

S-44

## Joshua Thomas Chapel (Deal Island Methodist Church)

### **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.

All material is property of the Maryland Historical Trust.

***Last Updated: 10-02-2003***

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

### 1. Name of Property

historic name St. John's Methodist Episcopal Church and Joshua Thomas Chapel  
other names/site number St. John's United Methodist Church S-365 &  
S-44

### 2. Location

street & number Deal Island Road (MD 363) N/A  not for publication  
city, town Deal Island N/A  vicinity  
state Maryland code MD county Somerset code 039 zip code 21821

### 3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>2</u>	<u>0</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>1</u>	<u>      </u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u> objects
		<u>3</u>	<u>0</u> Total

of related multiple property listing: N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

### 4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

*[Signature]* Signature of certifying official STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER Date 9/12/90

State or Federal agency and bureau \_\_\_\_\_

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

State or Federal agency and bureau \_\_\_\_\_

### 5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register.  See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register.  See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

S-44 & S-465

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION/religious structure  
FUNERARY/cemetery

RELIGION/religious structure  
FUNERARY/cemetery

7. Description

Architectural Classification  
(enter categories from instructions)

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

Greek Revival  
Gothic

foundation BRICK  
walls WEATHERBOARD  
ALUMINUM  
roof ASPHALT  
other WOOD

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

DESCRIPTION SUMMARY:

This complex consists of St. John's Methodist Episcopal Church, an 1879 frame Gothic building, Joshua Thomas Chapel, an 1850 Greek Revival frame structure, and the surrounding cemetery with nineteenth and twentieth century burials and markers. St. John's Church has a brick foundation, a steeply pitched roof, a three story bell tower rising on the northwest corner, shed roofed additions along the sides, and Gothic arched windows. On the interior, the church is characterized by large chamfered support posts with decorated corner brackets, pressed metal decoration, an altar rail with turned balusters, and an elaborately decorated balcony rail with heavy sawn balusters. Joshua Thomas Chapel is a rectangularly shaped pedimented gable-front one story structure sheathed in weatherboards with three double hung windows (12/12 lights) along the sides, and a pilastered entranceway with double doors. On the interior, the window and door surrounds are plain with undecorated corner blocks. The wooden pews have scrolled armrests. Surrounding the buildings is the tightly packed cemetery characterized by various types of grave markers and fencing.

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Continuation SheetSt. John's Methodist Episcopal Church  
and Joshua Thomas Chapel  
Somerset County, Maryland

365

S-44 &amp; S-465

Section number 7 Page 1GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

The St. John's Methodist Episcopal Church and Joshua Thomas Chapel complex stands on the east side of Deal Island Road, State Route 363, near the center of the community of Deal Island, Somerset County, Maryland. The complex consists of the 1879 Gothic St. John's Church, the 1850 Greek Revival Joshua Thomas Chapel, and the surrounding cemetery. The St. John's building has an east/west axis. The chapel sets at an angle several feet to the southeast of the church.

Built in 1879 with minor renovation in 1924, the St. John's Church (S-365) rests on a continuous brick foundation and is uniformly sheathed with aluminum siding. A steeply pitched roof is covered with asphalt tiles. Rising on the northwest corner is a three-story bell tower.

The west road side elevation of the church is lighted by Gothic arched tripartite windows on two levels. The eave is bracketed and trimmed with decorative sawnwork in the peak. To the north is the three-story bell tower which contains a double-door entrance in the first floor. Victorian molded doors are topped by a three-pane Gothic arched transom. Lighting the second level are clover-leaf shaped windows. The belfry consists of four principal posts that flank Gothic arched bays which mark each side. Turned baluster railings stretch between each pair of posts. A tapered octagonal spire rises from the belfry and is topped by a ball finial.

The south side of the church is covered on the first floor by a shed addition that contains the principal double-door entrance in the west bay. The entrance bay is distinguished by a gable roof that interrupts the shed, and the double-door entrance is topped by a Gothic arched colored glass transom. East of the entrance are two sets of lancet windows that pierce the outside shed wall. The center set of three windows is covered by a shed roof slightly raised above the main shed, since the center set of windows is longer than the shed wall. Piercing the wall space between the shed and the main church roof is a series of six lancet windows of clear or etched glass.

The north side of the church is detailed in a similar manner as the south side with a shed roofed section and a row of clerestory windows. The east end of the church has a projecting single-story apse as well as rear Gothic arched entrances. Narrow brick stove stacks rise from the rear wall, and a round colored glass window is located in the upper gable.

See Continuation Sheet 7.2

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National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
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and Joshua Thomas Chapel  
Somerset County, Maryland365  
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The church interior is divided with a center aisle that connects the church vestibule with the altar. Large chamfered support posts with decorated corner braces support the side walls of the church and separate the side aisles from the main sanctuary. Located above the corner posts are clerestory windows and a row of pressed metal medallions. Covering the walls and ceiling are various pressed metal designs. The sanctuary walls are covered with an anchor motif, while a lobed block design covers the sanctuary ceiling. The interior of the Gothic arched apse is covered with pressed metal, and the corner is trimmed with rope molding. The altar is separated from the sanctuary by a semi-circular railing with turned balusters. The raised altar is furnished with turn of the century fittings. Some mid twentieth century wainscoting exists in limited areas.

Located in the rear of the sanctuary is a steep balcony stair with a chamfered newel post, heavy sawn balusters and a molded handrail. The balcony stair soffit is also covered with decorative patterned metal. The balcony railing on the second level follows along the same design with a decorative pattern to the sawn balusters.

The Joshua Thomas Chapel (S-44), erected in 1850, is a gable-front church supported by a raised common bond brick foundation. It is sheathed with a uniform layer of weatherboards. The medium pitched roof is covered with asphalt shingles. Located immediately south of the front steps is the grave marker of Reverend Joshua Thomas.

The westerly or front elevation is a pedimented facade with a center double door entrance. The pair of paneled doors is framed by a simply executed entablature with plain pilasters. The pediment is highlighted by a stepped bed molding, and the flush board tympanum is pierced by an eight-pane rectangular window.

Each side of the church has three evenly spaced twelve-over-twelve sash windows. The base of the roof is finished with a boxed cornice with a stepped bed molding. The rear (east) elevation of the buildings is a plain weatherboard wall.

The interior of the chapel has been modified over the years with the addition of beaded board wainscoting. The windows and doors are simply framed with plain surrounds with undecorated corner blocks. A plain rectangular-shaped surround frames the space behind the altar, and two large support posts are centered within the room. The church furniture consists of a mid nineteenth-century altar and Victorian pews.

