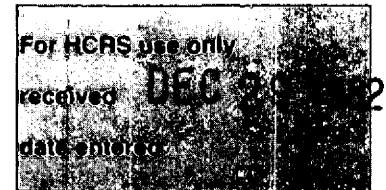


**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service  
National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**



See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

**1. Name**

historic Cross Roads Church (preferred name)  
and/or common Charles W. Baldwin Hall

**2. Location**

street & number 911 Old General's Highway N/A not for publication  
city, town Millersville vicinity  vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ congressional district Fourth  
state Maryland code 24 county Anne Arundel code 003

**3. Classification**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: <u>Social/Civic</u>

**4. Owner of Property**

name Severn Crossroads Foundation, Inc., Dr. George H. Yeager  
street & number 911 Old General's Highway  
city, town Millersville N/A vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ state Maryland 21108

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Anne Arundel County Courthouse  
street & number Church Circle  
city, town Annapolis state Maryland 21401

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Maryland Historical Trust  
Historic Sites Survey has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no  
date 1980  federal  state  county  local  
depository for survey records Maryland Historical Trust, 21 State Circle  
city, town Annapolis state Maryland 21401

# 7. Description

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<u>    </u> excellent	<u>    </u> deteriorated	<u>    </u> unaltered	<u>    </u> original site	
<u>  X  </u> good	<u>    </u> ruins	<u>  X  </u> altered	<u>  X  </u> moved	date <u>  1981  </u>
<u>    </u> fair	<u>    </u> unexposed			

## Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

### DESCRIPTION SUMMARY

The Cross Roads Church is a one story frame gable roofed structure built in 1861 as the Old Severn Crossroads Methodist-Episcopal Church in Millersville, Maryland. Moved in 1981, the church has had a one and one half story, frame, gable roofed section added at the rear to create a "T" plan. The original section is 4 by 4 bays in plan, the rear addition 2 by 4 bays. The rear addition, constructed about 1933, duplicates the exterior detailing of the original part, with the result that all exterior elevations are faced with vertical siding enriched by 2½" molded battens that terminate at the eaves in a continuous band of round headed blind arches. The round arched windows and front entrance are cased with molded architraves. The entire building is surrounded with a neo-Classical cornice made up of a narrow fascia, cyma-resta bed mold, heavy dentils, a quirked cyma-reversa band, a projecting corona and a cyma-recta crown mold. The cornice returns across the gable ends at the front and sides of the rear addition to create triangular pediments. Both sections have standing seam metal roofs. The front entrance is protected by a low, flattened gable portico, probably early 20th century, supported by two round Tuscan columns with turned bases and caps. All first floor windows, except those in the rear elevation of the addition, are 9/9 wood sash with Gothic tracery round arched top lights, and have louvered blinds, original in the front part, duplicated in the rear. A pair of windows over the front entrance are 3/6 with tracery top section, which is also repeated over the paired entrance doors as fanlights. The double entrance is flanked by engaged Tuscan pilasters with molded impostes and molded architrave. The doors are four raised panel in design. Although added to, the original section retains high integrity of design, materials, and workmanship.

### GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The Cross Roads Church is a one story frame gable roofed structure built in 1861 as the Old Severn Crossroads Methodist-Episcopal Church in Millersville, Maryland. Moved in 1982, the church has had a one and one half story, frame, gable roofed section added at the rear to create a "T" plan. The original section is 4 by 4 bays in plan, measuring 50'9" X 38'8", the rear addition 2 by 4 bays, 32'4" X 54'9". The rear addition, constructed about 1933, duplicates the exterior detailing of the original part, with the result that all exterior elevations are faced with vertical siding enriched by 2½" molded battens (see drawing) that terminate at the eaves in a continuous band of round headed blind arches. The round arched windows and front entrance are cased with molded architraves consisting of a 2" backband with a cavetto inside and a 4" casing with a cavetto quirk and 1½" heavy bead. The entire building is surrounded with a 10" sillboard and a neo-Classical cornice made up of a narrow fascia, cyma-resta bed mold, 3" X 4" heavy dentils, a quirked cyma-reversa band, a projecting corona and a cyma-recta crown mold. The cornice returns across the gable ends at the front and sides of the rear addition to create triangular pediments. Both sections have standing seam metal roofs.

