

D-781
Vienna United Methodist Church
Vienna
1899-1900, 1958
Public worship

The Vienna United Methodist Church organized around 1849 as a Methodist Protestant congregation after the schism in the national Methodist Episcopal church in 1830.

Splitting from the town's Methodist Episcopal church that had formed around 1800, the Methodist Protestants acquired a quarter acre lot northeast of the M. E. church location. Trustees Benton H. Crockett, Robert Ruke, Thomas H. Webb, James S. Cornwell, Josiah Rew, Elisha Collins, and Elijah K. Hurley were named in the transaction the required the construction of a church to be used specifically for the Methodist Protestant denomination. The initial building that was erected around 1850 was replaced at the end of the nineteenth century with the Gothic Revival frame structure that stands on the original quarter acre lot. Rectangular in shape, the sanctuary is lighted by pointed arch colored glass windows and it is entered through a corner entrance and bell tower. After the town's two Methodist congregations reunited in May 1941, following national reunification in 1939, the Methodist Episcopal building was converted into a community center. In 1958, a large concrete block and brick veneer addition was erected on the back of the Victorian church.

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. D-781

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Vienna Methodist Protestant Church

other Vienna United Methodist Church

2. Location

street and number Church Street not for publication

city, town Vienna vicinity

county Dorchester

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

name Vienna Methodist Church of the Peninsula Conference Rev. James C. Bongard

street and number P. O. Box 278 telephone 410-841-0760

city, town Vienna state MD zip code 21869

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Dorchester County Clerk of Court liber JFD 17 folio 51

city, town Cambridge tax map 500 tax parcel 180 tax ID number 03-046567

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	Contributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	<u>1</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input type="checkbox"/> domestic	<input type="checkbox"/> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> sites
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	<input type="checkbox"/> structures
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	<u>1</u> Total
		<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:	

Number of Contributing Resources
previously listed in the Inventory

7. Description

Inventory No. D-781

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.

The Vienna United Methodist Church, historically a Methodist Protestant congregation until the national Methodist Church reunited in 1939, stands on the northwest side of Church Street between Middle and Market streets in the town of Vienna, Dorchester County, Maryland. The single-story, gable front frame building, resting on a continuous brick foundation, faces southeast with the roof oriented on a northwest/southeast axis. The building, erected in 1882-83, is sheathed with aluminum siding, and it is covered with asphalt shingles. Attached to the back of the Victorian church is a two-story brick-veneered concrete block addition erected in 1958.

The southeast (main) elevation is an asymmetrical gable-front façade with a corner entrance and bell tower dominating the northeast corner. A pair of narrow pointed arch lancet windows with colored glass panes pierce the gable front wall. On the northeast corner is the entrance and bell tower, which is defined by a pair of replacement double doors. The belfry is an open framework topped by an octagonal broach spire of stout proportions. Fixed in the southeast corner of the brick foundation is a marble datestone inscribed 1883-1880.

The southwest side wall is defined by five pointed arch, colored glass lancet windows, and the base of the steeply pitched gable roof is finished with an extended eave and boxed cornices.

The northeast side is defined by narrow colored glass lancet windows as well, although part of this elevation is obscured by the two-story, brick veneered concrete block rear addition that covers the entire rear wall of the Victorian church building. A marble datestone inscribed 1958 is set into the brick veneer adjacent to the side entrance to the rear addition. The other walls of the rear addition are plain concrete block and pierced by mid twentieth century windows.

The interior was not open on the day of field investigation.

8. Significance

Inventory No. D-781

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 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 1849 Architect/Builder

Construction dates 1883-1899

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.)

The Vienna United Methodist Church, organized around 1849 as a Methodist Protestant congregation after the schism in the national Methodist Episcopal church in 1830. Splitting from the Methodist Episcopal congregation that had formed around 1800,¹ the Methodist Protestants acquired a quarter acre lot northeast of the location of the M. E. Church from Samuel Webb, John Webb, James Thompson and Elizabeth Webb for \$75 in March 1849.² The congregational trustees, Benton H. Crockett, Robert Ruke, Thomas H. Webb, James S. Cornwell, Josiah Rew, Elisha Collins, and Elijah K. Hurley, were named in the transaction that demanded the construction of a structure to be used solely for the members of the Methodist Protestant denomination. The initial building was replaced at the end of the nineteenth century with the Gothic Revival structure that stands on the original quarter acre lot. Rectangular in shape, the sanctuary is lighted by pointed arch colored glass windows, and it is entered through a corner entrance and bell tower. After the two Methodist congregations reunited in May 1941, the Methodist Episcopal church was converted into a community center. In 1958, a large concrete block and brick veneered addition was built on the back of the Victorian church.

The old Methodist Protestant church is a distinctive Gothic Revival building for the town of Vienna and it contributes to the historical and architectural character of the town. The Methodist Episcopal church no longer survives.

¹ E. C. Hallman, *Garden of Methodism*, p. 311.
² Dorchester County Land Record, WJ 4/572, 26 March 1849, Dorchester County Courthouse.

