1987

S-92 1892
Mount Pleasant M. P. Church
Crisfield
public worship

Distinguished as the most elaborate Victorian Gothic church in Somerset County, Mount Pleasant Methodist Protestant church stands on the south side of West Main Street in the heart of Crisfield. Highlighted by granite accents for beltcourses, watertables, and buttress caps, the stretcher bond brick facade is flanked by a four-story bell tower on the west and a two-story octagonal tower on the east. Centered on the north (front) wall is a large tripartite colored glass window flanked by two colored glass lancet windows. The northeast corner tower is also lighted by lancet windows, and equally notable are the round terra cotta decorative panels that mark the second floor. The tapered octagonal spire is finished with a dentiled cornice and capped with a ball finial.

The west tower, however, is the architectural focus. Rising four stories, the combination entrance and bell tower dominates the brick church as well as the Crisfield skyline. Fixed in the northwest corner of the base are two datestones. The most obvious stone commemorates the 1892 construction of the current church, while an additional stone on the back of the tower was evidently salvaged from the former 1876 building.

Survey No. S-[redacted] 92

Magi No. [redacted] 2000924608

DOE __yes __no

Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Mount Pleasant M.P. Church

and/or common

2. Location

street & number South Side of West Main Street ___ not for publication

city, town Crisfield ___ vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Somerset

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
___ district	___ public	_x_ occupied	___ agriculture	___ museum
_x_ building(s)	_x_ private	___ unoccupied	___ commercial	___ park
___ structure	___ both	___ work in progress	___ educational	___ private residence
___ site	**Public Acquisition**	**Accessible**	___ entertainment	_x_ religious
___ object	___ in process	_x_ yes: restricted	___ government	___ scientific
	___ being considered	___ yes: unrestricted	___ industrial	___ transportation
	_x_ not applicable	___ no	___ military	___ other:

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

name Trustees of Mt. Pleasant Church

street & number telephone no.:

city, town Crisfield state and zip code 21817

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Somerset Clerk of Court liber

street & number Somerset County Courthouse folio

city, town Princess Anne state MD 21853

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Maryland Historic Sites Inventory

date 1967 ___ federal _x_ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records Maryland Historical Sites Inventory

city, town Annapolis state MD 21401

7. Description

Survey No. S-[redacted] 92

Condition		Check one	Check one
x excellent	___ deteriorated	___ unaltered	x original site
___ good	___ ruins	x altered	___ moved date of move _____
___ fair	___ unexposed		

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

The Mount Pleasant M.P. Church stands on the southeast corner of West Main and 3rd streets in the heart of Crisfield, Somerset County, Maryland. The Victorian Gothic brick church faces north with the principal gable oriented on a north/south axis.

The 1892 Victorian brick church has a stretcher bond principal facade and seven-course common bond side and rear walls. The base of the church is defined by a projecting brick watertable capped by a course of beveled granite. The steeply pitched gable roof and the two tower roofs are covered with slate shingles. Attached to the southeast corner of the church is a single-story concrete block Sunday school room and church hall addition.

The north (main) facade is an asymmetrical elevation with the body of the church flanked by a four-story bell tower to the west and a two-story octaganal tower on the northeast corner. The church body itself has a balanced three-bay fenestration divided by brick buttresses capped with granite blocks; the corner buttresses rising two stories. Decorative rusticated granite bands run across the facade at the level of the window sills and at the bottom of the Gothic arched front windows. The center bay is filled with a Gothic arched tri-partite window with the upper portion distinguished by three round windows. Flanking the center window are narrow colored glass lancet windows. The upper portion of the parapet front wall is pierced by a colored glass lunette window with a granite sill, and the peak of the wall is vented in the shape of a cross. The parapet wall is capped with stone and finished with a floral iron finial. Rising on the northeast corner of the sanctuary is a two-story octagonal tower lighted by lancet windows on the first floor and finished with round terra cotta panels on the second floor, and rectangular panels are the base of the cornical roof. The tower cornice is embellished with a dentil row, and the peak is capped with a ball finial.

The west tower contains the principal entrance, a Gothic arched double door with a colored glass transom. A flight of three granite steps front the entrance and three-story buttresses flank the entrance as well as frame the tower. The granite datestone is fixed in the base of the northwest buttress and reads, "Mount Pleasant Methodist Protestant Church, 1892." The second story of the tower is pierced by a narrow lancet window as well as being marked by horizontal granite string courses. Two Gothic arched louvered vents fill the third story, after which the tower tapers to the spire. The base of the spire is pierced by eight Gothic arched louvered openings. The tapering octagonal spire is distinguished on four sides; north, south, east and west by a narrow gable roofed vent pierced by a louvered opening. The spire is finished by a delicate iron lightning rod. An old datestone is found at the base of the tower and reads,"M.P. Church, 1876."