Surrounding the church and chapel is a cemetery of nineteenth and twentieth century burial sites and markers. Three family plots are distinguished by iron fences made by the Stewart Iron Works (3rd and Calvert streets, Cincinnati, Ohio). One is the Gibson family and two mark Webster family burials.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally  statewide  locally

Applicable National Register Criteria  A  B  C  D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)  A  B  C  D  E  F  G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Religion

Significant Person

N/A

Period of Significance

1828-1900

Significant Dates

1850

1879

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY:

The significance of the Deal Island complex formed by the St. John's Methodist Episcopal Church and the Joshua Thomas Chapel derives from the architectural character of the buildings and historic association with Methodism in Somerset County. Architecturally, the Joshua Thomas Chapel, built in 1850, is the finest example of the Greek Revival churches built in the county in the mid nineteenth century. Only two examples survive. The other church, St. Mark's Episcopal Church near Kingston, is smaller in scale and almost devoid of decoration. St. Mark's appears to be closer to typical of what was built than Joshua Thomas is. St. John's Church, erected in 1879, is one of the earliest examples of the more complexly designed and decorated churches being built in Somerset in the last quarter of the century. The earliest extant one of this type, the Upper Fairmount Methodist Episcopal Church built in 1873, is less complex in design than the St. John's Church which is only one story in height but gives the illusion of being two stories. Historically, the site of St. John's Methodist Episcopal Church and Joshua Thomas Chapel is the oldest site in Somerset County in continuous use for Methodist meetings. Meetings began in tents in 1828. As the Deal Island group grew in size and strength, the chapel and then the church were built. Through most of the nineteenth century and into the twentieth, Methodism has been the most predominant religious sect in Somerset County. The earliest gathering is thought to have been held on Deal Island possibly as early as 1781.

See Continuation Sheet 8.1

See continuation sheet 8.1 for HISTORIC CONTEXT and MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN data.

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St. John's Methodist Episcopal Church  
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HISTORIC CONTEXT:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Eastern Shore

Chronological/Developmental Period(s):

Agricultural-Industrial Transition A.D. 1815-1870

Industrial/Urban Dominance A.D. 1870-1930

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme(s):

Architecture/Landscape Architecture/Community Planning

Religion

Resource Type:

Category: Buildings

Historic Environment: Village

Historic Function(s) and Use(s):

RELIGION/religious structure

FUNERARY/cemetery

Known Design Source: None

See Continuation Sheet 8.2

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSt. John's Methodist Episcopal Church  
and Joshua Thomas Chapel  
Somerset County, MarylandS-44 & S-465 <sup>365</sup>Section number 8 Page 2HISTORIC CONTEXT:

Methodism is an important aspect of Somerset County history. By the close of the nineteenth century, Methodism had become the predominant religious sect in this rural county. In the years following the American Revolution, particularly after 1800, Methodism rapidly expanded over the Delmarva Peninsula where Somerset County is located. At one point, despite significant national growth, nearly 19 percent of the Methodist membership lived on the peninsula. With this growth, Methodist churches were built in practically every town and rural community. By the close of the century the largest church structures in most towns were the Methodist churches.

Methodist gatherings in Somerset County are believed to have started on Deal Island possibly as early as 1781. On the present site of the St. John's Church and Joshua Thomas Chapel complex, meetings have been held since 1828. At first these meetings were held in tents. In 1850, the congregation was strong and wealthy enough to build the present chapel. In less than thirty years, growth presented the need for larger facilities and the St. John's church was built. In both instances, the buildings were constructed in fashionable modes. St. John's Church is one of the more complexly designed of the last quarter nineteenth century churches built in Somerset County.

The chapel is named in honor of Joshua Thomas, known as the "Parson of the Islands," who was a convert to Methodism who organized and held Methodist services on Tangier and Smith islands in Maryland and Virginia. During the British occupation of Tangier Island, Virginia in 1814, Thomas held services for the encamped soldiers. Later in his ministry, Thomas served several congregations on the lower Eastern Shore by traveling in his log canoe, "The Methodist." Around 1825, he relocated his family to Deal Island where he continued to minister the faith locally and afar. He delivered his last sermon in the present Joshua Thomas Chapel. Thomas is buried at the southwest corner of the building.

This site is historically known as Park's Grove. Accompanying the church on the knoll during the second half of the nineteenth century were an academy, post office, camp round, and meeting hall for the Sons of Temperance.

Architecturally, the Joshua Thomas Chapel is the best preserved of the Greek Revival churches. The austere Greek Revival design of the Joshua Thomas Chapel is not unusual to rural communities where modest finances and conservative philosophies often affected community-built structures. The exterior stylistic references were limited to the gable-front pediment and the simple classical surround that frames the double-door opening. The interior was finished in a similarly plain fashion with simple Greek Revival door and window surrounds.

See Continuation Sheet 8.3

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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St. John's United Methodist Church provides an interesting contrast to its nearby Greek Revival predecessor, the Joshua Thomas Chapel. Following recommended designs published in circulated literature on proper church architecture, the Deal Island Methodists financed the construction of an impressive Gothic Revival church. Attached to the northwest corner of the bi-level building was a three-story bell tower. Inside, the church walls were covered with pressed metal sheeting. One pattern that incorporated an anchor motif obviously related to the sea-faring occupations of many of its congregations. The church cemetery is also significant for its collection of iron fence that highlights several family burial plots.

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties: Somerset County. Maryland Historical Trust, Annapolis.

Touart, Paul Baker. Somerset: An Architectural History. Maryland Historical Trust and Somerset County Historical Trust, Inc., 1990.

