

D-750
First Baptist Church of Hurlock
Hurlock
1915
Private

The First Baptist Church of Hurlock, erected in 1915, is historically and architecturally distinctive on account of its rusticated concrete block construction. Erected on a full cellar with a raised foundation, the prominent single-story, cruciform shaped main block also features a three-story entrance and bell tower executed in rusticated block as well. Attached to the back of the sanctuary is a single story Sunday School wing. The use of rusticated blocks in the construction of the First Baptist Church reveals how a relatively new material was widely accepted and employed in major and minor construction projects in rural and urban contexts. Manufactured outside the region, the concrete blocks were shipped to Hurlock aboard one the rail lines serving the community.

A Baptist congregation in the town of Hurlock was established officially on September 10, 1915 at the residence of G. A. Thompson, Sr., however plans had been underway several months prior in a plan to acquire a lot in town for the construction of a church. In anticipation of building the new church, Louis G. Frazier acquired a lot along South Main Street from Joseph B. Andrews in June 1915. Under the leadership of Reverend H. P. East, the congregation financed the start of construction with the setting of the cornerstone on October 7th. Almost overnight, the church was built and a dedication ceremony was held on November 14, 1915. The land, however, was not formally conveyed by Louis and Bell Frazier to the congregation until February 26, 1916. The first trustees included Louis Frazier, Arthur A. Crippen, Jasper L. Thompson, George A. Thompson, Sr., and Alexander W. Morgan.

The nearly overnight construction of the church was due largely to its concrete block construction. The material was relatively new to American builders during the early twentieth century. Its rough, stone-like surface was achieved in a very intentional way to make the inexpensive concrete look much more finished and formal. While experiments in the mass production of concrete blocks, and the construction of houses entirely of the material, dated to the late 1890s work of Harmon S. Palmer in and around Chicago, his U. S. patent for a machine to produce the blocks was not issued until 1900.

Within a few years, in 1906, it was stated within the construction trade that “Concrete blocks were practically unknown in 1900, but it is probably safe to say that at the present moment more than a thousand companies and individuals are engaged in their manufacture throughout the United States.” The material became an instant success across the country and throughout the Eastern Shore, and blocks were efficiently distributed by the mature railroad network that serviced the entire peninsula.

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. D-750

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic First Baptist Church

other _____

2. Location

street and number 309 South Main Street ___ not for publication

city, town Hurlock . vicinity

county Dorchester

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

name William F. Patterson

street and number 1450 Bennett Point Road telephone _____

city, town Queenstown state MD zip code 21658-1108

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Dorchester County Clerk of Court liber MLB 584 folio 293

city, town Cambridge tax map 401 tax parcel 298 tax ID number 15-011890

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

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

7. Description

Inventory No. D-750

Condition

excellent deteriorated
 good ruins
 fair altered

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

DESCRIPTION SUMMARY

The First Baptist Church is located on the east side of South Main Street in Hurlock, Dorchester County, Maryland. The single-story cruciform shaped, rusticated concrete block church faces southwest with the principal gable roof oriented on a northeast/southwest axis. Raised on a raised foundation with a fully excavated cellar, the main block is distinguished by four parapet gables that front a cruciform shaped roof of asphalt shingles. Rising in the northwest corner of the cross plan is a three-story entrance and bell tower. Attached to the back of the main block is a single story gable roofed church hall.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

Built in 1915, the old First Baptist Church stands at 309 South Main Street in the town of Hurlock, Dorchester County, Maryland. Oriented to face the street, the single-story, cruciform plan rusticated concrete block church faces west with the principal gable roof oriented on an east/west axis. Raised on an elevation foundation of concrete block, the church has a full cellar, and the steeply pitched gable roofs are covered with asphalt shingles. Rising in the northwest corner of the cross plan is a three-story entrance and bell tower reached by flight of concrete steps. Extending to the east (rear) is a single-story gable roofed wing.

