

**St. John's Chapel, Patuxent City**  
**CH-366**  
**Patuxent City vic.**  
**Public**

**Circa 1940**

St. John's Chapel, Patuxent City is a small, frame front gable structure with lancet windows, a modest steeple and an enclosed foyer. The site is situated on a steep bluff about fifty feet from Prince Frederick Road. Also, on the property are two non-contributing resources; a one story stucco hall/bathroom and a metal shed. Six or seven mid-late twentieth century graves are located to the west of the chapel.

St. John Chapel, Patuxent City is a good example of rural sacred architecture in Charles County. Modestly executed, it retains the essential features and characteristics of other local examples including a front gable orientation and simple lancet windows.

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. CH-366

### 1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic St. John's Chapel, Patuxent City (preferred)  
 other St. John's AME Church

### 2. Location

street and number 17301 Frederick Road  not for publication  
 city, town Benedict  vicinity  
 county Charles

### 3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Trustees St, John AME Church  
 street and number 17301 Prince Frederick Road telephone none  
 city, town Hughesville state MD zip code 20637

### 4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Charles County Courthouse tax map and parcel: M48 P23  
 city, town LaPlata liber 264 folio 456

### 5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- Contributing Resource in National Register District  
 Contributing Resource in Local Historic District  
 Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register  
 Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register  
 Recorded by HABS/HAER  
 Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT  
 Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### 6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	Contributing Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 <input type="checkbox"/> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input type="checkbox"/> domestic	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> structures
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 <input type="checkbox"/> objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	
		<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	
		<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion	
		<input type="checkbox"/> social	
		<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	
		<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	
		<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	
		<input type="checkbox"/> other:	
			<b>Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory</b>
			<input type="checkbox"/> 1

---

## 7. Description

Inventory No. CH-366

---

### Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

---

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

St. John's Chapel, Patuxent City is a small, frame front gable structure with lancet windows, a modest steeple and an enclosed foyer. The site is situated on a steep bluff about fifty feet from Prince Frederick Road. Also on the property are two non-contributing resources; a one story stucco hall/bathroom and a metal shed. Six or seven mid-late twentieth century graves are located to the west of the chapel.

The chapel rests on a continuous concrete block foundation and is sheathed with a metal seam roof. A cornerstone inscription states that the building was constructed by the Grand Lodge A.F. and A.M., Inc. or Black Masons. Attached to the main block is a gabled foyer on the façade and a hipped addition attached to the rear. The foyer has a single lancet window on each side, while the rear addition has a lancet window on the west end, corresponding to a modern door that faces east. The eave walls of the main block contain three windows on either side, symmetrically aligned. Although the front and sides have been re-clad in vinyl siding, the rear includes the original exposed German beveled siding. The windows all appear to be replacements. The building has a small round metal stove flue attached to the rear of the building.

## 8. Significance

Inventory No. CH-366

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	performing arts
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	philosophy
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	politics/government
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	science
	communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	social history
	community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	transportation
	conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	other:

<b>Specific dates</b>	1925-1950	<b>Architect</b>	Unknown
<b>Construction dates</b>	1925-1950	<b>Builder</b>	Unknown

Evaluation for:

National Register       Maryland Register       not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance reports, complete evaluation on a DOE Form - see manual.)

St. John Chapel, Patuxent City is a good example of rural sacred architecture in Charles County. Modestly executed, it retains the essential features and characteristics of other local examples including a front gable orientation and simple lancet windows.

The chapel was previously surveyed by James W. Clark who stated that the building was moved from a former site but does not give a justification or source for the information. Research on the chain of title reveals that the land now belonging to St. John's Church was once part of the right of way for the old Hughesville-Benedict Road. In the 1950's the road was straightened to its current location north of the church site. In 1972 the church formally acquired .23 acres containing part of the old road bed from the state of Maryland, Roads Commission. The cornerstone was placed by the Grand Lodge of the A.F. and A.M., Inc or Black Mason on August 10, 1940.

Currently, the chapel is owned by the African Methodist Episcopal Church which traces its establishment back to Richard Allen (1760-1831), an emancipated slave and Methodist preacher who had been mistreated because of his race, left the church and in 1816 organized the African Methodist Episcopal Church. Evidence suggests that earlier the chapel was occupied by a Baptist Congregation. In 1979 a group of volunteers transcribing local tombstone identify the Church as St. John's Baptist Church. However, in 1972 the property was deeded to the Trustees of St. John AME Church. By the time of Clark's survey probably during the 1980's the church was abandoned. Currently it appears to be growing as evidenced by the recent construction of restrooms and a hall to the east.

Architecturally, the chapel is similar to other churches in Charles County including CH-523, Pleasant Grove Baptist Church constructed in 1908, CH-505 Pisgah United Methodist Church c. 1890, and CH-309 Alexandria Chapel, all with a front gable orientation lancet windows and an otherwise modest design.

---

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

---

Inventory No. CH-366

---

## 10. Geographical Data

---

Acreage of surveyed property .23  
Acreage of historical setting .23  
Quadrangle name Benedict Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

---

### Verbal boundary description and justification

The property at 17301 Prince Frederick Drive is associated with Charles County Property tax map 48, Grid 10, Parcel 23.

---

## 11. Form Prepared By

---

name/title	Cathy Currey, Historic Sites Surveyor		
organization	Charles County Planning Department	date	01/02/2001
street and number	200 Baltimore Street	telephone	301-396-581
city or town	LaPlata	state MD	zipcode 20646

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties 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  
DHCD/DHCP  
100 Community Place  
Crownsville MD 21032  
410-514-7600

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. CH-366

Section 8 Page 1

St. John's Chapel, Patuxent City  
name of property  
Charles County, MD  
county and state

---

Chain of Title:

August 14, 1972

Maryland Dept. of Transportation to Trustees, St. John AME  
Church. Project CH 272-1-515 Md. Rt. 231 Hughesville to  
Benedict. Plat 43232 .23 acres

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. CH-366

Section 9 Page 1

St. John's Chapel, Patuxent City

name of property

Charles County, Maryland

county and state

---

---

**Major Bibliographic References:**

Brown, Jack D., et al. *Charles County, Maryland, A History*.  
Charles County Bicentennial Committee, 1976.

Charles County Land Records, Charles County Courthouse, LaPlata, Maryland.

Klaphor, Margaret Brown. *The History of Charles County, Maryland*.  
LaPlata, MD. Charles County Tercentenary, Inc., 1958.

RESOURCE SKETCH MAP

Date: 11/2000

North arrow:



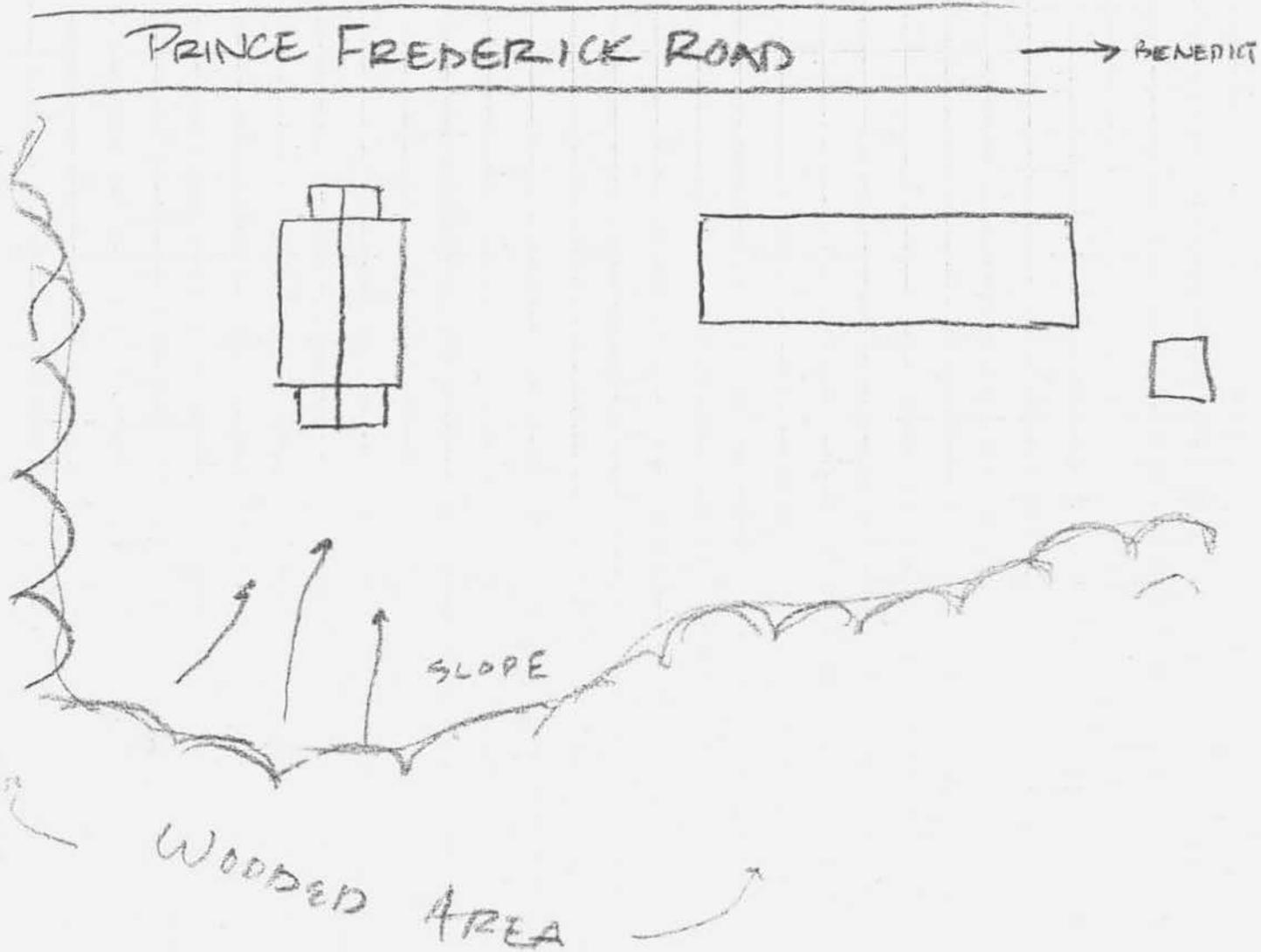
Name: ST. JOHNS AME

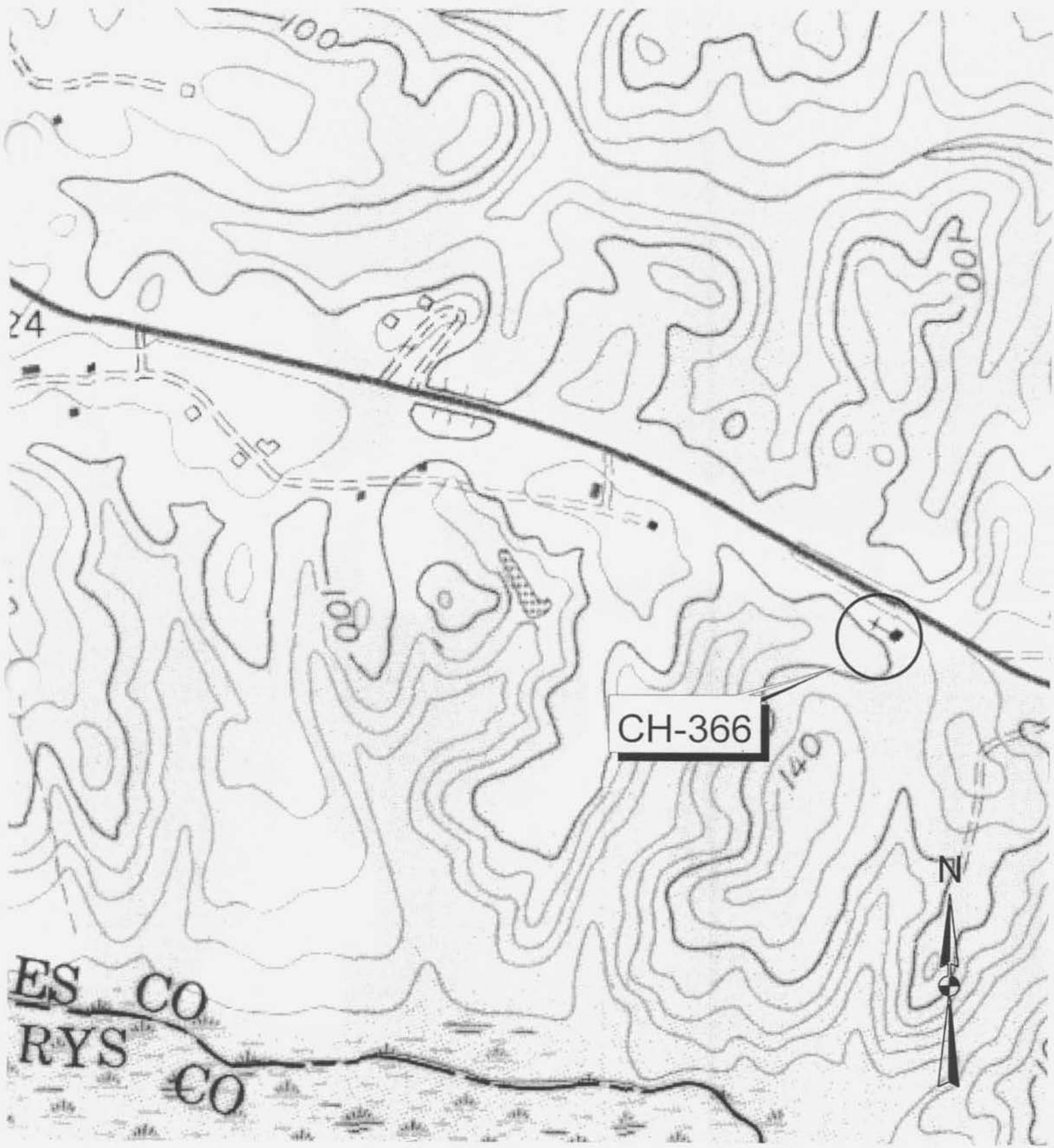
Address: 17301 PRINCE FREDERICK RD

CH - 366

Charles County, Maryland

BENEDICT X Vicinity





CH-366

ES CO  
RYS CO



St. John's AME Church  
CH-366  
Charles County, MD  
Benedict, MD Quad



WELCOME  
ST. JOHN'S A.M.E.  
CHURCH

SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:00 -  
BIBLE STUDY 11:00 -  
WEDNESDAY SERVICES 4:00  
REV. GUSTAVE S. WALKER

ST. JOHN'S AME CHURCH

CH-366

CHARLES CO, MD

11/2000

C. CURREY

MARYLAND SHPO

LOOKING SW

1 OF 3



ST. JOHNS AME CHURCH

CH 366

CHARLES CO, MD

11/2000

C. CURREY

MARYLAND / SHPO

LOOKING NE

2 OF 3



CH - 366  
ST. JOHNS A.M.E. CHURCH  
CHARLES COUNTY, MD  
11/2000  
C. CURREY  
MARYLAND / SHPO  
LOOKING EAST  
3 OF 3

Charles - 366  
St. John A.M.E. Church  
Rte. 231  
Benedict, MD 20612

\_\_\_\_\_, 1940

Access:Public

St. John AME Church stands 56' from the south side of Rte. 231, 2miles west of Benedict in Charles County. The church was moved from another site and placed upon a cement block foundation. The cornerstone was placed by the Grand Lodge of the A.F. & A.M., Inc. (Black Masons) on August 10, 1940. It is the oly A.M.E. church remaining in this area of Charles County that borders on the Patuxent. The church is now abandoned.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC St. John AME Church

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

Rte. 231 (Prince Frederick Hughesville Road)

CITY, TOWN

Benedict

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Charles

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME Trustees, St. John AME Church

Telephone #: N/A

STREET & NUMBER

Rte. 231

CITY, TOWN

Benedict

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code  
MD, 20612

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Charles CO. Court House

Liber #: Unable to locate  
Folio #: locate

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

La Plata

STATE Maryland

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE N/A

DATE

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

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

St. John AME Church stands 56' from the south side of Rte. 231, 2 miles west of Benedict in Charles County. The church faces north. The church was moved from another site and placed upon a cement block foundation. The cornerstone was laid by the Most Worsipfull Grand Lodge of the A.F. & A.M., Inc. (Black Masons) on August 10, 1940. The building is weatherboard and has a tin roof. It measures 24' across the front facade and is 36' in depth. There are three cement steps that rise to the double five-panel (oak) doors that serve as the entrance. The building has a tin roof and is gable-ended (North-South). There is a small cupola (enclosed) atop the north gable that houses the bell. The bell rope hangs down the outside of the building. There are 3 single-paned lancet windows in the west side of the church (4') and 3 identical windows in the east side of the church.

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 checked="" 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

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

St. John A.M.E. Church is the only African Methodist Episcopal Church in this area of Charles County that borders on the Patuxent. The church is now abandoned. It was moved to this site in 1940. The AME Church has declined in rural areas over the last twenty years. This church will probably be torn down as has been the case of vacant AME churches in Prince Georges and Anne Arundel counties.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

CH 366

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

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	COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE	James W. Clark, Historic Sites Surveyor	
ORGANIZATION	Maryland Commission on Afro-American History & Culture	DATE
STREET & NUMBER	20 Dean Street	TELEPHONE 269-2893
CITY OR TOWN	Annapolis	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



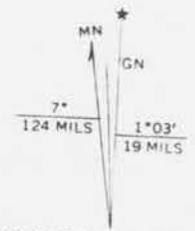
Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey

Control by USGS and USC&GS

Culture and drainage in part compiled from aerial photographs taken 1953. Topography enlarged from 1:62 500 scale map of Prince Frederick quadrangle, 15 minute series. Original map by planetable surveys 1934-1935. Revised 1953

Hydrography from USC&GS chart 539 dated 1951

Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum  
 10,000-foot grid based on Maryland coordinate system  
 1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 18, shown in blue



**BENEDICT**

UTM GRID AND 1953 MAGNETIC NORTH DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET

**CH-366**

THIS MAP FOR SALE BY A FOLDER DESCRIBING

DEPTH CURVES SHOWN



St. John A.M.E. Church

CH-366

Benedict, Charles County, Maryland

Michael Hosford

Maryland Historical Trust, Annapolis, MD

North elevation

1/81



St. John A.M.E. Church

CH-366

Benedict, Charles County, Maryland

Michael Hosford

Maryland Historical Trust, Annapolis, MD

Northwest elevation

1/81