CH-622

Calvary United Methodist Church, (Calvary Chapel)

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

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM

NR Eligible: yes ___ no ___

Property Name: Calvary United Methodist Church Inventory Number: CH-622

Address: 3235 Leonardtown Road City: Waldorf Zip Code: 20601-3614

County: Charles USGS Topographic Map: La Plata, MD Quad

Owner: Calvary United Methodist Church Is the property being evaluated a district? ____yes

Tax Parcel Number: 756 Tax Map Number: 15 Tax Account ID Number: 066666

Project: Waldorf Industrial Park Em. Tower Site – Chas. Co. Govt. Agency: FCC

Site visit by MHT Staff: ____no ____yes Name: _____ Date: _____

Is the property located within a historic district? ____yes X no

If the property is within a district District Inventory Number: _____

NR-listed district ____yes Eligible district ____yes District Name: _____

Preparer's Recommendation: Contributing resource ____yes ____no Non-contributing but eligible in another context ____

If the property is not within a district (or the property is a district)

Preparer's Recommendation: Eligible X yes ____no

Criteria: ___A ___B X C ___D Considerations: ____A ___B ___C ___D ___E ___F ___G ___None

Documentation on the property/district is presented in:

Description of Property and Eligibility Determination: *(Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map and photo)*

Calvary United Methodist Church is located at 3235 Leonardtown Road in the heart of Waldorf, Maryland. The Chapel, dating to 1904, was designed by the architect B.G. Price of New Jersey and constructed by the local contractor Murray & Hamilton. The Chapel features characteristics of the Gothic Revival style.

The MIHP survey form explains: (the Church structure) ". . . is significant not only architecturally, but also for its association with the historic contexts of religion, transportation and community planning." The form reviews the various stories that establish the significance statement and accurately describes the site conditions as they appear as of this recent site visit.

While several alterations have occurred to the building, such as vinyl siding having been placed over the original wood siding, and a small rear addition added to the building, the structure nevertheless retains its original character defining features. Its architectural integrity intact, eligibility for listing on the National Register of Historic Places is recommended under Criterion C.

Prepared by: Kate Mahood, Architectural Historian Date Prepared: July 8, 2003

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended X **Eligibility not recommended** ____

Criteria: ___A ___B X C ___D **Considerations:** ___A ___B ___C ___D ___E ___F ___G ___None

Comments:

7/17/03

Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services **Date**

Reviewer, NR Program **Date**

CH-622

Click here for a plain text ADA compliant screen.

Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation
CHARLES COUNTY
Real Property Data Search

Go Back
View Map
New Search

Account Identifier: **District** - 06 **Account Number** - 066666

Owner Information

Owner Name:	CALVARY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH	**Use:**	EXEMPT COMMERCIAL
		Principal Residence:	NO
Mailing Address:	3235 LEONARDTOWN RD WALDORF MD 20601-3614	**Deed Reference:**	1) / 10/ 593 2)

Location & Structure Information

Premises Address
3235 LEONARDTOWN RD
WALDORF 20601

Zoning
CB

Legal Description
2.4824 AC
S/E OF RT 5
CHURCH & HALL

Map	Grid	Parcel	Sub District	Subdivision	Section	Block	Lot	Group	Plat No:
15	4	756						80	Plat Ref:

Special Tax Areas **Town** **Ad Valorem** **Tax Class**

Primary Structure Built	Enclosed Area	Property Land Area	County Use
1982	13,600 SF	2.48 AC	

Stories	Basement	Type	Exterior

Value Information

	Base Value	Value As Of 01/01/2001	Phase-in Assessments As Of 07/01/2002	As Of 07/01/2003
Land:	521,180	500,000		
Improvements:	598,810	729,000		
Total:	1,119,990	1,229,000	1,192,662	1,229,000
Preferential Land:	0	0	0	0

Transfer Information

Seller:	**Date:**	**Price:**
Type:	**Deed1:**	**Deed2:**
Seller:	**Date:**	**Price:**
Type:	**Deed1:**	**Deed2:**
Seller:	**Date:**	**Price:**
Type:	**Deed1:**	**Deed2:**

