

D-617
Elliott M. E. Church
Elliott's Island
1891-92, 1904-05
Public worship

The Elliott M. E. Church is the most dominant historic structure surviving in the village of Elliott's Island in southern Dorchester County. Intact Victorian exterior and interior finishes and features distinguish this Gothic Revival church erected in stages between 1891 and 1905. The exterior retains historic fishscale shingles that sheath the top of the corner entrance and bell tower as well as the various gables. Gothic arched windows, fitted with colored glass windows, mark all of the elevations. Also piercing the exterior are diamond shaped openings fitted with fixed windows featuring colored glass perimeter panes. The entrance and bell tower is capped by a distinctive broach spire featuring small gables on each side that shelter pointed arch louvered belfry openings. The interior survives with much of its period woodwork and hardware. The sanctuary is enhanced with a wooden vaulted ceiling consisting of a framed gridwork of Victorian trim infilled with diagonally set and alternating tongue-and-groove beaded boards. Hanging from the ceiling are early 20th-century metal chandeliers. Fixed in the north wall to the left of the altar is a marble datestone inscribed "Elliott M. E. Church, November 19, 1905."

A Methodist congregation and church on Elliott's Island can be traced to the early-to-mid 19th century; a church was mentioned in the description of an 1854 transfer of land between Isaac Solomon and wife and Caleb Moore. However, this early church evidently burned and efforts to rebuild an island church did not resurface until the early 1890s under the ministry of the Reverend Bernard Wheatley. Erected in 1891-92, the Victorian church was damaged heavily by fire and had to rebuilt in 1904-05. According to architectural

evidence, the front section of the 1891-92 building was salvaged and incorporated into the rebuilt structure.

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. D-617

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Elliott Methodist Episcopal Church
other Elliott United Methodist Church

2. Location

street and number 2310 Elliott Island Road not for publication
city, town Elliott's Island vicinity
county Dorchester

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

name Elliott Methodist Church of the Peninsula Conference
street and number c/o Melissa Martinek 2232 Elliott's Island Road telephone Not listed
city, town Vienna state MD zip code 21869-9635

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Dorchester County Clerk of Court liber 359 folio 865
city, town Cambridge tax map 103 tax parcel 42 tax ID number 18-001489

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	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count	
			Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	<input type="checkbox"/> buildings
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	<input type="checkbox"/> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion	<input type="checkbox"/> structures
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input type="checkbox"/> domestic	<input type="checkbox"/> social	<input type="checkbox"/> objects
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> other:	
			Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory	

7. Description

Inventory No. D-617

Condition

excellent deteriorated
 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.

DESCRIPTION SUMMARY

The Elliott Methodist Episcopal Church, now the Elliott United Methodist Church, is located at 2310 Elliott Island Road in the center of Elliott's Island in Dorchester County, Maryland. The church faces south with the principal gable oriented on a north/south axis. Built in two stages between 1891 and 1905, the main block is a single-story gable roofed Gothic Revival frame structure accented with a multi-level entrance and bell tower capped by a broach spire. The exterior is sheathed with plain weatherboards covered with vinyl siding. The upper surface of the gable front as well as several side gables are sheathed with fishscale shingles. Extending from the back of the main block is a three-sided gable roofed apse. Extending from the east side elevation is a modern gable-roofed church hall resting atop a concrete block foundation and sheathed with vinyl siding. A low pitched gable roof is covered with asphalt shingles.

The interior of the Victorian church remains with a large percentage of its late 19th-century woodwork and hardware intact. Oriented on a center aisle plan with curved Victorian pews, the sanctuary is dominated by a decorative beaded board ceiling set within a gridwork of molded trim accented with bulls-eye corner blocks. The decorative tongue-and-groove beaded boards follow an alternating diagonal pattern, installed in a three-sided vault. The sanctuary is also trimmed with tongue-and-groove beaded board wainscoting. The windows and doors as well as the altar recess are framed by bulls-eye block surrounds. Fixed in the wall to the left side of the altar is a date plaque commemorating the dedication of the church on November 19, 1905. The church lot is the location of the congregational cemetery with several hundred grave markers.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The Elliott Methodist Episcopal Church, now commonly known as the Elliott United Methodist Church, stands on the north side of Elliott's Island Road in the center of the watermen's community of Elliott's Island in southern Dorchester County, Maryland. The single-story gable-front frame church, built in stages between 1891 and 1905, is supported on a low brick foundation, and the exterior is clad with vinyl siding over plain weatherboards. The rectangular frame structure is capped by a steeply pitched gable roof covered with asphalt shingles. The church faces south with the gable roof oriented on a north/south axis. Attached to the east side of the Victorian church is a modern late 20th-century frame church hall built atop a concrete block foundation. The church is accompanied on the site by hundreds of 19th, 20th and 21st-century grave markers.

