

D-320
St. Thomas M. E. Church
Bishops Head
1900-01

The St. Thomas Methodist Episcopal Church is one of the most prominent historic structures to remain standing in the community of Bishops Head in southwestern Dorchester County. Built in 1900-01, the large gable-front frame structure has a three-story corner entrance and bell tower as well as a secondary entrance in an opposite corner. The church shares similar design features to the nearby Wesley M. E. Church, however, many of the decorative elements on St. Thomas have been stripped or covered by later materials.

The St. Thomas M. E. congregation was established during the second quarter of the nineteenth century, and in 1839 the early membership acquired a 1/2-acre lot for the purpose of building a "preaching house" or chapel, as dictated in the land record conveying the property from Gilbert Wingate to the trustees, Barzillai Murphey, Ezekial Johnson, Pritchett Murphy, Jacob Jones, Henry Fallin, Newton Willey, and George Hart. The first chapel evidently served the Bishops Head community until the end of the century when the much larger Gothic Revival inspired church was erected in 1900-01. Aiding with the financial underwriting of the construction project was Eugene Crocheron, the dry good merchant from Tedious Creek. (See D-831) A mortgage was executed in 1902 between Crocheron and the trustees for \$950, "for paying off and discharging the debts incurred for the erection and furnishing of the present church."

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. D-320

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic St. Thomas Methodist Episcopal Church

other _____

2. Location

street and number St. Thomas Church Road __ not for publication

city, town Bishop's Head vicinity

county Dorchester

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

name Trustees of St. Thomas United Methodist Church c/o Rev. Barbara Mills

street and number 1817 Crocheron Road telephone

city, town Bishop's Head state MD zip code 21672

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Dorchester County Clerk of Court liber folio

city, town Cambridge tax map 108 tax parcel 152 tax ID number 10-006430

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

7. Description

Inventory No. D-320

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.

DESCRIPTION SUMMARY

St. Thomas United Methodist Church, historically a Methodist Episcopal congregation, stands on St. Thomas Church Road in the community of Bishop's Head in the Strait's Election District of Dorchester County, Maryland. Built in 1901, the large Gothic Revival inspired church is supported on low brick foundation and the exterior is clad with vinyl siding over plain weatherboards. The steeply pitched gable roof is covered with asphalt shingles. Since the site was visited in 1975 by Michael Bourne some of the original exterior features have been removed with the application of the synthetic siding. The church faces northwest with the gable roof oriented on a northwest/southeast axis.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The St. Thomas United Methodist Church, originally a Methodist Episcopal congregation, is located on St. Thomas Church Road in the community of Bishop's Head in the Strait's Election District of Dorchester County, Maryland. The 1901 Gothic Revival influenced frame church stands on the south side of the road with the gable-front principal façade facing northwest. Supported on a low brick foundation, the exterior is clad with vinyl siding, and the steeply pitched gable roof is covered with asphalt shingles. There is no discernible datestone.

The northwest main façade is a gable-front elevation with the first story defined by a series of four pointed arch lancet windows fitted with sash windows enhanced with colored glass perimeter panes. Fixed above the four sanctuary windows is a diamond shaped window, also fitted with colored glass. The edge of the roof is finished with an extended eave and enclosed soffits. Rising on the northeast corner is a three-story entrance and bell tower. The double-door side entrance retains its period half-leaf double doors, and a pointed arch, colored glass transom. Piercing the shaft of the tower is another diamond shaped window. The belfry has been modified with asphalt shingles flared eave above the diamond window; the eave was originally clad with wood shingles in the same fashion as the Wesley M. E. Church south of Andrews. Small corner brackets under the eave have been removed. The belfry was Originally accented with paired pointed arch louvered vents, and the belfry was capped by a bracketed eave and modified pyramidal tower. The vents no longer have the pointed arches, and the roof is flat or covered with a low pitch not discernible to the eye.

