

CAPSULE  
MT. OLIVE BAPTIST CHURCH

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That there was a Sandy Bottom, however, is documented by the two Victorian buildings belonging to the Mt. Olive Baptist Church. While somewhat plain on the exterior and certainly not extravagant on the interior, one does experience a special feeling of another age inside of the church. Beautiful stained glass, lancet windows and somewhat ornate pressed metal walls are quite Victorian in character.

Perhaps the greatest tribute to this church and its vanished village is the vital congregation which still considers this church as their home place of worship.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC Mt. Olive Baptist Church  
AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER  
York Road - 2000 Block

CITY, TOWN Towson CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT Ninth  
VICINITY OF  
STATE Maryland COUNTY Baltimore

**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	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" 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 Mt. Olive Baptist Church Telephone #: \_\_\_\_\_  
STREET & NUMBER York Road  
CITY, TOWN Towson STATE, zip code Maryland 21204  
VICINITY OF

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. County Courts Building Liber #: 440  
Folio #: 20  
STREET & NUMBER  
CITY, TOWN Towson STATE

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE  
DATE  
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS  
CITY, TOWN STATE  
FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

**7 DESCRIPTION**

BA-1760

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 <u>June, 19</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

**DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**

The Mt. Olive Baptist Church is one of two remaining survivors of an entire black community known as Sandy Bottom which has been totally wiped out by commercial growth and development. According to Mr. Walter Mack, a resident of the Mt. Olive Parsonage (see BA-1761) and one who has lived in the area for over seventy years, the previous residents were forced to move to other areas like Baltimore City not only because of commercial intrusion, but because of the high cost of improvements (ie. sewage and water lines) on their property. However, many of these families return each Sunday to worship at this church.

The main block of the church (the oldest portion) has a corner stone on the northeast corner which reads:

" Mt. Olive Baptist Church  
Organized April 1888  
Rev. J. H. Williams  
Pastor "

AND

" Mt. Olive Baptist Church  
Built 1907  
V. B. Johnson Pastor "

Although the Mt. Olive Baptist Church didn't acquire the land until 1906, they had previously rented from the Pinkertons. This evidence along with the information on the corner stone may indicate that the 1907 structure replaced an earlier one.

The single story frame structure is topped with a gable-end roof which has deep cornices. Although the walls are presently covered with tan, light gray and dark gray rockface formstones laid in a horizontal pattern, Mr. Mack recalls that it was formerly covered with wooden shingles. Quoining, as well as the edges around doors and windows, has been done with a gray concrete.

The main or east facade is the gable end and faces York Road. The central bay is occupied by a projecting gabled vestibule which contains the entrance door on the south side and a centrally placed diamond shaped window on the east side. A white crucifix is incorporated into the formstone directly above the window.

A colorful diamond patterned lead glass gothic arch window occupies the two outer bays on the first level. These windows, like the others, are a 1/1 sash with a central key. A triplet of the same type windows light the gable end. A crucifix similar but larger than the one above the window is incorporated into the key as well as the formstone wall.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

The gabled roof, covered with slate, is pierced at the ridge by a large steeple.

The north and south facades are almost identical, with four of the five bays containing the gothic arch windows and an entrance door with transom in the westernmost bays. These windows, unlike those on the east facade, are filled with stained glass which replaced original glass twenty-five to thirty years ago. The glass is of pastel colors which run together like spilled paint.

The north facade, unlike the south, contains an exterior flue chimney located between the two westernmost windows.

On the west end is a more modern single story addition, built in 1920 as is recorded on a corner block on the now enclosed southeast corner. This portion extends the building three bays to the West and contains many features relating to the main block. This includes similar siding and similarly styled gothic arch windows.

The roof, although it has a shed roof slant, also has a hipped roof appearance, the peak of which joins a parapet to meet with the west facade of the main block.

Only a small portion of the gable end of the main block can be seen, and this is vented by a small opening with a door.

#### Interior

The vestibule area is decorated with vertical tongue-and-groove wainscott.

To reach the aisle one must pass through an archway created by the support posts to the choir above. Moldings decorating this as well as windows and doors are ogee with bulls eye corner blocks.

The elliptical choir is also decorated with vertical tongue-and-groove. The stairs giving access are located in the northeast corner of the main block. It is this choir area which is lighted by the colorful tripartite window.

The interior walls have press metal siding of three different patterns. The first is of a vertical infinity design reaching square blocks which are bordered with a fleu-de-lis crown molding.

The pews and alter are not original. Behind the alter is a covered baptismal concrete pool measuring 5 feet wide by 7 feet 10 inches reached by descending wooden steps.

Access to the west addition is through four-panel doors behind the alter which have box locks and porcelain knobs. There is also an enclosed exterior access which covers the aforementioned corner stone.

Moldings here are mitered and there is tongue-and-groove in the spacious main room. A kitchen area and office are along the north end. The kitchen has built in cupboards and a flue chimney which once had a wood burning stove.

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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" 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

1907

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

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BA-1760

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Baltimore County Land Records  
Baltimore County Wills Records

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

See Attachment

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

STATE COUNTY

STATE COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

D. Owings Schultz

WAYNE E. NIELD, II  
HISTORIC TOWSON, INC.

DATE

ORGANIZATION

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

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

CHAIN OF TITLE FOR MT. OLIVE BAPTIST CHURCH  
Parcel 671, Map 70

<u>LIBER</u>	<u>FOLIO</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>GRANTOR</u>	<u>GRANTEE</u>
440	20	November 27, 1914	Milton H. Pinkerton	Mt. Olive Baptist Church of Sandy Bottom
<p>Beginning at a distance of 258 feet North <math>22\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}</math> West from the southwest corner of Lot #6...Northeast 307 feet to the west side of York Road, Northwest 64 feet, Southwest 100 feet, Northwest 64 feet, Southwest 100 feet, Northwest 34 feet, Southwest <math>198\frac{1}{2}</math> feet, Southeast 100 feet to beginning.</p> <p>Being Lot #7</p>				
249	212	February 1, 1901	Milton H. Pinkerton	Eleanor L. Pinkerton
<hr/>				
303	316	August 10, 1906	Eleanor L. Pinkerton	Trustees of the Mr. Olive Baptist Church of Sandy Bottom
<p>Beginning at the west side of the York Turnpike Road and the end of the second line of a lot by deed dated June 7, 1887 recorded in Land Record 160/482 conveyed from William B. Ware to Samuel Pinkerton, and bounding on lot #8 in the division of the estate of Nathan H. Ware.</p> <p>Being part of Lot #7</p>				
249	212	See above		
<p>Last Will and Testament:</p> <p>Will Book 12/81 January 8, 1901 Julia Ridgely Pinkerton to Milton H. Pinkerton</p>				
<p>Last Will and Testament:</p> <p>Will Book 11/116 April 2, 1897 Samuel Pinkerton to Julia Ridgely Pinkerton</p>				

Chain of title, page 2:

BA-1760

160	482	June 7, 1887	William B. Ware	Samuel Pinkerton
		Containing .7 acres.		
98	97	May 1, 1876	V. A. P. Ware et al	William B. Ware



