

Ho - 440  
Mt. Pisgah A.M.E. Church/  
Bellow's Springs Methodist Church  
Jonestown  
Private

Mid-nineteenth Century

Originally located on the boundary line of the Rufus Thompson and Thomas Christian farms, it was known as Bellow's Springs Methodist Church, taking its name after a spring known for its clear sparkling water.

In 1899 it was moved to its present location on the south side of Route 108, facing north, to serve the Jonestown Community.

Mt. Pisgah A.M.E. Church is representative of gothic revival architecture in the small country church of the nineteenth century. It is a three bay wide, two bay deep, one story high, gable roof (running north-south) stone building with central wooden tent roofed belfry on its north wall holding a double paneled rectangular entrance door, surmounted by a six light transom. One step leads to the entrance which is flanked by rectangular, double-hung windows which hold three-over-four lights inset into gothic arches. Flat wooden sills and lintels decorate the windows. Two similar windows rest in the east and west walls and a central double window in the south wall.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY MAGI #1404404408

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Bellow's Spring Methodist Church

AND/OR COMMON

Mount Pisgah AME Church

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

Old Annapolis Road - Route 108

CITY, TOWN

Jonestown, Ellicott City — VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

6th

COUNTY

STATE  
Maryland

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 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 type="checkbox"/> YES RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" 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

Mt. Pisgah AME Church

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

Old Annapolis Road, Route 108

CITY, TOWN

Ellicott City, Maryland — VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

21043

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, Tax Map 30 p. 217  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC Hall of Records

Liber #: 74(1)

Folio #: 530

STREET & NUMBER

Howard County Court House

CITY, TOWN

Ellicott City

STATE

Maryland

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Howard County Historic Sites Inventory

DATE

1977

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

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Mt. Pisgah A.M.E. Church faces north on the south side of Route 108. It is a three bay side, two bay deep, stone structure built on a cement block foundation. Its central tent roofed bell tower rises from the base of the north walls' central bay and holds a double rectangular entrance door, surmounted by a six light transom. One step leads to this entrance, which is flanked by rectangular double-hung windows which hold three-over-four-lights inset into gothic arches. Flat wooden sills and lintels decorate the windows. Two similar windows rest in the east and west walls and a similar central double window in the south wall.

The stonework goes up to the eaves so that the remainder of the "A" line of the north and south walls is finished with wood frame construction. Square wooden vents are inset into each of the four sides of the upper portion of the central bell tower.

An exterior cement block chimney is located on the west side of the south wall. A rectangular basement entrance is placed west of center in this wall, flanked by two pilasters and surmounted by a flat wooden lintel.

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input checked="" 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 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) Black History
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES mid-nineteenth cen. BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This old country gothic revival style church was once located on the boundry line of the Thomas Christian and Rufus Thompson farms, not far from its present site, known as Jonestown. It was moved 2 September, 1899 as the date on the corner stone indicates.

The original name of the church was "The Bellow's Springs Methodist Church". It was so named for a spring at the end of the 100 acre Christian farm, (also named Bellow's Spring Farm) known for its clear sparkling water. People came from far and near for this water. It is also probable that a black smith shop was located nearby.

Mrs. Edith Christian Curtis remembers playing in this church with the Thompson children as a little girl. When she was quite small the Thompson and Christian families gave the small gothic chapel to the people in Jonestown for their church. It was moved to its present location close to the south side of Route 108 and became the Mount Piscah AME Church. The Christian family then attended the Locust Chapel Methodist Church four miles away at Ilchester. When Trinity Episcopal Chapel was built, just a mile from the Bellow's Springs Farm, Mrs. Edith Christian went there to Sunday School. The minister, Mr. Gardner, said Methodists made the best kind of Episcopalians. As children, Mrs. Curtis and her brothers and sister Ida walked the mile to Sunday school and church. On the first Sunday of each month their father walked four miles to Communion at Trinity Church on the Washington Boulevard near Dorsey.

