

**CH-364**

**Shiloh Community Church Cemetery**

**Newburg**

**Private**

**1863-present**

Shiloh Community Church Cemetery is part of the village of Shiloh, an African-American Community that developed in southern Charles County at the close of the Civil War. The cemetery includes over one hundred gravestones dating from the early to late 20th century. A clear area at the crest of the hill is believed to have been the location of the original Shiloh Church which served the community from the time of its establishment in the 1860's until the 1880's. In 1885 a church was built to the south of this site, directly on the northwest side of Shiloh Church Road.

Established during the Civil War, Shiloh Church Cemetery is one of the earliest and largest known African-American cemeteries in Charles County. The church became a center for marriages, and also served as a public school. The cemetery exhibits many of the characteristics found in other African-American cemeteries including locally-made concrete grave markers and the presence of typical plantings.

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. CH-364

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

historic Shiloh Community Church Cemetery

other

### 2. Location

street and number 12695 Shiloh Church Road not for publication

city, town Newburg  vicinity

county Charles

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

name Shiloh Community Methodist Church

street and number 12695 Shiloh Church Roof telephone 301-259-4398

city, town Newburg state MD zip code 20664-2520

### 4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Charles County Courthouse tax map and parcel: n/a

city, town La Plata liber n/a 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	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	1	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<input type="checkbox"/> religion		_____
			<input type="checkbox"/> domestic	<input type="checkbox"/> social		_____
			<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation		_____
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> funerary	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	1	_____
			<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> unknown		_____
			<input type="checkbox"/> health care	<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use		_____
			<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> other:		_____
						_____
					<b>Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory</b>	
					1	

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## 7. Description

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Inventory No. CH-364

### Condition

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

Shiloh Community Church Cemetery is located on a private rural lane on the west side of Shiloh Church Road. The cemetery is part of late 19th-early 20th century village of Shiloh, an African-American Community that developed in southern Charles County at the close of the Civil War. The cemetery includes over one hundred gravestones dating from the early to late 20th century. A number of additional graves are indicated by depressions, or marked by cedar stakes and small metal burial placards. A majority of the gravestones are locally made using concrete and some show traces of hand painting. The site includes a clear area at the crest of the hill, believed to have been the site of the original Shiloh Church which served the community from the time it's establishment in the 1860's until the 1880's. After this time a church was built to the south of this site, directly on the northwest side of Shiloh Church Road. Like other African-American cemeteries in Charles County, plantings includes yucca, locally known as St. Joseph's staff; and to a lesser extent, azaleas and roses. Unlike other churches in Charles County, Shiloh includes a number of graves with partially exposed concrete vaults. Narrow fencing also marks the outlines of some graves. The site includes several scattered large cedar and oak trees. The western portion of the cemetery is enclosed by the remnants of a wire fence. The stones generally face east.

## 8. Significance

Inventory No. CH-364

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 checked="" 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 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:	

**Specific dates** 1863 **Architect/Builder** unknown

**Construction dates** unknown

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.)

Shiloh Church Cemetery is one of the earliest and largest known African-American cemeteries in Charles County. The cemetery exhibits many of the characteristics found in other African-American cemeteries including, locally-made concrete grave markers, and the presence of typical plantings, most notably St. Joseph's staff, azaleas, cedars and roses.

Shiloh Methodist Church was established during the Civil War, when in 1863, local African-Americans organized a church. Local white citizens are said to have given a church building or building site to the congregation. The church became a center for marriages, and also served as a public school taught by volunteer teachers. According to oral tradition, camp meetings were also held at this site. Ministers associated with the church at this time were Rev. Wainwright who was replaced by the congregations first black minister, Rev. William H. Dyson.

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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Inventory No. CH-364

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## 10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of surveyed property unknown

Acreage of historical setting unknown

Quadrangle name Popes Creek

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

The property is associated with Charles County Property Tax Map 80, Grid 14.

