

**Maryland Historical Trust  
 State Historic Sites Inventory Form**

DOE   yes   no

**1. Name** (indicate preferred name)

historic  
 and/or common Claiborne United Methodist Church

**2. Location**

street & number Talbot Street    not for publication  
 city, town Claiborne    vicinity of    congressional district 5  
 state Maryland    county Talbot

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<u>  </u> district	<u>  </u> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<u>  </u> agriculture <u>  </u> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<u>  </u> unoccupied	<u>  </u> commercial <u>  </u> park
<u>  </u> structure	<u>  </u> both	<u>  </u> work in progress	<u>  </u> educational <u>  </u> private residence
<u>  </u> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<u>  </u> entertainment <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
<u>  </u> object	<u>  </u> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<u>  </u> government <u>  </u> scientific
	<u>  </u> being considered	<u>  </u> yes: unrestricted	<u>  </u> industrial <u>  </u> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<u>  </u> no	<u>  </u> military <u>  </u> other:

**4. Owner of Property** (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Trustees Claiborne Methodist Church  
 street & number    telephone no.:     
 city, town Claiborne    state and zip code MD 21624

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Talbot County Courthouse    liber 201  
 street & number    folio 396  
 city, town Easton    state MD

**6. Representation in Existing** Historical Surveys

title     
 date       federal    state    county    local  
 repository for survey records     
 city, town    state

# 7. Description

Survey No. T-904

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>		
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> original site		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> moved	date of move	1921
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed				

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

The Claiborne United Methodist Church is located on the north side of Talbot Street in Claiborne, Talbot County, Maryland. The church faces south with the principle gable oriented on an east/west axis.

The Claiborne Church is a one-and-a-half story frame structure. Originally sheathed in white weatherboard, it was shingled in 1929. The roof is covered with grey and green asphalt shingles and the foundation consists of cinderblocks with a chisled stone face.

The south (main) elevation is a three bay gable end facade with a central door flanked on either side by one double hung, pointed arch, colored glass window. The central bay consists of a gable roof projection with a plain red entrance door lit on both the east and west sides by a smaller version of the colored glass windows which light the main body of the church. The upper half story is lit by one pointed arch, four light window. A foundation stone which reads "Claiborne M.P.Church 1921" sits at the lower southeast corner of the church. A square, shingled steeple which houses the bell rises from the apex of this gable end elevation. The steeple has a pyramidal roof finished with a wood finial. A one-story, three bay, gable roof addition extends to the west. This addition has a central, four light over two panel, red door sheltered by a gable roof portico. The portico is supported by square posts which sit on a wood platform with built-in benches. This central bay is flanked on either side by one two-over-two sash window with wide, white surrounds.

The east elevation is lit by three double hung, pointed arch, colored glass windows. An exterior brick chimney sits towards the north end of this elevation.

The north elevation has a central bay, shed roof projection lit on the east and west sides by one small, pointed arch, colored glass window. A three bay, one-story, gable roof addition which serves as the church hall extends to the west. This wing is lit by two two-over-two sash windows with wide, white surrounds. The western most bay is a one-story, gable roof addition which extends two bays to the north. Formerly a kitchen for the church hall, this area is currently used for storage. The northern elevation of this addition is a five-paneled door and the east and west sides are lit by two two-over-two sash windows with wide, white surrounds.

# 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates** \_\_\_\_\_ **Builder/Architect** \_\_\_\_\_

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check: Applicable Criteria:  A  B  C  D  
and/or  
Applicable Exception:  A  B  C  D  E  F  G

Level of Significance:  national  state  local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Before the Claiborne Methodist Protestant Church was constructed, the population of Claiborne had to commute two miles to McDaniel to attend services. Lida Smith writes that it was the urging of engineer Peter Bushey and Captain Spence of the steamer Cambridge which prompted the construction of a small chapel in Claiborne operated by the Methodist Episcopal Conference. Initially, a minister from St. Michael's conducted services, but as the distance made his visits infrequent, the congregation decided to buy the chapel under the auspices of the Methodist Protestant Conference. It was then open continually.

This chapel appears in the 1912 Plat of Claiborne on a lot at the corner of Harrington and Thompson Avenue. These roads are now known simply as Miracle House Road. An old photo of the chapel at this site shows a simple, white weatherboard structure surrounded by trees.

In 1921 this chapel was moved to its current location on Talbot Street to a lot donated by Clarence Haddaway. Over time, new ceilings, pews, flooring, siding, windows, and a bell were installed as well as modern conveniences such as electric lighting and oil heat. A sunday school room was added to the church and then an addition was added to the sunday school room for use as a kitchen. This kitchen addition had been the James Gray Post Office building.

The Claiborne Church regularly sponsored oyster suppers which featured fried oysters, ham, chicken salad, and Maryland biscuits among other Eastern Shore delicacies. Dan Higgins, captain of the slow, steam powered ferry Emerson Harrington II on the Claiborne to Romancoke run, was an avid supporter of the church and the church suppers. On those evenings when a church supper was scheduled he was known to throw an



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Claiborne United Methodist Church Description cont'd.

The west elevation of the church is lit by two double hung, colored glass, pointed arch windows.

The interior of the church is finished with wood floors and wood paneling. The ceiling is covered with acoustic tiles, and seven pews line both sides of the central aisle. Swinging doors separate the entrance vestibule from the main body of the church and folding doors close off the church hall from the worship area.

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Claiborne United Methodist Church Significance cont'd.

oyster dredge over the ferry's stern and then have his crew shuck the catch for the church supper that evening. In addition, during ferry layovers in Claiborne, his crew would paint the church.

T-904 Claiborne United Methodist Church

Claiborne  
Annapolis Quadrangle



COMPILED FROM 7.5 MINUTE TOPOGRAPHIC QUADRANGLES OF THE  
U. S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

1950 (TOPOGRAPHIC BASE)  
1977 (LIMITED REVISIONS:  
roads and boundaries)

M. P. Church  
Claiborne  
Md.



T-904 CLAIBORNE UNITED METHODIST  
CHURCH

ORIGINAL SITE ON BACK STREET  
(MIRACLE HOUSE ROAD)

CLAIBORNE, MD.

DALLAS HARRISON COLLECTION



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CLAIBORNE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

SW ELEVATION