

0300854608

85  
Bosley Methodist Church  
Southwest side of Thornton Mill Road  
Accessible - Restricted  
Date: 1875-1900

The Bosley Church, dating from 1877 is an excellent example of American Gothic-revival ecclesiastical architecture. It is a stone church five bays in length, each marked by stone buttresses and a tall slim pointed arch window. The original church was built on land donated by Thomas Bosley. The Bosley church was built by Jacob Vance on stone quarried on the Bosley land. The carpenters were A. Hynson and S. Keesey from Pennsylvania and to whom windows in the main entrance were donated. The congregation included members of such prominent families as the Bosleys, Coles, Bacons, Pearces, Chilcoats and Ensors.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Bosley Methodist Church

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

Southwest side of Thornton Mill Road

CITY, TOWN

Sparks

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

8

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

Trustees of Bosley United Methodist Church, Inc. Telephone #: 252-2227

STREET & NUMBER

Thornton Mill Road

CITY, TOWN

Sparks

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code  
Maryland 21152

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Baltimore City Courthouse

Liber #: WG 182  
Folio #: 76

STREET & NUMBER

Calvert and Lexington Streets

CITY, TOWN

Baltimore

STATE  
Maryland

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

None

DATE

\_\_\_ FEDERAL \_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_ COUNTY \_\_\_ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION**

104-02

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input 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

Dating from 1877 the Bosley Church is a Gothic-revival stone church five bays in length, each marked by stone buttresses and a tall slim pointed-arch window. The principal entrance is in the east end, facing the road, and above it on the steeply-pitched gable roof is a wooden belfry, its bellhouse defined by eight wooden columns with wooden tracery above, all supporting a concave pyramidal roof. Two-lancet windows flank the entrance and a Gothic tripartite window high in the gable consists of a two-lancet taller window flanked by a very narrow, somewhat shorter single lancet on each side. All openings have pointed arches. The roof, covered with slates laid in fields of alternating rectangular and "fish-scale" shapes, extends over the walls in a wide overhang, supported up the rake by pairs of scrolled brackets.

A modern stone addition stands at the west end, its form repeating that of the original church; the addition extends a short distance to the south.

Internally the church is a single room, its plastered walls and ceilings boldly stenciled in borders around windows, above wainscot, and at breaks in plain between walls and ceilings, and within the ceiling itself, which follows the several plains of the concealed roof trusses. Pews are arranged in three banks with two aisles leading to the Gothic-revival pulpit. Windows are filled with

(See Continuation Sheet #1)

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**8 SIGNIFICANCE**

134-85

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
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      1877                                      BUILDER/ARCHITECT      Jacob Vance

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Bosley Methodist Church, located on the southwest side of Thornton Mill Road, is the third church erected by its members. The exact date this congregation was formed has not been established, however traditionally it resulted from a visit paid by a Virginia lay preacher, Richard Owings, sometime between 1770 and 1785. The first meetings were held at Conclusion Farm, the home of Thomas Cole. This chapel was called Cole's Meeting House and was erected in about 1800. By 1825, there was need for a larger church, so the congregation moved to a site donated by Thomas Bosley about one-half mile distant and the old meeting house was torn down.

The original church on this site was dedicated in 1826, but by the 1870's it, too, proved too small and was replaced by the present Gothic structure. The church, begun in 1874 and dedicated in 1877, was constructed by Jacob Vance of stone quarried on the Bosley land. The carpenters were A. Hyson and J.S. Keesey, both from Pennsylvania, and both of whom donated windows which flank the main entrance. Much of the labor was performed by the members themselves. The bell was cast in the McShane bell foundry in Baltimore and the cost of the entire building, with its furnishings, was about \$8,000.

(See Continuation Sheet #2)

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Hopkins, G.M. Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland. (Philadelphia, 1877).

Sidney, J.C. Map of the City and County of Baltimore, Maryland. (Baltimore, 1850).

(See Continuation Sheet #3)

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 5.4 A±

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

Catharine F. Black and James T. Wollon, Jr. AIA

ORGANIZATION

For Valleys Historical District Project

DATE

September 1976

STREET & NUMBER

1114 Bellemore Road

TELEPHONE

323-3798

CITY OR TOWN

Baltimore

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

Continuation Sheet #1

Question #7 continued

painted and stenciled glass in simple geometric shapes. A small vestibule, in width corresponding to the middle bank of pews, contains a very tall door in its west wall, behind which is the bell rope and a wooden ladder to the attic, all within the thickness of the vestibule partition.

The church is surrounded on the south and west by a cemetery which also extends across Thornton Mill Road.

