

D-759  
Williamsburg M. E. Church  
Williamsburg  
1889-90  
Private

One of the more distinctive historic structures that defines the village of Williamsburg is the former Williamsburg M. E. Church, which stands on the north side of MD Route 307. Built in 1889-90, the single-story Gothic Revival frame structure retains its basic tee-shaped plan that is highlighted on each elevation by narrow four-over-four, pointed arch sash windows and a round gable end window featuring a four-lobed cross common in Gothic iconography. The same four-lobed cross shape was featured in a cut-out design in the sawnwork trim the formerly embellished the eave of each gable end. The Williamsburg church design is very close to Church Plan No. 19A, which is illustrated in the Catalogue of Architectural Plans for Churches and Parsonages, published in 1889. The architect hired by the Board of Church Extension of the Methodist Episcopal conference was Benjamin D. Price. The only major difference between the published plan and that which was erected is the extreme height and needle shape of the spire, which is evident in a turn of the twentieth century image of the church.

The construction of a Methodist Episcopal church in the village of Williamsburg was instigated by a decision in 1888 to move the Washington Chapel, a fixture in northern Dorchester County since 1800-01, to Hurlock. Instead of traveling nearly the same distance to the new site in Hurlock, village residents in Williamsburg decided to erect their own church. In February 1889, brothers William M. and James E. Todd sold a ½-acre lot for \$50 to trustees, Minos Wright, James F. Wheatley, Eugene M. Todd, Greenburg T. Bell, and Louis M. Hill. The trustees apparently turned to the Methodist

Episcopal church conference when they wanted direction on the style of building to house the new congregation. Having produced a catalogue of designs for fourteen years by the time the 1889 issue was released, Methodist Bishop Warren wrote in the introduction:

*You can tell them at sight. As I go along the cars [railroad], and look out of the window, I see the churches in view here and there, and say, there is church architecture after plan No. 1, and there is church architecture after plan No. 5, etc. And so we come to recognize them scattered although the land.*

Whether Bishop Warren ever traveled on the Cambridge & Seaford branch of the Philadelphia, Wilmington, and Baltimore Railroad is not known, but he surely would have seen this church since it stands within a few hundred feet of the railroad right-of-way. Commenting on the optimism of the time, a short article written by a Williamsburg resident in May 1890 summarized recent activity in the village for the *Democrat and News*:

*Williamsburg is not dead, although some of our neighboring towns seem to think so. The improvements which have been made during the past six months certainly indicate that we have both energy and enterprise which are the main essentials anywhere.*

*After Washington Church was removed to Hurlock we had no place of worship, so we had to use the school house temporarily. Then the enterprising spirit of Williamsburg went to work, and now we have a church nearly completed, which certainly is an ornament to the place.*

Rather than travel to the newer town of Hurlock and their old church on a new site, the Methodist in an around Williamsburg competed with the older congregation for membership within the same region by erecting a new pattern-book style church in Gothic Revival taste. The congregation lasted a little over one hundred years until the dwindling membership was forced to sell the property during the 1990s. Ironically, the

trustees of the Unity-Washington United Methodist Church of Hurlock sold the property to the First Haitian Baptist Church in 1997.

# Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. D-759

## 1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Williamsburg M. E. Church

other "No More Walls" Worship Center, Temple of Love, First Haitian Baptist Church of Williamsburg

## 2. Location

street and number Williamsburg Road not for publication  
 city, town Williamsburg vicinity  
 county Dorchester

## 3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Brett R. and Brenda E. Latta  
 street and number 6731-2 Bailey Store Road telephone  
 city, town Federalsburg state MD zip code 21632

## 4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Dorchester County Clerk of Court liber MLB 568 folio 630  
 city, town Cambridge tax map 6 tax parcel 124 tax ID number 12-003854

## 5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- Contributing Resource in National Register District
- Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
- Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
- Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
- Recorded by HABS/HAER
- Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## 6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	Contributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	1
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input type="checkbox"/> domestic	<input type="checkbox"/> social	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	_____
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	1
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	_____
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	_____
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> other:	_____
				Total
				Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory
				_____

## 7. Description

Inventory No. D-759

### Condition

excellent       deteriorated  
 good             ruins  
 fair               altered

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

### SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

The former Williamsburg M. E. Church, recently known by a number of names including "No More Walls" Worship Center, Temple of Love, First Haitian Baptist Church of Williamsburg, stands in the center of the village on the northeast corner of Williamsburg Church Road and Williamsburg Road in Dorchester County, Maryland. The single-story tee-shaped frame church, erected in 1889, faces south. Supported on a low brick foundation, the exterior is clad with vinyl siding over plain weatherboards. The steeply pitched gable roofs are covered with asphalt shingles. An early twentieth century image of the church documents the size and configuration of the former entrance, belfry and steeple that accompanied the original design and rose in the southwest corner of the tee-plan.

### GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The old Williamsburg M. E. Church, now the "No More Walls" Worship Center and previously the First Haitian Baptist Church of Williamsburg, is located in the village of the same name in the center of the Williamsburg election district in Dorchester County, Maryland. The single-story, tee-shaped frame structure is supported on a low brick foundation, and the exterior is clad with vinyl siding. Formerly fixed in the southwest corner of the tee plan was an entrance and bell tower with a slender pyramidal shaped needle spire. The steeply pitched gable roofs are covered with asphalt shingles.

Built in 1889, the tee-shaped church has an asymmetrical south elevation with a two-bay gable front wall facing Williamsburg Road. Fixed in the southeast corner of the brick foundation is a marble datestone inscribed "Williamsburg M. E. Church, 1889." The gable front wall is pierced by a pair of pointed arch four-over-four sash windows filled with clear glass panes. Fixed in the upper gable end is a round window with a four-lobed cross muntin design. The extended eaves are sheathed with vinyl, however, the peak of the gable roof was originally embellished with a sawnwork decoration that incorporated the cloverleaf design as well. Fixed in the corner of the tee plan is a single-story modern entrance. Adjacent to the entrance is a single pointed arch four-over-four sash window that lights the west leg of the tee-plan church.

The east side of the church is defined by four pointed arch four-over-four sash windows fitted with clear glass panes. Built along the east side elevation is a handicapped ramp that leads to a modern door opening in the north end of the wall.

The north gable end is marked by a pair of pointed arch sanctuary windows and the upper gable is pierced by a round window fitted with a four-lobed cross muntin design like the south gable end.

Defining the west leg of the tee plan facing Williamsburg Church Road is a two-bay elevation with a pair of pointed arch four-over-four sash windows and a round window in the upper gable fitted with the

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same four-lobed cross muntin design. The eaves are extended and trimmed with vinyl. The interior was not seen.

## 8. Significance

Inventory No. D-759

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history	
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____	

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<b>Specific dates</b>	1889	<b>Architect/Builder</b>	Benjamin D. Price, Architect
<b>Construction dates</b>	1889-90		

Evaluation for:

National Register

Maryland Register

not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

### SUMMARY SIGNIFICANCE

One of the more distinctive historic structures that defines the village of Williamsburg is the former Williamsburg M. E. Church, which stands on the north side of MD Route 307. Built in 1889-90, the single-story Gothic Revival frame structure retains its basic tee-shaped plan that is highlighted on each elevation by narrow four-over-four pointed arch sash and a round window featuring a four-lobed cross common to Gothic iconography. The same four-lobed cross was a featured cut-out design in the sawnwork trim that formerly embellished the each gable end. The Williamsburg Church design is very close to that illustrated as Church Plan No. 19A in the Methodist Episcopal catalogue of Architectural Plans for Churches and Parsonages, published in 1889. The architect hired by the Board of Church Extension of the Methodist Episcopal church was Benjamin D. Price.<sup>1</sup> The only major difference between the published plan and that which was erected is the extreme height and needle shape of the spire, which was much more dramatic and visible from afar in the implemented design at Williamsburg when compared with the published plan.

### HISTORY AND SUPPORT

The construction of a Methodist Episcopal church in the village of Williamsburg was instigated by a decision in 1888 to move the Washington Chapel, a fixture in northern Dorchester County since 1800-01, to Hurlock. Instead of traveling nearly the same distance to the new site in Hurlock, village residents of Williamsburg decided to erect their own church. In February 1889, brothers William M. and James E. Todd sold a ½-acre lot for \$50 to trustees Minos Wright, James F. Wheatley, Eugene M. Todd, Greenburg T. Bell, and Louis M. Hill. The trustees apparently turned to the Methodist Episcopal church conference when they considered the type of church they would erect. Due to the close similarity of the extant church, especially as portrayed in a turn of the twentieth century image, the design followed closely CHURCH PLAN, No. 19A in the conference catalogue that offered a wide

<sup>1</sup> *Catalogue of Plans for Churches, Parsonages and Dwelling Houses for the Year 1889*. Philadelphia, PA: Board of Church Extension, p. 12.

