CAPSULE SUMMARY
AA-716
Asbury United Methodist Church
87-91 West Street
Annapolis, Anne Arundel County
1888
Private

The imposing brick building at 87-91 West Street was constructed in 1888 to serve the growing congregation of the Asbury United Methodist Church. The second religious structure on this site, the church is presented in the Gothic Revival style, characterized by the lancet-arch windows and corbelled cornice indicative of the Victorian period in which it was constructed. In 1838, manumitted slaves and free blacks officially established the congregation as the Asbury Methodist Episcopal Church (first known as the African Methodist Episcopal Church of Annapolis), named in honor of Methodist Bishop Francis Asbury. Prior to the founding of the church, worshippers attended services with the white population at the First Methodist Episcopal Church. However, with rising racial tensions, a separate place of worship was sought by the second quarter of the 19th century. The first church, a wood frame structure, was constructed in 1838 on West Street on land donated to the church by Smith Price in 1803. Reverend Henry Price, a prominent black Annapolitan and church trustee, granted additional property to the church in 1843. The modest wood frame church was replaced by the present brick structure, designed by William B. Gardener, in the fourth quarter of the 19th century; the cornerstone was laid in 1888.

Built to face directly on the sidewalk, the large red brick building is set upon a low brick foundation, has brick walls laid in six-course American bond on the sides and pressed brick on the facade, and is covered with a front gable roof, sheathed with slate shingles. The growth of the congregation by the third quarter of the 20th century prompted an expansive building program that resulted in the construction of a new sanctuary wing (designed by James Weller) and removal of historic materials on the interior of the former sanctuary. This tall, one-story addition, built in 1977, is located to the west of the original building, and connected to it by a low hyphen (entry hall) set back from the facade. It is constructed of brick, and features long and narrow lancet windows, and a simple, corbelled cornice.

Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of
Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. AA-716

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic	Asbury United Methodist Church (preferred); Asbury Methodist Episcopal Church
other	

2. Location

street and number	87-91 West Street	__ not for publication
city, town	Annapolis	__ vicinity
county	Anne Arundel County	

3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name	Asbury United Methodist Church				
street and number	87 West Street			telephone	
city, town	Annapolis	state	Maryland	zip code	21401

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc.	Anne Arundel County Courthouse			liber	SH 40	folio	438
city, town	Annapolis	tax map	4Z	tax parcel	347	tax ID number	01398134

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

__X__ Contributing Resource in National Register District
__X__ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
_____ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
_____ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
_____ Recorded by HABS/HAER
_____ Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
_____ Other:_____

6. Classification

Category
_____district
__X__building(s)
_____structure
_____site
_____object

Ownership
_____public
__X__private
_____both

Current Function
_____agriculture
_____commerce/trade
_____defense
_____domestic
_____education
_____funerary
_____government
_____health care
_____industry
_____landscape
_____recreation/culture
__X__religion
_____social
_____transportation
_____work in progress
_____unknown
_____vacant/not in use
_____other:

Resource Count

Contributing	Noncontributing	
__1__	_____	buildings
_____	_____	sites
_____	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
__1__	__0__	Total

Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory
__1__

7. Description

Inventory No. AA-716

Condition

___ excellent	___ deteriorated
X good	___ ruins
___ fair	___ altered

Prepare both a one-paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Asbury United Methodist Church is located at 87-91 West Street in downtown Annapolis. The present building, constructed in 1888, stands on the site of a circa 1838 wood frame church that may in part be incorporated into the present brick church. The red brick Basilican-plan Asbury United Methodist Church was executed in a Victorian-era Gothic Revival style, characterized by lancet-arch windows and corbelled blind arcades in the raking cornice. Built to face directly on the sidewalk, the large building dominates its site on the south side of the busy urban artery. It is set upon a low brick foundation, has brick walls laid in six-course American bond on the sides and pressed brick on the facade, and is covered with a front gable roof, sheathed with slate shingles. A tall, one-story addition to the historic church, built in 1977, is located to the west of the original building, and connected to it by a low hyphen (entry hall) set back from the facade. This addition, which houses the present sanctuary, was designed in deference to the more imposing historic building. It is constructed of brick, and features long and narrow lancet windows, and a simple, corbelled cornice.

Exterior Description:

The north elevation facing West Street is divided symmetrically into five bays. The first story consists of a central entry with two single windows to either side of the door, while the second story (double-height) consists of three pairs of lancet-arch windows that originally lit a second-story sanctuary. The center pair of windows extends into the peak of the gable, culminating in a large single lancet-arch window. All of the windows were replaced with modern sash, although the original windows have been placed in storage.

The central door leading to the interior of the church is deeply recessed with a small vestibule. The vestibule is reached by a low set of granite steps, and consists of an opening that is distinguished on the façade by a flattened gauged brick pediment and a central rusticated brownstone keystone. The vestibule is laid with terrazzo flooring. The entry to the interior of the building consists of original double wood doors with four panels in each leaf. The panels consist of tongue-and-groove boards laid diagonally. Above the entry is a single-lite transom spanning the pair of doors.

The single windows to either side of the central entry have 1/1 aluminum replacement sash with Queen Anne-style lights in the upper panel. The openings have rusticated brownstone sills and flattened pedimented brick arches. The arches consist of gauged bricks with rusticated brownstone keystones on center.

The upper story of the church building is separated from the first story by a molded belt course of ornamental brick, consisting of a series of raised circles in a row, with continuous reeding on the top and bottom. The double-height space corresponding with the original sanctuary is defined on the exterior by three groupings of lancet-arch windows. To either side of the central bay, two sets of single windows are superimposed upon each other, with recessed panels between them, and are surmounted by lancet arches. The pointed arches are articulated with gauged bricks, interspersed with rusticated brownstone imposts and voussoirs, and capped by rusticated brownstone keystones. All of the windows in the bays to either side of the central bay sit upon rusticated brownstone sills that interrupt the belt course, and have double-hung, Queen Anne-style aluminum replacement sash. The upper windows, also replacements, have multi-pane lower sash and pointed-arch upper sash with Queen Anne-style tracery. Originally, all of the windows had a combination of translucent pattern and plain glass in the center panes, and amber glass side lights and blue glass corner lights.

In the central bay, the window relationship is similar, but there are three tiers of paired windows, rising to the height of the gable, rather than the two tiers of single windows to either side. The highest window in the center bay is a large, single lancet opening with Queen Anne replacement tracery.

Elaborate corbelled brick detailing rises as a raking cornice above the windows, culminating on center in the apex of the gable end. The corbeling consists of series of blind, lancet arches with corbelled imposts that step up the gable end, giving the flat facade its principal relief.

The east side of the church is six bays deep with single openings defining each bay. On the first story, a single entry is located in the second bay from the facade, while the first and third bays have single, double-hung replacement sash with Queen Anne-style tracery in the upper pane. A one-story brick addition to the church abuts the rear three bays of this elevation. On the second story, each bay has two single windows, superimposed and separated by a panel. The lower openings have double-hung windows; the upper openings consist of double-hung windows with lancet-arch transoms. All of the windows are aluminum replacements with Queen Anne-style tracery. A brick chimney extends the height of the building between the third and fourth bays of this elevation. The cap has been dismantled at the cornice line.

Constructed in 1977, a modern brick addition housing the church's sanctuary abuts the west elevation of the church building.

The south (rear) elevation is an unarticulated brick wall surface with modern brick additions, similarly unfenestrated, abutting, and extending off of the western side of it. A double-story, shed-roof apse extends off the main block, on center of the wall. A pointed arch window in the upper level of the side of this wing has been filled in with brick, as have two door openings on the lower level.

Interior Description:

In 1977, the interior of the 1888 brick church was extensively renovated when the new sanctuary addition was constructed. Presently, the interior of the historic church is finished with vinyl tile flooring, plastic kick boards, plaster-clad and drywall-finished walls, and acoustical tile dropped ceilings with florescent lighting. Recessed surrounds with wood casings that consist of a large interior bead frame the window openings. The entry openings, all holding flush metal or wood doors as specified by use, are narrow metal surrounds.

