

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY
HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey P.G. #70-15

Building Date 1916

Building Name Seaton Memorial A.M.E. Church

Location 5503 Lincoln Avenue, (Lincoln), Lanham, Maryland

Private / Religious / Occupied / Unexposed / Accessible

Description:

Seaton Memorial A.M.E. Church was a frame gable-roof church building, constructed in 1916, with its principal west gable end facing onto Lincoln Avenue. It was sheathed with German siding, painted white, its gable roof was covered with gray asbestos shingle, and the building rested on a concrete foundation. Centered in the west gable end was a three-part window, set off by a shallow semi-circular molded "pediment" above. Each of the north and south sides of the church was varied by a projecting crossgable which formed a shallow transept. There was a two-story pyramidal-roof square tower on the south side, near the southwest corner; entrance to the church was into the west face of the tower, through a small pedimented entry porch. There was a small slightly raised altar at the east end of the nave. In 1983 a new church was begun on the lot adjoining to the north; it is of brick, one-story, eight-sided, with an eight-plane pyramidal roof. The original Seaton Memorial A.M.E. Church was destroyed in 1984.

Significance:

Seaton Memorial A.M.E. Church was built in 1916 in Lincoln, to serve the residents of this newly established black suburban community. It was named for Daniel Peter Seaton, minister and scholar, one of the most prominent supporters of the church. In 1913, William A. Davis and three other prominent members of the new Lincoln community purchased Lot #27 in Block G, acting as the trustees of the Bethel A.M.E. Church of Lincoln. Services were conducted, under Reverend Seaton's leadership, while money was raised to build the church. Seaton died in January, 1918; money was designated in his will to go to the trustees of the Bethel Church at Lincoln; since that time the church has been known as Seaton Memorial A.M.E. Church. Seaton Memorial A.M.E. Church has remained one of the focal points of the Lincoln community. By the early 1980's, the church was considered too small to house the expanding congregation, and the decision was made to replace it with a new structure. The trustees purchased adjoining lots in 1982, and in 1983 began construction of a new brick church building. In 1984, the old Seaton Memorial Church was demolished. The site of the old church has been converted to parking spaces, and nothing remains of the original building.

Acreage: 37,500 sq. ft.

Survey No.

Magi No.

DOE yes no

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Seaton Memorial A.M.E. Church

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 5503 Lincoln Ave. not for publication

city, town Lanham Lincoln vicinity of congressional district 5

state Maryland county Prince George's

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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

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

name Trustees of Seaton Memorial A.M.E. Church

street & number 5503 Lincoln Avenue telephone no.:

city, town Lanham state and zip code Maryland 20706

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. P.G. County Courthouse liber 80

street & number 14735 Main Street folio 469

city, town Upper Marlboro state MD

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Prince George's County Inventory of Historic Sites

date 1974 federal state county local

depository for survey records Historic Preservation Commission, MNCPPC

city, town Upper Marlboro state MD 20772

7. Description

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

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

Seaton Memorial A.M.E. Church was a frame gable-roof church building, constructed in 1916, with its principal west gable end facing onto Lincoln Avenue. It was sheathed with German siding, painted white, its gable roof was covered with gray asbestos shingle, and the building rested on a concrete foundation.

Centered in the west gable end was a three-part window, set off by a shallow semi-circular molded "pediment" above. Each of the north and south sides of the church was varied by a projecting crossgable which formed a shallow transept.

Sometime after the construction of the church in 1916, a two-story square tower was built onto the south side, near the southwest corner. It had a pyramidal roof, and there was a tall louvered window at second level in each face of the tower. Entrance to the church was thenceforth into the west face of the tower, through a small pedimented entry porch.

The main block of the church enclosed a spacious nave, with walls covered below the chair-rail with dark vertical wainscoting. The three-plane ceiling was covered with similar narrow board. There was a small slightly raised altar at the east end of the nave.

In 1983 a new church was begun on the lot adjoining to the north; it is of brick, one-story, eight-sided, with an eight-plane pyramidal roof. The original Seaton Memorial A.M.E. Church was destroyed in 1984.

8. Significance

Survey No. PG#70-15

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 type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1916 Builder/Architect

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.

Seaton Memorial A.M.E. Church was built in 1916 in Lincoln, to serve the residents of this newly established black suburban community. It was named for Daniel Peter Seaton, minister and scholar, one of the most prominent supporters of the church.

In 1908, the Lincoln Land Improvement Company, Inc., acquired nearly 200 acres of land along the Washington, Baltimore and Annapolis Railroad, and proceeded to survey and lay out a semi-rural community. The lots were gradually bought up, and houses built, and by ca. 1915 approximately ten black families had established themselves there. The new community had several features which made it attractive to working black families: it had a quiet rural setting, dotted with parks and surrounded by woods, but had easy access to Washington by the WB&A railroad; it had its own station (Lincoln) on this line, a general store close to the station, and a one-room schoolhouse a moderate distance southwest along the railroad line.

