

HO-276

Mt. Gregory U. M. Church  
Cooksville  
Private

Circa 1898

The Mt. Gregory U. M. Church faces west on the east side of Route 97, just south of Miller's Mill Road. It is a three bay wide, four bay deep, one story high, gabled roof (running east-west) frame (covered with asbestos shingles) building, resting on a stone foundation, with gabled roof (running east-west) open belfry, resting on the apex of the gable roof, over the main west entrance.

Fenestration is gothic arched and double-hung, holding two-over-two lights, which are bordered by a narrow row of nine lights-over-thirteen lights, underlined by projecting wooden sills and encased in a plain wooden archivolt.

The main entrance is a double, rectangular entrance, surmounted by a blocked-in, gothic arched transom, all of which is encased in a plain wooden archivolt, flanked by gothic arched windows, similar to those described.

A small rectangular molding rests above the central entrance, with the inscription, "Mt. Gregory M. E. Church, Erected AD 1902". A cornerstone is inscribed August 16, 1898.

Mt. Gregory is one of the most notable black churches in Howard County, Maryland, with its roots going back to a black school, formed circa 1846, known as "Warfield Academy". Additionally, it is a fine example of the Gothic Revival Style of the late nineteenth century, constructed in frame, with a fine Victorian interior featuring its original pine floors, beaded wainscotting, chair rail and pressed tin ceiling and wall covering. Its exterior features, although covered by aluminum siding, are otherwise completely retained. The history of the congregation is important for two reasons: it reflects a common practice in the educational history of the United States and exemplifies the evolution of this particular community from one concerned with the education of the black man to the formation of a religious community. Not only does this Church remain intact, but log houses still stand, which are occupied by the families of the original trustees of "Warfield Academy", which anteceded and led to the formation of Mt. Gregory. "Warfield Academy" was a school or seminary "for the exclusive use, occupancy, benefit and advantage of the colored people or persons of African descent", formed circa 1846. The log houses, which still stand are located not far from the Church. One of these is HO-102, The Sarah Jane Powell Log Cabin on the opposite side of Route 97 and HO-181, The R. Hook Log House on Route 144, east of its intersection with Route 97.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

HO-276  
Woodbine Quad  
District 4  
MAGI# 1402765608

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC Mount Gregory U. M. Church

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

(MD Route 97) Roxbury Mills Road

CITY, TOWN

Cooksville VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<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 Trustees for Mt. Gregory U.M.Church Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER  
Route 97

CITY, TOWN

Cooksville VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, Tax Map 14, p. 130  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Hall of Records

Liber #: 916

Folio #: 406

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

**7 DESCRIPTION**

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED    DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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

The Mt. Gregory U.M. Church faces west on the east side of Route 97, just south of Miller's Mill Road. It is a three bay wide, four bay deep, one story high, gabled roof (running east-west) frame (covered with asbestos shingles) building, resting on a stone foundation, with gabled roof (running east-west) open belfry, resting on the apex of the gable roof, over the main west entrance.

Fenestration is gothic arched and double-hung, holding two -over-two lights, which are bordered by a narrow row of nine lights-over-thirteen lights, underlined by projecting wooden sills and encased in a plain wooden archivolt.

The main entrance is a double, rectangular entrance, surmounted by a blocked-in, gothic arched transom, all of which is encased in a plain wooden archivolt, flanked by gothic arched windows, similar to those described.

A small rectangular molding rests above the central entrance, with the inscription, "Mt. Gregory M.E. Church, Erected AD 1902".

A four light, bulls eye, encased in a plain circular molding is inset into the gable of the roofline.

A corner stone on the north side of the west wall is inscribed, "August 16, 1898."

Another rectangular entrance, covered by a shed roofed, hood, is located in the center at the building's south wall, flanked by two large, gothic arched, nave windows, which are in line with the four similar windows on the north wall. Originally an old, square brick, interior chimney, was placed in this location for an outlet for a coal stove, which heated the building.

