Historic Churches of Somerset County, Thematic nomination

S-409
Historic Churches of Somerset County
Thematic Nomination
Touart, Paul Baker (1990)Somerset: An Architectural History
Maryland Historical Trust; Somerset County Historical Trust, Inc.

Rural Churches

REHOBOTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (NR)
1706
Rehobeth
Public worship

Rehoboth Presbyterian Church, perhaps the most noted religious site in Somerset County, is a single story Flemish bond brick structure erected in 1706 on land owned by Reverend Francis Makemie, the designated father of American Presbyterianism. Arriving in Somerset County at the request of Colonel William Stevens, Makemie organized the Rehoboth, Accomac, and Manokin congregations during the late seventeenth century. Although he lived in Accomac County, Virginia, Makemie served the Rehoboth congregation occasionally until his death in 1708.

Originally the rectangular brick church had two double doors on the south side, and the interior was fitted with box pews and a pulpit on the north wall. Subsequent alterations have reoriented the church on an east/west axis with the entrance in the west gable end. In addition to the Flemish bond brick walls, another distinctive early feature is the kick to each eave. When the church was first remodeled in 1888, the interior was refitted with Victorian pews that faced east. In 1954 and 1955 the church was partially restored by the Boston architectural firm of Perry, Shaw, Hepburn and Dean.

S-71, Rehoboth Presbyterian Church, northwest elevation.

S-70, Coventry Parish Church ruins, north elevation.

COVENTRY PARISH
CHURCH RUINS (NR)
1784-1792
Rehobeth
Public

The Coventry Parish Church ruins, architecturally significant for several reasons, are also an important reminder of the pivotal role the Anglican Church acquired as the official state religion during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries.

The picturesque two-story Flemish bond walls with their ten brick jack arches make an impressive brick edifice. The three primary walls easily evoke the awe and inspiration often associated with abandoned structures. Measuring seventy-six feet across by fifty feet deep, this house of worship was the largest of its denomination on the Eastern Shore of Maryland. Its size and prominence are directly tied to the concentration of wealthy planters in Somerset County during the second half of the eighteenth century. In fact, similar construction techniques were repeated in several large plantation houses in the immediate vicinity.

Just as the building represents the eighteenth century prominence of the Anglican Church, it reflects the later decline and loss of support for that church, especially among rural congregations such as this one. By the late nineteenth century, the static rural population combined with the competition from Presbyterian, Methodist, Baptist, and other denominations had severely curtailed vital growth for Coventry Parish. As a result, the ambitious eighteenth century brick church was abandoned for more modern structures in Pocomoke City, Crisfield, and nearby Marion.

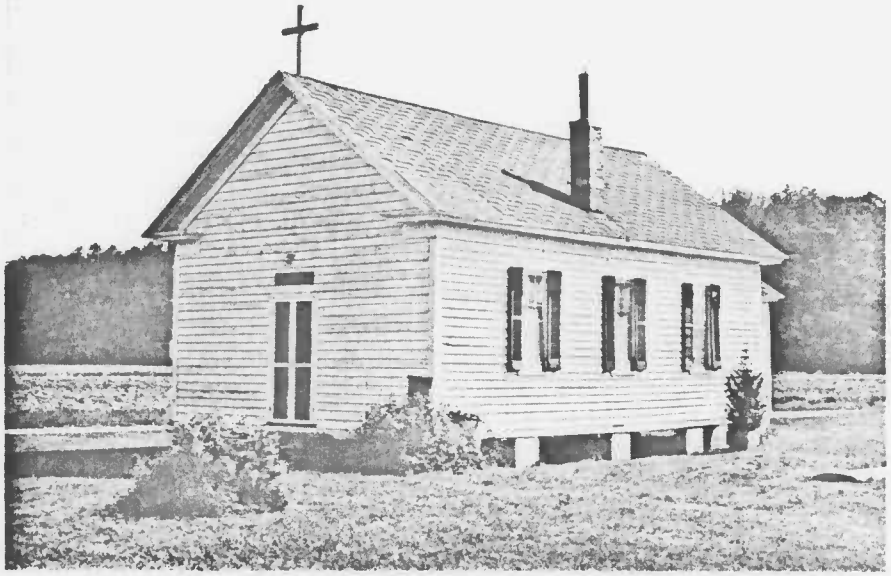
The Church of England was made Maryland's official church in June 1692 by an act of first assembly under Governor Lionel Copley. Parishes were laid out in several counties, vestries were elected, and ministers were commissioned. In addition, a tax of forty pounds of tobacco was levied on every tithable person, regardless of religious belief, for the support and use of the church.

Somerset County, then comprising the entire lower Eastern Shore of Maryland, was divided into four parishes: Somerset, Coventry, Stepney, and Snow Hill. Early parish churches were located on navigable waterways with convenient access for their parishioners. The Coventry Parish Church was situated in the early town of Rehoboth (now Rehobeth) on the Pocomoke River. The site of the first building is located directly behind the ruins of its replacement. From all indications, the first church was a single story brick structure of 28'2" by 59' erected in the late seventeenth or early eighteenth century. The parcel of ground where the church was built was not conveyed officially until 1735, when Robert Jenkins Henry sold the land to the Reverend James Robertson, John Dennis, Jr., Thomas Dixon, Thomas Hayward, Thomas Williams, William Lane, and Isaac Williams, vestrymen.

The first church, also a brick structure, was mentioned in the vestry minutes of January 7, 1793:

> *Ordered by the vestry that Thomas Bruff and Littleton Dennis call on those who have had bricks from the Old Church to pay 15p. per hundred for them and to agree with Littleton Long to plant trees in the church yard under their direction and to put blocks at the church doors.*

Ten years before the decision to disman-



S-66 Mark's Episcopal Church, southwest elevation.

tle the old church, the vestry had ordered and approved the construction of a new church at Rehoboth. Eighteen months later on Easter Monday, March 28, 1785, Isaac and Stephen Marshall were bound and obligated to build

> *A Brick House seventy-two feet long and forty-six feet wide from inside to inside, with a wall of twenty feet in height—beside a sufficient foundation in the ground with a wall as high as the Water Table of twenty-seven inches thick with a rest of three inches in the inside for sleepers.*

Motions for completing additional work on the new church were entered from 1785 until late 1792. Bishop Clagett consecrated the building on July 17, 1803.

The Rehoboth church remained in use until the late nineteenth century, by which time the Episcopal congregations had dwindled, in size and no longer required the large rural church. The vestry decided to abandon the structure and merge with the congregation e chapel of ease of St. Paul's near Marion, presently the governing body of Coventry Parish. As a result of stabilization efforts initiated by Cassius M. Dashiell of Princess Anne, the ruins of the late eighteenth century church were commemorated at dedication services held on September 23, 1928. In 1988 work began once again to stabilize the walls with a grant from the Maryland Historical Trust.

ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL
CHURCH (NR)
1846
Kingston vicinity
Public worship

This unassuming single story frame church is typical of the modest meeting houses many rural congregations erected during the first half of the nineteenth century. The gable-front church has a single double door opening on the west end and three nine-over-nine sash windows on each side. A shorter single story apse partially covers the east gable end. The church and its interior have survived in relatively unaltered condition.

St. Mark's Church, Joshua Thomas Chapel, and Grace Protestant Episcopal Church are the only rural churches in Somerset County to exhibit a Greek Revival influence. St. Mark's has the gable-front orientation typical of the style as well as characteristic Greek Revival woodwork.

