

# Egsement

Bethel A. M. E. Church  
112 South Hanson Street  
Easton, Maryland 21601

T-412  
1877

Bethel A. M. E. Church is very typical of modest brick eccleseastical building of the mid-to-late nineteenth century. Stylistically, it alludes the Gothic revival with its pointed arch windows and corner buttresses. With a second floor sacristy and receding chancel and choir, the building closely resembles Asbury M. E. Church (T-421), which, however, has a bell tower.

The Bethel Congregation has played an important role in the religious life of Black Eastonians. Frederick Douglass spoke there in 1878, fifty years after he had fled Talbot County, his childhood home, as a slave. The congregation itself had been established sixty years earlier in 1818.

EASEMENT

2104124608

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

T 412

Town of Easton

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Bethel A. M. E. Church

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

112 South Hanson Street

CITY, TOWN

Easton

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

FIRST

STATE

Maryland 21601

COUNTY

Talbot

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	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<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 type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Bethel A. M. E. Church

Telephone #: 301-822-2968

STREET & NUMBER

c/o Mr. John Howard, Head Trustee  
112 South Hanson Street

109 South Hanson Street

CITY, TOWN

Easton

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21601

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Talbot County Court House

Liber #: 142

Folio #: 251

STREET & NUMBER

Washington Street

CITY, TOWN

Easton

STATE

Maryland 21601

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

None

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

T-412

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" 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

This brick church stands on the east side of Hanson Street near South Street. It faces west.

The structure is two stories in height. Three bays wide, it is covered by a gable roof which faces Hanson Street. The rectangular structure is four bays deep. A simple rectangular building, architectural interest is limited to the front facade; there is no bell tower. Common bond is used throughout; the brick is orange in color. Brick piers set at a forty-five degree angle to each corner rise above the roof line to form small square towers, capped with flat unmolded stone coping. The roof terminates in an overhanging eave treated with composite wooden moldings.

The main entrance is in the center of the front facade. The four-centered arch opening contains double doors each treated with four unmolded panels. Trim is a simple, wide half-round molding which edges the jamb. The arch of headers is the only architectural enrichment at this opening and at the window openings on this facade.

Above the main entrance is a tripartite window contained in a lancet arch. The deep wooden mullions form a pattern of interlocking lancet arches. Patterned, colored glass is used in this window. Lancet arch windows are also found in the side bays on each floor. They have lights of solid, colored glass. The windows on the second floor in the sacristy are quite tall. Trim is narrow, and like the door, consists of a single half-round molding.

In the gable is a circular opening filled with louvers. A stone plaque below this opening says "A. M. E. Church August 1877".

The side bays each contain one window per floor. Those lighting the second floor sacristy are quite tall and contain nine over nine colored glass sashes.

At the east end of the structure is a small two-story brick addition containing the choir and alter.

Inside the church building has an anteroom containing a double stair with turned balusters. The two newels are round and massive.

The sacristy is a spacious room which a balcony at the west end and raised alter at the east. The balcony has an attractive railing with applied wooden decoration. The main entrance door to the sacristy is decorated by very heavy large wooden brackets in the corners.

In plan, the structure resembles another Easton Church, Asbury M. E. (T-421), a contemporary structure, to which a bell tower has been added.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**8 SIGNIFICANCE**

<b>ERIOD</b>	<b>AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW</b>			
<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 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 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      1877      BUILDER/ARCHITECT      Bethel A. M. E. Church

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

This is an example of a modest ecclesiastical building of the mid-nineteenth century. Stylistically it alludes to the Gothic revival structures of that period.

The church has played an important role in the religious life of Black Eastonians. Frederick Douglass spoke here in 1878, fifty years after he had fled Talbot County, his childhood home, as a slave. The congregation itself had been established sixty years earlier in 1818. According to tradition, the Black residents of the town had been brought into the African Methodist Church by an itinerant preacher who spoke on South Street from a cart.

Like other religious and ethnic minorities, this group was aided by the local Quakers, in this case a Mr. Cochran who sold them their first church building, a frame carpenter shop which stood at this site.

The years before the Civil War were particularly hard for the congregation. Laws prohibited their meeting on Sunday and their pastors were frequently threatened with being resold into slavery. Once they nearly lost their church, but a sympathetic Town Clerk succeeded in granting the congregation a charter. The first official pastor was Reverend J. Edward Hawkins, appointed in 1849.

