

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM

NR Eligible: yes   
no

Property Name: Queen's Chapel and Burial Grounds Inventory Number: PG:62-21  
Address: 7410 Old Muirkirk Road City: Rossville/Beltsville Zip Code: 20705  
County: Prince Georges USGS Topographic Map: Beltsville and Laurel  
Owner: \_\_\_\_\_ Is the property being evaluated a district?  yes  
Tax Parcel Number: 168 Tax Map Number: 13 Tax Account ID Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Project: US 1/MD 201 Corridor Study Agency: FHWA/SHA  
Site visit by MHT staff:  no  yes Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Is the property is located within a historic district?  yes  no

*If the property is within a district* District Inventory Number: PG:62-23  
NR-listed district  yes Eligible district  yes Name of District: Rossville Survey District  
Preparer's Recommendation: Contributing resource  yes  no Non-contributing but eligible in another context  yes

*If the property is not within a district (or the property is a district)* Preparer's Recommendation: Eligible  yes  no

Criteria:  A  B  C  D Considerations:  A  B  C  D  E  F  G  None

Documentation on the property/district is presented in:  
Project Review and Compliance Files

Description of Property and Eligibility Determination: *(Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map and photo)*  
The Queen's Chapel and its burial ground are contributing resources to the Rossville Survey District. See DOE for Rossville Survey District, PG:62-23, dated 8/26/2002 for further information.

Prepared by: Anne E. Bruder, SHA Arch. Hist. Date Prepared: 09/13/2002

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW**

Eligibility recommended  Eligibility not recommended   
Criteria:  A  B  C  D Considerations:  A  B  C  D  E  F  G  None  
MHT Comments

Andrew Lewis ✓  
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

3/27/03  
Date

[Signature]  
Reviewer, NR Program

3/17/03  
Date

P. G. #62-21

Queen's Chapel (site of) and Cemetery  
7410 Old Muirkirk Road, Beltsville, Md.  
Priv/Occ/Relig/Good

1868/1901/1953

This is the site of the original Queen Chapel, next to the cemetery which is still in use. The first church was a small log structure; it was replaced on the same site by a frame church. The present Queen's Chapel is a brick structure built across from the cemetery on the north side of Old Muirkirk Road. The cemetery contains some very old stones, including some with attractive primitive inscriptions.

In January 1868, six Black men purchased 3/10 acre of land (including a graveyard which was already in use by the Black population of the Muirkirk area) for the erection of a "substantial building to be used as a place of public worship and schoolhouse for the colored people." A small log chapel was built just west of the graveyard; it came to be known as Queen's Chapel (after one of the trustees) and was the center of worship as well as the primary school until the 1890's. After it was destroyed by fire, it was replaced by a frame chapel in 1901. In 1953, a brick church was built across from the old chapel, on the north side of Old Muirkirk Road.

The chapel site and cemetery are significant because their establishment just after the Civil War led to the development of a cohesive Black community. Rossville, a community of Black iron workers and farmers whose focal point was Queen's Chapel, has lasted for nearly 100 years.

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Queen Chapel (site of) and

and/or common Queen Chapel Cemetery

## 2. Location

street & number 7410 Old Muirkirk Rd. (South Side)  not for publication

city, town Beltsville  vicinity of Muirkirk congressional district 5th

state Maryland county P.G.

## 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	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<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 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 Trustees of Queen's Chapel

street & number telephone no.:

city, town state and zip code

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. P. G. Co. Courthouse liber HB #1

street & number Main Street folio 130

city, town Upper Marlboro state Md.

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title None

date  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records

city, town state

# 7. Description

Survey No. P.G. #62-21

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

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

This is the site of the original Queen's Chapel, next to the cemetery which is still in use. The first (1868) church was a small log structure; it was replaced (1901) on the same site by a frame church.

The present Queen's Chapel is a brick structure built (in 1953) across the road on the north side of Old Muirkirk Road.

The cemetery contains some very old stones, including some very interesting ones with attractive primitive inscriptions.

# 8. Significance

Survey No. #P.G. #62-21

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 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) Black History

Specific dates 1868, 1901, 1953 Builder/Architect

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.

In January 1868, William Minnix, a farmer of the Vansville district, sold a small piece of his land to six Black men who had expressed the need of a "place of public worship." Accordingly, Henry Edwards, Thomas Quinn (or Queen), Thomas Matthews, Ferdinand Key, and Knotley Johnson and James Powell acquired 3/10 acre of land (including a small graveyard which had already begun to be used by the Black people of the Muirkirk area) in trust for the erection of a "substantial building to be used as a place of public worship and schoolhouse for the colored people."<sup>1</sup>

A small log chapel was built on the south side of old Muirkirk Rd. just west of the graveyard, and for approximately 30 years this building was the center of worship as well as the primary school for the local Black population. The chapel came to be known as Queen's Chapel, probably in honor of Thomas Queen, one of the original trustees. In 1893, Queen's Chapel became part of the Laurel Methodist Charge, which also included St. Mark's and Mt. Zion in Laurel.

In the late 1890's, the log chapel was destroyed by fire, and for several years, services, as well as school classes, were held at nearby Abraham Hall (cf. #62-20). In 1901, a new frame chapel was erected on the site of the former log structure.

The frame chapel served the community for more than a half century, during which choir rooms were added, stained glass windows were installed and adjoining property was purchased for the expansion of the graveyard.<sup>2</sup> In 1953, a new brick church was built on land directly across the old road on the north side, and the frame chapel was destroyed. The graveyard has expanded since that time to include the site of the frame chapel.

(Cont'd on separate sheet)

PG:  
Survey No. 62-21 (Cont'd) Para. 8

Queen's Chapel, its site and graveyard, are significant because the establishment of the chapel at this site just after the Civil War was the beginning of the development of the Black community of Rossville. This community of Black furnace workers and farmers, whose focal point was Queen's Chapel, has lasted for nearly 100 years.

1. P. G. Co. Deeds H.B. #1:130
2. P. G. Co. Deeds: #333:237, #931: 123

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. 62-21

P.G. Co. Deeds: HB #1:130; #333:237; #931:123  
Equity #1588  
Interview with Queens Chapel historian  
"Rambler" article, Washington Star 8 Jan. 1922

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle scale \_\_\_\_\_

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A          
Zone Easting Northing

B          
Zone Easting Northing

C

D

E

F

G

H

Verbal boundary description and justification \_\_\_\_\_

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

state	code	county	code
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## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Susan G. Pearl

organization History Division M-NCPPC date February 1983

street &amp; number 4811 Riverdale Road telephone 779-2011

city or town Riverdale, state Maryland 20737

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





P. G. #62-21

Queen's Chapel  
Prince George's County, Md.  
Susan G. Pearl  
April 1983  
Southwest 3/4 Elevation  
Neg: Md.Hist. Trust, Annapolis, Md.



P. G. #62-21

Queen's Chapel and Cemetery  
Prince George's County, Md.  
Susan G. Pearl  
April 1983  
View to North  
Neg: Md.Hist. Trust, Annapolis, Md.