The southwest side elevation has a secondary side entrance in the northernmost bay, and it retains its period half-leaf double doors. The entrance is topped by pointed arch colored glass transom, and the doorway is further defined by a small cross gable. The southwest side of the church is marked by five pointed arch lancet windows fitted with colored glass perimeter panes. Fixed atop the roof is a side gable, similar to the Wesley M. E. Church, with an interior end brick stove chimney piercing the roof.

The northeast side of the main block is also defined by five pointed arch lancet windows fitted with colored glass perimeter panes. Built in the same way as the southwest side, a centered cross gable is

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pierced by an interior end brick stove chimney.

The southeast (rear) wall is defined by a single-story apse pierced by pointed arch lancet windows in the sides. A diamond shaped window pierces the upper gable end.

The interior was not open on the day of the initial field survey.

Located to the side and back of the church is a nineteenth and twentieth century cemetery defined by scores of above ground markers.

8. Significance

Inventory No. D-320

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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input checked="" 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 1839 **Architect/Builder**

Construction dates 1900-01

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

The St. Thomas Methodist Episcopal church is one of the most prominent historic structures to remain standing in the community of Bishop's Head in southwestern Dorchester County. Built in 1900-01, the large gable-front frame structure has a three-story corner entrance and bell tower as well as a secondary entrance on the opposite corner. The church shared similar design features to the nearby Wesley M. E. Church, however many of those decorative elements have been stripped from the exterior of St. Thomas.

HISTORY AND SUPPORT

The St. Thomas Methodist Episcopal congregation was established during the second quarter of the nineteenth century, and in 1839 the early membership acquired a 1/2-acre lot for the purpose of building a "preaching house" or chapel,¹ as dictated in the land record conveying the property from Gilbert Wingate to the trustees of the St. Thomas congregation, Barzillai Murphey, Ezekial Johnson, Pritchett Murphy, Jacob Jones, Henry Fallin, Newton Willey, and George Hart. The first chapel evidently served the Bishop's Head community until the end of the century when a much larger, Gothic Revival inspired church was erected in 1900-01. Aiding with the financial underwriting of the construction project was Eugene Crocheron (1857-1928), a dry goods merchant who built a sizable commercial enterprise on Tedious Creek during the late nineteenth century. A mortgage was executed in 1902 between Crocheron and the trustees for \$950, "for paying off and discharging the debts incurred for the erection and furnishing of the present church."²

¹ Dorchester County Land Record, ER 17/150, 10 January 1839, Dorchester County Courthouse, Cambridge, Maryland.

² Dorchester County Land Record, CL 13/50, 25 August 1902, Dorchester County Courthouse, Cambridge, Maryland.

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St. Thomas M. E. Church
Bishop's Head Road
Bishop's Head, Dorchester County, Maryland

Map 108, Parcel 152

CL 27/84

Charles C. Dail, Trustee

to

8.25.1902

Trustees of St. Thomas M. E. Church

½ acre ...same land whereon stands the new Methodist Episcopal church recently erected by the congregation of St. Thomas' M. E. Church...

Mortgage
CL 13/50

Eugene Crocheron

from

8.25.1902

Trustees of Saint Thomas M. E. Church

\$950 ...for the purpose of paying off and discharging the debts incurred for the erection and furnishing of the present church edifice now standing and being upon the land hereinafter described...

ER 17/150

Gilbert Wingate

to

1.10.1839

Barzillai Murphey, Ezekial Johnson, Pritchett Murphy, Jacob Jones, Henry Fallin, Newton Willey, George Hart and their successors forever...

and they shall erect and build or cause to be erected or built thereon a

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a preaching house or Chapel for only proper use and comfort of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and to be occupied and made use of as a preaching house or Chapel by the ministers of the said Church now licensed or authorized by the authorities of the said Church...

\$10.00 1/2 acre

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. D-320

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

Graham, John L. ed. *The 1877 Atlases and Other Early Maps of the Eastern Shore of Maryland*, Wicomico Bicentennial Committee, 1976.

