HO-50 HOWARD COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY Private

1894

Ellicott City

This marvelous granite Gothic revival style building constructed in a cruciform plan once housed the First Presbyterian Church and now serves as headquarters and repository for the Howard County Historical Society. It is characterized by steeply pitched intersecting gable roofs, double-hung Gothic stained and leaden glass paned windows featuring curvilinear patterns and a tall square entrance and bell tower which rises to a height of a hundred feet. The Gothic arched double entrance and all the fenestration of the building are characterized by stretcher stone gothic arched lintels. The central projecting bay (north axis) of the north wall holds a rose window picturing two cherubs, the east-west transcept holds identical eastwest tripartite windows featuring a central rose and three gothic windows within a large gothic arch, while the south axis which holds a reception room gives the outward feeling of an ambulatory in a medieval church with its semi-hexagonal south end crowned by a semi-conical roof giving an almost Romanesque feeling to what would otherwise be characterized as neo-Gothic in style.

Easement

1400504603

HO-50 District 2

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

NOMINATION FORM for the NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

	11.	NAME									
		COMMON:									
		Howard County Historical Society Building									
		AND/OR HISTORIC:									
		First Presbyterian Church									
	2 EDCATION										
		8328 Court Aven	ET AND NUMBER:								
		CITY OR TOWN:									
		Ellicott City,									
		Maryland				Howard					
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	3.	CLASSIFICATION					ACCESSIBLE				
~		CATEGORY (Check One)		OWNERSHIP		STATUS	TO THE PUBLIC				
Z		District (X) Building	Public	Public Acquisit	ion:	Occupied	Yes: X Restricted				
0		Site Structure	Private	☐ In Pro	COSE	Unoccupied					
_		□ Object	☐ Both	☐ Being	Considered	Preservation work					
4-						in progress	□ No				
		PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)									
>		Agricultural Ga	vernment	Pork		Transportation	☐ Comments				
œ		Commercial Inc	dustrial [nce Other (Specity)							
—		K Educational Mi	litery [Religious							
S		☐ Entertainment 🛣 Museum 🔲 Scientific									
~	4.	OWNER OF PROPERTY									
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•	DESCRIPTION								
Ĭ	CONDITION .	(Check One)							
		Excellent	🗌 6ಂಪ	☐ Fair	Deteriorated	Ruins	Unexposed		
i			(Check Or	1e)		(Ch	ock One)		
		☐ Alter	red	Uncltered		☐ Moved	(X) Original Site		

This marvelous granite Gothic revival style structure built in a cruciform plan once housed the First Presbyterian Church and now serves as headquarters for the Howard County Historical Society. The building is characterized by steeply pitched intersecting gabled roofs, double-hung Gothic stained and leaden glass paned windows featuring curvilinear patterns and a tall square entrance and bell tower from whence rises to a hundred feet, a tall church spire. The Gothic arched entrance way is decorated with a stretcher stone Gothic arched lintel.

The north wall has a central projecting bay which holds a rose window picturing two cherubs and circular stone decoration along with a basement casement window holding six-six lites surmounted by a flat stone lintel and centered into this projecting bay.

The east and west bays of the north wall each hold two double-hung Gothic arched windows, similar to those already described decorated with stretcher stone gothic arched lintels. A basement door, holding nine lites, is located in the east bay surmounted by a flat stone lintel.

The east and west walls of the transcept hold identical tripartite gothic windows composed of a rose window in the upper portion of the gothic arch with three gothic windows fitted into the remainder of the space. See Figure 1. In addition two two lite cellar windows are located in the east wall of this transcept.

What would ordinarily be an ambulatory in a medieval church becomes a reception room for the congregation. It is three bays wide (one bay is used as an entrance into a small office, on the two rewest and into the entrance foyer on the east) while the maining bays hold gothic windows similar to those described. The east and west walls of the reception room extend inward this and meet at a south wall forming a semihexagon at south end crowned by a semi-conical roof which with the large granite blocks used in construction gives a french medieval feeling to an otherwise gothic revival church. A square stone chimney rises from the base of the south corner of the east wall of the transcept, while the other vertical element. building the square bell tower rises from the base of the used as an entrance foyer. (see Plan) Each of the four walls of the bell tower are opened by a gothic archway and crowned by a tall, conical roofed

tower are opened by a gothic archway and crowned by a tall, conical roofed spire. A corner stone on the south east corner of the entrance has the date 1842, which must be the date of the formation of the first church and not the building of today which was constructed in 1894.