The local store was run by William A. Davis, and it was in this store that several of the residents met to make plans for building a church. The first services were held in the store presided over by Rev. Daniel Peter Seaton, who had in 1913 purchased a lot in Lincoln and begun to build his residence.¹ Reverend Seaton (1835-1918) was an organizer of A.M.E. churches in the Washington Metropolitan area. He had received a diploma from the American University of Medicine in Philadelphia in 1871; he had travelled extensively and in 1895 had published The Land of Promise, a social and cultural analysis of the people of Palestine. Seaton had pastored churches in Pennsylvania, Delaware, North Carolina, Indiana and Washington D.C. before his appointment as minister of the newly forming Bethel Church at Lincoln.²

In 1913, William A. Davis and three other prominent members of the Lincoln community purchased Lot #27 in Block G, acting as the trustees of the Bethel A.M.E. Church of Lincoln.³ Services were conducted, under Reverend Seaton's leadership, in Davis' store and in Reverend Seaton's home, while money was raised to build the church. Seaton died in January, 1918; money was designated in his will to go to the trustees of the Bethel Church at Lincoln; since that time the church has been known as Seaton Memorial A.M.E. Church, in his honor.⁴

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM
Statement of Significance (continued)

Survey No. PG#70-15
Section 8 Page 2

Seaton Memorial A.M.E. Church has remained one of the focal points of the Lincoln community. By the early 1980's, the church was considered too small to house the expanding congregation, and the decision was made to replace it with a new structure. The trustees purchased adjoining lots in 1982⁵ and in 1983 began construction of a new brick church building. In 1984, the old Seaton Memorial Church was demolished. The site of the old church has been converted to parking spaces, and nothing remains of the original building.

Notes

1. See MHT form PG#70-32
2. Floyd, Bianca P., Prince George's County Black History Study Final Report, 1982-83, pp. 121-22.
3. Prince George's County Deed #80:469
4. Prince George's County Will GPH#1:385
5. Prince George's County Deed #5574:633

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. PG#70-15

Cf. Notes, Item #8

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property 37,500 sq. ft.
Quadrangle name Lanham

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A
Zone Easting Northing

B
Zone Easting Northing

C

D

E

F

G

H

Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Susan G. Pearl, Research/Architectural Historian

organization P.G.C. Historic Preservation Commission date February 1983/December 1988

street & number 4010 C.A.B., c/o MNCPPC telephone (301 952-3521

city or town Upper Marlboro 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
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

P. G. #70-15

Seaton Memorial African Methodist Episcopal Church
5503 Lincoln Avenue, Lanham, Md.
Priv/Occ/Relig/Good

1919

Seaton Memorial A.M.E. Church is a small frame structure with the principal facade being its west gable end. Centered in this west gable end is a tri-partite window which is set off by a shallow semi-circular molded pediment above. Each of the north and south sides of the Church has a low cross-gable a little east of center. A square tower has been built onto the south side of the church near the southwest corner, and entrance to the sanctuary is through a porch on the tower's west face.

In 1908, the Lincoln Land Improvement Co., Inc., acquired nearly 200 acres of land along the Washington, Baltimore and Annapolis Railroad, and proceeded to survey and develop a new semi-rural community. The new community had the advantages of parks and woods, and its own station on the WB & A railroad, as well as a long-established schoolhouse for Black children close by; by 1915 approximately ten working-class Black families had established themselves there. Two years earlier, four residents had purchased a lot for the purpose of constructing an A.M.E. Church, although for some years to come, services were held in homes or in the general store. The second pastor of this congregation was Daniel P. Seaton, who had moved to Lincoln in 1913; after his death in 1918, money out of his estate, as devised by his will, was given towards the building fund of the (then called) Bethel Church at Lincoln. The church was completed in 1919, and from that time has been known as Seaton Memorial A.M.E. Church.

The Church has remained the center of the Lincoln community to this day, but the future of the 1919 building is now in question. Plans are in progress for a new and larger church building, and the congregation is weighing the alternatives of demolishing the old church or retaining it for collateral church-related uses.

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Seaton Memorial African Methodist Episcopal Church

and or common

2. Location

street & number 5503 Lincoln Avenue not for publication

city, town Lincoln vicinity of Lanham congressional district 5th

state Maryland county P. G.

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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<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"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

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

name Trustees of Seaton Memorial A.M.E. Church

street & number telephone no.:

city, town state and zip code

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. P. G. County Courthouse liber 80

street & number Main Street folio 469

city, town Upper Marlboro state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title P.G. Co. Inventory of Historic Sites

date 1974 federal state county local

depository for survey records History Division M-NCPPC

city, town 4811 Riverdale Road, Riverdale state Maryland 20737

7. Description

Survey No. #70-15

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	date of move _____
<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.

