

S-372
John Wesley M.E. Church
Deal Island
public worship

1889, 1914

Located between the villages of Deal Island and Wenona, the Gothic Revival John Wesley M.E. Church stands in sharp contrast to the low lying, marshy ground surrounding the site. The late Victorian tee-plan church is extremely similar to contemporary black churches in other parts of the county, where Gothic Revival finishes were used until the post-World War I period. The surrounding above-ground cemetery is not unusual in Somerset County.

A black congregation has continuously occupied this site as a place of worship since the third quarter of the nineteenth century. Designated at this location of the 1877 atlas is the term, "Colored Church and School."

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. S-372
Magi No. 2003725708
DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic John Wesley M.E. Church

and/or common

2. Location

street & number Deal Island Road (MD 363) not for publication

city, town Deal Island vicinity of First congressional district

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 John Wesley M.E. Church

street & number _____ telephone no.:

city, town Deal Island state and zip code MD.

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

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town _____ state

7. Description

Survey No. S-372

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.

The John Wesley M.E. Church on Deal Island stands in the bend of the road between the communities of Deal Island and Wenona, Somerset County, Maryland. The tee-shaped frame church faces west with the principal gable oriented on an east/west axis. Accompanying the church is an above-ground cemetery and a church hall across the road.

Rebuilt in 1914, the John Wesley M.E. Church is supported by an in-filled brick pier foundation, and the tee-plan structure is uniformly sheathed with asbestos siding. The steeply pitched asphalt shingle roof has slightly extended eaves. A three-level tower rises in the southwest corner and contains the principal entrance.

The west (main) elevation is an asymmetrical facade. A large gable end is pierced by a large tripartite window and flanking paired lancet windows. Each colored glass light is topped by a pointed arch. Rising from the south roof slope is a narrow brick stove stack. The three-level tower has a double-door entrance on the first floor and a diamond shaped window on the second floor. The uppermost level is marked by paired louvered openings. Four copper finials originally marked the four tower corners, but only one has remained in place. A marble datestone is located in the southwest corner of the foundation. The inscription reads, "John Wesley M.E. Church, built 1889, rebuilt 1914, Reverend Theo Johnson, Pastor." A second door opening on the northwest corner permits access to the front of the sanctuary.

The south side of the church is a gabled elevation as well, and this section forms the leg of the tee plan. The south facade is pierced by a single tripartite window of colored glass. Built into the southeast corner of the tee is a single-story shed roofed addition.

The east gable end is detailed in a similar manner as the west with a large tripartite window flanked by two paired lancet windows. A narrow brick stack rises from this gable end also.

The north side of the church is covered by a shed roofed apse with a center gable pierced by a diamond pane window. Paired colored glass windows with flat arches flank the altar light.

The interior was not seen.

Due to the high watertable of the island, the grave covers in this cemetery are above ground and surround the church on two sides. The fellowship hall stands on the north side of MD 363.

8. Significance

Survey No. S-372

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 checked="" 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 1889, 1914 **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 John Wesley M.E. Church of Deal Island is a prominent landmark for the low, marshy landscape between Deal Island and Wenona. The late Victorian tee-plan church is extremely similar to contemporary black churches in other parts of the county, where the Gothic Revival finishes were used until the post-World War I period. The above-ground cemetery is not unusual in Somerset County.

A black congregation has continuously occupied this site as a place of worship since the third quarter of the nineteenth century. Designated at this location of the 1877 atlas is the term, "Colored Church and School."

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

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 Zone Easting Northing

B

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 Zone Easting Northing

C

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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 6/11/86

