

Bethel Chapel, formally known as Bethel United Methodist Church, is along with Stone Chapel (Carr.-178) a direct descendent of the Strawbridge Meeting House. As a result of Strawbridge's ministry, the first Bethel Church was built in 1821 after numerous years of worship in a nearby farmhouse. Thirty-nine years later in 1860 it was rebuilt and enlarged on the same spot. The unpretentious two-bay by three-bay brick building accomodates a very modest congregation.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

MAGI # 070204508

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC Bethel Chapel

AND/OR COMMON Bethel United Methodist Church (chapel)

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER E/S Buffalo Road - off Hooper Road S.E. of Sam's Creek Church

CITY, TOWN \_\_\_\_\_ CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT \_\_\_\_\_  
 VICINITY OF Marston & New Windsor 9

STATE Maryland COUNTY Carroll

**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 type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input checked="" 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 Bethel Methodist (United) Church Telephone #: \_\_\_\_\_

STREET & NUMBER E/S Buffalo Road off Hooper Rd.

CITY, TOWN \_\_\_\_\_ STATE, zip code \_\_\_\_\_  
 VICINITY OF Marston & New Windsor Md. 21776

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, Registry of Deeds, ETC. Carroll County Office Building (exempt files) Liber #: \_\_\_\_\_ Folio #: None

STREET & NUMBER 225 North Center Street

CITY, TOWN Westminster STATE Maryland

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY, TOWN \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_

**7 DESCRIPTION**

CARR-286

<b>CONDITION</b>		<b>CHECK ONE</b>		<b>CHECK ONE</b>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED	DATE <u>1921</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED			
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED				

1880 - 1888

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

EXTERIOR - The small Bethel Chapel is set within a soft incline about 80 yards off Hooper Road. The eastern front facade faces this road; the northern side of the building faces Sam's Creek Road. On all side of Bethel is rolling country; directly in back (north end) is its cemetary. On the east front, as well as randomly placed all around the large old trees that grace the landscape.

The two-bay front by three-bay side American brick, bond church is one-story with working basement. It is anchored by a low uncoursed stone foundation which gradually becomes exposed from front to back as the incline slants toward the west. The structure is topped with a standing-seam gable roof, with a box cornice on each side and no cornice on back and front. The south side roof accomodates an interior recent single brick chimney.

The north and south sides are three-bays with 6/6 plainly trimmed windows. They are 2 to 3 inches recessed and have a brick keystone-style trim acting as a lintel. Smaller 9/6 windows with plain wood trim are built in the foundation, basement level. There are two-bays of these on each north and south side.

The back (west) wall is two-bays wide. The first story of windows have the same trim as the north and south sides windows. The basement story is three-bays with two windows. The same trim as the north and south side basement windows. The middle bay is a ground level entrance. This one-foot recessed single door is four panelled (vertical), with four light transom.

A round brick trimmed window, now paneless, on part of the back wall facade, and sits under the gable.

The eastern front facade of Bethel Chapel has two-bays and a four-pane plain glass round brick trimmed window under the gable. The two-bays are two entrances, symetrically placed with a smaller version of the 6/6 window above each door and removed from it by two rows of stretchers and one row of headers.

The entrance doors are recessed and framed with a plain entablature above and plain pilasters on either side. The door is further framed and encased in a panelled archway. The single doors are 6-panelled (three tiers of moulded panels) with a four-light transom.

The entire structure is small, compact and plain. It is void of decorative effects, other than door frames and round windows.

A stone under the gable reads M. E. Church 1860.

INTERIOR- Bethel Church is ten pews deep, with two side aisles and a back aisle. The walls and ceiling are plaster. The three-bay windows on either side and the two-bay chancel windows are framed with plain painted wood. The top "shoulder moulding" is in the shape of a Tudor arch; sills are four to five inches deep. A rounded, openstring, stairway in the southeast corner of the building, leads to a hanging choir, which today is not used. It is supported by two, plain, Doric columns. The west wall chancel is enclosed by a square altar railing. The choir is to the north of it; a set of pews are to the south.

The two back interior entrance doors are six-vertical panels, with four-light transoms. These have the same Tudor trim as the windows.

-continued -

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**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 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 1821 / 1860 / 1897

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

Bethel Chapel, along with Stone Chapel, (CARR. -178) are the earliest direct, lineal descendants of the Methodist Log Meeting House, built by Robert Strawbridge. Stone Chapel is forty years earlier, 1783. Bethel Chapel was built in 1821. It is located one mile south of the Log Meeting House historic marker and site.

The first Bethel Church was built in 1821. Prior to this, the class that was formed as a result of Strawbridge's ministry, that became the nucleus of the Bethel Church, met at the home of one Alexander Warfield. The site is across the road from the present site. Bishop Asbury is said to have visited this home and preached there. His last visit in 1816, two years before his death. Worship and fellowship continued in the Warfield home for twenty years, until 1821. In 1820, land was deeded by Alexander Warfield for the building of the Church as the successor or "daughter" church of the log meeting house. Actually, Stone Chapel in 1783 was the closest descendant to the meeting house. (The Log Meeting House was torn down in 1844, and the logs were used in the construction of a brick-end barn, built by one David Engel, who owned the land.)

Records are very few, if not extinct, for the class in the Warfield home, or the 1821 church. We do know that "upon the receipt of one dollar, eighty perches of land was deeded to five trustees..." It stipulated that "a house of public worship for the purpose of preaching God's Holy Word according to the doctrines contained in John Wesley's nine volumes of sermons, or to the New Testament," should be built. Also "that a school be kept under the gallery at the southeast corner of the House of Worship". The 1821 Church was built and occupied for thirty-nine years, when in 1860 it was rebuilt and enlarged on the same location. In 1857 it was incorporated, but this act of incorporation was not adopted until 1860. At this time a unanimous vote adopted the "Act of Incorporation of the Trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church of Bethel Church, Westminster Circuit, East Baltimore Conference." In 1883, it was enlarged again. In 1869, the School Commissioners rented the basement of the Church to house the school, paying \$25 dollars a year.

In 1873, "it was resolved that forty feet on the north side of the burying ground be free to bury persons in, and that the lots were to be sold for \$5 per square rod."

In 1890, the church was repaired, painted, and whitewashed for \$45.

In 1897, the Church was carpeted with 165 yards of cotton carpet for \$122. This was taken up in 1938, when the floors were sanded and refinished.

In this year also, 1897, St. Paul's Church in New Windsor erected a new building and Bethel recieved its former altar furniture and pews, which are still in use.

In 1905, the graveyard was enlarged.

**CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY**

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

- "The Beginning of Methodism in Carroll County"-1953 by LaRue Ecker -paper  
 "How Methodism Came to Carroll County" manuscript-March 1937 anon. M.S.W.  
 "Methodist churches in Carroll County - 1764-1837" compiled by Branford Cist Lynch  
 -The Democratic Advocate -1937  
 "1860-1960 Anniversary Service" pamphlet-bulletin Bethel Methodist Church anon.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

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

## VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	Maryland	COUNTY	Carroll
STATE		COUNTY	

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE Fredi Eckhardt historic site surveyor

ORGANIZATION Carroll County Committee of the Maryland Historical Trust

DATE fall - 1978

STREET &amp; NUMBER 210 East Main Street

TELEPHONE 848-6494

CITY OR TOWN Westminster

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

CARR - 286  
Bethel Chapel  
Bethel United Methodist Church

7 Description continued

The floors are random width, hardwood with carpet runners.

The very plain rectangular plan is further simplified with plain glass window panes, **rather** than stained glass.

8 Significance continued

In 1922, a frame Social Hall was built, and still stands, to the South of the church.



Bethel United Meth. Church

Oct. - 78

Can. - 286

last elevation

Fred E.



Bethel United Meth. Church

O.A. - 78

Can. - 286

Corner - east front, north side  
of road 2.



Bethel United Methodist Church

Oct. - 78

Can. - 286

West elevation

Fred E.