

STILL POND METHODIST CHURCH  
Still Pond, Maryland  
(1853, 1882)

K-434

The Still Pond Methodist Church is located on the north side of Route 566 just west of the town. The building is situated on a slight hill, facing south. West of the building is a church yard with tombstones dating to the 1830's. The building is brick, with the principal floor above a high basement. In the gable is a tall steeple with an elaborate wooden belfry. Behind the altar on the gable is a hipped-roof projection with side windows to light the back of the altar.

Colored glass in the church is decorated by the 19th century "English stencil" technique. A geometric pattern was painted on colored glass using a stencil; the glass was then refired, fusing the paint to the glass.

About one mile west of this church once stood the farmhouse of John Randall, where Bishop Asbury, the first American Methodist Bishop, preached on December 9, 1772.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

STILL POND METHODIST CHURCH

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

Route 566, west of Still Pond

CITY, TOWN

Still Pond

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

1st

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Maryland

Kent

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	<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

Still Pond Methodist Church

Telephone #: 301-348-5909

STREET & NUMBER

c/o Thomas C. Short, Pastor

CITY, TOWN

Still Pond

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21667

**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

K-434

<b>CONDITION</b>		<b>CHECK ONE</b>	<b>CHECK ONE</b>
<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED 1881	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Still Pond Methodist Church is located on the north side of Route 566 just west of the town. The building is situated on a slight hill, facing south west of the building is a church yard with tombstones dating to the 1830's.

The building is brick, with the principal floor above a high basement. In the gable is a tall steeple with an elaborate wooden belfry. Behind the altar on the gable is a hipped-roof projection with side windows to light the back of the altar.

The body of the structure is a rectangle, 4 bays long and two bays wide. It has a shallow gable roof with a wide overhang. In each side bay and flanking the steeple are lancet arch windows filled with colored glass. Similiar windows are used in the side bays of the building. Each lancet window has a small basement window beneath it. There is also a lancet-arch transom and a Star of David round window above the main ent Frames are the 1" bead-type and sills are granite.

The colored glass, used in all lancet arch windows, in the round window, and in the front basement windows, is decorated by the "English stencil" technique. A geometric pattern is painted on colored glass using a stencil; the glass is then refired, fusing the "paint" to the glass. In the basement rooms, interior doors are glazed either with rolled or glass sandblast with a small-scale geometric design. All three of these types of decorative glass were popular in the Victorian period.

The brick walls are laid in running bond with tight mortar joints. Decorative recessing is used in the front window bays and in the steeple. Corners of the steeple have small buttresses. The sides and rear are made of common brick.

The wooden belfry has a steep pyramidal roof with flaring eaves and a cast iron finial. In each facade are lancet arch openings that are filled with decorative wooden sawn work and covered with a steep gable roof.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

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# 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 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, 1882

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Still Pond Methodist Church

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Still Pond Methodist Church is a fine example of the small, rural churches constructed throughout the Shore after the 1850's. Its brick work, windows, and wooden detailing are outstanding.

A brief history prepared by members of the church is attached.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

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**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

Description #7, K-434

2.

The interior is very simple--plaster walls, dark trim , and a vaulted ceiling. The alter is set behind a Gothic arch opening.

STILL POND METHODISM

Still Pond United Methodist Church, rich in heritage, is known to be among the oldest in the state. It is the oldest continuous preaching place of organized Methodism in the Far South Atlantic Conference. The year of its founding is set at 1772 since on December 9 of that year Bishop Astory preached at the farm of John Randel, and it was on land from this farm that the first church building was erected in Still Pond. Bishop Astory later preached in this building in 1788, as recorded in his *Journals*. Although we have no record of the building date for this first church, it was evidently some time during the sixteen years between 1772 and 1788.

This old frame church was replaced by a one-room brick church in 1820. In the deed to this building the church was renamed the Still Pond Meeting House of the Methodist Episcopal Church of America. This small church soon became inadequate for the growing congregation, so a new brick church was built in 1853. This is the same structure that stands today. In 1882 the church was extensively remodeled to its present form of architecture. Further renovations occurred in 1912 and 1940, and many other improvements have been made in recent years.

Until 1865, Still Pond was a member of the Kent Circuit, but in that year the people in the church obtained a minister of their own. Their first minister, the Rev. E. Miller, was appointed by the Wilmington Conference in 1865 to serve the newly created station. The pastors at Still Pond from 1872 to 1902 also served the Chapel at Betterton. From 1902 to 1906, Betterton was a separate station, but in 1907 Betterton and Still Pond Methodist Episcopal Churches rejoined in one charge. In 1939 the two churches became members of the newly created Methodist Church. In 1955 Lynch Methodist Church joined the Charge which remains today as the Still Pond - Betterton - Lynch United Methodist Church.

Still Pond United Methodist Church stands today as a rural parish faithfully serving the community which has fostered its growth for the last two hundred years. The following is a list of the ministers who have served Still Pond since it first appeared as an appointment:

1865	E. Miller	1909-11	J. H. Beauchamp	1951-3	Daniel G. Higgins
1866-7	A. Howard	1912-14	F. X. Moore	1954	Richard H. Bready
1868	H. S. Thompson	1915-7	R. P. Nichols	1955	Reginald H. Wheatley
1870-1	A. A. Brindle	1918-9	A. W. Goodhand	1956-7	Robert S. Hodgson
1872-4	J. H. Caldwell	1920-2	Trighman Smith	1958-9	W. M. Hankins
1875-6	W. B. Gregg	1923-5	E. M. Shockley	1960-1	R. H. Payne, Jr.
1877-8	E. B. Newman	1926-8	C. W. Clark	1962-5	Wm. Tulip
1879-81	J. B. Merritt	1929	W. D. Short	1966-8	Nelson E. Benjamin
1882-4	L. E. Barrett	1930-1	J. C. B. Hopkins	1969-71	Douglas M. Ridley
1885-7	E. C. MacNichol	1932-3	J. T. Price	1972	Charles A. Maloney
1888-90	J. D. Rigg	1934-5	W. V. Moore	1973-4	August B. Twigg
1891-4	J. D. Kemp	1936-8	Raymond W. Hallman	1975-6	D'Arcy A. Littleton
1895-7	E. H. Nelson	1939-40	Charles E. Davis	1976	Louis A. Martin
1898-00	E. P. Roberts	1941-3	Harvey B. Flater		
1901-4	T. F. Beauchamp	1944	L. E. Morgan		
1905-6	T. S. Holt	1945-7	Harry H. Conner		
1907-8	E. H. Collins	1948-50	John S. Smith		

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Still Pond Methodist Church

view to North

Still Pond

Kent County

M.L. Fritz

7/1980

MAY 21 1980

FREELANCE PHOTOGRAPHY  
CHESTER TOWN, MARYLAND

*J. Tyler Campbell*