The south (main) elevation is an asymmetrical gable-front façade with a pair of Gothic arched entrances flanking a tripartite colored glass center window. The main entrance, located on the southeast corner, is a double door opening topped by a pointed arch colored glass transom. The entrance on the southwest corner is fitted with a single width paneled door topped by a colored glass pointed arch transom. The gable-front of the main block, above the first story doors, is sheathed with fishscale shingles that has a slight kick outward directly above the extent of the horizontal siding. Centered in the gable-front is a pair of diamond shaped window openings featuring fixed window of colored glass perimeter panes. The edge of the roof has

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. D-617

Name Elliott M. E. Church
Continuation Sheet

Number 7 Page 1

an extended eave with an open soffit and decorated bargeboards. Small applied round medallions embellish the bargeboard surface and fixed at the peak of the bargeboards is a pierced, sawn decorated trim on either side of a narrow dimensioned trim board fitted with a small drop pendant. The adjacent belfry of the entrance tower is sheathed with fishscale shingles and pierced by diamond shaped colored glass windows below pointed arch louvered vents. The pointed arch vents are fixed below small gable roofs that extend from the base of the broach spire. The eaves of the small gables are extended and finished with open soffits. Pairs of elongated brackets flank each of the louvered openings and are backed by vertical board sheathing. The gable end surface of each broach spire gable is finished with fishscale shingles.

The west side elevation is an asymmetrical five-bay façade defined by two gable roofs that extend from the west slope of the main block. The southern of the two gable roofed sections is reported to constitute the remaining section of the 1891-92 structure. Five Gothic arched window openings are fitted with original sash windows fitted with colored glass perimeter panes. Fixed in the gable end of each of the projecting gables is a diamond shaped window opening featuring a fixed window with colored glass perimeter panes. Piercing the roofline of the northern of the two gables is a single flue brick stove chimney. The edge of the gable roof, in the same fashion as the front of the church, is finished with an extended eave trimmed with decorated bargeboards that front an open soffit.

The north (rear) façade is dominated by a projecting three-sided gable roofed apse. Two angled sides are pierced by narrow Gothic arched lancet windows filled with colored glass windows. The gable roof has an extended eave with turned spindle stick brackets fitted under the outer corners of the gable roofed eave. The roof of the main block has an extended eave finished with an open soffit.

The east side of the church is partially covered by the single-story gable roofed church hall addition that abuts the main block between the entrance tower and the third bay from the south. The east side of the main block has three Gothic arched openings filled with colored glass perimeter panes. Centered on the roof slope is a cross gable roof pierced by a single flue brick chimney stack. Piercing the gable end is a diamond shaped colored glass window set within a field of fishscale shingles.

The interior of the Elliott M. E. Church survives with a large percentage of its original late 19th- and early 20th-century historic fabric. A center aisle divides two blocks of curved pews with Gothic inspired carved ends. The altar retains a turned baluster railing with bold turned newel posts at each end. The altar platform is arranged with a lower level and a slightly higher platform where the pulpit is located. Adjacent to the pulpit platform is the choir, which is enclosed with a curtained railing. Trimming the perimeter of the sanctuary is vertical beaded board wainscoting. The altar recess and the window and door openings are framed by Victorian molded trim fitted with bulls-eye corner blocks. The plaster walls above the wainscoting have been covered with mid to late 20th-century sheet paneling. Fixed in the wall surface to the left (west) of the altar recess is a marble datestone inscribed, "Elliott M. E. Church, Nov. 19, 1905."

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. D-617

Name Elliott M. E. Church
Continuation Sheet

Number 7 Page 2

The most dominate aspect of the Victorian interior is the three-sided and vaulted ceiling of the sanctuary. A gridwork of Victorian trim fitted with bulls-eye corner blocks is infilled with alternating panels of diagonally nailed tongue-and-groove beaded boards. Hanging from the ceiling are early 20th-century cast metal chandeliers fitted with light bulbs. The interior also retains original hardware on the interior doors.

