

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Ebenezer African Methodist Episcopal (A.M.E.) Church and Parsonage

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 965 Galesville Road _____ not for publication

city, town Galesville _____ vicinity of _____ congressional district

state MD _____ county A.A.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

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

name Trustees of the Ebenezer A.M.E Church

street & number _____ telephone no.:

city, town Galesville _____ state and zip code MD 20765

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. A.A. County Registry of Deeds _____ liber GW 42

street & number _____ folio 98; also

city, town Annapolis _____ state MD _____ SH 15/254.

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Maryland Historic Sites Inventory

date _____ federal state county local

depository for survey records Md. Historical Trust

city, town Annapolis _____ state MD

7. Description

Survey No. AA-769 A

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 brick edifice of the Ebenezer A.M.E. Church in Galesville is the second church-building on the site. The first church faced in the same direction as the present structure, NE, but was a frame building with weatherboard siding. It had a steeply pitched front-gabled roof, with wide eaves overhanging the sides and exposed rafter ends. The front gable was decorated with a plain verge board, cut in the shape of a broad Gothic arch and supported underneath by two pairs of brackets. Centered in the arch was a long narrow Gothic Revival window. Below, an enclosed entry porch had a front-gabled roof with a raking cornice and a decorative truss. The double-door frame was the shape of a Gothic arch. Along each side wall were three more long narrow Gothic Revival windows, each one 3/1 wooden sash.

This earlier church building was demolished in 1970, following construction of the current brick church on a site between the old church and the parsonage. The new church is also a gable-front building with steeply pitched roof, but lower posted than the old. The wide eaves are boxed, and the cornice at each gable end is raked. Along each side wall are 3 aluminum storm/screen windows interspersed with 3 brick pilasters. The enclosed entry porch is also brick construction with front-gabled roof and paneled double wooden doors.

The Parsonage faces NE, at right angles to the main road; it stands about 8' to the left of the present church. The Parsonage was probably built before 1910. It is a tiny 1½-story, side-gabled, light frame building with weatherboard siding that matched the first church. The 3-bay facade has a centered door between 2/2 wooden sash windows. Above the door is a cross gable containing a single smaller 2/2 window. A narrow brick chimney is inside the SE wall. A rear gable-roofed wing makes the building L-shaped. A shed-roofed side porch set into the space between the main block and wing faces SE. A second narrow brick chimney is inside the rear end wall of the wing. The whole building is set on brick piers.

The interior space of the Parsonage conforms to the simple "hall-and-parlor" (two rooms wide and one room deep) plan described by McAlester (p.94) as the dominant form of folk housing in the rural Southeast from colonial times into the 20th century. Just inside the front door, two doorways lead left and right into small parlors, and an enclosed stairway rises straight ahead to the attic. A door at the rear of the left parlor leads into the wing which is one large kitchen room. No plumbing.

8. Significance

Survey No. AA-769 A

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) (Black History)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates

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 site of the Ebenezer A.M.E. Church and Parsonage belonged, from 1845 until 1856, to George Gale, and from 1856 until 1870 to his estate. It was part of a 126-acre parcel which he had bought from George B. Stewart. (J.H.N.2/344) In 1870 the church site was sold by the Trustee of Gale's estate to Emile E. Lerch as part of a 14 1/4-acre parcel known as "Lot 19". (S.H.7/114) In 1873 the 2-acre church site, known as "Lot E on the plat of survey of subdivision of Lot 19" was sold by Emile E. Lerch to William F. Kuszmaul of the City of Baltimore. (S.H.7/404) Finally, on Oct. 6, 1879, Wm. Kuszmaul leased to the "Trustees of the West River African Methodist Episcopal Church" Lot E, measuring 198' along the main road by 440' deep. (S.H.15/254) The lease was for five years at an annual rate of \$25... renewable every five years forever at the same rent... or, upon payment at anytime of \$200, the property would be deeded to the Church. The lease stated: "The Church Trustees covenant... to erect or cause to be erected within two years from this date upon the land hereby leased a church or house of worship." The Trustees signing the lease were W.G. Alexander, Robert Holland, John W. Johnson, Thomas Spriggs, John A. Matthews, James H. Dennis, Richard W. Spriggs, and John F. Prann.

