AA- 315 1876
Franklin United Methodist Church
Churchton
Access:Public

Franklin United Methodist Church stands 10' from Deale-Churchton Rd. on the east side side, ¼ mile from where that road makes it's junction with Shady Side Road. This site is the home of one of the oldest black Methodist meetings in southern Anne Arundel County. James Thompson bought this land from Benjamin Smith in 1873. The deed was improperly registered; Benjamin Smith's son, John Smith, again assigned the land to the trstees of the African Methodist Meeting in 1876. Thompson was a freedman before the conclusion of the Civil War. He purchased land from both the Weems and the Smith families in southern Anne Arundel County. He is credited with the founding of both Franklin United Methodist Church and Great Swamp M.E. Church (now St. Matthews U.M.Church) at Shady Side. It is on land that Thompson owned that the black community of Churchton now exists.

Franklin United Methodist Church is covered with composite shingles over weatherboard. This structure was rebuilt in 1910. The building measures 26' across the front and is 38' in depth. Above the entrance is a triangular arc with one diamond shaped piece of colored glass (all red). There is a short square tower above the entrance and an open belfry. The belfry is capped with a graceful spire.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

AA-[redacted] 315

MALI # 020[redacted]4608

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC: Franklin United Methodist Church

AND/OR COMMON:

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER: Deale-Churchton Rd.

CITY, TOWN: Churchton ___ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: Fourth

STATE: Maryland

COUNTY: Anne Arundel

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
__DISTRICT	__PUBLIC	X OCCUPIED	__AGRICULTURE	__MUSEUM
__BUILDING(S)	X PRIVATE	__UNOCCUPIED	__COMMERCIAL	__PARK
X STRUCTURE	__BOTH	__WORK IN PROGRESS	X EDUCATIONAL	__PRIVATE RESIDENCE
X SITE	**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**	**ACCESSIBLE**	__ENTERTAINMENT	X RELIGIOUS
__OBJECT	__IN PROCESS	X YES: RESTRICTED	__GOVERNMENT	__SCIENTIFIC
	__BEING CONSIDERED	__YES: UNRESTRICTED	__INDUSTRIAL	__TRANSPORTATION
		__NO	__MILITARY	__OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME: Rev. Richard Herbert

Telephone #: 261-5620

STREET & NUMBER: Deale-Churchton Rd.

CITY, TOWN: Churchton ___ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code: MD 20751

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Anne Arundel

Liber #: SH 15

Folio #: 103

STREET & NUMBER: Church Circle

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		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
__EXCELLENT	__DETERIORATED	__UNALTERED	X ORIGINAL SITE
X GOOD	__RUINS	X ALTERED	__MOVED DATE 1876
__FAIR	__UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Franklin United Methodist Church stands 10' from Deale-Churchton Rd. on the east side, ¼mile from where the road makes it's junction with Shady Side Rd. The Church is covered with composite shingles over weather-board. The front of the building measures 26', and the main body of the Church is 38' long with a 9' addition at the sacristy. There are two (2) double lancet windows (colored glass) in the front facade. The front facade has an entranceway at the northeast corner of the building 12' wide and 5½' in depth. The wooden doors (recent vintage) are three-paneled. Above the door is a triangular arc with one diamond-shaped piece of colored glass flanked by two triangular pieces of colored glass (all red). There is a short square tower above the entrance and a belfry. The belfry is opened and capped with a graceful spire.

There are six (6) 12' lancet windows on either side of the main body of the church. Unfortunately, they have added a cinder block addition on the north side of the church, and some of the windows are blocked.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

AA-315

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
__PREHISTORIC	__ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	__COMMUNITY PLANNING	__LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	X RELIGION
__1400-1499	__ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	__CONSERVATION	__LAW	__SCIENCE
__1500-1599	__AGRICULTURE	__ECONOMICS	__LITERATURE	__SCULPTURE
__1600-1699	__ARCHITECTURE	X EDUCATION	__MILITARY	__SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
__1700-1799	__ART	__ENGINEERING	__MUSIC	__THEATER
X 1800-1899	__COMMERCE	__EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	__PHILOSOPHY	__TRANSPORTATION
X 1900-	__COMMUNICATIONS	__INDUSTRY	__POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	__OTHER (SPECIFY)
		__INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Franklin U.M. Church is the site of one of the oldest black Methodist meetings in southern Anne Arundel county. The land was sold to James Thompson by Benjamin Smith in 1873. The deed was improperly registered and Benjamin Smith's son, John Smith, again assigned the land to the trustees of the African Methodist Meeting in 1876. James Thompson, the founder of the Methodist Church at Shady Side (Gr Swamp M.E. Church, now St. Matthews U.M. Church), was on the first board of Trustees of Franklin U.M. Church.