8. Significance

Survey No. S-[redacted] 92

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
___ prehistoric	___ archeology-prehistoric	___ community planning	___ landscape architecture	x religion
___ 1400–1499	___ archeology-historic	___ conservation	___ law	___ science
___ 1500–1599	___ agriculture	___ economics	___ literature	___ sculpture
___ 1600–1699	x architecture	___ education	___ military	___ social/ humanitarian
___ 1700–1799	___ art	___ engineering	___ music	___ theater
x 1800–1899	___ commerce	___ exploration/settlement	___ philosophy	___ transportation
___ 1900–	___ communications	___ industry	___ politics/government	___ other (specify)
		___ invention		

Specific dates 1892 **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.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. S-[redacted] 92

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____ **Quadrangle scale** _____

UTM **References** do NOT complete UTM references

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
A				B			
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 Paul Touart - Architectural Historian

organization Somerset County Historical Trust **date** 7/16/85

street & number 424 N. Somerset Avenue **telephone** 651-0077

city or town Princess Anne **state** MD 21853

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

PS-2746

Description Continued

The west side of the sanctuary behind the tower is divided into five bays marked by colored glass lancet windows and brick buttresses without granite block caps. The eaves to the roof are extended, and the soffits are sloped.

The south side of the main block is covered by a single-story apse with a blocked up round window centered within the gable. A Gothic arched lancet window pierces the wall surface west of the apse, while a diamond shaped brick vent is located in the uppermost portion of the gable end. A square brick furnace stack rises against the east side of the church body, and the concrete block Sunday school rooms extend from the southeast corner.

The east side of the church has a gable-roofed section which extends out from the main building at a right angle. This side chapel is one bay across by four bays deep and is covered by a parapet gable roof pierced by an internal and brick chimney. Brick butresses with granite capping stones mark the corners and sides as in the main building, and the sides are distinguished by Gothic arched openings. Two louvered attic vents with granite lintels and sills flank the interior and chimney.

S-92

2000924608

Maryland
Somerset
TOWN Crisfield VICINITY
STREET NO.

INVENTORY

2. NAME First Methodist Church

DATE OR PERIOD c. 1887
STYLE High Victorian Gothic
ARCHITECT
BUILDER

ORIGINAL OWNER 1st Methodist Church
ORIGINAL USE Religious
PRESENT OWNER 1st Methodist Church
PRESENT USE religious
WALL CONSTRUCTION brick
NO. OF STORIES 1

3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE

4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION OPEN TO PUBLIC

The first Methodist Church in Crisfield is nearly identical to Christ Methodist Church, Chestertown. Its High Victorian Gothic style varies in that the towers and entrance are on the opposite sides of the building and the tower lacks the small turrets which make the composition more complete on the Church in Chestertown.

The entrance is located in the tower which is set back four bays from the facade. The tower is three stories tall with a tall octagonal spire. Buttresses with serpentine stone washes are located on each corner of the building and the tower, and between the Gothic windows. The same stone is used for window sills and decorative bands. A shorter octagonal tower is situated on the east side of the gable facade. It is shorter than the entrance tower and resembles the type tower used in domestic architecture of the Queen Anne style. A huge gothic window with tracery fills a large area of the gable facade. Above the window is a lunette rose window.

5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE Endangered Interior Exterior

6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional)