It is important to note that religion played an important part in the lives of the early settlers of Howard County and in the lives of those who settled here in the nineteenth century. An excerpt from The Geneology of the Christians and the Whipps by Mrs. Edith Christian Curtis relates this significantly:

We did have "blessing: at every meal. We were taught to say our prayers at mother's knee. Every night when bedtime came, we gathered round the dining room table, while Grandfather (Thomas Christian) read a chapter from the Big Bible, sometimes with comments, as when he read the story of the Prodigal Son: "And I'm sure I sympathize with that eldest son". Then

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

Significance(cont.)

we got on our knees beside our chairs and listened to Grandfather pray, --just like the Brethren used to do in the Methodist Church. "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord "rings in my memory. Then we kids kissed Grandma, Grandpa, Mama, and Poppa goodnight, and off upstairs we went. Sometimes we slept through prayers, sometimes we giggled silently at one another. Later we were told we should read a chapter in our Bibles every night.

This small country church which served the small black community of Jonestown is now feeling the effects of the growing new town of Columbia, which is almost at her door step. Fort Meade has offered to give the present congregation one of their unneeded chapels to be moved to this site. It is interesting to note that this will be the second chapel moved to this site if this occurs. It is hoped that the present chapel will be used in some way and remain here, an example of a small gothic country chapel. It is representative of the simple manner in which gothic architecture was adapted for use in the country chapels which dotted the American landscape and served the rural communities of nineteenth century America. Its location, so close to Route 108 and to the new town of Columbia makes it particularly vulnerable.

Historically and architecturally noteworthy, Mount Pisgah AME Church should be placed on the National Register and included in any future local landmark legislation.

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Ho -440  
Dist. 6

Interview with Mrs. Edith Christian Curtis,  
October 5, 1977.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .5 acres

Please see Attachment 1, Tax Map 30, Block 24, p. 217

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Please see liber 74, folio 530  
Howard County Land Records.

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 465-5000 x257

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

LOT 61-B  
15.00A.

P267  
SEC. III  
LOT-62

H.R.D.C.  
P/O R26  
5.00A.

P268  
OAKLAND RIDGE  
SEC. III  
EQUESTRIAN CENTER  
32.05A.  
O.S.

P/O  
PAR-A.  
P/O SEC 3  
5.23A

31

Attachment 1  
Ho - 440  
Bellow's Springs Methodist Church  
Mt. Pisgah A.M.E Church  
Tax Map 30

