

WO-290

Taylorville 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: 09-16-2019

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM

NR Eligible: yes ___
no ___

Property Name: Taylorville Methodist Episcopal Church Inventory Number: WO-290
Address: 11252 Adkins Road Historic district: ___ yes X no
City: Berlin Zip Code: 21811 County: Worcester
USGS Quadrangle(s): Berlin
Property Owner: Taylorville ME Church Tax Account ID Number: 03-012484
Tax Map Parcel Number(s): 108 Tax Map Number: 15
Project: MD 589: US 113 to US 50 Agency: Maryland State Highway Administration
Agency Prepared By: A&HC, Inc.
Preparer's Name: Erin Hammerstedt Date Prepared: 1/14/2008

Documentation is presented in: _____

Preparer's Eligibility Recommendation: ___ Eligibility recommended X Eligibility not recommended

Criteria: ___ A ___ B ___ C ___ D Considerations: ___ A ___ B ___ C ___ D ___ E ___ F ___ G

Complete if the property is a contributing or non-contributing resource to a NR district/property:

Name of the District/Property: _____

Inventory Number: _____ Eligible: ___ yes Listed: ___ yes

Site visit by MHT Staf ___ yes X no Name: _____ Date: _____

Description of Property and Justification: *(Please attach map and photo)*

Physical Description: The Taylorville Methodist Episcopal Church stands on the west side of Adkins Road, which intersects MD 589 in Taylorville, Worcester County, Maryland. The one-story, gable-front frame church faces Adkins Road on the east (Photographs 1 through 5). The main block of the building is rectangular in plan, with three arched windows on each side eaves side. These windows contain six-over-nine sash under the arch, with the panes containing marbled colored glass. A bell tower punctuates the eastern end of the façade. This tower contains a cubical louvered bell chamber topped by a modern steeple. A gabled entry wing projects from the front of the main block, in front of and below the bell tower. This contains an entrance on the south side, pointed arch window on the east, and arched window matching those in the main block on the north. The building stands on a brick foundation, is clad in vinyl siding, and has an asphalt shingled roof. The colored glass windows are covered by what appears to be a UV protective Plexiglas. A concrete handicap ramp with aluminum baluster was added in 2002.

The church is surrounded on three sides by a cemetery (Photographs 1 through 6). The front of the cemetery is defined by a rock face concrete block retaining wall; no fence or wall delineates the boundary of the cemetery on the other sides. Graves are, for the most part, organized in rows, although some are grouped in identifiable family plots. Stones in the cemetery range in date from the 1850s in to 2000; the oldest stone noted was 1845, although not all were studied. The cemetery does not possess any designed

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended ___ Eligibility not recommended X

Criteria: ___ A ___ B ___ C ___ D Considerations: ___ A ___ B ___ C ___ D ___ E ___ F ___ G

MHT Comments:

Jain Tomblaine ✓
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

7/2/08
Date

B. Kuntze
Reviewer, National Register Program

7/2/08
Date

landscape features, such as paths for circulation, plantings, or other architectural features.

This property also includes a building that appears to be a parsonage or Sunday school building (Photograph 7). The main block of this building is one story with a side gable roof. A large shed addition has been attached to the front, and a gable ell and two subsequent shed additions have been made to the rear. The building is clad in modern siding, and has one-over-one windows.

Brief History: The Taylorville Methodist Episcopal Church was originally built in 1851 in the mill village known as Taylorville and named for the family of Laban J. Taylor. Based on one 1845 grave stone, it appears that the cemetery may slightly pre-date the church. Several buildings were present in Taylorville in 1865, including the church.