Williams, William Henry. The Garden of American Methodism: The Delmarva Peninsula 1769-1820. Wilmington, Del: Scholarly Resources, Inc., 1984.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: \_\_\_\_\_

10. Geographical Data

Area of property 2.5 acres  
USGS Quad: Deal Island, MD

UTM References

A 18 417010 4223260  
 Zone Easting Northing

C \_\_\_\_\_

B \_\_\_\_\_  
 Zone Easting Northing

D \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

See continuation sheet 10.1

Boundary Justification

See continuation sheet 10.1

Form Prepared By

name/title Paul Baker Touart, Architectural Historian  
 organization Somerset County Historical Trust date 10/15/87  
 street & number P.O. Box 5 telephone (301)651-1094  
 city or town Westover state Maryland zip code 21871

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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St. John's Methodist Episcopal Church  
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Section number 10 Page 1

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

All that lot or parcel of land situate in Deal Island Election District, Somerset County, Maryland, beginning for the same at the northwest corner of the church property along Deal Island Road (State Route 363) and heading in a easterly direction for approximately 450 feet to a point that serves as the northeast corner of the church lot, thence due south for approximately 187 feet to a point, thence due east for 75 feet to another point, thence due south for 37.5 feet, thence due east once more for another 37.5 feet to a point, thence due south partially following the western edge of a dirt road for 450 feet to a point that establishes the southeast corner of the church lot, thence in a westerly direction for 150 feet to a point along the east side of Deal Island Road, thence by and with the east side of the aforesaid road for approximately 750 feet to the place of beginning, containing 2.5 acres more or less. See map on Continuation Sheet No. 10.2

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION:

The 2.5 acres accompanying this nomination includes two churches, St. John's United Methodist Church and the Joshua Thomas Chapel as well as a significant collection of nineteenth-century tombstones and cemetery fence. The boundary line on the west side follows the Deal Island Road, which has been in use throughout the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. The other, irregular boundary lines to the north, east and south are more arbitrary and separate the church lot from adjacent ground that is not significant to the nomination.

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Maryland
COUNTY: Somerset
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
Joshua Thomas Chapel and Grave of Joshua Thomas

AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
east side of Maryland Route 363

CITY OR TOWN:  
Deale Island

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:  
First

STATE: Maryland CODE: 24 COUNTY: Somerset CODE: 039

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
St. John's Methodist Church Trustees and Successors

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:  
Deale Island

STATE:  
Maryland

CODE:  
24

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Somerset County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Prince William and Main Streets

CITY OR TOWN:  
Princess Anne

STATE:  
Maryland

CODE:  
24

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY:  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
Maryland Historical Trust

STREET AND NUMBER:  
2525 Riva Road

CITY OR TOWN:  
Annapolis

STATE:  
Maryland

CODE:  
24

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Maryland	FOR NPS USE ONLY
COUNTY: Somerset	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

5-44

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" 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"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Joshua Thomas Chapel is located in a cemetery behind St. John's Methodist Church on the east side of Maryland Route 363 on Deale Island. The simple one story frame structure on a brick foundation presents a typical example of a mid-19th century ecclesiastical structure on the southern Eastern Shore. The entrance on the west gable end is comprised of large double doors each with five panels. The architrave which covers both doors has corner blocks. This motif is repeated through out the chapel. The four over four pane window in the pediment comprises the only fenestration on the west facade.

The north and south elevations each have long, nine over nine sash windows. A chimney rises out of the roof on the south elevation between the center and westernmost window. The entire structure is encircled with a plain cornice.

The interior consists of one large room with four piers in the center which support the roof. A narrow platform with a simple pulpit sits at the east end.

Joshua Thomas' grave is located in the adjoining cemetery.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	<u>local History</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input 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 Joshua Thomas Chapel was named for a Methodist preacher whose ministry to the people of the islands on the Eastern Shore is still remembered locally over a century after his death. The annual Joshua Thomas Memorial Day, the Sunday before Labor Day, continues to draw large crowds of Methodists and is indicative of Thomas' strong local importance.

Thomas, called the "Parson of the Islands," traveled from island to island in a dugout canoe called "The Methodist." In 1814 he preached to British troops on Tangier Island and correctly predicted their defeat at Baltimore. In 1850, largely owing to his efforts this chapel was built. It provided a permanent home for Methodists who had previously worshipped out of doors.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Webster, Elwood W., Chairman, Board of Trustees, St. John's Methodist Church, Deale Island, Maryland. Notes, April 1972. Files of Maryland Historical Trust, Annapolis, Maryland,

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		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: one

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:  
 Michael O. Bourne, Coordinator for Field Survey

ORGANIZATION: Maryland Historical Trust      DATE: April 30, 1973

STREET AND NUMBER:  
 2525 Riva Road

CITY OR TOWN: Annapolis      STATE: Maryland      CODE: 24

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION      NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National     State     Local

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date \_\_\_\_\_

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

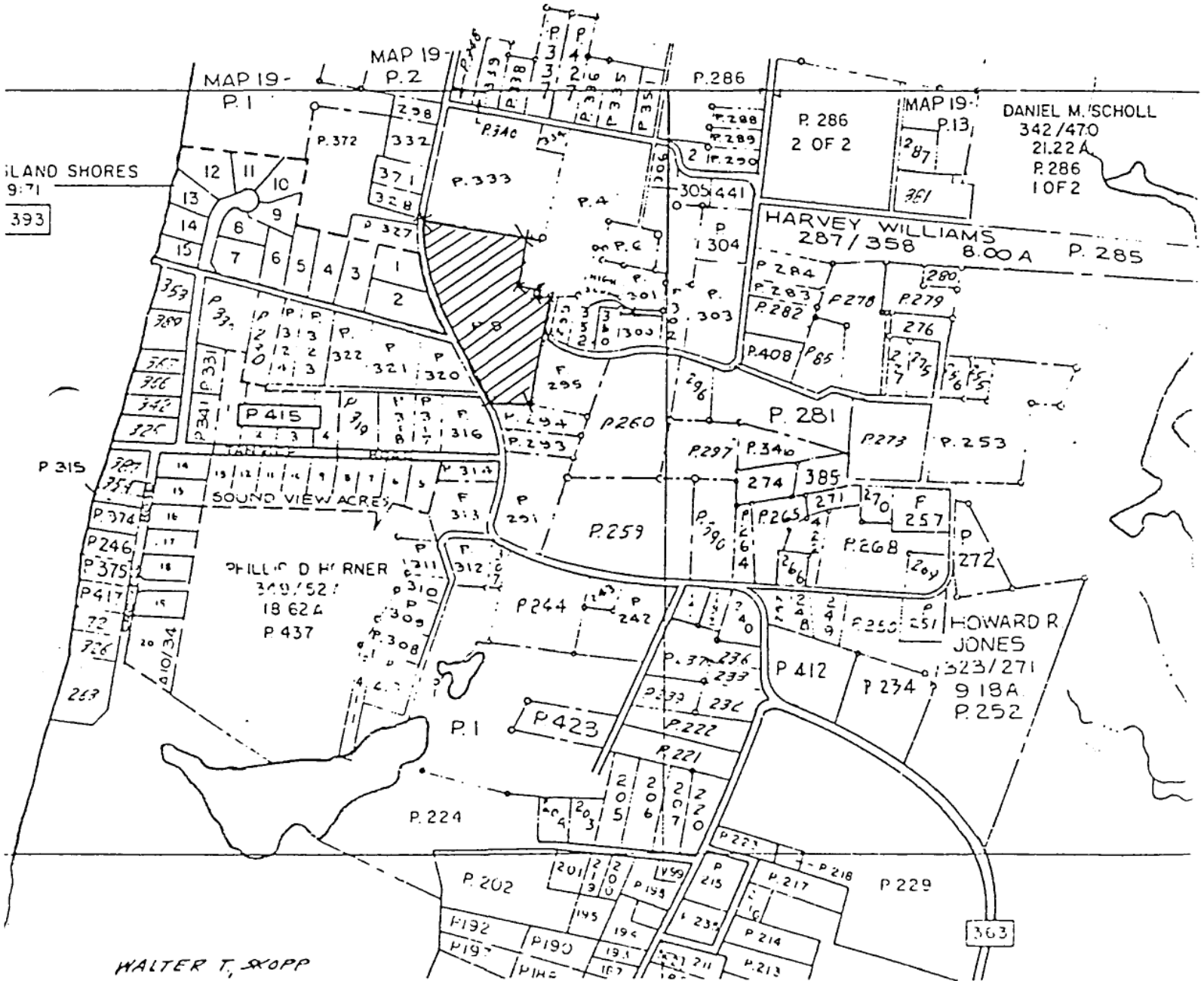
United States Department of the Interior  
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Continuation Sheet

