

BA-78

Sater's 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.

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Last Updated: 06-23-2004

10045-465

BALTIMORE COUNTY LANDMARKS PRESERVATION COMMISSION

BA-78

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

0300784208

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC SATER'S BAPTIST CHURCH

BA-78

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER Terminus of Sater's Lane

ELECTION DISTRICT 8
COCKEYSVILLE QUADRANGLE
3rd Councilmanic District

CITY, TOWN

Brooklandville

X VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

2nd Congressional District

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Baltimore County

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

DISTRICT

PUBLIC

OCCUPIED

AGRICULTURE

MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

UNOCCUPIED

COMMERCIAL

PARK

STRUCTURE

BOTH

WORK IN PROGRESS

EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RES DENCE

SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

OBJECT

IN PROCESS

YES RESTRICTED

GOVERNMENT

SCIENTIFIC

BEING CONSIDERED

YES UNRESTRICTED

INDUSTRIAL

TRANSPORTATION

NO

MILITARY

OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Trustees, Sater's Baptist Church

Trustees

Telephone #: 252-0409

STREET & NUMBER

Sater's Lane and Falls Road

CITY, TOWN

Lutherville

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21093

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. County Courts Building

Liber #: JHL 51

Folio #: 314

STREET & NUMBER

401 Bosley Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Towson

STATE

Maryland 21204

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE MARYLAND HISTORIC SITES SURVEY: BALTIMORE COUNTY

DATE ONGOING SINCE 1964

SATER'S BAPTIST CHURCH entered 7/29/65

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
21 State Circle

CITY, TOWN

Annapolis

STATE

Maryland 21401

DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Sater's Baptist Church is a very small brick chapel, yet it is the twice enlarged version of the first meeting house of 1742. The church is brick, three bays wide and two bays deep. The building has a gable roof with plain overhanging eaves. Entrance is in the gable end through a vestibule. The paneled double doors are topped by a transom with two wood panels. The vestibule is sheltered by a gable roof with projecting eaves. The two windows on either side of the vestibule are 6 on 6 double-hung sash types. All window lights are 12 by 20 inch panes.

The same kind of windows open along the two sides of the building. Square brick outside chimneys rise from ground level on each side of the church between the side windows. The old box cornice is covered by aluminum fascia and soffits. Only the east side chimney rises to full height.

All windows are fitted with blinds and topped by wooden lintels. A small open belfry (added in 1865) rises from the roof ridge at the front of the building.

Present dimensions are:

41 feet 4-1/2 inches long
30 feet 4 inches wide
15 feet high

Plus

Vestibule, 8 feet, 2 inches long
13 feet, 8 inches wide (including water table)

The brick is laid in common bond, and the two segments of the nave are easily distinguished by a line of vertical mortar. The section to the rear, the original building is 24 feet, 1 inch, while the early 19th Century extension is 17 feet, 3-1/2 inches. Modern repairs (since the 1952 photos) have provided the church with a concrete foundation 15 inches high and 9-1/2 inches wide, to support the early brickwork from without.

The church is located in a small cemetery, a partial clearing at the top of Chestnut Ridge. The church is the only structure within the fenced area. The frame educational building and the frame pastor's residence are at a slight distance to the east on Sater's lane.

87-28

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 checked="" 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 1742 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Unknown

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Sater's Baptist Church is regarded as the Mother Church by Maryland Baptists and part of the present structure dates from 1742. The land here was surveyed in 1718 for Henry Sater and consisted of 350 acres called Sater's Addition, some of which overlapped the next tract to the south, "Brooklandwood."

Henry Sater (also spelled Sater, Souter, Saytor, or Satyr) was born in the Western shires of England in 1690 and immigrated first to Virginia and by 1709 reached Maryland. He acquired land on Jones Falls at "White Hall," the present vicinity of Clipper Mill, and became a planter. He moved north to the Brooklandville area in or after 1718. (1) However, Sater arrived too late to be the person for whom Sater's Ridge was named.

He opened his dwelling house to itinerant Baptist preachers, including George Eglesfield, Paul Palmer, and Henry Loveall. In 1742, a permanent congregation was formed and on November 16 of that year, Sater deeded one acre of "Sater's Addition" to Henry Loveall as pastor and to Thomas West, William Towson, and William Brown as deacons and elders and "to the Church Congregation or People of God, commonly called General Baptists ... to the end of the world and end of land situated and lying in or on his dwelling plantation, otherwise called Sater's Addition." (2)

The trustees were to build a meeting house and provide a "burying place all other conveniences for the Church." This was the first Baptist Church established in Maryland and the structure was at one time regarded as the third oldest Baptist Church in the United States; after the two older churches were destroyed, Sater's became America's oldest Baptist place of worship. (3)

Before the meeting house was constructed, the congregation met in Sater's barn, which stood until the Spring of 1894.

At the time of founding Sater's Church, Baptists were still regarded as Dissenters from the established Church of England, and they, along with other non-establishment groups such as Catholics and Quakers were taxed to support the dominant church. Isaac Walker Maclay suggests (1897) that the Sater's congregation hesitated to install a church bell because of their unfavored position.

The original church was 24 feet long by 30 feet wide and the old portion was supposedly built of English brick imported by Henry Sater; there was no vestibule, no belfry, and windows were of very small panes of glass, later replaced. The meeting house was first used on March 15, 1746. Early in the 19th Century, the church was extended by 17 feet to a length of 41 feet. Beginning in 1796, June meetings were regularly held and called the "cherry meeting" because the cherry trees on the grounds were then bearing.

After the death of the Rev. George Grice in 1826, the congregation almost became extinct. Sater's was granted a corporate charter by the Maryland General Assembly in 1842 and about that time, the Rev. Sater Thomas Walker, grandson of Henry Sater, was pastor. The Rev. Joseph Mettam of Pikesville also preached here on occasions. The structure had become ruinous by 1864, when the Rev. J. L. Lodge was appointed by the Executive Board of Maryland Baptists. The next year, when Sater's joined the State Convention, the old board transferred title to the new board, and extensive alterations were made - a cupola was added, a vestibule tacked on, new seats installed, and a platform was put in to replace "the old wine glass pulpit and octagonal sounding board suspended from the ceiling over the preacher's head." (4)

Some of the earliest families of the area, including the Towsons, Riders, and Cockeys, belonged to the congregation. In the great days, there had been 180 members and 50 members at the low point as recorded in 1897 by Isaac Walker Maclay. The building was again described as needing repairs when the Rev. James R. Rowles and Mr. and Mrs. James E. Wadsworth, and Mrs. Susan Skipper were interviewed in 1952. At that time, there were 80 members, but only 31 of them active. Some few years before, an airplane had buzzed the ridge during Sunday service and jarred a roof beam loose; the beam fell on a cross-beam rather than plummeting into the congregation, but the event brought the need for restoration into focus. (5) After the 1952 fund drive, the bricks were repointed, foundations strengthened, and wainscoating and window sills repaired.

Present pastor is the Rev. Rodney Hemphill.

Notes:

- (1) Isaac Walker Maclay, Henry Sater, typescript, 1897, Maryland Historical Society Library, pp. 6-12.
- (2) B.C. Deeds, TCB No. C, f. 238 (Hall of Records).
- (3) Baltimore County Directory (Baltimore, 1959), p. 119.
- (4) Maclay, Henry Sater, pp. 32-33.
- (5) Robert G. Breen, "Old Church on Chestnut Ridge is Binding Tie," Sun, July 18, 1952.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Isaac Walker Maclay, Henry Sater, typescript, 1897, in Maryland Historical Society Library, Baltimore.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 4.0

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Original acre:

North	16 perches	(264 feet)
West	12 perches	(198 feet)
South	16 perches	
East	12 perches	

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

STATE	None	COUNTY	None
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STATE	COUNTY
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11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE	
John W. McGrain, <i>EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, LANDMARKS PRESERVATION COMMISSION</i>	
ORGANIZATION	DATE
<i>BALTIMORE COUNTY</i> Office of Planning and Zoning	July 1977
STREET & NUMBER	TELEPHONE
401 Bosley Avenue	494-3495
CITY OR TOWN	STATE
Towson	Maryland 21204

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
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