

1915

P. G. #76B-8

St. Paul's Methodist Episcopal Church
6634 St. Barnabas Road, Oxon Hill, Md.
Priv/Occ/Relig/Excellent

St. Paul's Church is a one-and-one-half-story frame gable-roofed building, four bays wide, with its main north gable end facing the road. This north gable end has three pointed-arch windows and a small Palladian window in the gable above. At the northeast corner of the church is a two-story steepled tower with covered entrance on its east side.

St. Paul's Church may have the oldest black congregation in Prince George's County; early records indicate that in 1791, Ezekiel Cooper preached to a group of blacks in Oxon Hill in a small preaching house which they had built. The first records of the present St. Paul's congregation begin in the period immediately following the Civil War. In 1867, the Freedmen's Bureau built a black school near the mouth of Oxon Run, and the building was also used for worship services. By the 1870's Daniel Wheeler was ministering to a congregation of 100 in Oxon Hill, still without their own church building. In 1887, Wheeler and other black trustees purchased a lot a little over a mile inland from the school, and built a small frame church; this small church was used until 1915 when the present church was built immediately to the northeast. St. Paul's is significant because it has survived the transition from a struggling rural congregation of the Reconstruction period to an urban middle-class congregation of the 1980's. It is particularly significant because its congregation may well reach back to the 1790's and the first documented black congregation in Prince George's County and perhaps the nation.

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic St. Paul's Methodist Episcopal Church

and/or common St. Paul's United Methodist Church

2. Location

street & number 6634 St. Barnabas Road ___ not for publication

city, town Oxon Hill ___ vicinity of congressional district 5

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 checked="" 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 St. Paul's Church

street & number 6634 St. Barnabas Road telephone no.: 567-4433

city, town Oxon Hill state and zip code Md., 20745

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. P. G. Co. Courthouse liber JWB #7

street & number Main Street folio 745

city, town Upper Marlboro state Md.

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 4811 Riverdale Road

city, town Riverdale state Md. 20737

7. Description

Survey No. P.G. #76B-8

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input 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.

St. Paul's Church is a one-and-a-half-story gable-roofed building with its (main) north gable end facing St. Barnabas Road. This north end has three pointed-arch windows, and a small Palladian window in the gable above them.

At the northeast corner of the church is a two-story entrance tower, with covered entrance on its east side. The tower narrows to squared louvered windows at second story level, and a pointed steeple. There is one pointed-arch window on the north side of the tower at ground level.

The long flanks of the church building are four-bays wide, with pointed-arch windows, filled with stained glass.

A new one-story parish-hall addition has been constructed, adjoining the original church building on the south and west.

"for use as a place of Divine Worship for members of the Methodist Episcopal Church." This new location was a little more than a mile south-west (inland) from the Freedmen's Bureau School where services had been held for perhaps as long as twenty years.

In 1888, a church building was built on the new lot, approximately where the present parish hall now stands. This simple frame building served until 1915 when the present church was built, during the pastorate of Rev. Victor Johnson. The older building was destroyed in the 1920's.

St. Paul's has grown over the years; it survived the depression years, when membership numbered few more than 10, to a current membership of circa 250. In 1957, a parish hall was built south of the church, and in 1979, major renovation work was done with the help of a grant and loan through the Baltimore Conference of United Methodist Churches.

St. Paul's Church is significant because it has survived the transition from a struggling rural congregation at the end of the Civil War to an urban middle-class congregation of the 1980's. It is particularly significant because its congregation may well reach back to the 1790's and the first documented Black congregation in Prince George's County, and perhaps the nation.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. P.G.76B-8

P.G. Co. Deeds JWB #7:745; Freedmen's Bureau letters, 1866-67
190th Anniversary Booklet, St. Paul's Church, 1981
Interview w/ Mrs. Thelma Tanner, April 1983
Washington Post (Maryland Weekly Section) 22 Oct. 1981; Washington
Conference Minutes 1865-1888

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name AnacostiaQuadrangle 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
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Susan G. Pearlorganization History Division, M-NCPPCdate May 1983street & number 4811 Riverdale Roadtelephone 779-2011city or town Riverdale,state Maryland 20737

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

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

PA 74B-2
PG: 766 8
1702444908

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON:

AND/OR HISTORIC:

St. Paul's United Methodist Church

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

6634 St. Barnabas Road

CITY OR TOWN:

Oxon Hill

STATE:

Maryland

COUNTY:

Prince George's

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<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"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:

Trustees of St. Paul's United Methodist Church

STREET AND NUMBER:

6634 St. Barnabas Road

CITY OR TOWN:

Oxon Hill

STATE:

Maryland

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:

None

DATE OF SURVEY:

Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:

7. DESCRIPTION

2. SIGNIF

PERIO

SPECI

AREAS

STATEN

PG: 76B-8

CONDITION

(Check One)

Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Ruins Unexposed

(Check One)

Altered Unaltered

(Check One)

Moved Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The church is a frame building with the gable end facing St. Barnabas Road. The main (north) facade has three, pointed-arched windows in the nave and a small Palladian window in the gable. At the northeast corner is a two-story entrance tower. The doorway is in the east side of the tower; at the second story, it has square-headed windows with louvers. Along either flank are four pointed-arched windows. The south end has been largely obscured by new construction but the roof of the semi-hexagonal apse and the Palladian window in the gable are visible. All the windows have stained glass glazing and double hung sash.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8 SIGNIFICANCE

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PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian
- 15th Century

