

## CAPSULE SUMMARY

BA- 586

Gunpowder Baptist Church

20075 Freeland Road

Freeland, Baltimore County

1887

Private

The Gunpowder Baptist Church dates to a late 19th century period of development in the small community of Middletown in the Sixth District of Baltimore County. Constructed in 1887, the building is representative of the many Gothic Revival style churches built in small towns and rural communities throughout Baltimore County in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. By the mid-19th century, Middletown had already begun to thrive, for the 1850 county atlas indicates that the town included, in addition to several residences along Middletown Road between Freeland and Oakland Road, a tavern and schoolhouse. As early as 1850, a church was located on the southeast corner of the intersection of Middletown Road and Freeland Road. This building was not, however, the extant Gunpowder Baptist Church. The earlier building, of unknown denomination, remained on the lot through the 1870s, for it continues to be represented in the adas from that period. It was not until 1877 that the present church was erected. Nevertheless, the cemetery behind the church dates from the existence of the first building. The Middletown community has retained its rural character through the late 20th century.

Constructed on the southeast corner of the intersection of Middletown Road and Freeland Road, the Gunpowder Baptist Church is a one-and-a-half-story, three-bay-wide wood frame building clad in vinyl siding. The church features a front gable roof clad in slate tiles and a solid random rubble stone foundation. The facade, or southwest elevation, is dominated by a two-story, one-bay-square wood frame bell tower with a steeply pitched pyramidal roof clad in wood shingles. Entry into the building is through the first story of the tower, which contains a paneled double-leaf wood door with a pointed-arch transom filled with leaded stained glass. Flanking the entry are two lancet-arched multi-light leaded stained glass windows. All facade openings on the three-bay-deep building have vinyl surrounds and sills. Circa 1930, a two-story, four-bay-wide wood frame addition clad in vinyl siding on a cinderblock foundation was built onto the southeast elevation of the church. Located northeast of the church is a cemetery comprising approximately 700 grave markers arranged in eighteen rows that extend parallel to the facade of the church and Middletown Road. The cemetery, which dates to 1837, and most of the 19th century grave markers are marble upright slabs. Some finely dressed slate grave markers are located within the cemetery. A one-story, circa 1980 wood frame shed is also located on the property. The one-bay-square structure, which is capped by a front gable roof clad in asphalt shingles, is clad in pressed vertical board and sits on a poured concrete slab foundation.



## 7. Description

Inventory No. BA- -586

### Condition

excellent  deteriorated  
 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.

Constructed in 1887 on the southeast corner of the intersection of Middletown Road and Freeland Road, the Gothic Revival style Gunpowder Baptist Church is a one-and-a-half-story, three-bay-wide wood frame building clad in vinyl siding. The church features a front gable roof clad in slate tiles and a solid random rubble stone foundation. The facade, or southwest elevation, is dominated by a two-story, one-bay-square wood frame bell tower with a steeply pitched pyramidal roof clad in wood shingles. Entry into the building is through the first story of the tower, which contains a paneled double-leaf wood door with a pointed-arch transom filled with leaded stained glass. Flanking the entry are two lancet-arched multi-light leaded stained glass windows. All facade openings on the three-bay-deep building have vinyl surrounds and sills. Circa 1930, a two-story, four-bay-wide wood frame addition clad in vinyl siding on a cinderblock foundation was built onto the southeast elevation of the church.

Located northeast of the church is a cemetery comprising approximately 700 grave markers arranged in eighteen rows that extend parallel to the facade of the church and Middletown Road. The cemetery, which dates to 1837, and most of the 19<sup>th</sup> century grave markers are marble upright slabs. Some finely dressed slate grave markers are located within the cemetery.

A one-story, circa 1980 wood frame shed is also located on the property. The one-bay-square structure, which is capped by a front gable roof clad in asphalt shingles, is clad in pressed vertical board and sits on a poured concrete slab foundation.