The west (main) elevation is an asymmetrical façade with the gable-end wall of the sanctuary joined with the three-story elevation of the entrance and bell tower. Resting atop a raised foundation pierced by three squarish two-over-two sash windows, the main body of the concrete block church is defined by a horizontal concrete band painted white at the top of the foundation wall at the watertable level and a second one as a beltcourse band at the top of the first story wall height. A long flight of concrete steps provides access to the double door entrance in the tower. Tall seven-panel double-leaf doors are topped by a round arched transom fitted with a floral pattern colored glass panel. The round arch of entrance is framed by a double rowlock row set in a field of small brick sized concrete blocks that frame the entrance transom. The second level of the tower is defined by a partly boarded over round arched opening with a colored glass panel at its head. The top of the tower is marked by another horizontal band painted white which is fixed beneath the belfry. The belfry is defined on each side by three round arched louvered openings. The top of the tower is flat with a heavy concrete coping around the outside edge. Piercing the adjacent gable front wall of the church is a large round arched colored glass window fitted with a four-part colored glass composition. Above the level of the concrete beltcourse is the gable end, which is finished with a pebble dash stucco. The edge of the roof is finished with a concrete parapet.

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The side elevations are finished in similar fashion with rusticated concrete block walls pierced by round arched colored glass windows. Attached to the back (east) side of the main block is a Sunday School concrete block wing resting atop a raised concrete block foundation.

8. Significance

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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 checked="" 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 11.14.1915 (Dedication) **Architect/Builder**

Construction dates 1915

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 First Baptist Church of Hurlock, erected in 1915, is historically and architecturally distinctive on account of its rusticated block construction. Erected on a full cellar with a raised foundation, the prominent single-story, cruciform shaped main block also features a three-story entrance and bell tower executed in rusticated concrete blocks as well as a rear wing that housed the Sunday School rooms. The use of rusticated concrete blocks in the construction of the First Baptist Church reveals how a relatively new material was widely accepted and employed in major and minor construction projects in rural and urban contexts. Manufactured outside the region, the concrete blocks were certainly shipped to Hurlock aboard the one of the railroads serving the community.

HISTORIC CONTEXT

A Baptist congregation in the town of Hurlock was established officially on September 10, 1915 at the residence of G. A. Thompson, Sr.¹, however plans had been underway several months before in the acquisition of a lot in the town for the construction of the church. In anticipation of building the new church, Louis G. Frazier acquired a parcel along South Main Street from Joseph B. Andrews in June 1915.² Under the leadership of Reverend H. P. East, the congregation financed the start of construction with the setting of the cornerstone on October 7th.³ Almost overnight, the church walls were raised within a month and a half with a dedication ceremony on November 14, 1915.⁴ The land was not formally conveyed from Louis and Bell Frazier to the congregation until February 26, 1916.⁵ The first trustees included Louis Frazier, Arthur A. Crippen, Jasper L. Thompson, George A. Thompson, Sr. and Alexander W. Morgan.⁶

¹ *History of Hurlock, 1892-1992*, p. 16.
² Dorchester County Land Record, WLR 9/135, 6.15.1915, Dorchester County Courthouse.
³ *History of Hurlock*, p. 16.
⁴ *History of Hurlock*, p. 16.
⁵ Dorchester County Land Record, WLR 9/768, 2.26.1916, Dorchester County Courthouse.
⁶ *Op cit.*

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The congregation worshipped in this prominent rusticated concrete block church for 80 years until it was sold in February 1997.⁷

The nearly overnight construction of the church was due largely to its concrete block construction, which was a relatively new material to American builders during the early twentieth century. Its rough, stone-like surface was achieved in a very intentional way to make the inexpensive concrete look much more finished and formal. While experiments in the mass production of concrete blocks and construction of houses entirely of concrete blocks dated to the late 1890s work of Harmon S. Palmer in and around Chicago, his U.S. patent for a machine to produce the blocks was not issued until 1900.⁸

Soon afterwards, in 1906, it was stated within the construction trade that "Concrete blocks were practically unknown in 1900, but it is probably safe to say that at the present moment more than a thousand companies and individuals are engaged in their manufacture in the United States."⁹ The material became an instant success across the country and throughout the Eastern Shore, and blocks were efficiently distributed by a mature railroad network that serviced the entire peninsula.