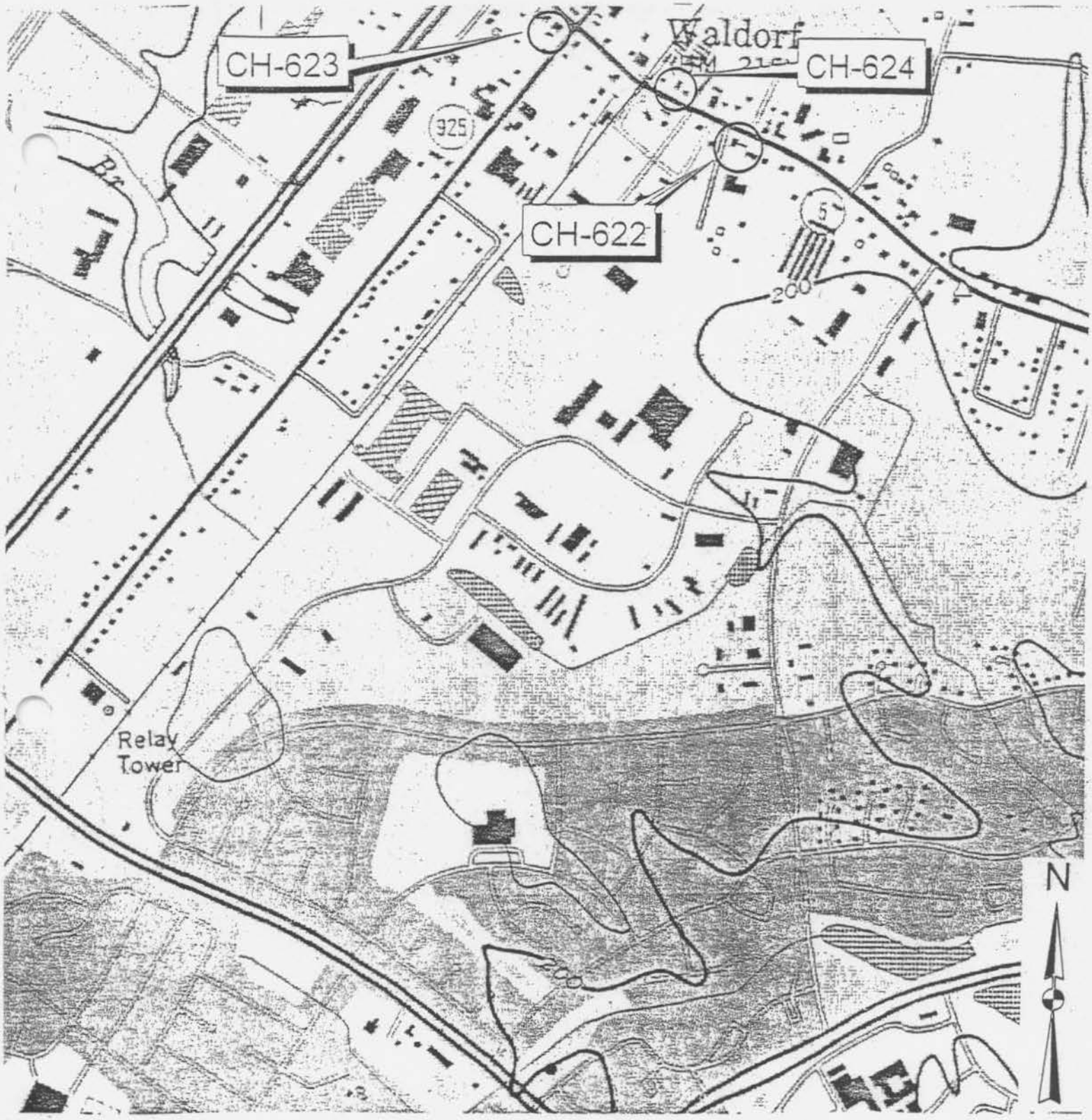
Exemption Information

Partial Exempt Assessments	Class	07/01/2002	07/01/2003
County	000	0	0
State	000	0	0
Municipal	000	0	0