Despite the creation of an additional floor where the balconies once stood in the historic sanctuary, elements of the original apse are present. These elements were primarily noted on the third floor, in a meeting room. Ghosting created by the filling of the upper portion of the lancet-arched opening to the apse is visible on the southeast wall. Accessed through a door, the upper portion of the apse is presently used as storage space, thus preserving some of the original decorative finishes that ornamented the sanctuary. Decorative ornamentation includes the bolection molding framing the lancet arch, the narrow bolection molding and crown molding on the walls, and painted

rustication. Further, a narrow lancet-arched window opening, now infilled with brick, is located in the southwestern end of the apse/closet. The space is used to store some of the many large stained glass windows that once illuminated the 1888 church.

The new sanctuary is finished with a carpeted floor, exposed masonry walls ornamented with soldier-coursed bricks, and exposed roof framing. The long wooden pews are placed in four groups around the altar, which is framed by a wooden rail. Over the altar, the ceiling is pierced with skylights to allow sunlight. The original 1888 semi-direct lighting, hanging from chains and finished with stained glass, illuminate the new sanctuary. Stained glass windows in lancet-arched openings pierce the northwest wall. The upper balcony is accessed from the southern end of the hall via elevator, or by stairs in the western corner of the 1888 building. The office space and kitchen wing are finished with vinyl tile flooring, plastic kick boards, drywall-finished walls, and acoustical tile dropped ceilings with florescent lighting.

8. Significance

Inventory No. AA-716

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
__ 1600-1699	__ agriculture	__ economics	__ health/medicine	__ performing arts
__ 1700-1799	__ archeology	__ education	__ industry	__ philosophy
X 1800-1899	X architecture	__ engineering	__ invention	__ politics/government
X 1900-1999	__ art	__ entertainment/ recreation	__ landscape architecture	X religion
__ 2000-	__ commerce		__ law	__ science
	__ communications	__ ethnic heritage	__ literature	__ social history
	__ community planning	__ exploration/ settlement	__ maritime history	__ transportation
	__ conservation		__ military	__ other:

Specific dates 1888-1977 **Architect/Builder** Wm B. Gardener (1888); James Weller (1977)

Construction dates 1888; 1977

Evaluation for:

_____ National Register _____Maryland Register ____X____not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

The imposing brick building at 87-91 West Street was constructed in 1888 to serve the growing congregation of the Asbury United Methodist Church. The second religious structure on this site, the church is presented in the Gothic Revival style, characterized by the lancet-arch windows and corbelled cornice indicative of the Victorian period in which it was constructed. In 1838, manumitted slaves and free blacks officially established the congregation as the Asbury Methodist Episcopal Church (first known as the African Methodist Episcopal Church of Annapolis), named in honor of Methodist Bishop Francis Asbury. Prior to the founding of the church, worshippers attended services with the white population at the First Methodist Episcopal Church. However, with rising racial tensions, a separate place of worship was sought by the second quarter of the 19th century. The first church, a wood frame structure, was constructed in 1838 on West Street on land donated to the church by Smith Price in 1803. Reverend Henry Price, a prominent black Annapolitan and church trustee, granted additional property to the church in 1843. The modest wood frame church was replaced by the present brick structure, designed by William B. Gardener, in the fourth quarter of the 19th century; the cornerstone was laid in 1888. The growth of the congregation by the third quarter of the 20th century prompted an expansive building program that resulted in the construction of a new sanctuary wing (designed by James Weller) and removal of historic materials on the interior of the former sanctuary.

History of the Property

The property on which the church at 87-91 West Street now stands was originally a portion of the 100-acre tract patented by Richard Acton in 1658. In April 1707, Acton conveyed the property to Samuel Norwood for one hundred pounds sterling. By 1730, planter, merchant, and prominent landowner Phillip Hammond had obtained title to the property and its improvements. When Hammond died in 1760, his holdings were devised among his six sons, Charles, John, Rezin, Denton, Matthias, and Philip. Between 1765 and 1772, John Hammond gained the interests of his siblings to the estate. John Hammond was responsible for having the fashionable Georgian-style Acton Hall (AA-330) constructed circa 1775. Located at 1 Acton Place, the prominent dwelling is set just south of Franklin Street, overlooking Spa Creek.

Following the death of John Hammond in 1784, William Hammond inherited a portion of his father's estate. It was during the tenure of William Hammond that portions of the vast estate were subdivided, particularly those located within close proximity to the growing city of Annapolis. Beginning with a lease in 1791, Hammond eventually sold portions of the property to Smith Price in circa 1793. Price was the son of Thomas Price, a free white from Dorchester County. His mother was Margaret Hall, a slave from Santa Domingo, bought by Thomas Price. Hall was freed in 1791, one year prior to the manumission of her son. Smith Price was married about 1795 to Anne Shorter, the daughter of Peter and Ruth Shorter of Yarmouth, Nova Scotia.

According to the deeds, Smith Price conveyed a portion of his property (2,050 square feet) along West Street to John Wheeler, George

Martin, Samuel Hackney, Mathias Tobertson, Francis Troy, John Forty, and Jacob Forty in December 1803. The sale, totaling fifteen pounds, was conceived to hold the property in trust for use by the African Methodist Episcopal Church of Annapolis for the religious use of ministers and preachers. Further, the conveyance stated the property was to be the future home of a meeting house known as "The First African Methodist Episcopal Church in the City of Annapolis," and was subject to the rules, creeds, and articles of faith of the Methodist Episcopal Church and to the Bishops and resident minister.

Three years later, in 1806, Smith gave an adjacent lot to his daughter, Jane Fisher, for the cost of five shillings. This lot, based on the description in the deed, was located to the immediate east of the property granted to the African Methodist Episcopal Church. Fisher, having married Richard Chew, retained ownership of the land until the second quarter of the 19th century. The granting of property to Richard Chew and Sally Chew upon the death of Rachel Plummer enlarged the family's holdings on West Street. In June 1843, the property was conveyed for $100 to Henry Price. The deed of conveyance indicates that the land had been improved by the construction of a "small house."[1] This deed also indicates the meeting house of the African Methodist Episcopal Church had been erected by 1843.

Reverend Henry Price was a "free person of color,"[2] who owned property throughout Annapolis. An active citizen, Price oversaw the construction of houses in the period between 1820 and 1841 at 230-232-234 Main Street (AA-588/589). Price is said to have "manumitted slaves, gave house and land to his mother, loaned money to his relatives and serves as trustee for minor children of his friends."[3] In fact, seven years after having purchased the property on West Street adjacent to the meeting house, Price sold it for $150 to the church trustees. The trustees at that time included Benjamin Offer, John Smith, John Brogden, Richard Lane, John Qells, John H. Brice, and Henry Price himself.

Beginning in April 1888, the church began to purchase additional lots surrounding the West Street property. The first of two lots bought by the church in this period was purchased from the estate of John Brice as a result of an equity case (Noble Watkins versus Mary J. Lane). One year later, the trustees of the Asbury Methodist Episcopal Church purchased a second lot from the Brice estate. The deed of conveyance specifically states that the property was to be reserved for residence of preachers. Several years earlier, in 1884, the church purchased property at the intersection of Brewer and West Streets for a cemetery. The first African American-owned cemetery in Annapolis, the People's Brewer Hill Cemetery was purchased together with Mount Moriah AME Church. Prior to the establishment of the Brewer Hill Cemetery, members of the congregation were buried in what was the only public burial ground in Annapolis until the mid-19th century. Located at the intersection of Northwest and Calvert Street, St. Anne's Cemetery provided interment for free blacks on or near West Hill.

History of the Asbury United Methodist Church

The congregation of the Asbury United Methodist Church, together with Mount Moriah AME Church (AA-506), appears to unofficially date to the latter part of the 18th century, possibly as early as 1777.[4] The establishment of the church is closely tied to the religious meetings of Francis Asbury (1745-1816), the first Methodist Bishop in America. A biographic summary of Asbury explains the Bishop's contribution to the Methodist Church in America:

> Asbury was born in 1745 in Handsworth, near Birmingham, England. In 1767, he was ordained a Wesleyan ("Methodist") minister, and soon thereafter he volunteered to be a missionary to the American colonies.

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[1] Land Records of Anne Arundel County, Liber WSG 27, Folio 8.
[2] Elizabeth B. Anderson. *Annapolis, A Walk Through History.* (Centerville, MD: Tidewater Publishers, 1984), p. 51.
[3] *Asbury United Methodist Church, Annapolis, Maryland,* (White Plains, NY: Monarch Publishing, Inc., 1978), p. 2.
[4] Interview with Janice Hayes-Williams, historian for Asbury United Methodist Church, June 13, 2001.