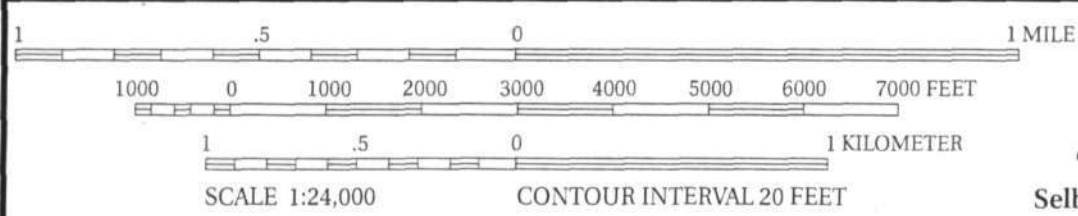
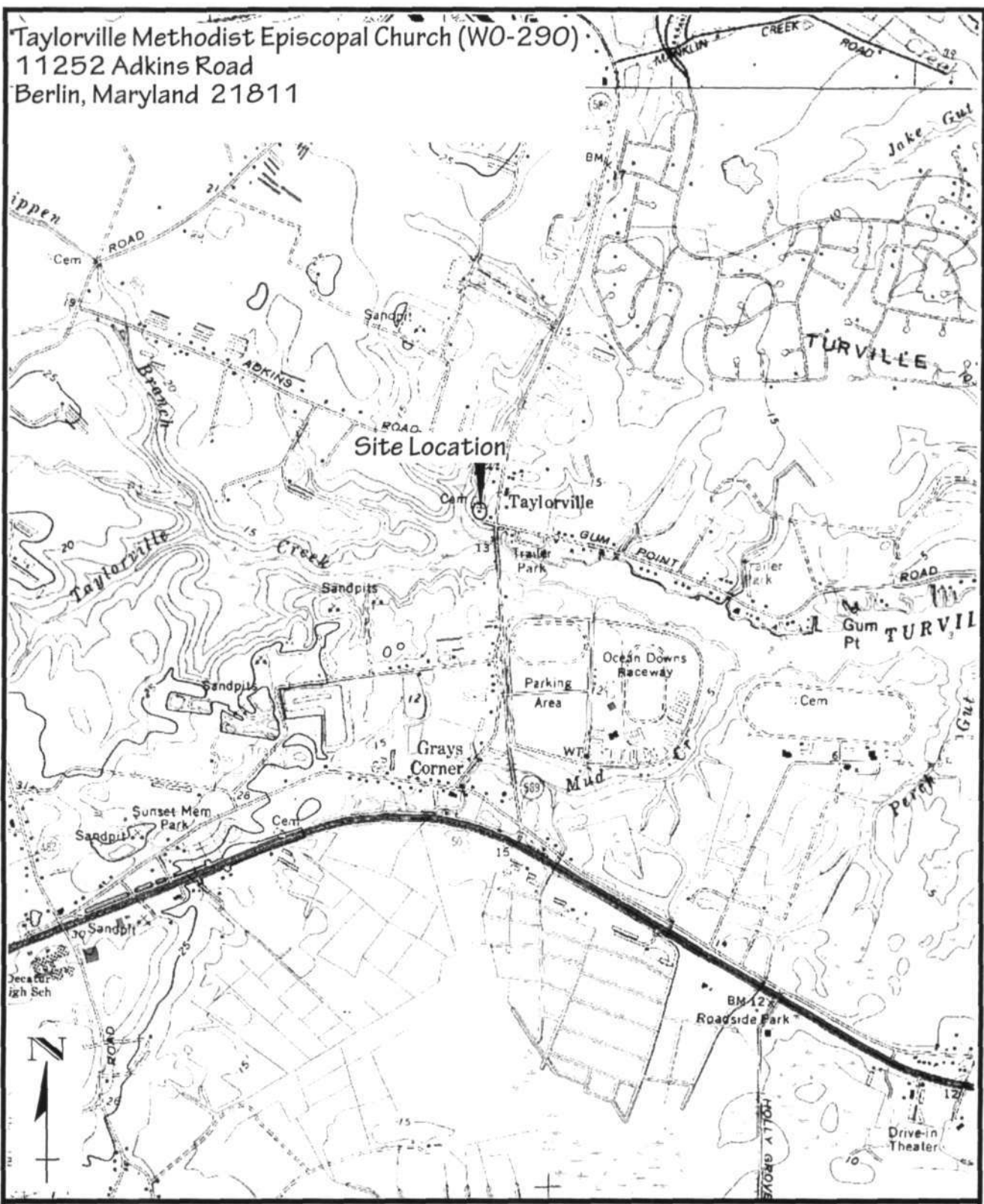
By 1877, the village consisted of more than seventeen buildings, including a grist mill, a saw mill and a Methodist Episcopal Church, with a school house just north of the community. Thirteen residences were present in Taylorville, including two belonging to J. Casper and E. Grey on the east side of the road in Taylorville, across from the Methodist Episcopal Church. The mill closed in 1879, and by 1901, the gristmill and sawmill were gone, as were eight of the town's thirteen residences. Despite the closure of the mill, the church was remodeled in 1888, and again in 1900. These modifications took place during the period in which many buildings in the town were disappearing. The fact that the church not only remained, but was improved, is a testament to its importance among its members. The sidewalk and concrete block retaining wall were constructed in 1910; however, much of that work has been masked by a concrete and aluminum handicap ramp, which was added in 2002. The building continues to be improved today: the church has been clad in vinyl siding, and a protective window covering installed over the windows.

