

D-808
Waters United Methodist Church
Salem vicinity
1885
Private

A white marble datestone anchored in the southwest corner of the foundation of this frame church on Fork Neck Road documents its construction in 1885, however, this structure was not the first to house this African-American congregation. A "Colored Church" is designated at this site on the Bucktown District map printed in the 1877 Lake, Griffing & Stevenson atlas. The gable-front sanctuary, similar to many rural churches in Dorchester County, is enhanced with a two-story entrance and bell tower capped by an unusually shaped pyramidal spire executed in a concave curved profile that terminates in a point. A round window fitted with colored glass panes pierces the center section of the tower.

Established during the third quarter of the nineteenth century, this congregation started as a Methodist Episcopal membership serving the rural residents of the Bucktown election district. Similar to many African-American church sites in the county, a school for black youth has been closely associated with this property. The original school was located on the west side of Fork Neck Road, but then later moved to a lot bordering the south side of the church lot.

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. D-808

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Waters Chapel M. E. Church

other Waters United Methodist Church

2. Location

street and number 4561 Fork Neck Road not for publication

city, town Salem vicinity vicinity

county Dorchester

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

name Trustees of Waters United Methodist Church Reverend Keith Cornish

street and number c/o Dorothy Hooper 5346 Aireys Road telephone

city, town Cambridge state MD zip code 21613

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Dorchester County Clerk of Court liber JFD 38 folio 266

city, town Cambridge tax map 54 tax parcel 58 tax ID number 17-002287

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"/> landscape	<u>1</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	<u> </u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion	<u> </u> sites
		<input type="checkbox"/> social	<u> </u> structures
		<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	<u> </u> objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<u>1</u> Total
		<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-808

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 Waters Chapel M. E. Church, now known as the Waters United Methodist Church, stands at 4561 Fork Neck Road southwest of the village of Salem in central Dorchester County, Maryland. The single-story frame church, built in 1885, faces west with the gable roof oriented on an east/west axis. Supported on a brick pier foundation, the exterior is vinyl siding, and it is covered by a steeply pitched asphalt shingle roof. Attached to the front of the gable-roofed sanctuary is a two-story entrance and bell tower capped by a distinctive, four-sided, concave curved spire. Extending to the south of the main block is a single-story church hall addition built during the late twentieth century.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The Waters Chapel M. E. Church, now known as the Waters United Methodist Church, is located at 4561 Fork Neck Road southwest of the village of Salem in central Dorchester County, Maryland. The single-story frame church, supported by a brick pier foundation, faces west with the gable roof oriented on an east/west axis. Sheathed with vinyl siding, the main block is covered with a steeply pitched asphalt shingle roof.

The west (main) elevation is a symmetrical façade with a center entrance and bell tower capped by a concave curved four-sided spire of truncated form. A double-door entrance, reached by a modern poured concrete step and ramp, is topped by a three-light transom trimmed with a Victorian header molding. Above the entrance is a projecting band with a kicked eave of fishscale wood shingles. The mid-level portion of the tower is marked by a round colored glass window divided into six pie-shaped panes. The original belfry design appears to have been somewhat obscured with the installation of the vinyl siding since only a small portion of the belfry openings are exposed on each face. The tower is flanked on each side by single-story shed roofed additions. Fixed in the southwest corner of the main block is a marble datestone inscribed, "Waters Chapel Methodist Episcopal Church, 1885."

The north side of the sanctuary is marked by three window openings featuring molded lintels. The walls are otherwise plain. The base of the roof is finished with a boxed cornice trimmed with a crown molding which turns the corner to meet with the returns on the front and rear elevations.

Attached to the back of the church is a small single story hip roofed addition supported on rusticated block piers, and stretching to the south is a late twentieth century church hall supported on a concrete block foundation and sheathed with vinyl siding.

8. Significance

Inventory No. D-808

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	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

1885

Architect/Builder

Construction dates

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

A white marble datestone anchored in the southwest corner of the foundation of this frame church on Fork Neck Road documents its construction in 1885, however, this church was not the first structure to house this African-American congregation. A "Colored Church" is designated at this site on the Bucktown District map printed in the 1877 Lake, Griffing, and Stevenson atlas.¹ The gable-front sanctuary, similar to many rural churches in Dorchester County, is enhanced with a two-story entrance and bell tower capped by an unusual shaped pyramidal spire executed with a curved profile that rises to a point. A round window fitted with colored glass pierces the center section of the tower.

HISTORY AND SUPPORT

Established during the third quarter of the nineteenth century, this congregation started as a Methodist Episcopal congregation serving the rural residents of the Bucktown election district. Similar to many African-American churches in the county, a school for black youth has been closely associated with this site. The original school was evidently located on the west side of Fork Neck Road, but then later moved to a lot bordering the south side of the church property.² The school lot was conveyed to the trustees of Waters Church.