66  
67

LOT 2  
O.R.I.P.  
SEC. I

P239

P269

P302

P330

RED BRANCH RD

OAKLAND RIDGE  
INDUSTRIAL PARK SEC. II

O.R.I.P.  
SEC. II - RE-SUB  
LOT 60

P297

VINCENT J. MIANULLI  
705/24  
26.90A.  
P.106

BD. OF  
CO. COMM.  
220/239, 230/473  
P.31

COLONIAL CORNER  
SERVICES CORP  
685/526  
101.57A.  
P.73

BD. OF ED.  
OF HO. CO.  
497/70  
10.00A.  
P.282

VIL. OF  
LONGCREACH  
SEC. I AREA I  
P289

P315

P301

ROUND TABLE  
FARMS, INC.  
786/534  
5.98A.  
P.332

OWENS  
312/386  
6.00A  
P.249

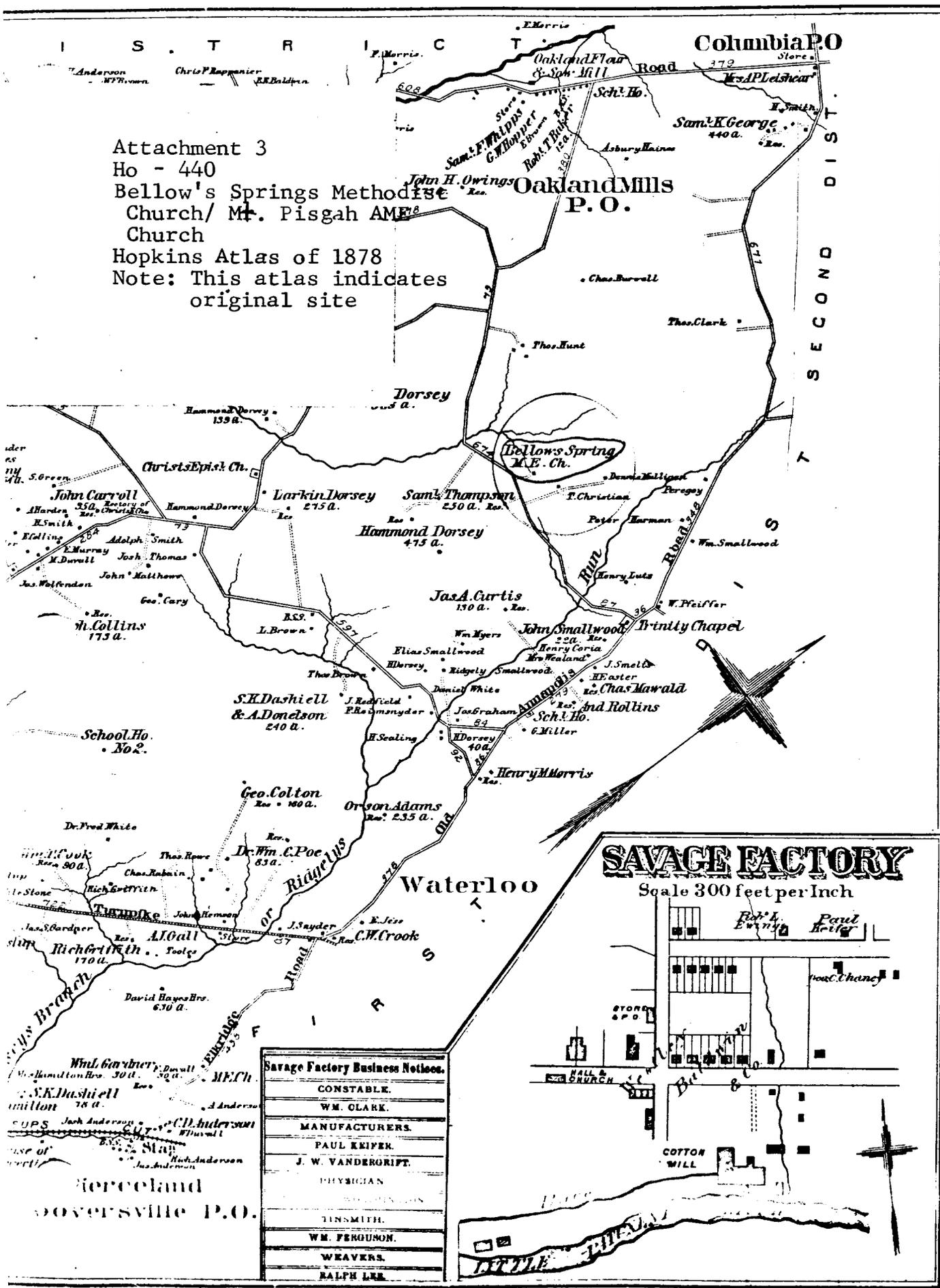
MAP 36-P.3

MAP 36-P.353

MAP 31-P.488

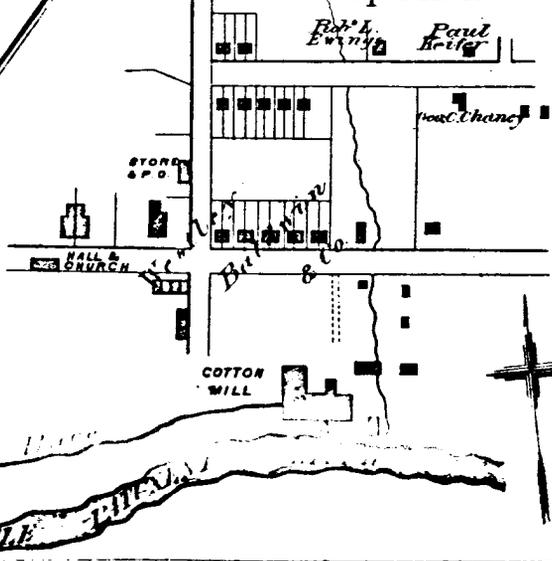
MAP 31-P.250

Attachment 3  
 Ho - 440  
 Bellow's Springs Methodist  
 Church/ Mt. Pisgah AME  
 Church  
 Hopkins Atlas of 1878  
 Note: This atlas indicates  
 original site



**SAVAGE FACTORY**

Scale 300 feet per Inch



**Savage Factory Business Notices.**

CONSTABLE.
WM. CLARK.
MANUFACTURERS.
PAUL KRIFER.
J. W. VANDERGRIFT.
PHYSICIAN.
W. FERGUSON.
TINSMITH.
WEAVERS.
RALPH LEE.

Attachment 2  
Ho - 440  
Bellow's Springs Methodist  
Church/ Mt. Pisgah AME Church  
U.S. Geological Survey Map  
Savage, Maryland Quadrangle

