

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM**

NR Eligible: yes  no

Property Name: Mount Pilgrim Baptist Church Inventory Number: AA-2572  
 Address: 1429 Dorsey Road (MD 176) ; sometimes 1433 Dorsey Road Historic district: yes  no   
 City: Hanover Zip Code: 21076 County: Anne Arundel  
 USGS Quadrangle(s): Relay  
 Property Owner: Mt. Pilgrim Baptist Church Tax Account ID Number: 05-02787577  
 Tax Map Parcel Number(s): 0599 Tax Map Number: 0008  
 Project: MD 176 from South of Trafalgar Circle to MD 713/New Ridge Agency: MDOT State Highway Administration  
 Agency Prepared By: MDOT State Highway Administration  
 Preparer's Name: Matt Manning Date Prepared: 02/11/2022  
 Documentation is presented in: Project review and compliance files  
 Preparer's Eligibility Recommendation: X Eligibility recommended Eligibility not recommended  
 Criteria: X A    B    C    D Considerations: X 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 Staff yes  no  Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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

The Mount Pilgrim Baptist Church is located at 1429 Dorsey Road on the southwest corner of the MD 176/MD 713 intersection, north of MD 100 in Hanover, Anne Arundel County. Dorsey Road (MD 176) and New Ridge Road/Arundel Mills Boulevard (MD 713) are multilane highways, and mast-arm traffic signals stand at the intersection. The surrounding area is largely wooded but includes residential, commercial, and industrial development constructed after 1990, following the construction of MD 100.

The 0.37-acre church parcel is shaded by three large oak trees and is bordered by forested areas on the south and west. The church, a one-and-a-half-story, front-gabled building, faces northeast along Dorsey Road. A gravel parking lot stands east of the church, accessed from Dorsey Road. Most of the church's parking area falls within the Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration (MDOT SHA) right-of-way. A small cemetery with stone markers adjoins the church's west side; the cemetery continues west to the edge of the trees.

The simple, one-story front-gabled church is rectangular in form, with a partial-width vestibule on its north elevation and a telescoping chancel projecting from the south elevation. The building sits on a poured concrete or parged concrete block pier foundation; the entrance vestibule appears to be supported by a continuous poured concrete foundation. The church is clad in

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW**

Eligibility recommended  Eligibility not recommended   
 Criteria: X A    B    C    D Considerations: X A    B    C    D    E    F    G

**MHT Comments:**

*Tim Tavelle* ✓  
 Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services  
*Jessica French*  
 Reviewer, National Register Program

9/14/2022  
 Date  
9/23/2022  
 Date

stucco and capped with a composition shingle roof. The three-bay north façade includes a central entrance accessed from the west via the gabled vestibule; the vestibule is clad with horizontal vinyl siding. The entrance consists of a paneled metal door. A single one-over-one, vinyl-clad, hung-sash window occupies the vestibule’s north elevation. Flanking the vestibule on the east is a similar window featuring a painted, rectangular wood surround set flush within the surrounding stucco surface. At the opposite side of the vestibule, ghost lines reveal the former presence of an identical window opening, since enclosed and covered with stucco. Above the vestibule, a smaller one-over-one, vinyl-clad window is centered on the gable peak; it also features an inset wood surround. The gable roof features an overhanging rake with simple returns at the façade.

The three-bay east and west elevations are identical, featuring one-over-one, vinyl-clad, hung-sash windows with inset wood surrounds. An interior brick chimney pierces the roofline along the east elevation, north of the south window bay. The gabled chancel telescopes from the rear (south elevation) of the church. It includes single windows on both the east and west elevations, matching those on the rest of the building.

A cornerstone located at the base of the church’s northwest corner is inscribed:

MT. PILGRIM  
 BAPTIST  
 CHURCH  
 A. D. 1921

The cornerstone appears to be a stone block in place prior to the application of the stucco facing, which has dripped over the stone and hardened within the letters of the inscription.

The cemetery is approximately 37 by 50 feet and is an open area delineated by trees to the west and south, Dorsey Road to the north, and the church building to the east. Graves are arranged in approximately three rows; all marked graves with stones are facing southeast toward the church. The first row is closest to the church, while the third row sits just east of the tree line of the wooded area to the west of the church and cemetery parcel. A visual inspection of the area immediately west of the tree line did not reveal any marked or unmarked graves.

There are currently ten headstones in the cemetery, two of which mark multiple burials (see included table). Most of the marked graves are located either in the first and second rows at the southwest end of the cemetery or the second and third rows at the northeast end of the cemetery. Additional graves are marked with concrete block or pieces of stone block, which may either be blank markers or displaced headstones (these stones were not movable at the time of the site visit). One of the graves at the northeast end of the third row, marked by a concrete block, also has a temporary metal nameplate that is missing the vital information of the person buried there. It appears that there may be additional unmarked graves interspersed among the marked graves.

Four of the graves in the cemetery are demarcated by stone pavers approximately 12-16 inches wide outlining the edges of each grave. Three of these graves are located adjacent to each other at the southwest end of the first row (closest to the church). One additional grave without a headstone, also in the first row and just to the northeast of the three graves, has the same feature. The three marked graves with these pavers are: Robert H. Mundell, Nelson A. Mundell, and Ronald D. Chisley. These graves also have lilies and other decorative vegetation planted within the area outlined by pavers. One additional grave to the northeast, marked with a concrete block, also is planted with lilies along the length of the grave shaft. Other graves have a single plant marking the grave or are decorated with faux flowers.

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						

History

The Mount Pilgrim Baptist Church is located along Dorsey Road west of Ridge Road, between Dorsey and Harmans. In the nineteenth century, the Ridge Road intersection was known as Shipley’s Corner, named for the Shipley family who farmed the area. In 1872, the Baltimore and Potomac Railroad was constructed to the east, with a new stop along Dorsey Road named Harman’s Station. Growth shifted east, and a small town, known today as Harmans, grew up around the station (Farnham 2002).

Meanwhile, Black landowners moved into the area around Shipley’s Corner. The 1880 census shows a handful of independent households. Many, including Isaac White, Abraham Cook, and John Yoak, are listed as laborers, but others, including Charles Gambrell, John and William Williams, and John Gardiner, are noted as farmers, suggesting they worked their own land. By 1900, the Black population had grown to about 16 families, most of whom rented their homes and worked as laborers on nearby farms. Many of the children were listed as attending school (Ancestry.com 2022).

In February 1902, acting as a trustee for a local mutual aid society, John Henry Mundel (also Mundle), acquired from Susan Grieves a twenty-acre parcel west of Shipley’s Corner along the Dorsey – Harmans Road (AALR GW 24/290 1902). The society, the Forest Grove Lodge No. 4 of the Independent Order of Good Samaritans and Daughters of Samaria, subdivided the parcel into 18 approximately one-acre lots in June 1903 and began selling individual lots to Black owners in 1906 (AALR GW 117/290 1915), contributing to the growth of the surrounding community.