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

Inventory No. D-781

Name Vienna Methodist Protestant Church

Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 1

Vienna Methodist Protestant Church
Church Street
Vienna, Dorchester County, Maryland

Map 500, Parcel 180

JFD 17/51

Otto Wolff and wife Elizabeth Wolff

to

9.7.1925

Trustees of Vienna M. P. Church

JFD 16/554

Alan P. S. Webb

to

7.10.1925

Otto Wolff

WJ 4/572

Samuel Webb and others (John Webb, James Thompson, Elizabeth Webb

to

3.26.1849

Trustees of M. P. Church

Benton H. Crockett, Robert Ruke, Thomas H Webb, John S. Cornwell,
Josiah Rew, Elisha Collins, Elijah K. Hurley

\$75 ¼ acre for the purpose of erecting a Methodist Protestant house
of worship....

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. D-781

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

E. C. Hallman, *Garden of Methodism*, Peninsula Annual Conference of the Methodist Church, 1948.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 13,088 square feet

Acreage of historical setting 1/4 acre

Quadrangle name Mardela Springs, MD

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

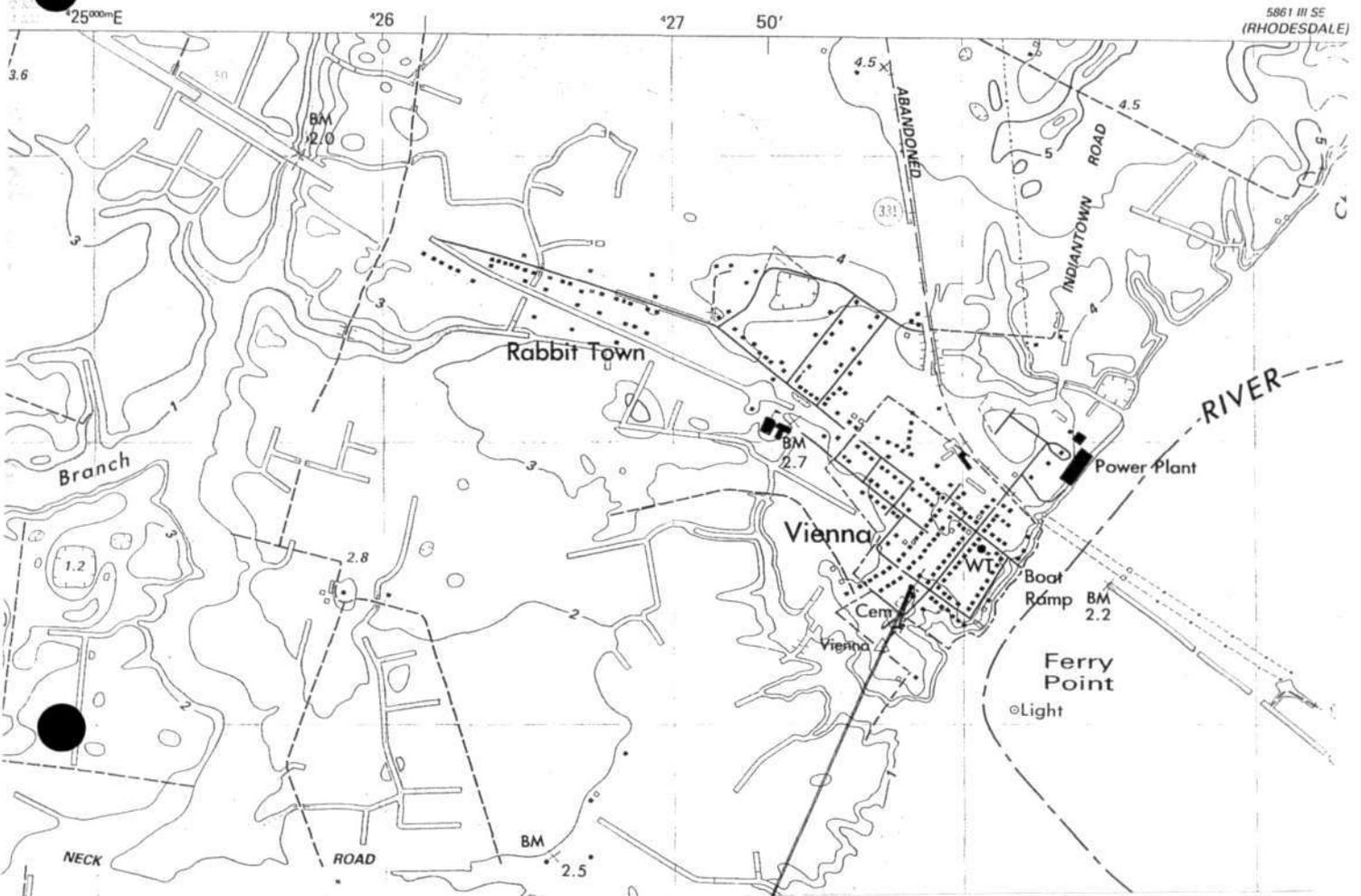
name/title	Paul B. Touart, Architectural Historian		
organization	Chesapeake Heritage & Preservation	date	8/18/2009
street & number	P. O. Box 5	telephone	410-651-1094
city or town	Westover	state	Maryland 21871

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.

