

FOR NPS USE ONLY

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

BA-637

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Mount Gilboa Chapel

AND/OR COMMON

MOUNT GILBOA AME CHURCH

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

northwest corner of Oella and Westchester

Avenues

CITY, TOWN

Oella

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

VICINITY OF

Sixth

STATE

Maryland

CODE

24

COUNTY

Baltimore

CODE

005

**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
- COMMERICAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Benjamin Banneker Memorial Committee, Reverend Roland Howard, President

STREET & NUMBER

7334 Roosevelt Boulevard

CITY, TOWN

Baltimore

STATE

Maryland 21227

VICINITY OF

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Baltimore County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Towson

STATE

Marvland

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

# DESCRIPTION

BA-637

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input 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

Mount Gilboa Church is located on the west side of Westchester Avenue, just north of Oella Avenue in Baltimore County, Maryland. This small stone church, three by four bays, faces east. A plaque in the front gable gives the date 1859.

The front façade is ashlar masonry, but the sides and rear are of rubble. The sanctuary on the principal floor sits on a high basement which is used for the Sunday school and social area. Basement openings are boarded and have large stone lintels and sills.

Entry to the building is through double paneled doors at the front of the basement. Inside is a small vestibule flanked by a quarter turn stair with a landing leading up to the sanctuary. The sanctuary is plain, finished with white plaster walls. On the interior the openings, having 4/4 windows, are splayed.

## 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"/> 1600-1599	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) black history
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1859

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Mount Gilboa has served the same community of black families since the 18th century. That community today continues to look to this building as its central focus and important local landmark.

Mount Gilboa A.M.E. Church is remembered as the site where Benjamin Banneker, free black scientist of the 18th century, worshipped and attended school. Located in Oella in Baltimore County, Maryland not far from the site of Banneker's farm, it stands as a symbol of honor to an ingenious American.

Benjamin Banneker was born in 1731 on a farm in Oella. A self-taught mathematician, he published an almanac from 1792 to 1806 for which he made all the astronomical calculations and weather predictions. His work was praised by Thomas Jefferson, then Secretary of State. His achievement was considered the more remarkable because he had little schooling and studied mathematics and astronomy in the time that he had free from farming. The Ellicott brothers, prominent because of the milling industry (see Ellicott City Historic District, Howard County, and Oella and Ellicotts Mills Historic Districts, Baltimore County), were friendly with Banneker, and shared with him their books on science and mathematics.

Banneker was also a surveyor and was hired in this capacity to work with the Ellicotts on the plans for the City of Washington. Although he did not play a major role in this project, his participation on any level is important for that time.

The present Mount Gilboa Church (1859) is located on a tract of land dedicated in the 18th century by the Ellicott family for "an African Meeting House and School House." In 1836 the Ellicott family formally deeded the property to the black community for their use as long as the property continued to function for religious and educational purposes.

The Benjamin Banneker Memorial Committee and the adjacent community at large have undergone a twelve-year project to provide recognition for Benjamin Banneker. His 100-acre farm at the southeast corner of Oella and Westchester Avenues has been cut up into numerous tracts and does not resemble its 18th-century appearance. The site of Banneker's house is not known, leaving Mount Gilboa as the sole above ground memorial to Banneker.

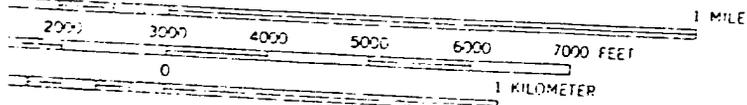


BA-63Y



(SAVAGE) 1.3 MI. TO MD. 175  
 5662 III NE WEST ELKRIDGE 5.9 MI.

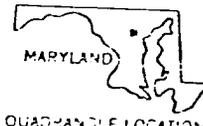
SCALE 1:24000



CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET  
 DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL

*over*

- ROAD
- Heavy duty ———
- Medium duty - - - -
- Interstate Route





5/6

MOUNT GILBOA CHURCH  
Baltimore County, Maryland

BA-637

G.J. Andreve                      fall 1975  
Maryland Historical Trust, Annapolis

from northeast



BA-637

Mount Gilboa Church

George J. Andreve

Fall, 1975

56



BA-637

Mount Giboa Church

George J. Andreve

Fall 1975

5/6



Mount Gilboa Chapel fire April 11 1977

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APR 29 1977

RECORDS MANAGEMENT  
SECTION



Mount Gilboa Chapel fire

April 11 1977

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APR 29 1977

MARYLAND HISTORICAL  
TRUST