

CH-355

Nanjemoy Baptist Church

Architectural Survey File

This is the architectural survey file for this MIHP record. The survey file is organized reverse-chronological (that is, with the latest material on top). It contains all MIHP inventory forms, National Register nomination forms, determinations of eligibility (DOE) forms, and accompanying documentation such as photographs and maps.

Users should be aware that additional undigitized material about this property may be found in on-site architectural reports, copies of HABS/HAER or other documentation, drawings, and the “vertical files” at the MHT Library in Crownsville. The vertical files may include newspaper clippings, field notes, draft versions of forms and architectural reports, photographs, maps, and drawings. Researchers who need a thorough understanding of this property should plan to visit the MHT Library as part of their research project; look at the MHT web site (mht.maryland.gov) for details about how to make an appointment.

All material is property of the Maryland Historical Trust.

Last Updated: 11-21-2003

ADDENDUM

CH-355

Nanjemoy Baptist Church

Charles County, MD

Nanjemoy vic.

Cathy Hardy, June 2002

2. Location

3030 Baptist Church Road

Nanjemoy, MD 20662-3485

4. Location of Legal Description

The property is associated with Charles County Property Tax map 60, Grid 4, Parcel 169.

Liber K4/Folio 398

7. Description

Nanjemoy Baptist Church was first surveyed by J. Richard Rivoire in the 1970's. Since it's initial field investigation, the site is virtually unchanged. A 1961 block and brick veneer education center stands on the site which was not recorded at the time of the original survey.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 10 acres



CH-355

NANJEMOY BAPTIST CHURCH

CHARLES CO MD

C. HARDY

3/2002

MD SHPO

LOOKING NW

1 OF 3



CH-355

NANJEMOY BAPTIST CHURCH
CHARLES CO. MD

C. HARDY

3/2002

MD SHPO

WALL LOOKING SE

20F3



CH-355

NANJEMOY BAPTIST CHURCH
CHARLES CO. MD

C. HARDY

3/2002

MD SHPO

REAR ELEVATION

3/3

CHAS-355
NANJEMOY BAPTIST CHURCH
Nanjemoy
Private

circa 1900

Nanjemoy Baptist Church is the oldest Baptist Church in Charles County and one of the oldest continuing Baptist churches in Maryland. The church history dates from 1790 when "four men from Virginia" arrived and began preaching the ministry in the vicinity. In 1791 an acre of land was purchased and in 1793 a membership was established and the first meeting house built. In 1837 the church was formally recognized and became the first member of the newly organized Maryland Baptist Union Association (now the Baptist Convention of Maryland). One of its longest serving pastors was the Reverend William I. Chiles (1835 to 1859 and 1866 to 1874) who lived at nearby Mt. Pleasant (CHAS-208).

The basic fabric of the existing church dates from 1905 when an earlier building was completely renovated. In subsequent years various alterations were made including, in about 1925, the installation of stained glass windows and the construction of a 75 foot tall bell tower on the east front. Of an architecture that can best be described as a local interpretation of a Victorian-Gothic design, the tower has buttress-like sheds at the first floor, small lancet arched windows at the second floor, and a tiered upper section "embellished" by narrow wood pinnacles and a tall metal spire. Additions to house the Sunday school were added to the east side and west end in 1938. In 1944, the interior and exterior were completely renovated, and the interior again between 1950 and 1953.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

CHAS-355

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY (PCI #040365708)

1 NAME

HISTORIC

NANJEMOY BAPTIST CHURCH

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

West side of Baptist Church Road

CITY, TOWN

Nanjemoy

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

1st

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Charles

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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input 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 type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Nanjemoy Baptist Church
C/O Rev. C. S. Hendon, Pastor

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

Baptist Church Road

CITY, TOWN

Nanjemoy

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code
Maryland

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Charles County Courthouse

Liber #:

Folio #:

STREET & NUMBER

Charles Street (P.O. Box B)

CITY, TOWN

La Plata

STATE
Maryland 20646

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Nanjemoy Baptist Church is a simple frame structure typical of many other local examples of rural ecclesiastical architecture dating from the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The framework of the original structure is believed to date from the 19th century, but the building was extensively renovated in 1905, successfully covering over all of the earlier fabric.

One-story with a high gable roof, the building faces east from its location close to the west side of Baptist Church Road. The south side elevation is four bays in width. A door occupies the third bay from the east end. The north side has two windows but the remaining openings are covered by a later, three bay frame wing extending out from this side at a right angle to the main body of the church. On both sides of the tin sheathed roof are single interior stove chimneys. A shed roofed extension of the west end of the church is three bays wide on that elevation and has a single window in its south end.

The most interesting feature of the church is its 75 foot tall bell tower, added to the east front of the building circa 1925. Of simple and very basic Victorian-Gothic styling, it has windowless, buttress-like, one-story sheds flanking each side, small lancet arched windows at the second floor level, and a tiered third story where the bell is housed. The upper section has louvered "windows" framing the bell housing and each of the two levels displays tall, slender wood pinnacles. At the top is a tin shingles spire. The main entrance to the church is located at the base of the tower and is decorated by a shallow board pediment over a stained glass transome. The interior of the church was completely remodeled in the middle of this century.

Fronting the entrance of the church is a decorated steel and iron archway emblazoned with the words "Nanjemoy Baptist Church". A cemetery to the north and west sides of the church contains several nineteenth century grave stones.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

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

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Nanjemoy Baptist Church is the oldest Baptist Church in Charles County and one of the oldest continuing Baptist churches in Maryland. The church history dates from 1790 when "four men from Virginia" arrived and began preaching the ministry in the vicinity. In 1791 an acre of land was purchased and in 1793 a membership was established and the first meeting house built. In 1837 the church was formally recognized and became the first member of the newly organized Maryland Baptist Union Association (now the Baptist Convention of Maryland). One of its longest serving pastors was the Reverend William I. Chiles (1835 to 1859 and 1866 to 1874) who lived at nearby Mt. Pleasant (CHAS-208).

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CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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

J. Richard Rivoire, Consultant

ORGANIZATION

Charles County Planning Department

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

Charles County Courthouse

TELEPHONE

645-6537

CITY OR TOWN

La Plata

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



CHAS-355

NANJEMOY BAPTIST CHURCH

View From SE JRRivoire, 1978