Seaton Memorial A.M.E. Church is a small frame structure with the principal facade being its west gable end. Centered in this west gable end is a tripartite window which is set off by a shallow semi-circular molded pediment above. Each of the north and south sides of the church has a low cross-gable a little east of center. A square tower has been built onto the south side of the church near the southwest corner, and entrance to the church is through a porch on the tower's west face.

The foundation of the building is of brick, and the building is covered with German siding.

8. Significance

Survey No. PG: 70-15

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/
<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) Black History

Specific dates ca. 1916 Builder/Architect Holland, Hatton, Clarke

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.

In 1908, the Lincoln Land Improvement Company, Inc., acquired nearly 200 acres of land along the Washington, Baltimore and Annapolis Railroad, and proceeded to survey and lay out a semi-rural community. The lots were gradually bought up, and houses built, and by ca. 1915, approximately ten black families had established themselves. The new community had several features which made it attractive to working black families: it had a quiet rural setting, dotted with parks and surrounded by woods, but had easy access to Washington by the WB & A railroad; it had its own station (Lincoln) on this line, a general store close to the station, and a one-room schoolhouse a moderate distance southwest along the railroad line. The store was run by William A. Davis, and it was in this store that several of the residents met to make plans for building a church. The first services were held in the store presided over by Rev. Daniel Peter Seaton, who moved in to the Lincoln community in 1913. In the same year, W.A. Davis and three other prominent members of the community (T.J. Calloway, F.W. Holland and W.H. Freeman) purchased lot #27 (Block G) as trustees of the Lincoln A.M.E. church. Services continued, under Rev. Seaton's leadership, in Mr. Davis' store and in Rev. Seaton's home while money was raised to build the church. Reverend Seaton died in January 1918; money was designated in his will to go to the trustees of the Bethel Church at Lincoln and since that time the church has been known as Seaton Memorial A.M.E. church. The church was finished ca. 1919 - 1920 on land which had been purchased in 1913. (In an attempt to keep Lincoln a solid middle-class community without danger of deterioration, the deed for the lot required that improvements cost no less than \$750 to build.)

Seaton Memorial Church has remained the center of the Lincoln community to this day. In recent years, adjoining lots have been purchased, and plans are in process for the construction of a new and larger church building. The future of the 1916 church is presently in question: the membership is weighing the alternatives of demolishing the old church or maintaining it for collateral church-related uses.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

PG:70-15

1761014619

NOMINATION FORM
for the
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

1. NAME						
COMMON:						
AND/OR HISTORIC: Lincoln Station						
2. LOCATION						
STREET AND NUMBER: Lincoln Avenue						
CITY OR TOWN: Lanham						
STATE: Maryland			COUNTY: Prince George's			
3. CLASSIFICATION						
CATEGORY (Check One)		OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC	
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object		<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both		Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)						
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment		<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum		<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____ _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____ _____
4. OWNER OF PROPERTY						
OWNER'S NAME:						
STREET AND NUMBER:						
CITY OR TOWN:			STATE:			
5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION						
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:						
Prince George's County Courthouse						
STREET AND NUMBER:						
CITY OR TOWN: Upper Marlboro			STATE: Maryland			
Title Reference of Current Deed (Book & Pg. #):						
6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS						
TITLE OF SURVEY:						
DATE OF SURVEY: <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local						
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:						
STREET AND NUMBER:						
CITY OR TOWN:			STATE:			

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

7. DESCRIPTION		
CONDITION	(Check One) <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/> Ruins <input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed	
	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>(Check One) <input type="checkbox"/> Altered <input type="checkbox"/> Uncltered </td> <td>(Check One) <input type="checkbox"/> Moved <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site </td> </tr> </table>	(Check One) <input type="checkbox"/> Altered <input type="checkbox"/> Uncltered
(Check One) <input type="checkbox"/> Altered <input type="checkbox"/> Uncltered	(Check One) <input type="checkbox"/> Moved <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE		
<p>This is an old Negro community with its own RR Station (a small, square, frame building, made with cross braces and having a hip roof covered with shingles) and the nearby Seaton Church, an early-20th Century frame country church of simple Gothic styling.</p>		

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi-	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	lasaphy	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human-	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	itarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> Music	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

[Empty space for Statement of Significance]

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Blank area for Major Bibliographical References.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES				
CORNER	LATITUDE				LONGITUDE				
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

Acreage Justification:

Blank area for Acreage Justification.

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Michael F. Dwyer, Senior Park Historian

ORGANIZATION: M-NCPPC DATE: 11/15/73

STREET AND NUMBER:
8787 Georgia Ave.

