

QA-367
Asbury Church
Starr
private

1860-61

Asbury Methodist Church, Starr, is a good example of the Greek Revival style found in many Methodist chapels throughout the Eastern Shore. It is one of two Queen Anne's County chapels to have a separate entrance for the gallery, for use by the slaves.

That entrance did not see much use, for the chapel was finished in 1861, only four years prior to the Emancipation Proclamation. It is somewhat ironic that the chapel is now owned by the black congregation of the United Methodist Church.

Prior to its acquisition by the black congregation in 1961, the chapel was used by the white Methodists of this area. From the 1770's to the 1960's, Methodist meetings were held at Starr (formerly Hall's Cross Roads).

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Asbury Church

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

RT#309, .2 miles southeast of Starr crossroad

CITY, TOWN

Starr

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

1st

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Queen Anne's

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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable | <input type="checkbox"/> NO | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER |

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Trustees of Richard Asbury U.M. Church

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Centreville

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21617

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC

Queen Anne's County Courthouse

Liber #: TSP 63

Folio #: 318

STREET & NUMBER

Courthouse Square

CITY, TOWN

Centreville

STATE

Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

GA-567

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

In a grove of oak trees southeast of the crossroad village of Starr stands Asbury Church, a large frame meeting house. Its gable facade has a central entrance with double doors (recent replacements) flanked by two tall windows with 9/9 sash. Above the doors, which are shorter than the original, is a plain architrave with dentil blocks. Above the latter is a 3-part window with 9/6 sash in center and 3/2 pane flanking windows. In the gable itself is a louvered lunette.

Both sides have three windows with 9/9 sash. There is a full foundation of brick, which breaks out at the corners to form a base for the tall corner pilasters. Like the front, the sides and back are covered with white asbestos siding. On the northern end of the east side is a small door whose sill is even with the window sills.

As would be expected of a Methodist meeting house, there is also a small altar projection on the south gable lighted from the narrow sides with 6/4 sash windows.

Behind the building is a smaller parish hall and two outhouses.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

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 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

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Asbury Methodist Church, Starr, is a good example of the late Greek Revival style found in several Methodist Meeting Houses on the Eastern Shore. It is one of two meeting houses in Queen Anne's County to have a separate entrance to the gallery from outside. This entrance was built so that slaves could have access to the church gallery, according to Mr. Elwood Hawkins of the Asbury Church. (The other church is at Burrsville).

The church was built by the white congregation of Methodists in 1860-61 at what was then called Hall's Cross Roads. This congregation had meetings as early as the 1770's. It is uncertain when or where the first meeting house was constructed, but in 1865 the earlier building and lot was authorized to be sold to the colored congregation.

This church served the white congregation of Methodists for one hundred years, but due to a

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

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9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Covington, Charles E., "History of Starr Methodist Church",
prepared for 188th Anniversary, October 22, 1961.

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

Michael O. Bourne, Historic Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Queen Anne's County Historical Society

DATE

8/8/83

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Centreville

STATE

Maryland

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

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.1 DESCRIPTION

The interior of the church is composed of an entry beneath a gallery flanked by two enclosed areas. The latter two closet-like structures contain the robing room, or sacristy, on the right and a stair to the gallery on the left. (At the first landing of the stair is the high door on the side. This was built so slaves could ascend directly from the wagon to the gallery). Between the two are two chamfered posts supporting the gallery.

The body of this church is very plain, with three large windows on each side and an elevated platform in the center of the back wall. Around the recessed area is an architrave, like the exterior. The faces of the platform, the lectern and gallery all have recessed panels with applied molding. In front of the platform is a curved communion rail. Behind the lectern are three chairs with gothic arched backs.

In the right corner is a piano and two pews. The pews in the center of the church are divided with a vertical beaded board partition and the ends of the pews are curved. The majority of the pews are grained. (The pew arrangement is similar to St. Paul's Church Kent.)

The church is heated by space heaters on each side, the chimneys being located north of the center windows.

CONTINUATION SHEET

8.1 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

dwindling congregation, the church and grounds were conveyed to the Colored Methodist Church of Starr in 1961. From that time til the present the church has been known as Asbury Methodist Church.

When this church was taken over in 1961, the black people left a smaller chapel north of this church. It remains in a field in a state of disrepair.

The old church has a white limestone corner stone, but the inscription and date are illegible. Judging from the woodwork and use of multi-pane sash around a single pane as well as a multi-pane sash over the entrance, it was probably built between 1896-1915. It was constructed on a brick foundation and is three bays deep. It is smaller and plainer than the present church.

In 1929, the white congregation purchased the old Greenville School House and moved it to the grove where it was repaired and a kitchen was added. It serves as a church house.

QA-367
Asbury Church

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





QA-367 Asbury Methodist Church
Starr, Maryland
Orlando Ridout V 1981
Front facade from East



QA-367 Asbury Methodist Church
Starr, Maryland
Orlando Ridout V 1981
Parish Hall, from East



QA-367 Asbury Methodist Church
Starr, Maryland
Orlando Ridout V 1981
View from Northwest