

QA-91

Bridgetown Methodist Church  
Bridgetown vicinity

late 19th century

The Bridgetown Methodist Church is a small brick chapel largely rebuilt in the late 19th century using the foundation and lower walls of a church believed to have been constructed in 1773. The decorative brick pilasters and corbeled gable cornice are a result of the Victorian rebuilding, while portions of the surviving 18th century brickwork are laid in all-header bond, a bonding pattern found in only three other buildings in Queen Anne's County.

## MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Bridgetown Methodist Church

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Northeast corner of Route 304 and the Bridgetown-Ingleside Road

CITY, TOWN

Bridgetown

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

 VICINITY OF

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Queen Anne's

**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

Telephone #:

STREET &amp; NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Liber #:

Folio #:

STREET &amp; NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

 FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

QA-91

**7 DESCRIPTION**

<b>CONDITION</b>		<b>CHECK ONE</b>		<b>CHECK ONE</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED	DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED			
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED				

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Bridgetown Methodist Church is a small, one story, temple-form church located on the northeast corner of the Bridgetown-Ingleside Road and Maryland Route 304.

This church has a very long history, and the present building has been through a number of rebuildings and renovations. The present appearance of the church dates almost entirely to a late nineteenth century rebuilding. Some traces do remain, however, of an earlier church probably constructed in 1773.

The center section of the front and rear walls, extending up six to eight feet above ground level, are all that remains of the earlier church. On the front wall, this consists of very fine all-header bond brickwork laid on an English bond foundation, with a watertable consisting of two corbeled courses laid in English bond. On the rear wall, all brickwork is English bond, both above and below the watertable. This early work is very limited, however, and does not even extend to the corners of the present building. It is assumed that the present building does conform in size

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 7.1 DESCRIPTION

to the earlier structure.

Although the building evidently was in a ruinous condition by the 1880's, the walls were probably still standing, as much of the present building has been built re-using the eighteenth century brick. This was laid in common bond, and extends up to within about two feet of the cornice. At this point the old brick gave out, and the work was carried on using the light, salmon-colored brick typical of the late nineteenth century, still laid in common bond. Apparently supplies of this brick were also limited, as the upper gable of the rear wall is laid up in yet another brick, of slightly different proportions, and yellow in color. This incredible mixture of bonding patterns, brick types, and colors suggests that the church was intended to be painted from the start. A brochure published by the church mentions that the exterior of the church was painted at least three times since 1944. In recent years, the building has been sandblasted, re-exposing the wild mixture of brickwork previously disguised by paint.

If the mixture of brick type and bonding seems haphazard, the brickwork itself is quite nice. The

## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 7.2 DESCRIPTION

south gable has a recessed panel above the first floor, highlighted by short pilasters at each corner and corbelled brick "icicles" following the gable eave. The large center door on the first floor has a single row of projecting headers laid in a flat, soldier-course arch, and the double corbel-course watertable is carried completely around the building. The rear gable has a recessed panel, but no decorative work. There is a small, shed roof chancel projecting from the center of the north gable, behind the altar. Light is provided to the chancel through a single four-over-four window on each side wall, light for the nave is provided by a pair of tall, narrow six-over-six windows on each side wall and two four-over-four windows in the upper gable of the south wall.

A pair of brick stove chimneys have been added, one chimney centered on each side wall.

The interior of the church consists of a single large nave with a very small altar area separated by a low communion rail. The interior of the church was completely renovated in 1954.

**8 SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
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 checked="" 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		

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SPECIFIC DATES BUILDER/ARCHITECT

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

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A brief history of the church published in 1967 traces its origins to 1640, when a log chapel was constructed for the Church of England. In 1768 authorization was given to construct a new chapel, and this was completed in 1773, at a cost of 1,075 pounds of Pennsylvania current money. During the Revolution, the church was confiscated and turned over to the Presbyterians. Shortly

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

CONTINUATION SHEET

8.1 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

thereafter it was given to the Methodists and has remained in their possession ever since.