Tax Exempt: COUNTY AND STATE
Exempt Class: CHURCHES, SYNAGOGUES, & PARSONAGES

Special Tax Recapture:

* NONE *

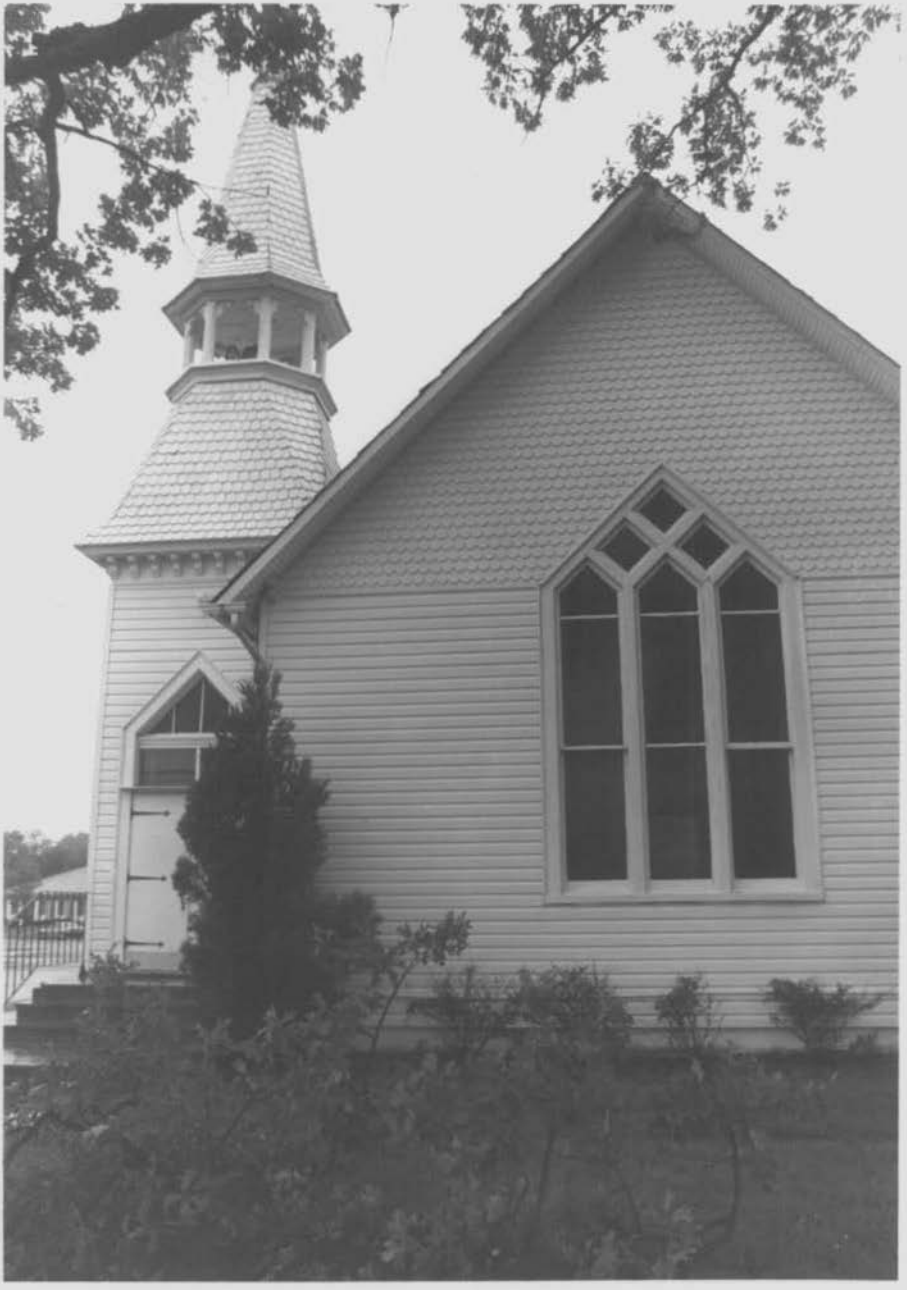


MAHOOD AND ASSOCIATES, LLC
ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY ♦ HISTORIC PRESERVATION ♦ ARCHIVAL RESEARCH