A construction date of 1846 for St. Mark's is confirmed in the Coventry Parish vestry minute books:

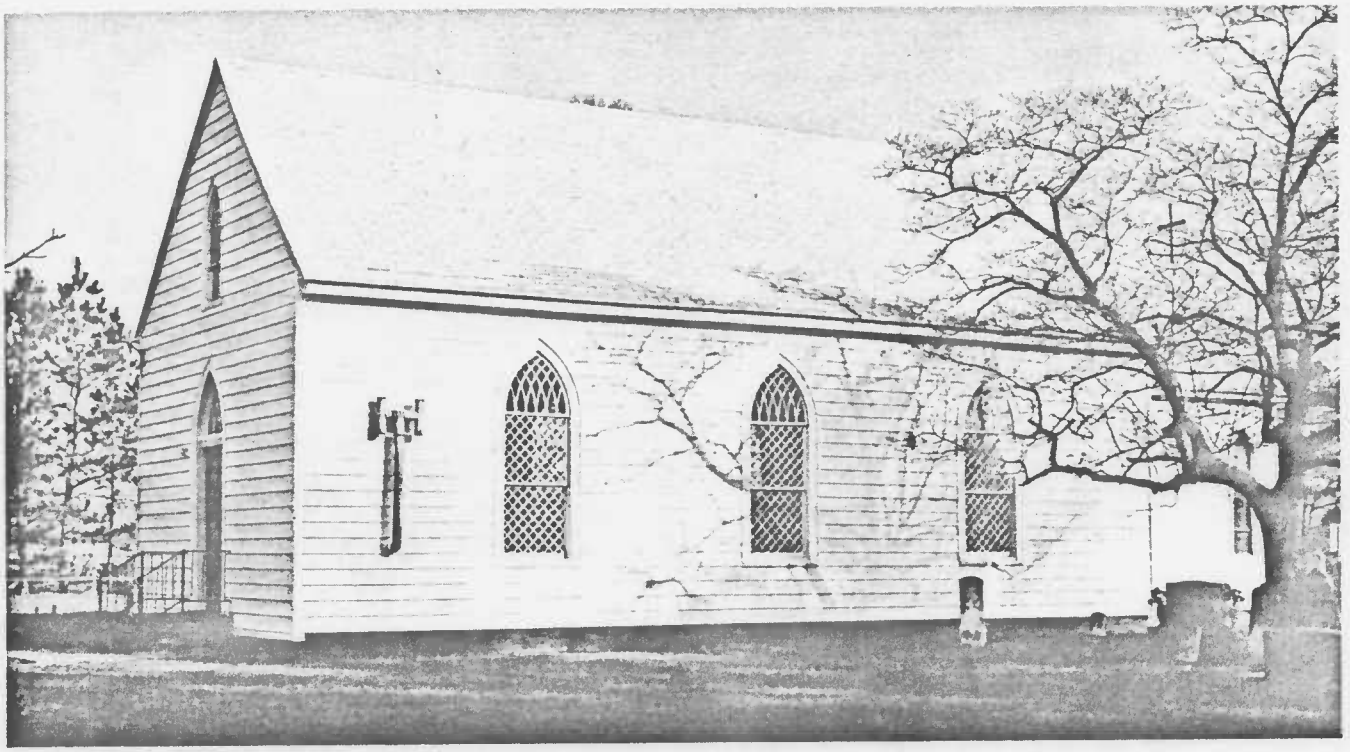
> *This deed of donation for the house of worship recently erected at Kingston in Somerset County in Coventry Parish in the Counties of Somerset and Worcester under the name of St. Mark's Church was then signed by the rector, church wardens, and vestrymen present...June 2, 1846.*

St. Mark's formerly stood approximately a quarter of a mile east of its present location. The building was moved to this site in the early twentieth century, after the Methodists abandoned the original church built at this intersection.

GRACE P. E. CHURCH (NR)
1847
Mount Vernon vicinity
Public worship

This Episcopal church was organized in 1845 in an effort to serve the Hungary Neck residents of Somerset County who lived too far from All Saints Church at Monie or St. Andrews in Princess Anne. Concurrent with the formation of the church was the designation of Wicomico Parish, which encompassed the tenth election district.

Vestry minutes from the period indicate the congregation's initial meetings were held at the "Witch Bridge School" beginning on April 12, 1845. At the first meeting, the preamble and resolutions were adopted and the first vestry was elected. Sitting on this vestry were Edmund Crosdale, Thomas W. Stone, Levin K. Leatherbury, Joseph B. Cottman, Isaac S. Atkinson, Alexander Jones, and Wil-



S-376, Grace P. E. Church, south elevation.

liam A. D. Bounds. The Reverend Meyer Lewin was approved as the church's first rector.

During the May vestry meeting, a building committee was established. This group included the rector, Alexander Jones, Levin K. Leatherbury, Isaac S. Atkinson, and Edmund Crosdale. In the fall of 1845, Alexander Jones and his wife, Elizabeth, donated the church ground to the trustees, and by February 1847 the vestry was meeting in the new church building. The records do not mention the craftsmen responsible for the work.

Grace Church is one of three Greek Revival style church buildings to survive in Somerset County. Unlike St. Mark's Church near Kingston and the Joshua Thomas Chapel, it has Gothic-arched windows and entrances. Inside, the simple square-topped pews, flush board wainscoting, and vaulted ceiling contrast with the decorative altar screen and the Gothic-arched door and window openings.

ST. PAUL'S P. E. CHURCH (NR)
1848
Tull's Corner vicinity
Public worship

St. Paul's Protestant Episcopal Church occupies an important place in the history of this denomination in Somerset County. Architecturally, it is the earliest example of a pattern book Gothic Revival church. Evidently based on mid-nineteenth century design manuals, St. Paul's closely follows the type of building New York church architects such as Richard Upjohn and John Priest recommended for a country chapel. The tranquil site along Tulls Branch of East Creek with its tall loblolly pines and marsh grass complements the original exterior and interior finishes. The decorative cast-iron fence, added in 1908, remains in a remarkable state of preservation.

Historically, St. Paul's is the oldest congregation still active in Coventry Parish, one of four Anglican parishes laid out in 1692. The Coventry Parish church at Rehobeth was consolidated with the St. Paul's congregation around the end of the nineteenth century, when the main church was abandoned.

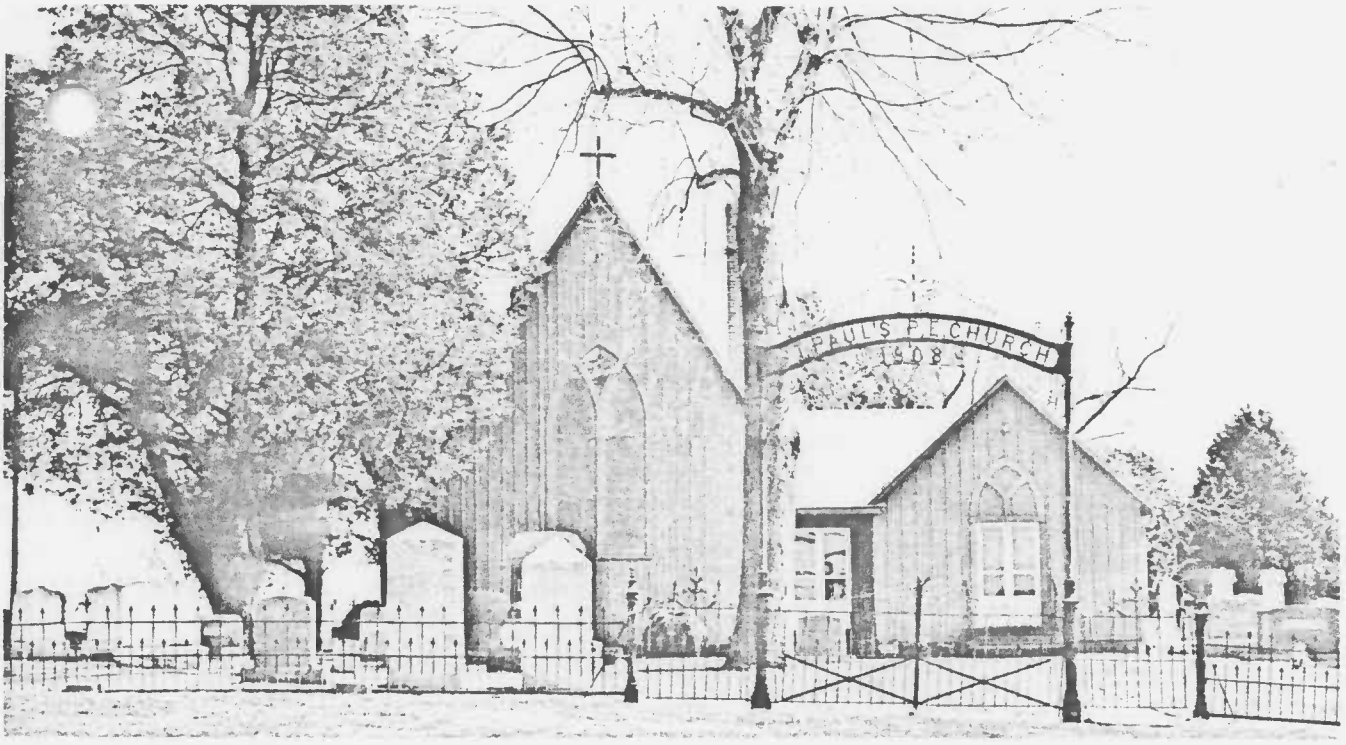
St. Paul's was originally formed as a chapel of ease known as Annemessex Chapel. The first building was begun by 1726 on a site near the head of Coulbourn's Creek. In 1818 the chapel was moved to a new location.