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Crossroads Church, Millersville

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GENERAL DESCRIPTION (Continued)

The front entrance is protected by a low, flattened gable portico supported by two Tuscan columns with turned bases and caps. The portico has a full entablature, simpler and heavier than that at the roof line. This composition consists of a 3" fascia, cyma-recta bed mold, heavy dentils, cyma-reversa crown mold, 1" fillet, cavetto band and two 1" fillets, and returns across the gable end. The portico appears later, based on details, scale and proportions, and may be as late as the early 20th century. The porch is supported on brick piers and is served by a set of three wood stairs centered between the columns.

All first floor windows, except those in the rear elevation of the addition, are 9/9 wood sash with Gothic tracery round arched top lights, and have louvered blinds, original in the front part, duplicated at the rear. A pair of windows over the front entrance are 3/6 with the tracery top section, which is also repeated over the paired entrance doors as fanlights. The double entrance is flanked by engaged Tuscan pilasters with molded imposts and molded architrave at the fanlights duplicating that found at all windows. The doors are four raised panel in design. Entrances to the rear addition are located in the projecting side wings at the rear line of the original section, and are protected by canterlevered pedimented doorhoods. The doors are five horizontal panel in design, the casing flat. The windows in the rear elevation are paired 9/9 double hung wood sash with flat casings and lug sills. A louvered semi-circular fan is used as a vent in the front pediment. The interior of the rear addition has wood floors, plaster walls and ceilings and a 12" tall base. There is little of architectural significance in the interior of the addition.

The original (church) section is of the auditorium plan, the major space 42'4" X 37'5" with a ceiling height of 15'2". The front section is occupied by a full width vestibule with stairs at either end leading to the choir loft directly above. The auditorium has a modern hardwood floor, plaster on wood lath walls with a quirked cyma-recta basemold, no chair rail or cornice except for an embossed (variation of anthemion) tin band that terminates the exceptional pressed tin ceiling, stamped to form 24" X 24" square pebble surfaced panels. The round headed windows are cased with a beaded fascia and heavy backband (see drawing) with a total depth of 7'5/8". The rear wall of this area (the front wall of the church) has a later stage and proscenium arch, with a molded architrave, paneled key, imposts and engaged pilasters on square plinths. Two openings to the right of the stage (one leading to the basement, the other to the upper level of the addition) and one opening to the extreme left of the stage repeat the architraves at the arch and have horizontal five panel doors. A pass-through opening between the left door and the stage is treated in a similar manner, except that the shorter door has only four panels.

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Cross Roads Church, Millersville

Continuation sheet Anne Arundel County, Marylandtem number

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GENERAL DESCRIPTION (Continued)

Stairs in the vestibule return to create an "L", with three risers to a platform, six risers to the choir loft. The stairs have turned newels, seven turned, tapered balusters and round hand rails, with a flat skirt along the side walls, a molded base along the front. The area under the stairs is sheathed with board and batten doors providing access. The cross partition separating the vestibule from the auditorium is frame, with plaster on wood lath. The floor is modern carpeted, the ceiling pressed tin in a pattern different from the main ceiling. The ceiling, which slopes from the partition to the front wall, is pressed in 2" X 2" squares. Ceiling height at the partition is 6'6", at the front wall 9'9". Doors to the auditorium have been removed, but the openings are cased with molded architraves on both sides of the wall. The paired entrance doors are four panel with molded sticking and are cased with the same trim as found at the windows but narrower (5"). The casing is doubled at the center post. Round headed windows like those in the elevations flank the doors, with the ceiling running by the sash at the impost line. The upper parts of the windows are exposed in the choir loft. The fanlights of the entrance doors are exposed in and help light the vestibule.

The auditorium side of the cross partition has later picture molding below the ceiling of the overhanging choir loft. The ceiling is a flattened cyma-recta in section leading the eye to a wood paneled parapet, enriched with a row of ten raised panels and a heavy rail. The loft itself has three tiers of bench-like platforms for movable seating, and is lit by the fans of the first floor windows and by a pair of shorter (3/6) round headed windows with Gothic tracery centered over the doors below.

THE MOVE

Cross Roads Church was moved to its present site in 1981. This move represents the second time the building was relocated. The structure originally stood to the east of the intersection of General's Highway (Maryland Route 178) and Indian Landing Road. About 1930 or possibly earlier the building was moved to the north of this intersection. In 1981 the church was relocated to the south side of General's Highway at the corner of Millersville Road which intersects General's Highway almost at Indian Landing Road. The building was moved in 1981 to prevent its demolition. No effort was made in either of the moves to replacate either the original setting or foundation.

