

1987

S-250
Waters Chapel Church
Kingston vicinity
Public Workshop

c. 1900-1910

Distinguishing Maryland 413 at the intersection of Lover's Lane is Water's Chapel Church, a single-story L-plan Gothic Revival structure dominated by a broach spire. The bell tower is finished with a small iron weathervane topped with a pair of intersecting hearts. Each principal gable of the church is pierced by a tripartite colored glass window that lights the sanctuary. The sanctuary is one large room with the altar and choir stalls located under the west shed roof. To the back (east) of the sanctuary is additional seating space separated by folding paneled doors. The colorfully lighted interior is highlighted by a decorative wooden ceiling of diagonal and horizontal beaded boards divided into a grid pattern. This decorative treatment is similar to the ceiling of the John Wesley M.E. Church on Holland Crossing Road (S-120).

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Waters Chapel Church

and/or common

2. Location

street & number S.E. Corner of MD 413 and Lovers Lane not for publication

city, town Kingston vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Somerset

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 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 Waters Chapel Church

street & number telephone no.:

city, town Kingston state and zip code MD 21834

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

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

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.

Waters Chapel Church stands on the southeast corner of Maryland Route 413 and its intersection with Lovers Lane near Kingston, Somerset County, Maryland. The c. 1910 L-plan Gothic Revival church faces northeast and is accompanied by a single-story church hall of similar date.

The asbestos sheathed frame structure stands on brick piers and is covered by a steeply pitched asphalt shingle roof. A three-story tower rises in the eastern corner and serves as the entrance vestibule.

The northeast (main) facade is dominated by the tower as well as a gable-front elevation of the sanctuary. The tripartite colored glass window is topped by a diamond window located in the upper gable. Eaves project from the face of the front wall. The tower is divided by three distinct levels. The double-leaf door is surmounted by a two-pane pointed arch transom. Piercing the center portion of the tower above the front door is a diamond-shaped colored glass window, and above it is a small gable that interrupts the roof line of the tower. The roof curves in slightly before the bellfry which consists of decorative sawnwork and spindles. Each face of the bellfry has a five-sided opening for a clear view of the bell. The octagonal tapered spire terminates with a small iron arrow weathervane topped with a pair of intersecting hearts.

The southeast elevation of the church has the same tripartite colored glass window without an upper gable diamond pane. A narrow brick stove stack protrudes through the roof and retains an unusual vented pyramidal cap.

The southwest elevation is a slightly uneven facade with a jog in the wall surface. The sanctuary is lighted by a third tripartite window, and another brick stove stack rises from the gable end. Extending to the northwest is a shed-roofed section with a separate rear entrance.

The northwest elevation is a single-story facade with a large dormer that interrupts the roofline. A round window divided into pie-shaped panes lights the altar space as do flanking pointed sash windows.

The church interior has been partially remodeled, but a large portion of the original woodwork survives. The vestibule is a small room with two-paneled doors framed with plain surrounds and bull's eye corner blocks.

8. Significance

Survey No. S-250

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 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 **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.

The Waters Chapel Church is one of the best preserved rural black church buildings in lower Somerset County. Several distinguishing exterior and interior decorative features separate this building from the others. The beaded board decorative ceiling is of special interest. It is very similar to a contemporary church on Holland Crossing Road known as John Wesley M.E. Church (S-120).

7. DESCRIPTION (continued)

The sanctuary is one large rectangular room with the altar and choir stalls located under the west shed roof. To the back of the sanctuary is an additional room separated by folding panel doors. This very colorful interior is highlighted by a decorative wooden ceiling comprised of diagonal, horizontal and beaded boards divided into a grid pattern with molding between each panel.

The altar is distinguished by a curved altar railing with turned balusters and an arched opening. A second arch to the right of the altar marks the choir stalls. The space to the left of the altar is enclosed. Surrounding the sanctuary is a beaded board wainscoting.