Deed records reveal the activities and involvement of multiple African American mutual aid societies in the area, including the Forest Grove Lodge No. 4. Mutual aid societies were prevalent in Black communities by the late nineteenth century, when segregation and discrimination excluded African Americans from traditional means of wealth-building. Such organizations provided safety nets and economic security not accessible to African Americans through traditional institutions. Assistance included insurance, loans, burials, and educational programs, all supported by monthly dues.

The Independent Order of Good Samaritans and Daughters of Samaria was founded in 1847 as a beneficial society and temperance organization. Although not fully integrated, the order included African American membership; a charter was granted for an African American lodge at the first meeting of the order’s Grand Lodge. As Black membership increased, whites gradually withdrew, and the order became a purely African American society. The lodge also included male and female members (Skocpol 2006; Ware 2001). Forest Grove Lodge No. 4 was incorporated in Anne Arundel County on June 18, 1883 (Item No. 17772).

Census records provide some insight into the growth of the community around Shipley’s Corner. Largely a community of renters and farm laborers in 1900, by 1910, there were more homeowners, and many of the household heads were employed by the railroad, presumably at Harmans. In 1920, over 25 households were enumerated, the vast majority of which were homeowners, including farmers and laborers at the railroad and nearby Camp Meade (Ancestry.com 2022).

Around 1920, a school was established along Dorsey Road opposite the Forest Grove Lodge No. 4 tract. A historical marker placed along Dorsey Road in February 2011 states the school was established with the assistance of another mutual aid society, the Benevolent Sons and Daughters of Abraham, and that in 1918, the society purchased and donated the land on which the school was constructed. However, deed records do not show evidence of the society’s direct involvement. Instead, the parcel was acquired by the Anne Arundel County Board of Education in March 1922 from Stephen and Rena Wilkinson, white landowners who had acquired the parcel in 1915 from Anna May and Ralph Savage, also white (AALR WNW 52/258 1922; Ancestry.com 2022). Although the Abraham Lodge did not directly purchase the property the school was on, the organization may have donated funds to enable the Board of Education to acquire the land and construct the school building. The lodge was active in the community and subdivided a tract along present-day Abraham Road west of Mount Pilgrim Baptist Church, where the society built a lodge hall and

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						

sold individual parcels to members of the Black community (AALR GW 54/317 1907; "Quarterly Meeting" 1903).

Although not funded by the contemporaneous Julius Rosenwald school-building program, the school at Harmans was constructed according to a modified Rosenwald plan known as the Fox Plan, named for Anne Arundel County school superintendent George Fox and adopted for 18 of the 23 Anne Arundel County Rosenwald Schools. The plan is a variation of the Shop-B Plan, which originally included a single classroom with a laboratory and shop, modified by replacing the lab and shop with a second classroom (Marsh 2005).

According to personal communication with current pastor Charles Mundell, the Mount Pilgrim Baptist Church was founded in 1921, corresponding to the date on the building's cornerstone. Deed records show a group of church trustees purchased Lot Number Eight from Forest Grove Lodge No. 4 in December 1919, under the name Mt. Pisgah Baptist Church. The trustees named in the deed were Milton Eldridge, John Eldridge, Henry Miller, and Leava Lewis (AALR WNW 12/376 1919). The 1920 census lists Milton Eldridge, Jr, as a 60-year-old farm laborer living on the Severn and Jessup Road with his wife, Louisa, and children and grandchildren. His home is listed as owned and mortgaged. His son, John Eldridge (30), is shown living on the Harmans and Ridge Road with his wife, Osey, and two sons. John was a laborer at nearby Camp Meade and rented his home (Ancestry.com 2022).

In July 1921, after the church was legally incorporated, the property was transferred to the "Trustees of Mt. Pisgah Baptist Church." The 1921 trustees included the Eldridges, Alfred F. Johnson, Anthony Brown, and Lawrence Mahone (AALR WNW 42/489 1921). Johnson (55) is shown as a lodger on the 1920 census, residing in Baltimore with the family of William H. Miller (38), who may be the Henry Miller listed as a trustee in the 1919 deed. Both Miller and Johnson are listed as transfer drivers. The 1920 census includes an Anthony Brown in the 2nd electoral district, but no Leava Lewis or Lawrence Mahone in Maryland (Ancestry.com 2022).

In April 1925, trustee Alfred Johnson, the church pastor, was charged with embezzling funds from the church, accused of taking out a \$1000 mortgage on the property and keeping the funds for himself. In testimony, Milton Eldridge noted the trustees had procured Johnson's services from Baltimore at "great expense," claiming Johnson had been asked to obtain a loan for the church but had instead kept the money. Johnson, describing himself as a former feather hauler turned preacher, disputed the charges, and noted he was paid only from the church collection, which amounted to \$3 to \$5 dollars each month. The judge held Johnson on a \$1000 bond prior to going before a grand jury ("Preacher Held as Embezzler" 1925). Newspaper or court records that document the outcome of the case were not discovered.

Deed records show that the group of church trustees had mortgaged the property to Johnson in May 1921 for \$750, payable over two years at six percent interest (AALR WNW 48/13 1921). However, upon transfer of the property in July 1921, the church trustees took out a \$1000 mortgage from the Commercial Building Loan and Savings Association, payable over 100 weeks at 12 percent interest (AALR WNW 42/490 1921). Following the second mortgage, Johnson signed a release stating the original mortgage had been fully paid (AALR WNW 42/488 1921). Presumably, the second, \$1000 mortgage is the one that resulted in the charges against Alfred Johnson, because by December 1921, the church was in default. The property was sold at auction to Joseph Kimmel on December 4, 1923, for \$1000. Kimmel, a resident of Baltimore City, died before taking possession, and it appears the church continued to occupy the property after the sale (AALR FAM 140/588 1935).

Joseph Kimmel's family sold the church parcel to Walter Farrell in 1935, and Farrell divided the property and sold the west corner of the lot to the Glen Burnie Savings and Loan Association later that year (AALR FAM 140/587 1935; AALR FAM 140/588 1935). In November 1942, Farrell sold the rest of the parcel to the Globe Development Company, owned by August W. Schnepfe (AALR JHH 332/223 1942). A lawyer, Schnepfe had a long history with the property; he served as the assignee when the property

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						

initially entered foreclosure in 1921. Apparently, the church remained as a tenant throughout this time and continued to use the cemetery, which includes burial markers with recorded dates throughout the 1930s and 1940s.

