

Asbury Methodist Chapel

Reisterstown, Maryland

Public Access

The METHODIST CHURCH, dating from 1868-1870 is a two storey painted brick structure recalling the Romanesque style of northern Italy, in the nineteenth century often called the Norman style. Following Methodist tradition, the Sanctuary is in the second storey with Sunday School rooms (and originally an assembly hall) below. This early church is preserved beside a larger contemporary structure designed by Charles Edwin Zimmermann, architect, Towson, 1973-4.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Asbury Chapel 1868-1870

AND/OR COMMON

Reisterstown United Methodist Church

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

246 Main Street

6th

CITY, TOWN

Reisterstown

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Maryland

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

COUNTY

Baltimore County

**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 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	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" 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 c/o Rev. Eugene Funk

Telephone #: 833-8242

STREET & NUMBER

246 Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Reisterstown

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Md 21136

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Baltimore County

Liber #: 5515

Folio #: 120

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Towson

STATE

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

\_\_\_ FEDERAL \_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_ COUNTY \_\_\_ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION**

<b>CONDITION</b>		<b>CHECK ONE</b>	<b>CHECK ONE</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Methodist Church is a two storey painted brick church in the Italian Romanesque Revival style, built in 1868-1870. Its entrance facade faces the street to the east and the structure is five bays in length. The principal entrance is centered in the ground storey and a rectangular window is on either side; a wide, tall arched window is centered in the second storey above the entrance and a smaller arched window is on either side. All windows of the east end are filled with richly colored opalescent glass. Shallow rectangular panels are between the first and second storey windows. Shallow brick pilasters delineate each bay of the north and south sides. A rectangular panel in the brickwork is between the 6/6 first storey windows and the 9/9 arched second storey windows. Above the upper windows the brick coursings corbel out to the plane of the pilasters and projecting brickwork forms a corbeled arcade up the westerly rake of the roof. The wide wooden cornice with modillions extends up the westerly rakes of the roof and horizontally across the east end facade, arching up over the taller central window of the east end.

The first storey of the east wall is stuccoed; originally, rising grade allowed the principal entrance to be in the second storey, the level of the sanctuary within. A slight change in the texture of the brickwork beneath the tall second storey window indicates this change. Apparently the full two storeys have always been exposed on the north and south sides.

A flat-roofed one-storey connecting structure extends south of the church to a recent church of contemporary design by Charles Edwin Zimmermann, architect, Towson.

Within, a narthex extends across the east end of the first storey, an open staircase at either end. The moulded rail is supported by paneled newels and turned balusters, all of oak, all dating from the early twentieth century, probably when the exterior grade was lowered, said to be about 1908. The entire first storey has a modern interior, dividing it into numerous small rooms. Originally it probably contained an assembly hall and several Sunday School rooms.

The large sanctuary above has plastered walls and coved ceiling. A balcony is above the narthex in the east end. A large pierced vent is centered in the ceiling. A trompe l'oeil dentiled cornice surrounds the rectangular sanctuary and a wainscot is painted in imitation of pink marble. The original pews are arranged in three banks with two aisles. The poplar pews have a walnut bolection arch at each end, a walnut scrolled arm above and a walnut cap rail across the back. The pulpit furniture is of the Eastlake school.

Eight light fixtures hang from the ceiling, each with an opalescent globe in an art deco form; a modern crystal chandelier hangs from the center.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) <i>local history</i>	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES **1868-1870; 1973-74**

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The METHODIST CHURCH, dating from 1868-1870 is a two storey painted brick structure recalling the Romanesque style of northern Italy, in the nineteenth century often called the Norman style. Following Methodist tradition, the Sanctuary is in the second storey with Sunday School rooms (and originally an assembly hall) below. This early church is preserved beside a larger contemporary structure designed by Charles Edwin Zimmermann, architect, Towson, 1973-74.

Although Reisterstown was principally a Lutheran settlement, the Germans who settled there being "of that faith and firm in their convictions but tolerant of other religions"; Methodism made its appearance early in its history. (Marks, op.cit. p.10). A meeting house was erected as early as 1791. In 1794, Nicholas Rogers, a gentleman...deeded an acre of land... "for the erecting and building of a church or house of Public Worship... according to the rights, ceremonies, and ordinances of the Methodist Episcopal Church...and a place to bury the dead". (WG No.PP 1794:491) Access to the meeting house was by right of way (Church Street) through Reister land south of the inn where the church land abutted Reister's Desire. This adjoining Reister lot (no. of Church Street) came into possession of John Reister's grand-daughter Dorothy Gore in 1868 (Marks, op.cit., p.10).

She deeded it to trustees of the church in 1868. (EHA 60/232-33) She named her brother John Beckley, Jr. as one of the trustees of the church. The building soon to be erected on this ground was then the third church to serve Methodists in the area. The former two had been adjoining the Gore property but one had been a log cabin (c 1791) and the second one, built 1830 right in front of the cabin was built with brick from England.

The third church, a well built brick structure started in 1868, served the Methodist congregation from Jan. 1870 to 1974. Its edifice was patterned after a church in London it is said. Churchgoers entered the church itself after a steep climb up stairs over a bank of earth. The earthen bank was removed to allow a proper entrance (on the first floor) about 1908. (Reisterstown United Methodist Church, untitled Commemorative Booklet, 1975, unpagged)

In 1941, the Asbury Methodist and Grace M.E. Churches merged again to form Reisterstown Methodist Church. A split had occurred over Slavery and

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

BA-1230

Continuation Sheet      Asbury Chapel    1869-1870  
                                 246 Main Street  
                                 Reisterstown, Maryland  
                                 Baltimore County

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8 Significance, continued

States Rights issues during the Civil War and 100 members of Asbury had established a congregation across the street around 1866.

In 1950 an addition to the west side of the 1868 building was finished.

In 1965 the Asbury Fellowship Hall, Sunday School rooms, modern kitchen was completed.

The Bruehl property to the south was purchased in 1966 to prepare for a modern church building to be constructed 1973-1974. (Reisterstown United Methodist Church, untitled booklet, 1975.)

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**Lillian B. Marks, Reisters Desire (Baltimore, 1975)

Reisterstown United Methodist Church, Commemorative Book, (Reisterstown, 1975)

Land Records, Baltimore County Courthouse, Towson, Md

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 2.94 acres

## VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE COUNTY

STATE COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY James T. Wollon, Jr A.I.A.**NAME / TITLE Cornelia M Ives, Project CoordinatorORGANIZATION Historic Reisterstown, Inc

DATE

August 1978STREET & NUMBER 430 Main Street

TELEPHONE

833-3078 (Ms Ives)CITY OR TOWN Reisterstown, Md

STATE

Md 21136

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



Reisterstown United Methodist  
Church  
246 Main Street

BA 1230

Asbury Methodist Church  
246 Main St - Reisterstown

Carol Pollack

4-77

~~WEST~~ EAST



Reisterstown Methodist Cemetery  
246 Main Street

BA 1230

Methodist Church Cemetery  
246 Main St - Reisterstown

Carol Pollack

4-77

West