

**Alexandria Methodist Church Site and Cemetery**  
**CH-128**  
**Chicamuxen vic.**  
**Private**

**Circa 1870**

Alexandria Methodist Church Site and Cemetery, previously referred to as the "Chicamuxen Church, site (Alexandria Chapel)" is significant as one of the earliest African American churches in Charles County. According to several accounts written during Charles County's bi-centennial Alexandria Chapel was the first black church in Charles County. The church is said to have been established by the Jordan Family on land they had acquired after Emancipation. According to oral tradition on this tract a log chapel was erected and camp meetings were held nearby. At the turn of the 20th century the present Alexandria Chapel (CH-309) was erected at this site. After the construction of MD 224, the church was relocated to its current location.

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. CH-128

### 1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Alexandria Methodist Church Site and Cemetery  
 other Alexandria Chapel site/Jordan Chapel site

### 2. Location

street and number Cemetery Road not for publication  
 city, town Chicamuxen X vicinity  
 county Charles

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

name Alexandria Chapel Site and Cemetery  
 street and number Cemetery Road telephone Unknown  
 city, town Chicamuxen state MD zip code

### 4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Not located tax map and parcel: Map 29  
 city, town Not Located liber folio

### 5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- Contributing Resource in National Register District
- 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
- Other

### 6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count	
			Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture		
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade		
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<u>1</u>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> site		<input type="checkbox"/> domestic		
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education		
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> funerary	<u>1</u>	
		<input type="checkbox"/> government		
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care		
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry		
		<input type="checkbox"/> landscape		
		<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture		
		<input type="checkbox"/> religion		
		<input type="checkbox"/> social		
		<input type="checkbox"/> transportation		
		<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress		
		<input type="checkbox"/> unknown		
		<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use		
		<input type="checkbox"/> other:		
			<b>Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory</b>	
			<u>1</u>	

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## 7. Description

Inventory No. CH-128

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### Condition

- |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> excellent       | <input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated |
| <input type="checkbox"/> good            | <input type="checkbox"/> ruins        |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair | <input type="checkbox"/> altered      |

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

The Alexandria Chapel Site and Cemetery was previously referred to as the "Chicamuxen Church, site (Alexandria Chapel)". The site is located at the end of Cemetery Road but is not identified on the current Charles County Property Tax Map. The site consists of approximately one cleared acre surrounded by woodland. An assortment of gravestones are scattered throughout including simple stone tablets and locally made poured concrete markers in the form of a cross similar to those found at St. Catherine's Catholic Church in Mc Conchie (CH-751). The remains of poured concrete stairs believed to be the original site of the relocated c. 1900 Alexandria Chapel (CH-309) are also present.

# 8. Significance

Inventory No. CH-128

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

<b>Specific dates</b>	Circa 1870	<b>Architect/Builder</b>	Unknown
<b>Construction dates</b>	Circa 1870		

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 reports, complete evaluation on a DOE Form - see manual.)

Alexandria Church Cemetery and Chapel Site, previously referred to as the "Chicamuxen Church, site (Alexandria Chapel)" is significant as one of the earliest African American churches in Charles County. According to several accounts written during Charles County's bi-centennial Alexandria Chapel was the first black church in Charles County. The church is said to have been established by the Jordan Family on land they had acquired after Emancipation. According to oral tradition on this tract a log chapel was erected and camp meetings were held nearby. (pg. 230) Originally known as Jordan's Chapel, a frame church was constructed in 1888. At the turn of the 20th century the present Alexandria Chapel (CH-309) was erected at this site. After the construction of MD 224, the church was relocated to its current location.

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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Inventory No. CH-128

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## 10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of surveyed property Unknown

Acreage of historical setting Unknown

Quadrangle name Indian Head

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

The site is located at the end of Cemetery Road on approximately one acre.