SIGNIFICANCE			
PERIOD (Check One or More as	Appropriete)		•
Pre-Columbian	☐ 16th Century	☐ 18th Century	20th Century
15th Century	☐ 17th Century	19th Century	•
SPECIFIC DATE(S) (Il Applicat	ole and Known) 1894		
AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Ch			
Abor iginal	☐ Education	☐ Political	Urben Planning
☐ Prehistoric	Engineering	X Religion/Phi-	Other (Specify)
₩ Historic	☐ Industry	losophy	<u> Historical Soci</u> et
☐ Agriculture	[Invention	Science	
Architecture	☐ Lendscope	☐ Sculpture	
☐ Art	Architecture	Social/Human-	
Commerce	Literature	itarian	
Communications	Military	☐ Theater	
☐ Conservation	☐ Music	☐ Transportation	<u>.</u>

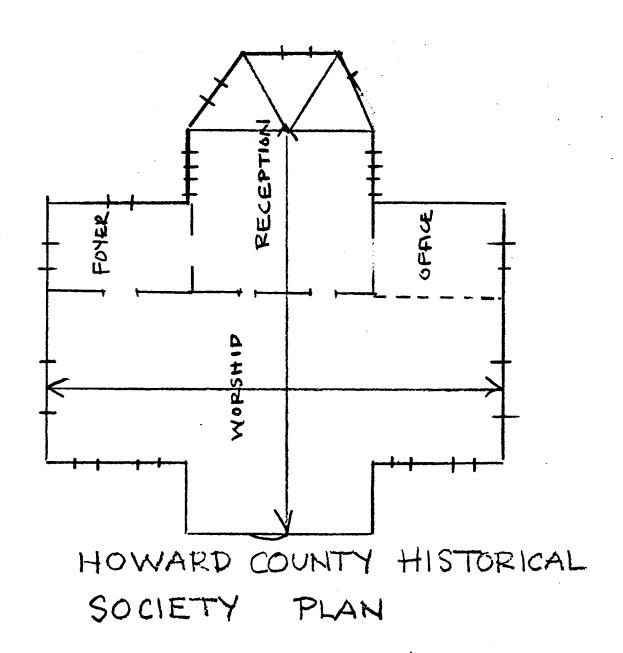
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

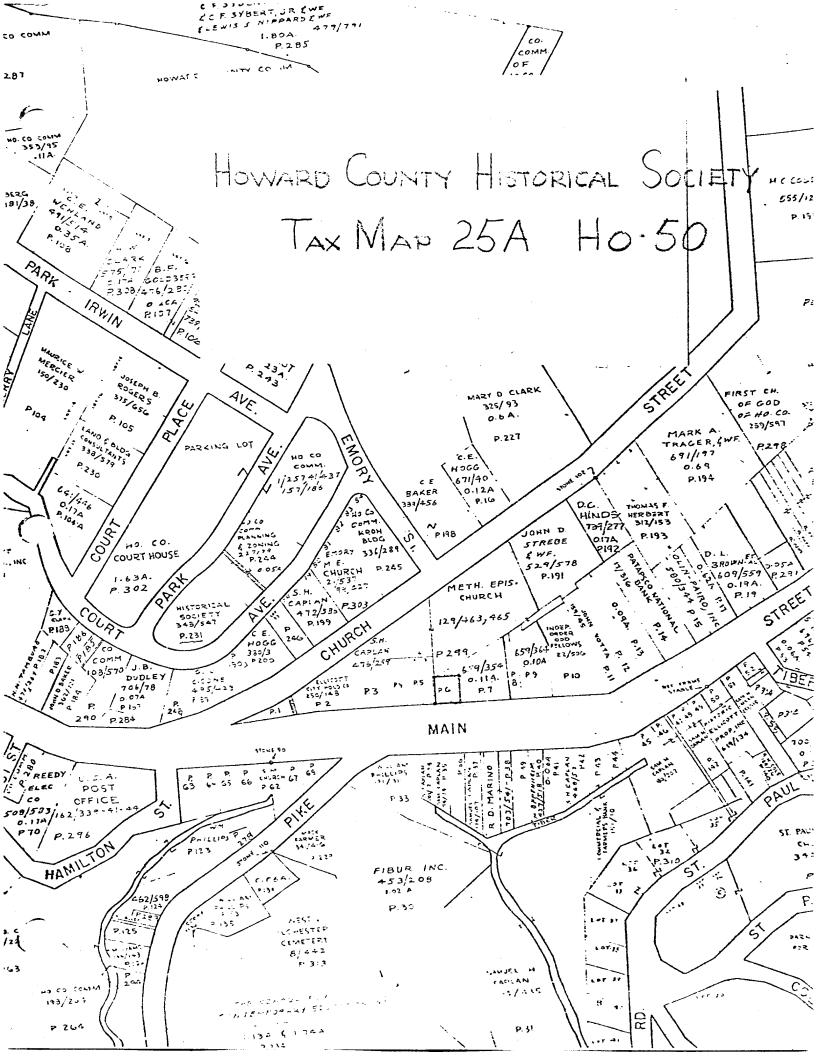
In 1837 a Presbyterian Church was founded in Thistle Mills now Ilchester. The congregation was composed of Scotch and English residents of the Patapsco Valley, who lived between Union Mills, now known as Oella and Thistle Mills. In 1839 twenty-three charter members formed the church. In 1842-44 an ediface was built on the site of the present building but collapsed when excavations were made to enlarge a basement Sunday School room and declared a total loss because of it. The building was completely rebuilt in 1894 with George Archer as architect and completed within six months, a notable accomplishment to say the least.