> Asbury arrived in Philadelphia in 1771, just a few years after the establishment of the first American Methodist church. By 1773, he had become the head of the Methodist Baltimore district. Asbury was the only Methodist missionary to remain in the colonies throughout the American Revolution, and in 1784 the several Wesleyan societies in the United States merged into the Methodist Episcopal Church and named Asbury superintendent. Devoting himself to spreading the influence of the Methodist Church in the United States, Asbury rode horseback throughout the South and Southwest preaching and helping organize new churches. He is said to have presided at over 200 conferences, given more than 16,000 sermons, and traveled nearly 300,000 miles on horseback during his lifetime of missionary work. Asbury's exhausting travels and labors, described in his *Journal,* answered his repeated prayers: the Methodist Church joined the Baptists and Presbyterians as one of the three great denominations of the South. When Asbury arrived in the colonies, there were just 1,200 American followers of the Methodist Church. By the time of his death in 1816, there were 214,000.[5]

However, the first documented establishment of the African Methodist Episcopal Church in the City of Annapolis did not occur until 1803. In 1816, the congregation joined the General Conference of the African Methodist Episcopal Bethel Church, part of a broader movement to establish an independent conference of black Methodist churches. The church, although made up of free African Americans, remained under the supervision of the white Methodist Episcopal Conference of Baltimore. In Annapolis, worshippers attended the First Methodist Episcopal Church, located on the future site of the United States Naval Academy. "Reverend Job Gess, of the Old Baltimore Conference was pastor and Reverend Alfred Griffith [was] the Presiding Elder. Blacks occupied the galleries to which they ascended from the outside by means of high steps."[6]

Although slavery was not to be abolished until 1864, racial tensions began mounting in the second quarter of the 19th century. Census records indicate that between 1820 and 1830, Maryland "gained the largest number of free blacks of any state in the Union – 52,938 according to an 1830 Census Report."[7] Thus, the black worshippers sought separate facilities that would permit greater participation in the services and more indigenous leadership under the existing law. This resulted in the official establishment of the Asbury Methodist Episcopal Church in 1838, when the Quarterly Conference granted permission for the separation. The church was named in honor of Bishop Francis Asbury.

Smith Price had had the foresight to grant land just outside the City of Annapolis in 1803 for the expressed purpose of erecting a meeting house for the African Methodist Episcopal congregation; however, a place for worship had not been built. Accordingly, the newly created congregation commenced with the construction of a modest wood frame church on the 2,050 square feet lot on West Street, located about 100 feet from the City Gates of Annapolis at the intersection of West Street with Cathedral Street. Charles Shorter, a descendent of Peter Shorter, constructed the building, which was surrounded by modest two-story wood frame dwellings.

Despite the advances, "no Negro local preacher had yet been accepted as a member of the Conference. Their status was still that of helpers to the white pastors assigned to the Negro churches."[8] As recounted in *Asbury United Methodist Church,*

> From 1838 to 1864, the minister and Presiding Elder of the First Methodist Church served Asbury Church. Asbury's first local preachers, Harry Price, Samuel Hackney and Benjamin Drummond relieved the assigned

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[5] "Reverend Francis Asbury," Downloaded from the internet http://www.virginia.edu/~history/courses/courses.old/hius323/asbury.html.
[6] *Asbury United Methodist Church, Annapolis, Maryland,* p. 3.
[7] *Asbury United Methodist Church, Annapolis, Maryland,* p. 2.
[8] *Asbury United Methodist Church, Annapolis, Maryland,* p. 3.

> minister of such duties as visiting the sick and burying the dead. The assigned minister administered Holy Communion, kept statistics and performed those jobs which the local preachers could not as dictated by law. He preached to the congregation once a month. By law, Asbury was not permitted to have class leaders from its congregation, so these leaders, too, came from the First Methodist Church.[9]

In Annapolis, by the 1840s, only one African-American congregation was in existence, worshipping at the Asbury United Methodist Church. In 1849, the Mayor and Council ordered that the African Meeting House be closed. Although no reason appears in the record, at mid-century, the racial climate was increasingly tense. Services commenced two years later, in 1850.[10]

Building History

The Asbury Methodist Episcopal Church continued to serve the black community of Annapolis throughout the middle part of the 19th century. However, by the third quarter of the 19th century, membership of the congregation increased dramatically, aided by the abolition of slavery. Accordingly, under the direction of Reverend Alexander Dennis and Reverend Singleton P. Hughes, plans for a new church were undertaken. William B. Gardener was contracted to erected the brick Gothic Revival-style building in the mid-1870s. The cornerstone was laid on the north corner of the building in 1888, also noting the founding of the congregation in 1838. As the new building was constructed of brick, it is believed that little if any of the building materials from the first wood frame structure were incorporated into the second structure. The congregation did, however, retain elements from this first structure, which are housed in their archives.

With its primary façade fronting West Street, the front-gabled church when completed stood two stories in height on the exterior. On the interior, however, the church presented three levels. The first floor, entered from the double-leaf doors on West Street, served as a secondary sanctuary where children and smaller prayer groups worshipped. Office space was located to the sides of the apse on the southeast elevation. The second floor housed the primary sanctuary with a grand altar located at the southeastern end of the building. This sanctuary ran the full depth of the building with access from the first floor in the north and west corners. Additionally, the corner stairs provided access to the upper balconies that ran along the third-story level of the building. The open-nave plan of the church provided for an apse on the southeast elevation. One bay wide with a shed roof, the apse was framed on the interior with a lancet-arched opening that rose to the third-story balcony level. The nave was clad in plaster over the brick walls of the structure with paneled wainscoting and a wide bolection-shaped molding hung about one foot from the intersection of the walls and ceiling. This molding augmented the bolection-shaped crown molding.

In 1892, the church was incorporated and the trustees transferred ownership. The continued growth of the congregation throughout the 20th century prompted a third building campaign. Undertaken in the late 1970s, the Building Program was responsible for the construction of a new sanctuary, offices, and kitchen addition. Further, the interior of the 1888 brick church was extensively altered to provide an auditorium, office space, rooms for the choir and pastor, as well as an archives and history room. The rehabilitation of the historic sanctuary included removal of the original stained glass windows, removal of all the wainscoting, moldings, and casing, and removal of the altar, pews, and upper balconies. A third floor was placed in the open nave, thereby obscuring any sense of the open two-story space that originally existed in the church. The lancet-arched window openings were filled with modern sash that was not stained glass but had snap-in muntins to present the pattern of the original lites. The original window sash was retained, placed in storage and used in part as ornamentation on the new partition walls constructed during the rehabilitation.

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[9] *Asbury United Methodist Church, Annapolis, Maryland*, p. 3.
[10] "Mount Moriah African Methodist Episcopal Church, National Register of Historic Places Inventory Nomination Form," prepared by Russell Wright and Phoebe Jacobsen, October 1972.

James Weller served as the architect for the new sanctuary, offices, and kitchen addition under the direction of the Building Committee during the tenure of Reverend Joshua Hutchins, Jr. The new sanctuary was consecrated on July 17, 1977. The addition was located to the southwest of the 1888 building, using the latter's southwest wall in its structure. A long hall that ran the depth of the new sanctuary joined the two structures. This new sanctuary presented the apse on the center of the southwest wall with skylights in the ceiling. Like its predecessor, the new sanctuary rose two floors with balconies along the northeast wall. Office space for the pastor, a lounge, a study, and restrooms were located to the rear of the new addition on the first floor. On the second floor of the addition was space for the kindergarten and the nursery, along with additional restrooms and an elevator. The third floor provided additional meeting space, restrooms, and housed the mechanical equipment. The one-story kitchen wing was located to the east of the 1888 building, extending nearly half the depth of the brick structure.

Throughout its long history, the Asbury United Methodist Church, as it had become, continued to grow and meet the needs of its congregation as well as those of the surrounding Annapolis community. As part of the church's ministry, many groups were formed, including the United Methodist Youth Fellowship (1904), Ladies' Auxiliary (1919), Young Adult Choir (1940s), Senior Choir (1838), Male Choir (1959), Gospel Choir (1940), Praying and Singing Band (mid-1800s), King's Daughters and Sons (1905), United Methodist Men's Fellowship of Asbury (1977), and the Asbury Church School (1838). In support of the community, the Nurse's Unit was organized in 1928, in addition to the Union Charity Club (1917), Women in Mission (1972), Boosters Club (1973), Brewer Hill Cemetery Boosters Club (1967), and Committee on Local Church Communications (1975), to name a few.

