

BA 1252

9/78

Grace Methodist Church South

Reisterstown, Maryland

Public access

This is the only Greek-revival temple-form structure in Reisterstown. This was a popular form for churches and this example may be an adaption of the Stone Chapel Methodist Church a few miles south.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Grace Methodist Church-South

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

319 Main Street

6th

CITY, TOWN

Reisterstown

— VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Baltimore

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERCIAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mrs. Louis Susemihl

Telephone #: 833-3064

STREET & NUMBER

317 Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Reisterstown

— VICINITY OF

Maryland

STATE, zip code

21136

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Baltimore County

Liber #: 1837

Folio #: 573

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Towson

STATE

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE McGrain, John

Industrial-Archaeological Survey of the N.W. Transportation Corridor-1975

DATE

1975

— FEDERAL — STATE COUNTY — LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Baltimore County Office of Planning and Zoning

CITY, TOWN

Towson

STATE

Maryland

7 DESCRIPTION

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 _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Formerly the Grace Methodist Church-South, 319 Main Street has been adapted as an antique shop. Its style dates, from the period 1840-1855, (even though it was built 1866-1868) of brick, four bays in length, it is in the form of a Greek temple, its pediment facing the street to the west, its four stuccoed columns in a simplified Doric order. The pediment is a few inches narrower and lower than the body of the structure. A small semi-circular window is high in the west pediment. The west wall, within the porch, is stuccoed and the modern glass and aluminum doors are in the middle bay, flanked by tall display windows in adjacent bays. Cracks in the stucco indicate that the side bays were probably the entrances, each with a tall arched door, and a tall arched window was in the middle bay of the west front, probably like the remaining original windows of the north and south sides, with 9/9 sashes beneath the transom bar at the spring line of the arch, and a semi-circular transom above. The brick walls are laid in common bond, every sixth course headers. Voussoir bricks of the window arches are considerably longer than typical bricks.

A lower shed-roofed brick wing extends across most of the east end, extended further east in frame, with a roof of lower pitch.

Within is a single large room; its ceiling is now at the transom bar of the side windows but the original ceiling remains above at the eave line. Windows, and doors flanking the former pulpit location at the east end are trimmed with a wide single-plane architrave with a massive ogee backband. Centered within the rear wing is a cast-iron column of the Tower-of-the-Winds order.

The attic was not accessible. A small cellar is beneath the rear wing, extended slightly beneath the church. All first floor joists are logs.

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)		
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION				local history

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Built in 1866-1868 and called Grace Methodist Church South. Members of the Asbury Methodist Church withdrew from that church (across Main St.) over a dispute growing out of the Civil War strife. The question of Slavery and State Rights, leading to the Civil War had entered the church and in 1845, the Methodist Episcopal Church-South was organized on a national basis. A defection from the established Methodist Church in Reisterstown took place in connection with this movement and about 100 members set up the M.E. Church-South in 1866. This congregation eventually worshipped in the Grace Building (on the opposite side of the street from Asbury). (Commemorative Booklet op cit., and Scharf, op cit., p. 855)

The land for this new church was donated to the group in July of 1868 by Daniel Banks. (JHL 52/6) Originally part of Brotherly Love, the balance of the land was devised by John Reister, Jr., to his youngest son Andrew, and after Andrew's death was sold to Daniel Banks, a grandson of Daniel Bower who had purchased large tracts of land adjacent to John Reister's. (TK 277/513-15) Banks, 1796-1875 was a prominent Baltimore City merchant. He was president of the Union Manufacturing Co., Maryland's oldest textile manufacturing company. He held extensive acreage in Reisterstown, including this part of Brotherly Love. He eventually established a summer estate called Chatsworth (q.v.) (Marks, op cit., p. 124)

The church was organized under Rev. J. P. Etchison. He was followed through the years by these men: G. H. Zimmerman; A. Eskeridge; A. Q. Flaharty; L. R. Jones; John Landstreet; J. A. Register; William A. McDonald and Charles M. Brown (Scharf, op cit., p. 855)

In 1883, the congregation voted to amend the charter and adopt the name Grace Methodist Episcopal Church. (The original name had been Wesley Episcopal Church in Reisterstown.) The trustees conveyed their interests to the new corporation in 1893. (LMB 203/456)

Reconciliation came in 1941, when the members agreed to consolidate with the trustees of the Asbury Chapel of Reisterstown across the street. A new corporation entitled the Reisterstown Methodist Church was formed. (Deeds CHK 1227/77) (McGrain, op cit., p. IV:1-2)

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

Continuation Sheet Grace Methodist Church-South
319 Main Street
Reisterstown, Maryland
Baltimore County

BA-1252

8 Significance Continued

In 1950, the congregation deeded the Grace Methodist building to Louis E. Susemihl (TBS 1837/573) While Mr. Susemihl held title to this building it was leased to the School Board for additional classroom space and, in 1959 the Reisterstown Federal Savings and Loan Association opened its doors to the community there. It operated at the site until 1975.

As of 1977, the building is used for an antique shop.

This is the only Greek-revival Temple-form structure in Reisterstown. This was a popular form for churches and this example may be an adaptation of the Stone Chapel Methodist Church a few miles south.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Lillian B. Marks, Reisters Desire (Baltimore, 1975)
- Untitled Commemorative Booklet, Reisterstown United Methodist Church (locally published, 1975)
- John McGrain, Industrial-Archaeological Survey of the NW Transportation Corridor (Baltimore, County, Md., 1975)

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .25 acre

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY James T. Wollon A.I.A.

NAME / TITLE	Mr Eugene Shaw, Volunteer researcher / Mrs George Cosman Vol. Res. Ms. Cornelia M. Ives Project Coordinator	DATE September 1978
ORGANIZATION	Historic Reisterstown, Inc	
STREET & NUMBER	430 Main Street	TELEPHONE 833-3078 (Ms Ives)
CITY OR TOWN	Reisterstown	STATE Md

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



BA 1252

Grace Methodist Church. South
319 Main St - Reist. Md.

Carol Pollock

4-77

East.