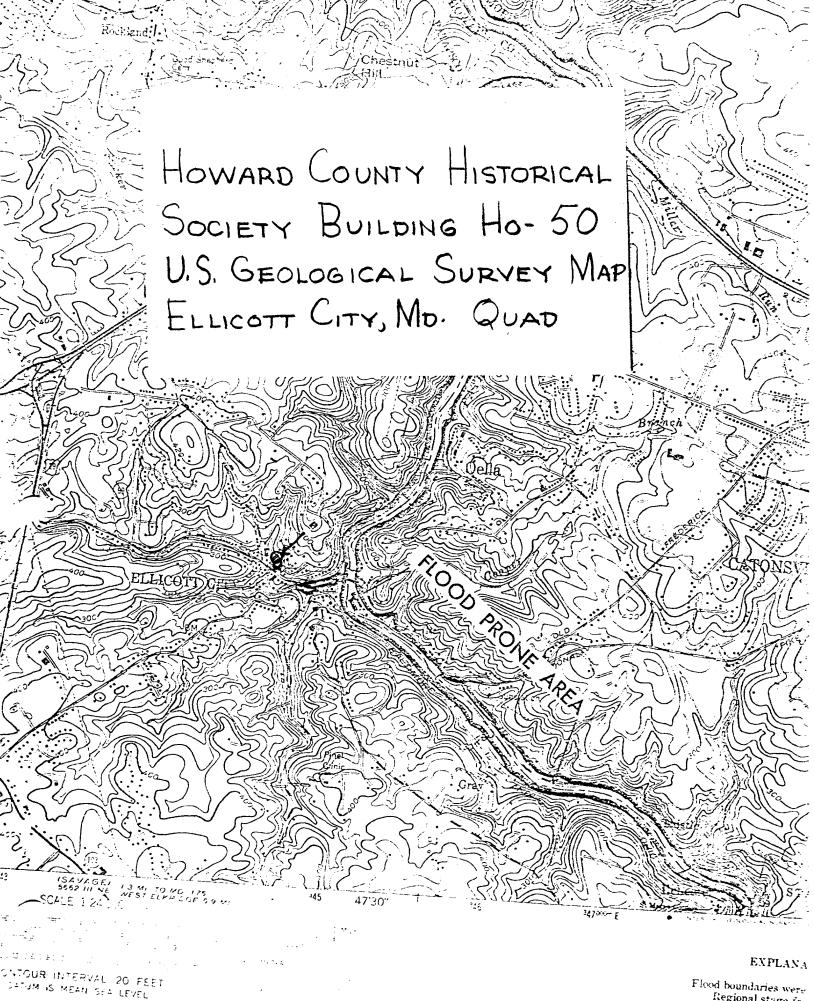
It was constructed of granite quarried locally, supposedly from a quarry at the foot of Main Street. An extremely fine example of the Gothic revival style which flourished at that time, it is constructed in the cruciform plan and characterized by steeply pitched intersecting gabled roofs and double-hung Gothic stained and leaden paned glass windows featuring curvilinear patterns. The transcept or arms of the cross and the north axis hold the original worship area, now used for meetings, while the south axis, the base or foot of the cross, holds a reception room. This south axis appears on the exterior as a sort of medieval ambulatory with its semi-hexagonal south end crowned by a semi-conical roof giving an almost Romanesque feeling to what would otherwise be characterized as neo-Gothic in style.

In 1960 the parish outgrew the existing building and Mrs. James Clarke, Sr. bought it and presented it to the Howard County Historical Society. It now serves as a repository for various historical documents, records and books and is used as the headquarters of the Society, which opens periodically to the public.

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CLEORA BARNES THOMPSON PLANNING CONSULTANT HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY

HO. SO HOWARD COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY (WEST)
MAR. 77