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## 11. Form Prepared By

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name/title Cathy Hardy/Historic Preservation Planner

organization Charles County Planning

date 7/1/2003

street and number 200 Baltimore Street

telephone 301-396-5815

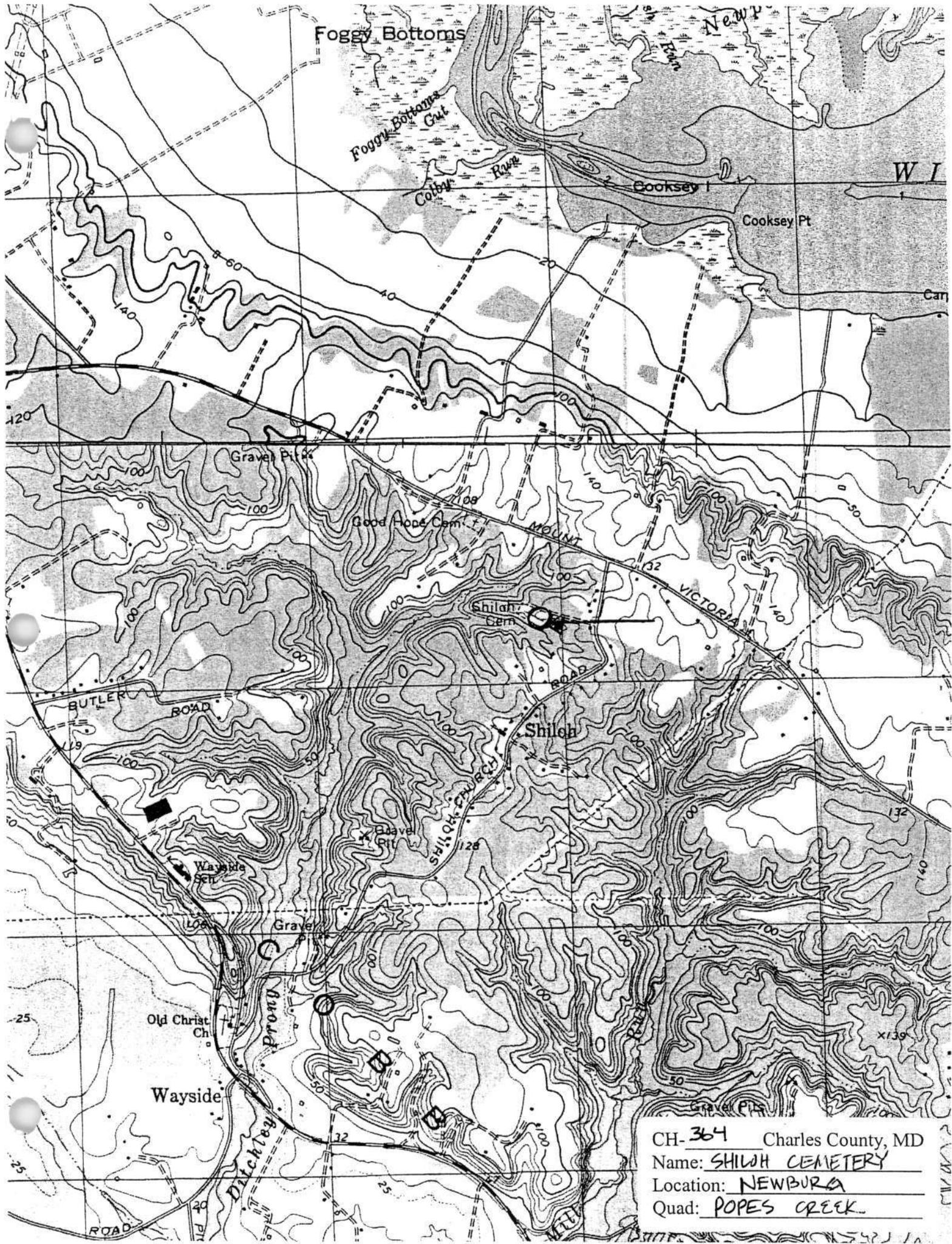
city or town La Plata

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-364 Charles County, MD  
 Name: SHILOH CEMETERY  
 Location: NEWBURA  
 Quad: POPES CREEK



CH-364

SHILOH COMMUNITY CHURCH CEMETERY  
NEWBURG VIC

9/2003

C. HARDY  
MD SHPO

LOOKING IN  
10F3



C. W. P. POWERS

Born Oct. 1867

Died Nov. 1921

CH-364

SHILOH COMMUNITY CHURCH CEMETERY

NEWBURG VIL.

