

ST. JAMES METHODIST PROTESTANT CHURCH
Chestertown, Maryland
(1853)

St. James is one of several Methodist Protestant Churches constructed during the middle of the 19th century in the Upper Eastern Shore. That branch of the present United Methodist Church was characterized by independent, self-governed local churches, and was centered in Maryland. St. James was an early and vigorous congregation, as its building will attest.

Architecturally the structure typifies small churches constructed in the Gothic Revival Style. Its emphasis on verticality and its use of lancet-arch openings and other Gothic motifs, are common characteristics of the period.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST K - 234

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC ST. JAMES METHODIST PROTESTANT CHURCH

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

East side St. James-Newtown Road at Junction
with road to Smithville

1st

CITY, TOWN

Fairlee

 VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Kent

STATE

Chestertown, Maryland 21620

COUNTY

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 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"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME St. James Methodist Protestant Church

Telephone #: 301-778-3498

STREET & NUMBER

c/o Rev. Dieter M. Bender

CITY, TOWN

Chestertown

 VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21620

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Kent County Court House

Liber #: W H G 46

Folio #: 124

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Chestertown, Maryland 21620

STATE

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Maryland Historical Trust, Survey of Kent County

DATE

1968

 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR

SURVEY RECORDS Maryland Historical Trust, The Shaw House, 21 State Circle

CITY, TOWN

Annapolis, MD 21401

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

K-234

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

St. James Church is located on a low hill near the bridge where St. James-
Newtown Road crosses Mill Creek. Across the road from the church is a five-bay central
gable farmhouse. Around the building are open fields.

The church building is very typical of the simple Gothic Revival Churches that dot
the Eastern Shore. It is a rectangular structure of brick three bays wide and three
bays in length. A tall square bell tower is engaged in the front facade and a three-
sided apse projects from the northeast wall behind the alter. A simple gable roof
covers the main part of the church with a hipped roof over the apse.

Window and door openings throughout the building are lancet shaped with a double
rowlock arches. Sacristy windows are double hung and have stained glass windows that
probably date from the early 20th century. A small window in the front of the bell
tower at the second story level is filled with a panel of stained glass as is the
lancet arch transom light above the main entry. This last window is particularly
handsome with yellow and purple-blue opalescent glass set in diamond shaped panes and
a scroll motif. The entry has a pair of five-panel doors and a decorated transom bar.
All window and door frames are 1" beads. The sills are project from the brick walls.

Brick pilasters are used to emphasize the corners of the building and the tower
which also has a brick projection at the cornice level. Small buttresses has also been
added to the sides of the structure, between the window bays.

The most ornamental feature of the building is the top of the bell tower. A
wooden structure, it as a pair of louvered lancet arch openings in each facade, pilaster-
like panels at the corners, and rosette modillions between the arch heads.
Surmounting the tower is a slender pyramidal roof with flaring eaves, topped with a
cast iron finial.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

K-234

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 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 1853

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Methodist Protestant Church

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

St. James is one of several Methodist Protestant Churches constructed during the middle of the 19th century in the Upper Eastern Shore. That branch of the present United Methodist Church was characterized by independent, self-governed local churches, and was centered in Maryland. St. James was an early and vigorous congregation, as its building will attest.

Architecturally the structure typifies small churches constructed in the Gothic Revival Style. Its emphasis on verticality and its use of lancet-arch openings and other Gothic motifs, are common characteristics of the period. There is a remarkable resemblance between this building and the Kennedyville Methodist Church, (K-371) a smaller and later structure built by a congregation St. James sponsored.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

K-234

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

Marsha L. Fritz, Survey Consultant

ORGANIZATION

Kent County Planning Commission

DATE

778-4600, ext.67

STREET & NUMBER

Court House

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Chestertown, Maryland 21620

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

Like the Kennedyville Methodist Church (K-371), St. James has a square false plate which projects at the gables. The rafters of both churches also project and have shaped ends.

St. James Church yard with graves dating from the 1850's is located behind and beside the building. A new one-story addition has been constructed east of the old structure.

1. STATE Md
 COUNTY Kent
 TOWN Chestertown VICINITY Hemesville
 STREET NO.
 ORIGINAL OWNER
 ORIGINAL USE Religious
 PRESENT OWNER St. James M.P. Church
 PRESENT USE Religious
 WALL CONSTRUCTION Brick
 NO. OF STORIES 1

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
 INVENTORY K-234
 2. NAME St. James Methodist Protestant Church
 DATE OR PERIOD 1853 - 1902
 STYLE Gothic Revival
 ARCHITECT
 BUILDER

3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE

4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION OPEN TO PUBLIC yes
 St. James Church is a small brick chapel built in 1853 in the Gothic taste. It is 3 bays wide & 3 bays deep and is covered with a steep 'A' roof of slate. At the corners and between the side windows are pilaster strips. The latter have had buttresses added for support of the walls. ~~There is~~ there is a square tower which contains the central double door. All windows have lancet arches & stained glass. At the corners of the tower are buttresses and at the top 3 rows of dog tooth brick work. The tower is crowned with a square finial from bell tower & lancet gables - each side, and a short spire with 2 pitches to the roof with a ball & crown atop the apex.

Adjacent the ~~church~~ church is a new building for church functions



5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE Endangered NO Interior Exterior good



6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional)

7. PHOTOGRAPH

8. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Pages) INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC.

9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER
Michael Bourne
 DATE OF RECORD Oct 1, 1968

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION AND PHOTOGRAPHS MAY BE ADDED ON SHEET OF SAME SIZE

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Adjacent to the church is new building for church activities.

K-234





K-234

St. James Church
Southwest Facade

Fairlee, Kent County

M.L. Fritz

1/1980

J. Tyler Campbell
FREE-LANCE PHOTOGRAPHER
CHESTERTOWN, MARYLAND

JAN 15 1980