National Register Evaluation: The Taylorville Methodist Episcopal Church is not eligible for inclusion in the National Register under Criteria A, B, or C, and it does not meet Criteria Considerations A or D. Since its construction in the mid-nineteenth century, the church has experienced a loss of integrity both architecturally, through the addition of modern materials, and in terms of its historic setting and association within its community. Once located within the small mill village of Taylorville, the virtual disappearance of this community beginning as early as the turn-of-the-twentieth century has resulted in a loss of historic association. Taylorville itself appears to have had questionable importance given its brief occupation and then relative disappearance. The construction of MD 589 in the mid-twentieth century to straighten the existing roadway resulted in the complete bypass of the church and cemetery, which previously had sat along the main road between St. Martin's Church and Grays Corner.

The church is not directly associated with events or trends that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history. Taylorville is no longer an intact community. Most of the buildings that once comprised the village have disappeared, including the gristmill that gave the village its reason for existence. MD 589 has bypassed the main road and resulted in the modern residential and commercial construction that now characterizes the area and has significantly changed the setting of the area. The church no longer has an association with a community and is not considered to be a prominent historic or religious landmark in the area; thus, it is not eligible under Criterion A. The building is not known to be associated with any person of particular importance on a local, state, or national level, and so it is not eligible under Criterion B. The church is an unremarkable example of a common type of rural church that has been altered with modern materials. Due to a loss of integrity, it does not embody the distinctive architectural characteristics of its type or period of construction, nor does it represent the work of a master or possess high artistic value. Therefore, the property is not eligible under Criterion C. The archaeological potential of the property has not been evaluated, so the property cannot be determined eligible under Criterion D. Because the church is not significant for its history or architecture, or for its artistic value, it does not satisfy Criteria Consideration A. No people of transcendent importance are known to be buried in the cemetery, so it does not satisfy Criteria Consideration D.

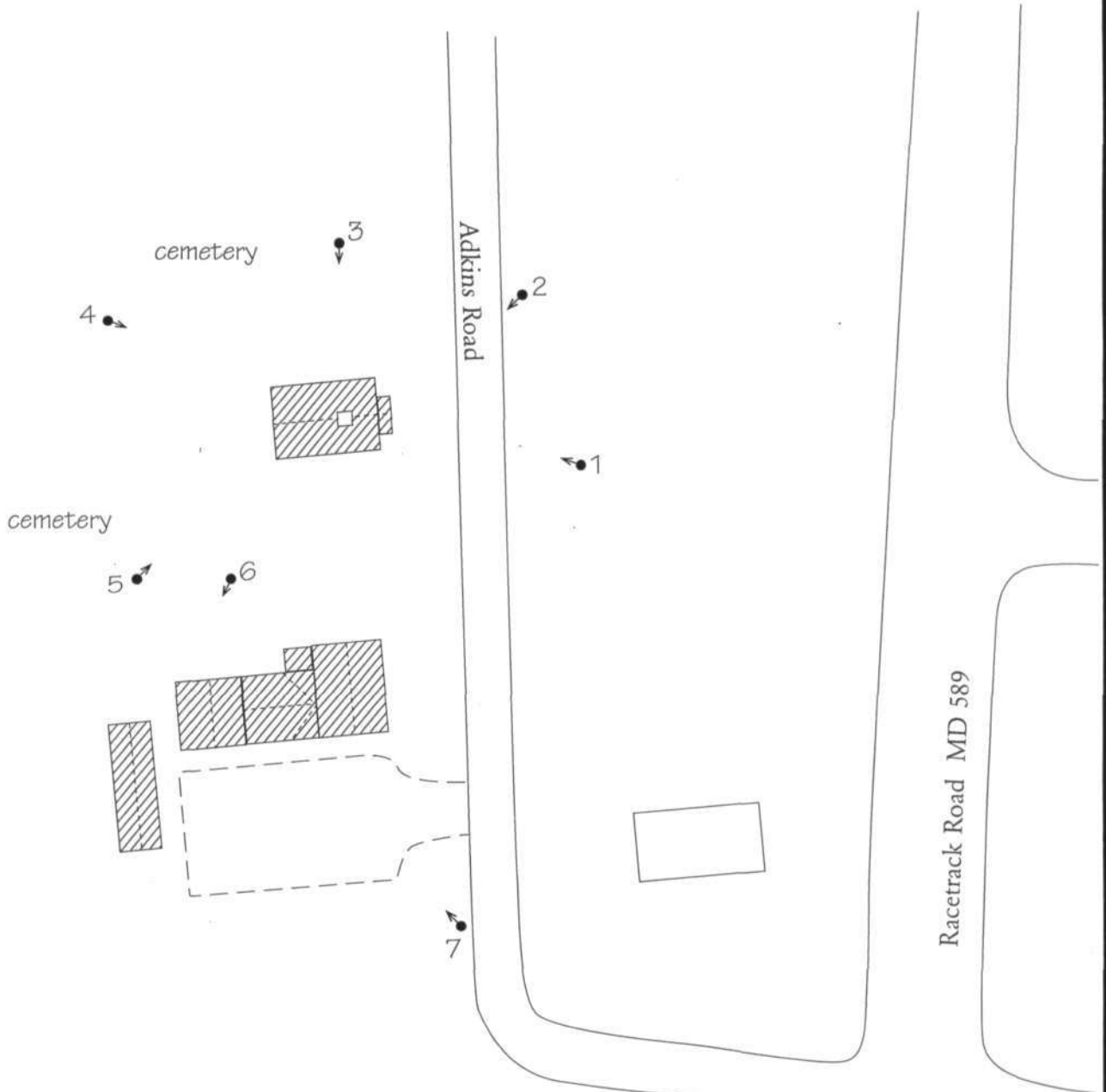
MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW	
Eligibility recommended _____	Eligibility not recommended _____
Criteria: ___ A ___ B ___ C ___ D	Considerations: ___ A ___ B ___ C ___ D ___ E ___ F ___ G
MHT Comments:	
_____	_____
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services	Date
_____	_____
Reviewer, National Register Program	Date




