eventually conveyed to the Trustees of the Pomonkey Society of the United Methodist Church, South in March 1885.

By this time Shiloh had become a station church on the Charles-St. Mary's Circuit of the Methodist Church. The first mention of Shiloh in the circuit's official records appears in 1889 when it

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[1] Brown, et al., *Charles County, Maryland: A History*, pp.160-161.

[2] *Centennial Celebration: Shiloh United Methodist Church, May 17, 1981*, Unpublished pamphlet, 1981.

was referred to as the Shiloh Society at Pomonkey with sixteen members.

Many of the church's founding members remained important in the development of Shiloh Church into the twentieth century, including the Halley family, members of which would serve as ministers and church officials for years to come. Over the years, the church and its congregation grew. The church acquired furnishings, including pews, a communion rail, and pulpit dating from circa 1885; and a communion chalice and plate, and a baptismal font dating to the erection of the new church, circa 1881.[3] Some of these acoutremonts remain in the church's possession, stored at the new church on Indian Head Highway.

In 1960, the church purchased approximately six acres of land on the southeast side of Indian Head Highway in Bryans Road with the intention of building a new sanctuary. The new brick-clad church was completed and dedicated in 1963. In June 1968, the circa 1881 church building was converted for use as a local thrift shop and continues to serve as such. At the time of its conversion, the interior was altered, and the original furnishings were removed.

The old church building is typical of the many small houses of worship that dot the rural landscape of Charles County. It's modest size, minimal architectural adornment, and single-room interior plan are characteristic of these rural "circuit" churches served by itinerant ministers. In 1968, when the church was converted for use as a thrift store, the interior was remodeled. Although the original furnishings were removed, the ceilings lowered by dropped acoustical tile, and the apse enclosed as a closet, the interior retains its original plan with a raised semi-circular platform at the chancel end. In addition, the plaster walls, original window trim and matchstick wainscotting remain in place.

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[3] Some of these furnishings are located at the new Shiloh Church building on MD Route 210 in Bryans Road.

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HISTORIC CONTEXT:

Geographic Organization: Western Shore

Chronological/Development Period (s):

Industrial/Urban Dominance, 1870-1930
Modern Period, 1930-present

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme (s):

RELIGION

RESOURCE TYPE(S)

Category: Building
Site

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function (s): RELIGIOUS/Church

