

CAR-103

Moore's Chapel (Site)
Denton
Site

Circa 1820

On North Third Street stood an early 19th Century Methodist Chapel which had been moved to the site from its original location across town. It was, prior to its removal, a delapidated frame building which had last been used as a mechanic's shop. The building was also used as a Chapel by the black community after its move to Third Street. It appears to have been a typical Chapel of the period which had been enlarged in the middle 19th Century. There was a gallery over the original entrance and a vaulted ceiling in one section of the building. It was an important building in the history of Methodism in Denton.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Moore's Chapel

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Third Street, between Gay and Lincoln Streets

CITY, TOWN

Denton

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

VICINITY OF

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Caroline

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERICAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Selema Truxon

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

209 N. 5th Street

CITY, TOWN

Denton

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21629

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, Caroline County Courthouse
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Liber #: 157

Folio #: 652

STREET & NUMBER

Market Street

CITY, TOWN

Denton

STATE

Maryland 21629

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE <u>1867</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Moore's Chapel is located on the west side of Third Street between Gay and Lincoln Streets, Denton. It was originally located on Market Street adjacent St. Luke's church and was moved to its present location in 1867.

The street facade of the old frame structure has huge double garage doors installed after it was converted into a garage and storage area. In the gable is no indication in the weatherboard of the position of two original windows, which can be seen inside. It is built at ground level adjacent the street to allow the automobiles access to the interior.

The south facade is weatherboarded and is supported on brick piers. It is three bays long with windows having 12/12 sash. A vertical seam between the west bay and middle bay indicates an enlargement of the building. Most of this side appears to date from the mid-19th century. As is usual in Methodist chapels, there is an apse, or small projection, on the west gable, lighted by two narrow windows with louvered shutters. Flanking the apse are two larger windows. The north side, which is leaning more dangerously than the other, appears to have been reworked.

The interior is now one large room, however, traces of the original plan remain. It consisted of a large room with gallery above the east end. Plaster remains in the gallery area as well as window trim on the east gable and one south window. In the main body of the chapel the roof rafters are exposed which bear the marks of former split plaster lath, cut nails, and plaster. Apparently, the ceiling extended beneath the tie beams of the rafters. In the sidewalls are indications of other major tie beams which were eliminated when the building's use was changed. Braced construction was used in both parts of the structure. Common rafters fastened at the apses with mortise, tenon, and peg and at the collar of tie beams with nailed half dove tail joint are visible from below.

The apse retains some plaster molding around the arched opening. Its ceiling is a segmentally arched plaster vault.

Because of the removal of the major bracing, the building has sagged and is now supported by trees on both sides. Due to its condition and paucity of original detail the building would be better removed from the site.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

CAR-103

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 type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

An interesting story is told of the origin of the Methodist Episcopal Church in Denton, but how authentic it may be we cannot say. A traveling minister nearing the town on horseback decided to pass through the place singing and if invited to stop would take it as a sign that he should organize a meeting there. He carried out his plan and soon after entering the village was asked to alight. This he did, and true to his purpose, organized the first Methodist society in Denton.

Moore's Chapel, previously referred to, was the first Methodist burying ground behind the present M.E. church. In this building on March 24, 1816, James Moore, for whom the chapel was named, preached the first Methodist sermon ever preached in the town.

The entrance to the chapel was through a vestibule, from which a stairway led to the gallery. This gallery was for the use of slaves, for at that time the colored people had no church of their own, but attended the same services as their master when permitted. After service they would sometimes sing as the white congregation passed out. The interior of this church, as all others of that time, was quite different from those of the present. Carpet was not used except on the floor of the pulpit and a runner up each aisle. The desk was narrow and so tall as to reach almost to the preacher's chin. The pews, narrow and straight, were uncomfortable enough to keep even the sleepiest listener awake.

In 1867 Moore's Chapel was moved and the present brick church built. The old chapel may still be seen, almost in ruins, on North Third Street, where for a long while it was used by the colored people as a church and later as their hall.

The site of this chapel is important primarily because it is the site of the first A.M.E. church in Denton. The fact that it was a re-used white church is indicative of the hand-me-down roll imposed upon the blacks.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

History of Caroline County, The J. W. Stowell Printin Co.,
 Federalsburg, Md., p. 116 & 117.

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

Michael Bourne Architectural Consultant

ORGANIZATION

Maryland Historical Trust

DATE

July, 1976

STREET & NUMBER

Shaw House, 21 State Circle

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Annapolis

STATE

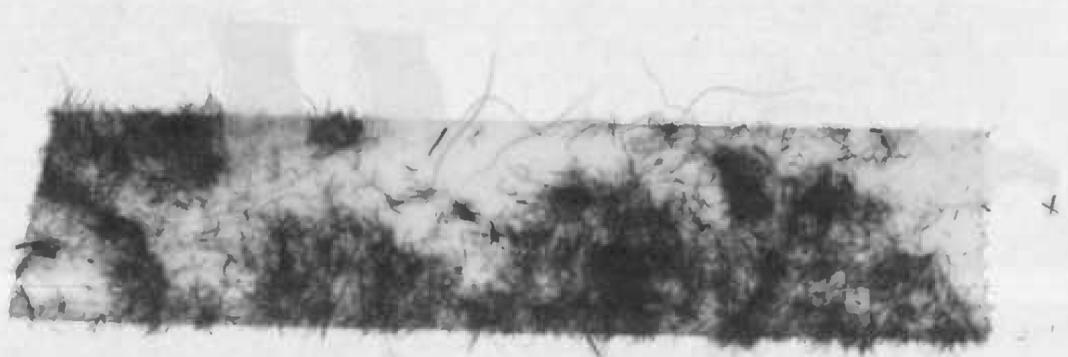
Maryland 21401

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





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