CITY OR TOWN: Silver Spring STATE: Maryland

12. State Liaison Officer Review: (Office Use Only)

Significance of this property is:
 National State Local

Signature _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SEATON MEMORIAL AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

"For we walk by faith, not by sight."
II Corinthians 5 : 7

In 1983 Seaton Memorial African Methodist Episcopal Church , located at 5503 Lincoln Avenue, Lanham, Md. 20706, is situated in a Black enclave. This is understood if one places the birth and the development of the church against the background of the beginning of the Twentieth Century, especially the attitude and practices of a society whose force emanated from Washington, D.C. In the capital city as well as in Maryland the doctrine justifying jim crow had won credence and was being enforced. Actually, jim crowism was pervasive throughout the United States of America.

One of the economic results was the establishment of communities for Blacks. Thus, did Lincoln Park , where Seaton Memorial African Methodist Church is situated, come into being. As the now defunct Washington, Baltimore and Annapolis railway laid its lines and acquired property from the farmers who owned the land, real estate companies established communities close to the W.B.A., as it was called. The Lincoln Land and Improvement Company of Washington, D.C., a subsidiary of the United States Realty Company, became most active in 1904 in the sale of lots to Blacks. The leading figure in the sale of Lincoln Park real estate was Thomas J. Calloway who would become one of the first trustees of Seaton Church. By 1908 Lincoln Park had been completely surveyed and mapped as a community.

As a few families built homes and moved into them, it became apparent that the institution so important to Black development, the church, was needed. The families met on Sundays in different homes and in the small local store operated by William Abner and Mary Davis. During beautiful weather services were held in an area known as the Park. At first these services were very informal and ecumenical in nature. Then, in 1911 a travelling African Methodist Episcopal minister, the Reverend J.W.Durham, introduced the small group to the theological discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. And the Reverend L.P. Herring was officially appointed the first minister of Seaton A.M.E. Church which originally was called the Lincoln A.M.E.Church.

In 1913 when Dr. Daniel P. Seaton came to the Lincoln Park area, he built his home in the heart of the community and near where he hoped a church would be built. His home still stands near the church. Upon his appointment to the pastorate and during his tenure as pastor, Dr. Seaton insisted upon calling his new charge, Bethel A.M.E.Church. When his will was probated in February, 1918, it was discovered that he had bequeathed "\$50.00 to the trustees of Bethel A.M.E.Church at Lincoln."

Yet the deed to the property upon which Seaton A.M.E.Church sits is made out to the Lincoln A.M.E. Church. The deed is of such interest that it must be incorporated by this writer. It follows.

Lincoln Land & Imp.Co.) This deed made this 24th
to) day of September in the
T.J.Calloway et al) year one thousand nine
Trustees) hundred and thirteen by
the Lincoln Land and Im-
provement Company of Washington, D.C., Incorporated,
a corporation duly organized under the laws of the
State of Virginia. Witnesseth, that in consideration
of ten dollars the said The Lincoln Land and Improvement
Company of Washington, D.C., Incorporated, does grant
unto T. J. Calloway, F. W. Holland, W. A. Davis and W. H.
Freeman of Lincoln, Prince George's County, Md., Trustees
for the Lincoln A.M.E.Church Lincoln, Md. their
successors and assigns in fee simple lot numbered twenty-
seven (27) in Block "G" in Lincoln in Section No.One
of a subdivision made by the Lincoln Land and Improvement
Company of Washington, D.C., Incorporated, according to
the plat of said Section No. One duly recorded in the
Land Records of Prince George's County, Maryland, in
Plat Book BDS. No. one folio 58.

Together with the improvements easements rights
ways appurtenances and advantages to the same belonging
or in anywise appertaining. And the grantee hereinbefore
named for themselves and for their successors and assigns
hereby covenant promise and agree with the Lincoln Land
and Improvement Company of Washington, D.C. Incorporated
in consideration of this conveyance that any building other
than necessary out-buildings erected upon said property shall
cost not less than seven hundred and fifty dollars and
this covenant shall run with the land. And the said
Lincoln Land and Improvement Company of Washington, D.C.
Incorporated covenants that it will warrant specially
the property hereby granted and this deed further
witnesseth that the Lincoln Land and Improvement
Company of Washington, D.C. Incorporated does hereby
constitute and appoint J. Henry Brown its true and

lawful attorney in fact to appear before any proper officer and acknowledge this deed as and for its act and deed.

In Testimony whereof the said The Lincoln Land and Improvement Company of Washington, D.C. Incorporated has caused this deed to be signed by J. Henry Brown its President and attested by T.E. Biddle its Secretary and its Corporate seal to be hereunto affixe on the day and year first hereinbefore written.

Witness our hands and seals.

The Lincoln Land and Improvement Company of Washington, D.C. Incorporated .

Test
L. D. Bayne

By J. Henry Brown
President

Attest T. E. Biddle

Soon after the death of Dr. Seaton, the small congregation of the Lincoln A.M. E. Church renamed their institution the Seaton Memorial A.M.E. Church in honor of the world traveller, author, lecturer and pastor, Dr. Daniel P. Seaton, who did not live to see the building of the litte church for which he had worked so strenuously.