510 PAFEL ROAD, ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401
410-266-5608 (P) 410-266-5570 (F)
KATE@MAHOODASSOCIATES.COM

CH-622
CALVARY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Scale: N.T.S.
Date: 7/8/03
Design By: ——
Source: USGS BRANDYWINE, LAPLATA, HUGHESVILLE, & PISCATAWAY QUADRANT
Job No. ——



Calvary United
Methodist Church
WALDORF, MD
CHAS. COUNTY
CH-622

KATE MAHCCD
05-30-2003

MD SHPO
View of Front (North) Facade
Photograph # 1 of 3



CALVARY UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH
WALDORF, MD
CHAS. COUNTY
CH-622

KATE MAHOOD
05-30-2003

MD SHPO
View of Front (South) Facade
Photograph # 2 of 3



CALVARY UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH
WALDORF, MD
CHAS. COUNTY

KATE MAHOOD
05-30-2003

CH-622

MD SHPO
View of Side East Facade
Photograph # 3 of 3

Calvary United Methodist Church **1904**
CH-622
Waldorf
Public

Calvary Untied Methodist Church is one of the finest surviving examples of a village chapel in Charles County. Located in the heart of Waldorf, which was first established as a stop along the Popes Creek Railroad in 1878, the chapel was designed by the architect B. G. Price of New Jersey and built by the local contractor Murray & Hamilton.

This handsome frame chapel has a front gable orientation and features many common characteristics of the Gothic Revival style such as lancet windows, sawnwork Victorian trim, a two-tier bell tower with an open belfry and a towering spire. Unlike other surviving examples, the church retains a good deal of its original interior and exterior materials, and stands as an important example of the County's rich architectural heritage.

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. CH-622

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic	Calvary United Methodist Church
other	Calvary Chapel (preferred)

2. Location

street and number	3235 Leonardtown Road	___ not for publication
city, town	Waldorf	___ vicinity
county	Charles	

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

name	Calvary United Methodist Church				
street and number	3235 Leonardtown Road			telephone	301-645-5247
city, town	Waldorf	state	MD	zip code	20601

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc.	Charles County Courthouse	tax map and parcel:	15-756
city, town	LaPlata	liber 10	folio 593

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

___ Contributing Resource in National Register District
___ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
___ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
___ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
___ Recorded by HABS/HAER
___ Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
___ Other: _____

6. Classification

Category
___ district
x building(s)
___ structure
___ site
___ object

Ownership
x public
___ private
___ both

Current Function
___ agriculture
___ commerce/trade
___ defense
___ domestic
___ education
___ funerary
___ government
___ health care
___ industry
___ landscape
___ recreation/culture
x religion
___ social
___ transportation
___ work in progress
___ unknown
___ vacant/not in use
___ other: _____

Resource Count

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	____	buildings
____	____	sites
____	____	structures
____	____	objects
1	____	Total

Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory
0

7. Description

Inventory No. CH-622

Condition

___ excellent	___ deteriorated
x good	___ ruins
___ fair	___ altered

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

Calvary United Methodist Church, constructed in 1904, is a handsome frame chapel located in Waldorf on the south side of Rt. 5. The gable-front chapel has a steeply pitched roof and a side vestibule with a towering spire. A smaller one-story frame addition extends the sanctuary to the south. The church features many common characteristics of the Gothic Revival style as expressed in sacred architecture such as lancet windows, sawnwork Victorian trim, a two-tier belltower with an open belfry.

The frame chapel is currently sheathed in vinyl siding and rests on a poured concrete foundation. Original pressed metal sheets cover the roof which is pierced at the rear gable end by a single square exterior brick chimney. A historic photo, probably dating from the 1920's shows evidence of decorative cornice brackets that are no longer found on the structure.

The front gable façade is distinguished by a large three-part lancet window. This window is composed of three slender lancet windows capped with three diamond shaped windows above, which are stacked to form the peak. All windows appear to be original and are framed in wood sashes set in wood square-edged surrounds.