E142/F251      The Trustees, including John H. Banton deeded this property in 1904, to the Bethel A. M. E. Church. In 1879 the half interest of Jenny Ridgaway and the half interest of Lucinda Martin and Maggie Robinson in this property was sold, each interest for \$35.00 was sold to the Trustees of the A. M. E. Church.

E127/F454      The lot adjoining was added in 1897 by a purchase from Mary Ann Webb. She had purchased the property in 1878 for \$800.00 from Thomas and Margaret P. Nicols.

The 1879 deed states:  
 "To be built thereon a house or place of worship for the use of members of the A. M. E. Church."

T-412

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Deeds and Land Records, Talbot County Court House.  
The Star-Democrat (Easton, Maryland) August 21, 1976.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY NA

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

NA

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

STATE None COUNTY

STATE COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

Marsha L. Fritz, Consultant

Cynthia B. Ludlow, Research Historian

ORGANIZATION

Historic Easton, Incorporated

DATE

September 15, 1976

STREET & NUMBER

Box 1171

TELEPHONE Mr. Paul Parsons,  
301-822-2706 President

CITY OR TOWN

Easton

STATE

Maryland 21601

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

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC Bethel A.M. E. Church  
AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER Hanson Street  
CITY, TOWN Easton VICINITY OF CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT First  
STATE Maryland COUNTY Talbot

**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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input 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 type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME Trustees, Bethel A.M.E. Church Telephone #: 822-3619  
STREET & NUMBER Hanson St.  
CITY, TOWN Easton VICINITY OF STATE, zip code MD, 21601

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, LIBER #: JCN 21  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC Talbot County Court House Folio #: 211  
STREET & NUMBER Court Street  
CITY, TOWN Easton STATE Maryland

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE N/A  
DATE  
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS  
CITY, TOWN STATE

\_FEDERAL \_STATE \_COUNTY \_LOCAL

T-412

**7 DESCRIPTION**

**CONDITION**

EXCELLENT  
 GOOD  
 FAIR

DETERIORATED  
 RUINS  
 UNEXPOSED

**CHECK ONE**

UNALTERED  
 ALTERED

**CHECK ONE**

ORIGINAL SITE  
 MOVED      DATE 1877

**DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**

Bethel A.M.E. Church is on the east side of Hanson Street in the Historic District of Easton. The building faces west. It is a brick structure, 36 feet across the front and 62 feet in length. The building is constructed of brick. The entrance has double four-panel oak doors. There are cathedral windows at either side of the entrance 4 1/2 ft tall with colored glass (red and green). On the top level of the front facade are two 12' tall lancet windows (with green and red colored glass) on either side of a 12' central cathedral window that has three divisions and nine panes of colored glass. The church has four six over six rectangular windows on both the north side and south side on the lower levels. On the top level of the north and south sides of the church are four 12' rectangular windows (four over four). The church is gable-ended (east-west) and has a slate roof.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

T-412

**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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input checked="" 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			

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SPECIFIC DATES	1877	BUILDER/ARCHITECT
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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Bethel A.M.E. Church is the oldest African Methodist Episcopal Church in Easton and may be the oldest A.M.E. congregation in Talbot County. This rather magnificent brick structure which dates from 1877 shows the amazing solidarity of the black population in that era. This congregation which has survived for over 100 years is still quite large and influential in the community.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

T-412

**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 James W. Clark, Historic Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION Maryland Commission on Afro-American History & Culture

DATE

STREET & NUMBER 20 Dean Street

TELEPHONE 269-2893

CITY OR TOWN Annapolis

STATE Maryland

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Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438