8. Significance

Inventory No. D-617

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

Specific dates	Dedication 11.19.1905	Architect/Builder	Master Carpenter Herman Jones
Construction dates	1891-92, 1904-05		

Evaluation for:

National Register Maryland Register 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 projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Elliott M. E. Church is the most dominant historic structure surviving in the village of Elliott’s Island in southern Dorchester County. Intact Victorian exterior finishes and interior features distinguish this Gothic Revival church erected in two stages between 1891 and 1905. The exterior retains historic fishscale shingles that sheath the top of the entrance and bell tower as well as the various gables. Gothic arched window openings, fitted with colored glass windows, mark all of the elevations. Also piercing the exterior are diamond shaped openings fitted with fixed windows featuring colored glass perimeter panes. The corner entrance and bell tower is capped by a distinctive broach spire featuring small gables on each side that shelter pointed arch louvered belfry openings. The interior survives with much of its period woodwork and hardware. The sanctuary is enhanced with a wooden vaulted ceiling consisting of a framed gridwork of Victorian trim infilled with diagonally set and alternating tongue-and-groove beaded boards. Hanging from the ceiling are early 20th-century cast metal chandeliers. Fixed in the north wall to the left (west) of the altar is a marble datestone inscribed “Elliott M. E. Church, Nov. 19, 1905.”

HISTORY AND SUPPORT

A Methodist congregation and church on Elliott’s Island can be traced to the early to mid-19th century; a church was mentioned in the description of an 1854 transfer of land between Isaac Solomon and wife and Caleb Moore.¹ A Methodist Episcopal church was located in the center of the village when Lake, Griffing and Stevenson published their Eastern Shore atlas in 1877.² However, this early church evidently burned and efforts to rebuild an island church did not resurface until the early 1890s under the ministry of Reverend Bernard Wheatley.³ Erected in 1891-92, the Victorian church was heavily damaged by fire and

¹ Dorchester County Land Record, FJH 2/667, 6.22.1854, Dorchester County Courthouse, Cambridge, Maryland as cited in *Elliott’s Island; the Land That Time Forgot*, 1999, p. 33.
² John L. Graham, ed. *The 1877 Atlases and Other Early Maps of the Eastern Shore of Maryland*, Wicomico Bicentennial Committee, 1976, p. 80.
³ A. M. Foley and Freddie T. Waller, *Elliott’s Island: The Land That Time Forgot*, Dogwood Ridge Books, 1999, p. 34.

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. D-617

Name Elliott M. E. Church
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 1

had to be rebuilt in 1904-05.⁴ According to architectural evidence, the front section of the 1891-92 building was salvaged and incorporated into the rebuilt church.

⁴ *Ibid.* pp. 34-35.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. D-617

Dorchester County Land Records, various volumes, Dorchester County Courthouse, Cambridge, Maryland.

Foley, Anne M. and Freddie T. Waller, *Elliott's Island: The Land That Time Forgot*. Salisbury, Maryland: Dogwood Ridge Books, 1999.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 13,625 square feet
Acreage of historical setting 1 acre +/-
Quadrangle name Wingate, Maryland Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The metes and bounds of this surveyed property are coincidental with the current boundary of Parcel 42 on Map 103 of the Dorchester County Tax Maps.

11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Paul B. Touart, Architectural Historian		
organization	Private Consultant	date	5.23.2018
street & number	P. O. Box 5	telephone	410-651-1094
city or town	Westover	state	Maryland 21871

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 21032-2023
410-514-7600

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. D-617

Name Elliott M. E. Church

Continuation Sheet

Number 9 Page 1

Elliott M.E. Church
2310 Elliott Island Road
Elliott's Island, Dorchester County, Maryland

Map 103, Parcel 42

CL 17/245

William C. Hurley and Samuel W. Moore

to

3.8.1893

Trustees of M. E. Church of Elliott's Island

(Oliver P. Gray, Abihu Gray, John W. T. Evans, John H. Dayton,
William Jones, John T. Gray, C. A. Robinson, trustees of the Wheatley
Methodist Episcopal Church)

...a lot or parcel of land on said Island forty five front and adjoining the county road and seventy five feet back for the purpose of erecting & building a house thereupon for public worship providing said Trustees will keep the said enclosed & the said William C. Hurley is to have the right to join on the said fence & the said Trustees agree for themselves and their successors in office to keep the same enclosed with privilege to join on to said enclosure...

