

ACHS SUMMARY FORM

M-18-23-1  
(date entered 5-13-80)

1. Name: Dawsonville Primitive Baptist Church/Dawsonville Mennonite Church

2. Planning Area/Site Number: 18/23      3. M-NCPPC Atlas Reference: Map 13  
Coordinate D-4

4. Address: Darnestown Road, south side of Route 107,  
directly west of Route 28-107 intersection

5. Classification Summary

Category <u>buildings</u>	Previous Survey Recording <u>MNCPPC</u>
Ownership <u>public</u>	Title and Date: <u>Historic Sites Inventory</u>
Public Acquisition <u>N/A</u>	1976
Status <u>occupied</u>	Federal <u>    </u> State <u>x</u> County <u>x</u> Local <u>    </u>
Accessible <u>yes:restricted</u>	
Present use <u>religious</u>	

6. Date: 1890      7. Original Owner: Seneca Baptist Church

8. Apparent Condition

a. good      b. altered      c. original site

9. Description: This one and a half story, three bay by four bay church sits back from the road facing east. The church has white novelty siding. The east (front) double doors are surmounted by a round headed stained glass tympanum. There are six-over-six double-hung round headed windows flanked by green wooden louvered shutters. The church has a gable roof covered by raised seam metal. At the peak of the east gable there is a wooden octagonal plaque which reads: A.D. 1889.

10. Significance: This building is a representative 19th century rural wooden church. In 1890 Nathan Allnutt deeded property to the Primitive Baptist Church in exchange for a church-owned lot in a less desirable location. The new building was sited in Dawsonville and became an important social center for the community during the early 20th century.

The Primitive Baptist Church disbanded in the early 1950s. In 1976 the Mennonite Church was deeded the property.

Candy Reed - Arch. Description

11. Researcher and date researched: Donald Leavitt      August 1979

12. Compiler: Margaret Coleman      13. Date Compiled: Sept. 1979      14. Designation Approval     

15. Acreage: 2.32 acres

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

M: 18/23-1

Dawsonville H.D.

MAGI#

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC Dawsonville Primitive Baptist Church

AND/OR COMMON

Dawsonville Mennonite Church

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER Darnestown Road

CITY, TOWN

Dawsonville

— VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

8

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Montgomery

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" 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

Dawsonville Mennonite Church, Inc.

Telephone #: None

STREET & NUMBER

Route 107 Whites Ferry Road

CITY, TOWN

Dawsonville

— VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 20720

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Montgomery County Courthouse

Liber #: 4803

Folio #: 138

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Rockville

STATE

Maryland

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

M-NCPPC Inventory of Historical Sites

DATE

1976

— FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Park Historian's Office

CITY, TOWN

Rockville

STATE

Maryland 20855

**7 DESCRIPTION**

M:18-23-1

**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"/> UNEXPOSED

**CHECK ONE**

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

**CHECK ONE**

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

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

This rectangular one and a half story, three bay by four bay church is in good condition. It sits back from the road and faces east onto a dirt road.

Built on Seneca sandstone foundations, this wooden frame church building has white novelty siding. There is a poured concrete slab porch on the east (front) elevation. The east (front) double doors are wooden paneled and are surmounted by a large round headed multi-paned stained glass window. The remainder of the church windows are six over six double hung round headed windows flanked by green wooden louvered shutters which, when closed, repeat the round headed design. The church has a gable roof covered by raised seam metal. At the peak of the east gable there is a wooden octagonal plaque which reads: A.D. 1889. The eaves are boxed. On the west elevation there is an exterior cinderblock chimney.

The interior of the church is one large room. At the east (front) of the building there is a tongue and groove wall screen. Two interior doors, facing north and south open into the main body of the church. The church is divided by two aisles into three seating areas. There are carved wooden pews. There is tongue and groove wooden wainscoting and a tongue and groove wooden ceiling. The remainder of the walls are plaster over lath. There are narrow wooden floor boards. The altar is at the west end of the church, raised up three steps on a platform. At the southeast corner there is a wooden single run, open stairway which descends, east to west, into the basement.

The church is located on a wide treed lawn. A cedar tree is close to the church on the east elevation.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**8 SIGNIFICANCE**

M: 18-23-1

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		Local History	

SPECIFIC DATES                      1890                      BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Dawsonville Primitive Baptist Church is a representative 19th century rural wooden church.