Meanwhile, the Reverend W.H.Brown took over the pastorate of the small congregation and in 1922 the group moved into its new church which had been built through the cooperative efforts of the citizens of the area who donated freely their money, time and labor to its construction. In 1924 an extension was added to the front of the building by a hired , professional firm, the Riden Lumber Company.

It was around this time that the membership grew from the original 15 founders to an active 36. This growth was related to the development of a nearby community, Buena Vista Subdivision, and a few Blacks who built homes along a short stretch of Annapolis Road from Seabrook Road to Glendale Road. Most were individuals who had moved out of Washington, D.C., because of the growing antagonism of whites. From 31 percent of the population in 1900, Black Washington dropped to 28.5 percent in 1910 and was only 25 percent in 1920. Interestingly, Seaton's membership seemed to have reflected some national as well as

local societal movements. For example, records show that in August, 1930, the membership was 19. During the "Great Depression" it remained constantly low; but as the "New Deal" progressed, the membership grew again to 39 in September, 1939. In April, 1942, as World War II dominated the news, there was a drop to 22 members, but in March, 1946, after the conflict was over, 44 members were recorded. A small but steady growth in membership has occurred and in January, 1983, Seaton had 101 full members. When the current pastor, Reverend H. Michael Lemmons, assumed the pastorate there were 67 members. He became pastor in 1977.

When membership was at its nadir, a core of concerned and active persons kept Seaton viable. They were Mr. and Mrs. George Barber, Mrs. Georgia Burke, Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Corruthers, Mr. and Mrs. W.A. Davis, Mr. and Mrs. John Criddle, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Gibson, Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Holland, Mrs. Annie Jones, Mrs. Viola Jones, Reverend and Mrs. Price A. Scott and Mr. and Mrs. Herman Socks. They kept the faith, spearheaded fund-raising activities, worked in the community, and gradually the membership rose. Collectively, they were Seaton's anchor.

The decades from 1920 to 1960 reveal a Seaton litany whose focus was to keep the church alive, to carry the church's spiritual and secular ideas and activities into the community, and to expand the with-in-church service groups as well as to create new ones. Seaton worked with the local Lincoln Elementary School to help both its educational and athletic programs, staunchly supported Kittrell College of the A.M.E. Church, helped the local recreational council, and through the Women's Mite Society and the Ladies Aid Society succored the impoverished, the ill and the shut-ins. Amazingly, during this time from 1940 to 1946 the church had no indebtedness.

By 1960 Seaton was ready to launch into a new activity. This year marked the increased emphasis on the idea that a new church was needed. The old little building had been made comfortable over the years with the addition of electricity and a central heating system but lacked modern facilities needed if it were to expand to meet the demands of a twentieth century community. Thus, 1960 marked a turning point in the

life of Seaton A.M.E.Church.

The decade of the sixties was colored by an intense desire to purchase land for the "new church" that was discussed at nearly every church meeting. The church was free of all indebtedness during 1962 and 1963. However, in 1964 Seaton was again plunged into indebtedness because of the need to take care of the mundane affairs of maintaining and improving the existing building. Yet, in the same year Seaton decided it would be wise to investigate purchasing the two lots adjacent to the church. Unable to buy the land immediately since funds were lacking, Seaton held on by faith until 1969. The lots were purchased from funds drawn from a fledgling building fund which in June, 1965, boasted \$ 740.94, and membership pledges to meet the monthly note.

The "Building Theme" did not diminish Seaton's service to spiritual and secular affairs. The sixties saw the expansion of the clubs within the church with renewed activity by the young people. The Young People's Choir, the Angel Chorus, the Willing Workers, and especially the Sunday School, sparkled. Seaton reached out with Sunday services at Glendale Hospital, with sponsoring of Friendship Day at the church, and with more aid to the Recreation Council. The Mothers' Club sponsored many activities for young people and generally gave moral support to Sunday School and Vacation Bible School affairs.

By 1971 Seaton was discussing whether to add on to the existing church structure or to build a new one. The general consensus of the body and the vote of the Official Board mandated that the old structure be expanded since there were not sufficient funds to undertake new construction. An architect was hired, plans were drawn up and presented to the Seaton membership and action was initiated to secure the necessary loan. But in 1975 the plans were rejected by the Prince George's County Department of Licenses and Permits because the old Seaton extended beyond the building line.

Seaton was not discouraged by this obstacle. Under the guidance of Reverend Mack Bell (1969-1976), it had raised the Building Fund from \$574.00 in September, 1969, to \$21, 433.53 in September, 1976.

Building fever had grown very high at Seaton during the seventies. A Building Fund Thermometer was posted in the entrance hall to keep the membership aware of the progress of the fund and in August, 1971, the congregation was reminded that in its zeal to raise funds for a new building, it must not forget the regular expenses of the church. Along with the customary church collections and individual pledges, many activities to raise money characterized the seventies. One of the most popular and most financially rewarding was the "Seaton Bull Roast" which friends from near and far anticipated each year.