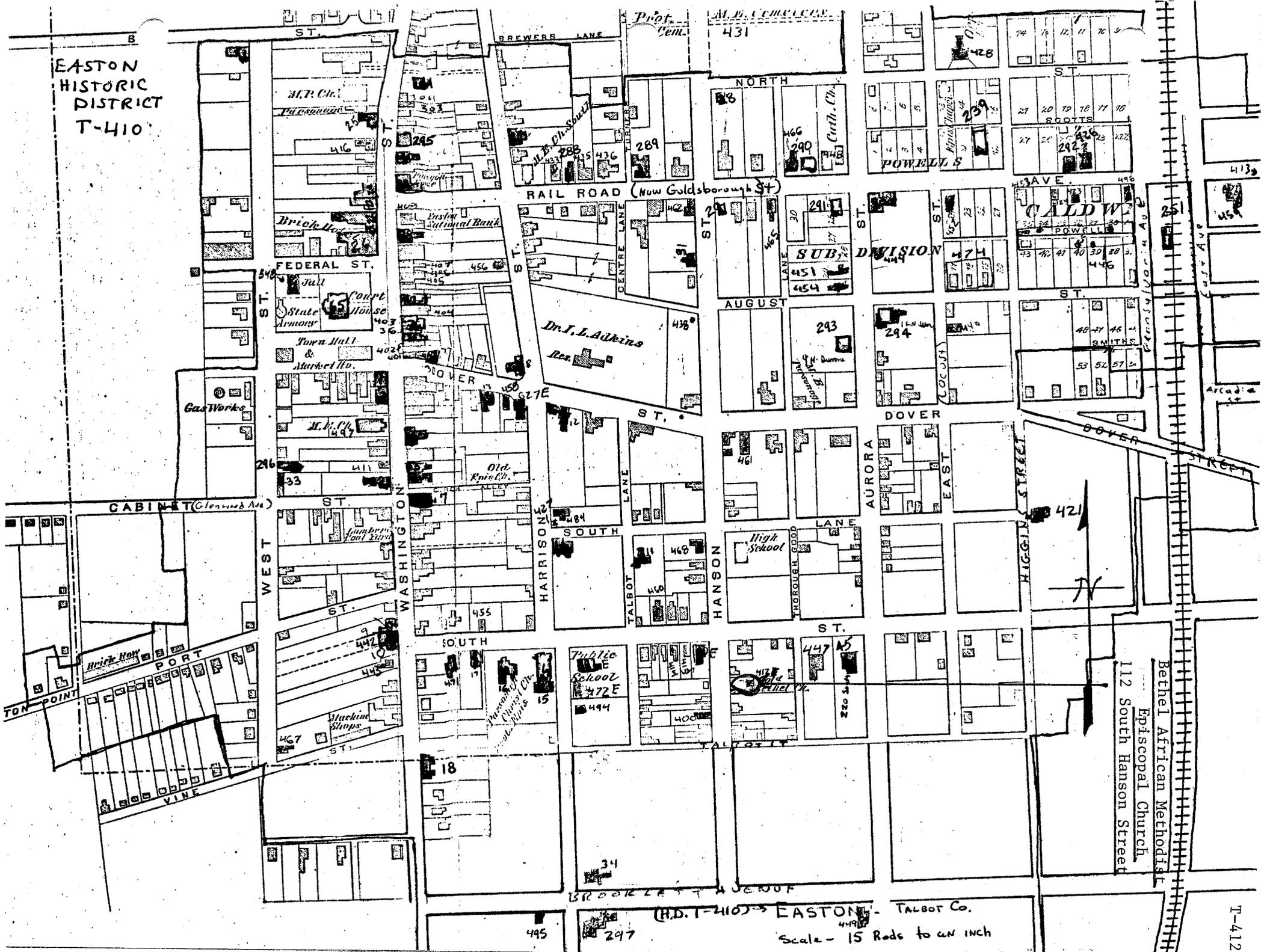
# Easement

T-412  
Talbot ~~-479~~  
Bethel A.M.E. Church  
Hanson St.  
Easton, MD 21601

T-412  
1877

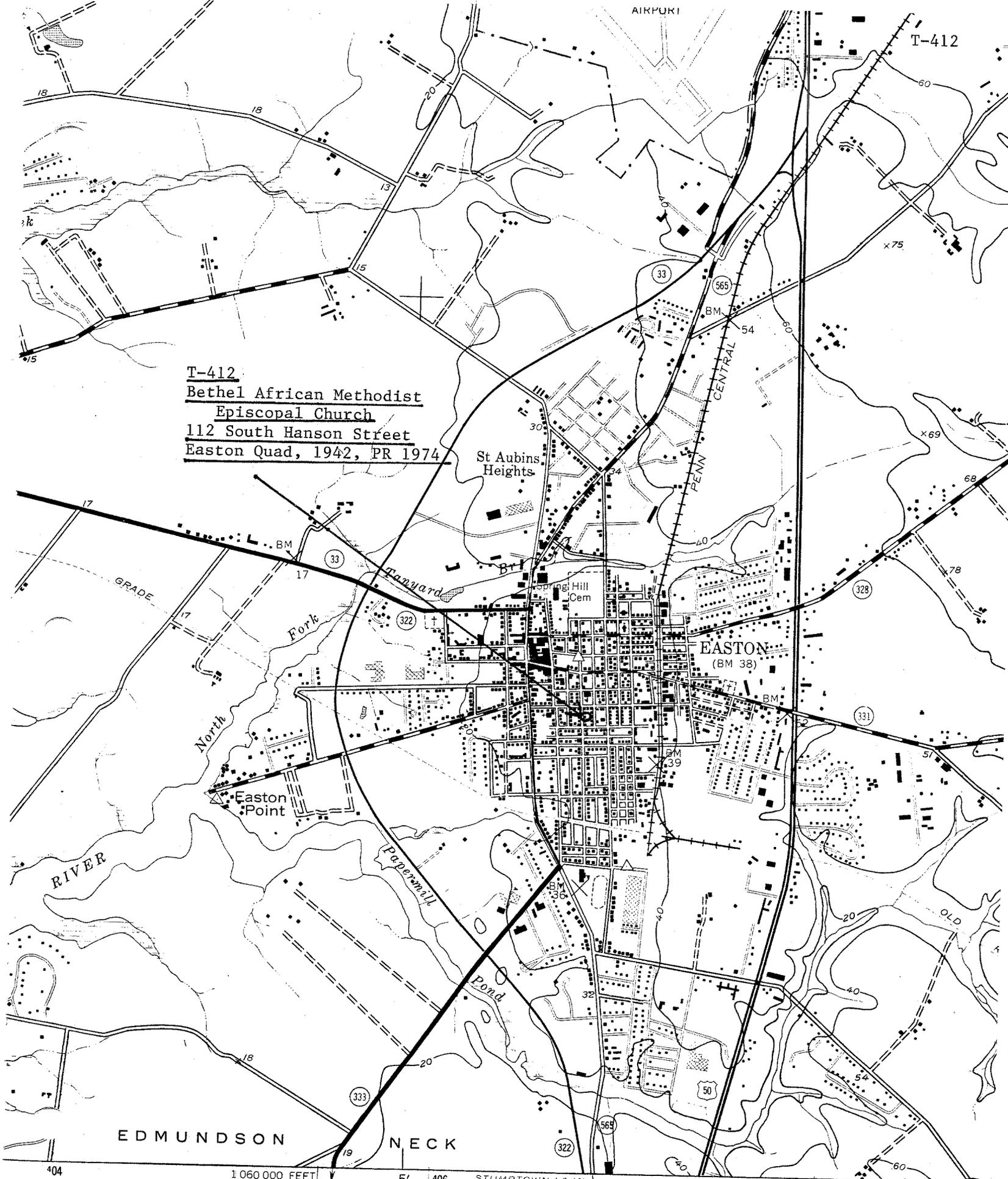
Bethel A.M.E. Church is on the east side of Hanson Street in the Historic District of Easton. The building faces west. It is a brick structure. Bethel is the oldest African Methodist Episcopal Church in Easton and may be the oldest A.M.E. congregation in Talbot County. This rather magnificent structure which dates from 1877 shows the amazing solidarity of the black population in this area in that era. This congregation which is 103 years old is still quite large and influential.

**EASTON HISTORIC DISTRICT T-410**



(H.D. T-410) → EASTON - Talbot Co.  
 Scale - 15 Rods to an inch