Chain of Title

August 11, 1651:	Richard Acton receives grant for 100 acres in Annapolis from Cecil Calvert Land Patent G Folio 117
April 29, 1707:	Richard Acton to Samuel Norwood Provincial Court Records Liber WT 2 Folio 553
Circa 1730:	Philip Hammond owes the property
1760:	Philip Hammond devised to six sons Will Records Box H Folder 20
1765:	Charles and Philip Hammond (Jr.) to John Hammond Rent Roll 16 Folio 6, Paragraph 43
February 2, 1768:	Denton Hammond to John Hammond Provincial Court Records Liber BB 3 Folio 804
March 24, 1772:	Rezin Hammond and Mathias Hammond to John Hammond Provincial Court Records Liber IB 3 Folio 270/274

1784:	John Hammond devised to William Hammond Will Records Box H Folder 22
Circa 1793:	William Hammond of John and William King (brother-in-law) to Smith Price
December 6, 1803:	Smith Price to John Wheeler, George Martin, Samuel Hackney, Mathias Tobertson, Francis Troy, John Forty, and Jacob Forty, to hold in trust of the African Methodist Episcopal Church of Annapolis First Lot reserved for the construction of a meetinghouse Land Records of Anne Arundel County Liber NH 12 Folio 218
December 18, 1806:	Smith Price to Jane Fisher, daughter Second Lot Land Records of Anne Arundel County Liber NH 13 Folio 335
June 28, 1843:	Jane Fisher Chew, Richard Chew and Sally Chew to Henry Price Second Lot Land Records of Anne Arundel County Liber WSG 1 Folio 317
November 7, 1850:	Henry and Ann Price to Benjamin Offer, John Smith, John Brogden, Henry Price, Richard Lane, John Qells, and John H. Brice, Trustees of the First African Methodist Episcopal Church in Annapolis Second Lot Land Records of Anne Arundel County Liber JHN 5 Folio 321
April 9, 1888:	John Randall, Trustee for the estate of John Brice (Noble Watkins versus Mary J. Lane) to Trustees of the Asbury Methodist Episcopal Church Third Lot Land Records of Anne Arundel County Liber SH 32 Folio 438
April 2, 1889:	John Randall, Trustee for the estate of John Brice (Noble Watkins versus Mary J. Lane) to Trustees of the Asbury Methodist Episcopal Church Fourth Lot to be reserved for residence of preachers Land Records of Anne Arundel County Liber SH 32 Folio 438
January 18, 1892:	Trustees of the Asbury Methodist Episcopal Church transfer to the Asbury Methodist Episcopal Church, a Maryland Corporation All four lots Land Records of Anne Arundel County Liber SH 40 Folio 438

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. AA-716

Anderson, Elizabeth B., *Annapolis, A Walk Through History,* Centerville, MD: Tidewater Publishers, 1984.

"Asbury Echoes," Volume I, Number 1, March 1, 1982.

Asbury United Methodist Church, Annapolis, Maryland, White Plains, NY: Monarch Publishing, Inc., 1978.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property	1 Acre		
Acreage of historical setting	1 Acre		
Quadrangle name	Annapolis	Quadrangle scale:	1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The building at 87-91 West Street was been historically associated with Parcel 346 as indicated on Map 4Z, Grid 15 since its construction in 1888 and enlargement in 1977.

11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Laura Trieschmann and Kim Williams, Architectural Historians		
organization	EHT Traceries, Incorporated	date	June 28, 2001
street & number	1121 5th Street NW	telephone	202.393.1199
city or town	Washington	state	DC

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties 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
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600

Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of
Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. AA-716

Name Asbury United Methodist Church, 87-91 West Street, Annapolis, Maryland
Continuation Sheet

Number 9 Page 1

Calvin, Ann, Asbury U.M. Church Living Education Center, "Asbury Methodist Episcopal Church," National Register of Historic Placed Inventory Form, February 19, 1982 (filed at the Maryland Historical Trust Archives).

Kearns, Richard, Historic Annapolis Inc. Preservation Administrator, "Asbury Methodist Church," National Register of Historic Placed Inventory Form, March 14, 1980 (filed at the Maryland Historical Trust Archives).

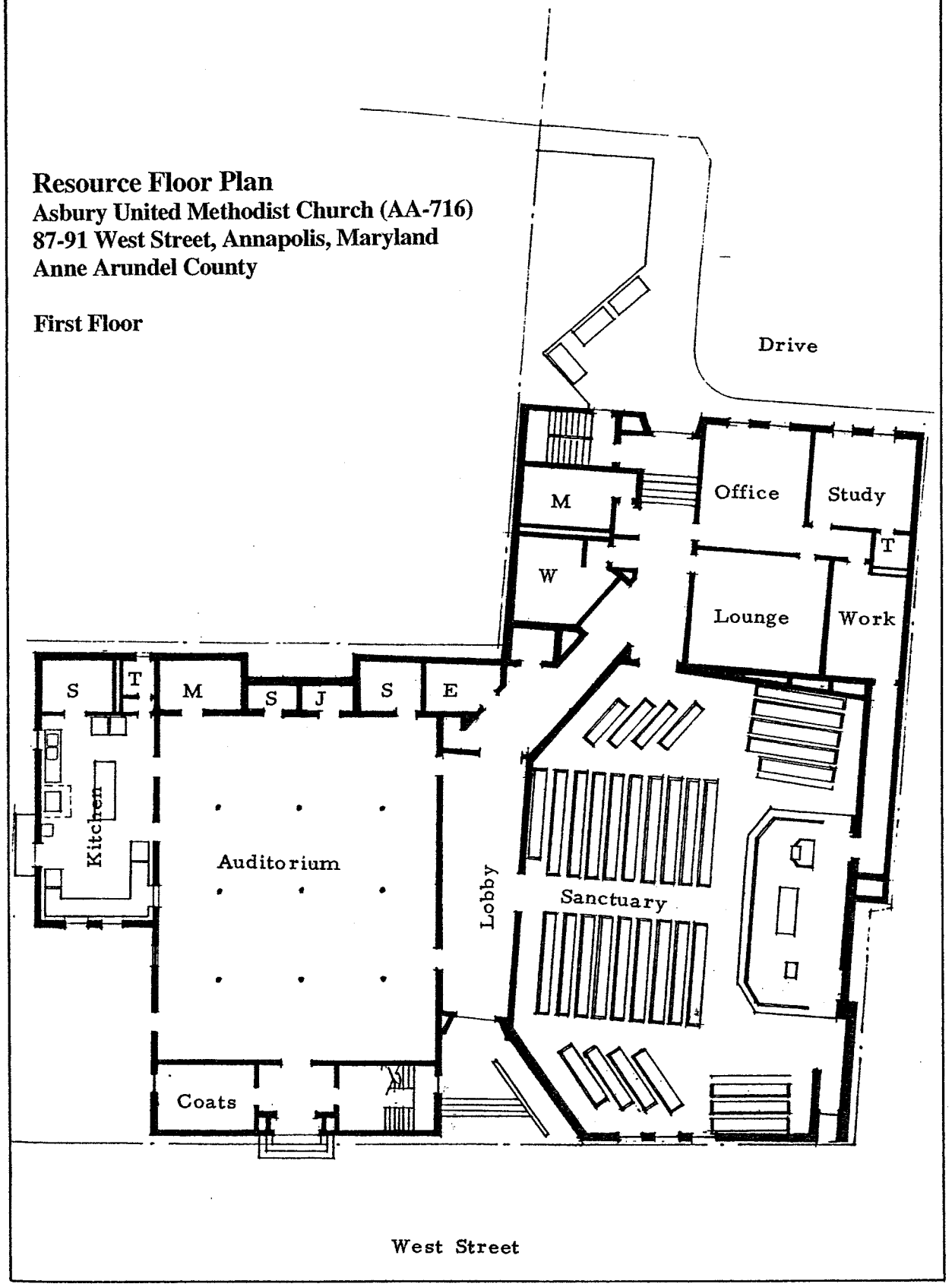
"Mount Moriah African Methodist Episcopal Church, National Register of Historic Places Inventory Nomination Form," prepared by Russell Wright and Phoebe Jacobsen, October 1972.