1977 was a most important year in the history of Seaton. The Reverend H. Michael Lemmons (1977-) was appointed to Seaton A.M.E. Church with the building of a new Seaton as his "highest priority" and was met by a congregation receptive to his leadership. Highly trained, widely read, a forceful speaker, he revitalized the spiritual lives of his congregation and caused the body to rethink its obligations to the church. With his emphasis upon tithing, money increased the Building Fund to the point that in 1981 Reverend Lemmons led the Seaton congregation to near realization of the new structure. The major question was: Where should the new Seaton be built?

On July 1, 1981, Seaton voted by a slim majority to build on Annapolis Road, Route 450, near Galveston Road. But again State and County departments refused the necessary permits because of the topography and the general unsuitableness of the area. Undaunted, Seaton decided to build its new home on the site it occupied. Ground breaking for the new Seaton took place on April 4, 1982.

Seaton flourished under the leadership of Reverend Lemmons. In 1982 the church was incorporated. It bought more land to meet future needs. The young people's role was expanded. The membership grew. Visitors returned to hear fine sermons. The John Hurst Adams Children's Choir came into being. The ministry of music was reorganized and enlarged. The local Lay Organization was formed and sponsored seminars and workshops for the congregation and the community. The Women's Missionary Society initiated the Edward D. Young, Sr., Scholarship Fund. This and much more when by September, 1982, the Building

Fund was \$125,872.05.

1982 was marked not only by the ground breaking for the New Seaton but also by the tedious procedures required to get building permits and to negotiate terms for a building loan. It was a year of anxiety and patience and faith. In January, 1983, Reverend Lemons announced that plans had been approved and that actual work on the construction of the new Seaton would begin in a few weeks. The Norman Evans Construction Company was contracted to do the work.

Seaton's records reveal that the church had several times of crises from its inception. 1920, 1974 and 1981 were cited. Out of every crisis emerged a group of the same people but with a new personality and a common interest. Faith in Seaton prevailed. And never were religious, social and community services neglected.

Seaton's pastors were all dedicated and conscientious persons. Although a Reverend J. W. Durham can not be listed as an official pastor, he led the flock to the A.M.E. fold. Members who have passed on to eternal life thought of him as their first pastor as do several of the old members who still live. However, a perusal of the Washington Bee of the early century shows that the Reverend L.P.Herring served as the first official minister and was succeeded by Reverend Jeremiah Hawkins.

The officially appointed pastors of Seaton were:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Reverend L.P. Herring (1914-1915) | Reverend G.W. Shellman (1941-1943) |
| Reverend Jeremiah Hawkins (1916) | Reverend J.W.Duckette (1943-1948) |
| Reverend D.P.Seaton (1916-1918) | Reverend J.D.Brown (1948-1952) |
| Reverend W.H.Brown (1918-1925) | Reverend J.W.Armstrong (1952-1953) |
| Reverend M.J.Key (1925-1929) | Reverend B. Blake (1953-1954) |
| Reverend J.W.Wing (1929-1930) | Reverend J. Holmes (1954-1955) |
| Reverend J.H.Brown (1930) | Reverend K. White (1955-1956) |
| Reverend W.H.Booker (1930-1931) | Reverend R.M. Smith (1956-1961) |
| Reverend L.S.Penn (1931-1935) | Reverend W.W.Edwards (1961-1964) |
| Reverend H.A.Curtis (1935-1941) | Reverend F. Harrison (1964-1968) |

Reverend E. H. Terrel (1968-1969)

Reverend Mack Bell (1969-1976)

Reverend J.M. Harvin (1976-1977)

Reverend H. Michael Lemmons (1977-)