In January 1945, Globe Development sold the property to James and Mary Jones (AALR JHH 332/224 1945). In the records, Reverend James Jones is identified as the pastor of the church, which he reorganized and referred to as First Baptist Church of Harmans. In March 1961, acting as lone trustee for the First Baptist Church of Harmans, Jones sold the property to the Mount Pilgrim Baptist Church. The deed refers to maintenance costs incurred by Jones during his ownership, and the Mount Pilgrim trustees agreed to reimburse him for the expenses (AALR GTC 1462/239, 1961). The church has remained in the hands of the Mount Pilgrim trustees since that time.

The records are unclear regarding the discrepancy between the Mount Pisgah name appearing on deeds in the 1920s and the Mount Pilgrim name used today and on the cornerstone dated 1921. The May 1921 mortgage called for the church trustees to insure the improvements on the property for \$500, indicating that the church building was in place by that time. Although it is possible the cornerstone was placed at a later date, a newspaper article from July 1922 included an announcement of a camp meeting to be held at "Mt. Pilgrim Baptist Church, Harmon, Md." ("Among the Churches" 1922), where attendees would be conveyed from the train station to the church via automobile. However, the 1925 article describing the accusations of embezzlement against Alfred Johnson still referred to the church as Mount Pisgah.

The church parcel has twice been impacted by right-of-way acquisition by the State of Maryland. First, in 1948, the State Roads Commission (SRC) began the process of widening MD 176 from 16 feet with 4-foot shoulders to 22 feet with 10-foot shoulders (Report of the SRC 1947-48; Plat 7105-07 1948-50).

By that time, a small community had grown along Dorsey Road. Highway right-of-way plats and property appraisals commissioned by the SRC provide a snapshot of the church and surrounding community in the late 1940s. The church building, identified as the "First Baptist Church of Harman," was described as a 25' x 35' frame structure with a 10' x 15' rear addition, set upon brick and concrete piers, with clapboard siding and a composition roof. The cemetery was "along side" the church and extended toward the highway, which at that time was a two-lane road farther from the building. The report noted that one grave appeared to be located in the present right-of-way (Item No. 15959 1951). The current gabled vestibule at the façade is not noted in the description or on a drawing of the church parcel showing the building outline, suggesting it is a post-1948 addition. The part of the building described as a "rear addition" is described as a chancel in later documentation (Item No. 78711 1989) and could have been misinterpreted as an addition due to its smaller footprint.

Across from the church was the two-acre Harman Elementary parcel. A one-story, frame, 60' x 30' building, the school had a concrete pier foundation, clapboard siding, and a metal roof; it was in fair condition. It also included a 10' x 20' shingle-sided "L", reflecting the addition of a third classroom around 1938 (Item No. 15950 1949; Leung 1995)

In addition to the church and school, there were multiple houses on the Forest Grove Lodge No. 4 subdivision along the south side of the highway. These were typically one to two stories with front porches. Behind the church, to the southwest, stood the Raymond Adams property, which included a 24' x 30' two-story frame dwelling with a stone foundation and clapboard siding (Item No. 17815 1950). Along Dorsey Road immediately to the east of the church was the Bessie Mundell property, another two-story frame dwelling, this one 23' x 10' with a full-width front porch. This house additionally included a stable, shed, and hen house (Item No. 17774 1950). Farther east, on land owned by Lena Mundell Allen, stood two one-story frame houses: a 20' x 25' house on stone piles with composition siding and roof, and a 22' x 30' concrete and concrete block dwelling with cellar and composition roof (Item No. 17773 1950).

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						

Costello Matthews (also Mathews) and his wife Cora owned two parcels along the south side of Dorsey Road, where he operated a gas station and convenience store. Situated at the rear of the property, the Matthews residence was a two-story 20' x 30' dwelling with asbestos siding and a concrete foundation. The store, along the road, was a one-and-a-half-story 28' x 28' concrete block building with a store and kitchen on the main floor and bedrooms on the second floor. The building was set back from the road behind a paved parking area that included the gas pumps (Item No. 17772 1949). The Matthews property was also the site of Mathews Park, which included a picnic area and seasonal barbecue restaurant operated by the Matthews family for over 50 years (Lolordo 1981).

East of the Matthews store, Nettie Wells and James Sewell each owned 2-story frame dwellings along Dorsey Road. At Ridge Road, white landowners Joseph and Margaret Sass occupied a 2-1/2-story foursquare house with chicken houses, shed, and garage (Plat 9344 1952). Generally, the houses had electricity, but many lacked running water and relied on wells, including the schoolhouse.

MDOT SHA Office of Real Estate (ORE) records show that the SRC negotiated the relocation of buildings and houses along the highway as part of their right-of-way acquisition agreements. Most of the houses along Dorsey Road, including Costello Matthews's store, were moved back from the highway at the SRC's expense (Item No. 15959 1951).

The newly expanded 80-foot right-of-way encompassed the front lawn of the Mount Pilgrim Church, including part of the cemetery. Initially, the SRC planned to avoid the cemetery by narrowing the right-of-way, but records indicate the SRC came to an agreement with Rev. James Jones, the pastor at the time, to pay the church to relocate three burials at a cost of \$126.50. However, two burials within right-of-way but outside the area affected by construction were to remain in place (Item No. 15959 1951).

During the late 1980s, MD 176 was expanded to four lanes. Between MD 295 and Ridge Road, it appears the additional lanes were accommodated primarily by incorporating the existing 10-foot shoulder (NETR 2022). However, the current (2022) 50-foot roadway width is 8 feet wider than the c. 1950 widening, indicating a 4-widening on either side of the road at some point, possibly when the additional lanes were added. A search of MDOT SHA records and as-built plans did not reveal a widening project after 1950, and the location and condition of the two burials left within right-of-way following the 1950 highway project are unknown. A 2022 MDOT SHA ground penetrating radar survey did not identify any anomalies consistent with graves within MDOT SHA's right-of-way adjacent to the cemetery.

Deed records and the SRC right-of-way acquisition files provide some clues to the fate of the Forest Grove Lodge No. 4 following the subdivision of the Dorsey Road parcel. According to deeds, one of the Costello Matthews parcels had been purchased from Anne Arundel County at a tax sale in 1945. The County had taken possession of the property in 1935 after the owner, Forest Grove Lodge No. 4, had failed to pay taxes from 1931 to 1934 (AALR JHH 348/121 1945). As part of an investigation into the title, the SRC attorney retained to carry out right-of-way acquisition determined that as of 1949, Forest Grove Lodge No. 4 had been inactive for nearly 20 years. According to Costello Matthews, there were only two former lodge members still living at the time, although records did not reveal their names (Item No. 17772 1949).

Changes in the community continued following the completion of the 1950 road widening project. In 1955, to ease overcrowding, the Harman Elementary school building was closed, and the Board of Education built a new, 13-room, red-brick school a mile to the south on Ridge Chapel Road, where it stands today (Leung 1995). The former school property was purchased by the African American St. Mark (United) Methodist Church in 1956 (AALR GTC 1077/121 1956). The church built a parsonage on the property in 1958, but the old school building remained until it was removed for the construction of the church's current worship facility in the late 1960s (Schultz 2017).

