

Dorchester - 591
Bethel AME Church
Cr. of Pine & Bethel Sts.
Cambridge, MD, 21613

1870, 1903

Access: Public

Bethel AME Church stands 8' from the west side of Pine Street (at the corner of Bethel). The building faces east. It houses the oldest AME congregation in Cambridge. It is an impressive late Victorian brick edifice with uneven towers at the front corners. The church was built in 1870 and rebuilt in 1903.

Bethel (Cambridge) and Bethel (Easton) date from the same era. The African Methodist Episcopal Church reached the Eastern Shore of Maryland about 50 years after the Church was well established on the Western Shore of the state.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

D - 591
MAGI#1005914708

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Bethel AME Church

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Cr. Pine & Bethel Streets

CITY, TOWN

Cambridge

___ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Cambridge

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

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Trustees, Bethel AME Church
C/O Rev. H.L. Camper

Telephone #: N/A

STREET & NUMBER

Cr. Pine and Bethel Streets

CITY, TOWN

Cambridge

___ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

MD, 21613

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Dorchester Co. Court House

Liber #: WJ 4

Folio #: 36

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Cambridge

STATE

Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

N/A

DATE

___ FEDERAL ___ STATE ___ COUNTY ___ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

D-591

CONDITION

CHECK ONE

CHECK ONE

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED

DATE 1870-1903

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Bethel AME stands 8' from the west side of Pine Street (at the corner of Bethel). The building faces east. It is constructed of brick and is late Victorian. There are three entrances in the front facade. The central double-wooden doors have crosses carved into the exteriors (all the doors have the same motif). Above the central doors is a frontispiece stained-glass window 16'. There are 12' stained glass windows (lancet) above the other two entrances. There are towers at the northeast and southeast corners (front) of the building). These towers are of uneven height. The southeast tower is the taller. The same 12' stained-glass lancet windows (5 in number) are on the north side. There are five more of these windows in the south side. There are buttressess on both the north and south sides (4 each). The main body of the church is gabled (east-west) a brief false front extends 5' up the east gable between the towers. A concrete block addition (Hall & Sunday School) has been added at the southwest end of the building. The building rests on a brick foundation and has a composite shingle roof.

D-591

8 SIGNIFICANCE

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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 checked="" 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 1870-1903

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Bethel AME Church is the oldest African Methodist Episcopal Church in Cambridge. It is an impressive late Victorian brick edifice with uneven towers at the front corners. The church was built in 1870 and rebuilt in 1903. Bethel (Cambridge) & Bethel (Easton) date from the same era. The African Methodist Episcopal Church reached Eastern Shore of Maryland about 50 years after the Church was already established on the Western Shore. All AME Churches I have surveyed on the Eastern Shore date from after the Civil War.