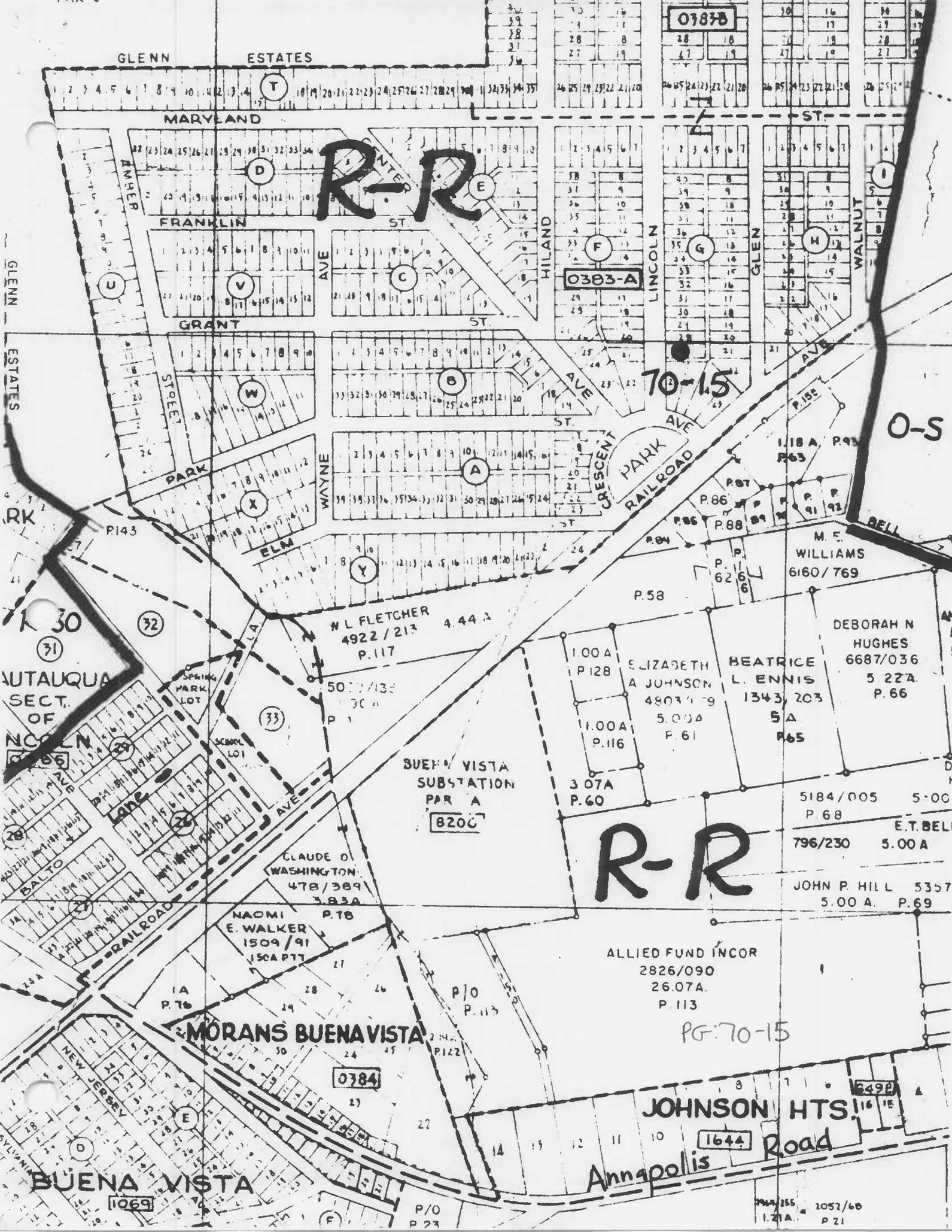
The new Seaton African Methodist Episcopal Church reached fruition under the leadership of the Reverend H. Michael Lemmons.

_____Ejna Burke Jackson_____

_____Pamela Anita Hay_____

This article is based upon information from the Land Records Department of Prince George's County, Md., from the Office of the Register of Wills of Prince George's County, Md., from the records of Seaton Memorial African Methodist Episcopal Church, and from "oral history" conversations with local residents.

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NEW JERSEY

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JOHNSON HTS.

ANNAPOLIS ROAD

BUENA VISTA

BUENA VISTA

BUENA VISTA

BUENA VISTA

W.L. FLETCHER 4922/213 4.44 A P.117

5012/135 P.1

BUENA VISTA SUBSTATION PAR A 8206

CLAUDE O. WASHINGTON 478/389 3.83A P.18

NAOMI E. WALKER 1509/91 15CAPTT P.18

1A P.18

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ELIZABETH A. JOHNSON 4803/179 5.00A P.61

HEATRICE L. ENNIS 1343, 203 5A P.65

3 07A P.60

5184/005 5-00 P.68

796/230 5.00A

JOHN P. HILL 5357 5.00 A. P.69

ALLIED FUND INCOR 2826/090 26.07A. P.113

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JOHNSON HTS. 1644

ANNAPOLIS ROAD

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DEBORAH N. HUGHES 6687/036 5.22A P.66