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						

In 1990, the State Highway Administration (SHA) acquired 0.389 acres on the southeast side of the parcel prior to the construction of MD 100 to the southwest. This new right-of-way was used to construct Arundel Mills Boulevard (MD 713) and connect MD 176 and New Ridge Road to the new highway, and Mount Pilgrim Baptist Church became located at the intersection, resulting in dramatic changes to its setting (Item No. 78711 1989; Plat 51105 1988). Plats from the 1988 project (Plat 51105 1988) show a community of about 15 dwellings on the former Forest Grove Lodge No. 4 subdivision, along with Mount Pilgrim Baptist Church. Additional houses, including Cape Cod and Transitional Ranch forms, had been constructed south of the original houses along Dorsey Road, many of which had fallen into disrepair (Item Nos. 78299 and 78748 1988).

At the time, Pastor William F. Wheeler, church trustees, and members of the congregation wrote to SHA requesting that their church be spared relocation from the route of MD 100 (MD-100 Extended 1987). Ultimately, an alternative route was selected, leading to the current highway configuration. The new connector road resulted in the removal of two dwellings: one along Dorsey Road east of the church, and another along First Street, the 20-foot right-of-way extending north from Ridge Road as shown on the 1906 and subsequent plats. The house along Dorsey Road, owned by Alice Williams in 1988, was the same house owned by Bessie Mundell in 1950. Photographs from the 1988 appraisal show a two-story, three-bay, side-gabled house with a shallow enclosed porch. The house appears clad in faux brick asphalt siding and is in poor condition (Item No. 78299 1988). The other house, owned by Horace Lee Thompson, was a Transitional Ranch constructed in the 1960s (Item No. 78748 1988).

New development driven by proximity to the airport and the opening of MD 100 in 1994 has changed the character of the surrounding area, while other buildings along and south of Dorsey Road were removed or left unoccupied. Today, following the construction of MD 100 and subsequent development, only the Mount Pilgrim Baptist Church remains from the Forest Grove Lodge No. 4 subdivision and the community that developed along Dorsey Road. Burial markers in the church cemetery demonstrate the close-knit nature of the community and the close ties of two families to the church. The Mundell family lived along Dorsey Road and attended Mount Pilgrim, and at least seven family members were buried at the church cemetery between 1947 (Bernard Mundell) and 2019 (Rosie Wheeler, nee Mundell). The Eldridges, among the original trustees, count at least six members, with markers for those interred between 1932 (Milton Eldridge) and 1963 (Isiah Eldridge).

Pastor Wheeler passed away in May 2018, and Charles Mundell, a relative of John Henry Mundell(I), the former Forest Grove Lodge No. 4 trustee, took over as pastor of the church. The church continues to provide regular Sunday services (Personal communication with Charles Mundell). The cemetery also remains in use, with the most recent burial dated December 2019.

Few extant African American churches in Anne Arundel County are documented in the Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties, particularly examples in rural communities. Many pre- and early twentieth-century buildings, typically wood-framed and maintained as funds were available, were replaced by more substantial structures, as at the Mt. Olive African Methodist Episcopal Church (AA-771) and Ebenezer African Methodist Episcopal Church (AA-769A); were abandoned as congregation members dispersed in the decades following desegregation (St. Paul's African Methodist Episcopal Church, AA-731); or succumbed to development pressure (St. John A.M.E. Zion Church, AA-2104). The Mount Pilgrim Baptist Church is one of few remaining rural African American churches documented in Anne Arundel County, which include the Cedar Grove United Methodist Church (AA-58) in Deale and the Mt. Zion Church (AA-892) in Bacontown, which is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. (Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties 2022).

Evaluation

Mount Pilgrim Baptist Church is eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) under Criterion A. The church is the oldest remaining evidence of the twentieth-century community that developed near Shipley's Corner. Its association with the Forest Grove Lodge No. 4 and the Independent Order of Good Samaritans and Daughters of Samaria demonstrates the

**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

role of similar mutual aid societies in African American life following the Reconstruction era. Additionally, the church served an important role in the community as a gathering place and burial ground. With organizations like Mount Pilgrim Baptist Church, the community formed a network of support and services for its African American residents at a time when systemic racism prevented Blacks from access to the same social structures available to whites. In addition, the church is one of few documented examples of rural African American churches that were often a part of similar Black communities in Anne Arundel County.

As a rural African American church and the last remaining evidence of the larger community, the Mount Pilgrim Church is significant under Criterion A for its association with the Forest Grove Lodge No. 4 mutual aid society and the early twentieth-century Black community that developed along Dorsey Road.

The Mount Pilgrim Baptist Church is not significant under Criterion B. The church congregation has traditionally consisted of members of the local and surrounding Black communities, and details about their individual lives are limited. No prominent individuals with specific and important contributions to history could be identified, including those known members of Forest Grove Lodge No. 4 and leaders of the Mount Pilgrim Baptist Church.

The Mount Pilgrim Baptist Church building represents a form common in rural church architecture and is not a design unique to or characteristic of African American communities. The building has been altered with replacement materials, and the entrance vestibule is not original. The church does not represent the work of a master or possess high artistic value and is not significant under Criterion C.

The Mount Pilgrim Baptist Church was not evaluated under Criterion D.

The Mount Pilgrim Baptist Church is significant for its association with historical events and not for its religious doctrine; it therefore meets Criteria Consideration A for religious properties.

Period of Significance

The Mount Pilgrim Baptist Church derives its significance from its association with the Forest Grove Lodge No. 4 and the Black community established along Dorsey Road following the subdivision and sale of the Forest Grove Lodge No. 4 property in 1906. Its period of significance begins upon its construction in 1921 and continues to 1955, following the relocation of buildings along the south side of Dorsey Road and the construction of a new Harman Elementary on Ridge Chapel Road.

Character-Defining Features

Character-defining features of the church building include its rectangular plan, regular fenestration, simple wood trim, and front-gabled roof with cornice returns. The cemetery is an important aspect of the church's character, and although it demonstrates no specific unifying design or features, it is characterized by a variety of markers arranged in irregular rows.

Integrity

Racial segregation had the effect of confining African Americans to particular communities and limiting opportunities for mobility. At the same time, such communities generally remained poor, with limited options for improvements and maintenance. These factors resulted in a physical environment that was frequently adapted using available materials. As such, the integrity of African American historic resources such as the Mount Pilgrim Baptist Church may be tied more closely to associative aspects as opposed to original physical aspects of integrity. Although it lacks some of its original materials and its setting has changed following

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						

development pressures, the Mount Pilgrim Baptist Church retains sufficient integrity of location, design, feeling, and association to convey its historical significance.