A gabled roof apse is centered on the east wall of the building and holds a north and south window, similar to those described. It now holds the sanctuary with its altar, where once a simple pulpit stood.

The interior holds a central aisle and two side aisles, with the altar inset into the apse. Originally the pews went directly to the sides of the nave with a single aisle only. These pews have been replaced.

The window moldings are fluted and mitred. Three inch beaded wainscoting runs around the perimeter of the nave, terminated by the original chair rail. A chain patterned, pressed tin wall covering, so representative of Victorian architecture, runs from chair rail to ceiling, terminating in, and bordered by a Greek urn frieze in pressed tin, which runs around the entire perimeter of both the nave and its sanctuary.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

DESCRIPTION (continued)  
The Mt. Gregory U.M. Church  
Page 2 of 2

HO-276  
Woodbine Quad  
District 4

A pressed tin ceiling covering, of a square design, decorates the ceiling of the nave.

The floors are four inch wide pine.

Forty years ago the basement of the church was dug out and now holds bathrooms, dining room and a kitchen for the church.

**8 SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" 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) Black History
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES      1899      BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Mount Gregory is one of the most notable black churches in Howard County, Maryland, with its roots going back to a black school, formed circa 1846, known as "Warfield Academy".<sup>1</sup> Additionally it is a fine example of the Gothic Revival Style of the late nineteenth century, constructed in frame, with a fine Victorian interior featuring its original pine floors, beaded wainscotting, chair rail and pressed tin ceiling and wall covering. Its exterior features, although covered by aluminum siding, are otherwise (See description) completely retained. The history of the congregation is important for two reasons: it reflects a common practise in the educational history of the United States<sup>2</sup> and exemplifies the evolution of this particular community from one concerned with the education of the black man to the formation of a religious community.<sup>3</sup> Not only does this Church remain intact, but log houses still stand, which are occupied by the families of the original trustees of "Warfield Academy", which anteceded and led to the formation of Mt. Gregory. "Warfield Academy" was a school or seminary "for the exclusive use, occupancy, benefit and advantage of the colored people or persons of African descent", formed circa 1846. The log houses, which still stand are located not far from the Church. One of these is HO-102, The Sarah Jane Powell Log Cabin on the opposite side of Route 97 and HO-181, The R. Hook Log House on Route 144, east of its intersection with Route 97. See item 7 for architectural worth.

History and Support

1. Mt. Gregory is one of some six black churches in Howard County, which date from the nineteenth century and are all tied to the black educational history of this area, as well as to its religious history. In addition, Mt. Gregory is associated with the family of Thomas Hood, one of the first County Commissioners for Howard County, who was instrumental in the formation and continuance of this black school and later its church. On the 3rd Monday of March, 1850 the Firm of Coates and Glenn attempted to recover in the Howard County Court a debt of \$268.54, which had been incurred since September 5, 1846, from "Warfield Academy". The school was put up for auction by the Sheriff of the Howard District of Anne Anedel County, Mr. Charles Haslup, Esquire, who conducted a public sale of the property. Mr. Thomas Hood was the highest bidder at \$587.00. It is thus documented that the institution from which Mt. Gregory was formed, was in existence in 1846.

2. Some years later, on May 2, 1867, Thomas and his wife Sarah Hood, conveyed a deed of the property to the Trustees of "Warfield Academy" (see title search for a list of names) with certain restrictions, to wit, "that said property should be used for school purposes only" . . . "for the exclusive use, occupancy, benefit and advantage

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

of the colored people or persons of African descent". . . "as a school or seminary under the order, control, and direction of the said Trustees". This common practise of separate but unequal educational facilities for our black population in the United States was finally overturned in the 1950's by the Supreme Court.

