

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 for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Lappans

other names/site number WA-II-024

2. Location

street 18313 Lappans Road

not for publication n/a city or town Boonsboro vicinity x

state Maryland code MD county Washington code 043 zip code 21713

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this x 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 x meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ___ nationally ___ statewide x locally. (___ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official

6-30-99

Date

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria. (___ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

=====

4. National Park Service Certification

=====

I, / hereby certify that this property is:

Edson H. Beall

- 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): _____

Edson H. Beall

Signature of Keeper

8.5.99
Date of Action

=====

5. Classification

=====

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing

Noncontributing

 1
 1

 2

 buildings [church]
 sites [cemetery]
 structures
 objects
 0 Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in National Register 0

Name of related multiple property listing n/a

=====

6. Function or Use

=====

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: RELIGION Sub: religious structure

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: RELIGION Sub: religious structure

=====

7. Description

=====

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

MID-19TH CENTURY/Gothic Revival

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation LIMESTONE
roof WOOD
walls LIMESTONE
other WOOD

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

=====
8. Statement of Significance
=====

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance 1849

Significant Dates 1849

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

n/a

Cultural Affiliation

n/a

Architect/Builder

Upton Morin, builder

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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 # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: _____

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10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of Property 2 acres

USGS quadrangle Funkstown, MD

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
A	<u>18</u>	<u>265060</u>	<u>4381280</u>	C	_____	_____
B	_____	_____	_____	D	_____	_____

See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description: Boundaries are defined by the stone masonry wall which encircles the historic churchyard. The north wall lies 9 feet south of the edge of the paved surface of Maryland Route 68.

Boundary Justification: The nominated property, 2 acres, encompasses the church within its historic setting. The adjacent Rectory is not included in this nomination because it was constructed outside the period of significance.

=====
11. Form Prepared By
=====

name/title Karl R. Sanford
organization _____ date October 1998
street & number 826 The Terrace telephone (301) 797-0525
city or town Hagerstown state MD zip code 21742

=====
Additional Documentation
=====

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

- A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

=====
Property Owner
=====

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name _____
street & number _____ telephone _____
city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

=====
Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Episcopal Church
Washington Co., MD

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Description Summary:

St. Mark's Episcopal Church is a Gothic Revival style stone building constructed in 1849. It is located on the south side of Maryland Route 68 about five miles south of Hagerstown in Washington County, Maryland. Rectangular in form, with a steeply-pitched gable roof, St. Mark's exemplifies a vernacular interpretation of the Gothic Revival style advocated by the Episcopal Church in the mid-nineteenth century. It is constructed of limestone, a material typically employed in superior buildings in the region during the period. The interior retains its early furnishings, and features an open ceiling with Gothic-arched framing. The resource retains a high degree of integrity, with the majority of its exterior and interior fabric and detailing intact. The church is situated within a picturesque churchyard encircled by a low stone wall.

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General Description

St. Mark's Episcopal Church - Lappans is located on the south side of Maryland Rt. 68, three tenths of a mile east of the intersection of Maryland Rt. 65 (aka: the Sharpsburg Pike). The wooded two acre property gently elevates toward the south and is surrounded by a stone masonry wall and dominated by the native limestone church erected in the center of the enclosed area. The church is surrounded on its eastern, southern and western sides by a cemetery of 173 markers.

