

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY
HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey #: P.G. #68-29 Building Date: 1915

Building Name: Pinkney Memorial Church

Location: 5203 42nd Avenue, Hyattsville, Maryland

Private/Religious/Occupied/Excellent/Inaccessible

Description:

The Pinkney Memorial Church is a one-and-one-half story, frame, cross-gable church structure with Tudor and Gothic Revival decorative features. The main block is L-shaped, three bays by seven, with stucco wall cladding and false Tudor-style timbering above a high uncut stone foundation. Principal entry is into the west gable end, through a gothic-arched door in a small vestibule with flared eaves. Flanking the vestibule are two small gothic-arched stained-glass windows with upper tracery. The five-bay south elevation has pairs of pointed-arch lancet windows with Gothic tracery. There is a side entry with a pointed-arch door, and a cross gable which contains two levels of lancet windows grouped in four. Exposed rafter ends punctuate the overhanging eaves; the main block of the church rests on an uncut stone foundation, high on the west end and gradually declining towards the east.

Significance

Pinkney Memorial Church was built in 1915 as part of St. Matthew's Parish. In 1890 the first Pinkney Memorial Church was built in Hyattsville, at the corner of Baltimore Avenue and Spencer Streets. It was named for Reverend William Pinkney, the seventh rector of St. Matthew's Parish, who had served in the Hyattsville parish for twenty years. Pinkney later became the fifth bishop of Maryland; after his death in 1883, the idea of a memorial church to him arose. By 1913, a new and larger church was needed; in July of that year property was purchased on the corner of what is now 42nd Avenue and Gallatin Streets. Ground was broken for the present church on September 12, 1915 and the corner stone was laid November 21, 1915. The first service was held in the new church on June 11, 1916. The church at 42nd and Gallatin Streets was sold in 1964, and has housed several congregations since that time. It is a prominent landmark in the town of Hyattsville.

Acreage: .27 acre

Magi No.

DOE yes no

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic St. Matthews Episcopal Church/Pinkney Memorial Church

and/or common Celestial Church of Christ

2. Location

street & number 5203 42nd Avenue not for publicationcity, town Hyattsville vicinity of congressional district 5

state Maryland county Prince George's

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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

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

name Eastern Division Open Bible Church, Inc.

street & number 5203 42nd Avenue telephone no.:

city, town Hyattsville state and zip code Md. 20781

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Prince George's County Courthouse liber 4071

street & number Main Street folio 572

city, town Upper Marlboro state Maryland

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. #68-29

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 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.

The Pinkney Memorial Church is a one-and-one-half story, frame, cross-gable church structure with Tudor and Gothic Revival decorative features. It stands on a corner in a residential community. The main block is L-shaped, three bays by seven, with stucco wall cladding and false Tudor-style timbering above a high uncut stone foundation.

Principal entry is into the west gable end, through a small vestibule with flared eaves. The gothic-arched door is approached by a short flight of steps. Flanking the vestibule are two small gothic-arched stained-glass windows with upper tracery. The principal west gable front has a plain vergeboard. Within this is a small double, stained glass window and directly beneath this a row of horizontal decorative false timbering. At the peak of the gable is a small cross.

On the south elevation the roof has a wide boxed cornice with ornamental exposed rafter ends. Beneath this is a series of bays containing pairs of pointed-arch lancet windows with Gothic tracery. Beginning from the southwest corner of the southern elevation are five bays, then a side entry with a pointed-arch door, approached by a short flight of steps from the side. The entry is protected by the wide eave overhang. Extending to the east is the cross gable which contains two levels of lancet windows grouped in four. Beneath the gable peak is a small window.

The east gable end contains three levels of windows, arranged symmetrically, four on the bottom, then two, then one on top. Extending north is a cross gable wing with two pairs of lancet windows, and a one-story shed-roof extension.

The north gable end contains two bays, with windows to either side of a central chimney. The extending portion of the north elevation repeats the five bays of the south elevation, as well as the two eyebrow dormers.

The gable roof is covered with asphalt shingle; exposed rafter ends punctuate the overhanging eaves; the main block of the church rests on an uncut stone foundation, high on the west end and gradually declining towards the east.

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/humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates: 1915 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.

Pinkney Memorial Church was built in 1915 as part of St. Matthew's Parish. St. Matthew's Parish was founded in 1811, cut out of St. John's Parish which was one of the original thirty parishes established in Maryland under the act of the General Assembly in 1692.

In 1890 the first Pinkney Memorial Church was built in Hyattsville, at the corner of Baltimore Avenue and Spencer Streets. It was named for Reverend William Pinkney, the seventh rector of St. Matthew's Parish, who had served in the Hyattsville parish for twenty years. Pinkney later became the fifth bishop of Maryland; after his death in 1883, and the idea of a memorial church to him arose.

By 1913, a new and larger church was needed; in July of that year property was purchased on the corner of what is now 42nd Avenue and Gallatin Streets. Ground was broken for the present church on September 12, 1915 and the corner stone was laid November 21, 1915. The first service was held in the new church on June 11, 1916. For over 50 years the church grew and by the early 1940's it became apparent the parish needed a larger church.

In June 1947, at a special meeting of the congregation they voted to purchase a site to erect a new parish hall and church. The property chosen was on a high hill, on Nicholson Street between 36th and 37th Avenues. This had previously been the site of an old mansion estate called "Longview". In 1951 the rectory was built, in 1953 the parish hall, and in 1961, the new church.

The church at 42nd and Gallatin Streets was sold in 1964.

Pinkney Memorial Church, now the Celestial Church of Christ, has a long rich history, and a bright future for continued service for the Hyattsville community.

Notes

- 1 G. M. Hopkins, Atlas of Prince George's County, 1878
- 2 Prince George's County Deeds #4071:572, 3068:164, 96:207, 84:401, 48:232, 26:287, 19:253, JWB 25:753.
- 3 Plat JWB #2:618.
- 4 City of Hyattsville Souvenir Booklet, 1976
- 5 City of Hyattsville Souvenir Booklet, 1961

WASHINGTON EAST





P.G. #68-29

Pinkney Memorial Church
Prince George's County, Maryland
Susan G. Pearl
May 1987
South elevation
Neg: Maryland Historical Trust
Annapolis, MD



P.G. #68-29

Pinkney Memorial Church
Prince George's County, Maryland
Susan G. Pearl
May 1987
South detail
Neg: Maryland Historical Trust
Annapolis, MD



P.G. #68-29

Pinkney Memorial Church
Prince George's County, Maryland
Susan G. Pearl
May 1987
West elevation
Neg: Maryland Historical Trust
Annapolis, MD