Known Design Source: Unknown

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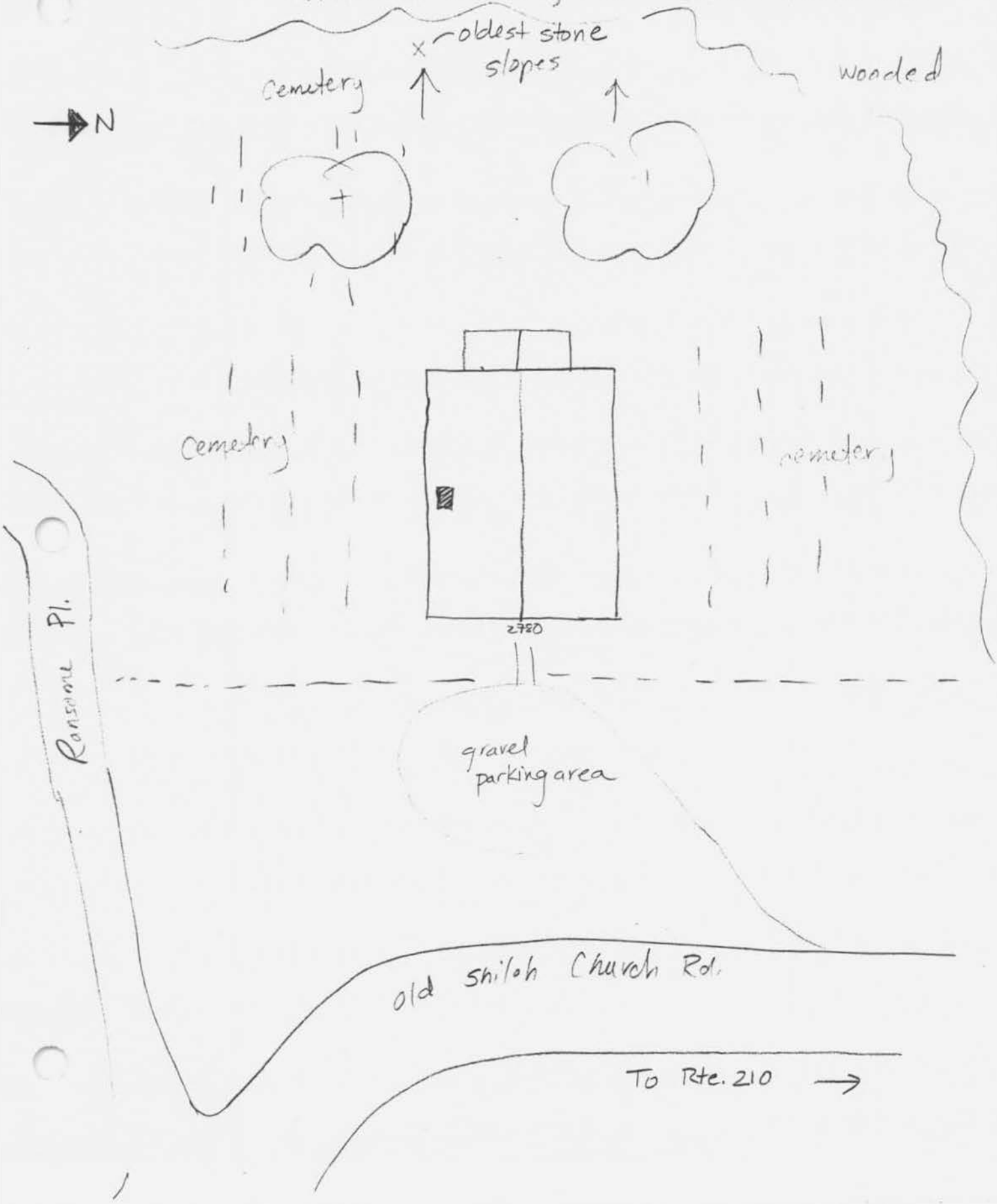
Chain of Title:

