

East of this stone and recent construction church lies Wesley M.E. Chapel which in 1949 merged with the former, Freedom Methodist. Prior to this Freedom was known as the "Methodist Episcopal Church, South", and although records are virtually extinct before 1877, the church was known as flourishing. The patchwork architecture is due mainly to a 1949 western addition.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC Freedom Methodist Church

AND/OR COMMON

Wesley-Freedom United Methodist Church

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER Rt. 2 Box 73  
Liberty Road (MD 26)

CITY, TOWN

Sykesville

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

5

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Carroll

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input 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 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 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 Wesley-Freedom United Methodist Church

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

Rt. 2 Box 73

CITY, TOWN

Sykesville

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

Maryland

STATE, zip code

21784

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, Registry of Deeds, ETC. Carroll County Office Building  
(exempt office)

Liber #:

Folio #: NONE

STREET & NUMBER

225 North Center Street

CITY, TOWN

Westminster

STATE

Maryland

**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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		DATE 1868/194.

**DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**

**EXTERIOR-** Wesley-Freedom faces north and sits on a slight hill. It is ten yards from Md. 26, also known as Liberty Road. A recent 1949 addition connects the 1868, stone building on the entire west side of the latter. Shape, color and material of addition are very different. The stained glass window shape and patterns of both are very similar.

1868 uncoursed stone building - The uncoursed stone building, with a four-bay front and four-bay side, is supported by a foundation of the same medium. Corner stone quoins increase support. The basically square building has a gable roof with slate shingles and a Western bay, front tower of the same stone medium. All pointed arch windows have plain trim, 1/1 double hung sash, stained glass windows and large, stone quoin arch trim. Window patterns are identical, save for the central front, figural window.

The front facade is three-bays, with a one-bay, slightly recessed tower. The tower has a battlement top, an entrance door and a pointed arch vent above this door. Vent trim is the same as the windows. The door is a double recent one, with a pointed arch, stained glass transom and identical stone trim as the windows. The three-bay front wall has a central window of the same trim, but of a larger dimension. Above it is a multipaned, pointed arch window.

The east side wall has four-bays of windows and one interior, single, central, brick chimney. The entire west wall is altered to accommodate the new wing. The 1949 gravelled stucco covered building is four-bays back and three bays side, with a two-bay front.

The back wall of the stone building has no bays, but has a recent, cement block, shed roof storage area.

**INTERIOR-** One enters through the tower door only, into a rectangular narthex area with two-bays front and one-bay (west) side. An open-string stair takes up a corner of the room and leads to the basement of the recent educational rooms. Recent doors enter to the south, to the new addition and to the east to the stone building.

The nave is situated in the stone section. Collapsable, dividing doors, separate the two additions on the west wall. The recent wing is a large room to house an overflow or is used for fellowship purposes. The nave (1868) is ten pews deep, with two symmetrically placed side aisles to accommodate three rows of pews. Floors are recent wood boards. Walls are plaster with four inch wall boards. A decorative, moulded plaster frieze introduces a very elaborate, floral, geometric, plaster ceiling.

The southern chancel has a central altar and choir to the west. A decorative railing partially surrounds the altar area.

The northern wall (back) is three-bays. Windows here as well as on the other two walls of this section are recessed with deep sills of plain wood and a simulated painted stone frame trim.

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 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 1868 | 1949

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

architect-supervisor of 1868 structure Mr. John Mallonee

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

(in 1868 spelled Manly)

Tradition states that Rev. Strawbridge and Francis Asbury visited this southwestern part of the county. Indeed it is possible, for the former man's area in the west-central part of the county is little more than twelve miles away. If not himself in reality, certainly his ideas travelled that distance.

In 1822 the Wesley Methodist Episcopal stone Church was erected, a few hundred yards from this building. In 1867, the first Freedom Congregation met in the local Lodge Hall, which was directly across Liberty Road from this building. They were the "Methodist Episcopal Church, South" according to the land deed from one Nathan Browne, to one Freeborn Gardner and "others". The land was to be a place of religious worship and benefit for the said congregation.

The stone church was built with materials donated by members of the congregation; wood from farms, stone from nearby quarries. The structure was under the supervision of Mr. John Mallonee.

Records were not kept. The first minister on record (from diaries, letters) is Rev. David Bush in 1872. Beyond that, it is not certain whether itinerant preachers or a permanent one held the reins. The earliest available record written is from March 1877; a local Methodist conference. At this time also there was a Sunday School, organized at Freedom Church, which took care of the whole Freedom Circuit, which included at least five other churches. In 1877, records state that the entire circuit had a total budget of \$550.00.

- 1906 -the church was redecorated
- 1940 -more renovation and reconditioning
- 1949 - new addition
- 1943 -merged with Wesley Chapel

Wesley-Freedom is very typical of a rural Church who endures growth, change and finally merger. It was built after the Civil War as possibly an outgrowth of religious conflicts in the Methodist realm, possible as a Reconstruction movement. It's relationship with Wesley Chapel (Carr. 167) appears important.

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

- "Reopening Service of the Freedom Methodist Church" pamphlet --April 1942
- "Wesley Chapel Methodist Episcopal Church" pamphlet September 1922

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 Maryland COUNTY Carroll

STATE \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY \_\_\_\_\_

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE	Fredrick Eckhardt historic site surveyor	
ORGANIZATION	Carroll County Committee of the Maryland Historical Trust	DATE Jan. 1979
STREET & NUMBER	210 East Main Street	TELEPHONE 848-6494
CITY OR TOWN	Westminster	STATE Maryland

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



Wesley-Freedan U. Meth. Church

Dec. - 78

Can. - 168

fredi E.

last elevator



Wesley - Freedom in Math Church  
Dec. / 78

Can. - 168

N/E corner

fredi 2.



Wesley - Freedom U. Meth. Church

Dec. - 78

Can. - 168

northwest corner  
of ed. E.