Hallman, E. C., *The Garden of Methodism*, Peninsula Annual Conference, 1948.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 43,560 square feet

Acreage of historical setting 1/2 acre

Quadrangle name Wingate, Maryland Quadrangle

Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

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

11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Paul B. Touart, Architectural Historian		
organization	Private Consultant	date	8.10.2013
street & number	P. O. Box 5	telephone	410-651-1094
city or town	Westover	state	Maryland 21871

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.

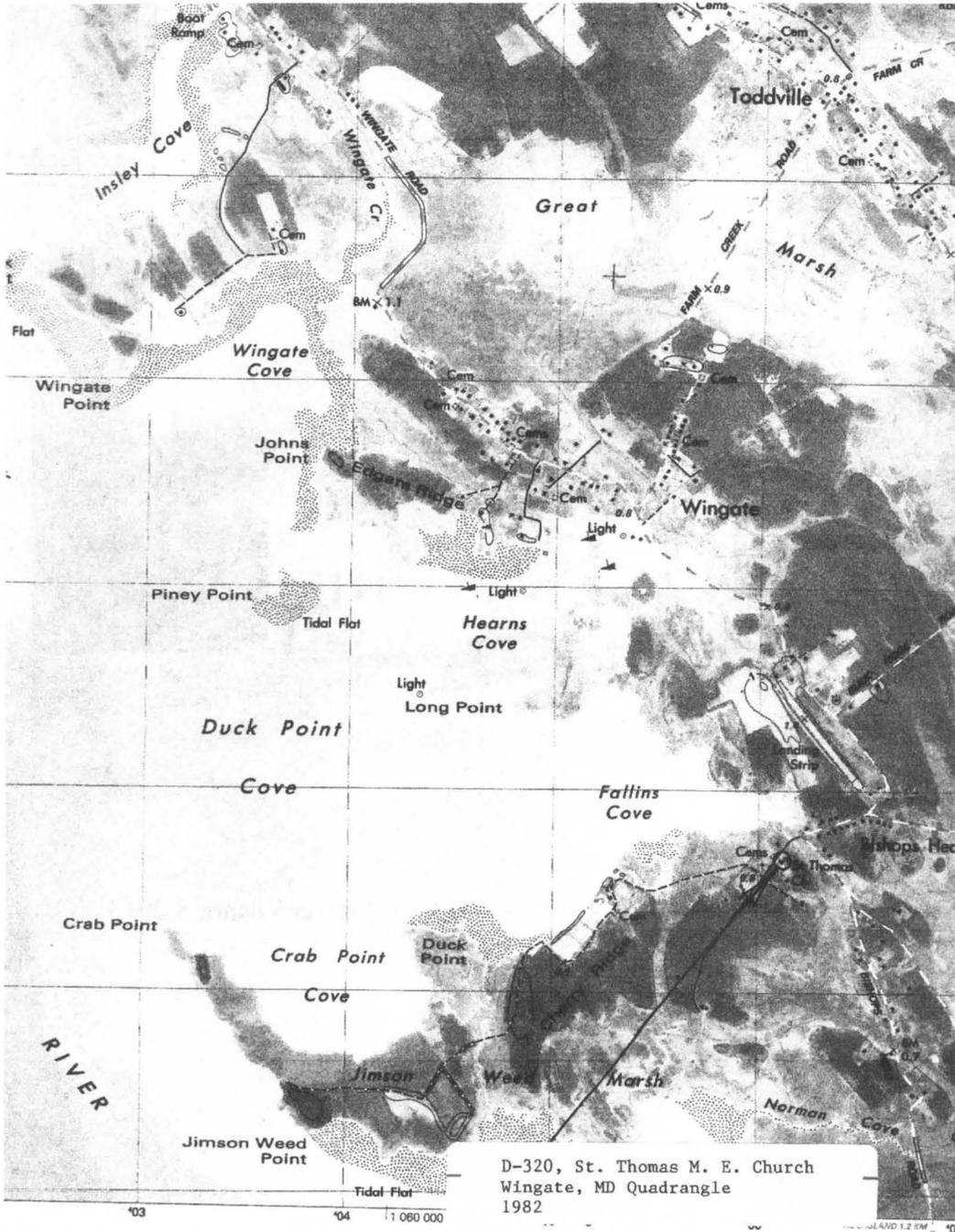
return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600