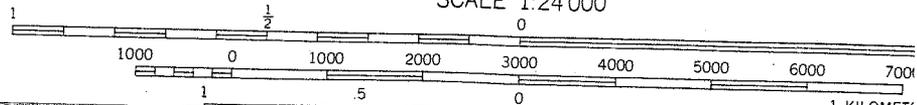
T-412  
Bethel African Methodist  
Episcopal Church  
112 South Hanson Street  
Easton Quad, 1942, PR 1974



EDMUNDSON NECK

OXFORD 8 MI. STUMPTOWN 18 MI. TRAPPE 6.7 MI. (TRAPPE) 5761 11 NE

SCALE 1:24 000



vey  
metric methods



-13 x 1.90

52% 412

BETHUEL CHURCH  
112 So HANSON  
EASTON, MD.

T-412

WEST FACADE  
July 1976

M FRITZ

F. R. VERNON - WILLIAMS, JR.  
510 DIAMOND STREET  
EASTON, MARYLAND 21601



Bethel A.M.E. Church  
Easton, Talbot County, Maryland  
Michael Hosford

T-412  
~~T-479~~

Maryland Historical Trust, Annapolis, MD  
Southwest elevation  
1/79



Bethel A.M.E. Church  
Easton, Talbot County, Maryland  
Michael Hosford

T-412  
~~T-479~~

Maryland Historical Trust, Annapolis, MD  
West elevation  
1/79