The original eastern and western elevations include four bays. The western side includes four symmetrical double-hung 2/2 lancet windows while the eastern side, which includes the belltower, features three. The gable addition includes an exterior door on the western elevation, and a lancet window matching the other fenestration on the eastern elevation.

One of the building's most distinguishing features is a square vestibule with belltower located on the western wall near the front of the building. With double doors placed on the north wall, the belltower serves as the principal entrance into the sanctuary. The vestibule is capped with a two tiered tower with an open belfry decorated with square posts and scroll-sawn brackets. The steep spire is capped with a cross-shaped pinnacle. A bracketed cornice decorates the junction between the belfry and the tower walls. The west tower wall is adorned with a slender 1/1 light double-hung lancet window.

The entrance is characterized by a triangular 4-light transom over the doorway which mimics the lancet windows throughout. Again, historic photos reveal later alterations. The original tall, wooden multi-paneled double doors have been replaced with standard-sized wooden doors and a 2-light transom has been added to compensate for the change in height.

Overall, the chapel structure is well maintained and retains a good deal of its original character and materials. Unfortunately, modern development has compromised the surrounding historic village setting. A large new church has been constructed directly behind this building and a brick rambler parsonage is located to the east.

8. Significance

Inventory No. CH-622

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
___ 1600-1699	___ agriculture	___ economics	___ health/medicine	___ performing arts
___ 1700-1799	___ archeology	___ education	___ industry	___ philosophy
___ 1800-1899	x architecture	___ engineering	___ invention	___ politics/government
x 1900-1999	___ art	___ entertainment/ recreation	___ landscape architecture	x religion
___ 2000-	___ commerce	___ ethnic heritage	___ law	___ science
	___ communications	___ exploration/ settlement	___ literature	___ social history
	x community planning		___ maritime history	x transportation
	___ conservation		___ military	___ other:

Specific dates	1904	**Architect**	B.G. Price, New Jersey
Construction dates	1904	**Builder**	Murray & Hamilton, Waldorf

Evaluation for:

_____ National Register _____ Maryland Register __x__ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance reports, complete evaluation on a DOE Form - see manual.)

Calvary Untied Methodist Church is one of the finest surviving examples of a village chapel in Charles County. Located in the heart of Waldorf, first established as a stop along the Popes Creek Railroad in 1878, the chapel was designed by the architect B. G. Price of New Jersey and built by the local contractor, Murray & Hamilton. It is significant not only architecturally, but also for its association with the historic contexts of religion, transportation and community planning.

Calvary United Methodist Church was the earliest documented church in the village of Waldorf. According to an article in the Baltimore Sun Dispatch dated 1904:

"For the first time in the history of this town a church bell pealed out on the crisp, frosty air yesterday in Waldorf, a pretty forest village. As its name implies, on the popes Creek Branch of the Pennsylvania Railroad in Charles County, calling the people to public worship."

The village of Waldorf was established in 1872 as a stop on the railroad line. Originally known as Beantown Station, the village steadily grew. At about the time that the first post office was established the growing town was renamed Waldorf and enjoyed a commercial boom throughout the end of the nineteenth century. With growing business opportunities, the surrounding residential community grew as well along with the need for even more services.

Throughout the first half of the twentieth century Waldorf served as a local commercial center for the surrounding community. It was thus the largest village established as a result of the railroad. Other stops along the line included LaPlata, White Plains, and BelAlton.

What eventually became Calvary Church was one of the first Methodist churches in Southern Maryland. It evolved from the older Oakland Church congregation which was part of the seven-point Prince-George's Circuit. The first building was at the present Oakland Cemetery which stands one mile west on Berry Road. In 1898, property for a new church was given by Philip and Ella Sasser in 1898 and the new chapel was constructed within six years.

Calvary United Methodist Church exhibits many common characteristics of late nineteenth and early twentieth religious architecture found in Charles County.