The Hurlock Baptist congregation maintained ownership of this property until 1997 when it was sold to the St. Paul's Church Home of Oasis Ministries,¹⁰ however the property was conveyed back to the Baptist congregation four years later.¹¹

⁷ Dorchester County Land Record, 351/707, 2.10.1997, Dorchester County Courthouse.

⁸ Simpson, Pamela H. *Cheap, Quick & Easy: Imitative Architectural Materials, 1870-1930*, p. 11.

⁹ Simpson, p. 11, as quoted from S. B. Newberry, "Hollow Concrete Block Construction in the United States," *Concrete and Constructional Engineering*, 1, no. 2 (May 2006): 118.

¹⁰ Dorchester County Land Record, 351/707, 10 February 1997.

¹¹ Dorchester County Land Record, 455/814, 30 July 2001.

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FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF HURLOCK
309 South Main Street
Hurlock, Dorchester County, Maryland

Map 401, Parcel 298

CHAIN OF TITLE

MLB 584/293 The Trustees of the First Baptist Church of Hurlock

to

6.4.2004 William F. Patterson
\$50,000 Parcel 1 and Parcel 2

455/814 Trustees of St. Paul's Church Home of Oasis Ministries

to

7.30.2001 The First Baptist Church of Hurlock

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351/707 Trustees of the First Baptist Church of Hurlock

to

2.10.1997 St. Paul's Church Home of Oasis Ministries

\$80,000

WLR 9/768 Louis G. Frazier and Bell H. Frazier his wife

to

2.26.1916 The Trustees of the First Baptist Church of Hurlock

Whereas Lewis G. Frazier, of Hurlock, Dorchester County, in order to make sure of the purchase and title of the lot of land hereinafter described, as a site for the First Baptist Church of the aforesaid town and State (plans for the erection of which were then being perfected) did, on the 15th day of June 1915, take from Joseph B. Andrews, and wife, a deed for the hereinafter described lot of land, as trustee for the above named Church, it being stipulated that in said deed that the said Louis G. Frazier was to convey said lot of land to the First Baptist Church, as soon as the said Church was properly organized and incorporated, and Whereas the said Church is now organized and incorporated as required by Law, in such case made and provided, as will appear by reference to Liber WHM 1/250....all that lot or parcel of land situate, lying and being on the West side of the B. C. & A. Railroad and South Main Street, Hurlock, Maryland, and more particularly described as follows, that is to say: Beginning on South Main Street....at an iron pipe planted in the ground, at a point on the eastern line of said street eighty (80) feet south of the row of maples in the lane of Joseph B. Andrews, south of his residence...

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WLR 9/135

Joseph B. Andrews

to

6.15.1915

Louis G. Frazier

FJH 12/564

James M. Andrews and Sallie N. Andrews and others

to

9.12.1878

Joseph B. Andrews

“Athol Manor” Lot No. 2

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

History of Hurlock, Maryland, 1892-1992.

Simpson, Pamela H. *Cheap, Quick & Easy: Imitative Architectural Materials, 1870-1930*, Knoxville, Tennessee: University of Tennessee Press, 1999.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 21,188 square feet

Acreage of historical setting 21,188 square feet

Quadrangle name Federalburg, MD 1944 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.

