

WO-371

1884

Pitts Creek Presbyterian Church
Pocomoke City
Public Worship

The Pocomoke City congregation of Pitts Creek Presbyterian church has worshipped in this finely built Gothic Revival brick church on Market Street since 1884 when it was built to replace the earlier 1844-1845 Greek Revival frame structure. Set in the foundation is the cornerstone that is inscribed, "Presbyterian Church, 1844-1884." Built of finely laid pressed brick, the cruciform shaped church is dominated by a three-story entrance and bell tower. Inside the Gothic Revival interior has been well maintained with original features including the exposed timber truss ceiling, beaded board wainscoting, period furniture, and lighting. This prominent brick church stands out in the center of Pocomoke City as one of its most architecturally distinguished buildings from the late nineteenth century.

The deed to the Market Street lot was executed on June 26, 1844, between James L. and Mary Ann Dickenson and a committee of the congregation consisting of Handy Mills, Stephen W. Hargis, Benjamin Aydelotte, John Jones, William Townsend, and James T. Dickenson of Worcester County and Oliver Logan, John Massey, and Thomas Slocumb of Accomac County, Virginia. The first town church was presumably erected within the following year.

HISTORIC CONTEXT INFORMATION

Resource Name: PITTS CREEK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, POCOMOKE CITY

MHT Inventory Number: WO-371

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA:

- 1) Historic Period Theme(s): ARCHITECTURE
RELIGION
- 2) Geographic Orientation: EASTERN SHORE
- 3) Chronological/Developmental Period(s):
INDUSTRIAL/URBAN DOMINANCE
1870-1930
- 4) Resource Type(s):
Church

7. Description

Survey No. WO-371

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 Pitts Creek Presbyterian Church of Pocomoke City stands on the east side of Market Street in the center of the river-front town. The cruciform shaped brick church faces east.

Erected in 1884, the Gothic Revival church follows a cruciform shape with a three-story entrance and bell tower rising in the southeast corner of the cross plan. Attached to the back of the main church is two-story brick and frame addition housing Sunday School and auxiliary rooms built during the early to mid twentieth centuries. The main church, built in finely laid stretcher bond pressed brick, is supported by a raised brick foundation defined by a molded watertable, and it is covered by a steeply pitched patterned slate roof.

The east (main) elevation is an asymmetrical facade with the entrance and bell tower rising adjacent to the large gable front wall of the cross-shaped church. The double-door entrance topped by a Gothic arched colored glass transom is framed by a splayed paneled door reveals under a short, projecting gable roof. The corners of the tower are braced by buttresses finished with stone weatherings. The second level of the tower is marked by three Gothic arched lancet windows. Above the second level the tower tapers in as it rises to an octagonal belfry and spire. Four sides of the belfry are defined by Gothic arched louvered vents, while the alternate sides are marked by Gothic arched panels. The tower above has a patterned slate sheathing, slightly kicked eaves, and a metal finial. The east elevation of the church is dominated by a large tripartite colored glass sanctuary window. Fixed in the upper gable is small Gothic arched window framed by a projecting eave decoration also executed in the Gothic style. Fixed in the northeast corner of the foundation is a datestone inscribed, "Presbyterian Church, 1844-1884."

The sides of the cruciform main block are similarly treated with large tripartite Gothic arched sanctuary windows and pointed eave decoration. The west side is primarily covered by the rear addition.

The interior has not been significantly altered since the late nineteenth century. Following the cruciform shape of the exterior, the sanctuary is cross shaped with pews arranged in three blocks oriented to the west side raised altar. A timber ceiling of Gothic arches spring from wall brackets. Beaded board wainscoting encircles the room, and period wall sconces remain fixed to the plaster walls.

8. Significance

Survey No. WO-371

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 1844, 1884 **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.

The Pocomoke City congregation of Pitts Creek Presbyterian church has worshipped in this finely built Gothic Revival brick church on Market Street since 1884 when it was built to replace the earlier 1844 Greek Revival frame structure. Set in the foundation is the cornerstone that is inscribed, "Presbyterian Church, 1844-1884." Built of finely laid pressed brick, the cruciform shaped church is dominated by a three-story entrance and bell tower. Inside the Gothic Revival interior has been well maintained with original features including the exposed timber truss ceiling, beaded board wainscoting, period furniture, and lighting. This prominent brick church stands out in the center of Pocomoke City as one of its most architecturally distinguished buildings from the late nineteenth century.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. W0-371

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

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 Zone Easting Northing

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 Zone Easting Northing

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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/Worcester County date 10/30/89

street & number P. O. Box 5 telephone 301-651-1094

city or town Westover state MD 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

WO-371
PITTS CREEK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Deed

GMH 7/415

James L. Dickenson
Mary Ann Dickenson

to

6/26/1844

Handy Mills, Stephen W. Hargis, Benjamin Aydelotte, John Jones, William Townsend, and James T. Dickenson of Worcester County and Oliver Logan, John Massey and Thomas Slocomb of Accomack County in the State of Virginia the committee of the Presbyterian congregation of Pitts Creek of the other part...Wootenunderidge...situated and lying in New Town...beginning at a stone at the East Corner of James T. Dickenson's lot whereon he now lives, thence by and with the street leading from Pocomoke River to Virginia...to the North corner of another lot belonging to said Dickenson, thence by and with said lot South...to a lot belonging to the heirs of Dr. John Stevenson...etc. for use of the Presbyterian congregation of Pitts Creek...

NEWTOWN BUSINESS REFERENCES.

J. H. WHITE, Constable.
Dr. S. B. QUINN, Physician.
W. T. FULL, Dealer in Foreign and Domestic Dry Goods, Groceries, Crockery, Hardware, Hats, Caps, Boots, Shoes, Drugs, Medicines, &c. Cheap for cash.
TWILLEY & BRO., (W. B. Twilley & S. J. Twilley,) Proprietors of Livery, Sale and Exchange Stables. Passengers conveyed to any part of the Peninsula. Stables connected with the Clark House.
JAMES L. NOCK, Magistrate.



NEWTOWN

(Worcester County)

NO-371

PITTS CREEK PRESBYTERIAN

CHURCH

1879 LACE, GRIFFIN AND STEVENSON ATLAS

