

First Methodist Church
Chestertown, Md.
privately owned

A handsome Gothic Revival church built in 1875, First Methodist Church was "colonialized" in 1927. The very tall spire and side axis pilasters and modillions remain from the original structure.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

K 69
1500691509

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

First Methodist Church

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

High and Mill Sts.

CITY, TOWN

Chestertown

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First

— VICINITY OF

STATE

Md.

COUNTY

Kent

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE
- YES RESTRICTED
- YES UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- MUSEUM
- COMMERCIAL
- PARK
- EDUCATIONAL
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ENTERTAINMENT
- RELIGIOUS
- GOVERNMENT
- SCIENTIFIC
- INDUSTRIAL
- TRANSPORTATION
- MILITARY
- OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Trustees of Methodist Episcopal Church

Telephone #: 778-2977

STREET & NUMBER

corner Mill and High Sts.

CITY, TOWN

Chestertown

— VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Md. 21620

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Office of the Clerk

Liber #: JKH 9

Folio #: 183

STREET & NUMBER

Kent County Court House

CITY, TOWN

Chestertown

STATE

Md.

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

none known

DATE

—FEDERAL —STATE —COUNTY —LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

K-69

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Built in 1875 and originally a late Gothic Revival structure, First Methodist Church underwent a massive "colonial" alternations in 1927.

The ^{common bond} brickwork and painting are kept in excellent condition and multipaned clear glass windows are used throughout the building.

The High St. or southern facade now has a two and $\frac{1}{2}$ storey Ionic portico which is supported by four fluted columns and topped by a pediment with an octagonal bullseye. The facade is 3 bays wide, and there is a new doorway with a broken pediment terminating in rosettes without a center finial. The Church has an extremely high spire or bell tower with large multipaned windows at the base, louvered ventilators on the section above, flanked by classical columns, with a slate roofed spire terminating in a gilded cross.

The side axis is 5 bays long with rectangular windows above the stone trimmed water table which rises to the window base. Panelled shutters flank these windows. Immediately on top of the first floor windows is a large wooden face belt course to punctuate the side axis. There are also 6 original pilasters rising from the water table to the cove cornice, which dates probably to the 1927 alterations.

The second floor has 5 taller clear glass windows with segmental arches punctuated by 3 keystones. The cornice has large plaster cove moulding punctuated by the tops of the pilasters which flare out as in a capitol effect.

Only the spire roof of slate is original with the rest being of composition material. A decorative element of the first church is just below the cornice. ~~in~~ These brick modillions are made up of bricks 6 courses high with 2 courses or curvilinear brick work at their top.

The northern gable, sanctuary end, has almost been totally covered by one part of a two part Parish House added in 1958. Only a small lunet window remains under the peak of this gable.

Uniform new brick work is visible under the 2nd floor windows on the side axis seeming to suggest that the original church windows were longer.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

K-69

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 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/HUMANITARIAN |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799 | <input type="checkbox"/> ART | <input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING | <input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC | <input type="checkbox"/> THEATER |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE | <input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY | <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1900- | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY | <input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION | | |

SPECIFIC DATES prior to 1877
dedication in 1877

BUILDER/ARCHITECT ?

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

A handsome Gothic Revival church built in 1875, First Methodist Church was "colonialized" in 1927. The very tall spire and side axis pilasters plus modillions remain from the original structure.

K-69

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Fred G. Usilton, History of Chestertown

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 90' x 140' main lot

parcel #2 to add to property.

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

90' on High St.
140' back on Mill St.

conveyed and running thence S 45.5°E with line of said lot heretofore conveyed, 90' to the lot now held by Rachel Farchild, thence N 44.5° W 90' to Mill St., thence by and with Mill S 44.5° W 93' to beginning

parcel #2. all that lot or parcel of land, or part of a lot of land, lying and being on SE side of Mill St., at the N corner of the lot previously

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE COUNTY

STATE COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Kathleen B. White, Historic Site Surveyor

Nov. 1976

ORGANIZATION

Md. Historical Trust/Town of Chestertown

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

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
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

JKH 9/183 3/15/1870 John N. Usilton to Trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church in Chestertown, a gift of the lot of land on which to build a new church. (The Methodist Meeting House located at the Market Place had been their House of Worship)
Act of General Assembly of Maryland, Nov. session 1801, ch. 37 and supplements, last of which was passed at the Jan. session 1870 authorized this.
90' on High St., 140' depth on Mill

DCB 1/374 2/19/75 John N. Usilton and Sarah M. Usilton to Trustees of Methodist Episcopal Church, to add to the lot already given.