Taylorville Methodist Episcopal Church (W0-290)
11252 Adkins Road
Berlin, Maryland 21811



QUADRANGLE LOCATION
Selbyville, Berlin, MD

Taylorville Methodist Episcopal Church (W0-290)
11252 Adkins Road
Berlin, Maryland 21811



 = Photo Viewpoint
 = Recommended Not Eligible
 = Modern or Adjacent Structure

0 100 0 30
feet meters
approximate scale





WO-290

(1)

Taylorville Methodist Episcopal Church

Worcester, MD

E. Hammerstedt

12-3-07

MD SHPO

Overview of the church and cemetery, facing
east/northeast.



2

W0-290

Taylorville Methodist Episcopal Church

(Worcester, MI)

E Hammerstedt

12-3-07

MD SHPO

Church, facing south west.



3

WO-290

Taylorville Methodist Episcopal Church

Worcester, MD

E. Hammerstedt

12-3-07

MD SHPO

Church and cemetery, facing south.



WO-290

4

Taylorville Methodist Episcopal Church

Worcester, MD

E. Hemmerstedt

12-3-07

MD SHPO

Church and cemetery, facing Southeast



WO-290

Taylorville Methodist Episcopal Church

Worcester, MI

E. Hammerstedt

12-3-07

MI SHPO

Church and cemetery, facing northeast



W0-290

6

Taylorville Methodist Episcopal Church

Worcester, MO

E. Hammerstedt

12-3-07

MO SHPO

Cemetery & modern pavilion, facing Southwest.



WO-290

7

Taylorville Methodist Episcopal Church

Worcester, MD

E. Hammerstedt

12-3-07

MD SHPO

Parsonage or Sunday School building, facing
northwest.

WO-290
Taylorville United Methodist Church
Taylorville
Public worship

1851, 1888

The Taylorville United Methodist Church is one of the few nineteenth century structures that defines the former mill community of Taylorville. Named for Laban J. Taylor and his family, the village contained several residences, grist and saw mills along with the Methodist Episcopal church by the time the 1877 Lake, Griffing, and Stevenson atlas was published.