Continuation Sheet #2

Question #8 continued

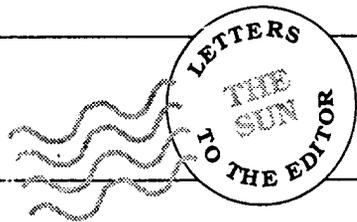
In addition to the Bosleys and the Coles, the congregation has included members of such prominent local families as Bacons, Pearces, Chilcoats and Ensors.

Continuation Sheet #3

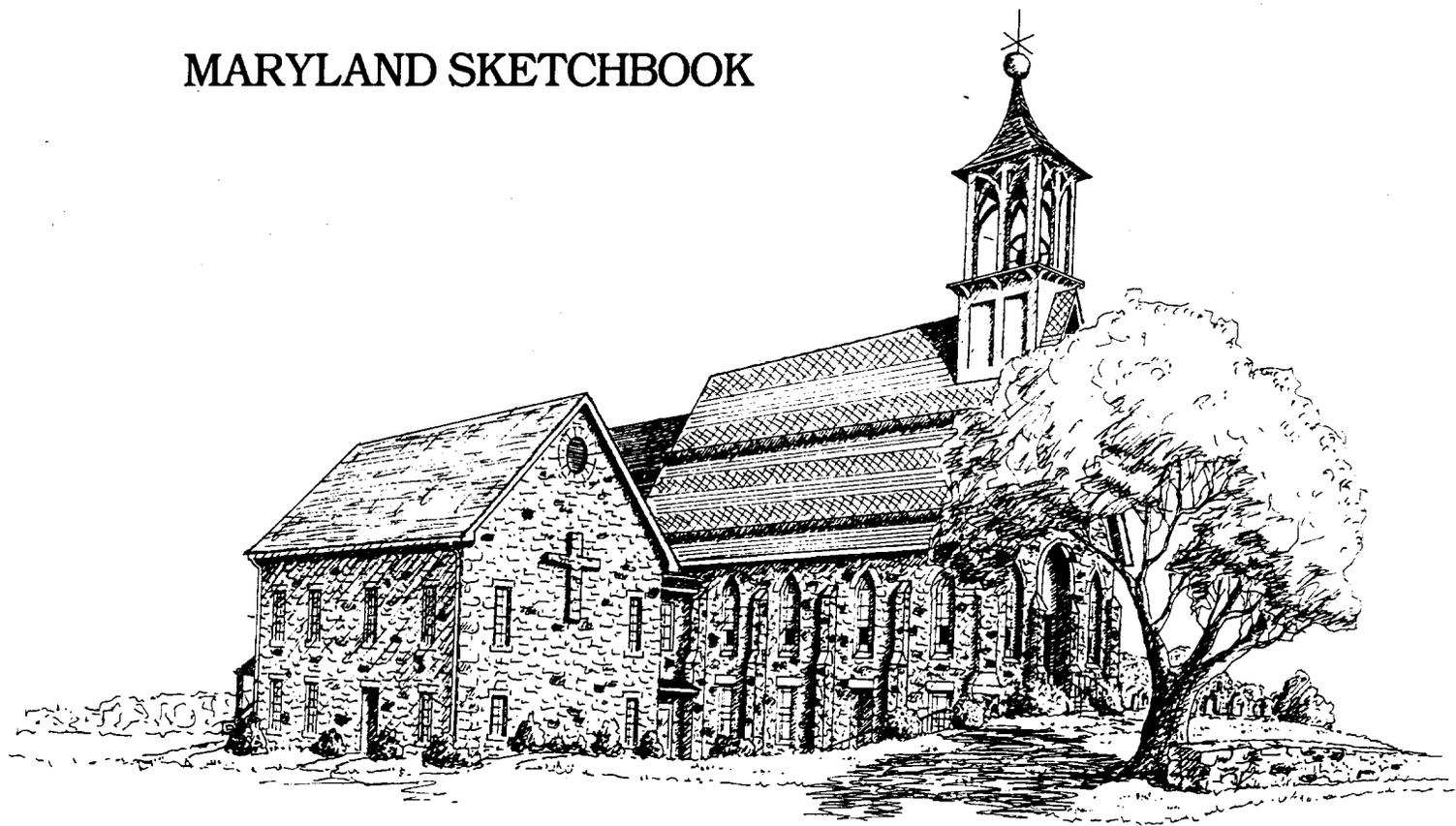
Question #9 continued

Ernst, Henry E., S.T.M. History of Bosley Methodist Church. Unpublished  
manuscript. 1965.

# SATURDAY MAIL BOX



## MARYLAND SKETCHBOOK



BOSLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH — SPARKS

Wm. C. Gardner