

F-7-28

St. Paul's African Methodist Episcopal Church

Architectural Survey File

This is the architectural survey file for this MIHP record. The survey file is organized reverse-chronological (that is, with the latest material on top). It contains all MIHP inventory forms, National Register nomination forms, determinations of eligibility (DOE) forms, and accompanying documentation such as photographs and maps.

Users should be aware that additional undigitized material about this property may be found in on-site architectural reports, copies of HABS/HAER or other documentation, drawings, and the “vertical files” at the MHT Library in Crownsville. The vertical files may include newspaper clippings, field notes, draft versions of forms and architectural reports, photographs, maps, and drawings. Researchers who need a thorough understanding of this property should plan to visit the MHT Library as part of their research project; look at the MHT web site (mht.maryland.gov) for details about how to make an appointment.

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Last Updated: 11-21-2003

F-7-28

St. Paul's African Methodist Episcopal Church
Urbana vicinity
Private

1916

St. Paul's A.M.E. Church was built in 1916 on a foundation laid in 1908 when the church lot was purchased. The one-story frame church was completed on September 10, 1916 after an intensive fundraising campaign. Its exterior is covered with german siding and the stained glass windows have segmental arched frames. A projecting entry foyer on the south elevation was added later. On the corrugated metal roof is an open belfry with a bellcast hipped roof. A cemetery is located east of the church. The church is minimally significant for its architecture, which is similar to many late 19th century and early 20th century rural churches. It is moderately significant as a representative of the progression of development in the small communities of former slaves and free blacks in that the church was often the center of religious, social, and civic life in these villages. St. Paul's served the black communities of Della and Greenfield, located on both sides of the Monocacy River. A school, which was also a typical feature of these settlements, is no longer extant.

F-7-28

St. Paul's African Methodist Episcopal Church
Urbana
Frederick County

HISTORIC CONTEXT:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Piedmont
(Harford, Baltimore, Carroll, Frederick, Howard, Montgomery
Counties, and Baltimore City)

Chronological/Development Period:
Industrial/Urban Dominance, A.D. 1870-1930

Prehistoric/Historic Period Themes:
Architecture, Landscape Architecture and Community Planning
Religion

Resource Type:

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function & Use:
Religion/religious facility/church

Known Design Source: None

Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Magi No.

DOE yes no**1. Name** (indicate preferred name)

historic St. Paul's African Methodist Episcopal Church

and/or common

2. Locationstreet & number 6750 Ed Sears Road not for publicationcity, town Urbana vicinity of congressional district 6th

state Maryland county Frederick

3. Classification

| Category | Ownership | Status | Present Use |
|---|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> district | <input type="checkbox"/> public | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private | <input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied | <input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park |
| <input type="checkbox"/> structure | <input type="checkbox"/> both | <input type="checkbox"/> work in progress | <input type="checkbox"/> educational <input type="checkbox"/> private residence |
| <input type="checkbox"/> site | Public Acquisition | Accessible | <input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious |
| <input type="checkbox"/> object | <input type="checkbox"/> in process | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted | <input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> being considered | <input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted | <input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation |
| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable | <input type="checkbox"/> no | <input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other: |

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

name St. Paul's A.M.E. Church

street & number Rt. 2 telephone no.:

city, town Frederick state and zip code MD 21701

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Frederick County Courthouse liber 333

street & number 100 W. Patrick Street folio 517

city, town Frederick state MD 21701

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date federal state county local

Depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. F-7-28

| | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|--|
| Condition | | Check one | Check one |
| <input type="checkbox"/> excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated | <input type="checkbox"/> unaltered | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good | <input type="checkbox"/> ruins | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered | <input type="checkbox"/> moved date of move _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> fair | <input type="checkbox"/> unexposed | | |

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

CONTRIBUTING RESOURCE COUNT: 1

St. Paul's African Methodist Episcopal Church is a one-story frame building on a rusticated concrete block foundation with a gable facade and projecting foyer, located on the northeast side of Ed Sears Road near the Park Mills Road bridge over the Monocacy River in the general vicinity of Urbana, Frederick County, Maryland. The church was built in 1916 after the foundation had been laid in 1908, according to a 1985 church history pamphlet. and the existing datestone at the southeast corner of the foundation reads 1916. The principal elevation faces southwest and the church is located about 50 feet off the road, with the cemetery located on a slope east of the building.

