

HO-428

## Trinity Chapel Sunday School Building

### **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](http://mht.maryland.gov)) for details about how to make an appointment.

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***Last Updated: 05-03-2004***

HO-428

Trinity Chapel Sunday School Building  
Pfeiffer's Corner  
Private

circa 1872

The Trinity Chapel Sunday School Building faces east, on the southeast corner of Old Montgomery Road and Route 104, known as Pfeiffer's Corner, an old nineteenth century area. It is a three bay wide, one room deep, one story high, gabled roof (running north-south) frame ship lap building, resting on a fieldstone foundation with square brick chimney (featuring corbeled brick) inset into its south wall and a one story high, semi-conical roofed, semi-octagonally shaped, frame addition along this south wall.

Two stone steps and a cement landing lead to the central, cross paneled, east entrance door, covered by a gabled roof hood, held by curved brackets, flanked by tall, rectangular, double-hung windows, holding six-over-six lights, decorated with green shutters. The Building was constructed as a Sunday School Building for Trinity Chapel, a mission chapel of Trinity Church, HO-45, which once stood east of this building, with its old nineteenth century cemetery.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

HO-428  
Dist. 6

MSGI # 1404285508

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Trinity Chapel Sunday School Building

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

S.E. corner of Pfeiffer's Corner (Waterloo and Old Montgomery Roads)

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

— VICINITY OF Pfeiffer's Corner 6th

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Howard

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Vestry of Episcopal Trinity Church

Telephone #: 799-7974

STREET & NUMBER

7474 Washington Boulevard

CITY, TOWN

Elkridge

— VICINITY OF

Maryland

STATE, zip code

21227

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Hall of Records

Liber #: 31

Tax Map 37

P 560

Folio #: 331

STREET & NUMBER

Howard County Court House

CITY, TOWN

Ellicott City

STATE

Maryland

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Howard County Historic Sites Inventory

DATE

1978-1979

— FEDERAL  STATE — COUNTY — LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

Maryland Historical Trust

CITY, TOWN

21 State Circle, Annapolis

STATE

Maryland

ON

HO-428  
Dist. 6

**CONDITION**

**CHECK ONE**

**CHECK ONE**

X

- DETERIORATED
- RUINS
- UNEXPOSED

- UNALTERED
- ALTERED

- ORIGINAL SITE
- MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

**DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**

The Trinity Chapel Sunday School Building faces east on the southeast corner of Old Montgomery Road and Route 104, known as Pfeiffer's Corner, an old nineteenth century area. It is a three bay wide, one room deep, one story high, gabled roof (running north-south) frame ship lap building, resting on a fieldstone foundation, with square brick chimney (featuring corbeled brick) inset into its south wall and a one story high, semi-conical roofed, semi-octagonally shaped, frame addition along this south wall.

Two stone steps and a cement landing lead to the central, cross paneled, east entrance door, covered by a gabled roof hood, held by curved brackets, flanked by tall, rectangular, double-hung windows, holding six-over-six lights, decorated with green shutters.

The west wall holds three similar windows which are presently shuttered, while the north wall holds another similar window, decorated with green shutters, and an opening above in the "A" of the gable which has been blocked. The three windows placed in the three south sides of the semi-octagonal addition are arched and double-hung. The central window holds six-over-six lights, while those on each side hold four-over-four lights.

The interior is now being renovated. It retains its hardwood floors with four inch floor boards, as well as a cross paneled wooden interior door east of the central square brick chimney (used with a stove) on the south wall of the building. This door is surmounted by a two light transom and flanked by rectangular, double-hung windows with six-over-six lights, which leads into the semi-conical roof, south addition. Interior window frames on the west wall (unmitred) appear newly constructed, while dry wall has been recently applied to the building's main room.

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) Local History	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

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SPECIFIC DATES      1872      BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

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The Trinity Chapel Sunday School Building is significant to Howard County, the State of Maryland and the Nation architecturally, as an example of a century old, one story high, frame, rectangular, gabled roof school house building, and historically as the Sunday School Building for Trinity Chapel, of Trinity Episcopal Church, HO-45.

Architecturally, the building was built as a simple, rectangular, one story high, frame building, set on a fieldstone foundation, to which was added a semi-conical roofed, semi-octagonally shaped wing. The building is noteworthy for its simplicity of design, as well as its fine scale and proportion.

The three tall, rectangular windows on the west elevation are balanced on the east elevation by a central entrance, flanked by similar windows. The building is situated on the southeast corner of Pfeiffer's Corner, which brings us to a discussion of its historical significance.