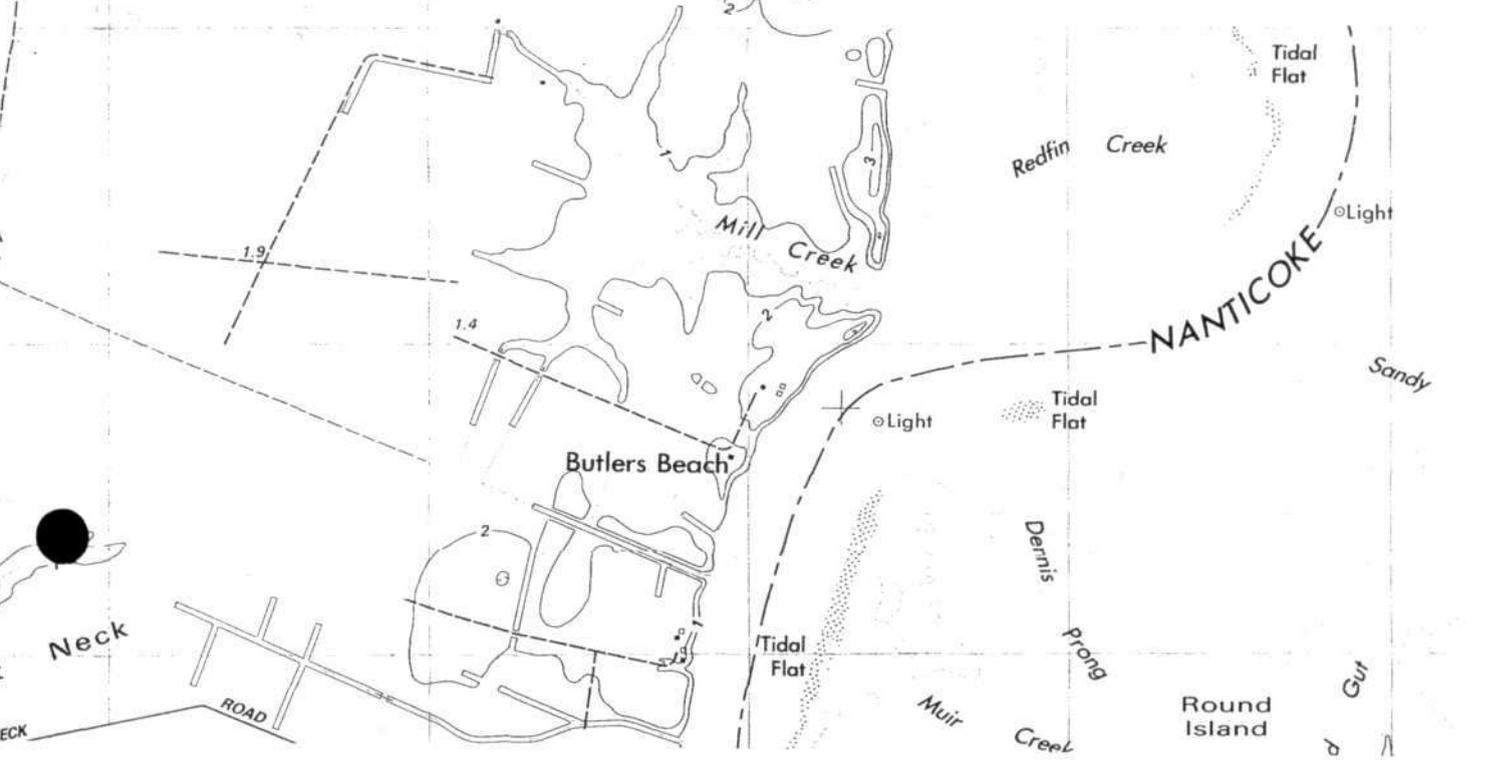
The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

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

**GATES
THE INTERIOR
SURVEY**



D-781, Vienna United Meth. Ch.
— Mardela Springs, MD Quadrangle —





NEW
SAND
SAND
SAND
SAND

NO
BICYCLE
OR FOOD
ON RAMP

D-781

VIENNA METHODIST CHURCH
VIENNA, DORCHESTER CO,
MD.

WORKSHEET ELEVATION
8.2009, PAUL B. TOWNE,
PASTOR.

NEE/MD. HIST. TRUST

1 of 2



D-701

VIENNA METHODIST CHURCH
VIENNA, DOCKETT CO.
MD.

NORTHEAST ELEVATION

B. 2009, Paul B. Touart,
PITCOV.

NE, MD. HIST. TRUST

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