Mount Pilgrim Baptist Church has integrity of location due to its continued presence at its original location along Dorsey Road.

The Mount Pilgrim Baptist Church lacks integrity of setting. The surrounding area along Dorsey Road has undergone extensive changes over time, starting with the widening of Dorsey Road in 1948 and culminating with the construction of MD 100 and Anne Arundel Boulevard in the 1990s. Over time, other buildings associated with the community disappeared, including Harman Elementary and nearby houses.

The Mount Pilgrim Baptist Church retains integrity of design. The building’s symmetrical gable-front appearance has not changed since its construction. The apparent addition of a gabled vestibule and covering of a façade window has not compromised the appearance of the building as an early 20th-century rural church.

The Mount Pilgrim Baptist Church lacks integrity of materials and workmanship. Replacement materials have been used throughout the church, including the stucco exterior, vinyl-clad sash windows, and the entrance vestibule’s vinyl siding and metal door. In several places on the west side, the wood window trim is missing. Although these replacement materials do not alter the design of the church, they do not convey the appearance of the original.

The Mount Pilgrim Baptist Church retains integrity of feeling and association. The island location, natural landscape, and the presence of the cabin, picnic area, walking trails, and other features combine to convey the character of the WBFC from the early through the mid-twentieth century.

**Boundary**

The resource occupies a 0.37-acre parcel which is found on Anne Arundel County Tax Map 0008, Parcel 0599 (2022). This boundary includes the church building and the present known extents of the adjacent cemetery; although research suggests the cemetery at one time extended into current MDOT SHA right-of-way north of the parcel, no evidence of burial features has been identified outside the parcel boundary.

**References**

“Among the Churches.” Baltimore Afro American. July 28, 1922. 2.

Ancestry.com. United States Federal Census [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2022.

Anne Arundel County, Maryland, Circuit Court, Equity Record JHH 66/202, No. 4611, August W. Schnepfe, Assignee, vs. the Trustees of Mount Pisgah Baptist Church. Filed 16 December 1921; Archives of Maryland Online, Electronic document, <http://guide.msa.maryland.gov/pages/series.aspx?id=CE431/>, accessed October 2021.

Anne Arundel County, Maryland, Circuit Court, Land Record (AALR) FAM 140/587, Walter J. Farrell to Glen Burnie Savings and Loan Association, 12 September 1935; Archives of Maryland Online, Electronic document, <http://www.mdlandrec.net/>, accessed October 2021.

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

AALR FAM 140/588, August W. Schnepfe, Assignee, and Freida Kimmel et al. to Walter J. Farrell, 29 June 1935; Archives of Maryland Online, Electronic document, <http://www.mdlandrec.net/>, accessed October 2021.

AALR JHH 205/277, Brooklyn Building Association, Inc., to Costello F. and Cornelia G. Matthews, 1 September 1939; Archives of Maryland Online, Electronic document, <http://www.mdlandrec.net/>, accessed October 2021.

AALR JHH 332/223, Walter J. and Gertrude Farrell to Globe Development Company, 2 November 1942; Archives of Maryland Online, Electronic document, <http://www.mdlandrec.net/>, accessed October 2021.

AALR JHH 332/224, Globe Development Company to James and Mary Jones, 29 January 1945; Archives of Maryland Online, Electronic document, <http://www.mdlandrec.net/>, accessed October 2021.

AALR JHH 348/121, C. Albert Hodges et al. to Costello and Cornelia Mathews, 4 December 1945; Archives of Maryland Online, Electronic document, <http://www.mdlandrec.net/>, accessed October 2021.

AALR JHH 553/368, James Jones to State Roads Commission of Maryland, 11 January 1950; Archives of Maryland Online, Electronic document, <http://www.mdlandrec.net/>, accessed October 2021.

AALR GTC 1077/121, Board of Education of Anne Arundel County to the Saint Marks Methodist Church of Harmans, Maryland, 30 October 1956; Archives of Maryland Online, Electronic document, <http://www.mdlandrec.net/>, accessed October 2021.

AALR GTC 1462/239, James Jones to Mount Pilgrim Baptist Church, 16 March 1961; Archives of Maryland Online, Electronic document, <http://www.mdlandrec.net/>, accessed October 2021.

AALR GW 24/290, Susan and David F. Grieves to John H. Mundel, trustee, 1 Feb 1902; Archives of Maryland Online, Electronic document, <http://www.mdlandrec.net/>, accessed October 2021.

AALR GW 54/317, Benevolent Sons and Daughters of Abraham Covenant Lodge No. 11 to Tecumseh Burley et al., 2 April 1907; Archives of Maryland Online, Electronic document, <http://www.mdlandrec.net/>, accessed October 2021.

AALR GW 117/290, John H. Mundel, Trustee, to Forest Grove Lodge No. 4, Independent Order of Good Samaritans and Daughters of Samaria, 7 April 1915; Archives of Maryland Online, Electronic document, <http://www.mdlandrec.net/>, accessed October 2021.

AALR HHS 5090/860, Mount Pilgrim Baptist Church to the State of Maryland (State Highway Administration), 3 May 1990; Archives of Maryland Online, Electronic document, <http://www.mdlandrec.net/>, accessed October 2021.

AALR WNW 12/376, Forest Grove Lodge No. 4, Independent Order of Good Samaritans and Daughters of Samaria, to Milton Elbridge [sic], John Elbridge [sic], Henry Miller, Leava Lewis, Trustees, 26 December 1919; Archives of Maryland Online, Electronic document, <http://www.mdlandrec.net/>, accessed October 2021.

AALR WNW 42/488, Release of Mortgage by Alfred F. Johnson to Trustees of Mt. Pisgah Baptist Church, 22 July 1921; Archives of Maryland Online, Electronic document, <http://www.mdlandrec.net/>, accessed October 2021.

AALR WNW 42/489, Milton Elbridge [sic], Alfred F. Johnson, Anthony Brown, John Elbridge [sic], and Lawrence Mahone,

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						

Trustees for the Congregation of Mt. Pisgah Baptist Church, to the Trustees of Mt. Pisgah Baptist Church, 18 July 1921; Archives of Maryland Online, Electronic document, <http://www.mdlandrec.net/>, accessed October 2021.

AALR WNW 42/490 Mortgage between the Trustees of Mt. Pisgah Baptist Church and the Commercial Building Loan and Savings Corporation, 20 July 1921; Archives of Maryland Online, Electronic document, <http://www.mdlandrec.net/>, accessed October 2021.

AALR WNW 48/13, Mortgage between the Trustees of Mount Pisgah Baptist Church and Alfred F. Johnson, 23 May 1921; Archives of Maryland Online, Electronic document, <http://www.mdlandrec.net/>, accessed October 2021.

AALR WNW 52/258, Stephen and Rena Wilkinson et al. to the Board of Education of Anne Arundel County, 21 March 1922; Archives of Maryland Online, Electronic document, <http://www.mdlandrec.net/>, accessed October 2021.