On Easter Monday 1848 the vestry of Coventry Parish considered a petition to relocate Annemessex Chapel once more. Several church members believed the 1818 site was no longer advantageous and that it would "retard the growth of the Church in that part of the parish and that its prosperity would be much increased by the erection of a chapel in the neighborhood of John H. Miles store." That same day the petition was approved, and a building committee was established to superintend the rebuilding of the chapel. The 1818 church was dismantled, and according to church minutes the materials were reused in the construction of the 1848 structure. Despite this thriftiness, the new church was redesigned in a wholly new style—the popular Gothic Revival taste.

The simple rectangular chapel was covered in board-and-batten siding and topped with a steeply pitched roof. Two pointed arch doors provided access to the building; the front door originally was sheltered under a gabled entry. The vestry minutes record Isaac T. Marshall as the craftsman responsible for construction. On December 21, 1848, the new church was consecrated as St. Paul's.

The vestry minutes for the next fifty years do not mention any extensive changes. Not until 1894 was there a major effort to improve the church. On March 29 of that year the rector reported extensive improvements had been made to St. Paul's, including "renovation, painting, etc. at the cost of nine hundred dollars." The colored glass windows were probably installed at this time, along with the beaded board wainscoting and Gothic Revival church furniture.

Major changes after the turn of the century included the addition of a decorative iron fence around the property in 1908 and the 1960s construction of an attached church hall



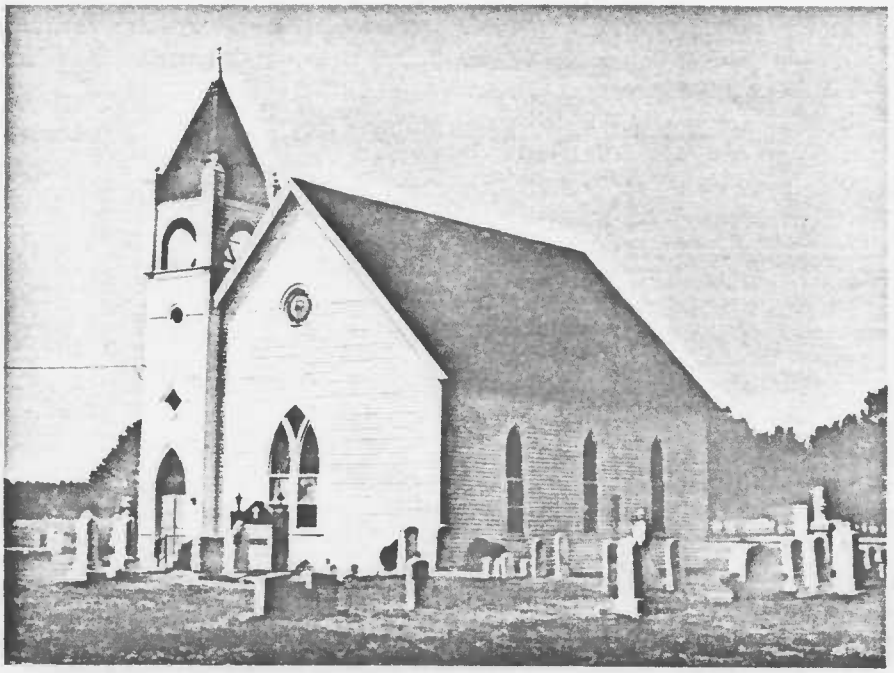
S-79, St. Paul's P.E. Church, west elevation.

on the south side of the chapel. When the hall was added, the major alteration to the old church was covering the gabled entry.

ST. PETER'S M.E. CHURCH (NR)
1850, 1901
Hopewell vicinity
Public worship

Worshiping at the outset in a building known as Miles Meeting House, this Methodist Episcopal congregation dates to 1782. The first church was built two years later. In 1813 the congregation was renamed St. Peter's, and four years later a second church was finished. The second structure evidently lasted until 1850-1852, when the third edifice was raised. Thirty years later a new spire was erected and the Ladies Aid purchased a $1,000 bell from the McShane Foundry in Baltimore. Finally, in 1901 a Baltimore architect was hired to rework the 1850 building in Gothic Revival taste. The 1901 rebuilding included replacing the roof structure and relocating the front door in the tower. Aside from reconstruction of the tower spire after it was damaged by lightning, no further alterations have occurred since the turn of the century. The interior largely dates from the late Victorian remodeling with angled pews and a beaded board ceiling with a coved cornice.

St. Peter's Methodist Episcopal Church is one of the best preserved rural Victorian church buildings in Somerset County. Unlike other contemporary examples, St. Peter's has not been compromised with artificial siding or disfigured with additions. The simply executed surface decoration, with layers of horizontal weatherboards and fish-scale shingles, distinguishes the main body of the church as well as the pyramidal-roofed tower. Also significant is the reuse of the circa 1850-1852 mortise-and-tenon frame in the 1901 remodeling. A Baltimore architect, remembered as Mr. Abdule, reworked the mid-nineteenth century frame by replacing the roof and removing all interior elements, including the slave gallery. A cemetery that reflects the span of worship at this site from the 1780s until the present day is located north and south of the building.



S-289, St. Peter's M. E. Church, northeast elevation.

S-254, Davis Chapel, northwest elevation.

S-219, Cokesbury United Methodist Church, northeast elevation.

JOSHUA THOMAS CHAPEL (NR)
1850
Deal Island
Public worship

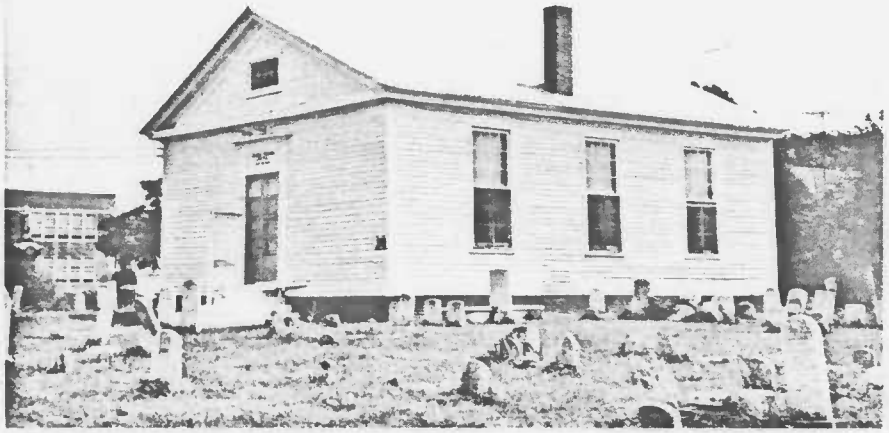
The Joshua Thomas Chapel holds a critically prominent place in the history of Methodism on the lower Shore. Architecturally, the gable-front church is one of two surviving buildings erected in 1850 to house a Methodist congregation in Somerset County. Methodist gatherings were begun as early as 1781 on Deal Island, and tent meetings were held at "Evan's Hill," beginning on July 17, 1828. In 1849 the place of worship was relocated to "Park's Grove," the former name for the current church site. Father Joshua Thomas delivered his final sermon in this chapel in 1850, and after his death in 1853 he was buried at the south corner of the building.

Accompanying the church on the knoll during the second half of the nineteenth century were an academy, the post office, the campground, and a meeting hall for the Sons of Temperance. Surrounding the gable-front Greek Revival style chapel is an extensive nineteenth and twentieth century cemetery, and standing due west is the second church built by this congregation, St. John's Methodist Episcopal Church (see S-365).