# 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 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/ 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 type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

**Specific dates** 1861 **Builder/Architect** unknown

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

Applicable Criterion: C

SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY

The significance of Cross Roads Church, presently called Charles W. Baldwin Hall, lies primarily in its architectural character. Although enlarged and no longer standing on its original site, the building embodies the distinct decorative characteristics of the Italianate style, which was not generally employed in rural church architecture in mid-nineteenth Maryland. The most commonly used style was the Gothic and numerous excellent examples of this type of church can be found throughout the state. Cross Roads Church, however, has a simple rectangular shape with a low pitched gable roof, round arch windows with multi-paned sashes, a dentiled cornice, and a batten-like treatment of the exterior walls that forms a paneled effect with the battens merging to form arches below the cornice.

HISTORY AND SUPPORT

Built for Cross Roads Methodist Episcopal (later and now named Baldwin Memorial United Methodist) Church in 1861, it was the second Church erected on the southeast corner of Old Severn Cross Roads intersection of the General's Highway (MD Route 178) and the Millersville to Indian Landing Road at Millersville. The immediate vicinity of this intersection has been a place of worship, devotion, and religious camp meetings by the Wesleyan Methodist followers of Bishop Francis Asbury since about 1777. At the outset of the Civil War, the erection of this second church was made possible by William Henry Baldwin, Sr. and Jane Maria (Woodward) Baldwin, his wife (who were active in the affairs of this church all their lives) as a gesture of good will to a community badly divided over secession and slavery and was one of the few new church buildings erected in the then declining-in-membership Baltimore Annual Conference area of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

After about 1791 and until 1881, this church was one station on a large geographical circuit, which at one time had ten or more local churches, chapels, and/or preaching places of worship served by one or two circuit-riding clergymen. This circuit, Severn Circuit, comprised all of central and northern Anne Arundel County and at one time extended west into what is today Howard County. After 1838, the main parsonage for this circuit was at Severn Cross Roads. Of these various local churches, chapels, and preaching buildings which were once parts of Old Severn Circuit, the only one today standing is the church of 1861 at Severn Cross Roads.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

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Baldwin Memorial Church files, Millersville, MD  
 Maryland Historical Society files, Baltimore, MD  
 Lovely Lane Methodist Church files, Baltimore, MD

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 2.01 acres

Quadrangle name Odenton, Maryland

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

**UMT References**

A 

1	8	3	5	9	0	9	0	4	3	2	4	4	2	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B 

Zone		Easting				Northing			

C 

Zone		Easting				Northing			

D 

Zone		Easting				Northing			

E 

Zone		Easting				Northing			

F 

Zone		Easting				Northing			

G 

Zone		Easting				Northing			

H 

Zone		Easting				Northing			

**Verbal boundary description and justification**

For boundary description, see enclosed sketch map.  
 For boundary justification, see Continuation Sheet No.

**List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries**

state	N/A	code	county	code
-------	-----	------	--------	------

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Marvin H. Anderson, Dr. George H. Yeager, Russell Wright

organization Severn Crossroads Foundation, Inc. date 301-268-5035

street & number P. O. Box 64 telephone


city or town Annapolis state Maryland 21404

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification


The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature  date 12-22-82

title STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER date

For HCRS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	
	date <u>2/10/83</u>
Attest:	date
Chief of Registration	

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

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date entered

Cross Roads Church, Millersville

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HISTORY AND SUPPORT (Continued)

It was in the church in 1861 that the seven Baldwin brothers, sons of William H. and Jane Maria, all of whom became successful in business or professional life after the Civil War, promised that they would never permit the divisions brought about by the War to interfere with their family and church ties. In 1866, one of these sons, Charles W. Baldwin, a graduate of Yale University, returned to Severn Circuit and the church of 1861 to begin 70 years as an ordained minister in the Baltimore Annual Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, which brought him many honors and much recognition, including in 1935 the rededication of the 1861 church in his honor as the Charles W. Baldwin Hall and Church School Building. Dr. Baldwin was a constant advocate of the reunification of the three main branches of American Methodism, a goal which he missed seeing by less than one year.

In 1896, when the present stone church was erected at the intersection, the church of 1861 was moved across Indian Landing Road to the position on the north side of that road which it occupied until June 2, 1981 when it was moved to its present location by Severn Cross Roads Foundation, Inc. Until 1970, it served as the church's Sunday School building and as a combination church and community meeting facility, as the resident theater for the South Shore Dramatic Club between 1947 and 1960, and for a brief time in the mid-1970s, by the Severn Cross Roads Concert Theatre, Inc, for plays and theatrical productions.