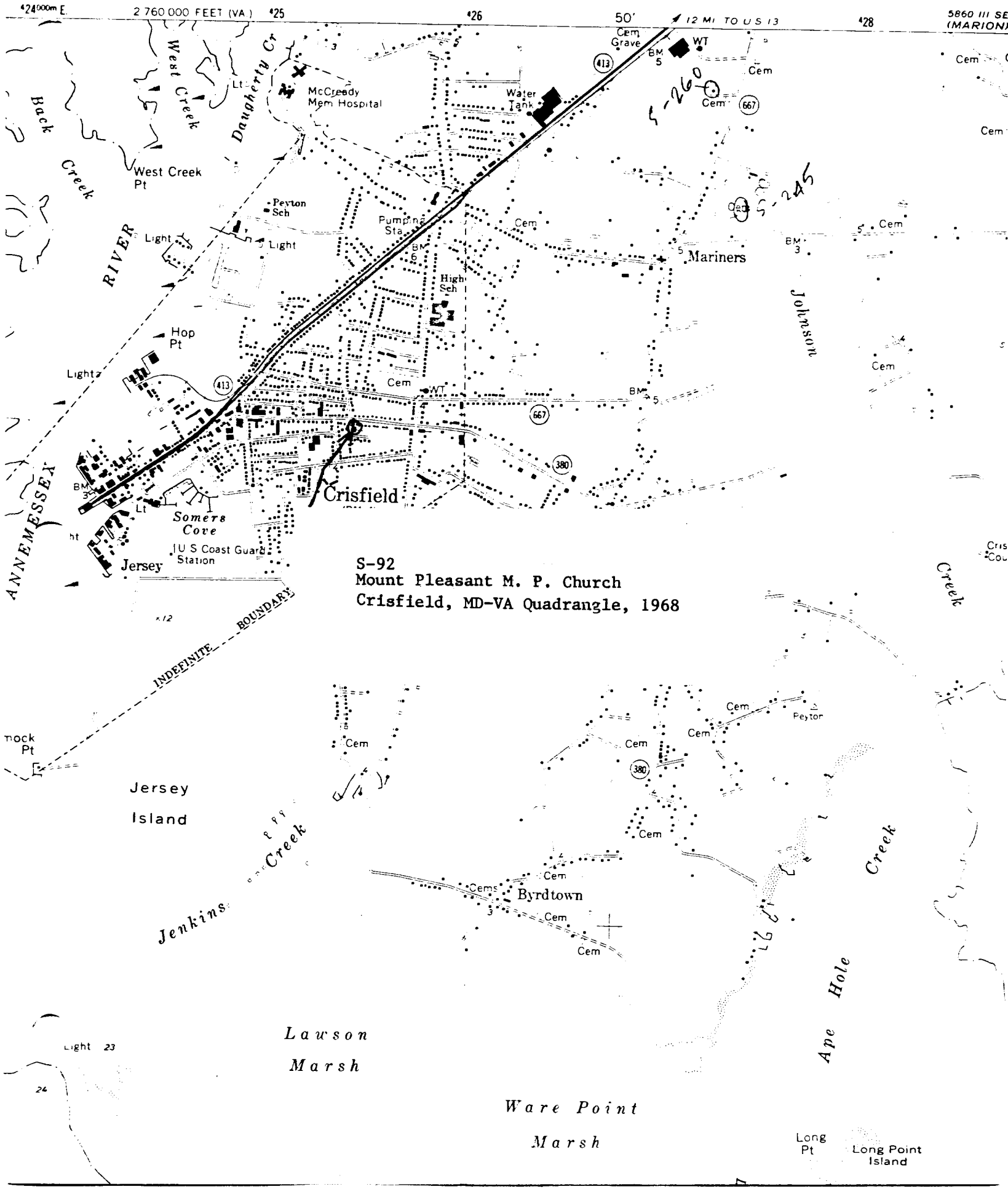
7. PHOTOGRAPH

8. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Pages)
INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC.

9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER

DATE OF RECORD

JNITED STATES
ENT OF THE INTERIOR
)LOGICAL SURVEY



S-92
Mount Pleasant M. P. Church
Crisfield, MD-VA Quadrangle, 1968

Mount Pleasant M.E. Church S-92
Crisfield, Somerset Co. Md.
Norhtwest - Elevation
2/86, Paul Touart, Photographer
Neg/ Md. Historical Trust

Mount Pleasant M.P. Church S-92
Crisfield, Somerset County
South Elevation
7/85, Photographer, Paul Touart
Neg/Md. Historical Trust

Mount Pleasant M.P. Church S-92
Crisfield, Somerset County
North Elevation
7/85, Photographer, Paul Touart
Neg/Md. Historical Trust

MOUNT PLEASANT
METHODIST EPISCOPAL
CHURCH

Mount Pleasant M.P.Church S-92
Crisfield, Somerset County
Datestone-1892
7/85, Photographer, Paul Touart
Neg/Md. Historical Trust

Mount Pleasant M.P. Church S-92
Crisfield, Somerset County
Northeast Elevation
7/85, Photographer, Paul Touart
Neg/Md. Historical Trust