St. John's Methodist Episcopal Church  
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S-44

1850

Joshua Thomas Chapel  
Deal Island  
public worship

The Joshua Thomas chapel holds a critically prominent place in the history of Methodism for the lower Shore. Architecturally, the gable front church is the oldest surviving building that housed a Methodist congregation in Somerset County. Methodist gatherings were begun as early as 1781 on Deal Island, and tent meetings were held at "Evan's Hill," beginning on July 17, 1828. In 1849 the place of worship was relocated to "Park's Grove," the former name for the current church site. Father Joshua Thomas delivered his final sermon in this chapel in 1850, and after his death in 1853, he was buried at the south corner of the building. Accompanying the church on the knoll during the second half of the nineteenth century were an academy, the post office, the camp ground, and a meeting hall for the Sons of Temperance. Surrounding the gable front Greek Revival style chapel is the extensive nineteenth and twentieth century cemetery, and standing due west is the second church, St. Johns Methodist Episcopal Church (S-365).

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Joshua Thomas Chapel

and/or common

## 2. Location

street & number East side of Deal Island Road (MD363)  not for publication

city, town Deal Island  vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Somerset

## 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	<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

## 4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Trustees of St. Johns U.M. Church

street & number c/o Rev. Harry Patterson telephone no.:

city, town Deal Island state and zip code MD 21821

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Somerset Co. Clerk of Court liber

street & number Somerset County Courthouse folio

city, town Princess Anne state MD 21853

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Maryland Historical Sites Inventory

date 1967  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Maryland Historical Trust

city, town Annapolis state MD 21401

# 7. Description

Survey No. S-44

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

## Joshua Thomas Chapel description

The Joshua Thomas Chapel stands on a elevated knoll on the east side of Deal Island Road in the center of the village of Deal Island, Somerset County, Maryland. The single-story gable front frame church is surrounded by cemetery, and standing near the chapel is St. John's United Methodist Church, the main building. Facing west, the frame chapel is oriented on an east/west axis.

Erected in 1850, the gable-front church is supported by a raised common bond brick foundation, and it is sheathed with weatherboards. The medium pitched roof is covered with asphalt shingles. Located immediately south of the front steps is the grave site of Joshua Thomas.

The west (main) elevation is a pedimented facade with a center double door entrance. The pair of paneled doors is framed by a simply executed entablature with plain pilasters. The pediment is highlighted by a stepped bed molding, and the flush board tympanum is pierced by an eight-pane rectangular window.

Each side of the church has three evenly spaced twelve-over twelve sash windows. The base of the roof is finished with a boxed cornice with a stepped bed molding. The back of the building is a plain weatherboard wall.

The interior of the chapel has been somewhat remodeled, but the Victorian pews remain as well as a mid nineteenth-century altar. The few doors and windows are framed by plain surrounds with plain corner blocks. Beaded board wainscoting has been added to the perimeter of the room. A simple rectangular shaped surround frames the space behind the altar and two large support posts are centered within the room.

# 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 type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates** 1850 **Builder/Architect**

check: Applicable Criteria:  A  B  C  D  
 and/or  
 Applicable Exception:  A  B  C  D  E  F  G  
 Level of Significance:  national  state  local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

SIGNIFICANCE

The Joshua Thomas Chapel holds a critically prominent place in the history of Methodism in Somerset County. Architecturally, the chapel is the oldest surviving building that housed a Methodist congregation, established as early as 1781. Built in 1850 and named in honor of Reverend Joshua Thomas, this building follows the Greek Revival style with its pedimented gable front. The building has received only slight modifications since it was erected.