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Continuation Sheet

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D-320, St. Thomas M. E. Church
Wingate, MD Quadrangle
1982

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

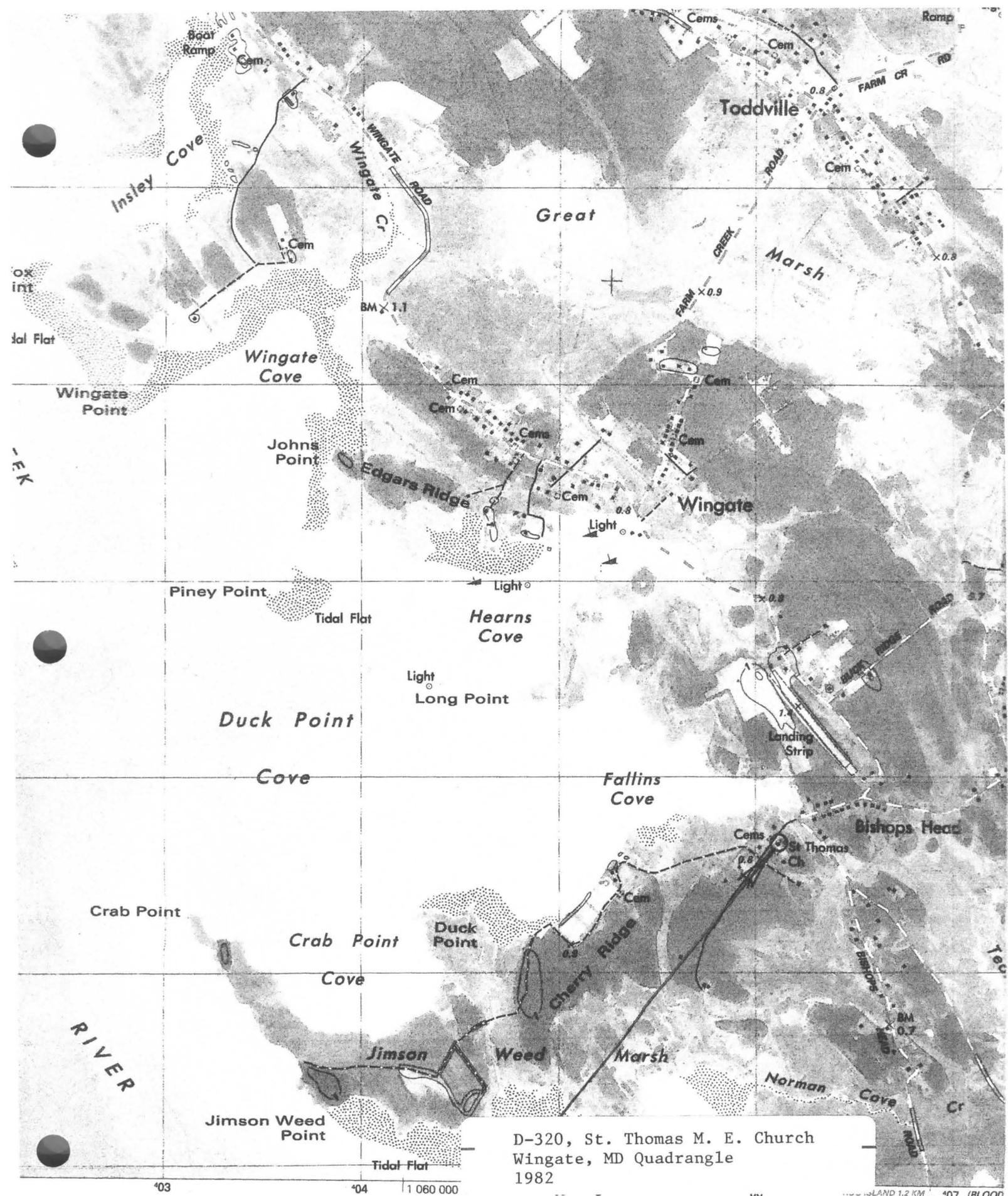
Inventory No. D-320

Name St. Thomas M. E. Church
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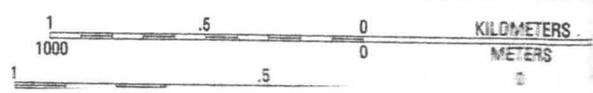


D-320, St. Thomas M. E. Church, northeast elevation, Bishops Head, Paul Baker Touart, 8.2013



D-320, St. Thomas M. E. Church
 Wingate, MD Quadrangle
 1982

United States Geological Survey
 NOS/NOAA
 Derived from aerial photograph taken
 Topography by planimetric surveys





D-320

St. Thomas M. E. Church
BISHOPS HEAD, DOMESTICA C. M.
NORTHEAST ELEVATION

8.2013, PAUL B. TOWART, PHOTO.

WEG/MTD HISTORICAL TRUST

1 OF 1

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)			(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

St. Thomas Church is the largest structure in Bishops Head and is more impressive than Zion United Methodist Church for its size, the detail, however, is not as refined.

The building is six bays deep and on its northwest gable is a series of four windows, all equal in size and each having the popular miter arch. The walls are covered with weatherboard. A tower rises within the north corner with the entrance on the northeast side. Imbricated shingles cover the tower and gable, as well as the small gable on the side from which issues the brick chimney. The tower extends to a cornice almost even with the apex of the main roof. Above, there is a swallow tail portion of roof extending to the slightly narrower shingled bellfry which has double louvers therein. Above the bellfry is another cornice with brackets and a truncated pyramid roof. Perhaps there was originally a spire or gallery on top, but it looks incomplete in its present condition.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

B. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

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/Phi-	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	osophy	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human-	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	itarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> Music	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The building is one of the most impressive structures in the lower part of Dorchester. It is also similar to the church on Elliott. Certainly it shows the impact which Methodism had upon the inhabitants of the Islands.

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:

District 10, Map 108, p. 152

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

STATE:	COUNTY:

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Michael Bourne, Architectural Consultant