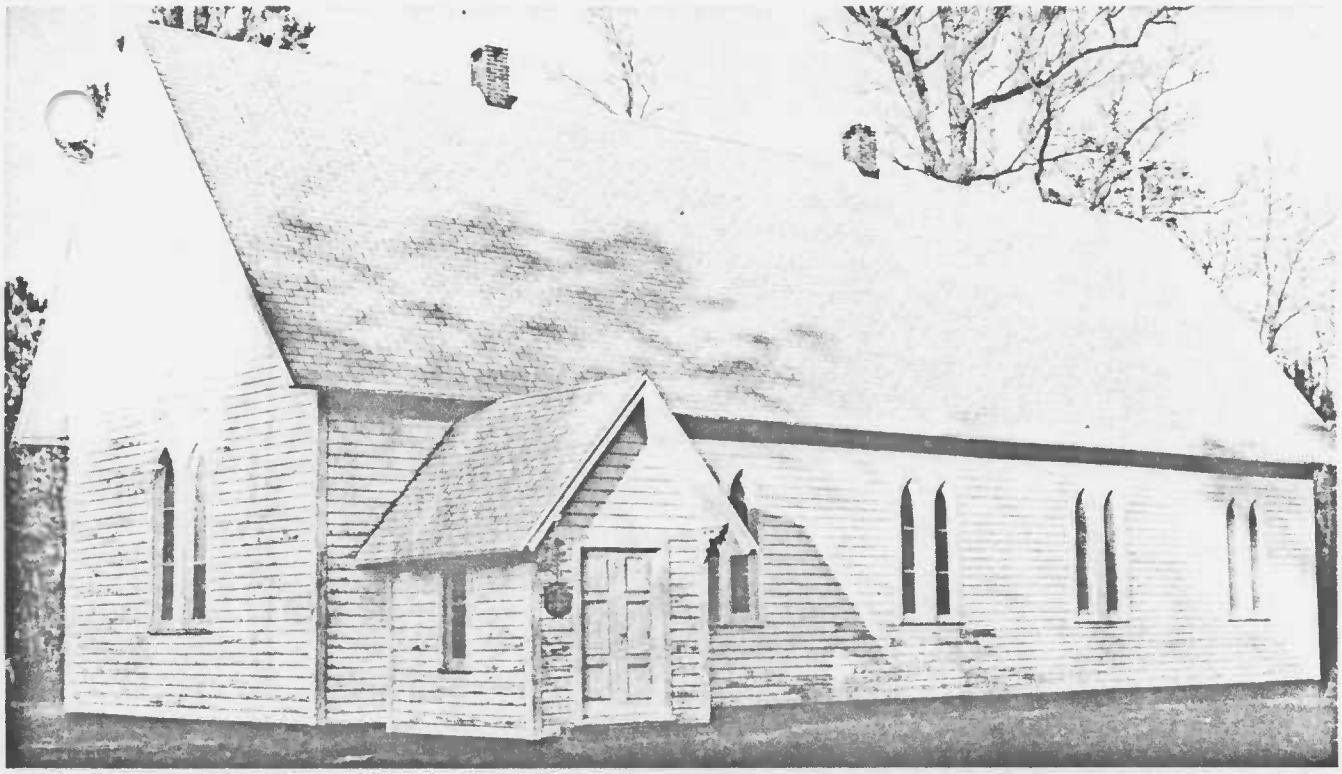
DAVIS CHAPEL
1876
Rehobeth vicinity
Public worship

Davis Chapel, more commonly known as Rehobeth Methodist Episcopal Church, is a simple rectangular frame structure trimmed with bracketed eaves. At some point during the early twentieth century, a vestibule was attached to the front and a high, rusticated block foundation was substituted for the earlier brick one. The additional space created under the building allowed for a church hall. Despite these changes, Davis Chapel is one of the least altered rural church buildings of the second half of the nineteenth century in Somerset County.

The original Rehobeth area Methodist congregation was organized in 1830 at Frogeye, and a church was evidently erected in the same year. However, in 1876 the congregation decided to move closer to Rehobeth and erected Davis Chapel within the year. The old



S-44, Joshua Thomas Chapel, southwest elevation.



S-355, All Saints Church at Monie, southwest elevation.

Frogeye property was sold to the local black Methodist congregation.

COKESBURY UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH
1876
Cokesbury
Public worship

The Cokesbury United Methodist Church is a simple, one-room frame structure erected in 1876 and enlarged twice. A small aluminum-sided foyer has been attached to the front, and an L-shaped concrete block wing extends to the rear. The nineteenth century church has been moderately remodeled inside but retains period pews and only slightly newer altar furniture.

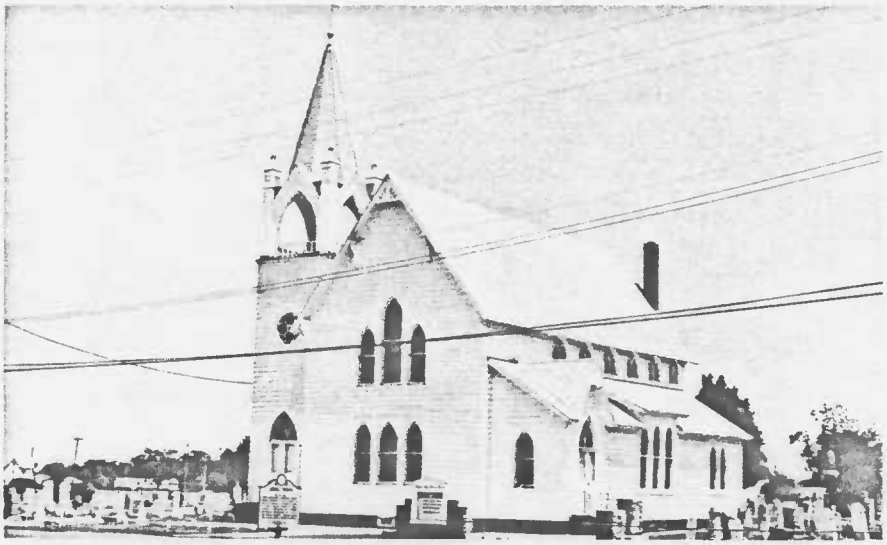
ST. JOHN'S UNITED
M. E. CHURCH (NR)
1879
Deal Island
Public worship

St. John's United Methodist Episcopal Church is an elaborate Gothic Revival building that distinguishes the center of Deal Island along with Joshua Thomas Chapel. Built when the congregation grew too large for the chapel, St. John's has a bi-level exterior with a three-story bell tower. The well-preserved interior has decorative pressed tin ceilings and walls, turn-of-the-century furniture and fittings, and colored glass windows.

Around the church and chapel is a nineteenth and twentieth century cemetery with several cast-iron fences surrounding family plots. The two frame church buildings offer an interesting contrast between antebellum Greek Revival and postbellum Gothic Revival church architecture.

ALL SAINTS CHURCH
AT MONIE (NR)
1881
Venton
Private

All Saints Church is historically significant as the surviving representative of the Manokin River congregation established during the late seventeenth century on Arnold Elzey's plantation, "Almodington." Around 1710 the church site was moved from the edge of the



S-365, St. John's M. E. Church, southwest elevation.

S-405, Mt. Zion Memorial Church, northwest elevation.

Manokin River to its current location near the head of Little Monie Creek. A church erected by the congregation in the 1840s was consecrated as "All Saints' Church" by the Right Reverend William Rollinson Whittingham, bishop of Maryland, on November 10, 1845. This frame building was completely demolished on July 31, 1879, by a severe windstorm. Two years later, on May 5, 1881, the present Victorian structure was consecrated by the Right Reverend Henry Champlin Lay, ;hop of Easton.

The single story rectangular church is a pristine survival of the small Victorian Episcopal churches common to rural areas. The plain weatherboarded exterior with its Gothic-arched windows is complemented by an untouched interior with a vaulted blue ceiling originally painted with small stars. Masterfully simple Victorian pews are finished with S-shaped ends topped by club finials. Wainscoted walls, Victorian altar furniture, and period lighting add to the historic qualities of the interior.

MT. ZION MEMORIAL CHURCH

1887, 1916
Princess Anne vicinity
Public worship

Mount Zion Memorial Church (now Mount Zion United Methodist Church) stands on the south side of Polks Road approximately three miles west of Allen Road. Following a T-shaped plan, the weatherboard frame church is highlighted with a three-story entrance and bell tower. Marking the gable ends are tripartite colored glass windows, and narrow lancet windows flank the gabled apse on the west side. Fixed in the northeast corner of the foundation is the datestone, which reads, "Mt. Zion Memorial Church, built by Rev. H.T. Rich, 1887, remodeled by Rev. R.C. Hughes, 1916." Along with a well-preserved exterior, the interior finishes have remained essentially unaltered, with a decorative matched board ceiling, Victorian church furniture, and arched openings that define the altar and choir stalls. The church cemetery, located on three sides of the building, has many aboveground burial vaults.