# 8. Significance

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

Specific dates                      1887-present    **Architect/Builder**                      Unknown

**Construction dates**                      1887

Evaluation for:

National Register    Maryland Register     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 Gunpowder Baptist Church dates to a late 19<sup>th</sup> century period of development in the small community of Middletown in the Sixth District of Baltimore County. Constructed in 1887, the building is representative of the many Gothic Revival style churches built in small towns and rural communities throughout Baltimore County in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. By the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, Middletown had already begun to thrive, for the 1850 county atlas indicates that the town included, in addition to several residences along Middletown Road between Freeland and Oakland Road, a tavern and schoolhouse. As early as 1850, a church was located on the southeast corner of the intersection of Middletown Road and Freeland Road. This building was not, however, the extant Gunpowder Baptist Church. The earlier building, of unknown denomination, remained on the lot through the 1870s, for it continues to be represented in the atlas from that period. It was not until 1877 that the present church was erected. Nevertheless, the cemetery behind the church dates from the existence of the first building. The Middletown community has retained its rural character through the late 20<sup>th</sup> century.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. BA- 586

- Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland.*, Philadelphia, PA: G. M. Hopkins, 1877.  
Baltimore County Historic Inventory.  
Brooks, Neal A. and Eric G. Rockel. *A History of Baltimore County*. Towson, MD: Friends of the Towson Library, Inc., 1979.  
*Map of Baltimore County*. Philadelphia, PA: G. W. Bromley, 1915.  
Scharf, J. Thomas. *History of Baltimore City and County From the Earliest Period to the Present Day: Including Biographical Sketches of Their Representative Men*. Philadelphia, PA: Louis H. Everts, 1881. Reprinted by Higginson Book Company, Salem, MA.  
Sidney, J. C. *Map of the City and County of Baltimore, Maryland, from Original Surveys*. Baltimore, MD: James M. Stephens, 1850
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## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property .10 Acre  
Acreage of historical setting Unknown  
Quadrangle name New Freedom Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

### Verbal boundary description and justification

Since its construction in 1887, the Gunpowder Baptist Church has been associated with the three acres known as tax parcel 82 of map 11 located in the Baltimore County Tax Assessor's office.

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## 11. Form Prepared by

name/title	A. McDonald and A. Didden, Architectural Historians		
organization	EHT Tracerics, Incorporated	date	May 4, 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