3. By 1899, it was decided by those concerned, that the property should also be used for church purposes. The heirs of Thomas Hood at that time conveyed a deed to the Trustees of "Mt. Gregory" or "Warfield Academy" (see attached Title Search for a list of their names) lifting the restriction, "for school purposes only" and relinquishing any reversion to them of the property. In 1925, Margaret E. Dorsey and Albert N. Dorsey and the Patapsco National Bank of Ellicott City conveyed the property to the Board of Education of Howard County, since it was used as a black school under the county school system. By 1964 the Board of Education conveyed the property to the County Commissioners, who in 1978 conveyed a deed of 3.69 Acres to the Trustees of Mt. Gregory U. M. Church. The church and its congregation reflect the history of the area, many of whom, like the family of Albert E. France go back to the 1860 period, when a descendant of Albert E. France and slave of the Thomas Hood family, was freed and a log house constructed for her and her family. For these reasons, as well as for its fine example of the Gothic Revival and its architectural integrity, Mt. Gregory should be placed on the National Register of Historic Places, the State Critical Areas Program and any local landmark ordinance the citizens of Howard County may seek to initiate.

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Land Records of Howard County, Maryland

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 3.69 Acres

Please see Attachment 1, Tax Map 14

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Please see Howard County Land Records, Liber 916 Folio 406

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

## TITLE SEARCH

Page 1 of 3

HO-276 Mt. Gregory U. M. Church  
 (Tax Map 14, p. 130)  
 Prepared by Cleora Thompson, A.I.C.P.

<u>DATE</u>	<u>LIBER-FOLIO</u>	<u>GRANTOR</u>	<u>GRANTEE</u>	<u>TRANSACTION</u>
27-11-78	916-406	Howard County, MD	Marcus N. Dorsey, Ella Miles, Albert E. France, Nathan Possett, Alexander Sands, Charles P. Cook, Vernon C. Dorsey, Nathan C. Smith, Douglas B. Sands, Trustees for Mt. Gregory U. M. Church	Deed for 3.69 Acres for \$5.00  Stipulation "that if this parcel of ground shall cease to be used for reli- gious purposes by the Trus- tees for Mt. Gregory". . . this parcel of ground shall revert back to "County" ownership.
23-9-64	427-54	Board of Education of Howard County	Board of County Commissioners of Howard County	Deed for 3 Parcels of Land
18-5-25	123-482	Margaret E. Dorsey Albert N. Dorsey, and the Patapsco National Bank of Ellicott City	Board of Education of Howard County	Deed for 1 Acre (Parcel #1)
26-2-24	121-20	Stephen G. Hood	Board of Education of Howard County	Deed for Parcel #2
		Circuit Court of Howard County	Board of Education of Howard County	Deed for Parcel #3 (1.891 Acres)
		"The Board of Education of Howard County vs. James Randall, etal" Law 4237		

TITLE SEARCH

HO-276 Mt. Gregory U. M. Church  
(Tax Map 14, p. 130)

<u>DATE</u>	<u>LIBER-FOLIO</u>	<u>GRANTOR</u>	<u>GRANTEE</u>	<u>TRANSACTION</u>
2-5-67	27-4	Thomas H. Hood, Sarah Hood	George Snowden, etal Trustees John Smith, John Dorsey, Daniel White, James Randall, George Randall, David Dorsey, Henry Mathews, James Parker, Trustees and their assignments in office forever	Deed with certain restrictions therein made to wit, that said property should be used for school purposes only and where- as it has for \$1500 with the buildings erected thereon here- tofore known as "Warfield Aca- demy"
14-1-1901	73-139	John J. Dorsey, Isaiah W. Somers, John H. Smith, Peter Jones, Charles H. Hopkins, Lorenzo D. Snowden, Perry Dorsey, William Savoy, Daniel White, Jr., Trustees of Mt. Gregory or Warfield Academy Property	Charles H. Hopkins, John H. Smith, James H. Bond, John J. Dorsey, Lorenzo D. Snowden, Isaiah W. Somers, John W.T.R. Dorsey, Peter Jones, William Savoy, Charles H. Parker, Trustees of M.E. Church of Sykesville circuit and Wash- ington Conference	6,000 square feet
28-12-99	71-342	Stephen G. Hood Emma A. Hood, wife Alfred Mathews, Sophia Mathews, wife Josephine Buck, Eugene Buck, and Anna S. Hood, James T.P. Hood, heirs Thomas Hood	John Dorsey, Isaiah W. Somers, John H. Smith, Peter Jones, Charles Hopkins, Perry Corsey, William H. Savoy, Daniel White, Jr., Lorenzo Snowden, Trustees of "Mt. Gregory" or "Warfield Academy"	"for school and church purposes"  "Whereas it has become expedi- ent that said property should also be used for church pur- poses but a doubt has arisen as to the restriction to school purposes only...the heirs of Thomas Hood are willing to relinquish any reversion rights."