Thompson was a freedman before the conclusion of the Civil War. He purchased land from both the Weems and Smith families in Anne Arundel county. He is credited with being the founder of two religious institutions, and it is on the land that Thompson owned that the black community of Churchton now exists.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

AA-315

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 Commission on Afro-American History & Culture DATE

STREET & NUMBER 20 Dean Street 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

PS-1108

AA- [redacted] 315
FRANKLIN U.M.
C RCH
DEALE Quad.

MABI #
020 [redacted] 4608
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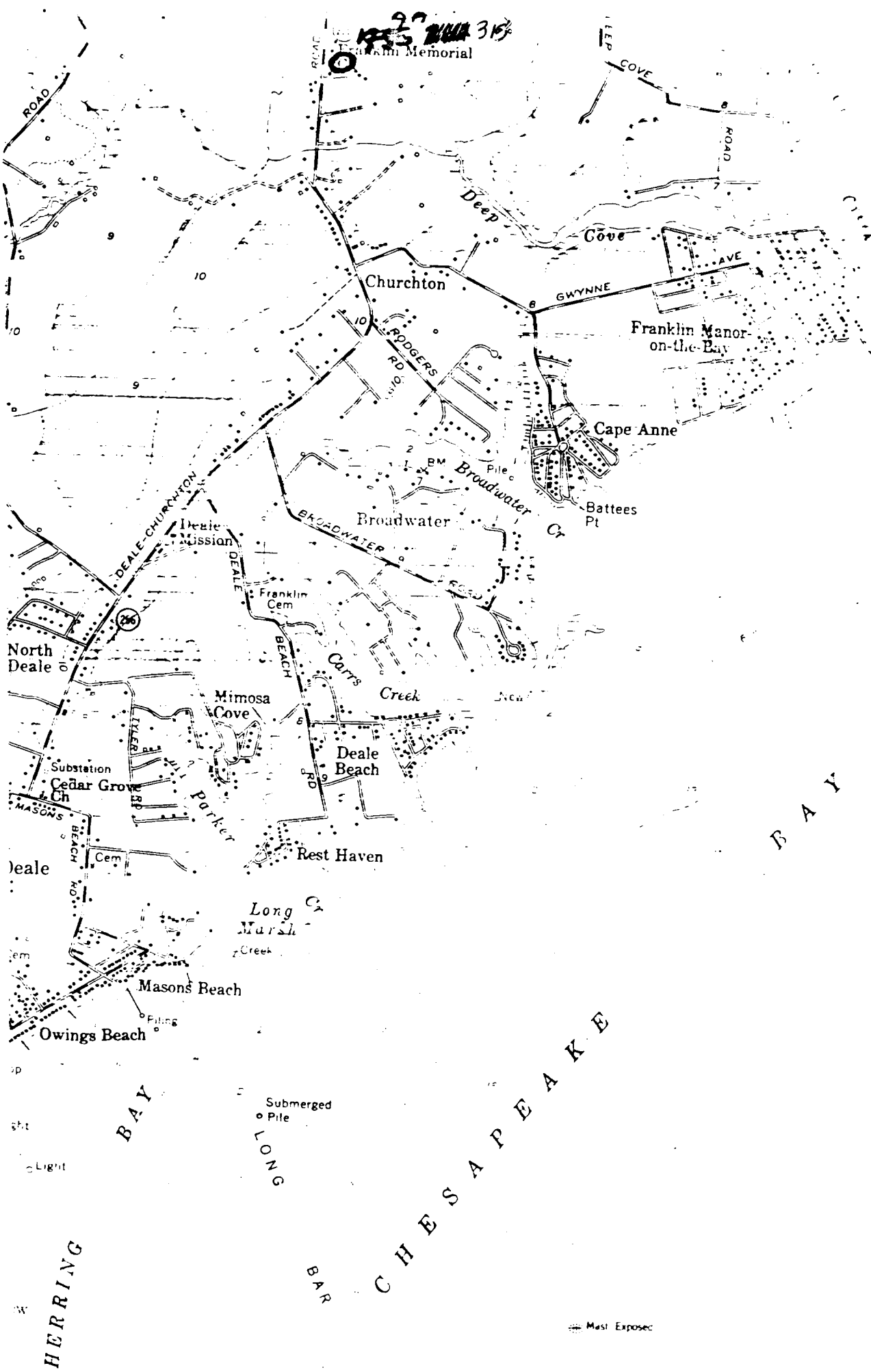

Franklin U.M. Church
Churchton, Anne Arundel

AA-[redacted] 315

Franklin United Methodist Church
Churchton, Anne Arundel Co., MD
Michael Hosford

AA-[redacted]
315

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