CL 3/508

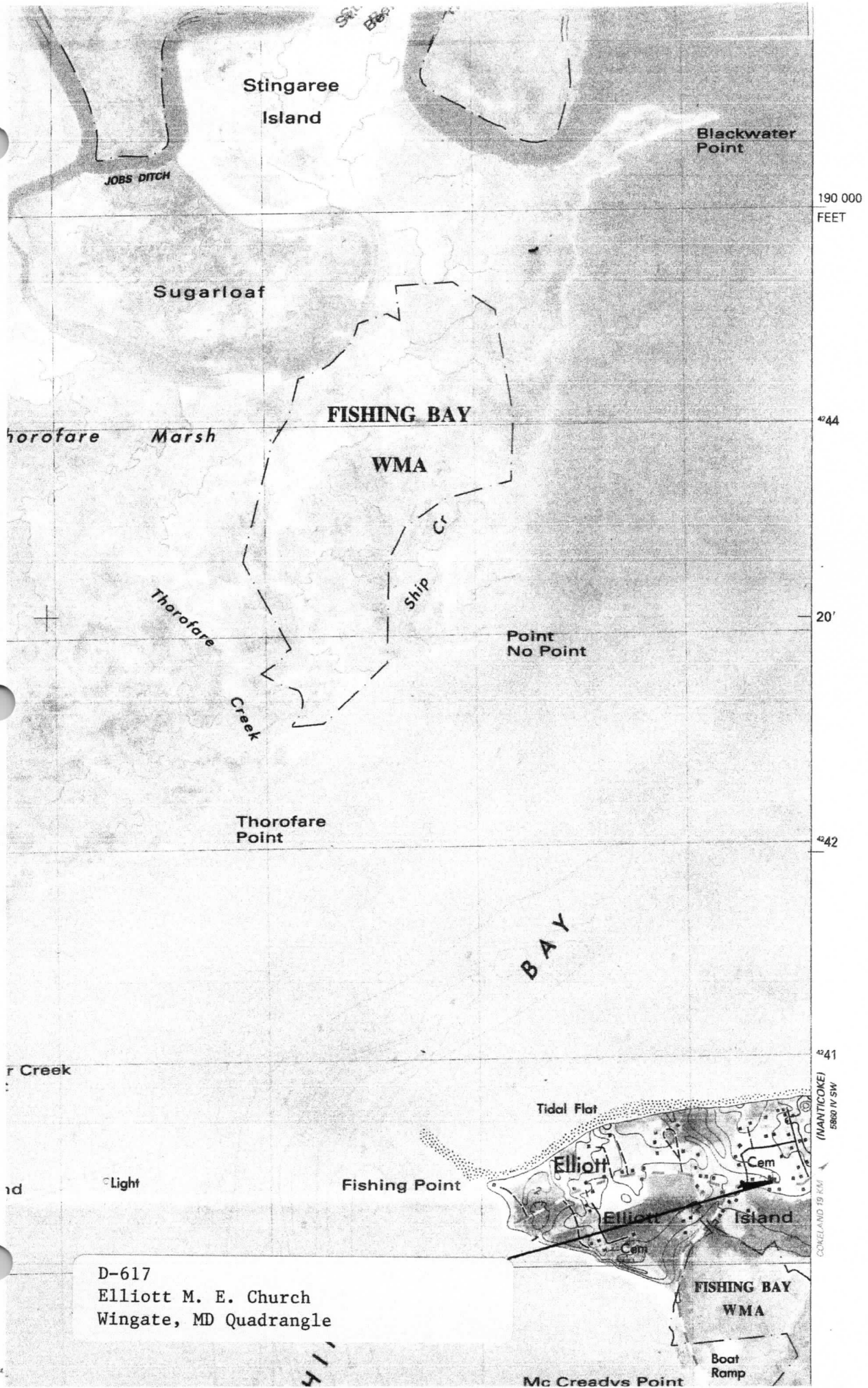
Levin K. McNamara and wife Sarah McNamara

to

11.17.1881

Perry Gray, Samuel W. Moore, and Perry W. Moore and such others as may constitute the present Board of Trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church on Elliotts Island...and whereon the aid Methodist Episcopal Church building, or place of worship, now stands...