TITLE SEARCH

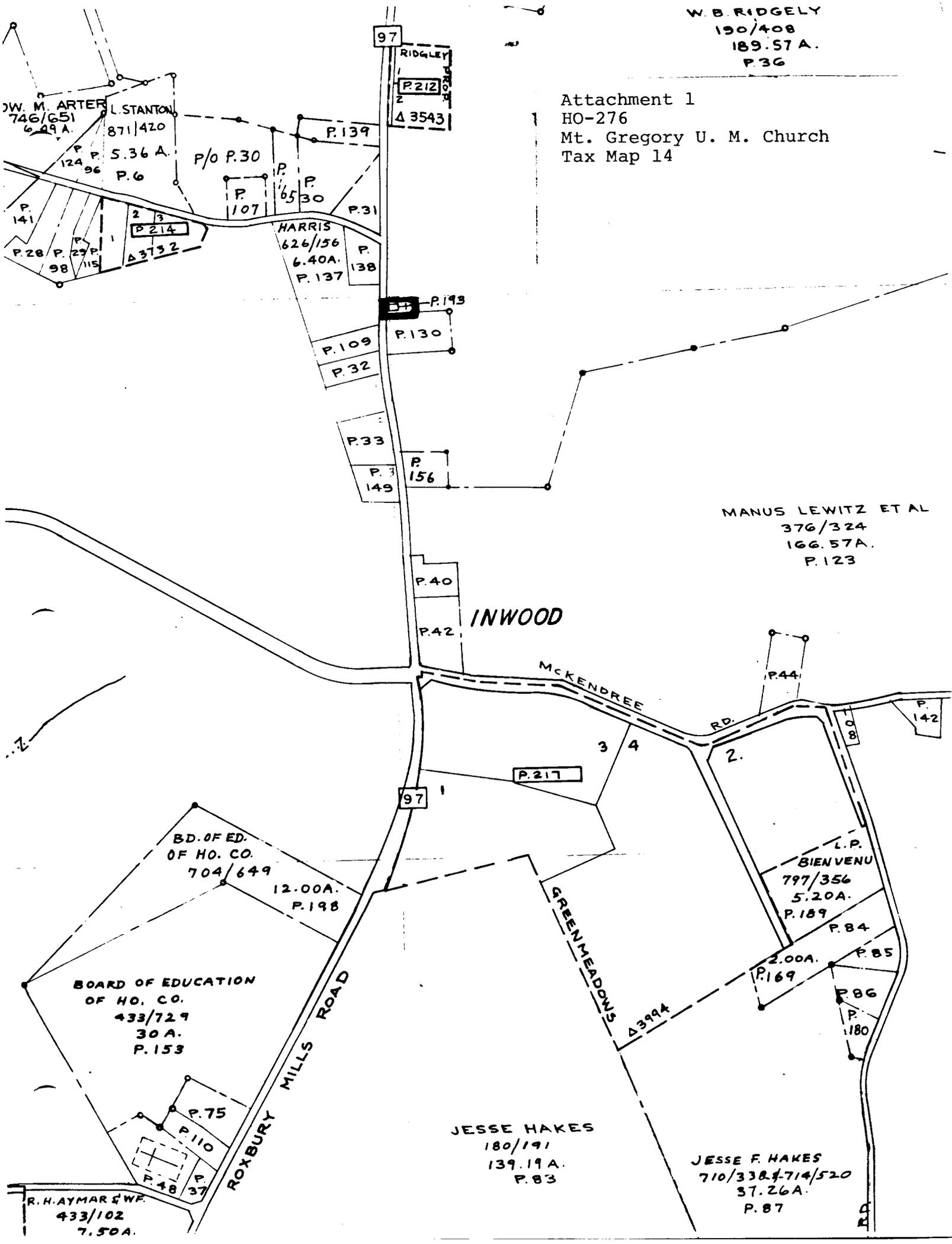
HO-276 Mt. Gregory U. M. Church  
 Prepared by Cleora Thompson, A.I.C.P.