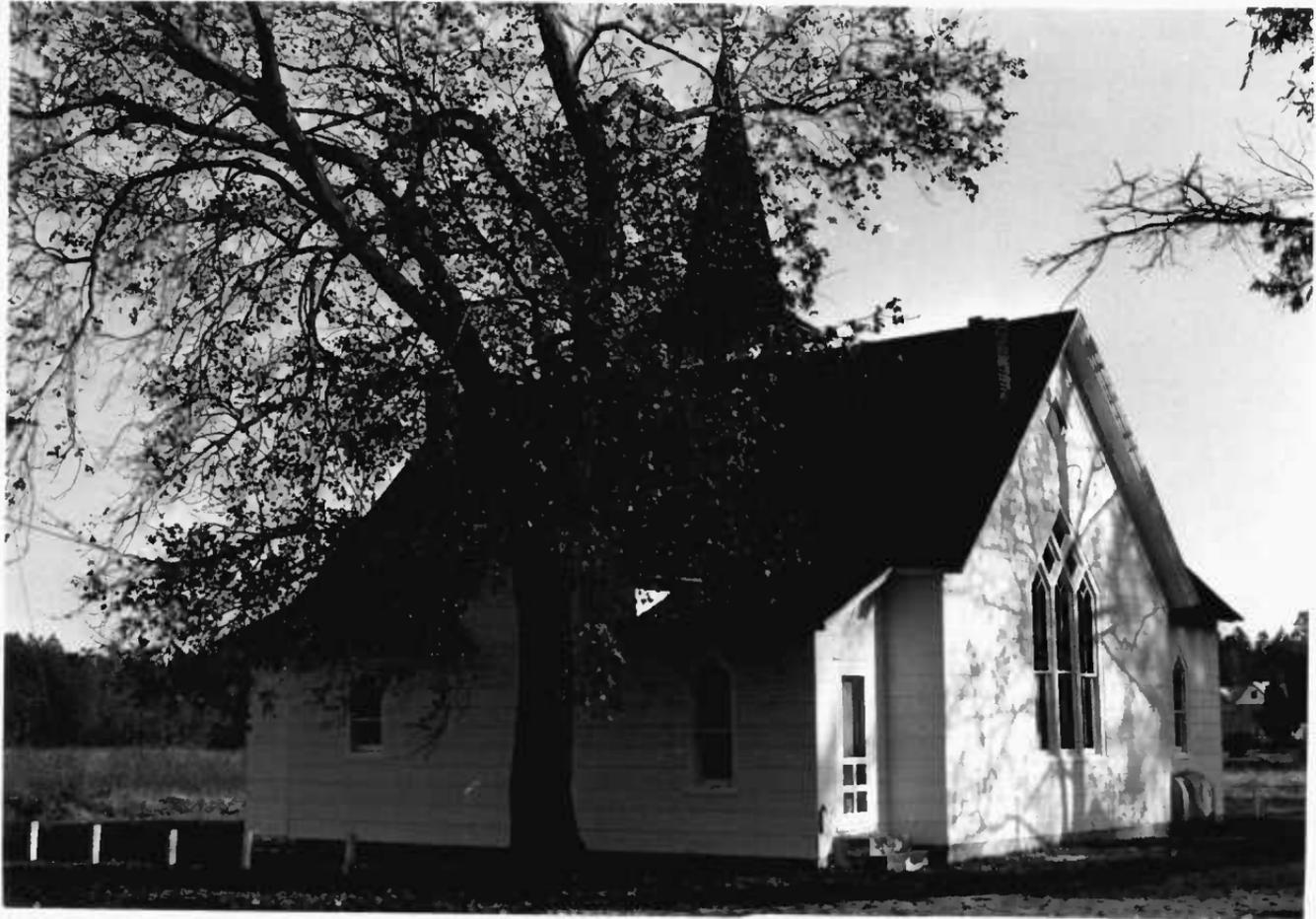
The church hall is a single-story rectangular frame structure with a gable front entrance. The one-room plan building is lighted by two 6/6 sash that flank the front door and two windows to each side. PIERCE THE SIDE WALLS.



Water's Chapel S-250
Near Kingston, Somerset County
Southeast Elevation
10/84, Paul Touart, Photographer
Neg/Md. Historical Trust



Waters Chapel S-250
Near Kingston, Somerset County
West Elevation
10/84, Paul Touart, Photographer
Neg./MD Historical Trust



Waters Chapel S-250
Near Kingston, Somerset County
~~West~~ West Elevation
10/84, Paul Touart, Photographer
Neg./MD Historical Trust



5-250

Waters Chapel
Near Kingston, Somerset County
Church Hall
10/84, Paul Touart, Photographer
Neg./MD Historical Trust





Waters Chapel

S-250

Near Kingston, Somerset County

Stove Stack

10/84, Paul Touart, Photographer

Neg./MD Historical Trust



Water's Chapel S-250
Near Kingston, Somerset County
Southeast Elevation
10/84, Paul Touart, Photographer
Neg/Md.Historical Trust