

S-379
Metropolitan United Methodist Church
Princess Anne
public worship

1886

Originally purchased as part of the county court property in the 1740s, this lot was subsequently sold in the early nineteenth century when the courthouse was moved to its present site. The ~~exact~~ ^{on which} lot, the church stands ~~on~~ was the location of the eighteenth-century Somerset County jail.

In search of a site for a new church, the trustees of John Wesley Methodist Episcopal Church purchased this lot from Thomas Dixon on June 2, 1884 for \$400. Two years later the Victorian Gothic Revival church was ready for services. Facing Broad Street, the church is clearly visible from the center of town with the church spire being the second highest in town. The original exterior fabric of the building has remained essentially unaltered with fading remnants of black accents around the principal window and door openings.

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic John Wesley Metropolitan U.M. Church

and/or common Metropolitan Church

2. Location

street & number Broad Street not for publication

city, town Princess Anne 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 John Wesley U.M. Church

street & number Broad Street telephone no.:

city, town Princess Anne state and zip code MD 21853

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-379

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 Metropolitan United Methodist Church stands on the north side of Broad Street and three doors east of North Somerset Avenue in the northern section of Princess Anne, Somerset County, Maryland. Facing south, the principal gable is oriented on a north/south axis.

Dated by a marble date plaque to 1886, the common bond brick church is covered by a steeply pitched asphalt shingle roof with extended eaves and exposed rafter feet. Dominating the south elevation is a three-level entrance and bell tower. Attached to the east side is a well-plan addition.

The south (main) facade is a symmetrical elevation of pressed stretcher bond brick. The projecting tower is trimmed on the outside corners with brick buttresses topped by limestone caps. The buttresses flank the recessed Gothic arch, double door entrance. Located above the three-panel double doors is a narrow transom and a painted Gothic design. Framing the double doors is a stepped brick surround, which is in turn accented by a three-inch painted band that is repeated around the adjacent lancet windows. The second level of the tower is marked by a recessed round colored glass window also accented with circular black band. The bellfry is framed by four brick piers, and the space between each pier is trimmed with Victorian trim. A turned baluster railing stretches between the corner posts. Capping the tower is a squat broach spire capped with slate shingles. A cross tops the spire. Fixed in the southeast corner of the front is marble date plaque inscribed "Metropolitan M.E. Church 1886."

To each side of the tower is a single lancet window accented by pointed brick arches and the black band decoration. In addition, a diagonal set soldier brick string course stretches across the church at the buttress head level.

The west side of the church is divided into five bays by six brick buttresses. The diagonal soldier brick string course continues around the west side. Between each pair of buttresses is a Gothic arched colored glass window topped by a pointed brick arch.

The east side of the church is partially covered by a jerkinhead roofed addition. Laid in nine-course common bond, the addition has a Gothic arched side entrance in the south elevation and a pair of Gothic arched lancet windows in the east end. A brick stove stack has been demolished.

The north gable end of the main block is marked by a shed roofed apse with Gothic arched windows and doors. A short stove stack protrudes through the roof of the main church.

The interior was not seen.

8. Significance

Survey No. S-379

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
1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1886 **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.

Originally purchased as part of county court property in the 1740s, this lot was subsequently sold in the early nineteenth century when the courthouse was moved to its present site. The lot the church stands on is the reputed site of the eighteenth-century jail.

In search of a site for a new church, the trustees of John Wesley Methodist Episcopal Church purchased this lot from Thomas Dixon on June 2, 1884 for \$400. (). Four years later the Victorian sanctuary was complete. Today the church is a prominent architectural focus for this northeast corner of Princess Anne. Facing Mad Street, the church is clearly visible from the center of town, and the church spire is the second highest. The original exterior fabric of the building has survived largely untouched with fading remnants of black accents around the principal window and door openings.

HISTORY

The original organization of this society consisted of Negro adherents who worshipped in the balcony of the St. Andrew's Episcopal Church; in this town during the days of slavery, where they learned churchmanship.

They organized themselves in a separate church and erected a frame building and named it John Wesley Methodist Episcopal Church on the farm of Georgia Jones around the year of 1841.

They worshipped there until 1860 and started searching for another place for both a church and a school. They had to settle for a cemetery, a place they bought from Hampden Deshields which was located quite a distance from town. There they constructed both a school and a church under the same name, John Wesley Methodist Episcopal Church, there they worshipped from Civil War Days (1861) until 1888.

As the membership increased this structure became inadequate to meet the needs of the membership and community. According to the church minutes dated April 25, 1884, the charge conference gave the trustees of John Wesley permission to search for a new location for a larger edifice.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

 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
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

 name/title Paul Touart - Architectural Historian

 organization Somerset County Historical Trust date 6/26/86

 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

HISTORY (continued)

The trustees then purchased land from Thomas Dixon on June 2, 1884, for a sum of \$400.00. The Rev. Joseph R. Waters was the pastor at that time and the trustees were J.L. Dennis, Edward Dennis, David Cottman, Arnold Dennis, William H. Hayman, Jr., Sandy Bolding, Lazaurus Maddox, James P. Morris and Fredrick Maddox. This land was once the site of the old county jail and auction block where our foreparents were sold.