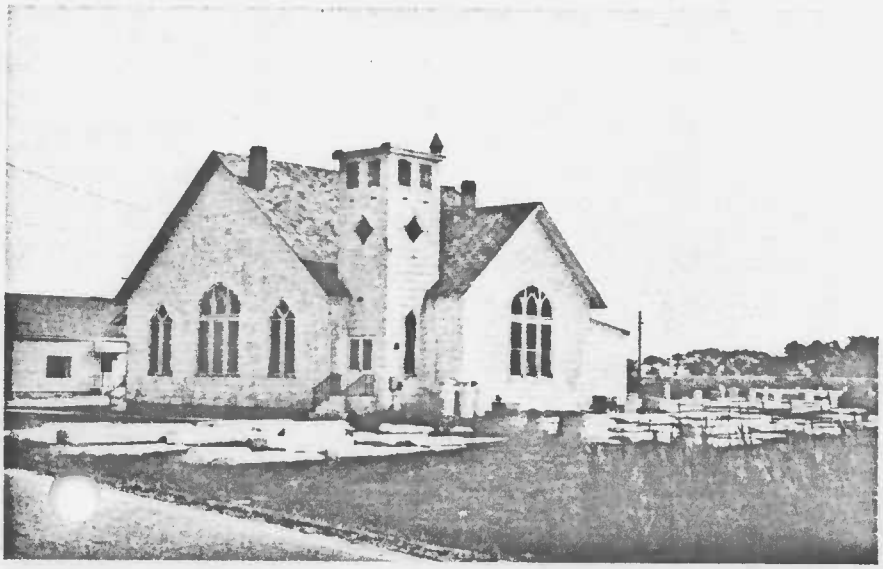
S-377, John Wesley Methodist Church, southwest elevation.

JOHN WESLEY METHODIST CHURCH

1887
Mount Vernon vicinity
Public worship

The John Wesley United Methodist Church, erected in 1887, is a prominent Gothic Revival frame church on the north side of Mount Vernon Road. In contrast to many other T- or L-plan churches, this building was designed with an axial plan and a corner bell tower. Also unusual is the use of round-arch window openings rather than the pointed arches typical of the Gothic Revival style. Surrounding the church on three sides is a nineteenth and twentieth century cemetery bor-

S-152, Upper Fairmount M. E. Church, photograph c. 1900 (courtesy of Thurston's Studio).



S-372, John Wesley M. E. Church, southwest elevation.

dered by a modern linked chain hung between brick piers. A church hall of later date stands on the south side of Mount Vernon Road.

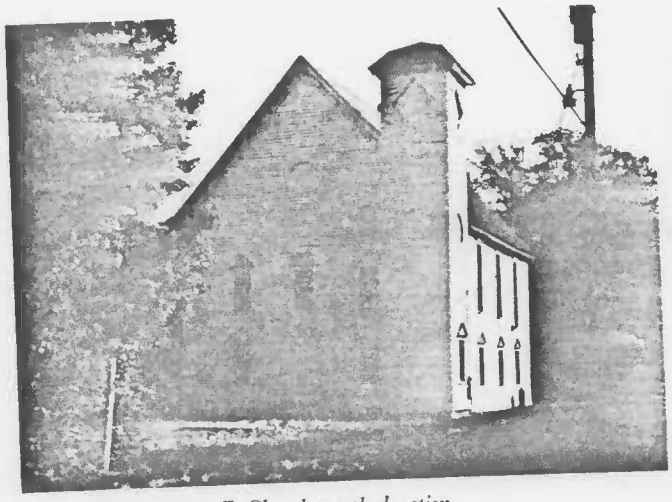
JOHN WESLEY M. E. CHURCH
1889, 1914
Deal Island
Public worship

Located between the villages of Deal Island and Wenona, the Gothic Revival John Wesley Methodist Episcopal Church stands in sharp contrast to the low, marshy ground that surrounds it. The late Victorian T-plan church is similar to contemporary black churches in other parts of the county, where Gothic Revival finishes were used until after World War I. The surrounding aboveground cemetery is not unusual in Somerset County.

A black congregation has occupied this site as a place of worship since the third quarter of the nineteenth century. At this location in the 1877 atlas is the designation "Colored Church and School."

UPPER FAIRMOUNT M. E. CHURCH
1873
Upper Fairmount
Public worship

The first Methodist church in Upper Fairmount, known originally as Maddox's Church, was located on the east side of Cecil Ford's store on the northwest corner of Maryland Route 361 and Miles Road. The circa 1825 Greek Revival church was sold in 1874 and subsequently used by Daniel Miles, Josiah Avery, and John T. Ford as a store building. The Methodists erected their new church at the west end of town on the old parsonage lot in 1873. This acre-and-a-half parcel had been purchased from Lazarus Maddox in November 1844 to provide a residence for the ministers of the Methodist Episcopal church



S-153, Centennial M. E. Church, north elevation.

S-288, Hopewell M. E. Church, east elevation.

on the Annemessex circuit.

The upper Fairmount Methodist Episcopal Church is the largest and most architecturally elaborate structure in this rural village. Aside from capping the broach spire to protect it from lightning, this Gothic Revival board-and-batten church has not been significantly altered inside or out. The interior pressed metal walls and ceilings are especially noteworthy. Due to the prominent size and interesting detail of the building, it serves as a strong visual anchor at the west end of the village.

CENTENNIAL M. E. CHURCH
Circa 1884
Upper Fairmount
Public worship

The Centennial Methodist Episcopal Church, built in 1884 and remodeled in 1910, is an anomaly for rural black congregations in Somerset County. Its expansive two-story, three-bay by four-bay size is not matched by another rural black church. The molded pediments that top each of the first and some of the second floor openings are a simple but effective decorative treatment. The three-story bell tower that dominates the northwest corner is distinguished by circular and diamond-shaped openings.

BENNET'S MEMORIAL CHURCH
Circa 1898
Crisfield vicinity
Public worship

Bennet's Memorial Church is located southeast of Crisfield along William Maddox Road. The L-plan church is supported by a brick pier foundation, and it is lighted by narrow, colored glass lancet windows. Rising in the northwest corner is a multi-level bell tower that contains the double door entrance. Fixed in the northwest corner of the foundation is the church date plaque inscribed "Bennet's P.H. Church, 1898-1934."

HOPEWELL M. E. CHURCH
1891
Hopewell
Public worship

The Hopewell Methodist Episcopal Church is similar in date and architectural detail to Waters Chapel and Frogeye Church, two contemporary black Methodist churches in southern Somerset County. The L-shaped frame building was designed, like the other buildings, with a corner tower entrance topped by a belfry and spire. Although the spire and belfry have been removed, the tripartite windows are an especially noteworthy vernacular

S-330, Bennet's Memorial Church, west elevation.

-121, Phoenix M. E. Church, northwest elevation.

nterpretation of a formal Gothic Revival de-ign feature. The north side of the church as an off-center, three-sided bay window ghted b ur-over-four sash.

ROGEYE METHODIST
EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Circa 1890
Rehobeth vicinity
Public worship

The Frogeye Methodist Episcopal Church tands at the intersection of Cornstack and Bryan Hall roads near Rehobeth. The T-haped Gothic Revival church is similar to nany in Somerset County with its corner ntrance tower and tripartite colored-glass vindows. Located north of the church is the emetery. One graveyard plot is surrounded by a Victorian iron fence made by Stewart ron Works of Cincinnati, Ohio.

Although the written history of many black churches is rather sketchy, the back-ground of Frogeye Church is slightly more complete. The Frogeye congregation was or-ganized by some white residents of the Reho-beth vicinity in 1830, and it continued as a white congregation until 1876. At that time the church was sold to a group of black resi-dents o area. Meanwhile, a new Meth-odist church, first known as Davis Chapel, was built in 1876 closer to Rehobeth on the Shelltown Road. The black congregation ap-parently used the old church until the late nineteenth century when they erected the present building.