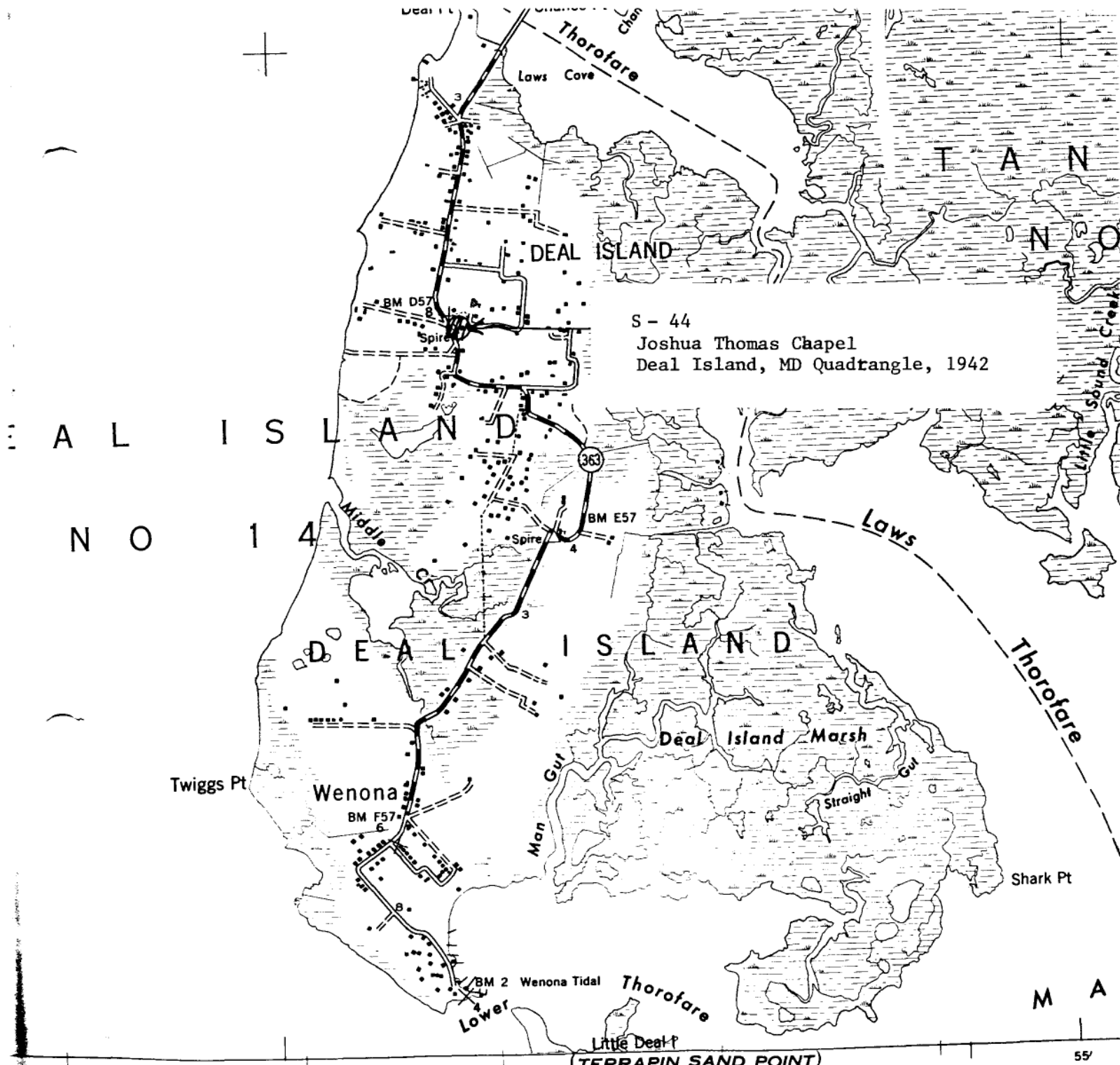


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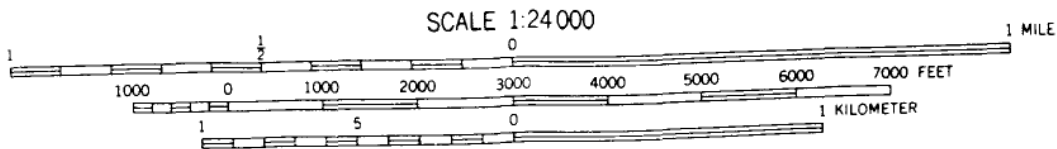
Form 10-445  
(5/62)

1. STATE Maryland COUNTY Somerset TOWN Deal Island VICINITY S-44 STREET NO.  ORIGINAL OWNER Deal Island Methodist ORIGINAL USE Church PRESENT OWNER Deal Island Methodist PRESENT USE Church WALL CONSTRUCTION Clapboard NO. OF STORIES 1		HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY INVENTORY	
		2. NAME Deal Island Methodist Church  DATE OR PERIOD 1850 (dated) STYLE Greek Revival ARCHITECT BUILDER	
		3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE	
4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION		OPEN TO PUBLIC Yes	
<p>This building is the Joshua Thomas Chapel at the rear of the present Deal Island Methodist Church which is a nondescript Victorian structure. The chapel is a late Greek Revival structure, a type which is unusual in Somerset County. There are double doors on the front, which <del>has</del> <sup>has</sup> the small rectangular window in the pediment.</p> <p>At present the chapel appears to be unused.</p> <p>Joshua Thomas is buried beneath the chapel. He is famous for spreading Methodism through this part of Maryland.</p>			
5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE		Endangered Interior Exterior	
Deteriorating			
6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional)		7. PHOTOGRAPH	
8. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Pages) INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC.		9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER Paul A. Brinkman  2/8/67  DATE OF RECORD	

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION AND PHOTOGRAPHS MAY BE ADDED ON SHEET OF SAME SIZE



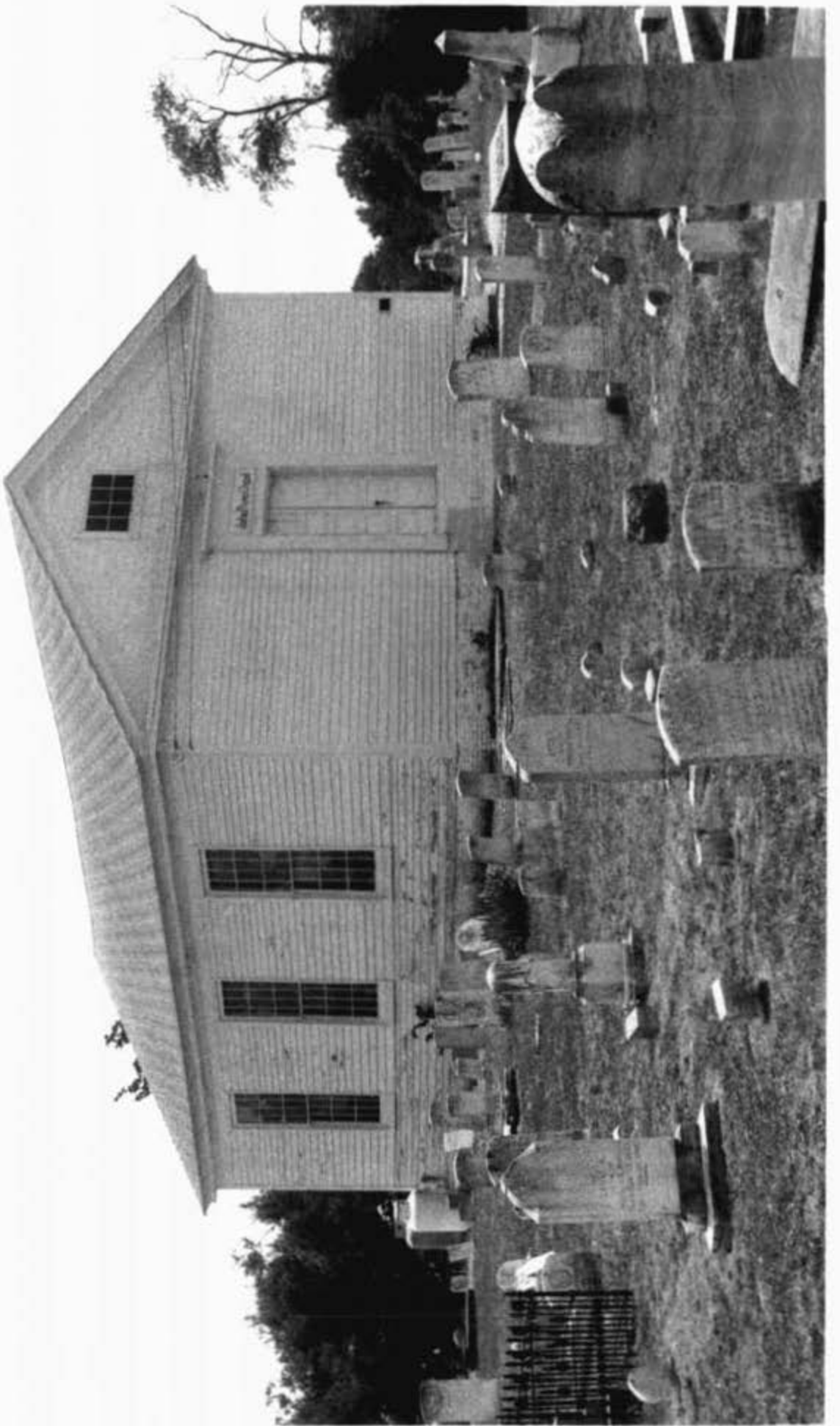
S - 44  
 Joshua Thomas Chapel  
 Deal Island, MD Quadrangle, 1942



