

(Capsule)

Smithville Parsonage

The significance of the Smithville Parsonage is two-fold. Through its materials and design the building is a good example of mid-nineteenth century American architecture, particularly as is found in rural areas. The gabled end roof with its deep cornices immediately suggests the Greek Revival style which was so popular during the first half of the 19th Century. This rather formal style was translated into American architectural vocabulary and eventually influenced even the meanest houses, schools, churches and farm buildings. It is the style of the Smithville parsonage.

The second reason why this building should be considered significant is not of lesser importance than its architectural value. The role of churchlife in rural America particularly prior to modern times, is sometimes underestimated. In a small 19th Century community such as Smithville, the local church or churches, often provided not only moral strength and guidance on Sundays, but social, educational, and other services as well throughout the week. It was in many instances the only gathering place which could house large groups of people. No less important then was the man in charge of the church or the building designated as his residence. Oral tradition as well as deed ref: AAHS/137 (copy attached) in the records of Calvert County reveal that this property was owned by the "Methodist Episcopal Church South" at "Smithville also called Dunkirk" and was the "parsonage property of the West River Circuit" at least until 1922 when, it was sold to Clinton T. Trott.

According to the present owner, a former resident of Smithville who is now deceased, _____, remembers attending school in the room of this building. Apparently tutoring was among the many duties which the pastor performed for his community.

One can see then that his house played an important role in the lives of those residents of Smithville who belonged to the Methodist Episcopal Church South, for it houses their pastor and tutor and today continues to have importance as an example of a specific period in American architectural history.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Smithville Parsonage

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Southern Maryland Boulevard (Maryland Route 4)

CITY, TOWN

Dunkirk

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

___ VICINITY OF

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Calvert

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- MUSEUM
- COMMERCIAL
- PARK
- EDUCATIONAL
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ENTERTAINMENT
- RELIGIOUS
- GOVERNMENT
- SCIENTIFIC
- INDUSTRIAL
- TRANSPORTATION
- MILITARY
- OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

___ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Liber #:

Folio #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING 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 type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The exact dates of this house are as yet unknown, however, it is known that it was owned by Smithville Methodist Church and used as a parsonage until 1922 (reference). Smithville Methodist Church was built in 184 . The front (E) portion of the house looks very much like it belongs to the Greek Revival period with its three bay wide, one deep plan and the gabled-end roof with deep cornices.

A Maple tree in the front yard is reported to be 150 years old.

The rear or west wing appears to be one or even two additions. The exterior siding of the rear portion is in shorter lengths and doesn't quite match that of the front and on the interior the floorboards of the two wings run in opposite directions. At the same time, however, continuous siding (which appears original) on the north facade and examination of the rafters in the attic suggest that the house may have been more than one bay deep originally. It is possible that the plan was already a L-shape and that only the portion which now contains the kitchen was added.

The present structure has 7" overlapping clapboard. The fenestration is regular and there is a third gable in the rear which matches those on the north and south facades. The windows are 6/6 and contain what may be some original glass. The floorboards are random width and appear to be original as does the molding and hardware.

There is a porch on the front or east end of the house. The materials (tongue/groove ceiling) and its relationship to the off center windows suggests that it may be a later addition, most likely of this century.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

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 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 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 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

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The significance of the Smithville Parsonage is two-fold. Through its materials and design the building is a good example of mid-nineteenth century American architecture, particularly as is found in rural areas. The gabled end roof with its deep cornices immediately suggests the Greek Revival style which was so popular during the first half of the 19th century. This rather formal style was translated into American architectural vocabulary and eventually influenced even the meanest houses, schools, churches and farm buildings. It is the style of the Smithville parsonage.

The second reason why this building should be considered significant is not of lesser importance than its architectural value. The role of churchlife in rural America particularly prior to modern times, is sometimes underestimated. In a small 19th c. community such as Smithville, the local church or churches, often provided not only moral strength and guidance on Sundays, but social, educational, and other services as well throughout the week. It was in many instances the only gathering place which could house large groups of people. No less important then was the man in charge of the church or the building designated as his residence. Oral tradition as well as deed ref: AAH8/137 (copy attached) in the records of Calvert County reveal that this property was owned by the "Methodist Episcopal Church South" at "Smithville also called Dunkirk" and was the "parsonage property of the West River Circuit" at least until 1922 when, it was sold to Clinton T. Trott.

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CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

ORGANIZATION

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

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
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

LOWER MARLBORO QUAD.

CT-86



Dunkirk

PATUXENT

RIVER

Nottingham

Hall

Fuelers

Mill

Hall

ex Chaneyville

WINDFORDS CO

White Landing

Creek

Frytown

Graham

Chew

Lower Marlboro

St Johns

PROSPECT HILL



CT-86

Smithville Parsonage

D-9

W.N.



CT-86
Smithville Parsonage

B-9

W.N.