Laban J. Taylor, one of the largest land owners in the vicinity during the mid nineteenth century, donated the land for the church. On November 26, 1856, Laban and his wife Sally, transferred a three-quarter acre parcel of land to the trustees of what was then called St. Andrew's Methodist Episcopal Church South. The deed for the property included the description, "...beginning at a maple standing at the edge of Taylors Mill pond & thence running East 15 poles to the county road leading from Taylors Mill to St. Martins Church"

The foundation datestone of the church documents the initial construction of the building in 1851 as well as a remodeling in 1888. The significance of another date, September 30, 1900, is uncertain. Also of interest is an inscription in the front concrete pavement documenting additional work on the property. It reads, "Those who did work in 1910, W. T. Pennewell, Z. W. Jones, S. W. Jones, H. Pruitt, F. D. Cathell, G. H. Hill, G. P. Collier, G. R. Jones, J. Casper, J. P. Bunting, J. H. Short, S. T. Quillen, G. Pointer, C. Powell, Ike Holland, G. Clark, C. Clark, J. Phillips, and J. Elliot.

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. WO-290

Magi No.

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic TAYLORVILLE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH SOUTH

and/or common

2. Location

street & number West side of Adkins Road not for publicationcity, town Taylorville vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Worcester

3. Classification

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

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

name Trustees of Taylorville Methodist Church

street & number Adkins Road telephone no.:

city, town Taylorville state and zip code MD

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Worcester County Clerk of Court liber

street & number Worcester County Courthouse folio

city, town Snow Hill state MD 21863

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. WO-290

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

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

The Taylorville Methodist Episcopal Church South stands on the west side of Adkins Road which intersects MD 589 in Taylorville, Worcester County, Maryland. The single-story frame church faces east with the gable roof oriented on an east/west axis.

Built in 1851 and remodeled in 1888, the single story gable front frame church is supported by a common bond brick foundation, and it is sheathed with a layer of vinyl siding. The medium pitched asphalt shingle roof has slightly extended eaves. A cemetery surrounds the church on three sides. Rising on the front of the building is an entrance and bell tower.

The east (main) elevation is a gabled facade, and the entrance tower projects slightly from the main wall surface. The heavily molded double front doors are topped by a Gothic arched colored glass transom. The belfry has been modified with vented sides. A shallow pitched pyramidal roof tops the tower. Fixed in the corner of the foundation is a datestone inscribed, "Taylorville M. E. Church South, Erected 1851, Remodeled 1888, September 30, 1900."

The north and south sides of the church are alike with three unevenly spaced arched windows filled with opaque colored glass panes. The west (rear) elevation is marked by a shed roofed altar extension lighted by single-pane side windows.

The interior was not seen.

Impressed in the front walk at the southeast corner is the following inscription, "Those who did work in 1910 W. T. Pennewell, Z. W. Jones, S. W. Jones, H. Pruitt, F. D. Cathell, G. H. Hill, G. P. Collier, G. R. Jones, J. Casper, J. P. Bunting, J. H. Short, S. T. Quillen, G. Pointer, C. Powell, Ike Holland, G. Clark, C. Clark, J. Phillips, J. Elliot, Repaved 1977."

8. Significance

Survey No. WO-290

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

Specific dates 1851, 1888, 1900 Builder/Architect

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.

The Taylorville United Methodist Church is one of the few nineteenth century structures that defines the former mill community of Taylorville. Named for Laban J. Taylor and his family the village contained several residences, grist and saw mills along with the Methodist Episcopal church by the time the 1877 Lake, Griffing and Stevenson atlas was published. Mid to late twentieth century development, especially Ocean Downs racetrack, has significantly altered the historic appearance of this community. Aside from a layer of vinyl siding and a modification of the tower, the single-story frame church retains its basic integrity with pointed or round arched window openings. A datestone in the foundation documents the 1851 construction date along with a remodeling in 1888.

HISTORIC CONTEXT INFORMATION

Resource Name: Taylorville Methodist Church

MHT Inventory Number: WO-290

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA:

1) Historic Period Theme(s):

ARCHITECTURE
RELIGION

2) Geographic Orientation:

EASTERN SHORE

3) Chronological/Developmental Period(s):

AGRICULTURAL - INDUSTRIAL TRANSITION
(1815 - 1870)

4) Resource Type(s):

1. STANDING STRUCTURE

A. CHURCH

2. LANDSCAPE FEATURE

B. CEMETERY

WO-290
TAYLORVILLE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH SOUTH
Taylorville
Deed of gift

JAP 1/143

Laban J. Taylor and Sally Taylor

to

11/26/1856

Trustees of St. Andrews Church

John R. Pitts, Robert Pitts, James Massey,
James T. Jones, and Curtis W. Jacobs,
Trustees in trust for the use and benefit
of the Methodist Episcopal Church South