M.E. WILLIAMS 6160/769

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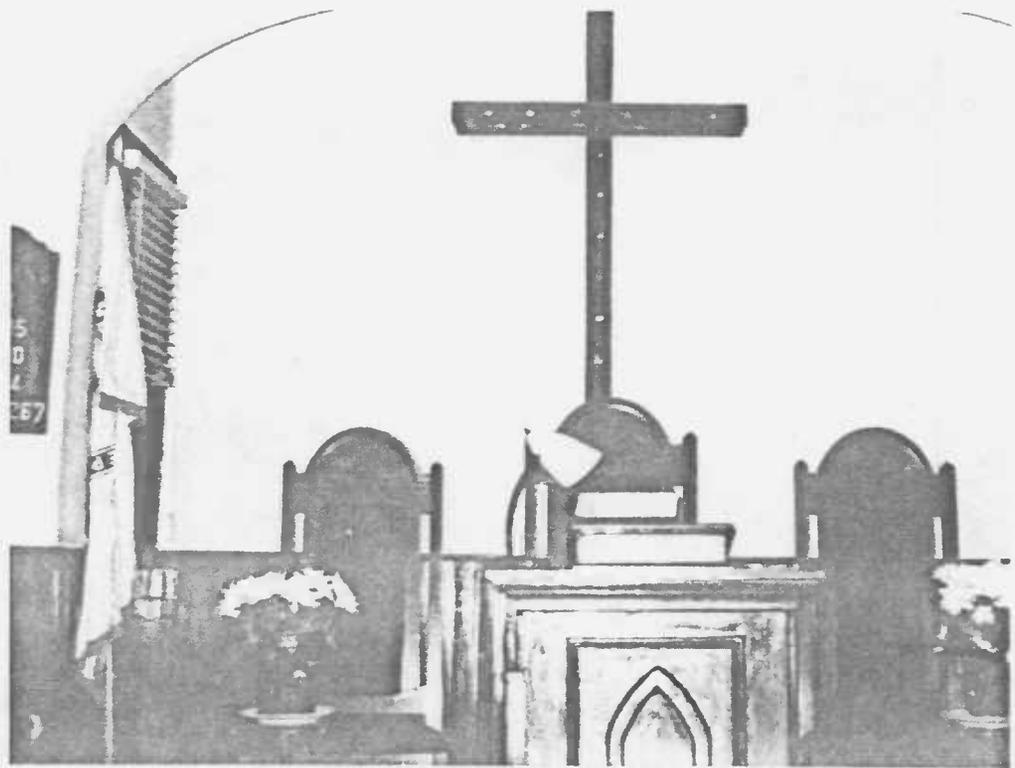
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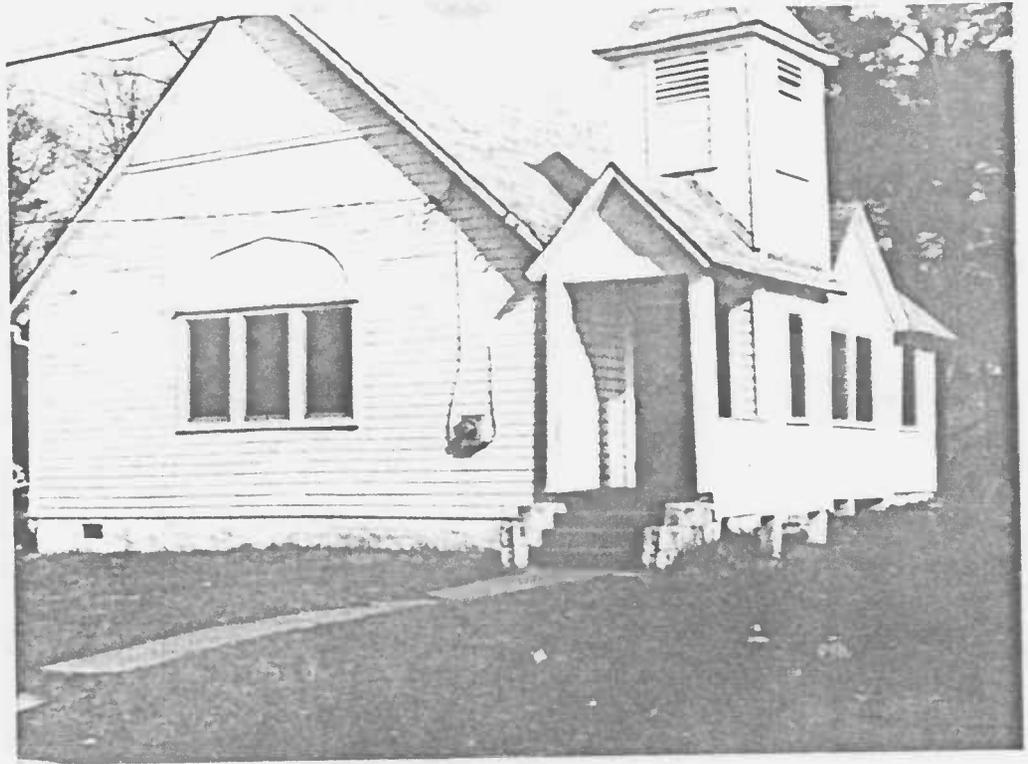
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LANHAM

P.G. #70-15
SEATON MEMORIAL
A.M.E. CHURCH

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Seaton A.M.E. Church
Prince George's County, Md.
Susan G. Pearl
July 1982
West Elevation
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, Md.



NAME LINCOLN R.R. STATION # 70-15

LOCATION OLD R.R. R.O.W. NEAR GLENN DALE SANITARIUM VISTA, Md

FACADE SW

PHOTO TAKEN 11/15/73 M. DWYER