

WI-284
Asbury United Methodist Church
Nanticoke
Public worship

1924

Secluded on a quiet side street and shaded by mature hardwoods, the Asbury United Methodist Church is a prominent architectural and historical landmark in the African-American district of the village of Nanticoke. The impressive single-story tee-shaped frame church is supported by a raised concrete block foundation that gives the tall, gable-roofed structure added presence. Fixed in the southeast corner of the concrete block foundation is a polished granite datestone that documents the year of construction in 1924 and the pastor at the time, Reverend C. B. Miles. The Methodist Episcopal congregation financed a sizable tee-shaped frame church with a pair of corner entrance towers filling the inside corners of the tee. The gable front wall of the church are distinguished by a generous number of colored glass windows. The center windows are topped by a round arched window of colored glass as well.

The Asbury church is a prominent fixture in this largely black district of the village of Nanticoke, which developed primarily between 1880 and 1920, the years of the most significant oyster harvests on Tangier South and Chesapeake Bay tributaries.

MARYLAND HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN INFORMATION

RESOURCE NAME: Asbury United Methodist Church

MHT INVENTORY NUMBER: WI-284

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN DATA

1. Historic Period Theme(s): Architecture
 Religion

2. Geographic Orientation: Eastern Shore

3. Chronological/Development Period(s): Industrial/Urban Dominance
 1870-1930

4. Resource Type(s): Church

7. Description

Survey No. WI-284

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Asbury United Methodist Church is located on the southwest corner of the intersection of Hickman Lane and Nutter Road in the community of Nanticoke, Wicomico County, Maryland. The large single-story frame church faces east with the principal gable roof oriented on a north/south axis.

Built in 1924, the large tee-shaped main block is supported on a raised rusticated concrete block foundation, and the exterior is sheathed with a layer of asbestos shingles. The steeply pitched gable roof is covered with asphalt shingles. Attached to the back of the main block is a single story, hip roofed section.

The east (main) facade is dominated by the large gable-front elevation of the gable-front facade, which is flanked by two-story entrance towers that fill the inside corners. The rusticated concrete block foundation has reddish pink mortar, and a polished granite datestone is fixed in the southeast corner. The stone is inscribed "Asbury M. E. Church, Erected 1924, Rev. C. B. Miles, Pastor." Piercing the gable front wall is a series of colored glass windows. The center window is executed in a tripartite composition with a round arch colored glass panel above. Single width window openings with segmental arched are located to each side. Fixed in the upper gable is a round arched louvered vent. The edge of the roof is finished with an extended eave, exposed rafter ends and simple brackets the mark the bottom corners of the roof. Located on the south and north side of the tee are two-story towers with double door entrances topped by round arched colored glass transoms. The second floor of each tower is defined by round arched windows with clear glass panes. The top of the southeast tower is finished with low, square-topped, corner finials and a sloping gable parapet between.

The north side is a gabled elevation with a center round arched colored glass window flanked by single-pane sash of colored glass. Rectangular three-pane windows pierce the foundation wall. The gable end is finished with an extended eave and open soffits. Marking the upper wall surfaces is a round arched louvered vent. The south gable end is finished in a similar fashion.

The west (rear) wall of the main block is largely covered by a single-story hip roofed section that was built at the same time as the tee-shaped main block. The west side of this section is defined by a series of small paired or single colored glass windows. A single-flue brick chimney rises through the roof.

The interior was not seen.

8. Significance

Survey No. WI-284

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 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		

Specific dates	1924	Builder/Architect
check: Applicable Criteria:	<input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D	
and/or		
Applicable Exception:	<input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> G	
Level of Significance:	<input type="checkbox"/> national <input type="checkbox"/> state <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> local	

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Secluded on a quiet side street and shaded by mature hardwoods, the Asbury United Methodist Church is a prominent architectural and historical landmark in the African-American district of the village of Nanticoke. The impressive single-story tee-shaped frame church is supported by a raised concrete block foundation that gives the tall, gable-roofed structure added presence. Fixed in the southeast corner of the concrete block foundation is a polished granite datestone that documents the year of construction in 1924 and the pastor at the time, Reverend C. B. Miles. The Methodist Episcopal congregation financed a sizable tee-shaped frame church with a pair of corner entrance towers filling the inside corners of the tee. The gable front wall of the church are distinguished by a generous number of colored glass windows. The center windows are topped by a round arched window of colored glass as well.

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The church qualifies for listing in *Category B*.

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A [][] [][][][] [][][][][]
Zone Easting Northing

B [][] [][][][] [][][][][]
Zone Easting Northing

C [][] [][][][] [][][][][]

D [][] [][][][] [][][][][]

E [][] [][][][] [][][][][]

F [][] [][][][] [][][][][]

G [][] [][][][] [][][][][]

H [][] [][][][] [][][][][]

Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Paul B. Touart, Architectural Historian
organization Private Consultant date 7/16/96
street & number P. O. Box 5 telephone 410-651-1094
city or town Westover state Maryland 21871

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.