The 1879 lease was renewed on Oct. 5, 1884 (S.H.24/354) and signed by not only the Church Trustees, but also the Rev. Plato H. Greene. After a lapse of nine years, a new lease was signed on Oct. 6, 1893 (S.H.45/288). The Trustees at that time were Henry Hutton, Stephen White, Henson Warner, and James Neal. Eleven years later, on Nov. 16, 1904, the Church was able to pay Kuszmaul \$200 and receive title to the 2-acre Church-lot (G.W.42/98). The signing Trustees on the deed were the Rev. John O. Custis, Stephen White, Alexander Hicks, Westley Warren, and Thomas Diggs.

It is not clear exactly when the Parsonage was constructed, at the east side of the Church. Its Victorian cross-gable suggests 1910 as the latest possible construction date. (See p.309, A Field Guide to American Houses, McAlester.) Perhaps after the Church had paid for its land in 1904, it was able to begin devoting funds to construction of a Parsonage. It definitely predates 1933, according to an aerial photo taken by Hugh Miller of the "Post Staff". This photo, captioned "Galesburg, Md., and Resort Points Along the West River, as Viewed from a Plane at 1500 Feet", can be seen at the Md. State Archives. Early Church records kept in Galesville have been lost, but A.M.E. in Baltimore may have some records relating to the Galesville Church and Parsonage.

The 1880 Church building was remodeled in 1931, and again in 1951. In 1951 its
(continued on sep. sheet)

white weatherboard siding was covered with simulated brick siding. It can be seen in a 1955 aerial photo of Galesville, the black-and-white negative of which is filed with this survey #769. In Sept. 1968 construction of a new church building began, using bricks donated by William R. Woodfield, Sr. The new building was placed in between the old building and the Parsonage. After completion, in August 1970, the old church was demolished. (See attached photos of groundbreaking, construction, and demolition.)

The Rev. Seawood Blackstone is the current pastor. Two current Trustees, Alexander Crowner and Harriett Crowner Hull, are the brother and sister grandchildren of 1904-Trustee Alexander Hicks.



DEALE, MD.
 USGS 7.5 Minute Series
 Scale 1:24,000
 1957; photo revised 1970

AA-769, AA-769A
 Ebenezer African Methodist Episcopal
 Church and Parsonage
 956 Galesville Road
 Galesville



APRIL 1985

Photo by S. Wetherill

EBENEZER A.M.E. CHURCH, GAZESVILLE, MD.

Built 1869

AA-769

Ebenezer Church (right) and Parsonage (left)

A. A. Co., Md.

East corner



APRIL 1985

Photo by S. WETHERILL

EBENEZER A.M.E. PARSONAGE ca. 1880-1910

GALESVILLE, MD.

AA-769

A.A. Co., Md.

East Corner



EBENEZER A.M.E. CHURCH GACESVILLE
(background)

2/85

AA-769

PERSONAGE in foreground

~~NEW CHURCH (1969) behind~~

~~ROLL # 6~~

~~FRAME # 3~~

A. A. Co., Md.

S. Wetherill photo

SE elevation



AA-769

Ebenezer A.M.E. Parsonage

A. A. Co., Ind.

~~Roll # 6~~

~~FRAME 4~~

S. Wetherill, 2/85
West corner



AA-769

Ebenezer A.M.E. Parsonage

A.A. Co., Md.

~~Row # 6~~

~~Frame 2~~

S. Wetherill, 2/85

South corner.



Photograph by
J. MICHAEL HOSFORD

Annapolis, Md. 21401
301 - 263 - 4995

Ebenezer A.M.E. Church
Galesville, Anne Arundel Co., MD
Michael Hosford

AA-769

Maryland Historical Trust, Annapolis, MD
North elevation
7/80



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