Frequently, such structures combined secular traditions with sacred embellishments most commonly including a front gable orientation, lancet windows, and a prominent belltower. Other details such as fishscale wall treatments and other scroll-sawn woodwork followed popular architectural details commonly found in secular Victorian architecture.

Similar examples of sacred architecture in Charles County include St. Matthews at Newtown (CH-186), Pisgah United Methodist Church (CH-505), and John B. McFerrin Memorial Methodist Episcopal Church and Parsonage (CH-223). The original specifications for the McFerrin Chapel, built near the new LaPlata station had called for a similar belltower which was never completed. Unlike Calvary, McFerrin Chapel has been substantially altered from its original form.

It is possible that the church design, like that of McFerrin Chapel (CH-223) is based on a set of plans provided by the Methodist Episcopal Church's Board of Church Extension through a series of catalogs produced during the last decades of the 19th century. These catalogs contained numerous architect-designed plans for church buildings of moderate cost, that could be ordered at a fee. While little is currently known about B.G. Price, he may have been a contributing architect to these catalogs.

A 1904 a newspaper account from the Special Dispatch to the Baltimore Sun boasts of the chapel which was:

"very substantially built, finished in hardwood and has a seating capacity of 200. It cost $2000.00, exclusive of specific articles given by various members of the congregation, and is one of the prettiest churches in Southern Maryland. The tower for the belfry is 60 feet high."

With a high degree of architectural integrity and significance, Calvary United Methodist Church is an important part of Charles County's built environment.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. CH-622

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property	2.4824		
Acreage of historical setting	2.4824		
Quadrangle name	LaPlata	Quadrangle scale	1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The property at 3235 Leonardtown Road is associated with Charles County property Tam May 15, Grid 4, Parcel 756.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Cathy Currey/Historic Sites Surveyor		
organization	Charles County Planning Department	date	10/20/2000
street and number	200 Baltimore Street	telephone	301-396-581
city or town	LaPlata	state MD	zipcode 20646

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties 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
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville MD 21032
410-514-7600

Chain of Title:

August 12, 1899 — Ella A. Sasser, Melvina Turner and J. Samuel Turner, her husband, Phillip T. Sasser and Atta T. Sasser his wife, Ella M. Sasser and Eva M. Sasser **to** Calvary United Methodist Church. A parcel in the village of Waldorf shown on the survey lately made by Henry Cox. Within six years of this deed there shall be erected on said lot a building to be used as a place of divine worship by the said Methodist Episcopal Church South and provided that a street or lane be laid off 30 feet wide. 2.4824 ac.
Liber 10 Folio 593

Major Bibliographic References:

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

Charles County Land Records, Charles County Courthouse, LaPlata, Maryland.

Klapthor, Margaret Brown. The History of Charles County, Maryland.
Charles County Tercentenary, Inc., LaPlata, MD. 1958.

Lantz, Ruth: Schreiber, Marion; and Nellie Shelor. "*History of Calvary United Methodist Church of Waldorf, MD.*" Church records, Unpublished. 1975.

RESOURCE SKETCH MAP

Date: 12/2/99

North arrow:

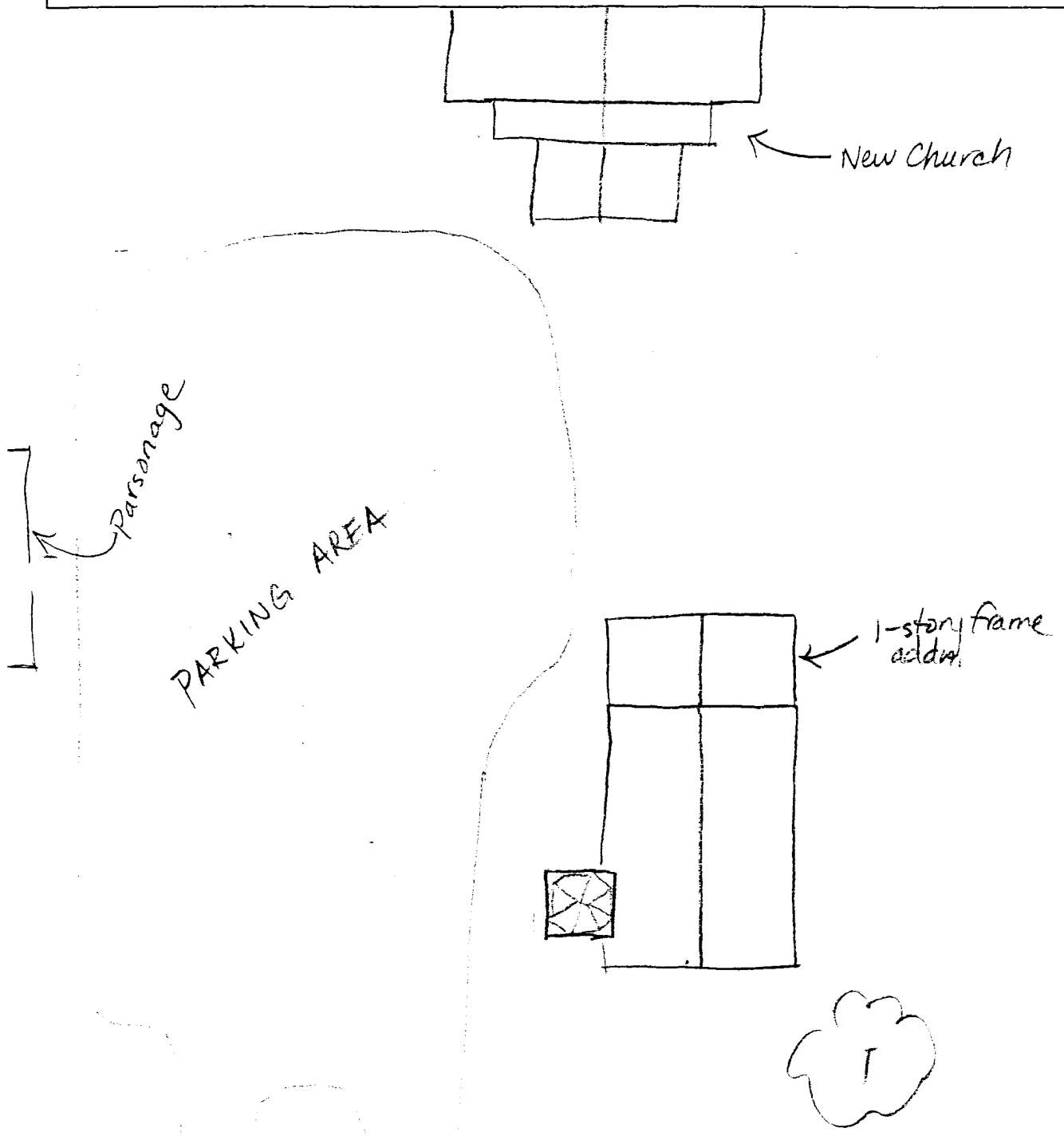
Name: CALVARY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Address: 3235 Leonardtown Rd.