MAXIMUM GROUND ELEVATION 8 FEET  
 DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL

10,000-FOOT GRID TICKS, MARYLAND PLANE COORDINATE SYSTEM, SHOWN IN BLACK  
 1000-METER GRID TICKS, UNIVERSAL TRANSVERSE MERCATOR SYSTEM, ZONE 18, SHOWN IN BLUE

REPRINTED FROM MILITARY EDITION FOR CIVIL USE  
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 A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



Joshua Thomas Chapel S-44

Deal Island, Somerset Co. Md.

Northwest Elevation

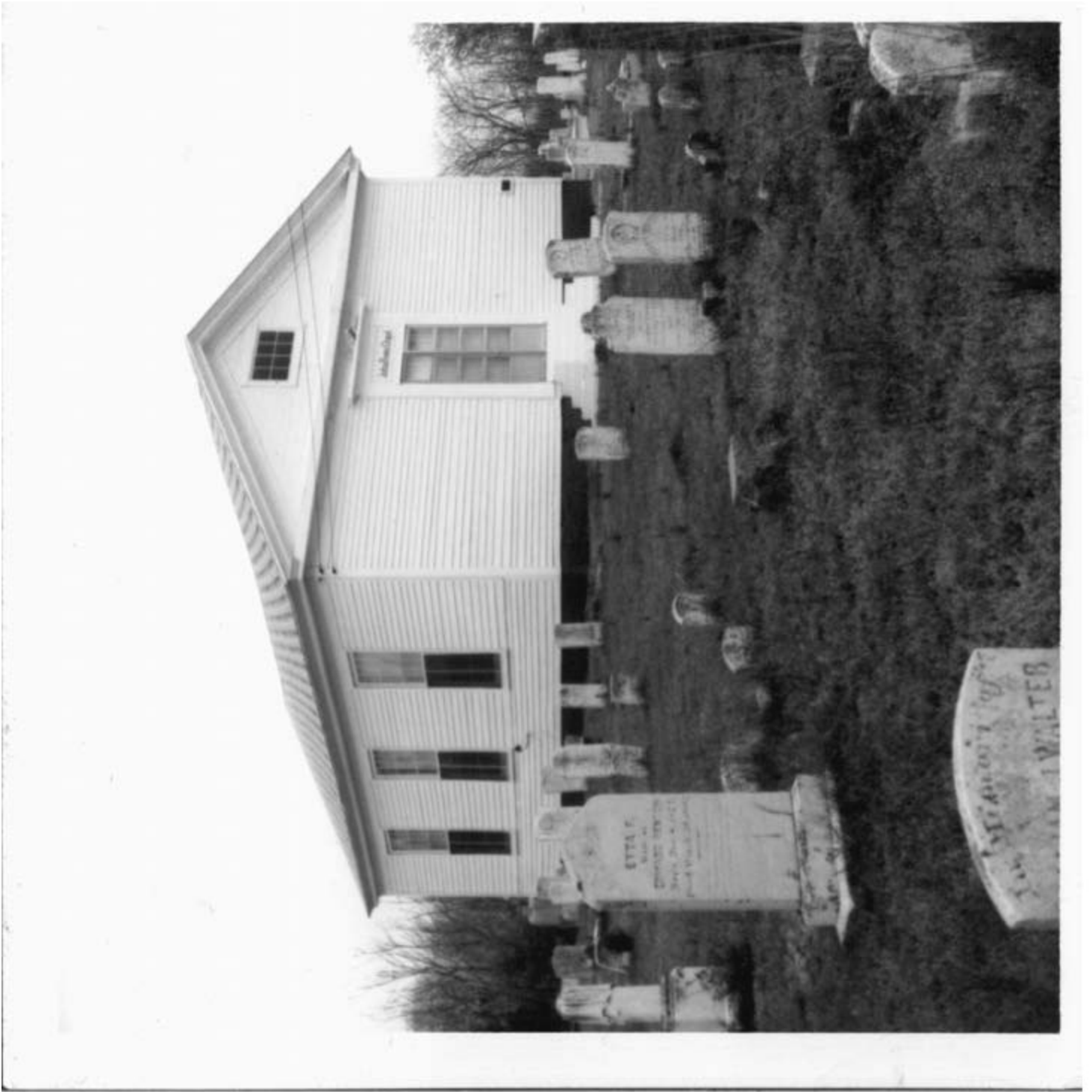
7/86, Paul Touart Photographer

Neg/Md. Historical Trust



S-44

Joshua Thomas Chapel  
Deal Island, Somerset Co., Md.  
Northwest Elevation  
8/86, Paul Touart, Photographer  
Neg./Md. Historical Trust