¹ John L. Graham, *The 1877 Atlases and Other Early Maps of the Eastern Shore of Maryland*, Wicomico Bicentennial Committee, 1976, p. 83.

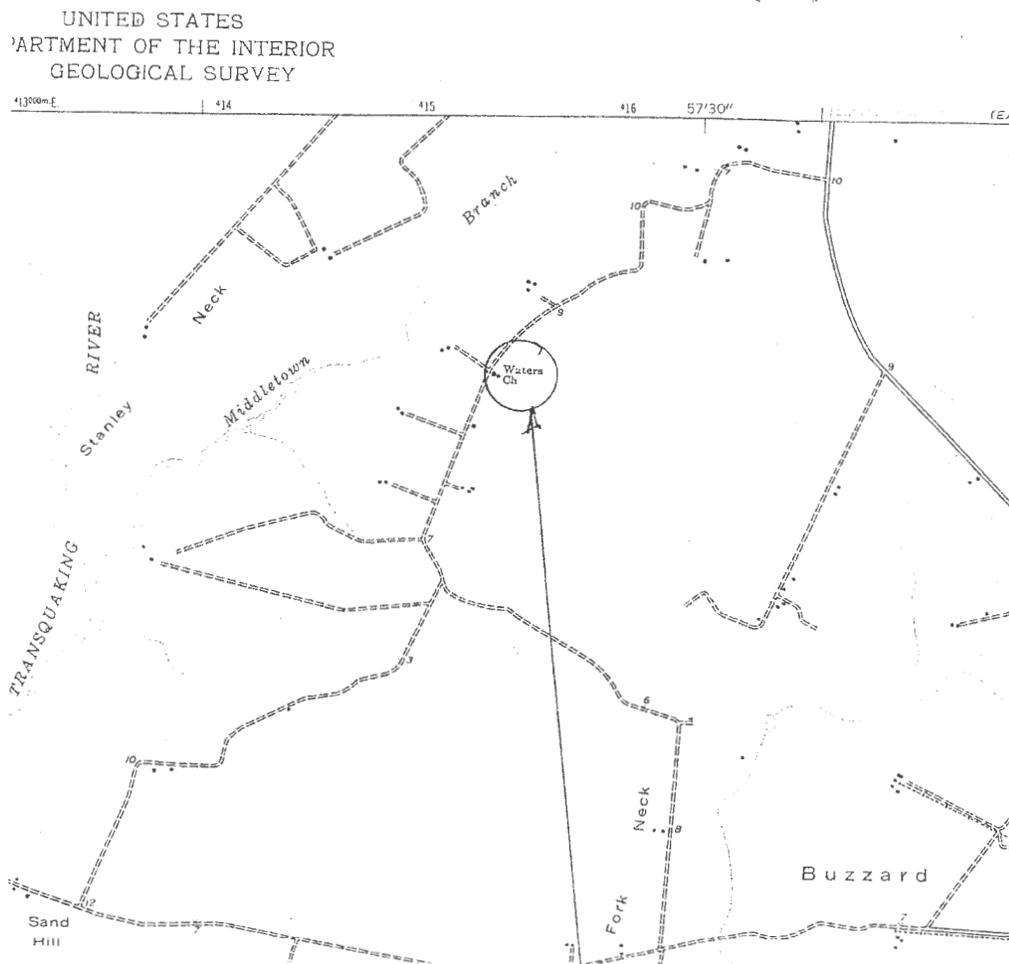
² Dorchester County Land Record, JFD 38/266, 24 September 1938, Dorchester County Courthouse.

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. D-808

Name Waters M. E. Church
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 1



D-808, Waters U. M. Church
Chicamacomico, MD Quadrangle

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. D-808

Name Waters M. E. Church
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 2



9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. D-808

Dorchester County Land Records, various volumes, Dorchester County Courthouse

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 44,866 square feet

Acreage of historical setting 1 acre

Quadrangle name Chicamacomico, MD Quad

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	3.15.2011
street & number	Cedar Hill, 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-808
WATERS UNITED DIST. CONCRETE
SALOM VIC. DOCKWESTON C. MD.

SOUTH ELEVATION

3. 2011, PAUL B. TOWANT, PVT. V.

W. MD. COST. TRUSS

1 OF 3



D-808

WATSONS UNIVERSE METEOROLOGICAL CENTER
Salem vic., Dorchester Co., MD.

~~Northwest~~ elevation

3. 2011, Paul B. Toward station.

WEL. (MD. Instrument Tower)

2 OF 3



PASTOR
PARKING
ONLY

WATERS
WORSHIP
8:00AM
COMM. 10AM
REV. KEITH
CORNISH

D-808

Waters United Meth.

SALEM VICINITY, ^{Church} ~~DORCHESTER~~
W. MD.

WEST ELEVATION

3 2011, Paul B. Tourant

W. MD. Historical Trust

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