The original portion of the church is rectangular in shape measuring 50 feet (including chancel) in a north-south direction and 25 feet in the east-west direction. Walls are two feet thick and seventeen feet high from base to joice and constructed of rough-cut native limestone. More smoothly cut limestone corners give the impression of quoins on the north facade. Mortar joints, once raised, are now, for the most part, worn flush to the limestone. The pointed, Gothic Revival style roof-line is finished with fire retardant cedar shingles most recently replaced in 1996. Entrance to the church is made through a centrally located north-facing wood portico covered with a wood construction Gothic Revival roof of a pitch to match the main structure. The portico is supported by two limestone pilasters measuring 7' 2" in height, 2 feet in thickness and 4 feet in depth. The original wood door is attached to the jamb by two black iron HL hinges 2.5 inches in width and twelve inches in length. Two limestone steps and one concrete step in front of the portico provide access into the nave. A single stained glass window of equilateral triangle shape is located above the door as a stationary transom thus completing the Gothic or "pointed" style of the doorway. The east and west facades are pierced with similar Gothic Revival style windows, three on each side and located at equal intervals. Each window measures 30" in width by 7 feet, 1 inch in height from sill to top of point. Three stained-glass windows covered with protective plexiglass are inserted in east facades. The west facade windows include two stained-glass windows and one leaded glass window of alternating green and translucent diamond shapes. The chancel, located at the southern end of the church measures 15 feet wide by 10 feet in depth with roof line mirroring that of the main roof. Centrally located in the southern chancel facade is a single stained glass window measuring 3 feet, 5 inches by 5 feet., 9 inches again in the "pointed" or Gothic style. To the east, the 1975 sacristy-work area, while maintaining the roof lines of the church measures 27 feet, 4 inches by 19 feet and is pierced by two windows each on the east and west facades. These windows measure 34 inches in width by 3 feet to the point. The sacristy is constructed with matching rough-cut native limestone facing over a more modern cinder block interior construction. The sacristy communicates directly with the chancel through the original exterior door and vestibule described in the 1848

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building specifications. A small portion of the original shed roof to the vestibule is observable on the east facade.

A single chimney, not the original, is located on the south-western corner of the church and rises approximately 8-9 feet above the eaves. The steeple, located on the north peak of the church roof rises another 12 feet and includes the original bell and electronic carrillon. The sides and roof of the steeple are shingled in material identical to the roof.

The interior nave of the church is floored with yellow pine laid in diagonal pattern to the walls. Brown stained, 3 inch tongue and groove beaded wainscoting 62 inches high surrounds the nave. Walls are canvas-over-plaster and painted white. The Gothic ceiling which parallels the roof pitch is finished with 3 inch brown stained tongue and groove yellow pine.

A staircase lying immediately to the left of the front door leads to the former gallery. Now supported by a steel I beam which inserts on the southern edge of the first set of stained-glass windows, the gallery houses the organ pipes on the west half and a small 3 tiered seating area on the east. The upper tier includes the access door to the steeple as well as the rope bell pull.

The center aisle, with eight pews on either side proceeds approximately forty feet before meeting the chancel area. Three steps, with handrails attached, access the chancel through a walnut rood screen which clearly demarcates the nave from the chancel. The chancel is elevated 20 inches from the floor of the nave. The first level of the chancel includes an enclosed pulpit on the right (west) and an open lectern on the left (east). The Sanctuary lies immediately south and accessed by one, six-inch step and visually separated from the rest of the chancel by a wood and brass rail with central opening. The somewhat lower ceiling of the sanctuary is covered in the same tongue and groove, brown-stained pine. To the left (east) of the sanctuary and through a door 6 feet 2 inches high with stained glass stationary transom lies a small, 5 ft. x 7 ft 8 in. room used originally as a sacristy and now as a staging area. Passing through this anteroom is the original outside door which opens into the 1975 addition. The door, with Gothic stationary transom is identical in dimensions to the previously mentioned sanctuary-to-sacristy door. The 1976 addition to extend the small sacristy was applied to the surface of the 1849 structure, thus leaving undisturbed the original architectural fabric of the church. Rectangular in shape, the new addition contains a vesting area and closets for service garments.

The stone wall surrounding the property is 48 - 52 in in height (variation according to grade) , 22" thick and topped with a mortar coping. Dimensions of the wall are:

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42' by 32' and located 9 feet from the asphalt surface of Md. Route 68. The wall is pierced once in the north face by a 12 ft main opening, once in the middle of the west face by a 3 ft opening to access the rectory and once in the rear (south) facade for access to the new portion of the cemetery.