- 16th Century
- 17th Century

- 18th Century
- 19th Century

- 20th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Aboriginal

- Prehistoric
- Historic
- Agriculture
- Architecture
- Art
- Commerce
- Communications
- Conservation

- Education
- Engineering
- Industry
- Invention
- Landscape Architecture
- Literature
- Military
- Music

- Political
- Religion/Philosophy
- Science
- Sculpture
- Social/Humanitarian
- Theater
- Transportation

- Urban Planning
- Other (Specify)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS
SEE INSTRUCTIONS
SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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9. 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		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

Acreeage Justification:

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

STATE:	COUNTY:

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Christopher Owens, Park Historian

ORGANIZATION: MNCPPC

DATE: 12 Dec 73

STREET AND NUMBER:
8787 Georgia Avenue

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

5561 SE (ALEXANDRIA) 88

4367

INTERCHANGE 1 (U.S. 11.32 MI)

47'30"

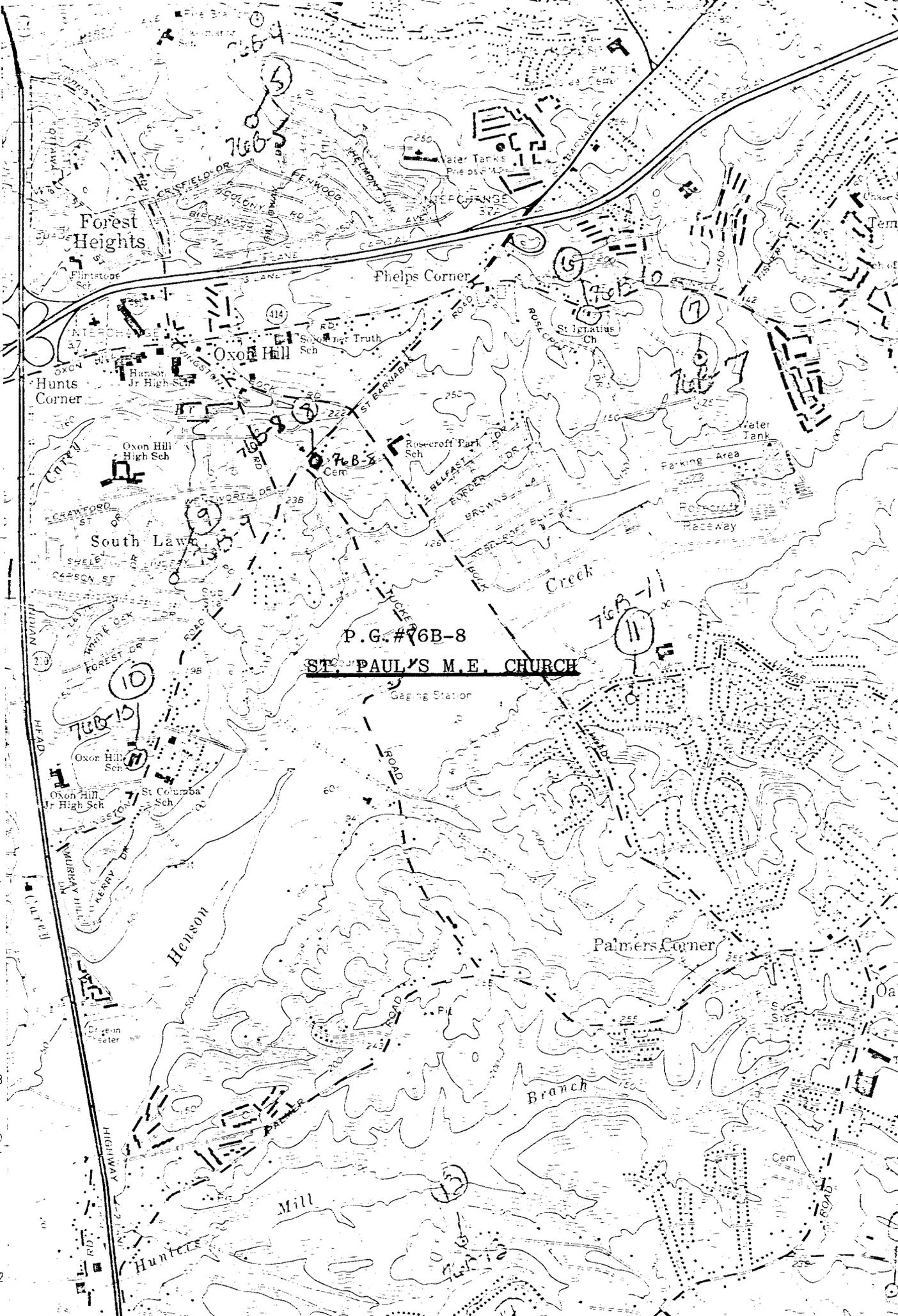
4295

4294

4293

340 000 FEET

4292



P.G. #76B-8
ST. PAUL'S M.E. CHURCH



P. G. #76B-8

St. Paul's U. M. Church
Prince George's County, Md.
Susan G. Pearl
April 1983
Northwest 3/4 elevation
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, Md.



P. G. #76B-8

St. Paul's U. M. Church
Prince George's County, Md.
Susan G. Pearl
April 1983
Southwest 3/4 elevation
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, Md.



NAME ST. PAULS U.M. CHURCH

PG: 76B-8

LOCATION ST. BARNABAS Rd AT TUCKER Rd OXEN HILL, Md

FACADE NW

PHOTO TAKEN 12/12/73 M. DWYER