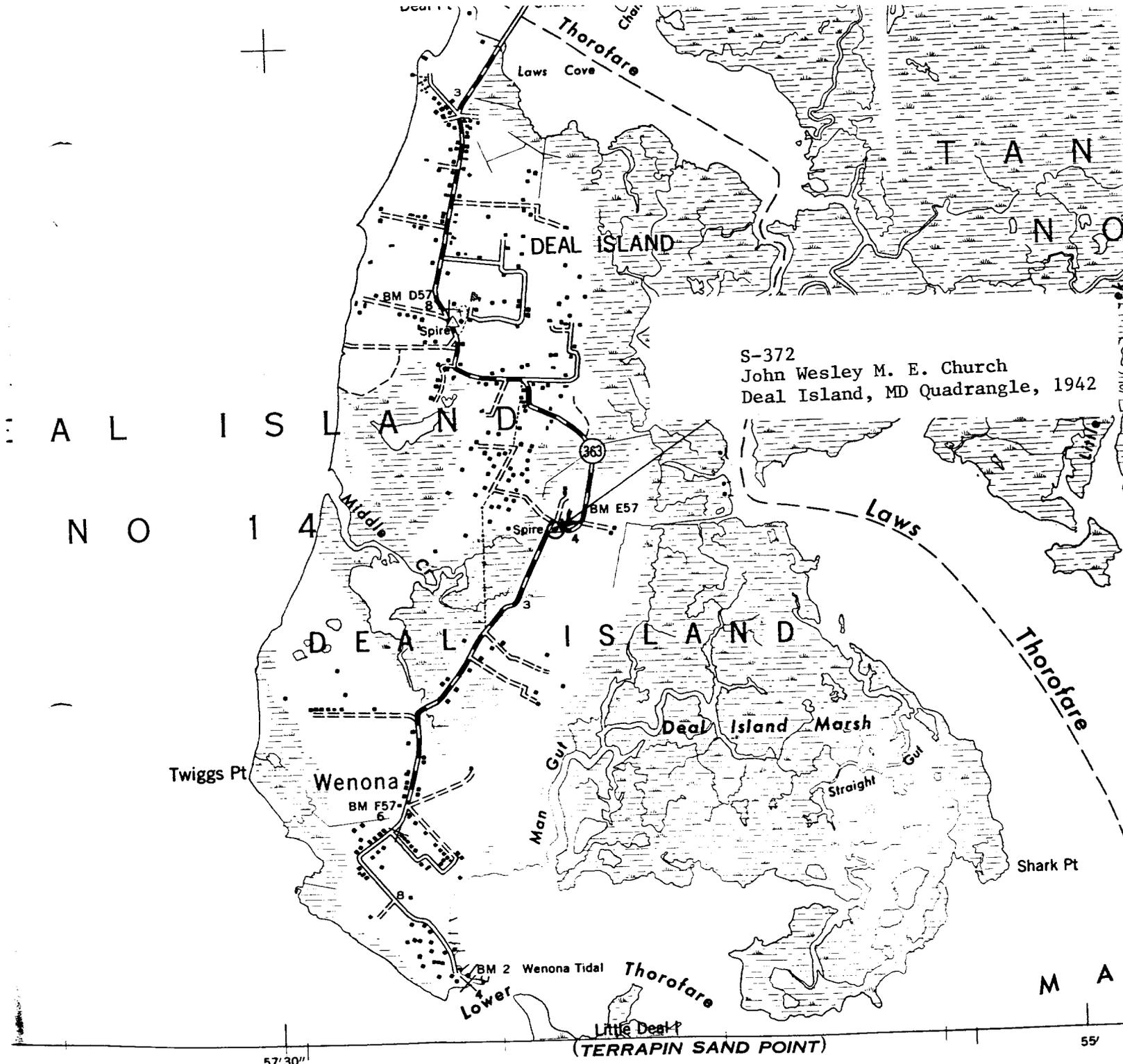
street & number 424 N. Somerset Avenue telephone 651-0077

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

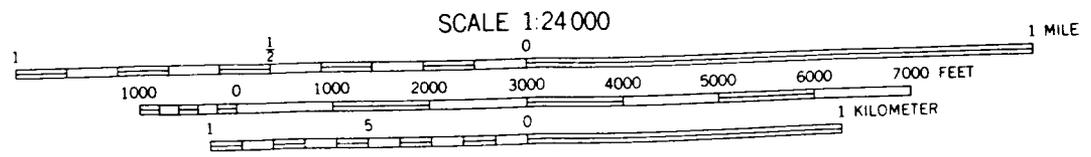


S-372
 John Wesley M. E. Church
 Deal Island, MD Quadrangle, 1942

57°30"

55'

(TERRAPIN SAND POINT)



MAXIMUM GROUND ELEVATION 8 FEET
 DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL

10,000-FOOT GRID TICKS. MARYLAND PLANE COORDINATE SYSTEM, SHOWN IN BLACK
 1000-METER GRID TICKS. UNIVERSAL TRANSVERSE MERCATOR SYSTEM, ZONE 18 SHOWN IN BLUE