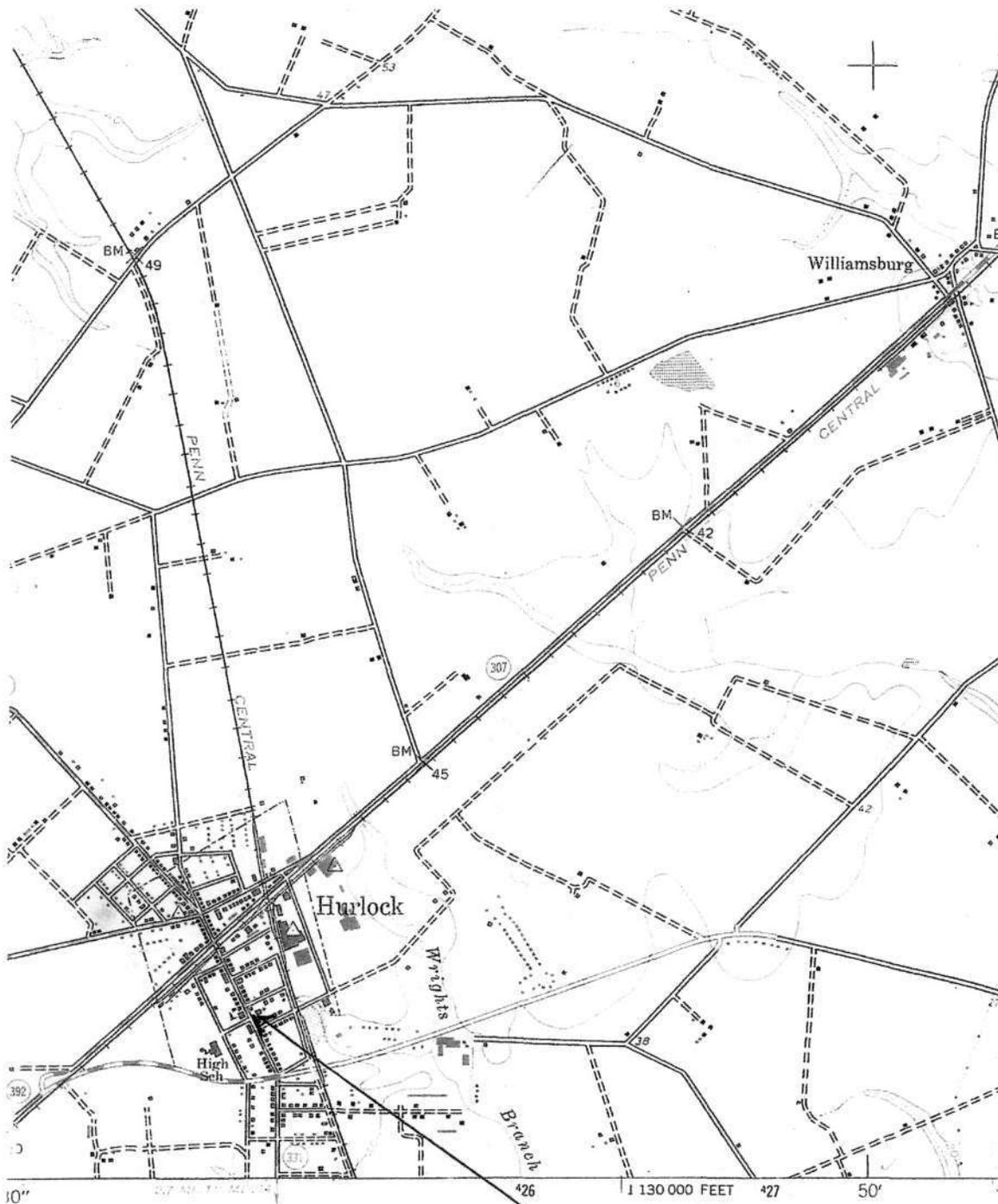
11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Paul B. Touart, Architectural Historian		
organization	Chesapeake Country Heritage & Preservation	date	10/30/2007
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



D-750, First Baptist Church
 South Main Street
 Federalsburg Quadrangle, 1944