

HO-1076

Bethany Methodist Church

2875 Bethany Lane

Private

Description:

Bethany Methodist Church is a one-story, L-plan building with the three-bay by four-bay sanctuary oriented east-west and the three-bay by three-bay ell coming off the south side, at the east end. It has a rubble stone foundation, aluminum siding, and a gable roof with asphalt shingles and an east-west ridge to the sanctuary, with a north-south ridge on the ell. There is a tower and steeple centered on the west front, and a flat-roofed, three-bay by three-bay addition on the east end of the sanctuary and ell. The top of the walls of the addition have battlements. The church has triangular-pointed-top fixed sash with stained glass. The steeple has a large four-light sash on all four sides, with a hipped roof that has a kick at the eaves.

Significance:

Bethany Methodist Church began meeting in a local schoolhouse under the leadership of Rev. Richardson of Emory Methodist Church in Ellicott City. Construction of the existing church building reportedly began in October 1883, and was completed in about eight weeks. It was finished with white weatherboard siding and green shutters, and had a plastered interior. Its original configuration, a simple rectangle of three bays, with the entrance centered on one gable end, was a common form for small country churches and schools throughout the nineteenth century. The building was given a vague Gothic Revival feel by using triangular-topped window sash in a carpenter's impressionistic imitation of lancet windows. The tower was added to Bethany Methodist Church c. 1890-91, and the ell was built in 1905 to house classrooms. These were expanded by the battlemented east addition built in 1955, keeping with the general Gothic theme of the building.

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. HO-1076

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Bethany Methodist Church

other _____

2. Location

street and number 2875 Bethany Lane not for publication

city, town Ellicott City X vicinity

county Howard

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

name Bethany Methodist Church

street and number 2875 Bethany Lane telephone _____

city, town Ellicott City state MD zip code 21042

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Howard County Courthouse liber 5648 folio 575

city, town Ellicott City tax map 17 tax parcel 501 tax ID number _____

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 | <input type="checkbox"/> landscape | Contributing | Noncontributing |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private | <input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade | <input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture | <u>1</u> | <u>1</u> buildings |
| <input type="checkbox"/> structure | <input type="checkbox"/> both | <input type="checkbox"/> defense | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion | <u>0</u> | <u>0</u> sites |
| <input type="checkbox"/> site | | <input type="checkbox"/> domestic | <input type="checkbox"/> social | <u>0</u> | <u>0</u> structures |
| <input type="checkbox"/> object | | <input type="checkbox"/> education | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation | <u>0</u> | <u>0</u> objects |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> funerary | <input type="checkbox"/> work in progress | <u>1</u> | <u>1</u> Total |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> government | <input type="checkbox"/> unknown | | |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> health care | <input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use | | |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> industry | <input type="checkbox"/> other: | | |
| | | | | Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory | |
| | | | | <u>0</u> | |

7. Description

Inventory No. HO-1076

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.

Summary:

Bethany Methodist Church is a one-story, L-plan building with the three-bay by four-bay sanctuary oriented east-west and the three-bay by three-bay ell coming off the south side, at the east end. It has a rubble stone foundation, aluminum siding, and a gable roof with asphalt shingles and an east-west ridge to the sanctuary, with a north-south ridge on the ell. There is a tower and steeple centered on the west front, and a flat-roofed, three-bay by three-bay addition on the east end of the sanctuary and ell. The top of the walls of the addition have battlements. The church has triangular-pointed-top fixed sash with stained glass. The steeple has a large four-light sash on all four sides, with a hipped roof that has a kick at the eaves.

Description:

Bethany Methodist Church is located at 2875 Bethany Lane, on the east side of the road, about midway between Ellicott City and Woodstock in northeastern Howard County, Maryland. The church is set close to the road and faces west toward the road. It is a one-story, L-plan building with the three-bay by four-bay sanctuary oriented east-west and the three-bay by three-bay ell coming off the south side, at the east end. It has a rubble stone foundation, aluminum siding, and a gable roof with asphalt shingles and an east-west ridge to the sanctuary, with a north-south ridge on the ell. There is a tower and steeple centered on the west front, and a flat-roofed, three-bay by three-bay addition on the east end of the sanctuary and ell. It has a parged foundation and aluminum siding. The eastern bay of the sanctuary is slightly narrower and shorter than the three western bays.

