

Anne Arundel - 126
Chew's Memorial U.M. Church
Owensville Rd.
West River, MD

1843

Nothing remains of the original Chew's Chapel. The present stucco-over-brick structure stands 46' from the northside of Owensville Rd., $\frac{1}{2}$ mile from Christ Episcopal Church. I cannot say that the original Chapel was located in the same confines as the original structure but it seems the probable location. No

Chew's Memorial U.M. Church and Mt. Tabor M.E. Church near Gambrills in Western Anne Arundel county are examples of rural churches that were encouraged by white landholders for the betterment of free blacks and slaves before the Civil War. The land on which Chew Memorial is located was given by Nathaniel Chew for the purpose of establishing a church for blacks. This congregation has survived in an agrarian environment for 137 years.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC Chew Memorial U.M. Church

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER Owensville Road

CITY, TOWN West River (Owensville) VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT First

STATE Maryland

COUNTY Anne Arundel

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Trustees, Chew Memorial U.M. Church
C/O Rev. Louis E. Wise

Telephone #: 261-5620

STREET & NUMBER Owensville Road

CITY, TOWN West River (Owensville) VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code
MD 20881

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Hall of Records

Liber #: WSG 27
Folio #: 255

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN Annapolis

STATE Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE N/A

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR
 DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED
 DATE 1843

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Nothing remains of the original Chew's Chapel. The present stucco-over-brick structure stand 46' from the northside of Owensville Rd., 1/2 mile from Christ Episcopal Church. This Church was most recently rebuilt in 1952. It has conventional 2-over-2 colored glass windows, 4 on each side of the building (east and west sides). I can not say that the original Chapel was located in the same confines as the present structure but it seems probable.* I have included photographs and slides of the present structure.

* No, it was not. See preceding MHT Inventory form, section # 7 Description for earlier location on Chews Chapel Rd. The concrete steps remain, in woods to the right of the road.

S. Weddell 2/1985 (AA/MHT)

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 type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" 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 1843

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Chew's Memorial U. M. Church and Mount Tabor M.E. Church near Gambrills in western Anne Arundel county are examples of rural churches that were encouraged by white landholders for the betterment of free blacks and slaves before the Civil War. The land on which Chew Memorial is situated was given by Nathaniel Chew for the purpose of establishing a church for blacks. The Chew family in Anne Arundel county were originally Quakers. The Quaker Chews mostly left Anne Arundel county in the late 18th century. Their decedents were slave holders and most of them were members of the Episcopal Church. It is evident that Nathaniel Chew intended Chew Chapel to be a Methodist meeting.

Chew Memorial U.M. Church is in a historic area. It is located close to the Waters property where an early school for blacks was established. It is not far from Tulip Hill or Larkin's Hundred (two of Anne Arundel county's most famous manors). It is an example of black congregation that has survived in an agrarian environment for 137 years.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

James W. Clark, Historic Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION Maryland Commission on Afro-American
History & Culture

DATE

1980

STREET & NUMBER 20 Dean St.

TELEPHONE

269-2893

CITY OR TOWN

Annapolis

STATE

Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

This additional information on Chew's Church was assembled during the 1985 Galesville Black History Survey by the Anne Arundel County Committee of the Md. Historical Trust.

The original Chew's Chapel, identified as "Col'd Meth Ch" on the 1860 Martenet Map, was located just south of the Nathaniel Chew residence along what is today Chew's Chapel Road (see accompanying USGS map-detail).

According to Jessie Neal (b.1914), lifetime member of Chew's Church, there have been at least three church buildings. One church burned down and was rebuilt in 1911, at the same original site on Chew's Chapel Rd. About the same time, a separate church hall was built behind the church. From 1926 to 1929 elementary school for black children from Galesville and Cumberstone was held in the church hall, after a fire destroyed the Galesville black school.

On Christmas Day 1945 the 1911 church building burned. For two years services were held in the church hall until another church could be built in 1947, at a new site on Owensville Road about one mile east of Chew's Chapel Road, on land donated by neighbor John Lansdale of Essex Farm (AA-236). Apparently the Chew's cemetery had been located at this new site for some time, since gravestones in the cemetery date to the late 1800's. (See accompanying list of tombstone inscriptions.)