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Significance Summary

St. Mark's Episcopal Church is significant under Criterion C for its architectural character, exemplifying the influence of the Ecclesiological movement in the design of Episcopal parish churches in rural Washington County, Maryland. In the 1840s, the Cambridge Camden Society (later the Ecclesiological Society) began an active campaign to promote the Gothic style associated with medieval English parish churches as the model for Anglican/Episcopal houses of worship in America. In its form and detailing, and in its masonry construction (utilizing the native limestone characteristic of the vernacular architecture of Washington County in the period), St. Mark's church reflects the influence of Ecclesiological principles.

The period during which this property was developed was marked by the expansion and further refinement of the agrarian society of late 18th and early 19th century Western Maryland. By the end of the first quarter of the 19th century, Washington County was a very prosperous region and economically based on diversified farming, particularly the growing of small grains such as wheat. In the movement westward, it was common for people of Maryland's eastern counties to penetrate further into the rich and fertile farmland of Washington County. This influx was facilitated by the refinement of transportation routes and, in particular, the National Road helped to bring prosperity to the area during the decades between 1820 - 1840. For Washington County, this was a period dominated by turnpike, bridge and canal construction. The C&O Canal was open as far as Williamsport by the mid 1830's and the B&O Railroad had reached Martinsburg, West Virginia in the same decade. More than 30 stone bridges were constructed in Washington County between 1819 - 1863 with major construction occurring in the 1820's and 1830's. As in previous periods, it was common for the more prosperous to select the local limestone for building material. Records demonstrate that limestone buildings had a higher value than their wooden or brick counterparts. Limestone construction was thus associated with prosperity in Western Maryland in the late 18th and first half of the 19th century.

According to Scharf, the Episcopal Church had moved into Washington County earlier and was well-established:

"The honor of having first introduced the Christian religion into the then wilds of Washington County cannot be definitively accorded to any one

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denomination but the probabilities are that the Episcopalians were first on the field as an organized body; for it seems to be very clear that the English settlers from Southern Maryland anticipated the Germans and the Scotch-Irish by some years and most of the southern Marylanders belonged to the Established Church, though many of them were Catholics..” (Scharf, J. Thomas. A History of Western Maryland - Vol. 2 Philadelphia, Pa.: Louis H. Everts, 1882.)

On October 1, 1776 Washington County was developed from the division of Frederick County and on April 21, 1787 a number of Washington County Episcopalians met at the Courthouse and elected Vestrymen. By 1806, the Convention of the Diocese of Maryland acted upon a petition from Washington County members of the Protestant Episcopal Church, thereby creating St. John's Parish headquartered in Elizabethtown (Hagerstown). The growth in religious activity of all denominations paralleled the overall expansion in population, economy and culture in Washington County. Additional Episcopal churches in neighboring villages quickly followed:

1819 - St. Paul's, Sharpsburg; 1835 - St. Thomas', Hancock; 1837 - St. Luke's, Brownsville and 1840 - St. Andrew's, Clear Spring. Of these six small Episcopalian churches built during this time, only St. Thomas' and St. Mark's Lappans retain their original architectural integrity while others fell prey to fire at some point in time or destruction during the Civil War. It was within the context of this expansion that St. Mark's originated. Following the encouraging attendance at October, 1848 worship services held in a stone school house near Fairplay, Md (approx. 4 miles from the property in question) by The Rev. Robert Clarkson, Deacon of the College at St. James, an effort was made to secure adequate subscriptions for the erection of a church that would be more convenient to the population residing between the College of St. James and Boonsboro in the southern portion of Washington County. The church was built on one acre of ground donated by Dr. Thomas Maddox and situated on the public road from Boonsboro to Williamsport (Md. Rt. 68). The historic link between the College of Saint James and St. Marks is clear both from the active involvement of members of the Saint James faculty and the correspondence between The Rev. John Kerfoot, founder of the College and Bishop Whittingham. Indeed, the first priest of St. Mark's was a member of the Saint James faculty, The Rev. Joseph Clarkson Passmore. Documentation of meetings prior to the development of a building contract revealed that the major stipulations were that the structure was to be "a small stone church in the pointed style, 40 ft. long, 21 feet wide in the clear with a chancel of ten feet deep and a small vestry room by its side." By the time a contract was signed the dimensions were increased and details were more complete. A contract was entered into with a local carpenter, Upton Morin.