"Reverend Francis Asbury," Downloaded from the internet http://www.virginia.edu/~history/courses/courses.old/hius323/asbury.html.

Resource Floor Plan

Asbury United Methodist Church (AA-716)
87-91 West Street, Annapolis, Maryland
Anne Arundel County

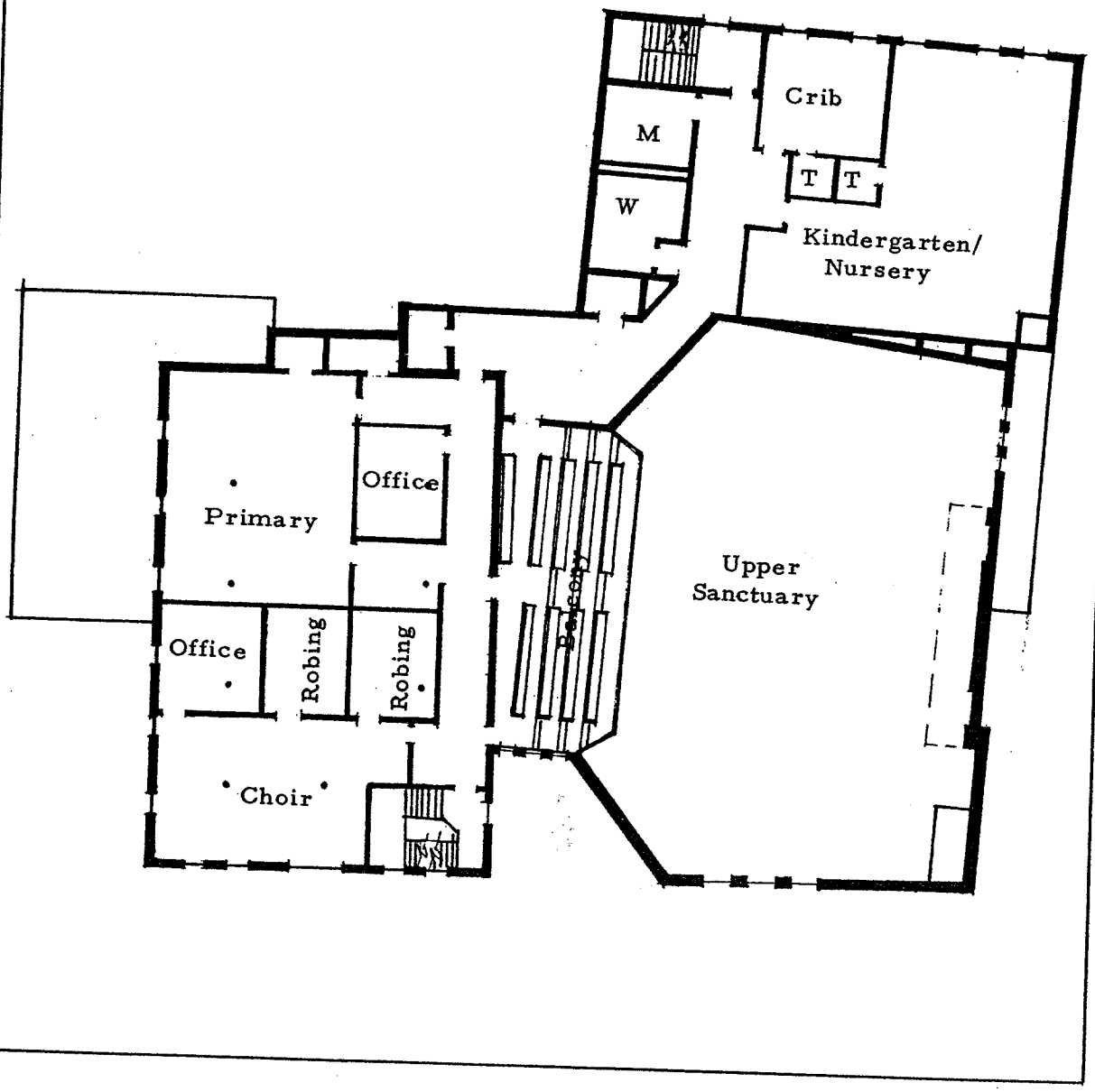
First Floor



Resource Floor Plan

Asbury United Methodist Church (AA-716)
87-91 West Street, Annapolis, Maryland
Anne Arundel County