PHOENIX M. E. CHURCH
1897
Cash Corner vicinity
Public worship

The Phoenix Methodist Episcopal Church is located in the southern reaches of Somerset County on the west side of Gunby Creek near Cash Corner. Notable for its unaltered condition, the single story rectangular frame church stands on a brick pier foundation and is lighted by pointed arch colored glass windows. Unlike many of its nearby contemporaries, this congregation did not erect a large bell tower. Instead, the church entrance is marked by a gabled hood supported by stick brackets. The door is topped by a pointed arch transom filled with triangular panes of colored glass. The north gable end of the structure is marked by a simple five-sided apse also pierced by lancet windows of colored glass. Complementing the pristine exterior is the unaltered Victorian interior, which survives with beaded board wainscoting, a turned baluster altar rail, and late nineteenth century pews and sanctuary furniture.

QUINDOCQUA M. E. CHURCH
1913
Tulls Corner vicinity
Public worship

Significant among the prominent landmarks of southern Somerset County is Quindocqua Methodist Episcopal Church, which marks the intersection of three prominent roads in the vicinity of Tulls Corner. Built in 1913 on

S-252, Frogeye M. E. Church, west elevation.

S-123, Quindocqua M. E. Church, southwest elevation.

a modified cruciform plan, the frame church commands visual attention with its tall, pyramidal-roofed bell tower. The well-preserved church exterior retains its original contrasting fabric of fish-scale shingles and weatherboard siding. Piercing the gabled elevations on three sides are large, tripartite colored glass windows.

The earliest history of Quindocqua Church is shaded with incomplete records, but tradition has held to a circa 1820 date for the organization of a Methodist Episcopal congregation independent of St. Peter's. The established church history relates that the congregation used a blacksmith's shop as a meeting house until 1847, when a new building was erected. That simple rectangular frame building served the group until 1913, when the third and present building was raised. The cornerstone was laid on September 23, 1913, and the recognized carpenters were Harold Maddox, "Sam" Maddox, Howard Hinman, Harold Taylor, "Jim" Dorsey, and Henry Evans. Aside from reusing the old bell, the new church was built at a cost of $4,500.

ST. PAUL'S M. E. CHURCH
Circa 1883
Westover
Private

Largely due to its uncompromised appearance, St. Paul's Methodist Episcopal Church is one of the most architecturally significant buildings in Westover. A distinctive two-story entrance tower rises in the southeast corner of the church and is topped by a pyramidal roof. The roof flares at its base to cover the small belfry. Lighting the sanctuary are pairs of colored glass sash windows in each gable. This church is one of three in Westover, and although the congregation is inactive it is the best preserved of these buildings.

ST. JAMES UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH
Circa 1886
Westover
Public worship

The rural black population living in the vicinity of Westover organized St. James United Methodist Church and erected this building in 1886. A few Victorian details survive, but for the most part this church has been extensively reworked. It is one of three churches still standing in Westover, and one of two that are still active.

S-182, St. Paul's M. E. Church, south elevation.

S-179, St. James United Methodist Church, southeast elevation.

ST. ELIZABETH CATHOLIC CHURCH
Circa 1900
Westover
Public worship

St. Elizabeth Catholic Church, standing on the west side of the old Westover-Kingston Road, is a turn-of-the-century frame structure dominated by a three-story bell tower that also contains the double-door entrance. Arched openings define the upper levels, and the tower is capped by a short pyramidal-roofed spire. The rectangular main block is lighted by colored glass windows. St. Elizabeth is one of three church buildings in Westover and serves the only Catholic congregation in Somerset County.

ST. STEPHEN'S CHURCH
Circa 1870
St. Stephens
Private

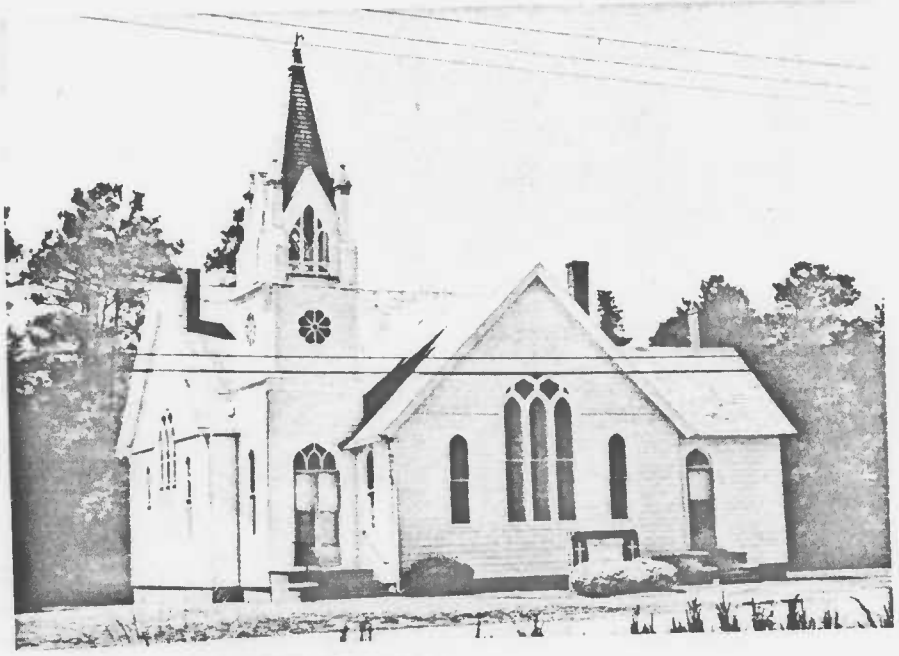
St. Stephen's Methodist Church is a well-preserved nineteenth century rural chapel located in the village of the same name. Surrounded by a modest collection of late nineteenth and early twentieth century houses, the church stands out as one of the best preserved structures in the village. The plain exterior is complemented by a largely unaltered interior, which features beaded board wainscoting and decorative pressed metal covering the walls and ceiling. Equally notable are the pine pews and Gothic Revival altar furniture.

ROCK CREEK M. E. CHURCH (NR)
1900
Chance
Public worship

The Rock Creek Methodist Episcopal Church is a prominent architectural landmark in this watermen's community east of Deal Island.

S-184, St. Elizabeth Catholic Church, east elevation.

S-362, St. Stephen's Church, south elevation.



S-363, Rock Creek M. E. Church, south elevation.

Similar to other contemporary churches, including St. John's on Deal Island, Rock Creek has retained most of its original exterior and interior finishes. The three-story bell tower with its arched belfry of wooden tracery is an especially distinctive Gothic Revival feature. The interior is equally distinctive with a semicircular sanctuary arrangement, beaded board wainscoting, and a beaded matched board ceiling. Construction of this church is specifically documented by a marble datestone reading 1900. The church was erected by W. J. Johnson, whose name is inscribed on the stone.

PERRYHAWKIN
CHRISTIAN CHURCH
Circa 1910
Wellington vicinity
Public worship

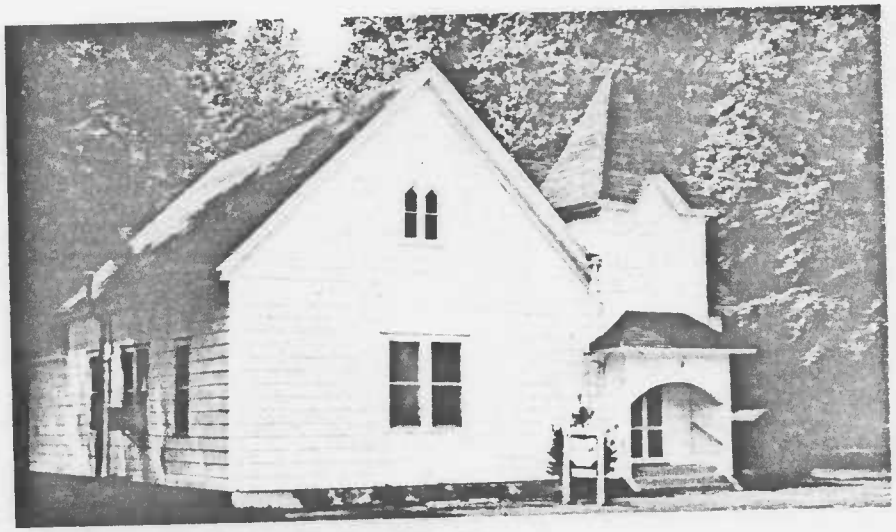
The Perryhawkin Christian Church is a plain, single story, T-plan structure that stands on the west side of Petes Hill Road near Wellington. This rural frame structure, with its slight reference to the Gothic Revival style, is similar to several other churches from this period in the county. Rising in the southeast corner of the T-plan is a two-story tower with a pyramidal roof. The church cemetery is located on the east side of the road.