After 1947, the old church hall on Chew's Chapel Road was used by Rachel Harris as a residence until it too burned, sometime after 1957. The front steps of the hall are all that remain at the original church site (see enclosed photo of steps).

Susan Wetherill 11/87

April 1985 - Notes taken from headstones in Chews Chapel Cemetary, Owensville, Md.

comments:

RICHARD RANDALL

born 1/5/1862
died 9/25/1921

father of longtime occupant of "Richard's House" at Cedar Park Farm

FLORENCE RANDALL

born 5/6/1883
died 8/2/1950

*daughter-in-law of above; wife of Richard Randall
wife of Richard, no children,
of "Richard's Hse" (Cedar Park), b. 1885, d. 1970.*

MAGGIE A. NEALE - Oldest daughter of James
and Ellen Neale

born 2/9/1866
died 4/7/1898

Kitty Wilson's father was
Neale. Kitty b. , d. 1901 .

MARY ELLEN NEALE - Youngest daughter of James
and Ellen Neale

born 1876
died 1899

RICHARD NEAL

born 8/20/1844
died 9/28/1918

Sam Neal's grandfather?

AUGUSTUS NEAL

born 1882
died 1924

MARY NEAL

born 1854
died 1942

THOMAS A NEAL

born 1868
died 1943

OUR MOTHER

Died 7/28/1889

Neal family

AA-126
Chew Memorial Church
Owensville

1945
private

The present church was built in 1945 but the original church was given to the Black community by the Chew family shortly after the Civil War, making the congregation one of the oldest in Anne Arundel County.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Chew's Memorial Church

AND/OR COMMON

Chew United Methodist Church

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

north side of Rt. 255 (Owensville-Deale Rd.), nr. Owensville

CITY, TOWN

Owensville

___ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Md

COUNTY

Anne Arundel

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	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<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 type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Chew United Methodist Church

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

Owensville

CITY, TOWN

___ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Anne Arundel

Liber #: 420

Folio #: 387

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Annapolis

STATE

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

___ FEDERAL ___ STATE ___ COUNTY ___ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

AA-126

CONDITION

CHECK ONE

CHECK ONE

- EXCELLENT
- GOOD
- FAIR

- DETERIORATED
- RUINS
- UNEXPOSED

- UNALTERED
- ALTERED

- ORIGINAL SITE
- MOVED
- DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Built in 1945, the present structure is a small, rectangular, stucco over brick (7) church of one story. The graveyard on the hill side east of the church belongs to one of the earliest Black churches in Anne Arundel County. The front elevation of the church has an enclosed porch centered on it with a small oculus in the gable above it. The sides of the church are accented with brick quoins, painted red. The old church which stood on the Woodstock farm, behind the present West River Post Office was given to the Black community by the Chew family shortly after the Civil War.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

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
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<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) <i>Black History</i>
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES	<i>1945</i>	BUILDER/ARCHITECT
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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The original church in which this congregation worshipped was given to the Black community by members of the Chew family shortly after the Civil War.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .68

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE COUNTY

STATE COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Marion Morton Carroll- Historic Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION Anne Arundel Ct. Dept of Planning and Zoning DATE August. 1978

STREET & NUMBER Arundel Center TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN Annapolis STATE