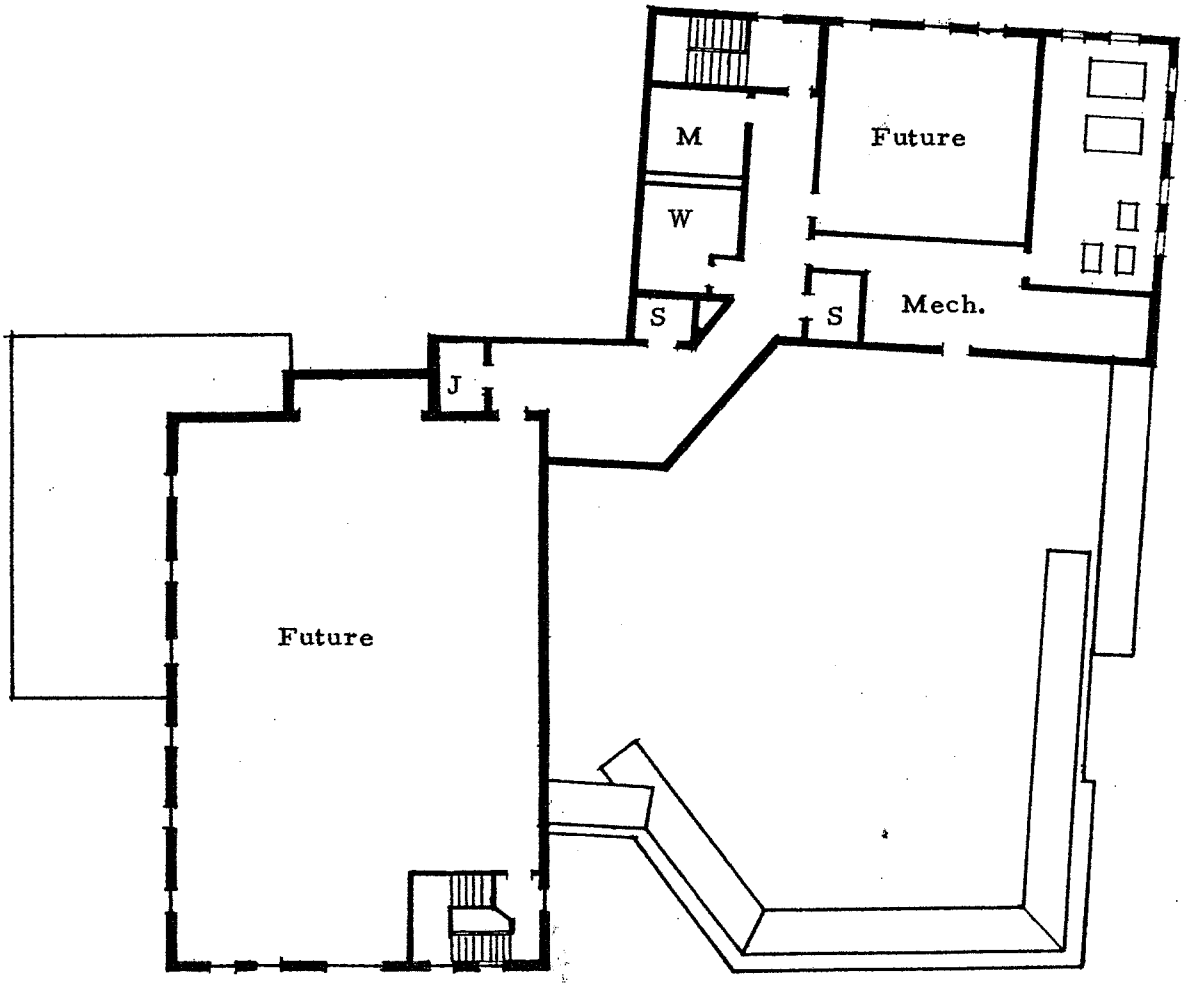
Second Floor



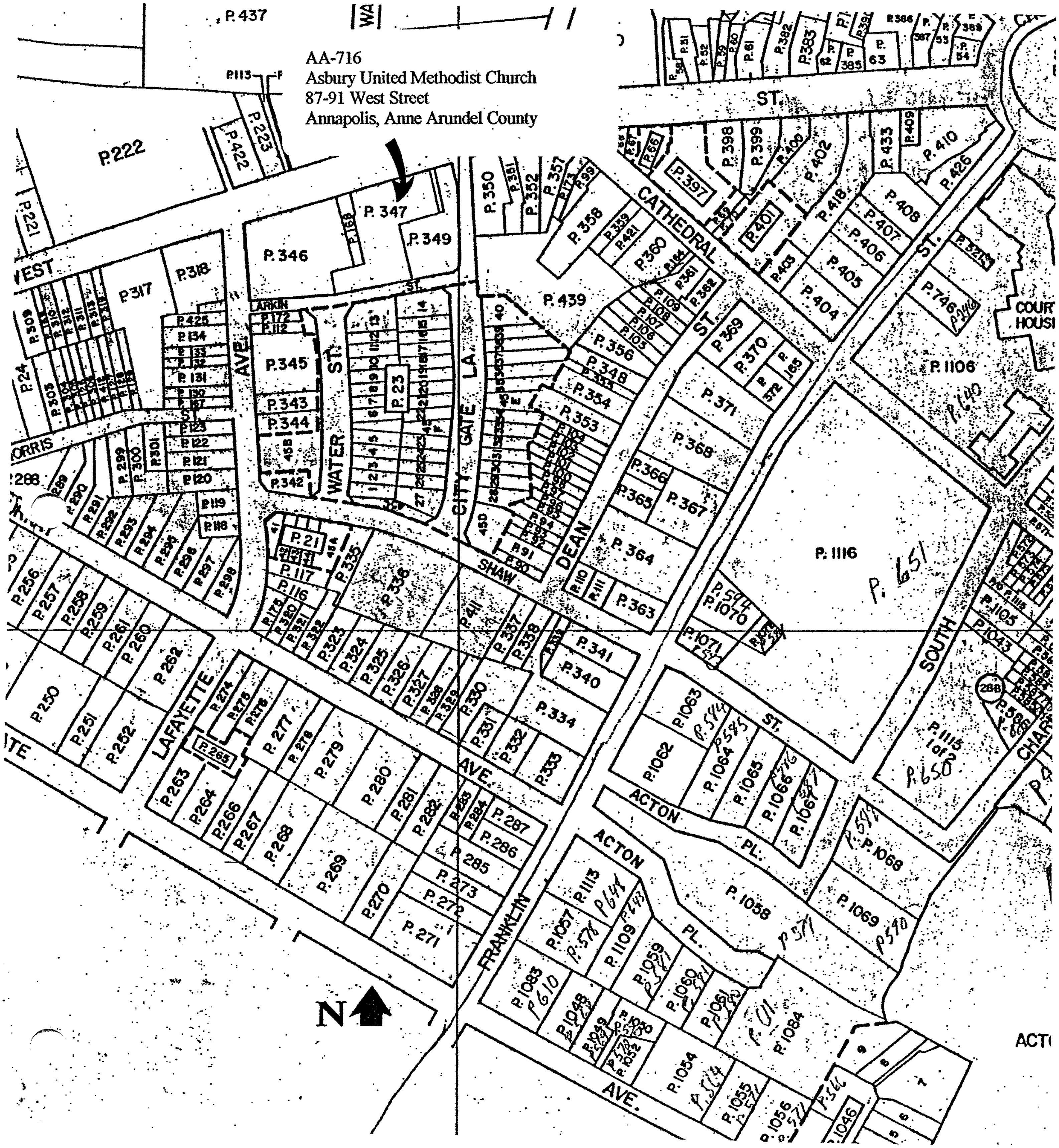
Resource Floor Plan

Asbury United Methodist Church (AA-716)
87-91 West Street, Annapolis, Maryland
Anne Arundel County

Third Floor



MAP OF ANNAPOLIS, No.4-6
Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation
1967; Revised 1991
Scale 1' = 200'



AA-716
ASBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
87-91 WEST ST
ANNAPOLIS, MD
TRACERIES
5/2001
MD SHPO
NW ELEVATION LOOKING SOUTH
1 OF 12

AA-716
ASBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
87-91 WEST ST
ANNAPOLIS, MD
TRACERIES
5/2001
MD SHPO
WEST CORNER LOOKING EAST
2 OF 12

IMAGE POWER, INC
90 West Street
Annapolis, Maryland
410-269-8888

AA-716
ASBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
87-91 WEST ST
ANNAPOLIS, MD
TRACERIES
5/2001
MD SHPO
SW ELEVATION OF ADDITION, LOOKING SE
3 OF 12

AA-716
ASBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
87-91 WEST ST
ANNAPOLIS, MD
TRACERIES
5/2001
MD SHPO
SE ELEVATION OF ADDITION LOOKING NW
4 OF 12

AA-716
ASBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
87-91 WEST ST
ANNAPOLIS, MD
TRACERIES
5/2001
MD SHPO
EAST CORNER LOOKING NW
5 OF 12

AA-716
ASBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
87-91 WEST STREET
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND
TRACERIES
4/2001
MD SHPO
NE ELEVATION LOOKING SOUTH
6 OF 12

AA-716
ASBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
87-91 WEST ST., ANNAPOLIS, MD
TRACERIES
5/2001
MD SHPO
3RD FLOOR, FORMERLY SANTUARY - BALCONY LEVEL
LOOKING EAST
7 OF 12

AA-716
ASBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
87-91 WEST ST., ANNAPOLIS, MD
TRACERIES
5/2001
MD SHPO
3RD FLOOR CLOSET, FORMERLY REAR OF ALTAR
LOOKING SW
8 OF 12

AA-716
ASBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
87-91 WEST ST, ANNAPOLIS, MD
TRACERIES
5/2001
MD SHPO
3RD FLOOR CLOSET, FORMERLY REAR OF ALTAR
LOOKING EAST
9 OF 12

AA-716
ASBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
87-91 WEST ST, ANNAPOLIS, MD
TRACERIES
5/2001
MD SHPO
3RD FLOOR, FORMERLY BALCONY-LEVEL OF SANTUARY
LOOKING SE
11 OF 12

AA-716
ASBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
87-91 WEST ST, ANNAPOLIS, MD
TRACERIES
5/2001
MD SHOP
3RD FLOOR CLOSET, FORMERLY REAR OF ALTAR
LOOKING NORTH
10 OF 12

AA-716
ASBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
87-91 WEST ST, ANNAPOLIS, MD
TRACERIES
5/2001
MD SHPO
NEW SANCTUARY LOOKING SOUTHWEST
12 OF 12

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
21 STATE CIRCLE
SHAW HOUSE
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

HISTORIC SITES SURVEY FIELD SHEET
Individual Structure Survey Form

SURVEY NUMBER: AA 716

NEGATIVE FILE NUMBER:

UTM REFERENCES:
Zone/Easting/Northing

U.S.G.S. QUAD. MAP:

PRESENT FORMAL NAME:
Asbury United Methodist Church

COUNTY: Anne Arundel
TOWN: Annapolis
LOCATION:
87 West St

ORIGINAL FORMAL NAME:
Asbury A.M.E. Church

PRESENT USE: Church
ORIGINAL USE: Church

ARCHITECT/ENGINEER:

COMMON NAME:
Asbury United Methodist Church

BUILDER/CONTRACTOR:

FUNCTIONAL TYPE: CHURCH Map 30 Par 533

OWNER: Ch-Asbury Methodist
ADDRESS: 87 West St
Annapolis, MD 21401

PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE:
Excellent (X) Good ( )
Fair ( ) Poor: ( )

ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC:
Yes (X) No ( ) Restricted ( )

THEME:

STYLE: Vict Gothic

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE:
Local ( ) State (√) National ( )