According to the minutes dated April 17, 1885, the conference authorized Rev. J.A. Scott, the pastor and the trustees to send to the Board of Church Extension for a form, to make an application to borrow money for the erection of the new church.

The small membership had quite a struggle in the beginning to make the annual payment. From the church minutes.

HISTORY OF JOHN WESLEY METROPOLITAN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The original organization of this society consisted of Negro adherents who worshipped in the balcony of the St. Andrew's Episcopal Church; in this town during the days of slavery, where they learned churchmanship.

They organized themselves in a separate church and erected a frame building and named it John Wesley Methodist Episcopal Church on the farm of Georgia Jones around the year of 1841.

They worshipped there until 1860 and started searching for another place for both a church and a school. They had to settle for a cemetery, a place they bought from Hampden Deshields which was located quite a distance from town. There they constructed both a school and a church under the same name, John Wesley Methodist Episcopal Church, there they worshipped from Civil War Days (1861) until 1888.

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The small membership had quite a struggle in the beginning to make the annual payment. From the church minutes

dated August 21, 1885, it states "We have raised on the New Church (Metropolitan) this quarter by cash and subscription about \$782.85. We shall "commence" the New Church just as soon as we are able. We are moving just as fast as we can on the work. We hope to be able to go to work very soon."

Before the foundation for the new church could be laid, the bricks from the old jail had to be cleaned costing \$1.00 for every thousand of bricks, the land had to be cleared costing \$1.00 and the contractor Daniel Collins had to be paid \$1,500.00.

The cornerstone was laid for the present church on September 19, 1886, and the name Metropolitan Methodist Episcopal Church, successor to John Wesley Methodist Episcopal, was given. By September 30, 1887, the second Quarter Conference was held in the New Church.

Even after moving in their new church there was still a struggle which the minutes from a meeting on October 14, 1889, states "While it is true our financial condition is not very favorable, for on the examination of our books we find the indebtedness of our church at this time to be \$2,649.37 but with all this we are glad to say that there are no signs of discouragement on the line, with God in front to lead us and faith and hard work we are certain that success will be ours."

The worshippers of Metropolitan worked very hard raising funds to pay this enormous debt, and very soon the mortgage for this debt was burned while Rev. E. O. Parker was the pastor.

In 1889 the members built a parsonage to go with their new church under the leadership of Rev. D. A. Ridout.

The Rev. Joseph Waters, the minister who built Metropolitan Church, also founded Princess Anne Academy (now UMES), a Methodist Institution the same year. The main purpose for the finding of this institution was to furnish ministers for the Delaware Conference (now Peninsula Conference) of the Methodist Church.