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The contract specifications remain and state:

Walls to be of rough stonework, painted as near the color of the stone as can be, to be two feet thick from foundation up. The main building to be fifty feet long by twenty-five feet wide; seventeen feet high from top of joice and deep enough to insure a good and safe foundation: in the rear of the church to be attached a chancel, ten feet long by fifteen feet wide, 11 feet high from top of joice, roof to correspond with roof of main building as hereafter described: the rafters of chancel to be fifteen feet long. Attached to main building and chancel is to be a vestry room with a shed roof 8 feet by 5 feet in the clear inside, with two doors, one entering from without and one into the chancel, and one small window. In front of the church is to be a doorway of stone 12 feet wide, walls to be three feet thick, 4 feet deep and ten feet high to the square, with a roof to correspond to the main building, and three wooden battlements on each wall.

In the main building is to be six windows, 3 on each side, and one in rear of chancel, all to be as follows: 4 feet wide, 8 feet high to the square, and then three feet to a point at top. The transom to be stationary, the lower part of window to be in two parts, hung on pivots, with an upright in center; glass to be seven by nine inches; one circular window in front above the door, sash six feet in diameter. To be made open roof, rafters in main building to be 25 feet long; between the roof and wall to be closed with stone and plastered as the wall, all to be sheated with good, well-seasoned timber, straight-edge boards, and covered with oak shingles; all the flooring to be quartered, tongued, and grooved. Benches and kneelers to be similar to the benches and kneelers in the chapel of the College of St. James, the benches to be placed the same distance apart.

The floor of the chancel to be raised three feet above the main floor, with three steps in front, a railing across, a communion table, a pulpit, and three pointed tablets.

The stone work inside to be all plastered, to have one flue running in center of each side wall of main building each large enough to carry off the smoke of a stovepipe; all the inside walls and roof to be washed such color as may hereafter be agreed upon. The boards and rafters of roof to be first brushed with a coarse broom, so as to remove the loose saw-splinters - all the woodwork inside and out except the floor, roof and benches to be painted white. The benches to be painted oak color and varnished.

The materials all to be good timber except joice and rafters to be well-seasoned, and all materials to be found by said Morin, who binds himself to do all in a workmanlike manner and to have the church completed on or before the 15th day of July next.

Once work had commenced a number of modifications to the original plans occurred: a gallery, accessed by ladder, for slaves was added, the chancel was lowered in height from three feet from the floor to approximately 20 inches, the porch was scaled down to be in better proportion to the overall structure and the circular window above the door was eliminated. Although no specific references regarding an architectural style for the new church exist aside from the contract specifications, the use of a vernacular expression of ecclesiastical Gothic Revival parallels the both the Oxford Movement in the Anglican Episcopal church and the return in favor of a sanctuary-focused architecture. An excerpt from a publication

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"The Story of St. Mark's Episcopal Church" by Ann McKinley Bushong gives a description of the finished product:

"The appearance of the church then was greatly different, inside and out from the St. Mark's we know today. There was no fence around it, there were no graves in its yard, its trees were young and small, its grass uncut. It had no belfry, no walks. Its windows were of small-paned clear glass, there was no ivy on its walls. Inside it was austere plain. The walls were plastered and painted white, the floors varnished, the uncomfortable benches stained, the roof was bare to the rafters, there was no wainscoting, no organ, no carpeting nor rugs. It is doubtful whether the wood stoves had, as yet, been installed."