The congregation of the Seneca Baptist Church decided in the 1880s that it was time to move their church to a better location. The old church, founded in 1772, was located on the far side of the Seneca Creek from most of the parishioners, and every time there were heavy rains the creek flooded the road leading to the church, effectively blocking passage. As the circuit minister came only twice a month, it was important to have everybody present for services. The church had almost failed for lack of membership in the 1860s so it was important to maintain an active congregation.

Nathan Allnutt came to the rescue of the church in 1890. He agreed to trade a one acre lot in the near-by town of Dawsonville for the one acre lot and old stone building on Seneca Creek. The deed read as follows, "Have at a regular meeting of said congregation determined that the present location of the church has become inconvenient (sic) for their use and that a location in the village of Dawsonville would be more convenient...Nathan W. Allnutt is willing to exchange lots to accommodate the said congregation."<sup>1</sup>

With the opening of the new building the church became an important social center for Dawsonville. Most of the families in the area were members of the congregation.

Although Allnutt had officially traded lots with the church in 1890, his heirs registered another deed for the church property in 1909. This lot covered over two acres and included Allnutt's house as well as the church building.<sup>2</sup> In this deed the principles of the church were spelled out: "A church that holds the doctrine of Pre-destination and Election of God unto eternal salvation for each and every one of the redeemed family, the direct and immediate work of the spirit of God in regeneration, renouncing all the modern inventions of man as helped in the work which God above accomplished, viz: the giving of spiritual life." This religious doctrine characterized the church as belonging to the "Primitive Baptist" branch, a group that believed in strictness in church services as well as everyday life. Distractions such as music were excluded from services.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

(continued on Attachment Sheet A)

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Land Records of Montgomery County, Md.  
"Dawsonville Baptist Church", Vertical Files-Churches, Baptist,  
Rockville, Md.: Montgomery County Historical Society.  
MacMasters, Richard K., and Ray Eldon Hiebert. A Grateful Remembrance.  
Rockville, Md.: Montgomery County Government and the Montgomery County  
Historical Society, 1976.  
CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 2.32 acres

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Located on the south side of Route 107, directly west of the intersection  
of Route 28.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

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

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

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

Donald M. Leavitt

ORGANIZATION

Sugarloaf Regional Trails

STREET & NUMBER

Box 87

CITY OR TOWN

Dickerson

County Record - Architectural Description

August 1979

TELEPHONE

926-4510

STATE

Maryland 20753

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, as  
1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information  
and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringe-  
ment of individual property rights.

RETURN TO:

~~Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw Center, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438~~

Attachment Sheet A  
Dawsonville Primitive Baptist  
Church

M: 18/23-/  
Magi #

These conservative religious beliefs caused the problems for the Dawsonville Primitive Baptist Church. From time to time in its history disgruntled groups would split off from the main body and form their own churches. And as the 20th century progressed fewer and fewer people attended services. In the early 1950s, the congregation was disbanded.

Several years later a Mennonite sect, whose conservative religious beliefs were not far removed from those of the Primitive Baptists, asked to use the church building. In 1976 they filed a disposition with the county asking for the church building to be transferred to them. The local court agreed with the motion and ordered the property transferred to the Dawsonville Mennonite Church.<sup>3</sup>

FOOTNOTES:

- 1 Land Records of Montgomery County, Md. JA 21/333 (9/27/1890).
- 2 Ibid., 206/433 (5/22/1909).
- 3 Ibid., 4803/138 (6/23/1976).



A.D.  
1889

NAME

BAPTIST/MENNONITE CHURCH

#18-23

-1

LOCATION

Rt 107 DAUNSONVILLE, MD

FACADE

E

PHOTO TAKEN

5/17/74 MOWYER



#18-23-1

NAME BAPTIST/MENNONITE CHURCH

LOCATION Rt 107 DAWSONVILLE, GA

FACADE NE

PHOTO TAKEN 5/17/74 M DWYER



#18-23-1

NAME BAPTIST/MENNONITE CHURCH

LOCATION Rt 107 DAWSONVILLE, Md

FACADE S

PHOTO TAKEN 5/17/74 MDWYER