

WI-295
Bivalve United Methodist Church
Bivalve
Public worship

1886

Standing prominently on a sandy knoll of ground in the center of the river community known as Bivalve, this roughly shaped cross shaped church is one of the village's most distinct architecture landmarks. Dated to 1886 by a marble cornerstone, the single story frame church is distinguished by an asymmetrical design that combines Victorian Gothic steep pitched roofs with round arched colored glass windows typical of the early twentieth century. Rising in the southeast corner of the cross-shaped building is a two-story entrance and bell tower. Fixed atop the double door entrance is a round arched colored glass transom window. Along with the date, the marble cornerstone is inscribed, "Waltersville M. P. Church," which identifies the former name of the congregation as well as the original name of the river village.

MARYLAND HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN INFORMATION

RESOURCE NAME: Bivalve United Methodist Church

MHT INVENTORY NUMBER: WI-295

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

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. WI-295

Magi No.

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Waltersville Methodist Protestant Church

and/or common Bivalve United Methodist Church

2. Location

street & number North side of MD 349 ___ not for publication

city, town Bivalve ___ vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Wicomico

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input checked="" 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 (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Trustees of Bivalve United Methodist Church

street & number c/o of Reverend James Riley telephone no.:

city, town Bivalve state and zip code Maryland 21814

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Wicomico County Clerk of Court liber

street & number Wicomico County Courthouse folio

city, town Salisbury state MD 21801

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ___ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

pository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. WI-295

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
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date of move _____

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

The Bivalve United Methodist Church, historically known as the Waltersville Methodist Protestant Church, stands on a sandy knoll in the community of Bivalve, Wicomico County, Maryland. The church faces south with the principal gable roof oriented on a north/south axis.

Dated to 1886 by a marble cornerstone, the roughly cruciform frame church is supported on a stretcher bond brick foundation with a partially excavated cellar lighted by three-pane windows. The exterior is sheathed with vinyl siding, and the steeply pitched gable roofs with kicked eaves are covered with asphalt shingles. Rising in the southeast corner of the cross-shaped plan is a two-story entrance and bell tower.

The south elevation is an asymmetrical facade with a prominent gable front wall juxtaposed with the entrance tower. The gable front wall of the church is pierced by a large tripartite, round arched, colored glass window. The upper gable is pierced by a half-round window with pie-shaped panes. The extended eaves of the church are trimmed with a decorative sawn bargeboard, and the peak of the eave is finished with sawnwork as well. Fixed in the southwest corner of the front wall is the marble datestone inscribed, "Waltersville M. P. Church, 1886." The south face of the entrance tower is pierced by a double door entrance topped by a round arched colored glass transom. The squarish entrance tower is capped by a mid-level eave trimmed with decorative sawn fascia board. Above the eave, the entrance tower tapers with a narrow section of roof which supports the slightly smaller belfry. Each face of the belfry is pierced by a round arched opening fitted with a short section of turned balustrade. Rising atop the belfry is a pyramidal roof spire with four small gables trimmed with sawn bargeboard decoration. A metal weathervane topped by a ball finial is fixed to the top of the church spire.

The east side wing of the cross plan church is finished in the same fashion as the front with a decorative sawn bargeboard trimming the gable end. A tripartite round window of colored glass pierces the first floor and a round arch lunette window marks the upper gable end. The sides of the wing are pierced by long round arched colored glass lancet windows.

The rear wall of the church is a gable elevation with a tripartite colored glass window flanked by an adjacent single flue brick stove chimney. A small gable roofed entrance opens into the cellar.

The west side wing of the church is defined by a pair of double, round arched colored glass windows on the first floor and a lunette window is fixed in the upper gable end. The extended eave is trimmed with a decorative sawn bargeboard like the balance of the church.

The interior was not seen.

Surrounding the church on three sides is a nineteenth and twentieth century cemetery. The Walters family plot is framed by an iron fence.

8. Significance

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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 1886 **Builder/Architect**

check: Applicable Criteria: A B C D
 and/or
 Applicable Exception: A B C D E F G
 Level of Significance: national state local

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

Standing prominently on a sandy knoll of ground in the center of the river community known as Bivalve, this roughly shaped cross shaped church is one of the village's most distinct architecture landmarks. Dated to 1886 by a marble cornerstone, the single story frame church is distinguished by an asymmetrical design that combines Victorian Gothic steep pitched roofs with round arched colored glass windows typical of the early twentieth century. Rising in the southeast corner of the cross-shaped building is a two-story entrance and bell tower. Fixed atop the double door entrance is a round arched colored glass transom window. Along with the date, the marble cornerstone is inscribed, "Waltersville M. P. Church," which identifies the former name of the congregation as well as the original name of the river village.

The Bivalve United Methodist Church deserves listing in Category A, which identifies a building that must be retained due to its architectural and historical significance. The church retains a large share of its original features and it stands out in the community as one of its most distinctive buildings.

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WI-295
Bivalve United Methodist Church
Bivalve, Wicomico County, Maryland

Nanticoke, Maryland Quadrangle
1942