“Cornelia Matthews.” Obituary. The Baltimore Sun. October 1, 1993. 9D.

Farnham, Kate. “Harmans Survey District, AA-1075.” Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form, 9/27/2002. <https://mht.maryland.gov/secure/Medusa/PDF/AnneArundel/AA-1075.pdf>, accessed 2/10/2022.

Gambill, Angela. “Church Celebrates Its Roots.” The Baltimore Sun. June 14, 1992. 4.

Item No. 15950. “Anne Arundel County Right of Way Report.” Office of Real Estate, Maryland State Roads Commission. 1949. Accessed at Maryland State Highway Administration, Baltimore.

Item No. 15959. “Mount Pilgrim Baptist Church Right of Way Report.” Office of Real Estate, Maryland State Roads Commission. 1951. Accessed at Maryland State Highway Administration, Baltimore.

Item No. 17752. “Nettie J. Wells Right of Way Report.” Office of Real Estate, Maryland State Roads Commission. 1949. Accessed at Maryland State Highway Administration, Baltimore.

Item No. 17772. “Costello Matthews Right of Way Report.” Office of Real Estate, Maryland State Roads Commission. 1949. Accessed at Maryland State Highway Administration, Baltimore.

Item No. 17773. “Lena Allen Right of Way Report.” Office of Real Estate, Maryland State Roads Commission. 1950. Accessed at Maryland State Highway Administration, Baltimore.

Item No. 17774. “Bessie Mundell Right of Way Report.” Office of Real Estate, Maryland State Roads Commission. 1950. Accessed at Maryland State Highway Administration, Baltimore.

Item No. 17815. “Raymond Adams Right of Way Report.” Office of Real Estate, Maryland State Roads Commission. 1950. Accessed at Maryland State Highway Administration, Baltimore.

Item No. 17818. “Joseph Sewell Right of Way Report.” Office of Real Estate, Maryland State Roads Commission. 1949. Accessed at Maryland State Highway Administration, Baltimore.

Item No. 78299. “Alice Williams Right of Way Report.” Office of Real Estate, Maryland State Highway Administration. 1988.

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						

Accessed at Maryland State Highway Administration, Baltimore.

Item No. 78711. "Mount Pilgrim Baptist Church Right of Way Report." Office of Real Estate, Maryland State Highway Administration. 1989. Accessed at Maryland State Highway Administration, Baltimore.

Item No. 78748. "Horace Lee Thompson Right of Way Report." Office of Real Estate, Maryland State Highway Administration. 1988. Accessed at Maryland State Highway Administration, Baltimore.

Leung, Shirley. "Harmon Elementary Reunion Recalls Segregation." The Baltimore Sun. November 12, 1995.

Lolordo, Ann. "Matthews Park Barbecue Offers Fine Food, 'Place to Breathe.'" The Baltimore Sun. September 3, 1981. AA7.

Marsh, Sherri M. "Rosenwald Schools of Anne Arundel County, Maryland (1921-1932)." National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form. May 2005.

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties (MIHP). Medusa Database. Maryland Historical Trust. Accessed February 2022. <https://mht.maryland.gov/digitalibrary.shtml>.

MD-100 Extended from I-95 to MD-3-I-97, Howard/Anne Arundel Counties: Environmental Impact Statement. United States: 112-143, 1987. Accessed February 2022. [https://www.google.com/books/edition/MD\\_100\\_Extended\\_from\\_I\\_95\\_to\\_MD\\_3\\_I\\_97\\_H/JoE2AQAAMAAJ?hl=en&gbpv=1](https://www.google.com/books/edition/MD_100_Extended_from_I_95_to_MD_3_I_97_H/JoE2AQAAMAAJ?hl=en&gbpv=1).

Nationwide Environmental Title Research, LLC [NETR]. Misc. years. Historic Aerial Mosaic Montgomery County, Maryland. Accessed February 2022. <https://www.historicaerials.com/viewer>.

Plat 7105-07. Right of Way, State Roads Commission of Maryland. 1948-50. Anne Arundel County Land Records, Archives of Maryland Online. Electronic document, <http://www.mdlandrec.net/>, accessed October 2021.

Plat 8221. Right of Way, State Roads Commission of Maryland. 1952. Anne Arundel County Land Records, Archives of Maryland Online. Electronic document, <http://www.mdlandrec.net/>, accessed October 2021.

Plat 9344. Right of Way, State Roads Commission of Maryland. 1952. Anne Arundel County Land Records, Archives of Maryland Online. Electronic document, <http://www.mdlandrec.net/>, accessed October 2021.

Plat 51105. Right of Way, Maryland State Highway Administration/State Roads Commission. 1988. Anne Arundel County Land Records, Archives of Maryland Online. Electronic document, <http://www.mdlandrec.net/>, accessed October 2021.

"Preacher Held as Embezzler after Court Hearing in Garage." The Baltimore Sun. August 25, 1925. 24.

"Quarterly Meeting." The Baltimore Afro-American Ledger. January 24, 1903. 1.

Report of the State Roads Commission of Maryland. Operating and Financial Report for the Fiscal Years 1947-1948. State Roads Commission, Baltimore. February 15, 1949. Pp. 19; 113.

Roadway Plans. Various 1983-1992. Maryland State Highway Administration. On file at the Maryland State Highway