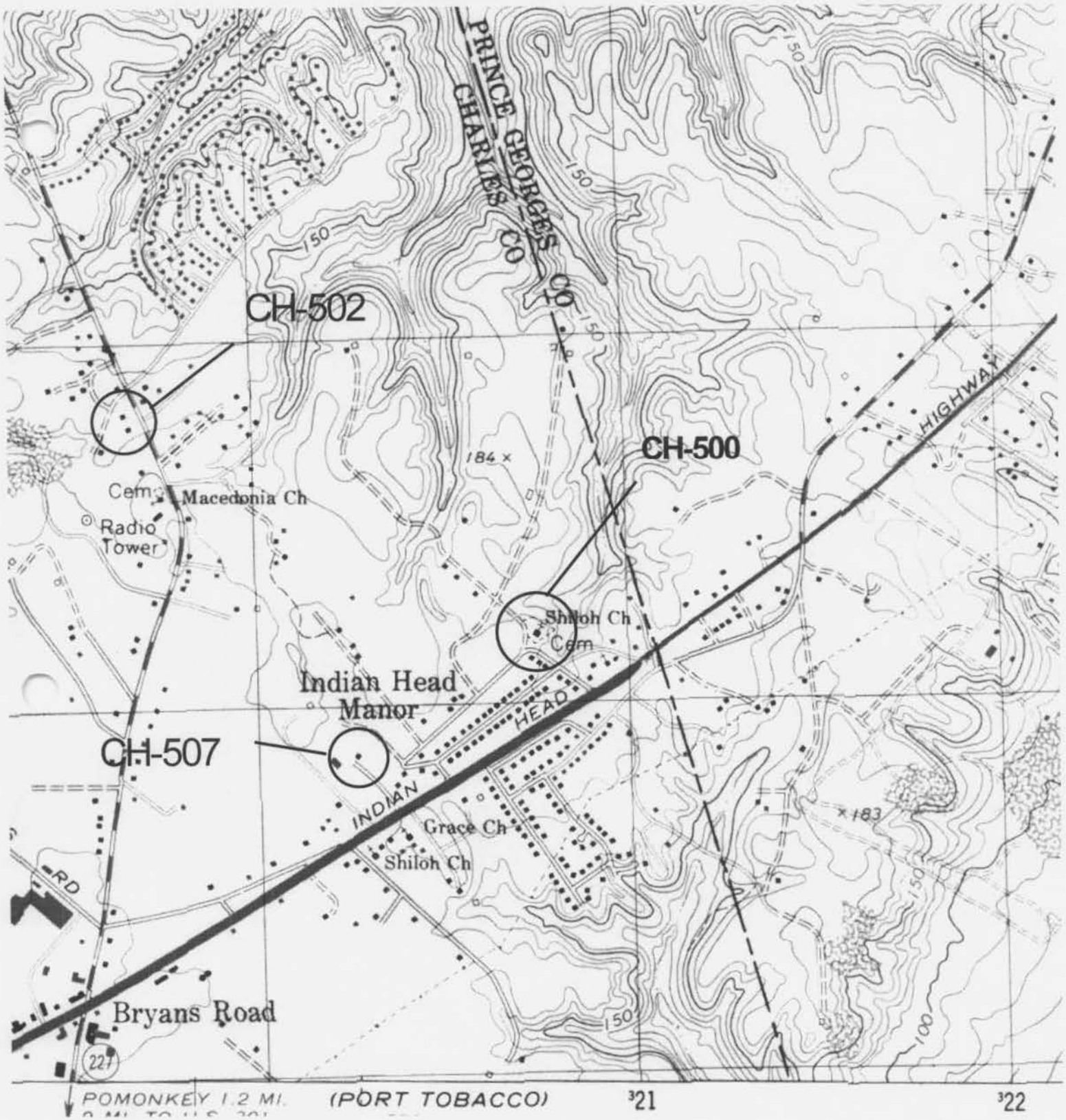
March 4, 1885:	Thomas R. Halley, Benjamin D. & Sarah E. Tubman, Catherine Chapman to A.T. Monroe, T.R. Halley, G.W. Berry, J.T. Penn, Z.W. Halley, J.T. Downs & J.W. Halley, Trustees of the Pomonkey Society of the United Methodist Church, South 1.5 acres, North side of public road Charles County Land Records Liber BGS 7 Folio 684

RESOURCE SKETCH MAP
10/98

Old Shiloh Church & Cemetery
2780 Shiloh Church Rd.
CHARLES COUNTY, MD - BRYANS ROAD VIC.

CH-500





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Old Shiloh Church & Cemetery
Charles County, MD

CH-500

MOUNT VERNON MD-VA QUAD

CH-500
OLD SHILOH CHURCH & CEMETERY
CHARLES COUNTY, MD
K.G. SMITH
10/98
MARYLAND SHPO
VIEW OF CHURCH & CEMETERY, LOOKING SW
1 OF 5

WENK
WENK
WENK

CH-500
OLD SHILOH CHURCH
CHARLES COUNTY, MD
K.G. SMITH
10/98
MARYLAND SHPO
CHURCH, LOOKING SW
2 OF 5

CH-500
OLD SHILOH CHURCH
CHARLES COUNTY, MD
K.G. SMITH
10/98
MARYLAND SHPO
CHURCH, LOOKING NE
3 OF 5

CH-500
OLD SHILOH CHURCH
CHARLES COUNTY, MD
K.G. SMITH
10/98
MARYLAND SHPO
ORIGINAL FURNISHINGS, PEW, COMMUNION RAIL, PULPIT
4 OF 5

MARY D. A. LACY
A. B. LACY

CH-500
OLD SHILOH CHURCH & CEMETERY
CHARLES COUNTY, MD
K.G. SMITH
10/98
MARYLAND SHPO
OLDEST GRAVESTONE: MARY D.A. LACEY d. JUNE 3, 1863

5 OF 5