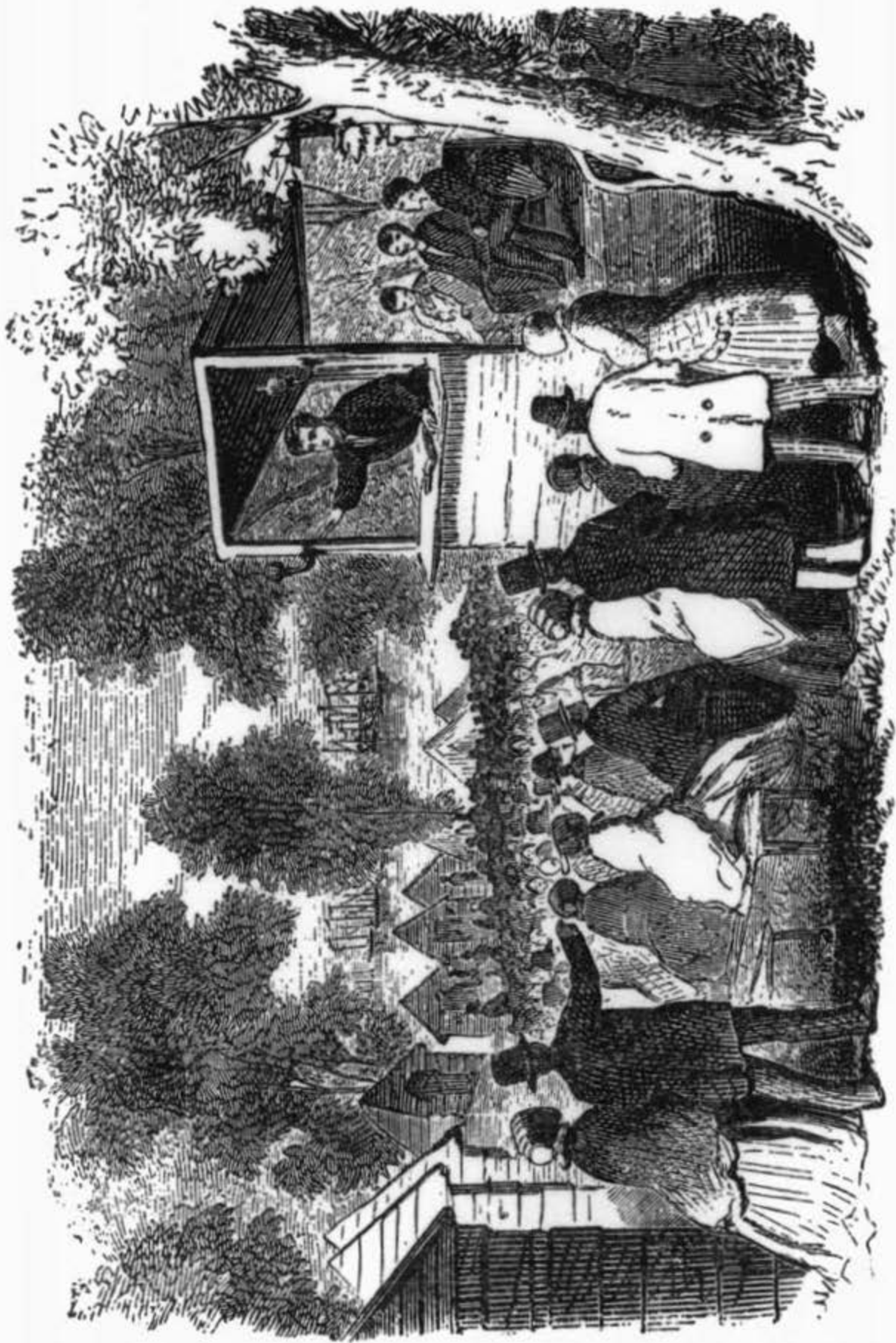
544

28



Joshua Thomas Chapel  
Deal Island, Somerset Co. Md.  
North elevation  
7/86, Paul Touart, Photographer