# Maryland Historical Trust

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range of designs created by architect Benjamin D. Price. Having produced a catalogue of designs for fourteen years by the time the 1889 issue was released, Methodist Bishop Warren wrote in the introduction:

*You can tell them at sight. As I go along in the cars [railroad], and look out of the window, I see the churches in view here and there, and say, there is church architecture after plan No. 1, and there is church architecture after plan No. 5. etc. And so we come to recognize them scattered all through the land.<sup>2</sup>*

Whether Bishop Warren ever traveled the Cambridge & Seaford Branch of the Philadelphia, Wilmington & Baltimore Railroad is not known, but he surely could have seen this church since it stood within a few hundred feet of the railroad right-of-way. Commenting on the optimism of the time, a short article written by a Williamsburg resident in May 1890 summarized recent activity in the village for the *Democrat and News*:

*Williamsburg is not dead, although some of our neighboring towns seem to think so. The improvements which have been made during the past six months certainly indicate the we have both energy and enterprise which are the main essentials anywhere.*

*After Washington Church was removed to Hurlock we had no place of worship, so we had to use the school house temporarily. Then the enterprising spirit of Williamsburg went to work, and now we have a church nearly completed, which certainly is an ornament to the place.<sup>3</sup>*

Rather than travel to the new town of Hurlock and their old church in a new location, the Methodists in and around Williamsburg competed with the older congregation for membership within the same region by erecting a new pattern-book church in Gothic Revival taste. The congregation lasted in little over one hundred years until dwindling membership during the 1990s forced a sale of the property, ironically by the trustees of the Unity-Washington United Methodist Church in Hurlock.<sup>4</sup> The property was conveyed to the trustees of the First Haitian Baptist Church, who only held title to the church and lot for two years.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.* p. 3.

<sup>3</sup> *Democrat and News*, 17 May 1890.

<sup>4</sup> Dorchester County Land Record, 360/783, 30 June 1997, Dorchester County Courthouse.

<sup>5</sup> Dorchester County Land Record, 406/734, 15 July 1999, Dorchester County Courthouse.

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**Continuation Sheet**

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Williamsburg M. E. Church  
("No More Walls" Worship Center)

Map 6, Parcel 124  
Williamsburg Road

MLB 568/630

Brett R. Latta and Brenda E. Latta,  
Directors of the Temple of Love

to

3.19.2004

Brett R. Latta and Brenda E. Latta

½ acre

406/734

Trustees of the First Haitian Baptist Church of Williamsburg

to

7.15.1999

Temple of Love

\$20,000

360/783

Trustees of the Unity-Washington United Methodist Church

to

6.30.1997

Trustees of the First Haitian Baptist Church

\$6,000.

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**Continuation Sheet**

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CL 12/117-18

Wm W. Todd and James E. Todd, brothers

to, Trustees

2.27.1889

Minos Wright, James F. Wheatley, Eugene M. Todd, Greenburg  
T. Bell, Louis M. Hill to hold in trust for the ministry and membership  
of them. M. E. Church

\$50 ½ acre

Democrat and News, 5.17.1890

### Williamsburg Items

Williamsburg is not dead, although some of our neighboring towns seem to think so. The improvements which have been made during the past six months certainly indicate that we have both energy and enterprise which are the main essentials anywhere.

After Washington Church was removed to Hurlock we had no place of worship, so we had to use the school house temporarily. Then the enterprising spirit of Williamsburg went to work, and now we have a church nearly completed, which certainly is an ornament to the place.

Mr. Todd has just finished putting the last touches to his new storehouse, while the new fence around his dwelling and the new coat of paint on the residence of Mr. Bell adds to the attractions of the village.

Our enterprising station agent as the old station in nice order, while the new shutters and a large and commodious freight shed and a tastefully arranged flower garden, give evidence of the wisdom of the railroad company when they appointed him to the position, while his genial ways, courteous demeanor, and strict integrity make him one of the most popular officials on the road.

Arbor day was duly celebrated by our school, five beautiful maples being planted and protected by substantial framework. The trees were named as follows: Washington, Cleveland, and Harrison, after our first and two last presidents. The other two were named, one in honor of Dr. Jas. L. Bryan, and the other after the teacher, Mr. Northrup.

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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Catalogue of Architectural Plans for Churches and Parsonages for the Year 1889, Philadelphia, PA: Board of Church Extension, Methodist Episcopal Church, 1889.