DATE BUILT:
1888

GENERAL DESCRIPTION:
Structural System
1. Foundation: Stone( )Brick(X)Concrete( )Concrete Block( )
2. Wall Structure
   A. Wood Frame: Post and Beam( )Balloon( )
   B. Wood Bearing Masonry: Brick(X)Stone( )Concrete( )Concrete Block( )
   C. Iron( ) D. Steel( ) E. Other:
3. Wall Covering: Clapboard( )Board and Batten( )Wood Shingle( )Shiplap( )
   Novelty( )Stucco( )Sheet Metal( )Aluminum( )Asphalt Shingle( )
   Brick Veneer(X)Stone Veneer( )Asbestos Shingle( )
   Bonding Pattern: Common with Flemish Bonding Course Other:
4. Roof Structure
   A. Truss: Wood(X)Iron( )Steel( )Concrete( )
   B. Other:
5. Roof Covering: Slate(X)Wood Shingle( )Asphalt Shingle( )Sheet Metal( )
   Built Up( )Rolled( )Tile( )Other:
6. Engineering Structure:
7. Other:

Appendages: Porches( )Towers( )Cupolas( )Dormers( )Chimneys( )Sheds( )Ells( )
Wings ( )Other:
Roof Style: Gable(X)Hip( )Shed( )Flat( )Mansard( )Gambrel( )Jerkinhead( )
Saw Tooth( )With Monitor( )With Bellcast( )With Parapet( )With False Front( )
Other:
Number of Stories: 2=4
Number of Bays: 5
Approximate Dimensions:
Entrance Location: Centered

THREAT TO STRUCTURE:
No Threat(x)Zoning( )Roads( )
Development( )Deterioration( )
Alteration ( )Other:

LOCAL ATTITUDES:
Positive( )Negative( )
Mixed( ) Other:

ADDITIONAL ARCHITECTURAL OR STRUCTURAL DESCRIPTION: AA-716

Exceptional corbeled brick cornice creating series of pointed arches at gable end wall; two story pointed arch windows flank double width two and one-half story pointed arch central window with stained glass at upper section separated from rest of window by wood spandrel; voussoirs at windows alternating brownstone and brick, brownstone imposts and sills that extend as belt course; elliptical windows at first floor with keystones, stained glass margins; centered entrance inset, with granite stairs, double doors with stained glass transom.

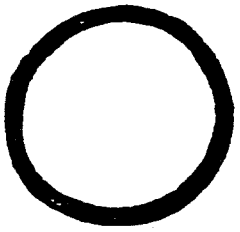
RELATED STRUCTURES: (Describe)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

Excellent example of American Gothic, well executed, dominates streetscape. Historically important as one of earliest Black congregations and edifices in Annapolis, on site of 1803 church.

REFERENCES:

MAP: (Indicate North In Circle)

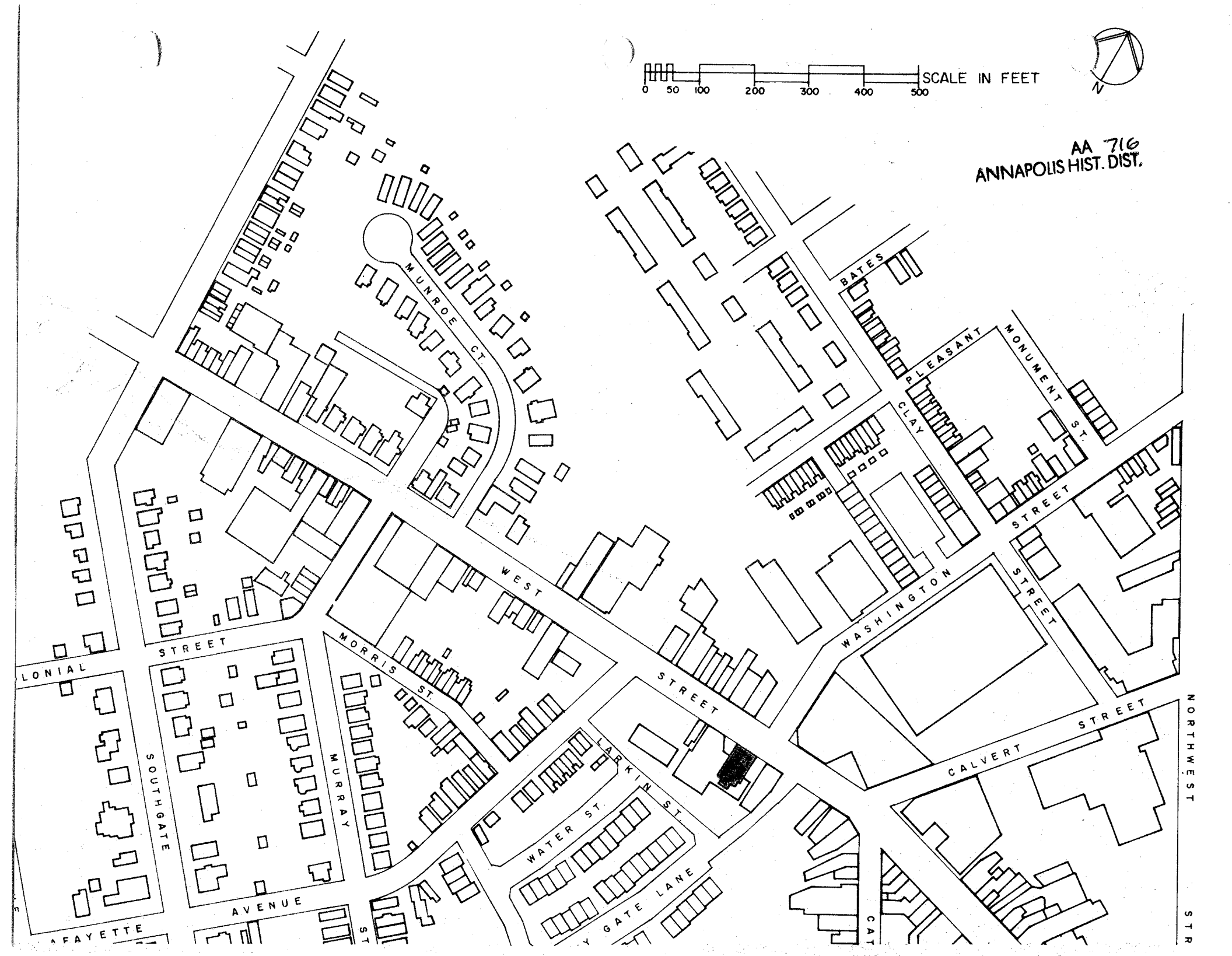


SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT:
Open Lane( )Woodland( )Scattered Buildings( )
Moderately Built Up(✓)Densely Built Up( )
Residential( )Commercial( )
Agricultural( )Industrial( )
Roadside Strip Development( )
Other:

RECORDED BY: Russell Wright

ORGANIZATION: Historic Annapolis, Inc

DATE RECORDED: Aug. 1983


SCALE IN FEET
0 50 100 200 300 400 500
N
AA 716
ANNAPOLIS HIST. DIST.
MUNROE CT.
BATES
PLEASANT
MONUMENT ST.
CLAY
STREET
WEST
STREET
WASHINGTON
STREET
MORRIS ST.
STREET
CALVERT
STREET
LARKIN ST.
WATER ST.
GATE LANE
SOUTHGATE
MURRAY
AVENUE
NORTHWEST

AA-716

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC: Asbury Methodist Church

AND/OR COMMON:

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER: 85-87 West Street

CITY, TOWN: Annapolis ___ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: 30th

STATE: Maryland

COUNTY: Anne Arundel

3 CLASSIFICATION

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

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME:

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER:

CITY, TOWN: ___ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

Liber #:

Folio #:

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Anne Arundel County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER: Church Circle

CITY, TOWN: Annapolis

STATE: Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE: Historic Annapolis, Inc Architectural Survey

DATE: Sept 1983

__FEDERAL X STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: 194 Prince George St. and Maryland Historical Trust

CITY, TOWN: Annapolis

STATE: Maryland

AA-716

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
__EXCELLENT	__DETERIORATED	__UNALTERED	__ORIGINAL SITE
__GOOD	__RUINS	__ALTERED	__MOVED DATE_____
__FAIR	__UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Located at 85-87 West Street, the Asbury Methodist Church stands on the south side of the street at the head of Washington Street and to the west of Annapolis National Historic Landmark District. This church abuts the sidewalk and has a small one story addition projecting from the east side and a large two story sanctuary structure attached to the west side. These additions were designed and constructed so as to retain the 1879-1889 structure as the focal point.