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## 11. Form Prepared By

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name/title Cathy Hardy/Historic Sites Surveyor

organization Charles County Planning

date 7/23/2002

street and number 200 Baltimore Street

telephone 301-396-5815

city or town La Plata

state MD zip code 20646

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  
410-514-7600

CH - <sup>128</sup>~~300~~  
JORDAN CHAPEL (ALEXANDRIA CHAPEL)  
Chicamuxen

1865-1870

On this site once stood a log chapel built soon after the Civil War by William Jordan and his son William, both ex-slaves. During slavery their surname had been Tubman, but after freedom, according to descendant William Diggs, they changed their name to Jordan. This was done in the belief that they had crossed over the River Jordan and found their deliverance, and this church was founded in thanks. A graveyard is located nearby. Recently, the name of the church has been changed to the Alexandria Chapel.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

CH-126  
MAGI # 0903095508

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC Jordan Chapel (Alexandria Chapel)

AND/OR COMMON AND CEMETERY

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER West side of Cemetery Lane

CITY, TOWN Chicamuxen X VICINITY OF CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 7

STATE Md. COUNTY Charles

**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 type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER

Cemetery

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME William Jordan (deceased)  
c/o William Diggs

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN Indian Head X VICINITY OF STATE, zip code Md.

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Charles County Courthouse

Liber #: 17  
Folio #: 414

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN La Plata STATE Md.

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE None

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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

On this site once stood a log chapel that was built by the ex-slaves of the community soon after emancipation. That structure was eventually torn down, and replaced by a larger frame building. The cement steps of that building remain, but the rest has been demolished and removed, when a new church was built not far from this site, on the north side of Rt. 224. At that time, the name of the church was changed from the Jordan Chapel to that of the Alexandria Chapel, the new name being derived from the surname of the pastor of the church for many years, Rev. Alexander.

The new church faces south toward Rt. 224 with its gable end serving as the principal facade. The church is four bays deep, and its frame is sheathed with white weatherboards. The principal facade is accented by a tall tower-steeple in the center and into which are let double doors. All windows are lancet in design. In sum, the church reflects the simplicity of design and the continuation of modified European forms, like so many other rural Protestant churches in Maryland.

At the cemetery of the old church, most of the gravestones with inscriptions are of the 20th century, the earlier ones having disappeared over the years.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

CH-128

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 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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
	<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			Black History	

SPECIFIC DATES Begun after 1865 BUILDER/ARCHITECT William Jordan Sr., Wm. Jordan, Jr., and local black community

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

According to oral informant William Diggs, the log chapel that stood at this cemetery was built by and named after his ancestors, William Jordan and his son William. Both had been ex-slaves. During slavery their names had been Tubman, but after freedom they changed it to Jordan, after the spiritual "Roll, Jordan, Roll" which had been one of their favorites. Also they changed their name in the belief that they had now crossed over the River Jordan after emancipation, and had found their deliverance. This church, built on land owned by the Jordan and given by them to the congregation, was built in thanks for their deliverance. Before this church was built on this site, the community of ex-slaves had met in the Jordan's log house to celebrate the Sabbath and for daily prayer gatherings at night. This congregation has indeed a very rich local history.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**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

George W. McDaniel, Historic Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Md. Commission on Afro-American History and Culture

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

20 Dean St.

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Annapolis, Md.

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



CH-128 Charles County, MD  
Name: ALEXANDRIA CHAPEL SITE  
Location: CHICAMUXEN VIC  
Quad: INDIAN HEAD



CH-128

ALEXANDRIA CHAPEL SITE & CEMETERY

CHARLES CO. MD

C. HARDY

6/2002

MD SHPO

LOOKING SOUTH

1 OF 2



CH-128  
ALEXANDRIA CHAPEL SITE & CEMETERY  
CHARLES CO. MD  
C. HAROY  
6/2002  
MD SHPD  
STAIR REMAINS

20F2



CH-128

~~CH-309~~

Jordan Chapel

Chicamuxen, Md.

Site of Jordan Chapel †  
(East view)

GWM cemetery

7-77