The building's basement is exposed on the south side because of the sloping site. On the south gable elevation, a concrete staircase rises from the ground to the projecting foyer and the double-doored entrance. The exterior is covered with german siding and the roof is corrugated metal. The foyer is on a plain concrete block base, indicating that it was a later addition to the building. It has two 2/2 windows on either side of the doorway and flanking the foyer are two stained glass windows in the original part of the church. A small 2/2 segmental arched window is above the foyer roof. A cupola with a bell and a bellcast hipped roof with a finial is located on the south end of the roof ridge. The east and west elevations have three bays, with a handicapped access door added between bays on the east elevation. An interior brick chimney rises from the roof on the east side. The windows in the main section have segmental-arched, molded frames and stained glass. On the north gable end, a closed-off window in the center of the elevation retains the segmental arched surround as on the side elevations. A low concrete block extension from the basement on the east side indicates an addition to the interior basement space. On the southwest corner, a second door to the basement and additional windows are also later additions. The interior of the church was inaccessible for this survey; however, according to Assistant Pastor Robert Ambush, who also supplied the church history pamphlet, the interior has been considerably altered over the years.

8. Significance

| Period | Areas of Significance—Check and justify below | | | |
|---|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> community planning | <input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499 | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic | <input type="checkbox"/> conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> law | <input type="checkbox"/> science |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599 | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> economics | <input type="checkbox"/> literature | <input type="checkbox"/> sculpture |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> education | <input type="checkbox"/> military | <input type="checkbox"/> social/ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799 | <input type="checkbox"/> art | <input type="checkbox"/> engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> music | <input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement | <input type="checkbox"/> philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> theater |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900- | <input type="checkbox"/> communications | <input type="checkbox"/> industry | <input type="checkbox"/> politics/government | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> invention | | <input type="checkbox"/> other (specify) |

Specific dates 1916 **Builder/Architect** Curt Warfield and Sons, builder

check: Applicable Criteria: A B C D
 and/or
 Applicable Exception: A B C D E F G
 Level of Significance: national state local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

St. Paul's African Methodist Episcopal Church is minimally significant in architecture as an example of an early 20th century rural church. Its design is similar in most respects to many late 19th century and early 20th century churches of several denominations in Frederick County. The history of the church in the context of African-American history in Frederick County is of moderate importance. Two black communities, Della and Greenfield, developed near Greenfield Mills on the west bank of the Monocacy River in the late 19th century, Della on the east side and Greenfield on the west side of the river. They were composed of small log and stone and later frame dwellings, usually with one or two stores, since the residents' lack of transportation precluded their visiting the larger towns in the vicinity except on rare occasions. In the early 20th century, Della had at least two stores, a school, and, in 1908, land was purchased for the establishment of a church to serve the two villages. The Della Mission African Methodist Episcopal Church was founded in that year, after several years of services in private homes. A half acre of land was purchased for \$25.00 and the foundation was laid, but money to complete the building was not collected until 1916. The church was completed in 1916 by Curt Warfield and Sons, carpenters. The church members themselves finished the building's painting and the first services were held on September 10, 1916. According to the church history, a testimonial enclosed in the cornerstone on that day states that it was the first A.M.E. church in the section of the county, presumably meaning the Urbana-Buckeystown region. It also lists the trustees, pastors officiating, and the amount of the offering collected during the service. The adjoining cemetery was purchased about a year later and burials began in May 1918.

The context of black history in Frederick County is very little researched, although several communities of former slaves and free blacks have been identified. Detailed oral histories, title research, and architectural documentation of these villages is needed to place the resources in them in perspective. Virtually all had a church and a school as their centerpiece buildings, and frequently a few stores and shops such as blacksmiths and shoe shops, these being the only gathering places, educational facilities, and commercial outlets available to the residents until the 1960's. Since that period, the schools and the stores and shops have steadily disappeared, leaving the churches as the spiritual and social centers of the communities. St. Paul's A.M.E. Church represents this progression in Della.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. F-7-28

Land Records of Frederick County

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 2 acres

Quadrangle name Buckeystown, Md.-Va.