ORGANIZATION: **Maryland Historical Trust** DATE: **Nov, 1975**

STREET AND NUMBER:
Shaw House, 21 State Circle

CITY OR TOWN: **Annapolis** STATE: **Maryland** ZIP: **21401**

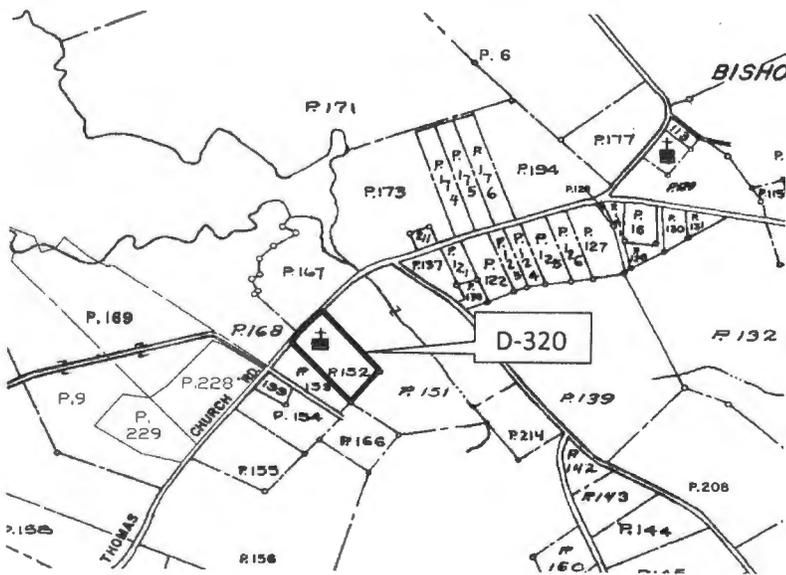
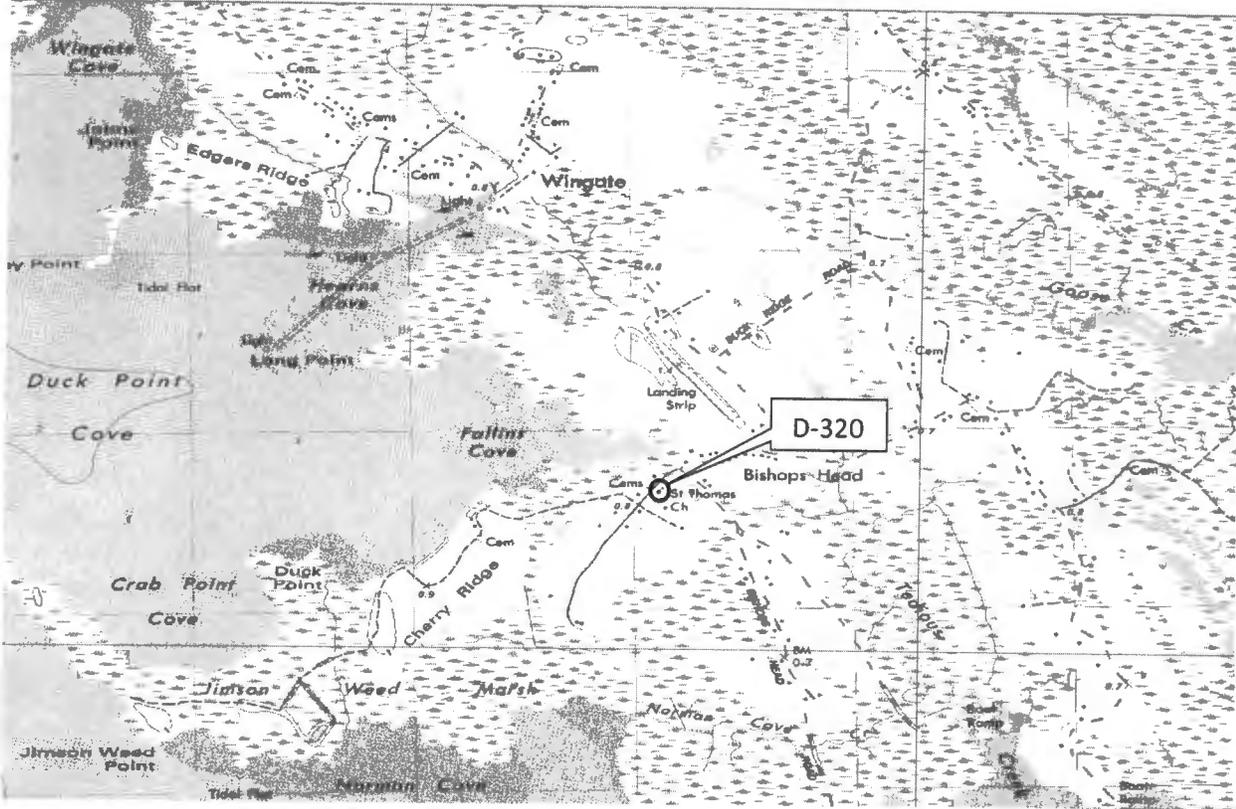
12 State Liaison Officer Review: (Office Use Only)

Significance of this property is:
 National State Local

Signature

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

D-320
St. Thomas United Methodist Church
St. Thomas Church Road
Bishops Head, Dorchester
Wingate Quad
Tax map- 108, Parcel- 152



14x1-31

50% D-320



St. Thomas United Methodist Church

D-320

M. Bowne Nov 1945