The church was consecrated on July 25, 1849 on the Feast of St. James with fifteen females and twenty-three males present. The congregation was formally accepted into union with the Diocesan convention in 1850.

By March, 1856 the Vestry authorized additional modifications to the structure including the addition of a lowered ceiling pointing about six feet below the roof, lathing and plastering of the body of the church and chancel and the repair of the chimneys to prevent smoking. A "dry stone wall" was erected at about this same time although the exact date is unknown.

As the church is located one-quarter of a mile east of the junction of the primary road from Hagerstown to Sharpsburg and the Williamsport-Boonsboro road, it can be assumed that much activity occurred in the area during the years of the Civil War and most particularly the month of September, 1862. The Battle of Antietam was fought approximately 6 miles from the church and it is known that some of the wounded were taken to the church and then moved to Dr. Maddox's farm by wagon. No services were held in the church from mid-September to November 21, 1862. Paralleling these developments it is of note that the students at the College of St. James were nearly all from the South and the Faculty, including Dr. Kerfoot, its President, were from the North. The civil strife took its toll and the College was abandoned in late 1863. The Rev. Passmore had served as minister from St. Marks' consecration in 1849 until July, 1862, two months prior to the Battle of Antietam. The Rev. Joseph Howland Coit, also a College of St. James faculty member served as the church's minister through the two year turbulent period and resigned in 1864 to be followed by The Rev. Henry Edwards, another St. James faculty member.

Architecturally, St. Mark's remained largely unchanged until 1877 when a bell gable was added to the roof in its current placement. A bell was placed in the gable, a product of the Meneely Bell Company of Troy, New York. In 1899, the current Rectory was built through the donation of Miss Ann Fowler Maddox, daughter of church founder, Thomas Maddox. The Rectory lies due west of the church, outside

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the churchyard wall and outside the scope of this nomination. In 1922, the original dry stone wall was replaced with a stone and masonry wall and accessed from the Rectory by way of a stile. Wrought iron gates were added to the north facing main entry point with the original hitching rails and mounting block retained on either side of the main approach walk to the church.

In December, 1976 the Vestry of St. Mark's accepted a bid from Callas Contractors to complete an architecturally sympathetic addition to the church for the housing of a sacristy, vesting area and storage/work area. The project was to be completed with native limestone similar to that of the main structure, retention of the roof line of the church and attached to the church in such a way as to leave the original architectural fabric of the church untouched. The project was completed and placed into use in May, 1977. In 1995 a new flame retardent cedar shingle roof was applied using techniques recommended by the National Cedar Shingle and Shake Bureau.

The Cemetery, lying east, south and west of the Church and completely surrounded by the confines of the stone and masonry wall, was first used in 1852 for the burial of John Breathed, an original founder of the church. The Cemetery contains 173 markers although it is known that some unmarked graves exist from the early days of the parish. In 1962, three-fifths of an acre of property was donated that was situated directly adjacent and south of the old cemetery to provide an expansion area to the wall-enclosed cemetery. At present, all plots in the "old" cemetery are sold.

St. Mark's Episcopal Church - Lappans stands as an intact religious structure typical of rural mid-19th century Maryland as well as a building that brings together elements of Gothic Revival architecture, the Oxford Movement and the social/cultural traditions prevalent in rural southern Washington County, Maryland of the 1840's.

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HISTORIC CONTEXT

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Western Maryland

Chronological/Developmental Period(s):
Agricultural/Industrial Transition: A.D. 1815-1870

Historic Period Theme(s):
Architecture/Landscape Architecture/Community Planning

Resource Type:
Category: Building(s)
Historic Environment: Rural
Historic Function(s) and Use(s):
RELIGION/religious structure

Known Design Source:
none

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