In 1934-1935, a large wing was constructed at the back utilizing exterior batten board construction which closely resembles that on the original hall.

As the result of the new foundation erected for the hall in 1981, the church of 1861, as enlarged in 1935, now sits on a full basement and on a permanent two-acre site. The hall and new site are now owned debt free by Severn Cross Roads Foundation, Inc., a public, non-sectarian foundation which has raised over \$135,000 from individual donors.

The move which occurred in 1981 was necessitated by the fact that the church declined to renovate the hall or to permit it to be renovated or to allow it to remain where it stood.

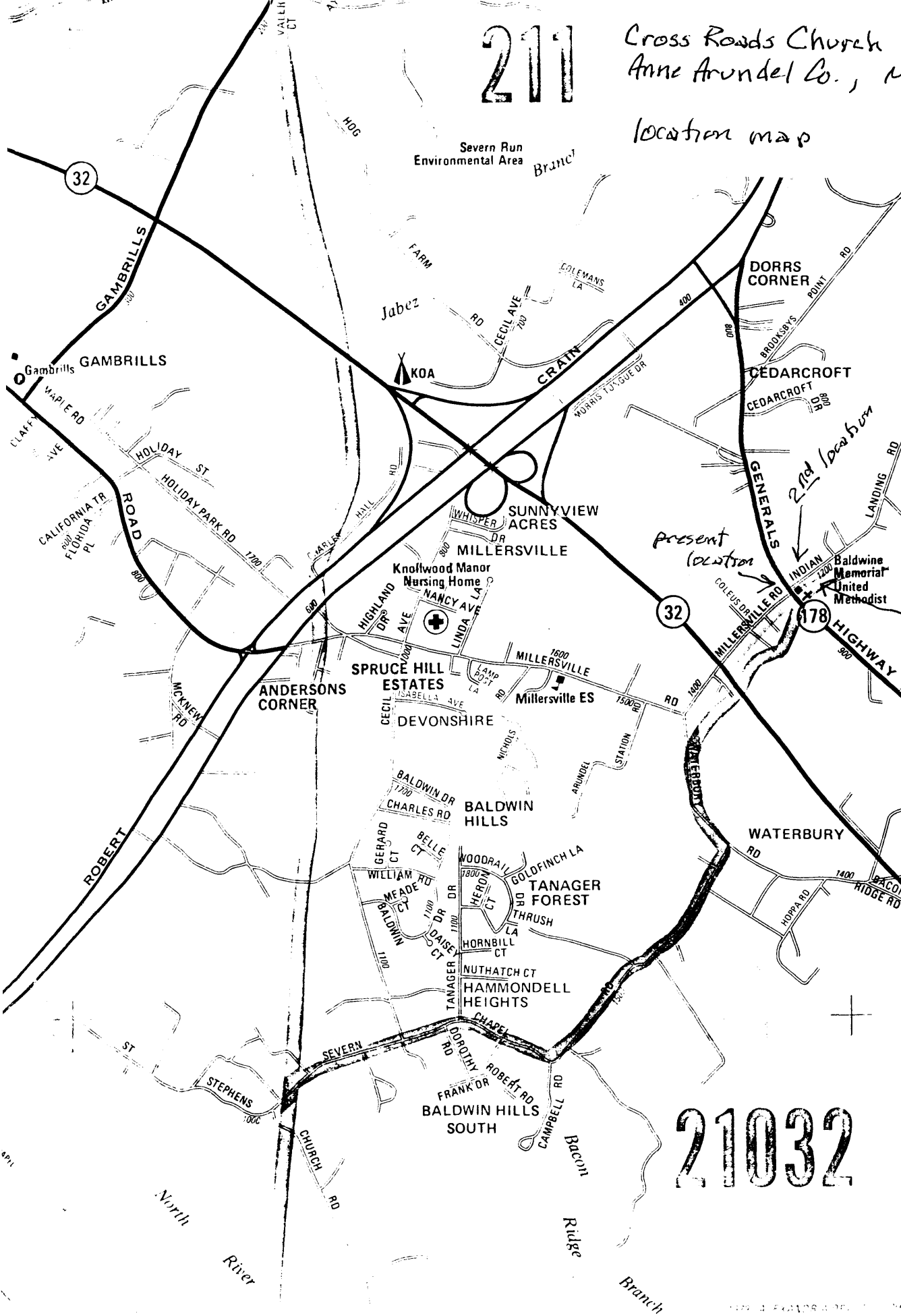
BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundaries include only the property on which the church stands. This property, which is historically unrelated to the building, is surrounded by farm land also unrelated historically to the church. The property does not include any other structures and with the positioning of the building toward the back corner, the land to the front and sides is visually part of the new setting as viewed from the roads.

