

no-382

GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Elkridge,  
Private

1911

The congregation of Grace Episcopal Church was begun in 1841 when the Reverend Robert Piggott held Sunday afternoon services at Rockburn and other surrounding Elkridge homes. In 1845 it was admitted into the diocese of Maryland as a parish.

Two previous buildings were destroyed by fire before the present structure was erected in 1911.

Designed by George Worthington, a vestryman of Grace Church, it is an exceptionally fine example of English perpendicular in a cruciform plan with high pitched intersecting gabled slate roofs, located on the crest of a hill commonly called Elkridge Heights south and west of the B&O railroad.

## MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

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

<b>1. NAME</b>						
COMMON: Grace Episcopal Church						
AND/OR HISTORIC:						
<b>2. LOCATION</b>						
STREET AND NUMBER: Southeast Side of Main Street & B & O Railroad/West, B & O Railroad/West						
CITY OR TOWN: Elkridge Heights -- Elkridge						
STATE Maryland			COUNTY: Howard			
<b>3. CLASSIFICATION</b>						
CATEGORY (Check One)		OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object		<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both		Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)						
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments		
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious				
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific				
<b>4. OWNER OF PROPERTY</b>						
OWNER'S NAME: Grace Episcopal Church c/o Robert Gaurlay						
STREET AND NUMBER: 5805 Main Street						
CITY OR TOWN: Elkridge			STATE: Maryland	21227		
<b>5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION</b>						
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Hall of Records						
STREET AND NUMBER: Howard County Court House						
CITY OR TOWN: Ellicott City			STATE: Maryland	21043		
Title Reference of Current Deed (Book & Pg. #): Map 38, Blk 14						
<b>6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS</b> /P. 592 40/243 6/227 46/1						
TITLE OF SURVEY: Howard County Historic Sites Inventory						
DATE OF SURVEY: 1976 <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local						
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Maryland Historical Trust						
STREET AND NUMBER: 21 State Circle						
CITY OR TOWN: Annapolis			STATE: Maryland	21401		

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**7. DESCRIPTION**

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Uncolored	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Grace Church is located on the crest of a sloping hill commonly called Elkridge Heights south and west of the railroad. It is an exceptionally fine, well crafted representation of English perpendicular in a cruciform plan with high pitched intersecting gabled slate roofs.

The west entrance has a low pitched gable roofed portico supported by three square columns on each side, one of which is inset into the west wall on either side of the entrance. A stone wall connects the columns and creates a semi-enclosed portico. A tripartite gothic window with perpendicular vertical stone lintel and stone sill is inset into the A formed by the roof gable. A stone cross in relief is above the Keystone of the lintel. Two splayed brick steps lead to the patterned brick entranceway and perpendicular double entrance door.

The western prong of the cruciform plan is four bays long and forms the nave of the church. Its windows are tripartite, vertical leaden glass casement windows with leaden glass transoms and fine projecting stone lintels.

The south entrance is three bays wide and two bays deep. Its west wall contains a north bay tripartite window with central stained glass window and side panels of leaden glass. A square window is inset into the south bay of the wall. The south entrance has a perpendicular double wooden door with a vertical stone arched lintel, decorated by a projecting stone band. It is flanked by perpendicular leaden glass windows.

Three vertical rectangular leaden glass windows are inset into its east wall. A stone campanile is at the apex of the roof. Vertical projecting stone bands drop from the gable to meet the flat arched stone lintels of the second story windows. A square vent is between these bands.

The east wall of Grace Church holds a perpendicular tripartite window similar to that on the west wall inset into the A formed by the gabled roof.

The north entrance has a crenolated closed porch with perpendicular double wooden door similar to that of the entrance on the south porch. Stone brackets hold the cornice line which holds a crenolated wall.

A tripartite window similar to that on the east and west lies above. The north door is flanked by stone perpendicular recesses which appear to be ready to hold future windows similar to those of the south entrance.

A circular drive runs around the church to a cemetery located north of the structure next to the railroad.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			_____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The congregation of Grace Episcopal Church was begun in 1841 when the Reverend Robert Piggott held Sunday afternoon services at Rockburn and other homes as well as the building owned by Melville Chapel near the railroad tracks where Toomey's coal yard now stands.

The 1845 Convention of the Diocese of Maryland admitted Grace Church of Elkridge as a parish. Land was bought from the B&O Railroad and a wooden church built "situated on the Washington Turnpike Road, near the place in said landing where the railroad crosses the Turnpike".

In 1855 this building was destroyed by fire and a new building built and dedicated in 1856. Two years later, a Sunday School building was opened.

The Reverend John C. Gray was priest at Grace Church during the 1890's and founded St. John's Chapel in Relay.