"Fishing Point" and "Dogwood Ridge" 11 4/10 square perches



190 000
FEET

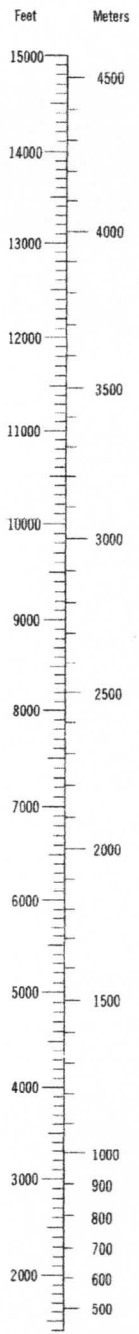
424

20'

42

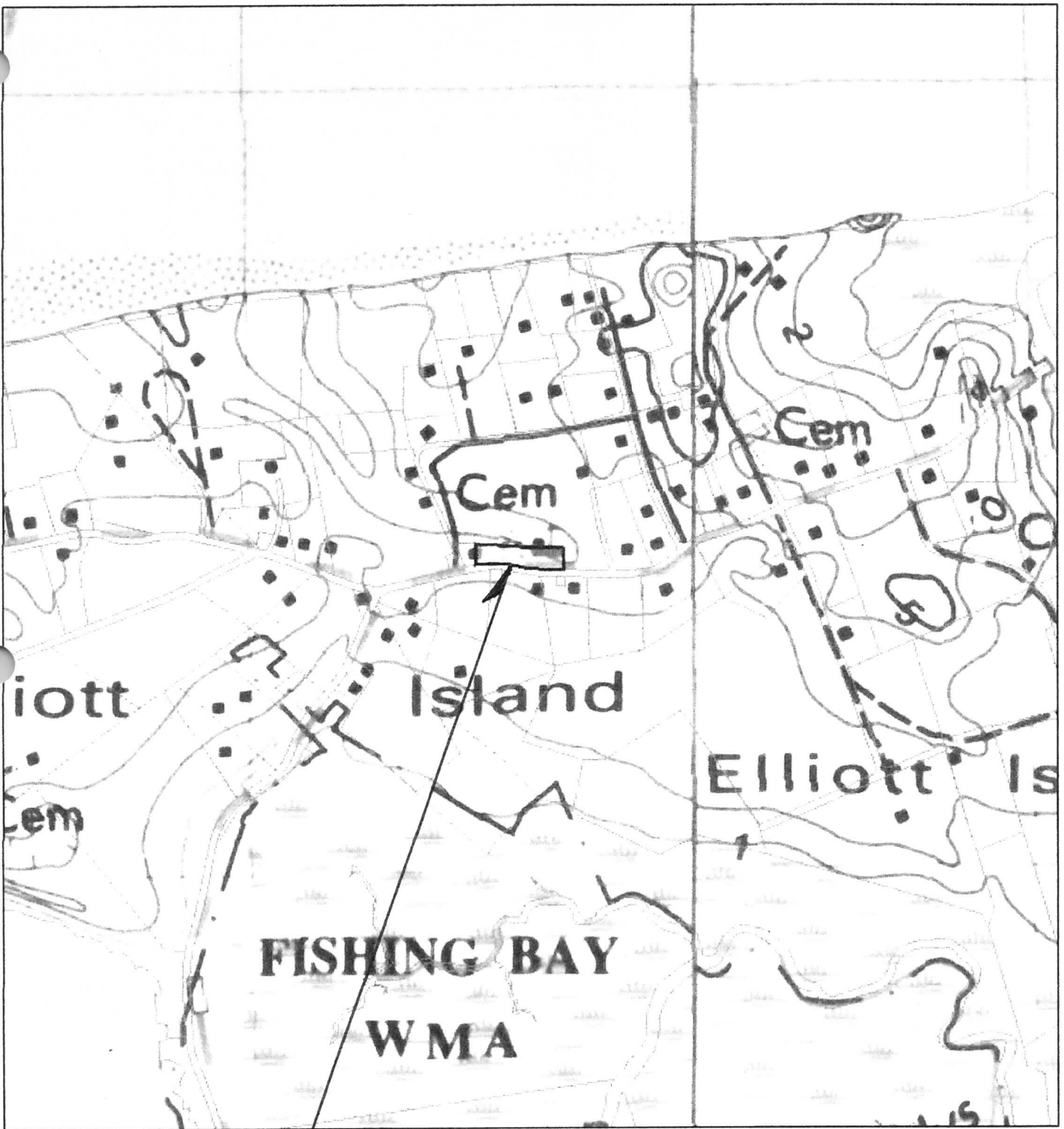
41

CONVERSION
SCALES



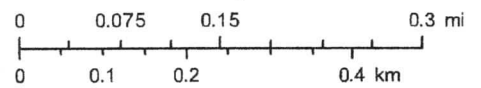
D-617
Elliott M. E. Church
Wingate, MD Quadrangle