K-69

N

CEMETERY

VITA FOODS

FOODS
NEW FARM

COUNTY
RAILROAD
PENNSYLVANIA

LYNCHBURG STREET

POPLAR RD

PROSPECT ST

WASHINGTON AVENUE

COLLEGE CAMPUS

COLLEGE AVENUE

MORGNEC

STREET

ELM STREET

GREENWOOD VALLEY STREET

PINE

CEDAR

SCHOOL STREET

KENT STREET

STREET

MT VERNON

WASHINGTON U.S. 213

BROWN RIVER VIEW RD

STREET

MILL

CALVERT STREET

TERRACE

SCHOOL STREET

SCHOOL AVENUE

K-69
SPRING ST.

PHILOSOPHERS

KENT

BYFORD DRIVE

WALDO DRIVE

DAVID DRIVE

ST. BARROLL DRIVE

MORRIS STREET

CROSS

ROW STREET

PARK COURT ST.

CHURCH ST.

AVENUE

STREET

BYFORD COURT

TWILLEY LANE QUEEN

WATER CANNON HIGH STREET

MAPLE

RIVERSIDE TERRACE

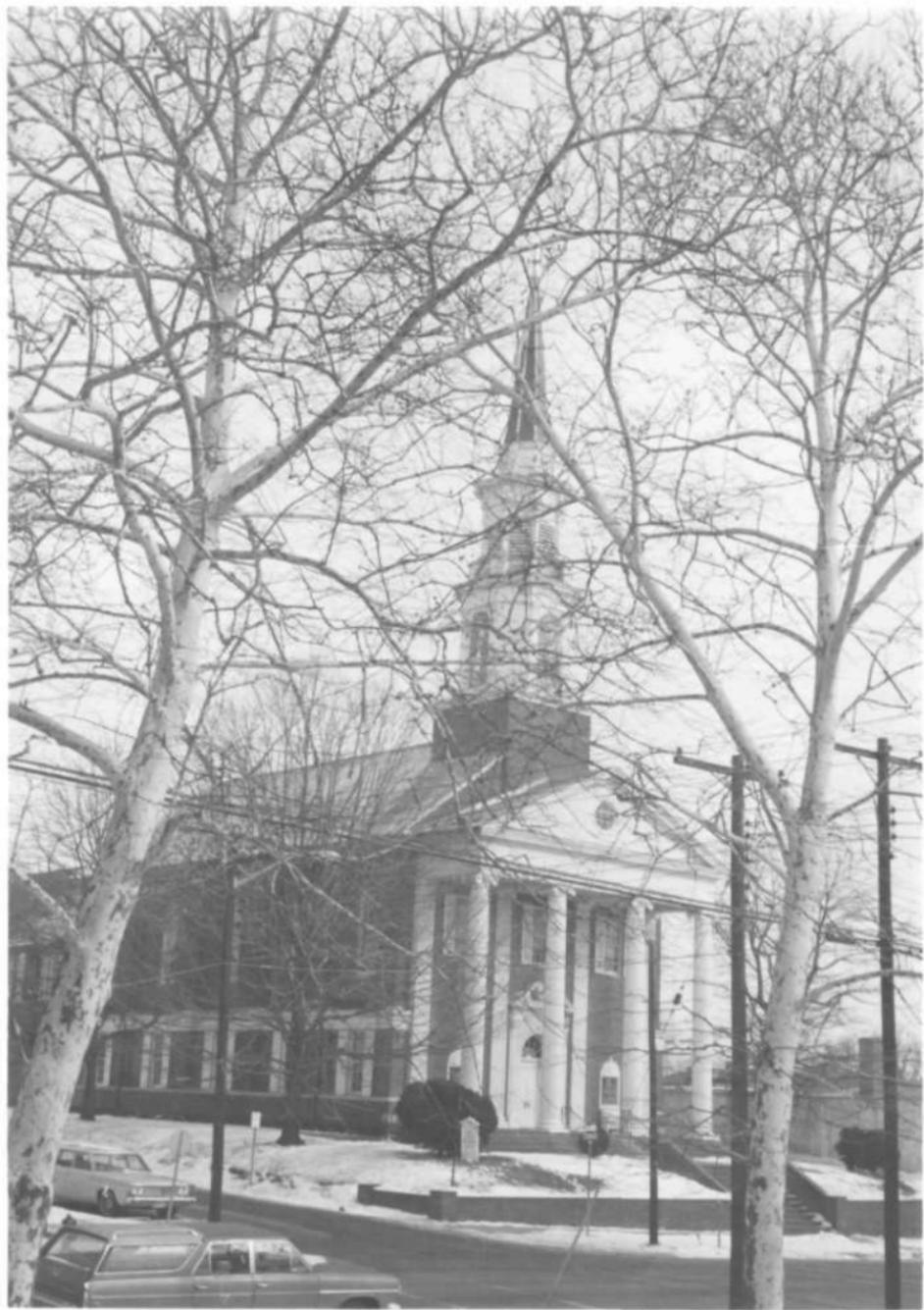
River

S. 213

LOT

K-69
First Methodist Church
High Street & Mill St.
Chestertown
Chestertown Quad.
Kent County





K 69 First Meth. E. Church

1/77 SW



K 69 First Meth. E. Church

1/77 S