JOHN WESLEY M. E. CHURCH
1909
Green Hill vicinity
Public worship

The John Wesley Methodist Episcopal Church is a noteworthy Gothic Revival frame structure erected in 1909 and standing near the crossroads of Green Hill. The T-plan church is covered with asbestos siding and trimmed with sawn work in each gable. Several contemporary churches in the immediate vicinity share a similar entrance tower. The Gothic-arched entrance has a colored glass transom. A clover leaf design is worked into the gable end tracery. A twentieth century cemetery is located on the west side of the property.

WATERS CHAPEL CHURCH
Circa 1900
Kingston vicinity
Public worship

Distinguishing Maryland Route 413 at the intersection of Lover's Lane is Waters Chapel Church, a single story, L-plan, Gothic Revival structure dominated by a broach spire. The spire is topped with a small iron weathervane with a pair of intersecting hearts. Each principal gable of the church is pierced by a tripartite colored glass window, which 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-215, Perryhawkin Christian Church, east elevation.

S-204, John Wesley M. E. Church, south elevation.

S-250, Waters Chapel Church, southeast elevation.

ST. JAMES M. E. CHURCH
1885
Oriole vicinity
Private

Built in two stages, this two-part frame church marks the intersection of the Champ and Oriole roads. Set in the south pier of the main block is a marble plaque inscribed 1885. The front towers and multi-pane windows were added around the turn of the century. The old exterior double-door entrance is clearly visible in the vestibule. The heavy molded four-panel doors are topped with a four-light transom. Most notable is the unconventional pair of multi-level bell and entrance towers separated by a single story gabled section pierced by a tripartite window. Directly west of the church is the accompanying cemetery with aboveground grave markers.

ST. JAMES CHURCH HALL
Circa 1885
Oriole vicinity
Private

The St. James Church hall helps define this important rural intersection along with the late nineteenth century church and graveyard. The church hall is a two-story, gable-front rectangular structure supported by brick piers and covered with narrow weatherboards. The first floor room is finished with beaded board wainscoting and plaster walls. An enclosed stair rises against the north wall behind the meeting room.

SAMUEL WESLEY M. E. CHURCH
1903
Manokin
Public worship

The Samuel Wesley Methodist Episcopal Church in Manokin is dated 1903 by a foundation stone immediately to the right of the front steps. Its three-story bell tower and arched sash windows make it one of the most distinctive buildings along Maryland Route

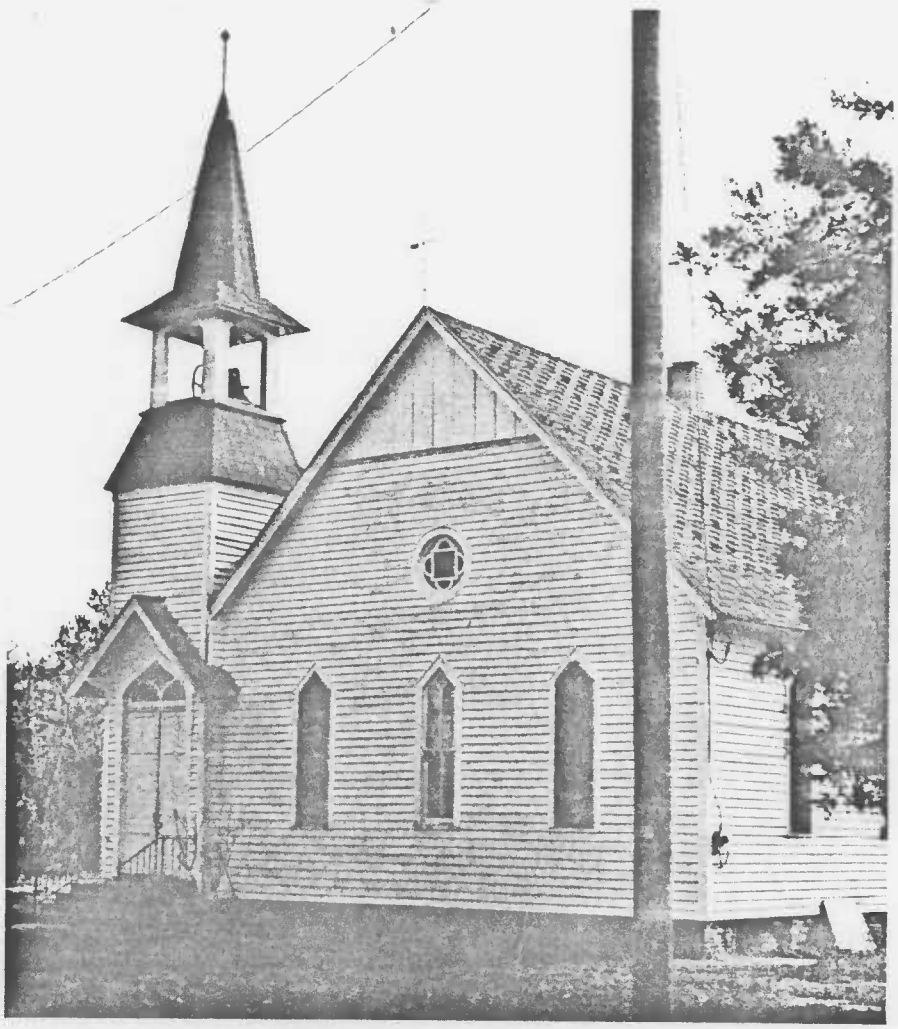
S-359, St. James M. E. Church, northwest elevation.

S-360, St. James Church hall, south elevation.

361 between Westover and Upper Fairmount. Despite the date, a black congregation has occupied this site since the 1870s.

ST. MARK'S M. E. CHURCH
1915
Princess Anne vicinity
Public worship

St. Mark's Methodist Episcopal Church belongs to a large collection of rural black churches erected in the Gothic Revival style during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The T- and L-plans are most often distinguished by a corner entrance tower, and tripartite windows of colored glass are flanked by narrow lancet windows. St. Mark's follows this general description, with an L plan and a corner entrance tower capped by an unconventional pyramidal and octagonal spire. A modern Sunday school addition has been attached to the east side. Fixed in the corner of the foundation is a marble date plaque inscribed 1915.

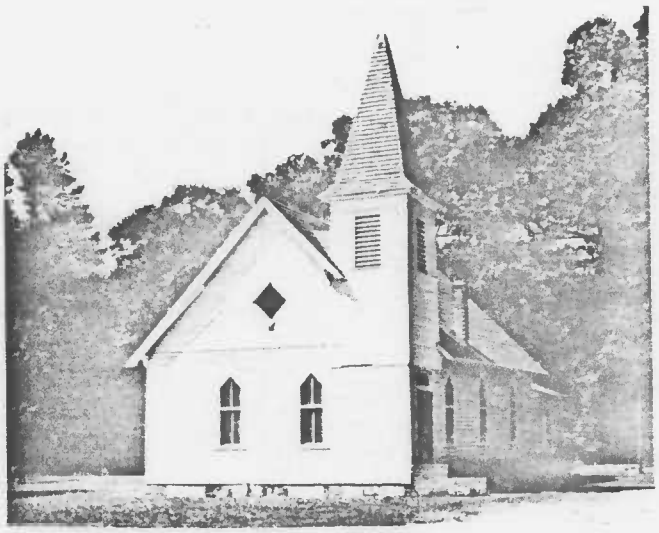


S-169, Samuel Wesley M. E. Church, north elevation.

JOHN WESLEY M. E. CHURCH
1897
Kingston vicinity
Public worship

Aside from a capping of the bell tower, this late nineteenth century frame structure is one of the best preserved rural black churches in southern Somerset County. It has several features in common with many contemporary church buildings, including a gable-front elevation, a corner entrance tower, and pointed arch colored glass windows. Like several churches in the Kingston/Hopewell vicinity, this building has distinctive tripartite sanctuary windows and a matched board ceiling inside. Located next to the church is the Odd Fellows hall, a two-story gable-front structure used as a church hall.