Historically, the building was constructed to serve as a Sunday school for Trinity Chapel, a mission of Trinity Church, at Pfeiffer's Corner. Pfeiffer's Corner was named after a family which held a degree of prominence in Howard County. By the middle of the nineteenth century, a branch of the family had acquired Troy Hill, an old, adjoining, Dorsey Plantation. At about this same time, another Pfeiffer occupied the dwelling, which still stands on the northwest corner of this intersection. It was this family which gave the area its name, Pfeiffer's Corner.

Trinity Chapel was constructed here by Trinity Church, HO-45, on the Washington Boulevard, to serve those families who lived in this area. In those days people usually walked to church, rode in a buggy, or by horseback. Trinity Chapel was only one mile from the Christian family home, rather than four miles. A small three year old child could walk with her father to Chapel one mile, where four miles might be a bit long. Such a three year old, Edith Christian, would walk with her father to chapel. For her, and others like her, the present little building we see today, was constructed to serve as a Sunday School for the chapel. Three classes were taught here. Circa 1891, Mr. Christian, Mrs. Edith Curtis' father, was the Superintendent and taught the oldest class, while Miss Maggie Pfeiffer was the "baby teacher", and Mr. Frank Hamson taught the Middle Class.

By the early twentieth century, four miles distance to Trinity Church on Washington Boulevard did not seem as great as it once had. People now had

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

automobiles, and with this new mode of transportation, Trinity Chapel and its little Sunday School Building, were no longer needed to serve Pfeiffer's Corner. At about this same time, a fire destroyed Trinity Chapel.

The Lutheran Church acquired the surrounding property and built their church there. Those who had attended the little Chapel began to attend Trinity Church and the Sunday School building was left empty, bordered on its east side by the Trinity Chapel cemetery, which now extends to the site of that old chapel. So it remained until recently, when the ladies of Trinity Church decided to renovate and use it as a thrift shop. This decision came about after an attempt was made to have the building burned to the ground, but was denied by the Fire Department, due to its proximity to the old nineteenth century Trinity Chapel Cemetery. The process of renovation is now close to completion, and the building on its way to useful days again.

It is well to remember, however, its former use, and to try to recapture the quiet, rural setting of this area. The words of Mr. Christian, who held daily prayer in his home, can still be remembered by his daughter, Mrs. Edith Curtis, who now lives in the Peter Harmon House, HO-438. "As for me and my house, we will love and serve the Lord". Mrs. Curtis, at 88 years old, carries on her family tradition, only recently, (March, 1979) holding Lenten Bible Study weekly in her home, not far west of the little building in which her father acted as superintendent, and she as pupil.

Old Montgomery Road now runs through Columbia, and has become broken by Route 175 and reestablished again south of 175. The quiet country places begin to fade with the heavy development of a county located midway between Baltimore and Washington. Such quiet country places are all the more important now, and such buildings more significant.

For these reasons, the Trinity Chapel Sunday School Building should be placed on the National Register of Historic Places, the State Critical Areas Program and any local landmarks ordinance, which the citizens of Howard County may seek to initiate.

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Interview with Mrs. Edith Curtis, 5740 Waterloo Road, Ellicott City, Maryland 21043  
(465-4916)

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .75 acres

Please see Attachment 1, Tax Map 37

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Please see Howard County Land Records, Liber 31 Folio 331

