

72-005 Ridgely Methodist Church and Cemetery (NR) 8900 Central Avenue

Landover

Built in 1921, Ridgely Church is a one-story, front-gabled frame structure with pointed-arch windows filled with commemorative stained glass. It is bordered by a small graveyard with primitively carved stones. The present building replaced the church founded by Lewis Ridgley in 1871 to serve the local black Methodist community. Recently moved a short distance back from what had become a busy thoroughfare and restored, Ridgely Church is a significant part of the county's African-American history. Listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1985, the church illustrates how rural forms and models persisted even as Prince George's County became increasingly suburban in character.