Dorchester County Land Records, various volumes, Dorchester County Courthouse

Jones, Ellias, *New Revised History of Dorchester County, Maryland*. Cambridge, MD: Tidewater Publishers, 1966.

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## 10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of surveyed property .52. acres

Acreage of historical setting ½ acre

Quadrangle name Federalsburg, MD

Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

The metes and bounds of this property are coincidental with the current boundary of the lot.

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## 11. Form Prepared by

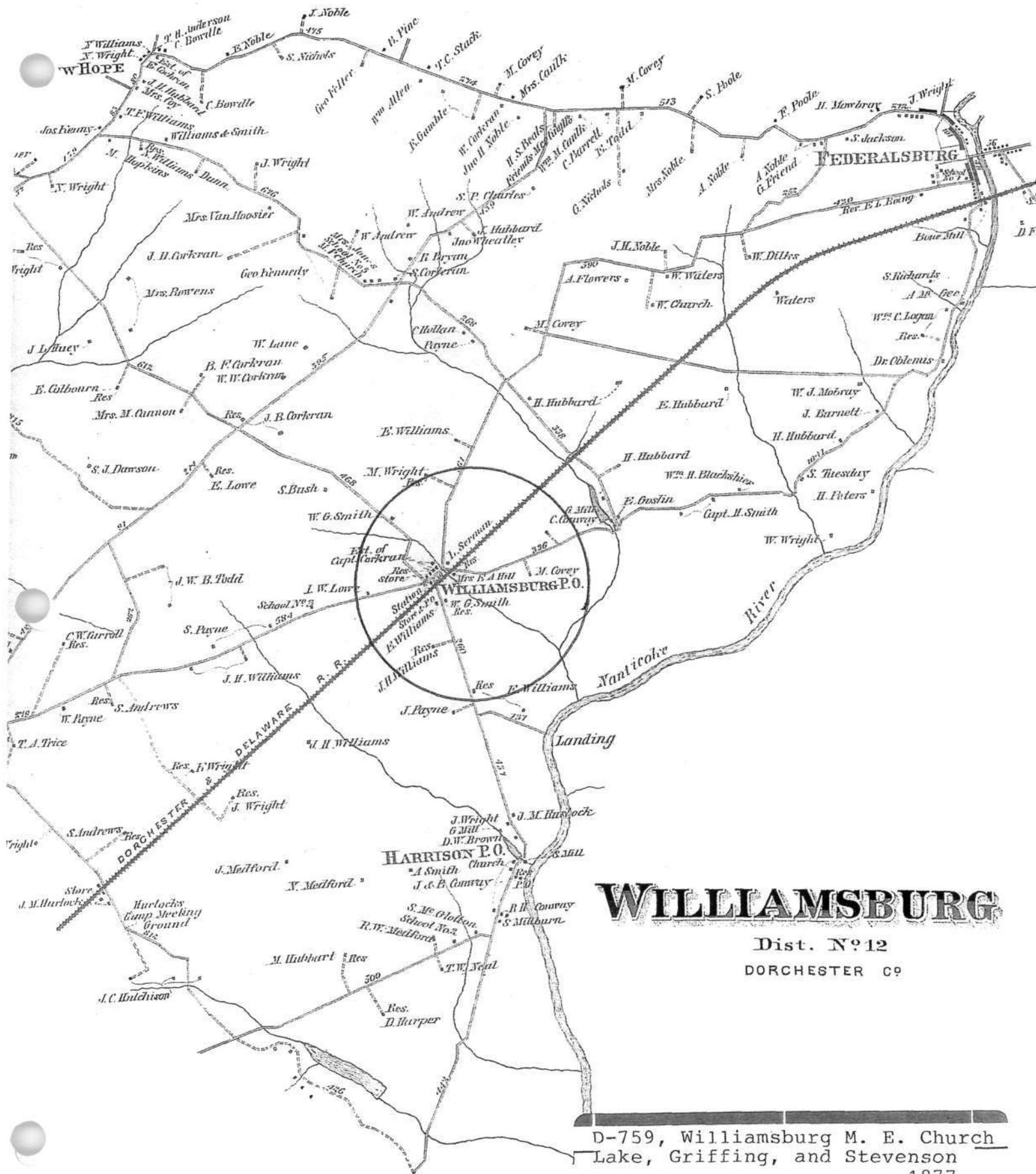
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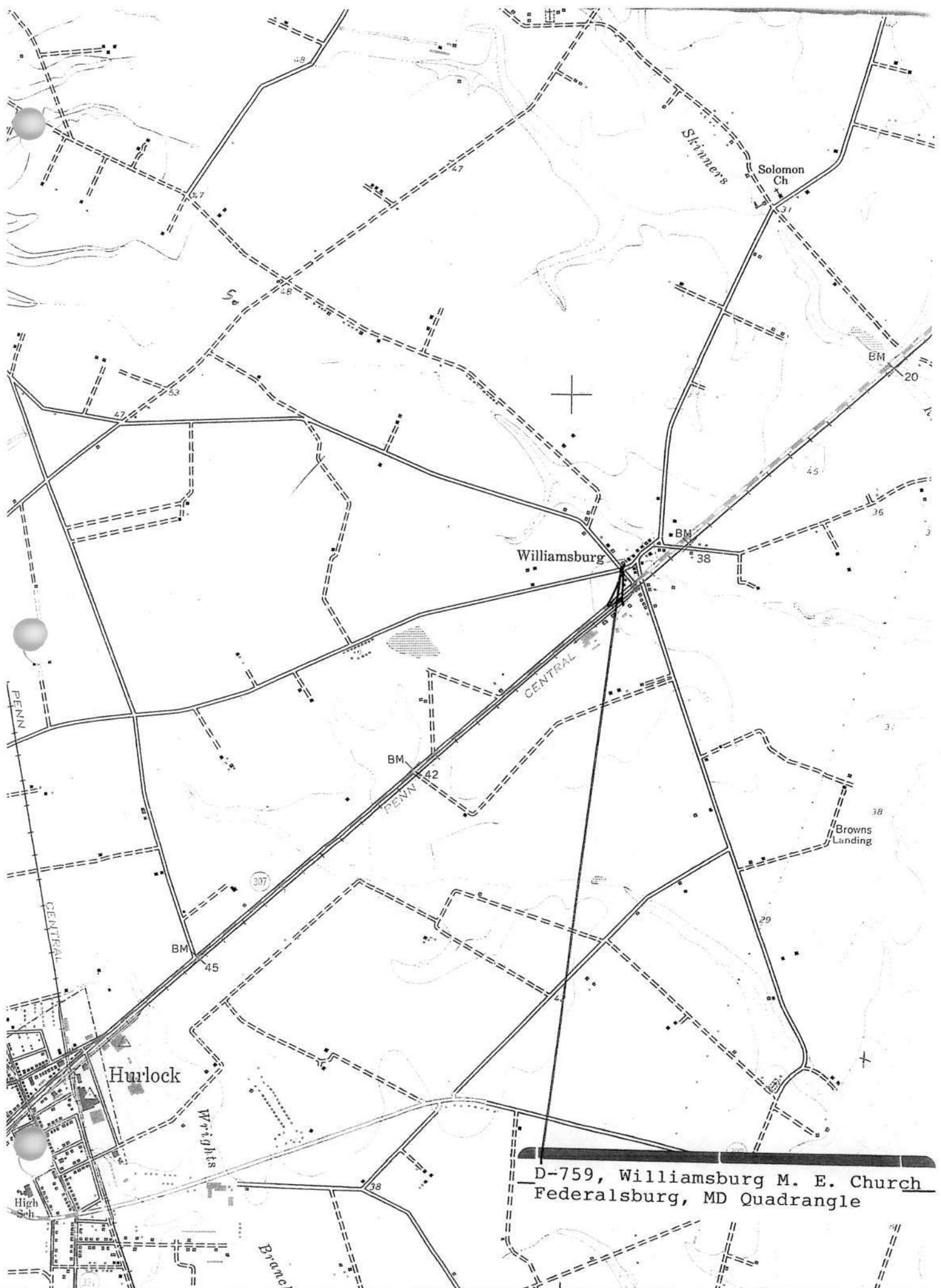
name/title	Paul B. Touart, Architectural Historian		
organization	Chesapeake Country Heritage & Preservation	date	3/3/2008
street & number	Cedar Hill, P. O. Box 5	telephone	410-651-1094
city or town	Westover	state	Maryland 21871