\$5.00 3/4 acre

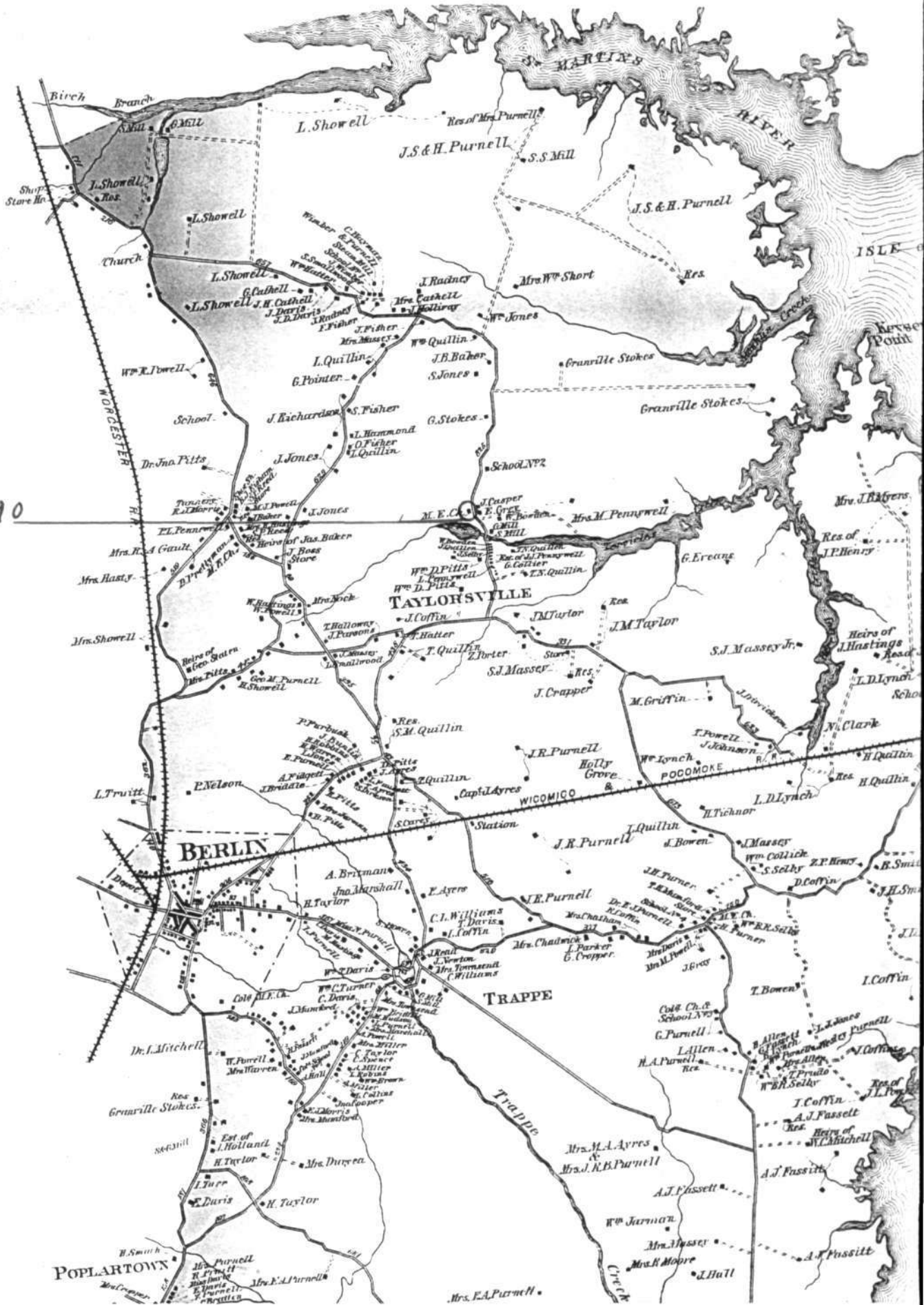
Beginning at a maple standing at the edge
of Taylors Mill pond & thence running East
15 poles to the county road leading from
Taylors Mill to St. Martins Church

W0-290

1877 LACE, GRIPPING, and STEVENSON ATLAS

42

W0-290



BERLIN QUADRANGLE
MARYLAND-WORCESTER CO
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

W (LE) 4 85 10' 86 1 330 000 FEET 87 88

WO-290
TAYLORVILLE METHODIST EPISCOPAL
CHURCH SOUTH
Selbyville, MD. - DEL. Quadrangle
1967