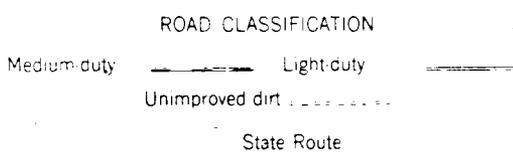
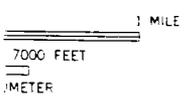
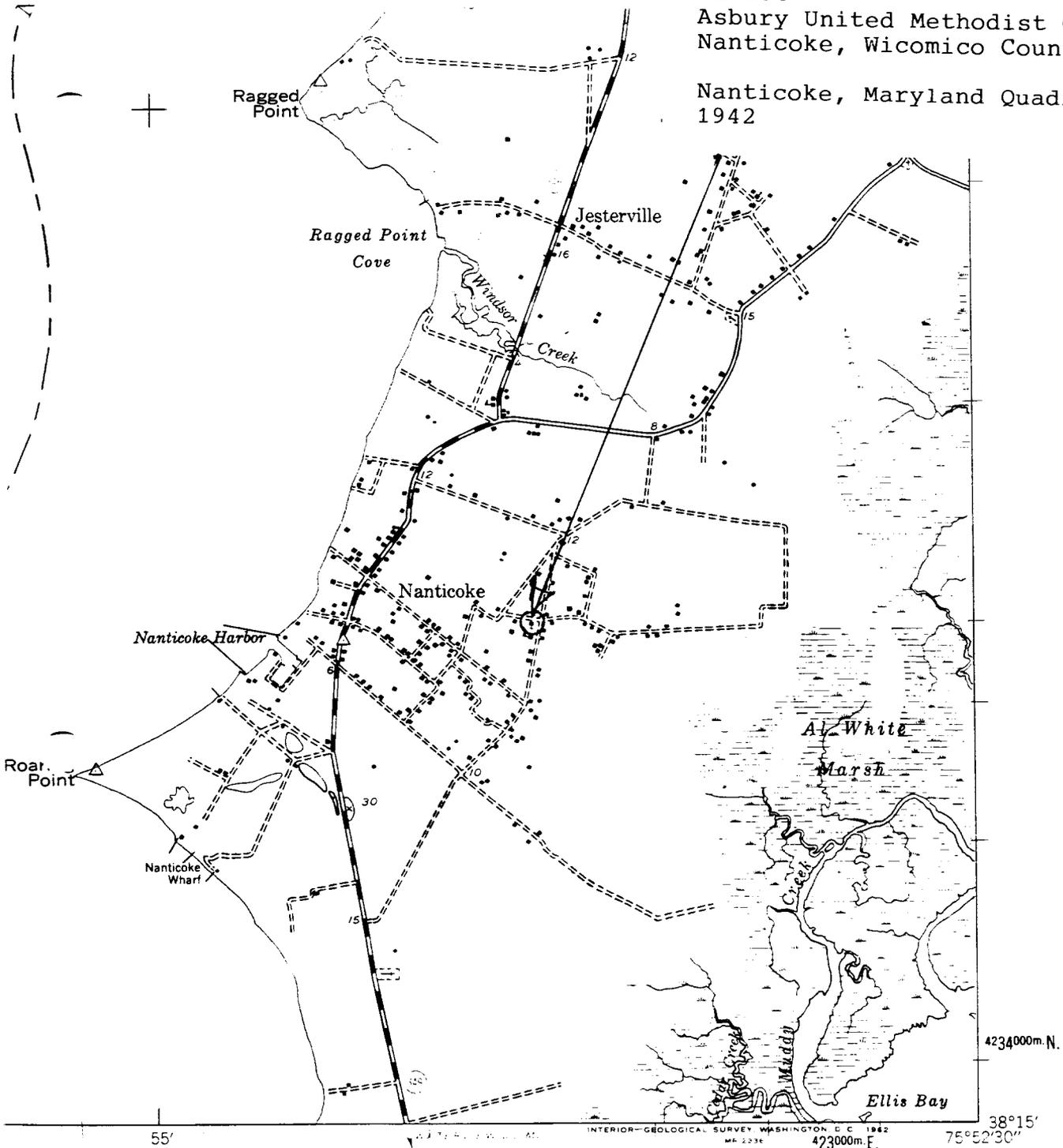
The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DHCP/DHCD
100 COMMUNITY PLACE
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023
514-7600

WI-284
 Asbury United Methodist Church
 Nanticoke, Wicomico County, Maryland

Nanticoke, Maryland Quadrangle
 1942



NANTICOKE, MD.
 SW/4 NANTICOKE 15' QUADRANGLE
 N3815—W7552.5/7.5

1942

QUEST

INTERIOR- GEOLOGICAL SURVEY WASHINGTON, D. C. 1942
 423000m. E. 38°15' 75°52'30" (MONIE)





W1-294

Asst. Dir. of the Bureau of Indian Affairs

Washington, D.C.

Subject: [illegible]

Re: [illegible]

[illegible]