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

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| Zone | Easting | | | Northing | | | | | |

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Approximately 2 acres including the church and cemetery on Tax Map 110, Parcel 46

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

| state | code | county | code |
|-------|------|--------|------|
|-------|------|--------|------|

| state | code | county | code |
|-------|------|--------|------|
|-------|------|--------|------|

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Janet L. Davis, Historic Sites Surveyor

organization Frederick County Planning & Zoning Dept. date September 1993

street & number 12 E. Church Street telephone 696-2958

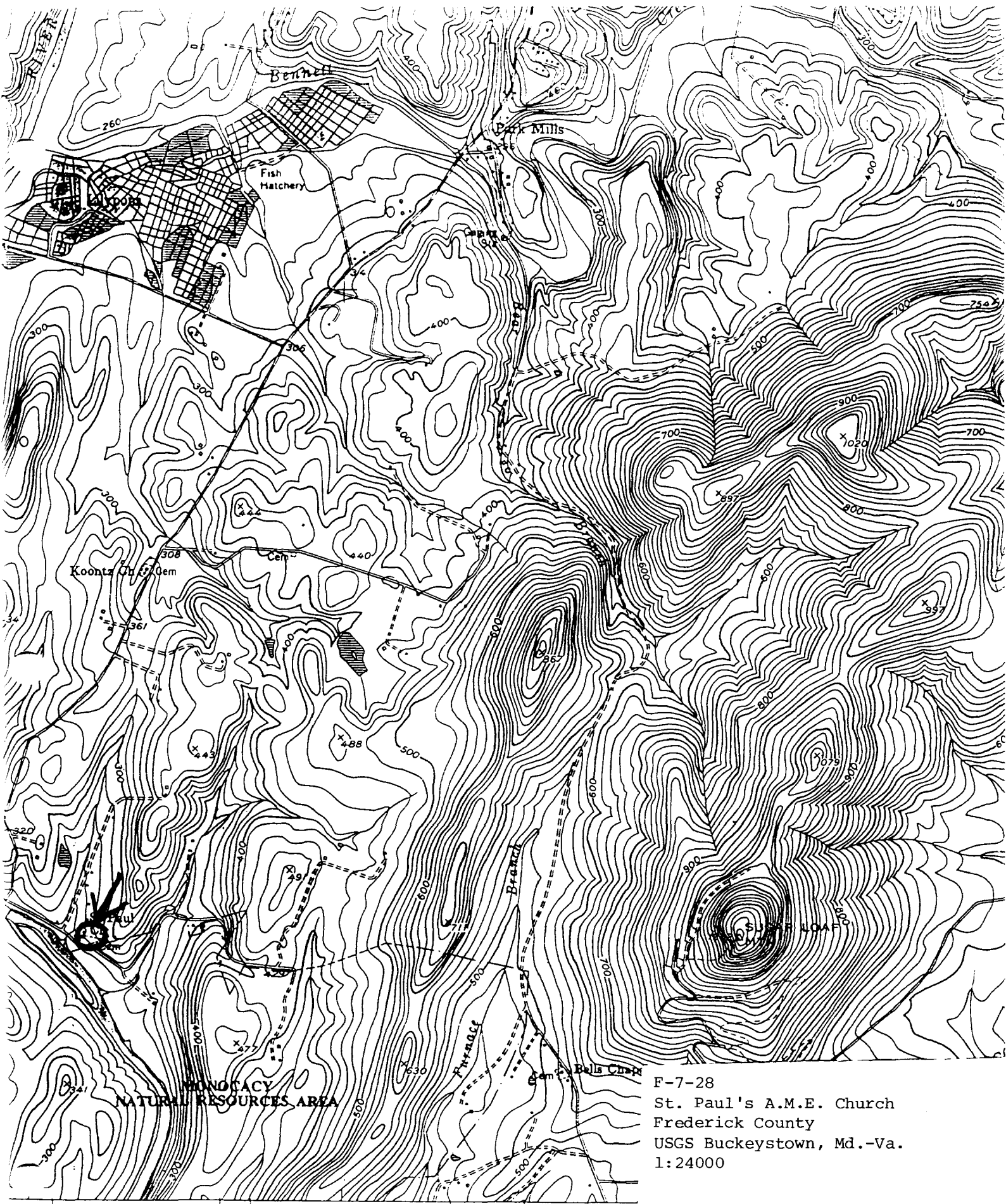
city or town Frederick state Maryland 21701

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory 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
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438~~

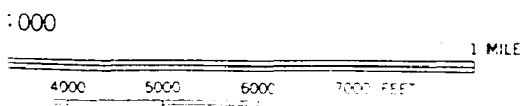
MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
100 COMMUNITY PLACE
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023
514-7600



MONOCACY
NATURAL RESOURCES AREA

F-7-28
St. Paul's A.M.E. Church
Frederick County
USGS Buckeystown, Md.-Va.
1:24000

1290 1291 25' 1292 ● INTERIOR-GEOLOG





ST. PAUL A.M.E. CHURCH
WALTER L. CARTER, PASTOR