<u>DATE</u>	<u>LIBER-FOLIO</u>	<u>GRANTOR</u>	<u>GRANTEE</u>	<u>TRANSACTION</u>
17-6-51	12-72	Charles Haslop, Esq. Sheriff of Howard District of AA County	Thomas Hood	"for the exclusive use, occupancy, benefit, and advantage of the colored people or persons of African descent.... as a school or seminary under the order, control and direction of the said Trustees.

"Witnesseth whereas on the first day of March, 1851, writ of sate of Md opficii Facias issued out of Court of Howard District of AA County. Court held at Court House at Ellicott Mills, 3rd Monday March, 1850. John Coates and William Glenn, Firm of Coates and Glenn, by judgement of Court recovered against Warfield Academy late of Howard District of AA county as well the sum of \$268.54 a certain debt with interest from Sept. 5, 1846 + the sum of \$7.03 for costs. The Sheriff was commanded to collect and render to the debtors. 14 June, 1851 - exposed to public sales to the highest bidder. Thomas Hood, highest bidder, purchased at price of \$587.00."

W. B. RIDGELY  
190/408  
189.57 A.  
P.36

Attachment 1  
HO-276  
Mt. Gregory U. M. Church  
Tax Map 14



J.W. M. ARTER  
746/651  
6.29 A.  
L. STANTON  
871/420  
5.36 A.  
P.124  
P.96  
P.141  
P.28  
P.29  
P.98  
P.115  
P.6  
P.107  
P.65  
P.30  
P.31  
P.214  
P.3732

HARRIS  
626/156  
6.40A.  
P.137  
P.138

97  
RIDGLEY  
P.212  
Δ 3543

MANUS LEWITZ ET AL  
376/324  
166.57A.  
P.123

INWOOD

P.44  
P.142

BD. OF ED.  
OF HO. CO.  
704/649  
12.00A.  
P.198

BOARD OF EDUCATION  
OF HO. CO.  
433/729  
30 A.  
P.153

JESSE HAKES  
180/191  
139.19 A.  
P.83

JESSE F. HAKES  
710/338 & 714/520  
37.26A.  
P.87

R. H. AYMAR & W.F.  
433/102  
7.50A.

P.75  
P.110  
P.48  
P.37

MCKENDREE RD.

GREEN MEADOWS  
Δ 3994

ROXBURY MILLS ROAD

97

P.217

L.P.  
BIENVENU  
797/356  
5.20A.  
P.189

2.00A.  
P.169

P.84  
P.85  
P.86  
P.180



Attachment 3  
 HO-276  
 Mt. Gregory U.M. Church  
 Hopkin's Atlas of 1878

Entered according to act of Congress in the year 1878 by E. M. Hopkins in the Office of the Librarian of Congress at Washington.





Name: HO-276  
Mount Gregory U. M. Church  
Location: Route #97, south of Miller's Mill Road  
Cooksville, Maryland  
Photographer: Cleora B. Thompson, A.I.C.P.  
Date of Photograph: May, 1980  
Negatives in possession of the Maryland Historical Trust  
View: Southwest  
Photographer looking: Northeast  
Photograph number: 1 of 1