On August 10, 1909, another fire destroyed the church building, the Sunday School building, and the carriage sheds. A new rectory, located southwest of the church built after an 1899 fire damaged the old rectory, survived the 1909 fire.

After this fire, a new Parish House was built within three months and a decision made to move the church up the hill, farther from the railroad, resulting in the present structure.

George Worthington, the architect, was a vestry man of Grace and the son of the first registrar of the first vestry of the church. The building was consecrated on October 8, 1911.

In 1957 a new rectory was built on Lawyer's Hill and the old one on Main Street sold.

In 1966 a new Parish House on Montgomery and Landing Roads was opened which is the location of Sunday School classes on Sunday mornings and of community meetings. A day care center is held there on weekdays.

Significant as a congregation of 135 years old it is also significant architecturally as a unique example of English Gothic perpendicular. It is constructed of fine material.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

HO-382

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Sipes, Betsy. "Grace: Stone Church By the Tracks" Elkridge: A Bicentennial Journal. June, 1976.

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES				
CORNER	LATITUDE				LONGITUDE				
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

Acreage Justification:

Please see Tax Map 38 Blk 14 P. 592 40/243 6/227 46/1

1.50 Acres

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
Cleora Barnes Thompson, Archivist

ORGANIZATION: Office of Planning and Zoning - Comprehensive Planning      DATE:

STREET AND NUMBER:  
3450 Court House Drive

CITY OR TOWN: Ellicott City      STATE: Maryland      ZIP: 21043

**12. State Liaison Officer Review: (Office Use Only)**

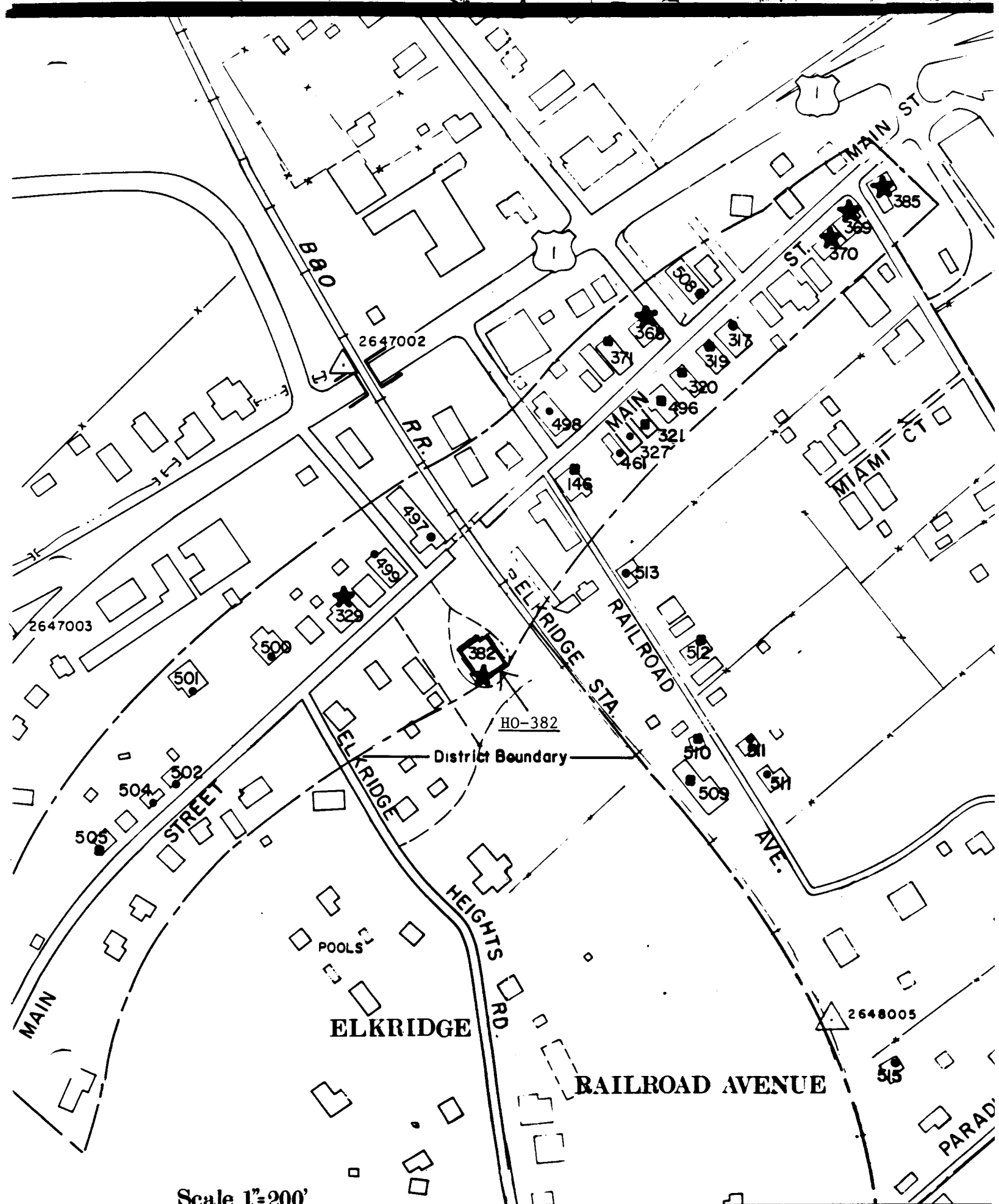
Significance of this property is:

National       State       Local

Signature \_\_\_\_\_



HO-382



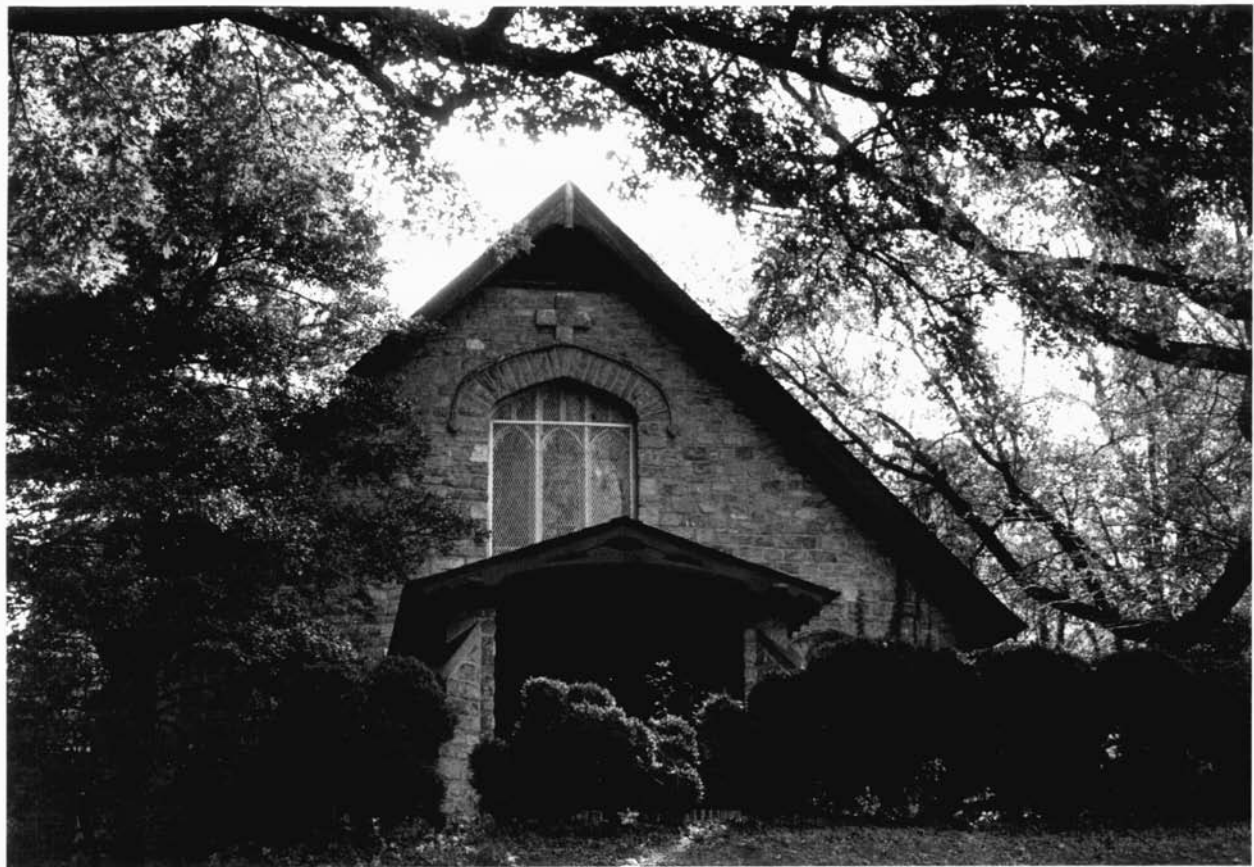
Scale 1"=200'





HO-382 DIST 1  
GRACE EP.CH.

~~CLARENCE~~ BARNES THOMPSON  
PLANNING CONSULTANT  
~~HISTORICAL~~ SITES SURVEY



HO-382 DIST 1  
GRACE EP. CH.

GLEORA BARNES THOMPSON  
PLANNING CONSULTANT  
HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY