

D-231  
Woolford's Baptist Meeting House  
Woolford  
c. 1790-1840  
Private

Woolford's Baptist Meeting House, also known as the Old School Baptist Meeting House, or the Milton Baptist Church, is a finely appointed single-story frame structure that stands on the north side of Taylor' Island Road in the small creek community of Woolford, formerly Milton. Historic architectural finishes inside and out clearly document the building's construction during the second quarter of the nineteenth century. Resting on brick piers, the frame meeting house, with its steeply pitched gable roof, is lighted by six-over-six sash windows. A single door pierces the east gable end. The most significant exterior feature of the building is the segregated entrance on the northeast side, which allowed African-American congregants to climb a steep ladder to the gallery without entering the main entrance. This means of segregation is a rare, architectural survival pointed to the shared but separate participation in the worship service at this Old School Baptist Church. The interior of the main sanctuary is important as well for its untouched finishes including tiger maple grained pews.

The Baptist religion emerged on the Eastern Shore of Maryland in small pockets, competing with the so-called dissenting Presbyterians and later Methodists, as alternative religions to the official Anglican Church of Maryland. The earliest known Baptist meetings on the peninsula surface at the north end in New Castle, Delaware as well as to the south in Somerset County by the second quarter of the eighteenth century. Never attracting large numbers of congregants in contrast to Methodism, a handful of Baptist

meetings were in place in Dorchester County by the last decades of the eighteenth century. In an effort to document their formal existence, by means of an official record, a statement was drawn together in 1793-94 that stated there were four Baptist meeting houses in Dorchester at that time. Woolford's Baptist Meeting house was relatively new when the document was recorded in 1794. The history of the Baptist Meeting House in the community of Woolford states that the original meeting house was erected in 1791 on a three-quarter acre parcel of "Woolford's Content," land that had been supplied by Stevens Woolford. While a structure surely stood on the site at the head of Fishing Creek by the early 1790s, the present meeting house dates from the second quarter of the nineteenth century.

The ownership of Woolford's Meeting House passed in private ownership from Stevens Woolford to his son Whitefield in 1832. The Baptist Meeting house is referred to in his will as a reference point in the division of his lands between his two sons. In turn, Whitefield Woolford bequeathed ownership of the Baptist Meeting House and grounds to his children in 1874 with the request that they maintain it on behalf of the Old School Baptists that continued to worship there. The burial ground next to the church is defined by several dozen graves of the Woolford and Mace families.

# Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. D-231

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

historic Woolford's Baptist Meeting House, Old School Baptist Meeting House  
 other Milton Baptist Church

## 2. Location

street and number Taylor's Island Road, MD Route 16  not for publication  
 city, town Cambridge vicinity \_\_\_\_\_  
 county Dorchester

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

name Milton Baptist Church  
 street and number \_\_\_\_\_ telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
 city, town Woolford state MD zip code 21677

## 4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Dorchester County Clerk of Court liber \_\_\_\_\_ folio \_\_\_\_\_  
 city, town Cambridge tax map \_\_\_\_\_ tax parcel \_\_\_\_\_ tax ID number \_\_\_\_\_

## 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 type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	<u>1</u>	_____ buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion	_____	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input type="checkbox"/> domestic	<input type="checkbox"/> social	_____	_____ structures
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	_____	_____ objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<u>1</u>	_____ Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> unknown		
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use		
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> other:		

**Number of Contributing Resources  
previously listed in the Inventory**  
\_\_\_\_\_

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## 7. Description

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Inventory No. D-231

### Condition

excellent      \_\_\_ deteriorated  
\_\_\_ good            \_\_\_ ruins  
\_\_\_ fair             \_\_\_ altered

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

### DESCRIPTION SUMMARY

The old School Baptist Church in the community of Woolford, formerly Milton, also known historically as Woolford's Baptist Meeting House, is a single-story one bay by two-bay frame structure dating to the second quarter of the nineteenth century. Standing on the north side of Taylor's Island Road (MD Route 160), the braced frame meeting house is supported by a brick pier foundation, and the exterior is clad with plain weatherboard siding. Facing east, the steeply pitched roof is covered with wood shingles. The interior has survived intact with unaltered finishes dating to the second quarter of the nineteenth century. The meeting house is joined on the lot by several dozen grave markers, mostly from the Woolford and Mace families.

### GENERAL DESCRIPTION

Alternately known as the old School Baptist Church, the Milton Baptist Church, or simply, Woolford's Baptist Church, this single-story, one-bay by two-bay frame building stands on the north side of Taylor's Island Road (MD Route 16) in the small community of Woolford (formerly Milton) at the head of Fishing Creek in Dorchester County, Maryland. The single-story frame church, built around 1825-40, is supported on a brick pier foundation, and the exterior is clad with plain weatherboards. The steeply pitched roof is covered with wood shingles. The church faces east with the gable roof oriented on an east/west axis.

The east (main) elevation is a one-bay wide façade with a center entrance marked by a plain modern door in substitution of the historic door that is located inside the building. Fixed above the door is a boarded over window opening. The edge of the roof is finished flush with a plain bargeboard.

The north side is a two-bay elevation defined by two evenly spaced six-over-six sash windows flanked by louvered shutters. The window trim has a slightly convex outward half-round, and the window surrounds terminate on a thick wood sill. Located to the left of the east window is a narrow board door framed by a narrow beaded edge surround characteristic of the early nineteenth century. The board door, approximately 18" across by 48" tall, is an outside access to the interior ladder type stair that rises to the gallery. The base of the roof is finished with an exposed series of rafter ends.

The south side of the church is defined by two six-over-six sash windows with an interior brick stove chimney rising through the side of the building. The six-over-six sash windows are flanked by louvered shutters. The edge of the roof is finished with exposed rafter ends.

The west (rear) wall is a plain weatherboard wall surface with the gable end finished flush and trimmed by a plain bargeboard.

**Maryland Historical Trust**  
**Maryland Inventory of**  
**Historic Properties Form**

Inventory No. D-231

Name Woolford's Baptist Meeting House (Old School Baptist Meeting House)

**Continuation Sheet**

Number 7 Page 1

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The interior has survived relatively unchanged since the second quarter of the nineteenth century with a raised pulpit at the west end distinguished by a square baluster altar rail. Narrow boxed pews fill the body of the church and have tiger maple grained surfaces. Octagonal posts support tie beams that cross the upper wall surface to support the walls and roof system.

The church stands on a small acreage along with a burial ground of approximately two- to three-dozen grave markers, mostly from the Woolford and Mace families.

## 8. Significance

Inventory No. D-231

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

### Specific dates

### Architect/Builder

Construction dates 1791

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 projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

### SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY

Woolford's Baptist Meeting House is one of the best preserved of the early nineteenth century churches surviving in Dorchester County. Estimated to date around 1825-40, the braced frame meeting house is supported on a brick pier foundation, and the interior is lighted by six-over-six sash windows. The most important aspect of the church is the segregated entrance from the outside to provide access to the balcony for African-American congregants. A narrow board-and-batten door opens into a small closeted ladder-type stair that rises to the gallery. The interior is also important for its survival of the original pews that have tiger maple paint decoration.

### HISTORY AND SUPPORT

The Baptist religion emerged on the Eastern Shore of Maryland in small pockets, surfacing as early as the second quarter of the eighteenth century in Somerset County.<sup>1</sup> Never attracting large numbers of congregants in contrast to Methodism, a handful of Baptist meetings were organized in Dorchester County during the last decades of the eighteenth century. In an effort to document their formal existence in the county records, a statement was drawn together in 1794 that stated there were four Baptist meeting houses at that time.<sup>2</sup> Woolford's Baptist Meeting House was relatively new when this document was recorded. The history of the Old School Baptist Church in the community of Woolford states that the original meeting house was built in 1791 on a three-quarter acre parcel of "Woolford's

<sup>1</sup> Clayton Torrence, *Old Somerset on the Eastern Shore of Maryland*, Baltimore: Regional Publishing Company, (Reprint 1973), pp. 508-09.

<sup>2</sup> Dorchester County Land Record, HD 8/64, 4 November 1794, Dorchester County Courthouse, Cambridge, Maryland. "Be it Remembered that the following Meeting Houses was recorded the fourth day of November Seventeen Hundred and ninety-four, To the Honorable John Done, Esq. Chief Justice and his Associates. We the Subscribers Members of the Baptist Churches in Dorchester County, Pray to have the following Houses recorded as places of Religious & Social Worship—No. 1 Chicknicomico (sic) Meet[in]g House near the Draw Bridge—No. 2 Mill Meeting House near Thomas Lockerman's Mills—No. 3 Woolford's Meeting House near the head of Fishing Creek, No. 4, Streights Meeting House near Lightwood Knott Chapel—I E. Gist, Tristram Thomas, William Jones, 3<sup>rd</sup> Nov. 1794.

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

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Name Woolford's Baptist Meeting House, Old School Baptist Meeting House

### Continuation Sheet

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Content<sup>2</sup> provided by Stevens Woolford. While a structure surely stood on the site at the head of Fishing Creek by the early 1790s, the present structure dates from the second quarter of the nineteenth century.

The ownership of Woolford's Meeting House passed from Stevens Woolford to his son Whitefield Woolford in 1832. The meeting house is referred to in his will as a reference point in the division of his lands between his sons.<sup>3</sup> In turn, Whitefield Woolford bequeathed ownership of the Baptist Meeting House and grounds to his children with the request that they maintain it on behalf of the Old School Baptists that continued to worship there.<sup>4</sup> The burial ground next to the church is defined by several dozen graves of Woolford and Mace families.

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<sup>3</sup> Dorchester County Probate Record, Will Book THH 1/188, Written 9.18.1827, Proved 5 November 1832, Dorchester County Courthouse, Cambridge, Maryland.

<sup>4</sup> Dorchester County Probate Record, Will Book EWL 2/117, Filed 9 November 1874, Proved 16 December 1874, Dorchester County Courthouse, Cambridge, Maryland.

**Maryland Historical Trust**  
**Maryland Inventory of**  
**Historic Properties Form**

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Name Woolford's Baptist Meeting House, Old School Baptist Meeting House

**Continuation Sheet**

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Woolford's Baptist Meeting House, Old School Baptist Meeting House  
Woolford, Dorchester County, Maryland

HD 8/64 The Baptist Meeting Houses

11.4.1794 Be it Remembered that the following Meeting Houses was recorded the fourth day of November Seventeen Hundred and ninety four, To the Honorable John Done Esq. Chief Justice and his Associates. We the Subscribers Members of the Baptist Churches in Dorchester County, Pray to have the following Houses recorded in places of Religious & Social Worship—No. 1 Chicknicomico (sic) Meet[in]g House near the Draw Bridge—No. 2 Mill Meeting House near Thomas Lockerman's Mills—No. 3, Woolford's Meeting House near the head Of Fishing Creek, No 4, Streights Meeting House near Lightwood Knott Chappel—I E. Gist, Tristram Thomas, William Jones, 3d Nov. 1794

Dorchester County  
Will Book  
THH 1/188

Last Will and Testament of Stevens Woolford

to, son

Written  
9.18.1827  
Proved  
11.5.1832

Whitefield Woolford

Land where he resides...lies to the south and eastward...to a bridge across the County road leading from the Baptist Meeting House to Tobacco Stick

**Maryland Historical Trust**  
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Name Woolford's Baptist Meeting House, Old School Baptist Meeting House

**Continuation Sheet**

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Dorchester County

Will Book

EWL 2/117

Whitefield Woolford

to children

Filed

11.9.1874

Proved

12.16.1874

I give and bequeath unto all my children the Baptist Meeting House  
& grounds where it stands with the request that they keep it in repairs  
for the use of the Old School Baptists

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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Inventory No. D-231

Dorchester County Land Records, various volumes, Dorchester County Courthouse.

Dorchester County Probate Records, various volumes, Dorchester County Courthouse.

Torrence, Clayton. *Old Somerset on the Eastern Shore of Maryland*. Baltimore: Reginal Publishing Co., Reprint, 1973.

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## 10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of surveyed property 3/4 acre

Acreage of historical setting 3/4 acre

Quadrangle name Golden Hill Quadrangle

Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

The metes and bounds of this property are coincidental with the current boundary of the lot.

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## 11. Form Prepared by

---

name/title	Paul B. Touart, Architectural Historian		
organization	Chesapeake Country Heritage & Preservation	date	9.19.2012
street & number	Cedar Hill, P. O. Box 5	telephone	410-651-1094
city or town	Westover	state	Maryland 21871

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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.

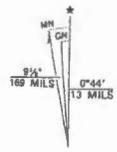
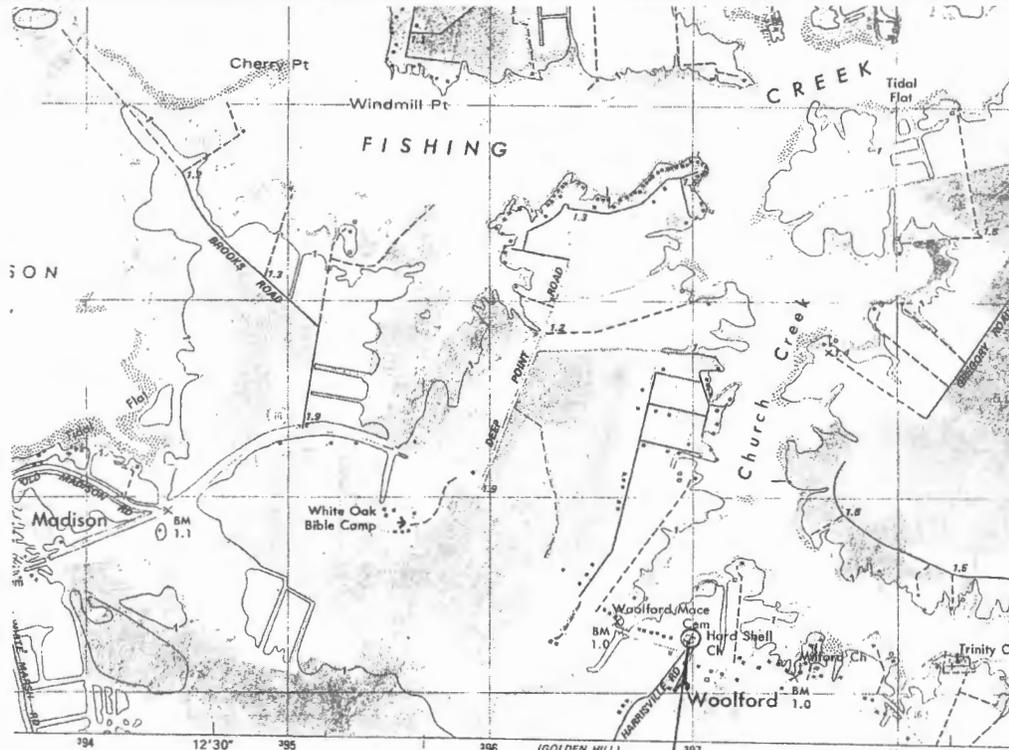
return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
DHCD/DHCP  
100 Community Place  
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023  
410-514-7600

# Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

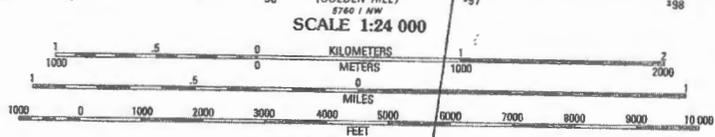
Inventory No. D-231

Name Woolford's Baptist Meeting House  
Continuation Sheet

Number 9 Page 1



1918 AND 1982 MAGNETIC NORTH  
DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET



CONTOUR INTERVAL 1 METER  
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929  
CONTROL AND OTHER ELEVATIONS SHOWN TO THE NEAREST 0.1 METER  
DEPTH CURVES AND SOUNDINGS IN METERS—DATUM IS MEAN LOW WATER  
THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO DATUMS IS VARIABLE  
THE MEAN RANGE OF TIDE IS APPROXIMATELY 0.4 METERS

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

CONT

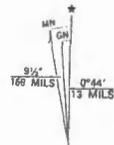
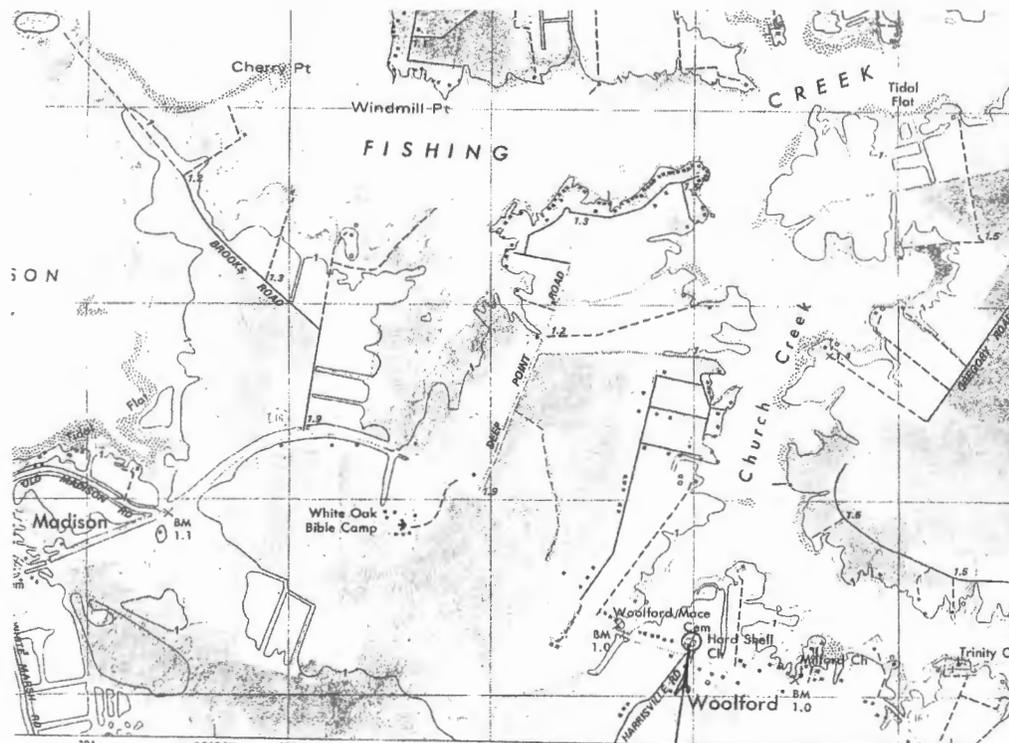
-D-231, Woolford's Baptist Mtg. Hs  
Church Creek Quadrangle

# Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

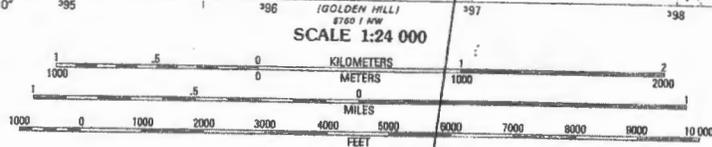
Inventory No. D-231

Name Woolford's Baptist Meeting House  
Continuation Sheet

Number 9 Page 2



1982 MAGNETIC NORTH  
AT CENTER OF SHEET



SCALE 1:24 000  
CONTOUR INTERVAL 1 METER  
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929  
CONTROL AND OTHER ELEVATIONS SHOWN TO THE NEAREST 0.1 METER  
DEPTH CURVES AND SOUNDINGS IN METERS—DATUM IS MEAN LOW WATER  
THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO DATUMS IS VARIABLE  
THE MEAN RANGE OF TIDE IS APPROXIMATELY 0.4 METERS

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A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

CONT

-D-231, Woolford's Baptist Mtg. Hs  
Church Creek Quadrangle

**Maryland Historical Trust  
Maryland Inventory of  
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Name Woolford's Baptist Meeting House  
Continuation Sheet

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D-231, Woolford's Baptist Meeting-  
house  
U.S. Coastal Survey, c. 1848

Register No. 250 bis

Scale  $\frac{1}{20000}$

See sheet No. 1 for title and notes

**SHEET NO. 2**

Duplicated in two sheets  
duced by photo-lithography and the indistinct parts  
up and strengthened with pen and ink. The obliterated  
were restored in red ink from chart No. 135 publish-  
D-231, Woolford's Baptist Meetinghouse, U.S. Coastal Survey Map, c. 1848, National Archives.

# Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. D-231

Name Woolford's Baptist Meeting House  
Continuation Sheet

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D-231

Woolkonn's BAPTIST Meeting House  
Woolkonn, Dorchester Co. MD.

SOUTHEAST ELEVATION

9/2012, Paul B. Touart, PHOTO.

WPA/MD. HISTORICAL TRUST

#1 of 4



D-231

Woolfenden's BAPTIST MEETING HOUSE  
Woolfenden, Dorchester Co., MD.  
NORTHEAST ELEVATION

9/2012, Paul B. Towant, PHOTO.

NEE / MD HISTORICAL TRUST

# 2 OF 4



D-231

Woolford's Baptist Meeting House

Woolford, Dorchester Co., Md.

Southwest Elevation

9/2012, Paul Touart, photo.

Md./Md. Historical Trust

#3 of 4



D-231

Woolkroff's Baptist  
MEETING HOUSE  
Woolkroff, Dorchester  
Co. MD

WORTH ELEVATOR -  
SEGREGATED ENTRANCE  
TO GALLERY LANDING

9/2012, PAUL TOURANT,  
PHOTOGRAPHER  
NEB./MD HIST. TRUST

# 4 OF 4

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

NOMINATION FORM  
for the  
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

<b>1. NAME</b>				
COMMON: Old School Baptist Meeting House				
AND/OR HISTORIC:				
<b>2. LOCATION</b>				
STREET AND NUMBER: Taylor's Island Road, Rt. 16 at Harrisville Rd.				
CITY OR TOWN: Woolford				
STATE Maryland		COUNTY: Dorchester		
<b>3. CLASSIFICATION</b>				
<b>CATEGORY</b> (Check One)  <input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<b>OWNERSHIP</b>  <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<b>Public Acquisition:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<b>STATUS</b>  <input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	<b>ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC</b>  <b>Yes:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
<b>PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)</b>				
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	_____	_____
<b>4. OWNER OF PROPERTY</b>				
OWNER'S NAME: Woolford Cemetary Company, c/o Miss Virginia Webb				
STREET AND NUMBER: 111 High Street				
CITY OR TOWN: Cambridge		STATE: Maryland		21613
<b>5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION</b>				
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Dorchester County Courthouse				
STREET AND NUMBER: High Street				
CITY OR TOWN: Cambridge		STATE: Maryland		21613
Title Reference of Current Deed (Book & Pg. #):				
<b>6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS</b>				
TITLE OF SURVEY:				
DATE OF SURVEY: <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local				
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:				
STREET AND NUMBER:				
CITY OR TOWN:		STATE:		

7. DESCRIPTION	
CONDITION	(Check One)
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/> Ruins <input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered <input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered <input type="checkbox"/> Moved <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE	
<p>This building appears to be one of the earlier remaining houses of worship in the County. It is a two bay long frame structure with the entrance on the east gable. Above the double door is a small window now shuttered, as are the windows of the first story. The building stands on tall brick piers, the sides are sheathed with chamfered edge weatherboard, and the roof with wood shingle. The ends of the roof rafters are exposed in the manner of those at Trinity Church. The building is a larger version of Grace Chapel (D-207) and St. Mary's Star of the Sea Chapel. (D-18)</p> <p>Around the Meeting House are the graves of members of the Mace and Woolford families. The building and grounds are maintained.</p>	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**6. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1791

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			_____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Meeting House is important as a survival of early religious architecture as well as the fact that it is the earliest existing Baptist Meeting House in Dorchester County.

COPY

Old School Baptist Church on Fishing Creek at Woolford, Maryland.

Wooden church, built 1791 by Stevens Woolford on 3/4 acre of land known as "Woolford's Content" (now called "Liberty Hall".)

Branch of Baptists know as "Old School", or "Primitive Baptists", and only one standing of four that were listed in Dorchester County in 1794. (p. 64, Land Records of Dorchester County, Vol. No 8, H.D. 178405).

Willed to his heirs by George Whitefield Woolford in 1874, maintained by the Woolford Cemetery Company through its trustees. Inactive as a church since the 1890's.

Virginia Webb, President  
Woolford Cemetery Company  
4/27/75

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Blank area for Major Bibliographical References.

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

Acreage Justification:

Blank area for Acreage Justification.

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
Michael Bourne, Architectural Consultant

ORGANIZATION: Maryland Historical Trust      DATE: April, 1975

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Shaw House, 21 State Circle

CITY OR TOWN: Annapolis      STATE: Maryland      ZIP: 21401

**12. State Liaison Officer Review: (Office Use Only)**

Significance of this property is:  
 National     State     Local

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

15X1-30

75%

D-231



Old School Baptist Church

D-231

M. Bourne April 1975