

12115-4708

HA-1125  
METHODIST CHURCH  
Havre de Grace, Md.

1901-1902

The Havre de Grace United Methodist Church is a large two story late Gothic Revival Church built of rock faced random ashlar Port Deposit granite. It was built in 1901-1902 by a Philadelphia architect, William Plack. The exterior Gothic Revival details, including the porch-like entrance and window traceries are carved of Indiana limestone, while much of the ornamentation on the main and tower roofs is rolled sheet copper. The main section has a slate cross gable roof with square towers in the center and on each of the sides at the front; a pentagonal wing joins at the rear.

The church was a gift to the congregation from Stephen J. Seneca, a tin can manufacturer and fruit packer, who lived at HA-815.

Inside, the church, a magnificent example of late Victorian interior decoration, is arranged in an usual horse-shoe shape.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Havre de Grace United Methodist Church

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

S.Union and Congress Aves.

CITY, TOWN

Havre de Grace

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

8

STATE

Md.

COUNTY

Harford

**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

United Methodist Church

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

S. Union and Congress Aves.

CITY, TOWN

Havre de Grace

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code  
Md. 21078

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Harford County

Liber #:

Folio #:

STREET & NUMBER

Main St.

CITY, TOWN

BelAir

STATE

Md.

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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

The Havre de Grace United Methodist Church faces west on the corner of S. Union and Congress Aves. It is a large two story stone building consisting of a gable main section and cross gables joined by a pentagonal rear wing. The front is a modified stepped gable flanked by two two story square towers, the north one of which has a spire. The sides of the main section also have modified stepped gables. The building material on all elevations is random ashlar rock faced Port Deposit granite with Indiana limestone trim and ornamentation: crockets, finials etc. A rough granite water table with a rounded edge runs around the main section of the building. The church was built in a late Gothic Revival style in 1901-1902 by William Plack, a Philadelphia architect, who also built the Citizen's Bank ( the building was brick veneered in the 1950's) and possibly the First National Bank (HA-1113).

There are three four-centered arches on the building; one above the entrance and one in each of the gable ends (n. and s. elevs.). Each of the three are filled with stained glass and have re-ticulated limestone tracery. Similar but smaller windows are found on the second story of both of the front towers; where the arched openings face inward, they are blind. On the first story front elevation, the window openings are tall, narrow round arches, also traceried and filled with stained glass. All of the windows have relieving arches above them that are flush with the wall and granite sills. Clerestory windows are found on the center tower and in the second tier of the pentagonal shaped rear wing.

The treatment of the main entrance on Union Ave suggests a porch. It is an advanced entrance of limestone carved with different motifs, including a Bible, opened to the 117th psalm, which may be read from it. The doors themselves are double doors decorated with pointed arches which are filled with diagonal boards and traceried; the hardware is cast iron. They are held within a recessed four centered arch with decorated embrasures.

The main section has a cross gable roof with a square tower rising from the center of it. The two story wing joining the main section has a hipped roof of two levels: a one story hipped roof rising from inside the main one. The roofs are covered with slate shingles and heavily ornamented with pressed

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

## 7. description cont.

copper. Much of the Gothic detailing on the towers such as the castellated parapet, finials and clerestory are executed in pressed copper. The north front tower has a tall slate spire topped with a weather vane.

## interior:

In contrast to the rectangular plan of most other protestant churches, the sanctuary is a horse shoe shape. This plan, popular at the turn of the century, is called the Akron plan. It groups the worshippers around a center pulpit, the word of God, not the cross being the focal point. The interior of the church is a marvelously complete example of high Victorian design. In retaining its late Victorian appearance: gilded and painted walls and ceilings, carpets, upholstery, mahogany altar rail, pulpit furniture and choir fronts, the sanctuary is an impressive sight.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

HA-1125

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input checked="" 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 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) local history
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1901- 1902

BUILDER/ARCHITECT William Plack

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This large granite church was erected in 1901-1902 as the result of a gift from Mr. and Mrs. Stephen J. Seneca. Mr. Seneca was a Havre de Grace tin can manufacturer and fruit packer. His factory (HA-814) and mansion (HA-815) may be seen today. The Senecas proposed they would build a new church if certain stipulations were carried out, these included the retention of the old church (HA-1110) by the Senecas, who turned it into flats. On Oct. 22, 1901, the cornerstone was laid and by January 1902 a dedication service was held in the building.

The church was built by architect, William Plack (see description) and the builders were E.S. Sentman and Sons, local contractors. The stone mason was George Shaeffer of Baltimore. Mr. De Brau, a Baltimore artist, did the original oil and gold leaf designs influenced by Baroque art that ornament the walls and ceiling of the sanctuary. It is to the credit of the congregation that the painting has been restored twice- once in 1939 by De Brau, himself, and again in 1968 by one of his assistants, a Mr. Welsmann. It is rare to see painted or even stenciled wall designs in churches now; so many of them have been removed to meet changing standards of taste and because of the expense of maintaining them.

The major significance lies in its construction and the quality of detailed workmanship it exhibits. One does not expect to see a building of this style, size or quality outside of a large city.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

7A-25

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

A Historical Sketch of the Church- Havre de Grace United Methodist Church-1173-1976

Witt, David H. Havre de Grace United Methodist Church- The Building and Pipe Organ

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

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE	Marion Morton-Historic Sites Surveyor	
ORGANIZATION	Maryland Historical Trust	DATE July 77
STREET & NUMBER		TELEPHONE
CITY OR TOWN		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



44-1125  
 HAVRE DE GRACE, MD.  
 SE/4 HAVRE DE GRACE 15' QUADRANGLE  
 N3930-W7600/7.5

1953  
 PHOTOREVISED 1970  
 AMS 5763 II SE SERIES V833

Sand



Methodist Church HA-1125  
101 S. Union Ave.  
Haene de Grace

W. Facade

Marion Merton  
5/1977



Methodist Church #A-1125  
101 S. Union Ave.  
Haave de Grace

N. W. Corner

Marion Morton  
5/1977