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties 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  
DHCD/DHCP  
100 Community Place  
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023  
410-514-7600





D-759, Williamsburg M. E. Church  
Federalsburg, MD Quadrangle

D-759

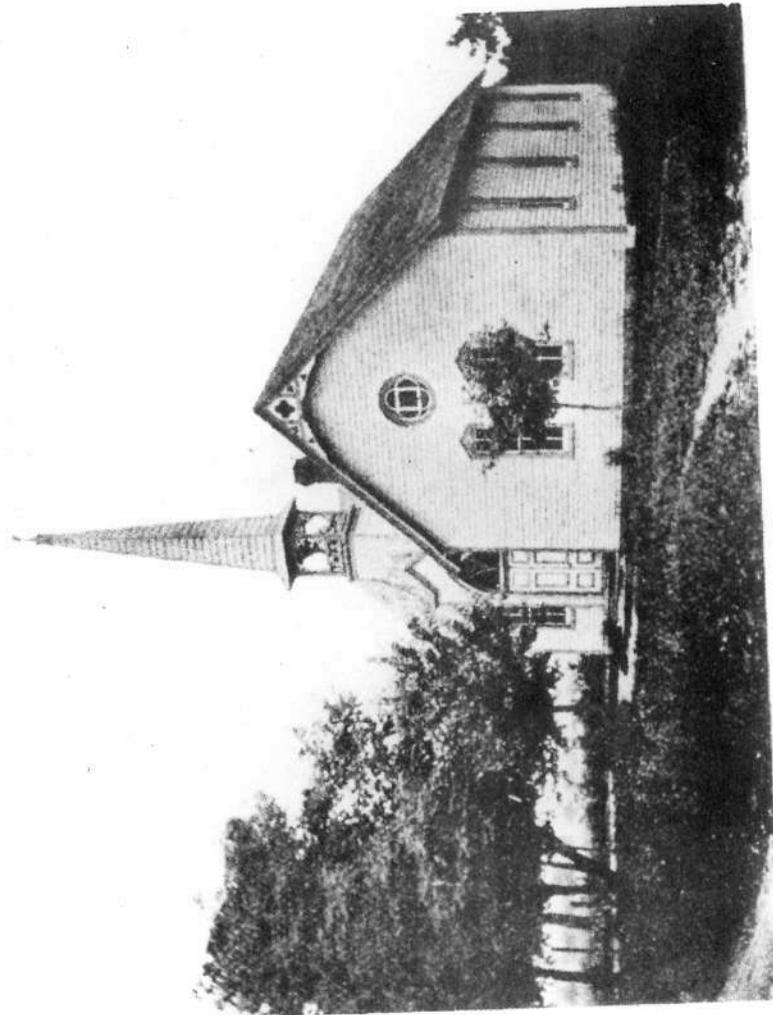
## CHAPTER XI.

AMSBURG AND WILLIAMSBURG DISTRICT—CROTCHER'S RRY (BROOKVIEW) — GALESTOWN — FORK DISTRICT — THE ES OF VIRGINIA ON NORTH WEST FORK RIVER—OTHER FAM-ES.

### LIAMSBURG AND WILLIAMSBURG DISTRICT.

A little hamlet of Williamsburg, situated on the Cambridge and Seaford Railroad, about twenty miles from Cambridge, is in Williamsburg district, which was a part of East Market district but laid out for a new election district in 1859. The first election in the district was held at Williamsburg in 1860. The town is not of colonial origin, though its original name was Bunker's Hill. Henry Jones, who was a school teacher, land surveyor and farmer in a small way, built the first house there in 1804. He was the grandfather of the author of this village sketch. As founder of the town, the church was small in size and plain in construction, described by Joseph M. Lowe, Esq., who saw it when he was a boy. The business started there was by a wheelwright, John Mendenhall, who made spinning wheels for spinning flax and wool, as well as cart wheels for the farmers' carts.

The next *indispensable* business started there was a whiskey rum shop, in which were sold a few groceries for the maintenance of decency. The inducements to engage in that business were no doubt the profits derived from the liquor sales. The store with its stimulating stock of merchandise attracted many patrons. They came from towards the "Bridge," north; "Puckum," east of the "North West Fork," and from "Long Neck," along the Caroline border. When representatives from those rival neighborhoods met and partook of glasses of rum or whiskey, the pride of their manhood on a premium, challenges were frequently made to test the superiority of their fighting abilities, some of whom were



Williamsburg M. E. Church



D-759

WILLIAMSBURG M. E. CHURCH

WILLIAMSBURG, DORCHESTER Co. MD.

Southeast Elevation

3/08, Paul Touart, PHOTOGRAPHER

WEG/MD. HISTORICAL TRUST

1/2



D-759

WILLIAMSBURG M. E. CAURCE  
WILLIAMSBURG, DORCHESTER Co., MD.  
NORTHWEST ELEVATION

3/08, PAUL TOWART, PHOTOGRAPHER  
NEZ. / MD. HISTORICAL TRUST

2/2