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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

Orlando Ridout V, Historic Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Queen Anne's County Historical Society

DATE

7/18/78

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Centreville

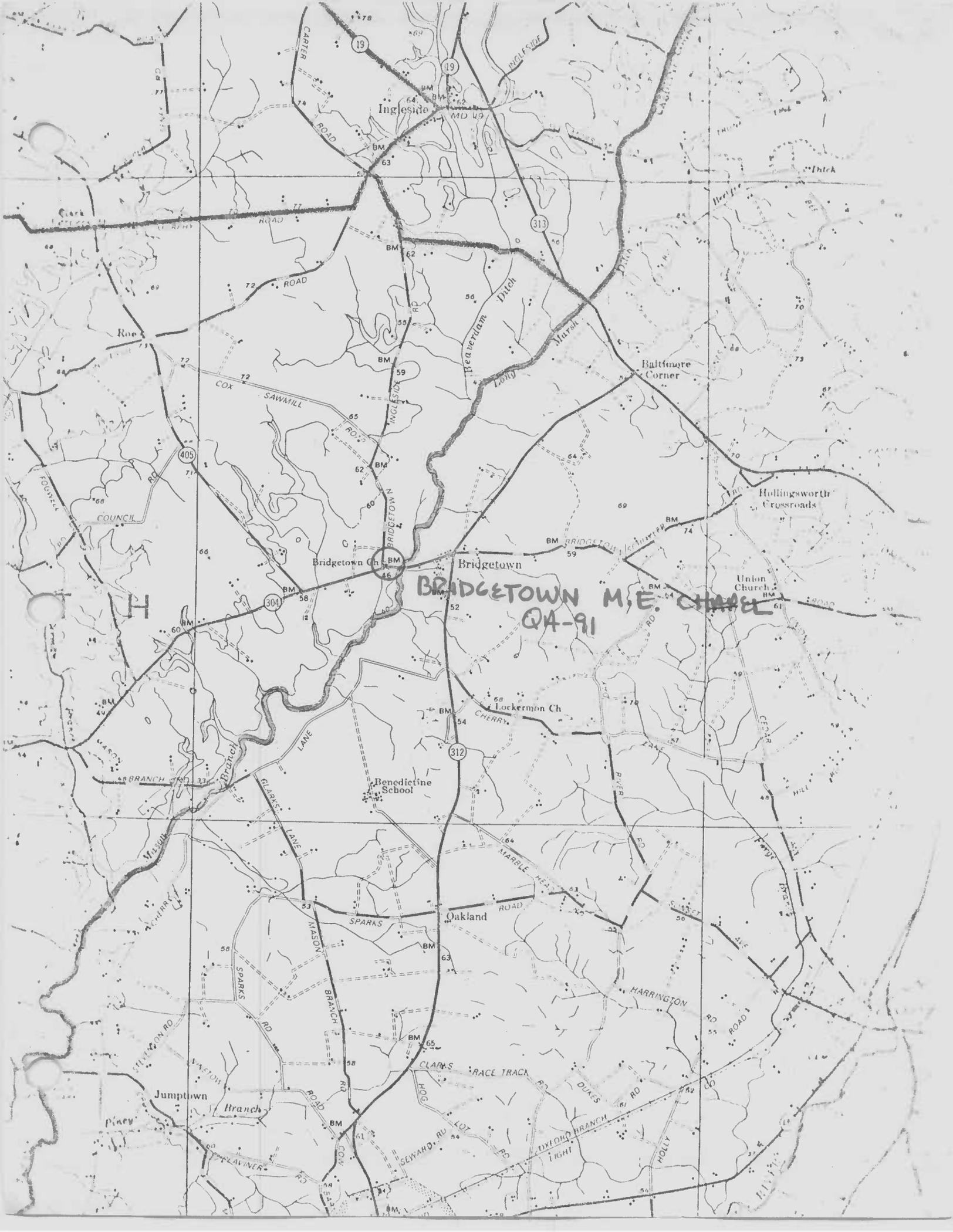
STATE

Maryland 21617

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



Ingleside

Bridgetown Ch

Bridgetown

BRIDGETOWN M.E. CHAPEL  
Q4-91

Benedictine School

Oakland

Jumptown Branch

Baltimore Corner

Hollingsworth Crossroads

Union Church

Lockermón Ch

RACE TRACK

HARRINGTON

OXFORD BRANCH

QA-91  
Bridgetown Methodist  
Church

Mary McCarthy  
Spring/Summer 2003  
Digital color photo on file at MHT





QA-91 Bridge town ME Chapel  
ORV 1978



QA-91 Budgetown ME Chapel  
OR V 1978