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE Maryland COUNTY Howard

STATE \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY \_\_\_\_\_

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

Cleora Barnes Thompson, Archivist

ORGANIZATION

Office of Planning & Zoning-Comprehensive Planning Section

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

3450 Court House Drive

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Ellicott City

STATE

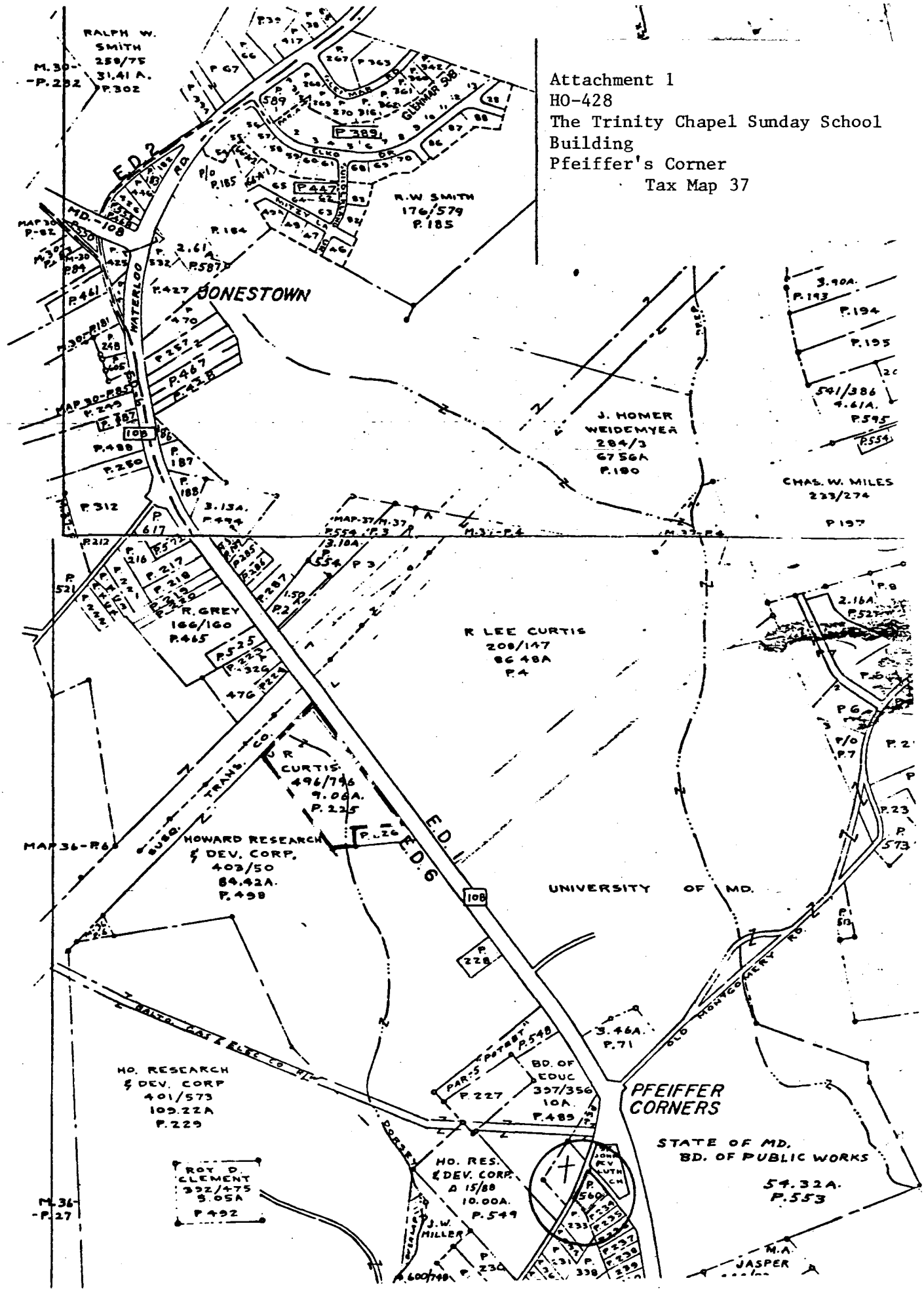
Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory 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  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438

Attachment 1  
HO-428  
The Trinity Chapel Sunday School  
Building  
Pfeiffer's Corner  
Tax Map 37



RALPH W. SMITH  
250/75  
31.41 A.  
-P.252 P.302

R.W SMITH  
176/579  
P.185

BONESTOWN

J. HOMER WEIDEMYER  
284/3  
6756A  
P.180

CHAS. W. MILES  
233/274  
P.197

R LEE CURTIS  
208/147  
8648A  
P.4

R. GREY  
166/100  
P.465

R. CURTIS  
496/746  
9.06A.  
P.225

HOWARD RESEARCH & DEV. CORP.  
403/50  
84.42A.  
P.498

UNIVERSITY OF MD.