BA-1223  
EKLO SCHOOL  
20221 MIDDLETOWN RD,  
FREELAND  
BALTIMORE COUNTY

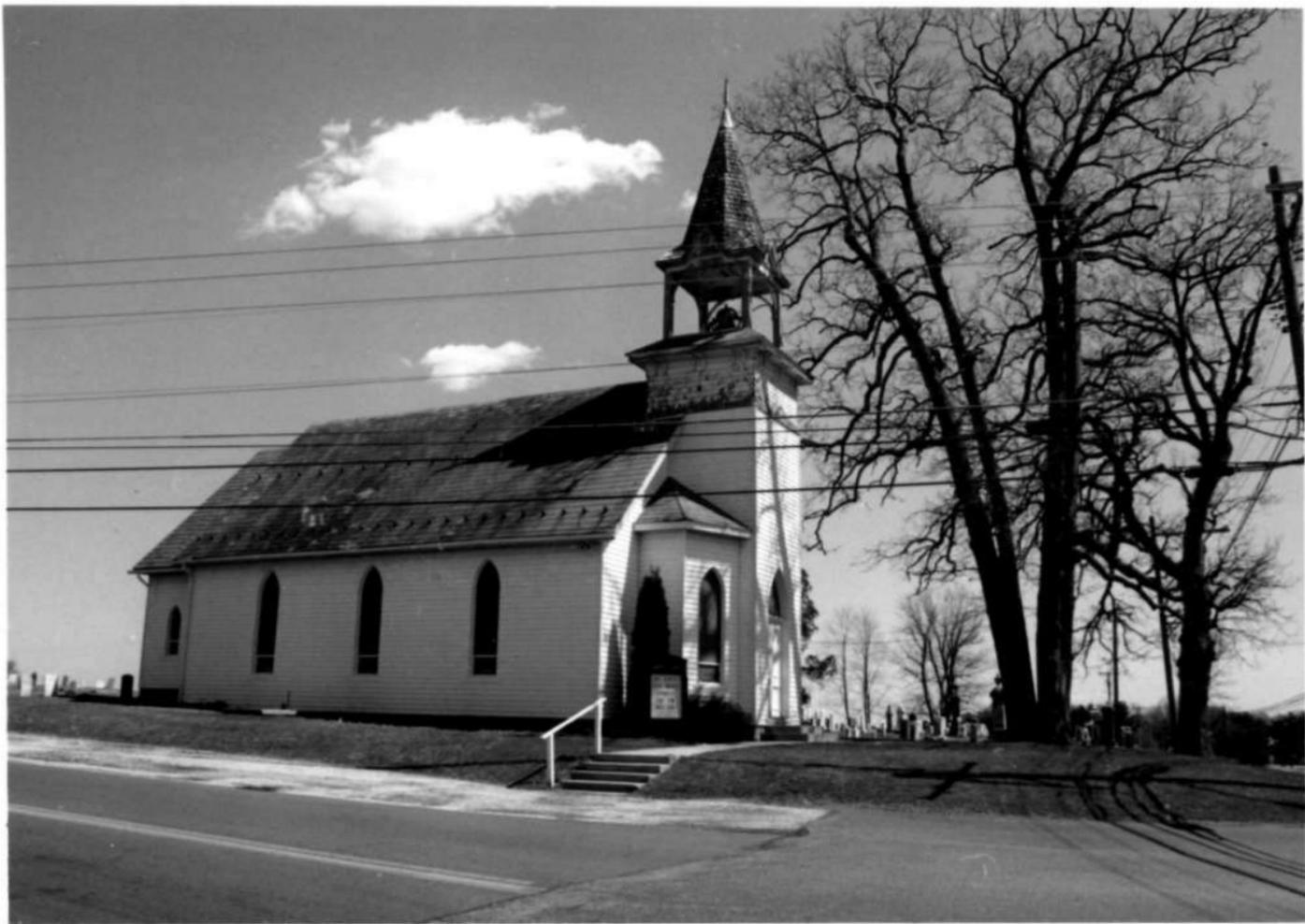
BA-1222  
OLD FELLOWS LODGE  
20220 MIDDLETOWN RD  
FREELAND  
BALTIMORE COUNTY

BA-586  
20075 FREELAND ROAD  
FREELAND  
BALTIMORE COUNTY

BA-0402  
VALLEY PAPER MILL HOUSE  
20008 VALLEY MILL ROAD  
FREELAND  
BALTIMORE COUNTY

NEW FREEDOM  
QUADRANGLE





BA-0586  
MIDDLETOWN ROAD  
MIDDLETOWN  
BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD  
TRAILERIES  
MD-SHPD  
412001  
W CORNER

1 of 3



BA-0586  
MIDDLETOWN ROAD  
MIDDLETOWN  
BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD.

TRAILER 165

4/2001

MD-SHPD

SE ELEVATION

2 of 3



BA 586  
MIDDLETOWN ROAD  
MIDDLETOWN  
BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD  
TRAILERIES  
4/2001  
MD-SHP0  
E CORNER

3 of 3

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9A-586

**GUNPOWDER BAPTIST CHURCH** - 1887 - SE corner of Middletown and Old Freeland Roads. (20075 Freeland Road). Church was formed in 1806 by 88 members who signed a covenant at Tipton's Meeting House in Middletown. The congregation denounced slavery in 1815 at the cost of lost membership. The Baptists met in Tipton's Meeting House until they acquired a lot in 1853. The present structure, the second church, was built in 1887. Frame and clapboard building in Victorian Gothic; slate-covered gable roof; central entrance spire; open belfry with imbricated shingles at base. Bracketing under the eaves. Hip-roofed hall for offices and kitchen attached. Stained glass windows were added in 1940's after two violent hail storms. A new church of 1974 on the opposite side of Middletown Road permitted the 1887 church to be converted to a youth chapel and fellowship hall; the oak pews were removed, the interior carpeted. The adjoining cemetery contains a non-sectarian section left by the Dorsey family for the free use of any citizens of the area. (Old church reported torn down in B.C. Union, October 2, October, 1886.)