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						

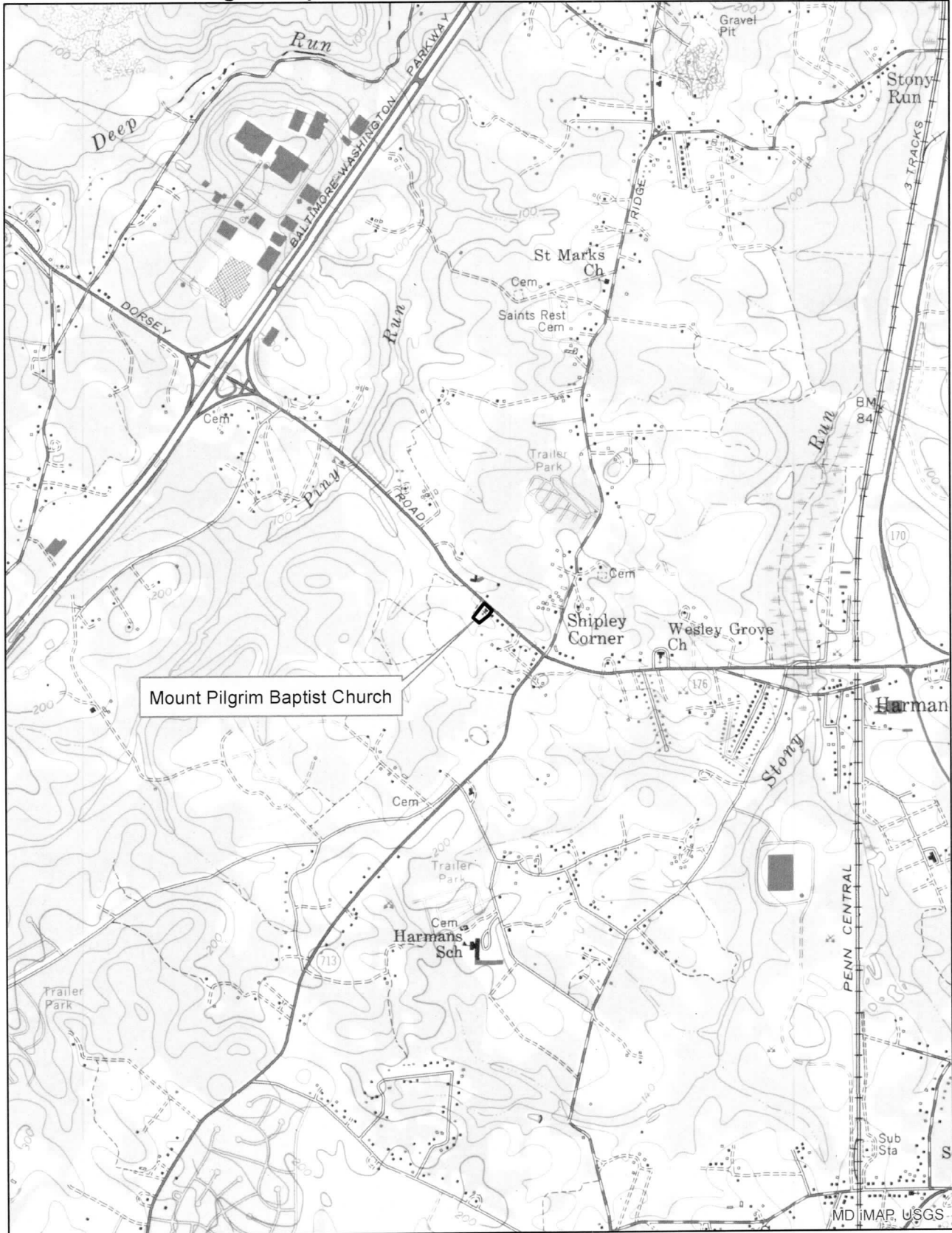
Administration.

Schultz, Sharon P. "From a Barn to a Gala, St. Mark UMC Celebrates 175 Years." The Baltimore Sun. October 12, 2017.

Skocpol, Theda et al. What a Mighty Power We Can Be. What a Mighty Power We Can Be. United Kingdom, Princeton University Press, 2006. 46-47.

Ware, Donna M. "Mt. Tabor Good Samaritan Lodge #59 (AA-759)." National Register of Historic Places Registration Form. January 2001. Accessed 2-9-2022. <https://mht.maryland.gov/secure/medusa/PDF/AnneArundel/AA-775.pdf>

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						



Mount Pilgrim Baptist Church





**Maryland Historical Trust  
Photo Continuation Sheet**

Inventory No. AA-2572

Name Mount Pilgrim Baptist Church  
Number Photos Page 1

---



1 of 14: North façade and east elevation along Dorsey Road.



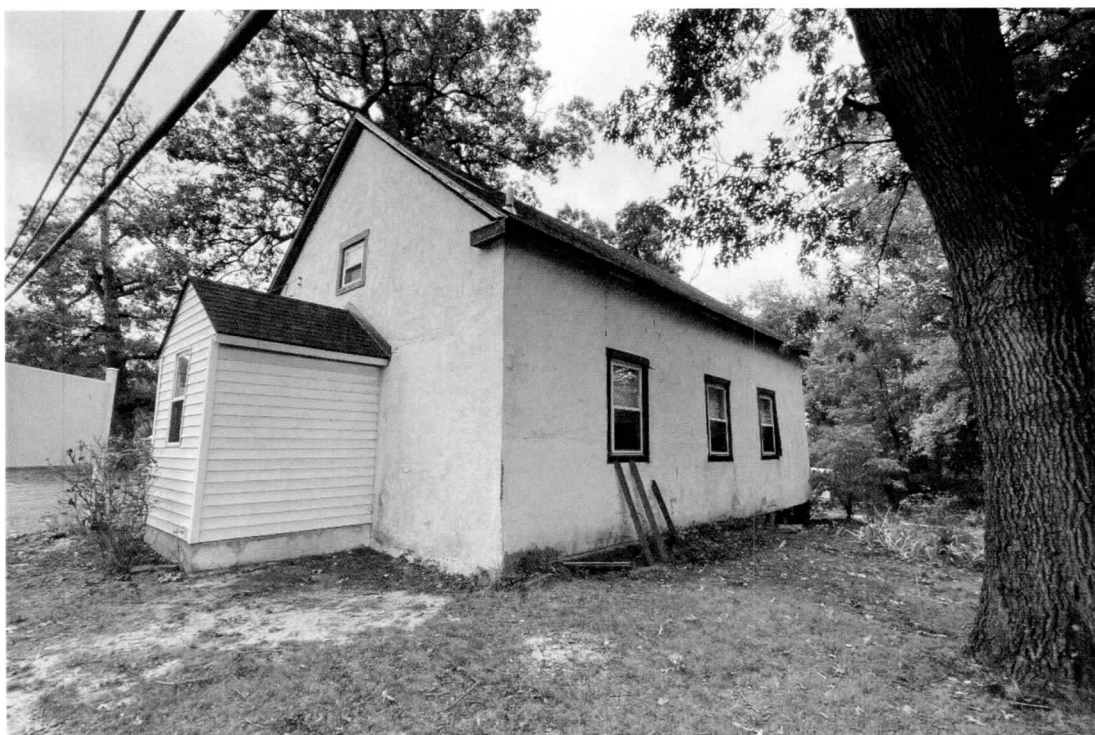
2 of 14: Oblique view northwest showing east and south elevations.

Name Mount Pilgrim Baptist Church  
Number Photos Page 2

---



3 of 14: Oblique view northeast showing west and south elevations.