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

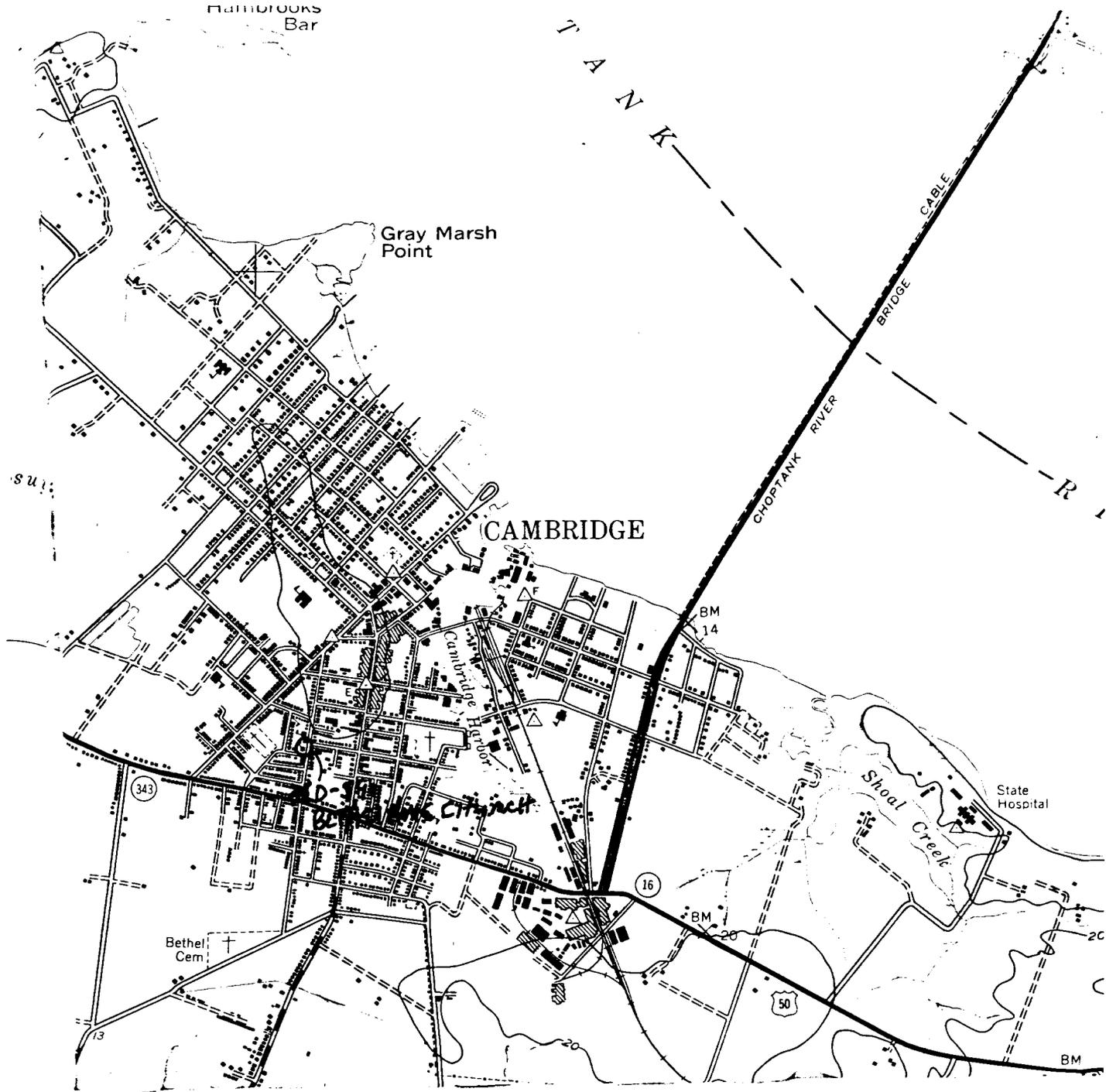
CITY OR TOWN

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



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CAMBRIDGE



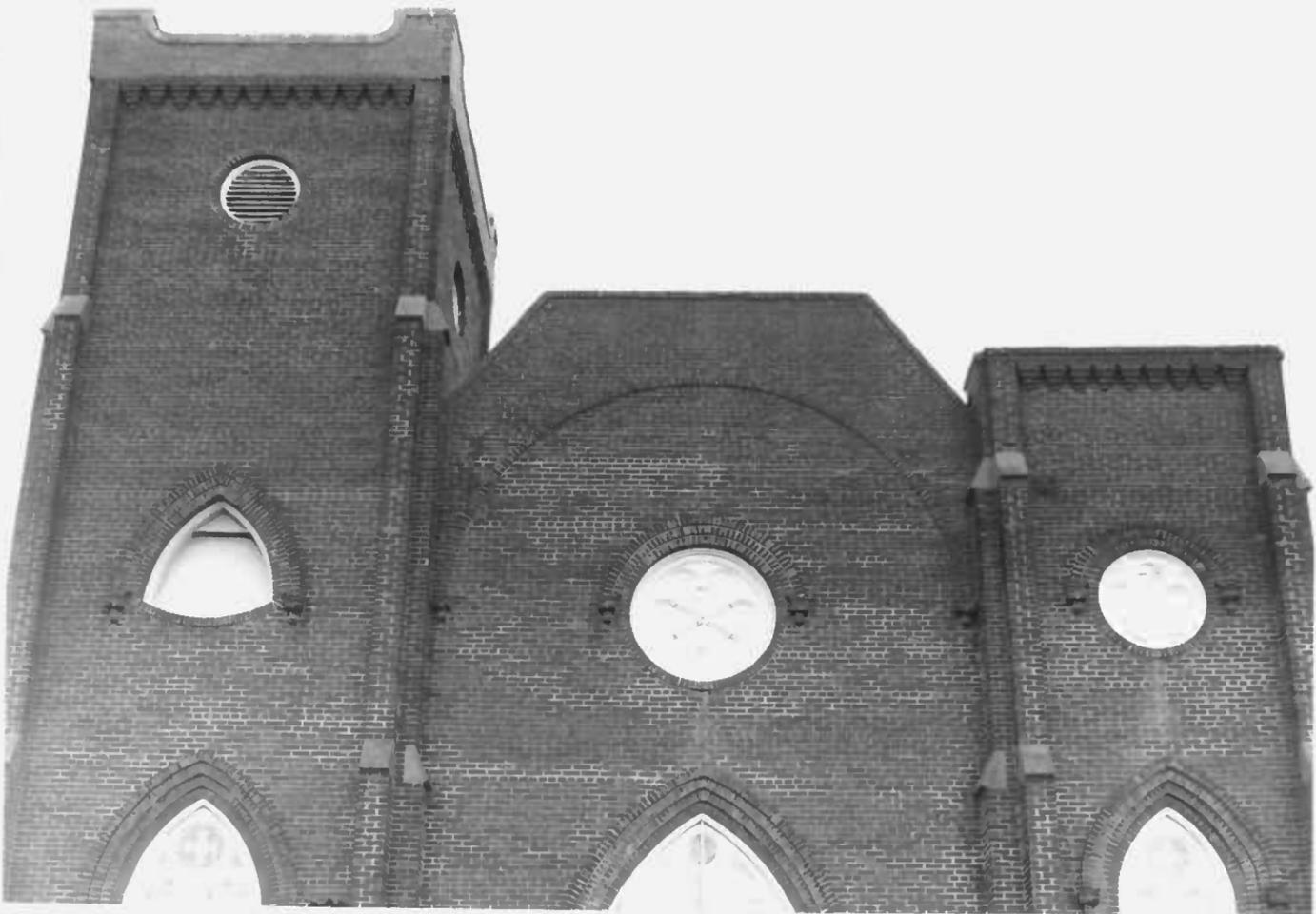
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47%

Bethel A.M.E. Church
Cambridge, Dorchester County, MD
Michael Hosford

D-591

Maryland Historical Trust, Annapolis
Southeast elevation
2/81



Bethel A.M.E. Church
Cambridge, Dorchester County, MD
Michael Hosford

D-591

Maryland Historical Trust, Annapolis, MD
East elevation - detail
2/81



Bethel A.M.E. Church
Cambridge, Dorchester County, MD
Micheal Hosford

D-591

Maryland Historical Trust, Annapolis, MD
East elevation - detail
2/81