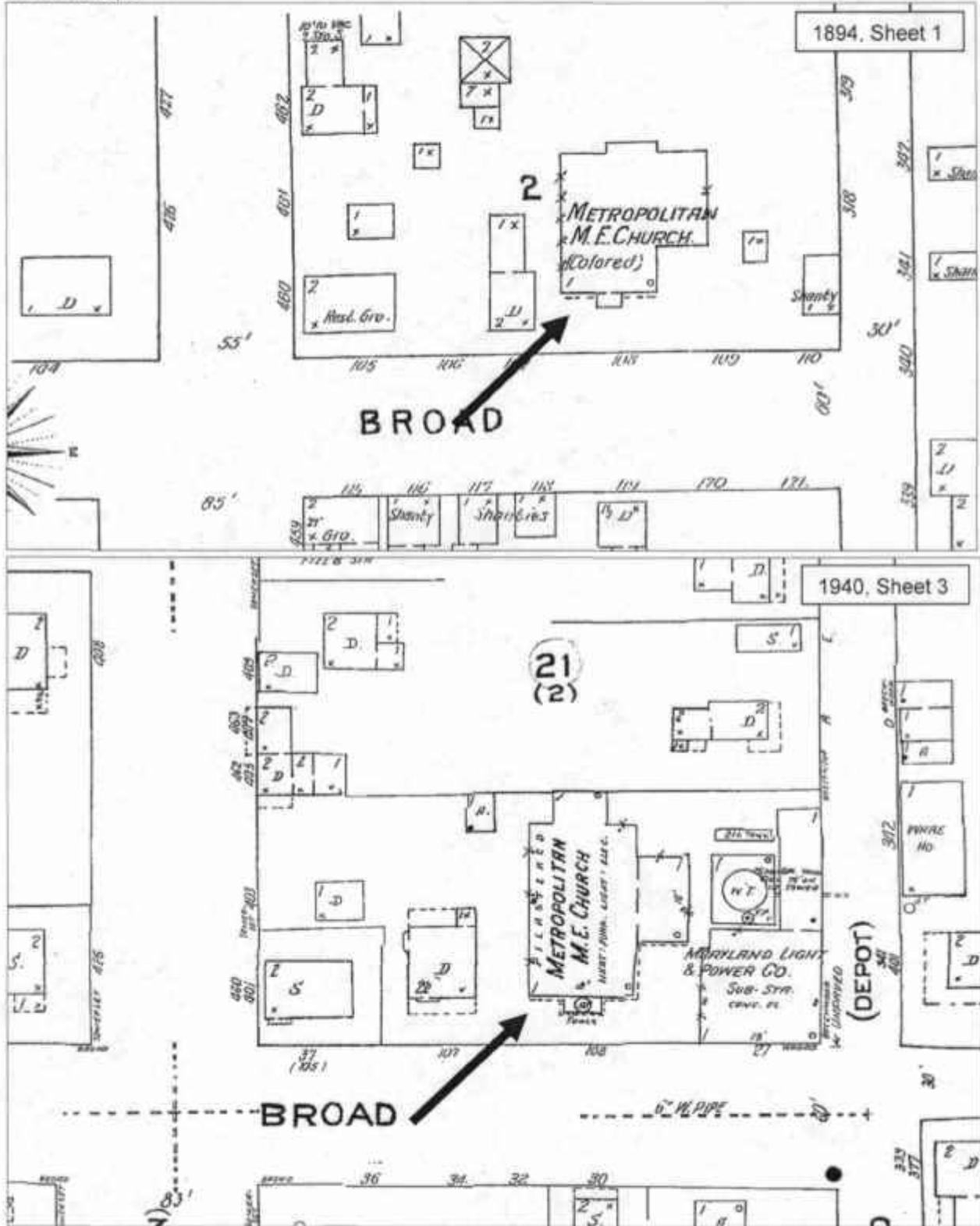
Although there is no Conference Relations, there is still an affinity between the College and Metropolitan Church; a large portion of the church membership consists of the faculty and staff of the University of Maryland Eastern Shore. There are many devoted and dedicated leaders of our church on the college campus.

Some other historical highlights that occurred under the leadership of former pastors were: a beautiful two-manual Hammond organ was purchased under the pastorate of the Rev. W. E. Stanley in 1952. Rev. C. D. Gerald and his wife provided many activities for members of the church and the community. He was always ready and willing to help persons in trouble in any way he could. On many occasions he gave assistance to the many young people in the community. The Rev. S. S. Tatem made mention of the great task undertaken in his years as pastor here at Metropolitan. The Methodist Men laid the beautiful hardwood floor in the sanctuary. The United Methodist Women gave the altar and pulpit paraments which added beauty and dignity to the chancel. The Altar Guild gave the beautiful communion cover for the altar and the lectern. The Metropolitan Chorus aided financially in the erecting of the bulletin board on the church lawn. The Adult Fellowship assumed the responsibility for the purchasing and laying of new carpeting for the chancel and aisles. The altar set was given by the Usher Guild.

The Rev. Richard Hicks was very active in community affairs such as the local N.A.A.C.P. and the Somerset County Men for Progress Organization. Rev. S. N. Stubbs worked diligently with the finance committee and reorganized the finance committee according to the conference discipline. He also emphasized the importance for one central treasury for the church. Pastor Stubbs also renewed college and church relations which became very important. The Rev. N. Miller helped us to organize our council on ministries which dealt with developing and initiating proposals for missions. Rev. Elijah Davis served as our pastor for one year taking a leave of absence from his conference in South Carolina. Without regards to his conference affiliation, he and his wife radiated a Christian leadership and participated with standing committees of the Church, Church School, United Methodist Women, Methodist Men and other committees.

S-379

Metropolitan Church (John Wesley Metropolitan U.M. Church)
30518 Broad Street, Princess Anne
(Formerly 33 E. Broad Street)
Sanborn Maps



S-379

Metropolitan Church (John Wesley Metropolitan U.M. Church)

30518 Broad Street, Princess Anne

(Formerly 33 E. Broad Street)

Princess Anne quad 1972



Tax Map 202, P. 265A

National Web Map Service 6" Orthophoto Map, c. 2010



S-379
John Wesley Metropolitan Church
Princess Anne, MD Quadrangle, 1972





Metropolitan Church
Princess Anne, Somerset Co., Md.
Steeple
5/86, Paul Touart, Photographer
Neg./Md. Historical Trust

S-379



1998

1999

2000

Metropolitan Church

S-379

Princess Anne, Somerset Co., Md.

Gothic Window Detail

5/86, Paul Touart, Photographer

Neg./Md. Historical Trust



METROPOLITAN
M. E. CHURCH.
1886.

Metropolitan Church S-379
Princess Anne, Somerset Co., Md.
Date Plaque
5/86, Paul Touart, Photographer
Neg./Md. Historical Trust