

SITE NUMBER: WA-II-940

ADDRESS: Between 12 and 14 St. Paul Street, Boonsboro, MD

OWNER/LOT NUMBER/ACCESS: First Christian Church

BUILDING DATE: 1860, 1928

This is a north-facing, two-story, three- by two-bay, brick, freestanding, ecclesiastical structure. The building, which is set directly at the public-right-of-way, rests on a stone foundation and is laid in an orange brick set in a common bond. The principal architectural feature of the exterior is a deep, massive, two-story Colonial Revival portico. The pediment is supported by four columns. The body of the church is simple in design and lacks any ornamentation. The structure is topped by a short steeple. The entrance, which is located in the center bay, is deeply recessed with side panels. The two-panel double-doors are topped by a transom that has been filled in. Windows are all double-hung, one-over-one sash. The side-gable roof is covered with pine and artificial shingles. The cornerstone is inscribed with the date 1860.

This building is first noted on the 1877 map of Boonsboro as the Disciples Church. According to a walking tour brochure of the town, the structure was used as a hospital during the Battles of Antietam and South Mountain and that several soldiers were buried behind the church. The 1897 and 1904 Sanborns note it as the Christian Church and number it 142 East Church Street. At that time the street cut back to the front facade of the building, then lacking its modern portico. The 1910 Sanborn notes that the structure was heated by stoves and had electric lights. The portico first appears on the 1940 Sanborn, indicating that it was constructed between 1924 (the previous map that does not note it)

and 1940. The walking tour brochure states that the date of construction was 1928.

The building is within the Western Maryland Geographic Organization, the Development Period of Agricultural-Industrial Transition, and falls within the Historic Period Themes of Economic; and Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Community Planning.

Prepared by Julianne Mueller, July 1992

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JULIE MUELLEN

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