S-346, St. Mark's M. E. Church, southeast elevation.

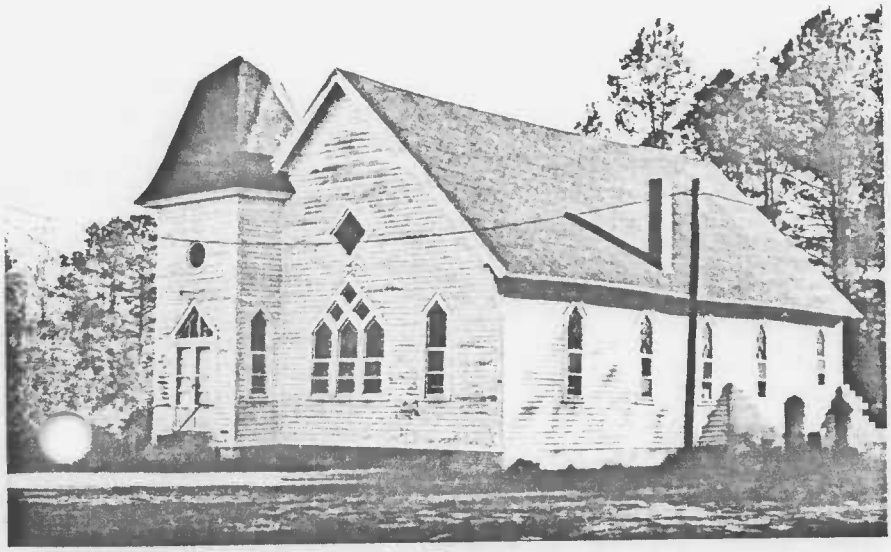


S-411, St. Paul's M. E. Church, south elevation.

S-124, Mt. Peer M. E. Church, west elevation.

ST. P[illegible]'S M. E. CHURCH
1906
Mt. Vernon vicinity
Public worship

St. Paul's Methodist Episcopal church is a simple, Gothic Revival frame structure that stands near Mount Vernon in the small community of Bobtown. The stylistic references for the building are limited to pointed arch window openings and a two-story bell tower topped with a pyramidal-roofed spire. As with other turn-of-the-century churches, the exterior walls are covered with a combination of horizontal weatherboards and decorative fish-scale shingles. Fixed in the southeast corner of the building is a datestone inscribed 1892, the year the congregation was formed, and 1906, the year the current building was erected.



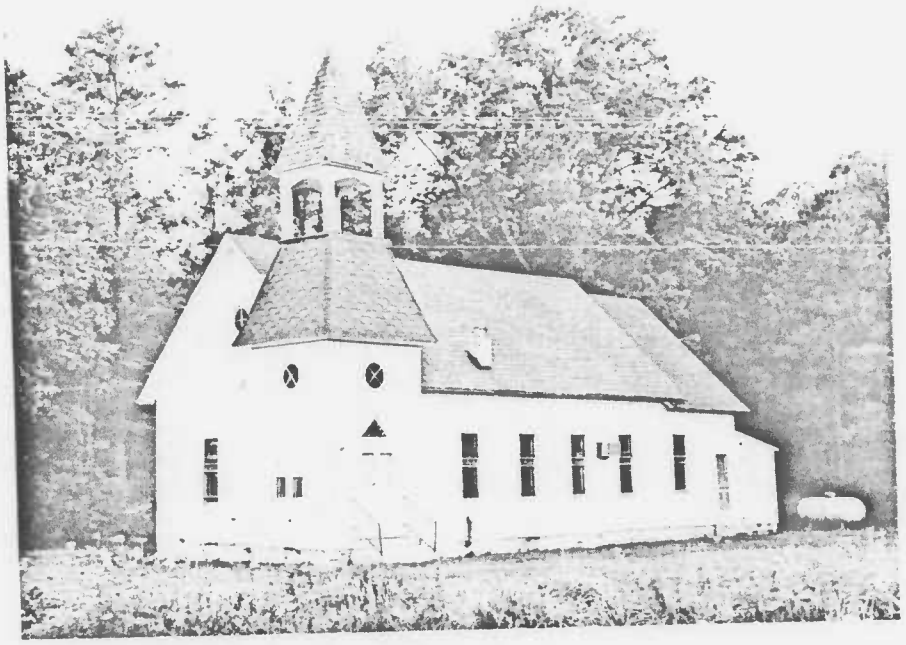
S-120, John Wesley M. E. Church, northwest elevation.

MOUNT PEER M. E. CHURCH
1907
Marion vicinity
Public worship

The Mount Peer Methodist Episcopal Church stands southeast of Marion near Tulls Corner. Supported by a vented brick foundation, the L-shaped frame church is mainly lighted by colored glass lancet windows on three elevations. The west (principal) facade is also distinguished by a cloverleaf-shaped light in the upper gable. Fixed in the northwest corner of the brick foundation is a marble datestone with the inscription "Mount Peer M. E. Church 1889-1907." Standing southeast of the church is a two-story, asbestos-shingled frame church hall.

LIBERIA M. E. CHURCH
1912
Hudson's Corner vicinity
Public worship

According to the date plaque, the Liberia Methodist Episcopal congregation was formed two years after the close of the Civil War. The extant church, evidently the second building to house the congregation, was erected in 1912 in a simplified Gothic Revival design. Dominating the southeast corner is a three-story



S-119, Liberia M. E. Church, southeast elevation.

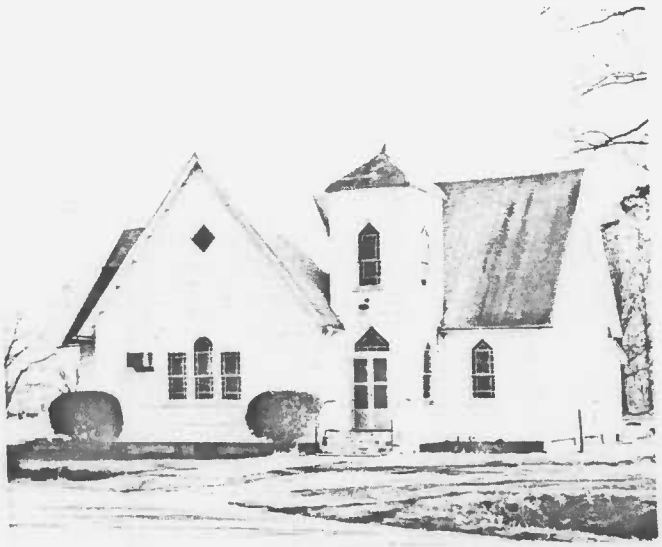
bell tower, which also contains the double-door entrance. The rectangular sanctuary is lighted by pointed arch colored glass windows on the first floor; a small round window pierces the upper gable.

GRACE M. E. CHURCH
1924
Venton vicinity
Public worship

Grace Methodist Episcopal Church is one of the most recently built examples of a Gothic Revival church in Somerset County. Erected in 1924, this T-plan structure follows the same pattern as a dozen churches erected during the previous half century. Contrasting features include Palladian-type principal windows instead of Gothic-arched ones. Evidently this building was erected on the same foundation as the former church since the marble date plaque reads, "Grace M. E. Church, built 1893, rebuilt May 25, 1924, Pastor S. G. Dix." A cemetery of above-ground vaults surrounds the church on two sides, and a church hall sits on the north side of Fitzgerald Road.

MT. OLIVE METHODIST CHURCH
1873, 1905, 1947
Revells Neck
Public worship

Mt. Olive Methodist Church is located on the south side of Revells Neck Road approximately one-half mile west of Millard Long Road. Two datestones are found in the concrete block foundation; one has the dates 1873 and 1905, and the other is dated 1947. These dates reflect the different construction periods of the former buildings as well as the age of the current church, a single story, gable-roofed frame structure that is highlighted by a two-story tower topped by a pyramidal-roofed spire. The sides of the building are pierced by colored glass windows. The interior has been remodeled, but Victorian pews and altar furniture appear to have been handed down through the years. Interestingly, this church is identified on the 1877 atlas map at this site, but another Methodist Episcopal church is shown due east on the north side of Revells Neck Road. Not much is known about this second congregation.



S-356, Grace M. E. Church, north elevation.

S-198, Mt. Olive Methodist Church, northwest elevation.