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Cross Roads Church  
Anne Arundel Co., Maryland

location map



450,000 FT  
Joins Map 14

39°02'30"  
MD GRID 440,000 FT

21032

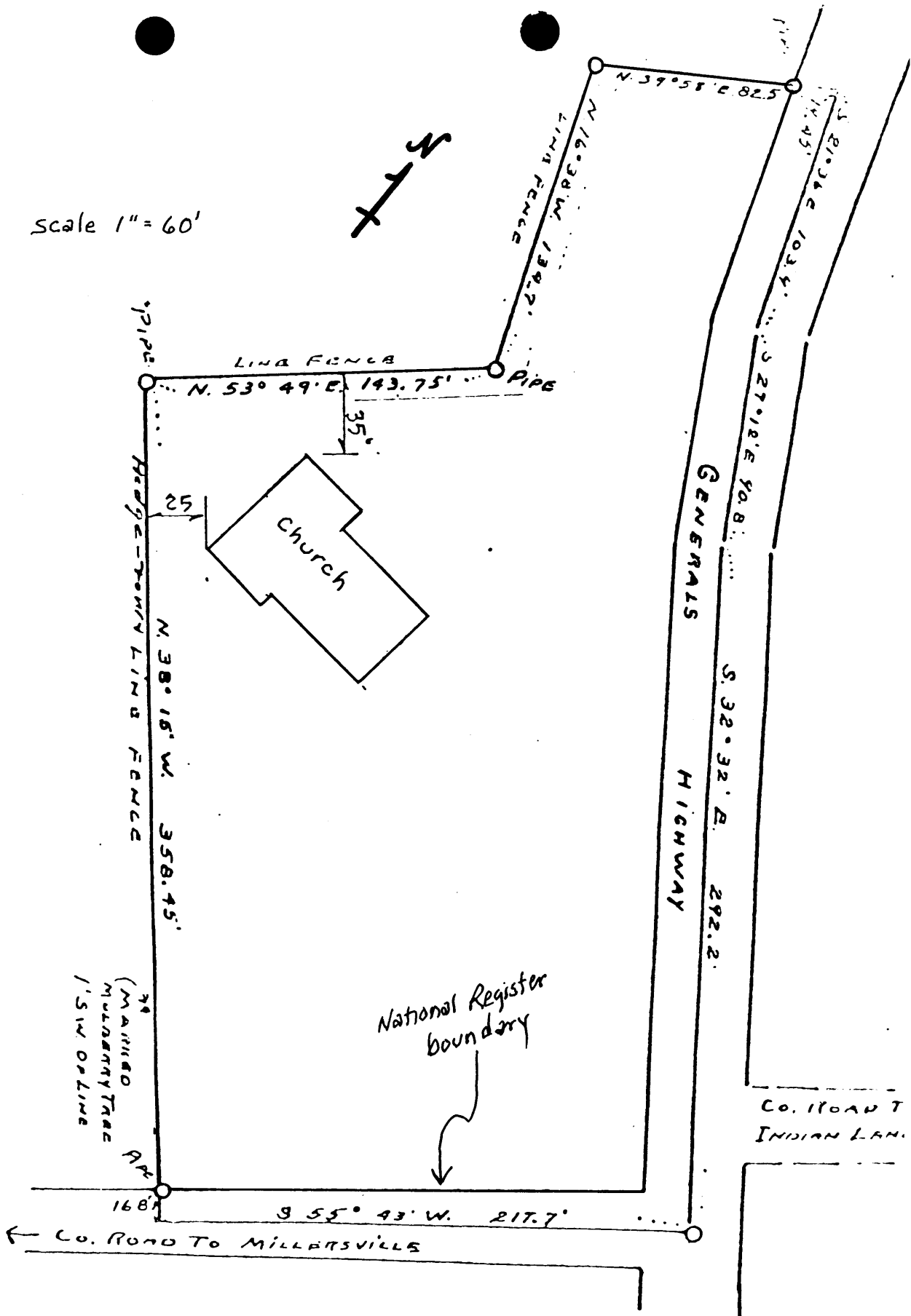
Joins Map 18

MD GRID 300,000 FT COPYRIGHT 1979 - ALEXANDRIA DRAFTING COMPANY

76°37'30"



Scale 1" = 60'



Cross Roads Church  
Anne Arundel County  
Maryland

1982