S-44



DEAL'S ISLAND CAMP MEETING

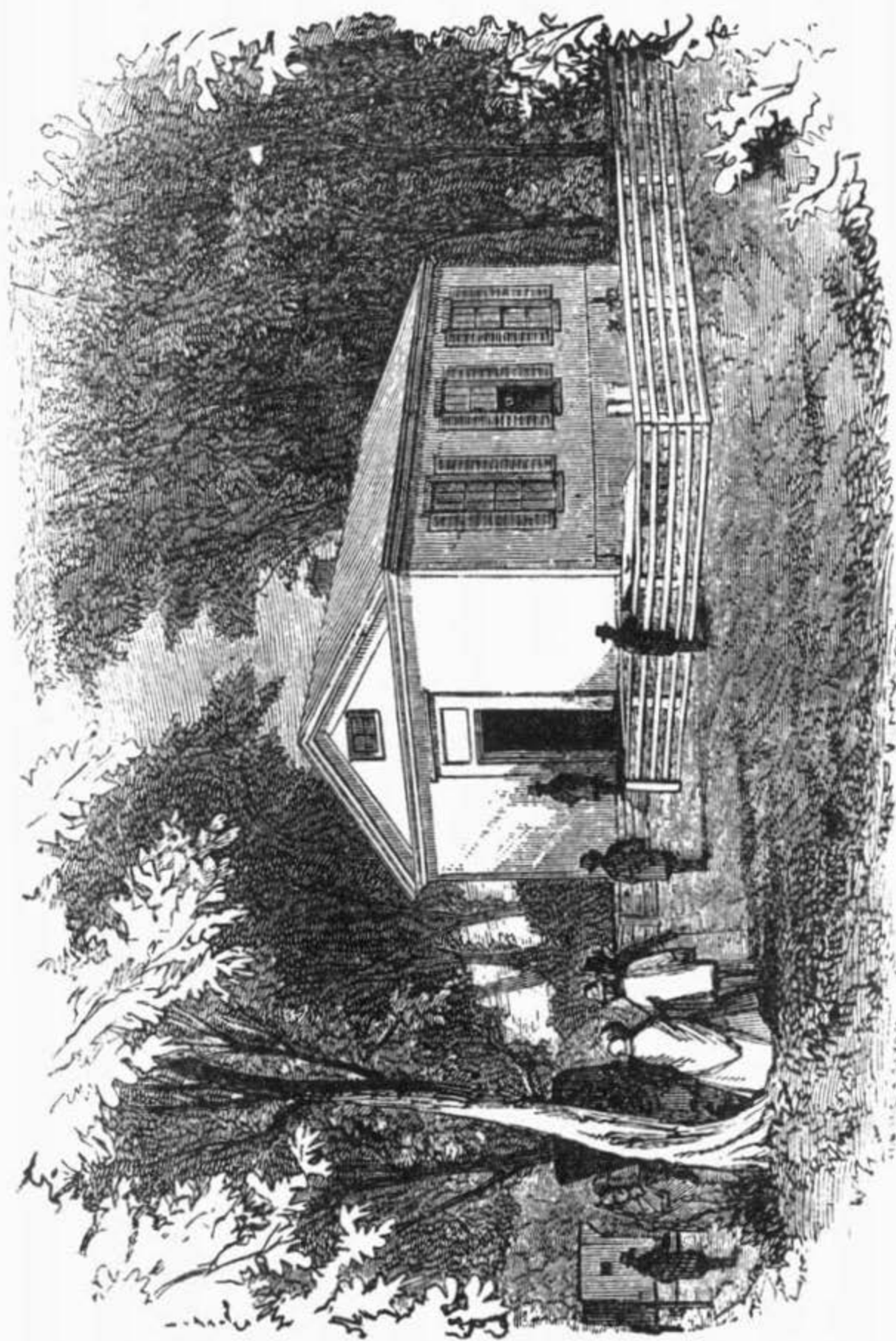
S-44

Deal Island Camp Meeting

Taken from The Parson of the Islands

By Adam Wallace, 1872, p. 93

Neg./Md. Historical Trust



DEAL'S ISLAND M. E. CHURCH—GRAVE OF REV. JOSHUA THOMAS

Engraving of Joshua Thomas Chapel S-44

Taken from The Parson of the Islands

By Adam Wallace, 1872, p. 151

Neg./Md. Historical Trust



S-44

Joshua Thomas Chapel Cemetery

Deal Island, Somerset Co., Md.

Cemetery

8/86, Paul Touart, Photographer

Neg./Md. Historical Trust



Joshua Thomas Chapel S-44

Deal Island, Somerset Co., Md.

Chapel Interior  
8/86, Paul Touart, Photographer  
Neg./Md. Historical Trust

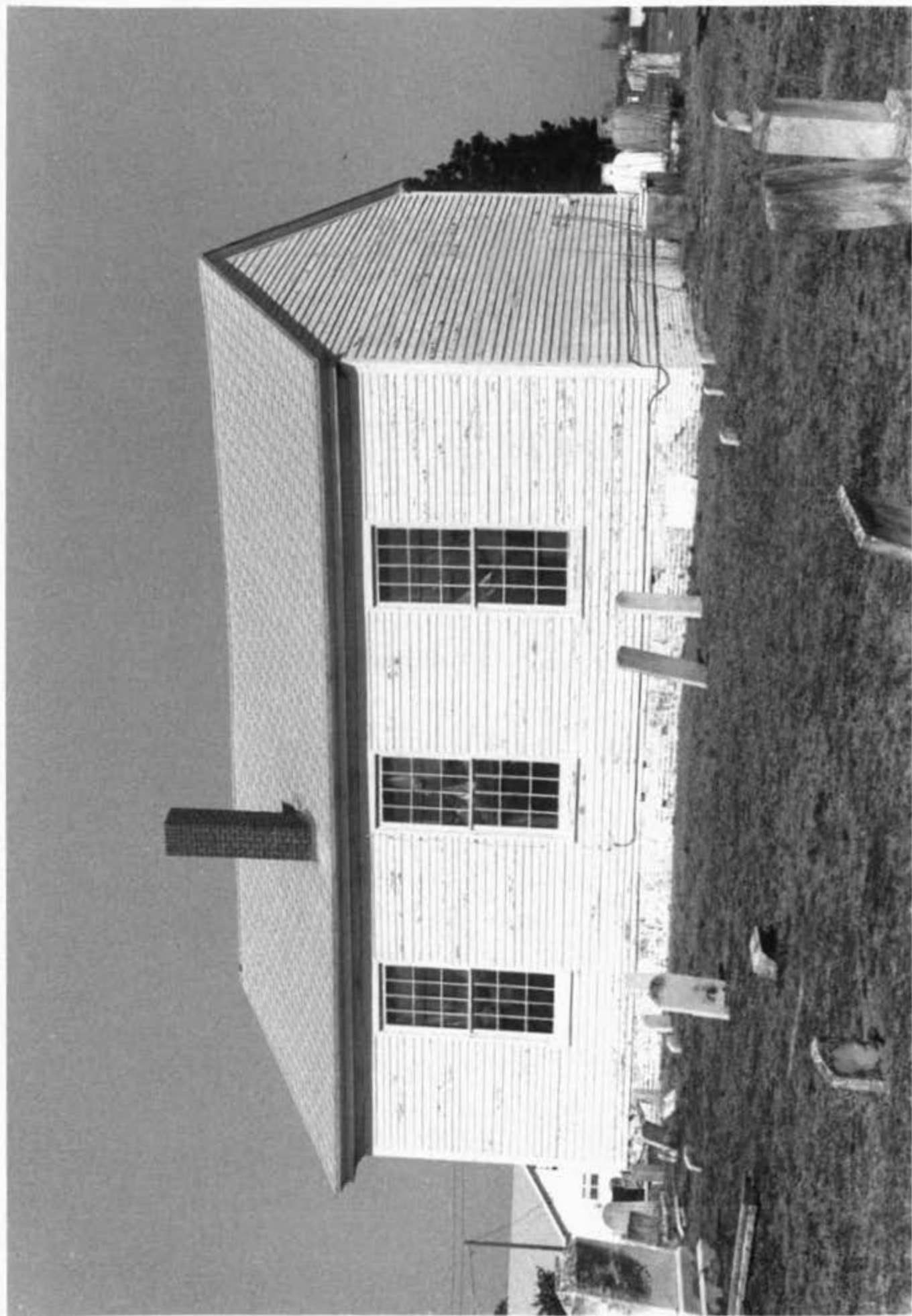


Joshua Thomas Chapel  
Deal Island, Somerset Co. Md.

S-44

Pews

7/86, Paul Touart, Photographer  
Neg/Md. Historical Trust



S. 44

DeSoto Transit Center -

DeSoto, 151st and 140th Street, DeSoto, MO

Sumner, 151st and 140th Street

W. 151st and 140th Street, Pittsburg, MO

W. 151st and 140th Street