CH - 622

Charles County, Maryland

Waldorf ☒ Vicinity



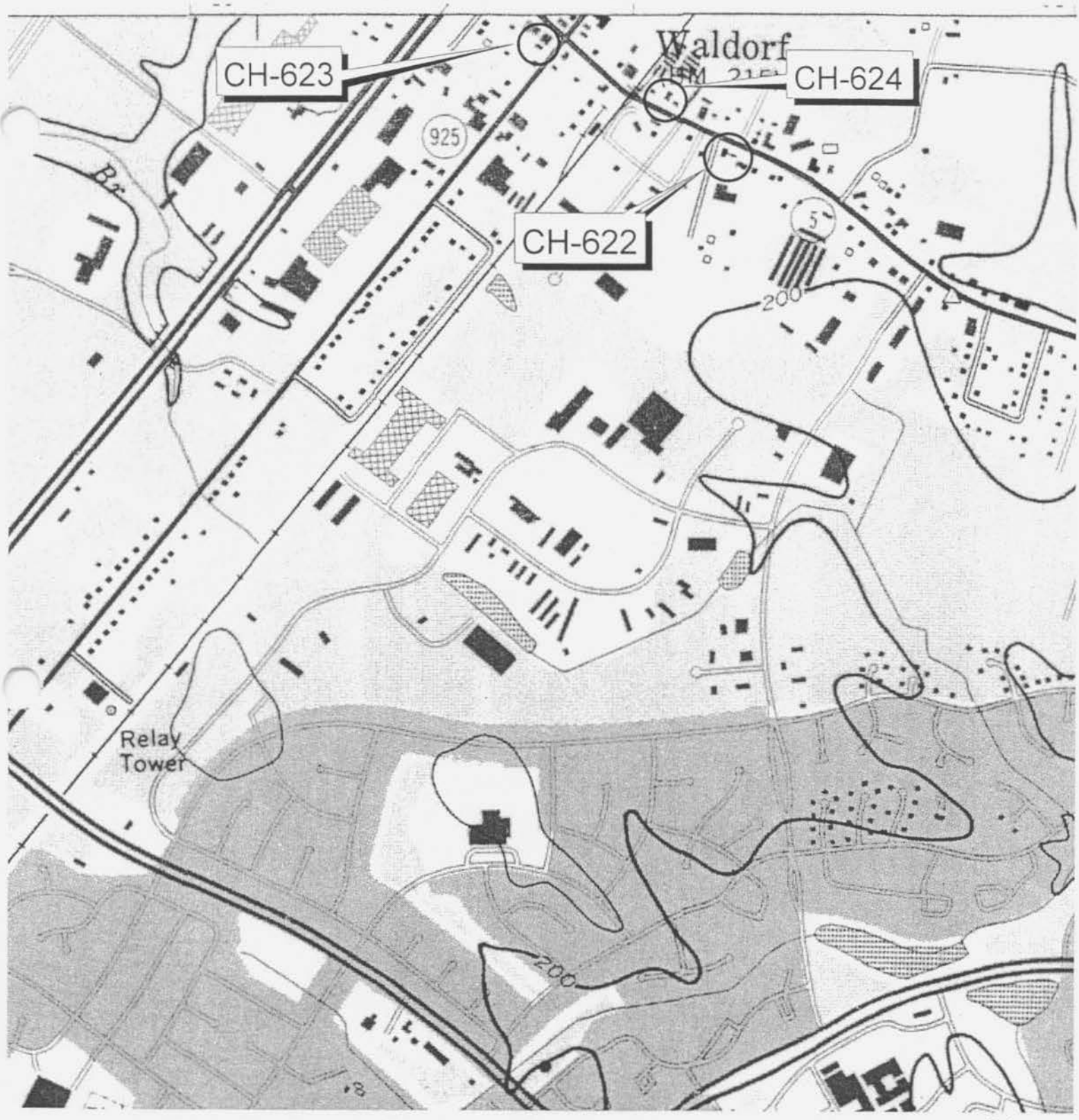
Not drawn to scale



CH-622

Calvary United Methodist Church, circa 1920
Photo courtesy of Ken Whyte

private source - Ken Whyte postcard collection



Calvary United Methodist Church
CH-622
Charles County, MD
LaPlata, MD Quad



CH-622
Calvary Methodist Church
Charles County, Md.
11/99
K. G. Smith
Maryland SHPO
looking SW

1 OF 6



CH-622
Calvary Methodist Church
Charles County, MD
11/99
K.G. Smith
Maryland SHPO
Looking NE
2 of 6



CH-622
Calvary Methodist Church
Charles County, Md
11/99
K.G. Smith
Maryland SHPO
Sanctuary, Looking NW
4 of 6


EXIT

CH-622
Calvary Methodist Church
Charles County, Md
11/99
K.G. Smith
Maryland SHPO
Sanctuary, looking SE
3 of 6



CH-622
Calvary Methodist Church
Charles Co. Md.
11/99
K.G. Smith
Maryland SHPO
Neb Church, Looking SE
5 OF 6



CH-622
Calvary Methodist Church
Charles County, Md
11/94
K.G. Smith
Maryland SHPO
Parsonage. Looking SE
6 of 6