Medusa Printout



June 19, 2018

1:9,028



D-617
Elliott M. E. Church
Wingate, MD Quadrangle, 1982

MD IMAP, MDP, SDAT

Photograph Log

D-617

Elliott M. E. Church

Elliott's Island, Dorchester County, Maryland

Ink Specifications: Epson UltraChrome Pigmented Inks HDR

Paper Specifications: Epson Enhanced Matte Paper

DVD-R Gold Specifications: Verbatim Ultralife Archival Gold DVD-R

Photographer, Paul Baker Touart

Photo #	Image File Name	Description
1	D-617_2018-05-23_01	Southeast elevation of church
2	D-617_2018-05-23_02	Southwest elevation of church
3	D-617_2018-05-23_03	Northwest elevation of church
4	D-617_2018-05-23_04	Northeast elevation of church
5	D-617_2018-05-23_05	Southeast elevation of tower
6	D-617_2018-05-23_06	Sanctuary looking north
7	D-617_2018-05-23_07	Altar rail and pulpit platform



D-617-2018-05-23-01

ELLIOTT M. E. CHURCH

ELLIOTT'S ISLAND, DORCHESTER Co., MD.

SOUTHEAST ELEVATION

PAUL B. TOWNS, PHOTOGRAPHER

MD/SHPD

1 OF 7



D-617-2018-05-23-02

ELLIOTT M. E. COURCO

ELLIOTT'S ISLAND, DORCHESTER CO., MD.

SOUTHWEST ELEVATION

PANEL B. TOURANT, PHOTOGRAPHER

MD / S&PO

2 OF 7



D-617-2018-05-23-03

ELLIOTT M, E, CHURCH

ELLIOTT'S ISLAND, DORCHESTER COUNTY, MD.

NORTHWEST ELEVATION

PAUL B. TOWANT, PHOTOGRAPHER

MD/STPO

5/07/7



D-617-2018-05-23-04

ELLIOTT M. E. CHURCH

ELLIOTT'S ISLAND, DORCHESTER Co., MS.

NORTHEAST ELEVATION

PAUL B. TOWNT, PHOTOGRAPHER

MD/SHPD

4 OF 7



D-617-2018-05-23_05

ELLIOTT M. E. CANNON

ELLIOTT'S ISLAND,

DORCHESTER CO., MD.

TOWER-SOUTHEAST ELEV.

PAUL B. TOWERS, PHOTO.

MD/STPO

5 of 7



D-617-2018-05-23-06
ELLIOTT M. E. CONTRACT
ELLIOTT'S ISLAND, DORCHESTER
County, MD.

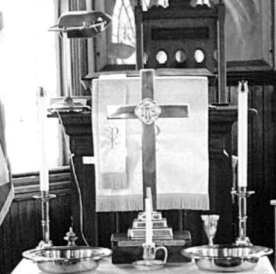
Sanctuary

Paul B. Tourant, PHOTO.
red/SHP0

6 OK 7

ENROLLMENT	
ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY	11
ATTENDANCE TODAY	10
OFFERING LAST SUNDAY	47
OFFERING TODAY	128
BUILDING FUND	

ELLIOTT M. E.
CHURCH
NOV. 19. 1905.



D-617-2019-05-23-07

ELLIOTT M. E. CHURCH

ELLIOTT'S ISLAND, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, D.C.

ALTAR

PAUL B. TOWNTON, PASTOR

MD/SI/PO

7 OF 7

D-617

1890s

Elliott Island Methodist Church

Elliott Island

Private

One of the largest buildings in this small, isolated community in southern Dorchester County is the Elliott Island Methodist Church, built sometime around the turn of the century. In many respects it is similar to St. Thomas Church in Bishop's Head. Although much of the church is covered in plain weatherboarding, each of the projecting gables has decorative shingle work and the front gable is enlivened by an ornamental carved bargeboard. The off-center steeple, which serves as one of the entrances to the church, also has several projecting gables.

D-617



Elliott Island Methodist Church

Elliott Methodist Church

D-617

50%

M. Bourne Oct 1975