The west elevation of the sanctuary has the projecting tower and steeple in the center, with paired doors into a vestibule that is slightly wider and deeper than the tower above, with a short section of roof on the vestibule, around the three sides of the tower. In the upper stage of the tower is a triangular-pointed-top sash of four lights. The steeple has a large four-light sash on all four sides, with a hipped roof that has a kick at the eaves. The north and south sides of the vestibule each contain a triangular-pointed-top sash of four lights. Flanking both sides of the tower on the west elevation is a triangular-pointed-top fixed sash with stained glass, with a separate bottom light that is operable.

The north elevation of the sanctuary has four triangular-pointed-top fixed sash with stained glass, each with a separate bottom light that is operable. The north elevation of the east addition has a slightly projecting center bay with triple six-over-six sash. The east bay has paired six-over-six sash and the west bay has a single six-over-six sash. The top of the wall has battlements.

The east elevation of the addition has triple six-over-six sash in the center bay with paired six-over-six sash in the end bays. There is a door added between the center and north bays, with a shed-roofed porch. The top of the wall has battlements. The east elevation of the sanctuary, above the roof of the

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Historic Properties Form

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Name

Continuation Sheet

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addition, has a short gable roof projecting to the east for an apse. There is an interior brick chimney at the southeast corner of the sanctuary.

The south elevation of the addition has triple six-over-six sash in the center bay with paired six-over-six sash in the end bays. The top of the wall has battlements. The south elevation of the ell has three triangular-pointed-top five-over-six sash, with a diamond light in the top center.

The west elevation of the ell has a doorway in the north bay with paired doors that have one light over one panel, with a shed-roofed porch. The center and south bays each have a triangular-pointed-top five-over-six sash, with a diamond light in the top center.

The south elevation of the sanctuary has the west bay exposed, and has a triangular-pointed-top fixed sash with stained glass, with a separate bottom light that is operable.

To the north of the old church is a new sanctuary.

8. Significance

Inventory No. HO-1076

| 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999 | <input type="checkbox"/> art | <input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation | <input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture | <input 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 N/A **Architect/Builder** N/A

Construction dates 1883, c. 1890-91, 1905, 1955

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.)

Bethany Methodist Church began meeting in a local schoolhouse under the leadership of Rev. Richardson of Emory Methodist Church in Ellicott City. Construction of the existing church building reportedly began in October 1883, and was completed in about eight weeks. It was finished with white weatherboard siding and green shutters, and had a plastered interior. Its original configuration, a simple rectangle of three bays, with the entrance centered on one gable end, was a common form for small country churches and schools throughout the nineteenth century. The building was given a vague Gothic Revival feel by using triangular-topped window sash in a carpenter's impressionistic imitation of lancet windows. Similar sash can be seen on St. Louis King Catholic Church at Clarksville, dating from c. 1850. The church was originally heated by a wood stove, but a coal-fired furnace was added in the 1930s. The tower was added to Bethany Methodist Church c. 1890-91, and the ell was built in 1905 to house classrooms. The Sunday School movement became very influential in the last quarter of the nineteenth century, and many Methodist churches were designed in an L plan to incorporate both the sanctuary and the classrooms, so it is not surprising that this configuration would be adopted by the young congregation once they could afford to add classrooms. These were expanded by the battlemented east addition built in 1955, keeping with the general Gothic theme of the building. A larger new sanctuary has been constructed near the old building, which is now used as a chapel and was renovated in 2009.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. HO-1076

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 5,214 A
Acreage of historical setting 5,214 A
Quadrangle name Ellicott City Quadrangle scale: 1:24000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundaries consist of the outlines of the property, tax map 17, parcel 501, which encompasses all of the historic buildings and features on the site.

11. Form Prepared by

| | | | |
|-----------------|---|-----------|--------------|
| name/title | Ken Short | | |
| organization | Howard County Department of Planning & Zoning | date | May 2012 |
| street & number | 3430 Courthouse Drive | telephone | 410-313-4335 |
| city or town | Ellicott City | state | MD |

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

HO-1076
Bethany Methodist Church
2875 Bethany Lane
Howard County, Maryland
Ken Short, photographer

Photo Log

Nikon D-70 camera
HP Premium Plus paper
HP Gray Photo print cartridge

HO-1076_2011-12-02_01
West elevation

HO-1076_2011-12-02_02
North elevation



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Bethany Methodist Church

2875 Bethany Lane

Howard County, Maryland

Ken Short

2011-12-02

MD SHPO

West elevation

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HO-1076

Bethany Methodist Church

2875 Bethany Lane

Howard County, Maryland

Ken Short

2011-12-02

MD SHPO

North elevation

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