9/2003

G. HARDY

MD SHPO

LOOKING N

2 OF 3



CH-364 COMMUNITY CHURCH CEM.  
SHILOH ~~HISTORIC DISTRICT~~

NEWBURG, VIL.

9/2003

C. HARDY

MD SHPO

LOOKING W

30F3

Charles - 364

Shiloh Methodist Church-Site One  
Shiloh Cemetery Road  
Newburg, MD 20664

1863

Access: Public

This site is on the crest of a hill 80' from the south side of Shiloh Cemetery Road. Shiloh Cemetery Road is a dirt road that exits west from Shiloh Church Road in the **black** community of Shiloh near Newburg in Charles County. Old parishioners say that the original church stood on this hill (ca.1861). There is a pier still exposed. The cemetery rings the site. At the west end of the property are some more exposed foundations (I am not sure as to their origins).

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC Shiloh Methodist Church-Site One  
AND/OR COMMON Shiloh Cemetery

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER Shiloh Cemetery Rd.  
CITY, TOWN Newburg CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT First  
VICINITY OF Shiloh  
STATE Maryland 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: Cemetery

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME Trustees, Shiloh Community Methodist Church  
C/O Rev. Walter H. Sewell Telephone #: 259-2530  
STREET & NUMBER Rt. 1, Box 65  
CITY, TOWN Newburg STATE, zip code MD, 20664  
VICINITY OF

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, LIBER #: See CH-365  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Charles County Court House Folio #:  
STREET & NUMBER  
CITY, TOWN La Plata STATE Maryland

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE N/A  
DATE  
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS  
CITY, TOWN STATE

\_FEDERAL \_STATE \_COUNTY \_LOCAL

**7 DESCRIPTION**

CH 364

**CONDITION**

<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RUINS
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED

**CHECK ONE**

<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED

**CHECK ONE**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE	DATE <u>1863</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED	

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

This site is on the crest of the hill 80' off Shiloh Cemetery Rd., on the south side. Shiloh Cemetery Rd. is a marked dirt road that runs west from Shiloh Church Rd. in the community of Shiloh near Newburg, Maryland. Old parishioners say that the original church stood on the crest of the hill where there is still a pier exposed. The cemetery rings this hill (so it seems reasonable that this was the original site). There are hundreds of people buried on this ground. At the west end of the property there are some more exposed foundations (I am not sure as to their origins).

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**8 SIGNIFICANCE**

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 checked="" 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 1863

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

Shiloh is an old black community in southern Charles County. It was founded by blacks (Freedmen & Slaves) before the termination of the Civil War. It is the site of the oldest black Methodist congregation in the county. A church stood on this site as early as 1863.

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

James W. Clark, Historic Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION Maryland Commission on Afro-American  
History & Culture

DATE

STREET &amp; NUMBER

20 Dean Street

TELEPHONE

269-2893

CITY OR TOWN

Annapolis

STATE

Maryland

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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





Shiloh Methodist Church, Site #1 CH-364  
Newburg, Charles County, Maryland  
Michael Hosford

Maryland Historical Trust, Annapolis, MD  
Cemetery at abandoned church site  
2/81



Shiloh Methodist Church, Site #1  
Newburg, Charles County, Maryland  
Michael Hosford

CH-364

Maryland Historical Trust, Annapolis, MD  
Cemetery at abandoned church site  
2/81