HO. RESEARCH & DEV. CORP  
401/573  
109.22A  
P.229

HO. RES. & DEV. CORP.  
15/88  
10.00A.  
P.549

PFEIFFER CORNERS

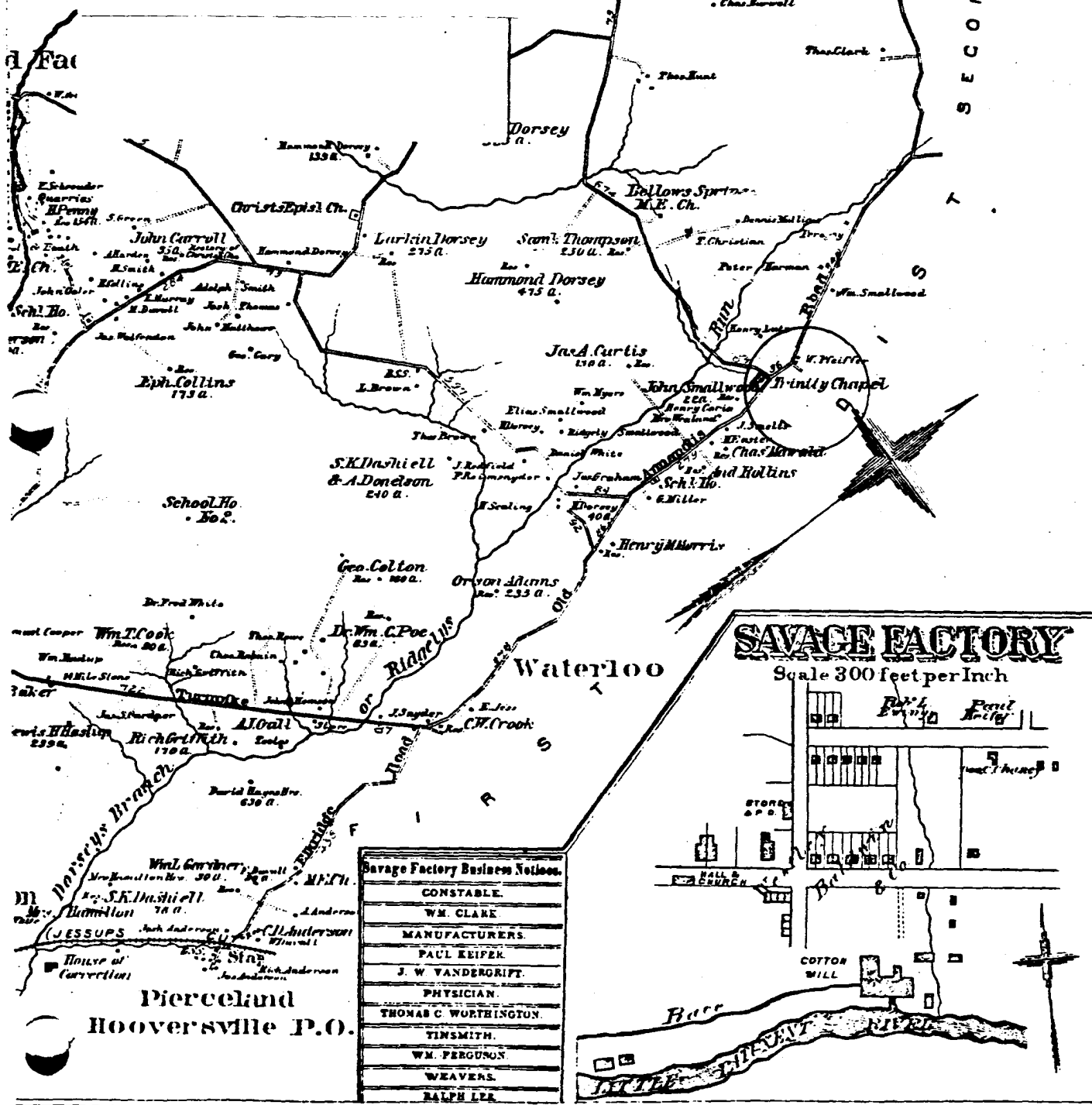
STATE OF MD.  
BD. OF PUBLIC WORKS  
54.32A.  
P.553

ROY D. CLEMENT  
392/475  
3.05A  
P.492

M.A. JASPER

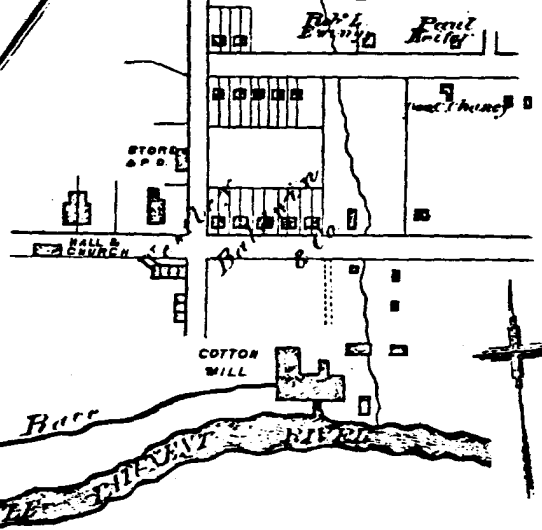
Attachment 3  
 HO-428  
 The Trinity Chapel Sunday School  
 Building  
 Hopkin's Atlas of 1878