Asbury Methodist Church is a two story, painted red brick, Gothic Revival influenced building with gable end toward the street. In typical urban fashion, all architectural attention is focused on the street facade.

Dominating the front facade are three pairs of lancet arch windows which originally lit a second story sanctuary. The center pair of windows extends into the gable, culminating in a large single lancet arch window. Glass in the wood pane windows is a combination of large translucent patterned and plain center panels, amber glass side lights and blue glass corner lights. Brownstone accents the windows alternating with brick voissoirs and on sills which are an integral part of an ornamental molded brick beltcourse which runs across the facade.

At the ground level, two pairs of double hung windows and large double doors have segmental arches with brownstone keys and sills. Glass in these windows and the transom above the door match the large lancet arch windows. Brown steps lead up to the doorway. The line of the gable is decorated with small lancet arches of corbeled brick.

The remaining sections of the end walls repeat the upper level, originally two tall lancet windows, with 1/1 sash flanking a transom lit side entrance at the left wall, three 1/1 sash at the right, all with stained glass in the upper sash. The cornice is a simple corbel course.

Recently the interior was completely gutted, three floors inserted and remodeled for classrooms and is of no significance. The interior room arrangement and decorative detailing all date from this renovation made about 1977-78. At this same time, a new sanctuary structure of brick with lancet windows was attached to the west side and a small one story kitchen room added to the east end.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

AA-716

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
__PREHISTORIC	__ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	__COMMUNITY PLANNING	__LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	__RELIGION	
400-1499	__ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	__CONSERVATION	__LAW	__SCIENCE	
500-1599	__AGRICULTURE	__ECONOMICS	__LITERATURE	__SCULPTURE	
__1600-1699	__ARCHITECTURE	__EDUCATION	__MILITARY	__SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
__1700-1799	__ART	__ENGINEERING	__MUSIC	__THEATER	
__1800-1899	__COMMERCE	__EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	__PHILOSOPHY	__TRANSPORTATION	
__1900-	__COMMUNICATIONS	__INDUSTRY	__POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	__OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		__INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Asbury Methodist Church, a brick structure erected in 1888-1889 for an affluent black congregation, is significant for its association with black Annapolis history, its Gothic Revival facade, and the prominent visual role it plays in the streetscape of West Street.

HISTORY AND SUPPORT

The Asbury Methodist Church was founded in 1838 by a group of free blacks who had worshipped with the white congregation of the First Methodist Church in Annapolis. With racial tensions mounting, the black members of the church sought separate facilities so they could have a full participation in the worship services and their own leadership. A site was donated by the Reverend and Mrs. Henry Price and a building erected by another member, Charles Shorter. This original structure served until it was replaced in 1888-1889 by the present building.

Erected by William B. Gardener, an Annapolis contractor, the Asbury Methodist Church is a brick Gothic Revival facaded structure to which a large extension was added in 1977. Although the interior of the building was extensively altered in recent years, the facade (north elevation) retains its original full glory of paired lancet arch windows with stone and brick voussoirs and is terminated by a lancet-arched brick cornice. The building is rated "Excellent" in an architect-prepared survey made in 1970 for Historic Annapolis, Inc., by Carl Feiss FAIA and AIP, and Russell Wright, AIP.

Located on the south side of West Street at the head of Washington St Asbury Methodist Church is an important focal point in both the street and the church complex itself. Its vertical lines and decoration sta in sharp contrast to the surrounding neighborhood which is undergoing extensive revitalization. The building is one of only a few pre-mid-twentieth century buildings that still stand in this block of West Stree (the second block west of Church Street) that give a visual indication of the complexion of this once busy commercial area. Although no longer used as a sanctuary, this nineteenth century structure is a visual symbol for the congregation which, unlike many other congregations, has chosen to remain at its original location.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

AA-716

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

ORGANIZATION DATE

STREET & NUMBER TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN STATE

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

AA-716

DATA SHEET: ARCHITECTURAL SURVEY

Site: 85-87 West Street

Tax Map 30 parcel 533

Deed Reference (current/82): SH 40:438 (1892)

Fabric:
Height:
Outbuildings:

Beard Lot # (if known):
Stoddert Lot #: ____
property owner at time of Stodert survey:

1798 Federal Direct Tax:

Appears on:

Sachse print (1860)	__	
Hopkins Atlas (1878)	x	
1885 Sanborn	__	
1891 Sanborn	x	
1897 Sanborn	x	
1903 Sanborn	x	
1908 Sanborn	__	
1913 Sanborn	x	
1921 Sanborn	x	
1930 Sanborn	__	
Other	__	Specify _____

Chancery or Equity Cases:

Real Estate Advertisements:

Plats:

Inventories of improved premises:

first owner of improved property:

Date of construction:

Notes:

AA-716

Chain of Title:

Patents Q:117	(1658)	Richard Acton patents original grant of 100 acres.
Deeds WT2:553	(1707)	Samuel Norwood buys 'Acton'.
Rent Roll 16:6, p. 43	(1753)	Philip Hammond owns 'Acton'.
Wills 31:92	(1760)	Philip Hammond wills 'Acton' to his six sons.
Rent Roll 16:6, p. 43	(1764)	Charles Hammond sells his share to John Hammond.
"	(1765)	Philip & Charles Hammond sell their shares to John Hammond.
Deeds BB:804	(1768)	Denton Hammond sells his share to John Hammond.
Deeds IB3:274	(1772)	Rezin Hammond sells his share to John Hammond
Deeds IB3:207	(1772)	Mathias Hammond sells his share to John Hammond.
	(1788)	William Hammond of John, nephew of Philip Hammond, owns 'Acton.'
Deeds NH11:318	(11/17/1801)	William Hammond to Smith Price, 3 acres of 'Acton,' now called 'Plains of Annapolis.'
Deeds NH12:113	(7/9/1803)	William Hammond to Smith Price, 3/4 acres adjacent land sold in 1801.
Deeds NH12:218	(12/6/1803)	Smith Price in trust to African Methodist Episcopal Church of Annapolis
Deeds NH13:335	(12/18/1806)	Smith Price to daughter Janey Fisher, property adjacent to African Meeting House lot.
Deeds WSG27:8	(6/28/1843)	Jane Fisher Chew to Henry Price
Deeds JHN5:321	(11/7/1850)	Henry andAnn Price to trustees of African Methodist Episcopal Church.
Deeds SH40:438	(1/18/1892)	Trustees of Asbury Methodist Episcopal Church to Asbury Methodist Episcopal Church (corporation).

AA-716

0207161608

Form 10-445
(5/62)

1. STATE Annapolis, Maryland
COUNTY
TOWN VICINITY
STREET NO. 85-87 West Street

ORIGINAL OWNER Asbury Methodist Church
ORIGINAL USE church
PRESENT OWNER Methodist Church
PRESENT USE church
WALL CONSTRUCTION brick
NO. OF STORIES two

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
INVENTORY

2. NAME Asbury Methodist Church

DATE OR PERIOD 1888 Altered 1977
STYLE
ARCHITECT
BUILDER

3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE

4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION

OPEN TO PUBLIC yes

Founded in 1835, this church named after the famous Asbury, is a good example of modified American Victorian gothic (as opposed to the academic Gothic of men such as Renwick and Upjohn). The main auditorium is on the second floor which has three groupings of two narrow windows each - all pointed arches at top. The central bay is slightly taller and is topped by one large pointed window the whole forming one large Gothic window. The windows have brown stone sills which are an integral part of an ornamental belt course. The windows also have brown stone mixed with brick.
The bable end is scalloped with a series of gothic arches formed by corbeled brick. The first floor has a typical double door topped by a stained glass transom and an arch with a brownstone keystone. The four first floor windows echo the same motif; they have brownstone sills. The doorway is on four granite steps. On side, 2 storey has pointed windows divided by a panel.
Church is used and appears in good shape from exterior

Interior Exterior Good

7. PHOTOGRAPH

8. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER

William D. Morgan
Columbia University
New York City

DATE OF RECORD June 20, 1967

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION AND PHOTOGRAPHS MAY BE ADDED ON SHEET OF SAME SIZE

87-91 West AA 716
Annapolis, Anne Arundel County
Russell Wright July, 1982
Maryland Historical Trust,
Annapolis, Maryland
nw Elevation/camera facing se

N29