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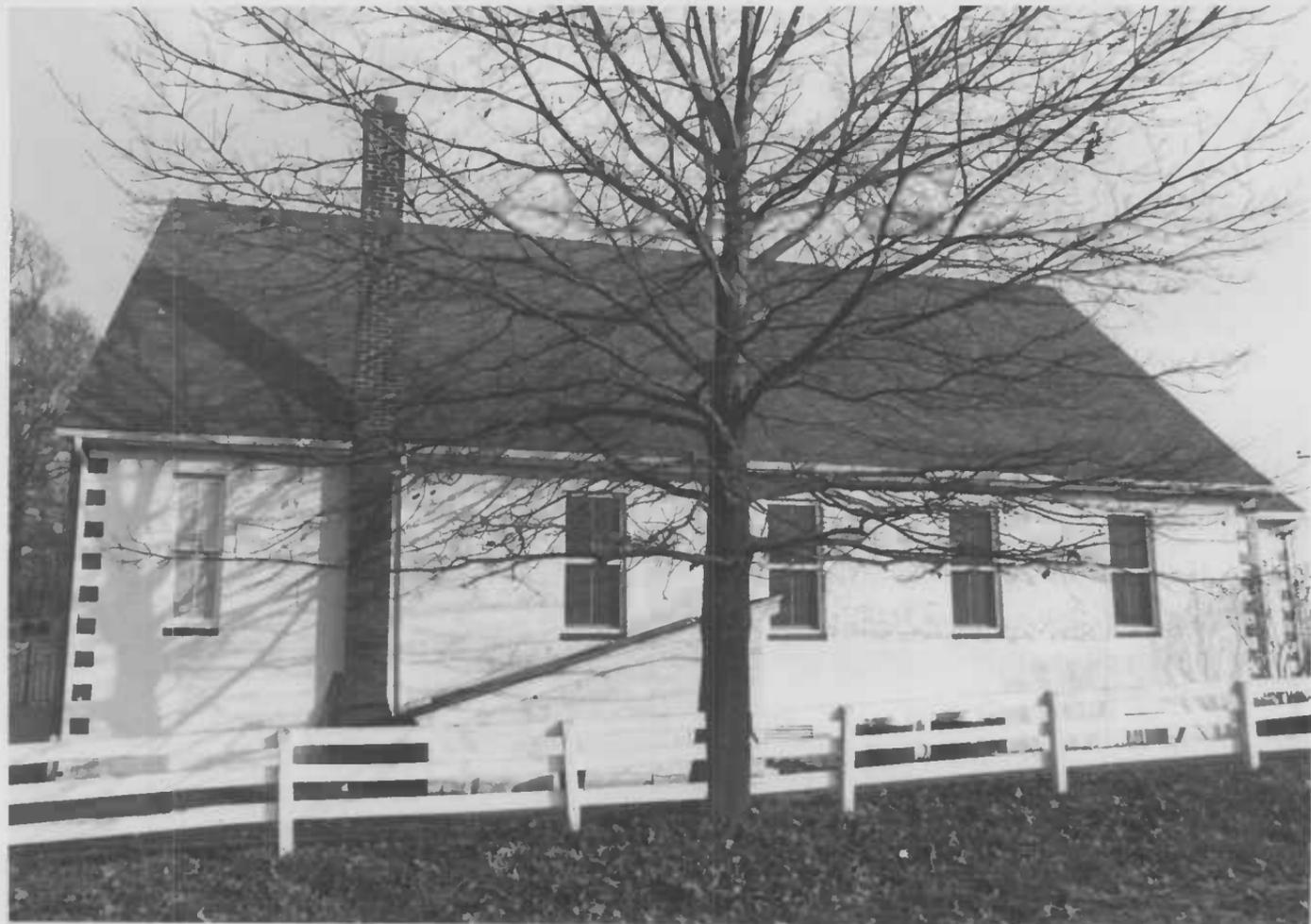


Photograph by
J. MICHAEL HOSFORD

Annapolis, Md. 21401
301 - 263 - 4995

Chew Memorial United Methodist Church
West River, Anne Arundel County, MD AA-126
Michael Hosford

Maryland Historical Trust, Annapolis, MD
Southwest elevation
11/78



Photograph by
J. MICHAEL HOSFORD

Annapolis, Md. 21401
301 - 263 - 4995

Chew Memorial United Methodist Church
West River, Anne Arundel County, MD AA-126
Michael Hosford

Maryland Historical Trust, Annapolis, MD
East elevation
11/78



1/85

~~CHEWS HALL - STEPS~~

AA-126

CHEW'S CHURCH HALL, FRONT
STEPS

OWENSVILLE, AA. Co., MD.

C. 1911

NW corner

J. Wetherill, 1/85 photo

~~FRAME 6~~