Fac



**Savage Factory**

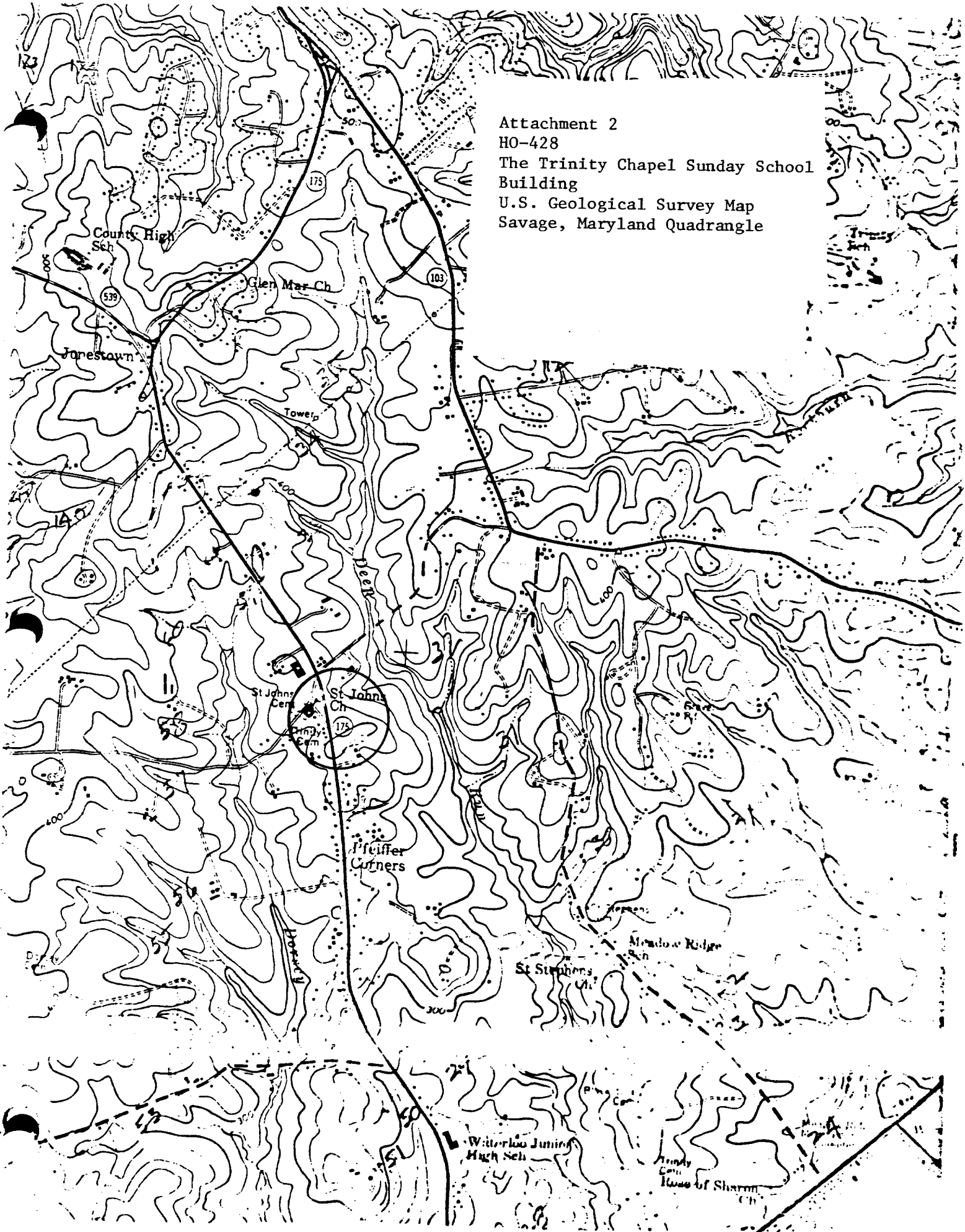
Scale 300 feet per Inch

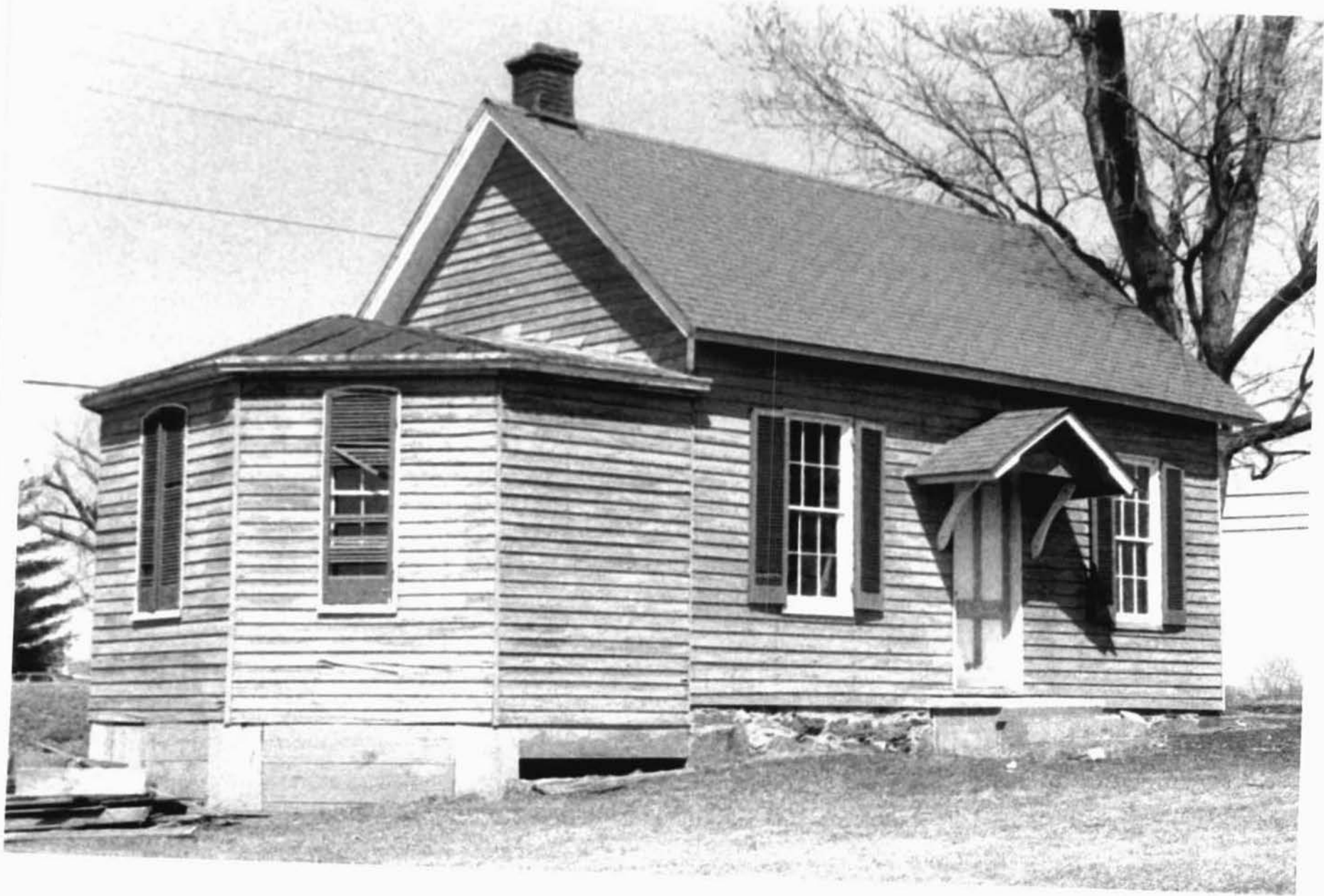


Savage Factory Business Notions.	
CONSTABLE.	WM. CLARK
MANUFACTURERS.	PAUL KEIFER
	J. W. VANDERGRIFT
PHYSICIAN.	THOMAS C. WORTHINGTON
	TINSMITH.
	WM. FERGUSON
	WEAVERS.
	RALPH LEE

Pierce land  
 Hooversville P.O.

Attachment 2  
HO-428  
The Trinity Chapel Sunday School  
Building  
U.S. Geological Survey Map  
Savage, Maryland Quadrangle





HD-428  
TRINITY CHAPEL SUNDAY SCHOOL  
SOUTHEAST

C.B. THOMPSON, AICP  
MAR, 79