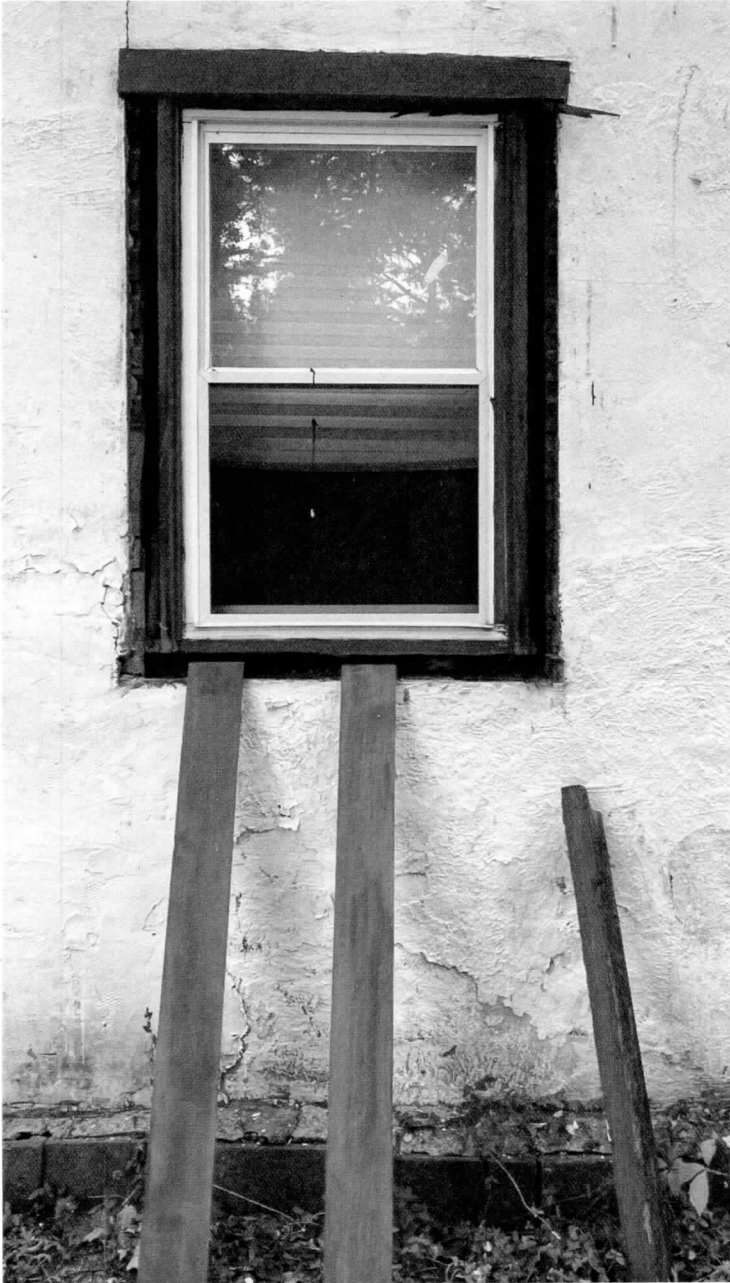
4 of 14: Oblique view southeast showing former window and location of cornerstone.

**Maryland Historical Trust  
Photo Continuation Sheet**

Inventory No. AA-2572

Name Mount Pilgrim Baptist Church  
Number Photos Page 3

---



5 of 14: Detail depicting window trim at north bay of west elevation.

Name Mount Pilgrim Baptist Church  
Number Photos Page 4

---



6 of 14: Cornerstone detail at intersection of north façade and west elevation.



7 of 14: View north depicting south elevation and cemetery area to the west.

**Maryland Historical Trust**  
**Photo Continuation Sheet**

Inventory No. AA-2572

Name Mount Pilgrim Baptist Church  
Number Photos Page 5

---



8 of 14: View north from south side of cemetery.



9 of 14: View east from trees along west boundary of cemetery.

**Maryland Historical Trust  
Photo Continuation Sheet**

Inventory No. AA-2572

Name Mount Pilgrim Baptist Church  
Number Photos Page 6

---



10 of 14: View east from southwest side of cemetery.



11 of 14: Burials at the south end of the cemetery bordered by asphalt shingles and planted with lilies.

**Maryland Historical Trust  
Photo Continuation Sheet**

Inventory No. AA-2572

Name Mount Pilgrim Baptist Church  
Number Photos Page 7

---



12 of 14: A mix of markers on the northwest corner of the cemetery.

**Maryland Historical Trust**  
**Photo Continuation Sheet**

Inventory No. AA-2572

Name Mount Pilgrim Baptist Church  
Number Photos Page 8

---



13 of 14: Concrete block used as grave marker with asphalt shingles outlining grave.

**Maryland Historical Trust**  
**Photo Continuation Sheet**

Inventory No. AA-2572

Name Mount Pilgrim Baptist Church  
Number Photos Page 9

---



14 of 14: A burial using both concrete block and a temporary stake grave marker.

**Maryland Historical Trust  
Photo Continuation Sheet**

Inventory No. AA-2572

Name Mount Pilgrim Baptist Church  
Number Photos Page 10

---

**PHOTO LOG**

**Name of Property:** Mount Pilgrim Baptist Church

**Name of Photographer:** Sarah Groesbeck

**Date of Photograph:** October 11, 2021

**Location of Original Digital File:** MD SHPO

*Photographs inserted on continuation sheets.*

**Photo 1 of 14:**

North façade and east elevation along Dorsey Road.

AA-2572\_2021-10-11\_001.tif

**Photo 2 of 14:**

Oblique view northwest showing east and south elevations.

AA-2572\_2021-10-11\_002.tif

**Photo 3 of 14:**

Oblique view northeast showing west and south elevations.

AA-2572\_2021-10-11\_003.tif

**Photo 4 of 14:**

Oblique view southeast showing former window and location of cornerstone.

AA-2572\_2021-10-11\_004.tif

**Photo 5 of 14:**

Detail depicting window trim at north bay of west elevation.

AA-2572\_2021-10-11\_005.tif

**Photo 6 of 14:**

Cornerstone detail at intersection of north façade and west elevation.

AA-2572\_2021-10-11\_006.tif

**Photo 7 of 14:**

View north depicting south elevation and cemetery area to the west.

AA-2572\_2021-10-11\_007.tif

**Photo 8 of 14:**

View north from south side of cemetery.

AA-2572\_2021-10-11\_008.tif

**Photo 9 of 14:**

View east from trees along west boundary of cemetery.

AA-2572\_2021-10-11\_009.tif

**Photo 10 of 14:**

View east from southwest side of cemetery.

AA-2572\_2021-10-11\_010.tif

**Maryland Historical Trust**  
**Photo Continuation Sheet**

Inventory No. AA-2572

Name Mount Pilgrim Baptist Church  
Number Photos Page 11

---

**Photo 11 of 14:**

Burials at the south end of the cemetery bordered by asphalt shingles and planted with lilies.

AA-2572\_2021-10-11\_011.tif

**Photo 12 of 14:**

A mix of markers on the northwest corner of the cemetery.

AA-2572\_2021-10-11\_012.tif

**Photo 13 of 14:**

Concrete block used as grave marker with asphalt shingles outlining grave.

AA-2572\_2021-10-11\_013.tif

**Photo 14 of 14:**

A burial using both concrete block and a temporary stake grave marker.

AA-2572\_2021-10-11\_014.tif