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John Wesley M.E. Church
Deal Island, Somerset Co. Md.
Southwest Elevation
7/86, Paul Touart, Photographer
Neg/Md. Historical Trust

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JOHN WESLEY
M. E. CHURCH
BUILT 1889 - REBUILT 1914
REV. THEO. JOHNSON
PASTOR

John Wesley M. E Church

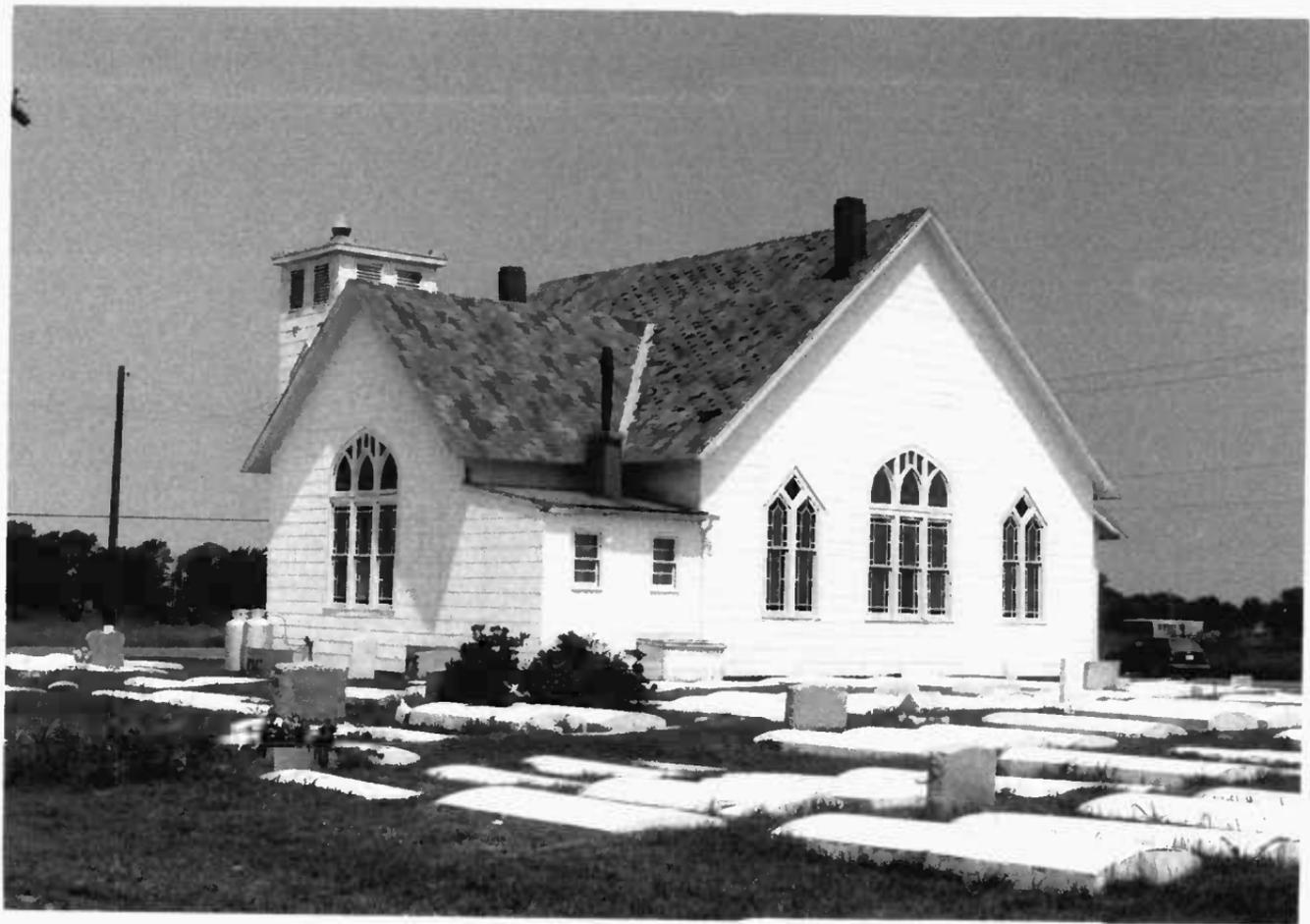
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Deal Island, Somerset Co. Md.

DATE Plaque

7/86, Paul Touart, Photographer

Neg/Md. Historical Trust



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