

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY
HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey #: P.G. #69-12 Building Date: 1928/29
Building Name: Riverdale Baptist Church
Location: 6200 Riverdale Road, Riverdale, Maryland

Private/Religious/Occupied/Good/Inaccessible

Description

The Riverdale Baptist Church (now part of the Refreshing Spring Church of God complex) stands on a small town lot. It is a one-and-one-half story frame T-shaped building with hip roof. The principal facade is the east end which forms the stem of the T. Two double 6/6 double hung sash windows fill this two-bay east end. A cornerstone with "1928" inscribed is built into the southeast corner. The building is covered with plain wooden siding painted white. The foundation of the east-west stem of the T is of concrete block, while that of the north-south bar of the T is of molded concrete block. Built into the southeast inner corner of the T is a two-story bell tower, covered with German siding. There is a square louvered window in each face of the tower, and its roof is pyramidal. Entrance into the building is through plain double doors in the east face of the tower. Immediately to the west of the small frame church is a two-story gable-roofed brick school building; and immediately west of the hall is a modern brick sanctuary; its principal facade is highlighted by projecting bricks in the form of small crosses.

Significance

The old Riverdale Baptist Church is a good example of a modest urban church building of the 1920's. It is a departure from the simple gable-roofed meetinghouse form, in that it was built in the shape of a T. The bell tower was constructed approximately a decade later, adding an interesting asymmetricality to the building. The Baptist congregation of Riverdale was organized in the middle 1920's; in 1927 the congregation purchased five small lots in the newly platted subdivision of Riverdale Hills, and in the next year began construction of the frame church. The new church opened in June of 1929. In later years, as the Riverdale area was developed and the congregation grew, the church was expanded by the addition of an attached brick school building, and by the erection of a large and modern brick sanctuary to the west. In the 1970's the Baptist Church purchased property in Largo and began construction of a new church and school on the grounds of Woodlawn. The old Riverdale Baptist Church building was sold in 1977 to the Refreshing Spring Church of God in Christ.

Acreage: 18,029 sq. ft.

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Riverdale Baptist Church

and/or common Refreshing Spring Church of God

2. Location

street & number 6200 Riverdale Road, MD 410 (Now East West Hwy.) not for publication

city, town Riverdale, 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 Refreshing Spring Church of God

street & number 6200 Riverdale Road telephone no.:

city, town Riverdale, state and zip code MD. 20737

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Prince George's County Courthouse liber 6065

street & number Main Street folio 329

city, town Upper Marlboro, state MD. 20772

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Prince George's County Inventory of Historic Sites

date 1974 federal state county local

repository for survey records History Division, M-NCPPC

city, town Riverdale, state MD. 20737

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" 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 Riverdale Baptist Church (now part of the Refreshing Spring Baptist Church complex) stands on a small town lot, on a heavily travelled road, facing east toward a small side road. It is a one-and-one-half story frame T-shaped building with hip roof. The principal facade is the east end which forms the stem of the T. Two double 6/6 double hung sash windows fill this two-bay east end; above each is a smaller four-pane single-sash window. A cornerstone with "1928" inscribed is built into the southeast corner.

The north-south bar of the T also has two-bay ends; these windows are 6/6 double hung sash. All of the T-shaped building is covered with plain wooden siding painted white. The roof is covered with green asphalt shingle. The foundation of the east-west stem of the T is of concrete block, while that of the north-south bar of the T is of molded concrete block.

Built into the southeast inner corner of the T is a two-story bell tower, covered with German siding. There is a square louvered window in each face of the tower, and its roof is pyramidal. Entrance into the building is through plain double doors in the east face of the tower.

Immediately to the west of the small frame church is a two-story gable-roofed brick school building; and immediately west of the hall is a modern brick sanctuary. The new church is a very large gable-roofed brick structure with entrance in its principal facade, the south gable end. There is a modern spire at the ridge at the south gable end. The principal facade is highlighted by projecting bricks in the form of small crosses.

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 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 type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1928/1929 **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.

The old Riverdale Baptist Church is a good example of a modest urban church building of the 1920's. It is a departure from the simple gable-roofed meetinghouse form, in that it was built in the shape of a T. The bell tower was constructed approximately a decade later, adding an interesting asymmetricality to the building.

The Baptist congregation of Riverdale was organized in the middle 1920's, by Reverend B. Robertson, pastor of the Baptist Church of Hyattsville, and Reverend C.W. Ericson. From 1926-29 the congregation met in private homes; in 1927 they purchased five small lots in the newly platted subdivision of Riverdale Hills, and in the next year began construction of the frame church. The new church opened in June of 1929 and was known at first as the Ericson Memorial Baptist Church. It later came to be known as the First Baptist Church of Riverdale.¹

In later years, as the Riverdale area was developed and the congregation grew, the church was expanded by the addition of an attached brick school building, and by the erection of a large and modern brick sanctuary to the west. In the 1970's the Baptist Church purchased property in Largo and began construction of a new church and school on the grounds of Woodlawn (#78-1); that historic Greek Revival style dwelling is now the pastor's residence. The old Riverdale Baptist Church building was sold in 1977 to the Refreshing Spring Church of God in Christ.²

Notes

¹ Prince George's County Land Records #292:17; subdivision plat SDH #3:24; Word Projects Administration Church papers, 1937, Maryland Hall of Records, Annapolis.

² Prince George's County Land Records #4729:353.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Cf. Chain of Title
Cf. Notes, Item #8

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 18,029 sq. ft. T.M. 43 Block A, lots 37-41
Quadrangle name Washington East, D.C.-MD. Section C Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	B	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	D	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
E	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	F	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
G	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	H	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Verbal boundary description and justification

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

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Susan G. Pearl, Research Historian		
organization	Historic Preservation Commission	date	August 1985
street & number	c/o County Planning Div., M-NCPPC 14741 Gov. Oden Bowie Drive	telephone	952-3521
city or town	Upper Marlboro,	state	MD. 20772

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

1.6-59-12
B...

1700865808

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET
NOMINATION FORM
for the
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME				
COMMON:				
AND/OR HISTORIC: First Baptist Church of Riverdale				
2. LOCATION				
STREET AND NUMBER: Riverdale Road and 62nd Place				
CITY OR TOWN: Riverdale				
STATE: Maryland		COUNTY: Prince George's		
3. CLASSIFICATION				
CATEGORY (Check One)		OWNERSHIP		STATUS
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered		<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC				
Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No				
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as appropriate)				
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment		<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum		<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific
		<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)		<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
4. OWNER OF PROPERTY				
OWNER'S NAME: First Baptist Church of Riverdale				
STREET AND NUMBER: Riverdale Road and 62nd Place				
CITY OR TOWN: Riverdale			STATE: Maryland	
5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION				
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Prince George's County Courthouse				
STREET AND NUMBER:				
CITY OR TOWN: Upper Marlboro			STATE: Maryland	
Title Reference of Current Deed (Book & Pg. #):				
6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING RECORDS				
TITLE OF SURVEY: None				
DATE OF SURVEY:				
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local				
STREET AND NUMBER:				
CITY OR TOWN:			STATE:	

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE:

The church is a frame structure built in two parts. The nave has an A-roof and large, square-headed windows in the east facade. A lower, A-roof section sits beside the nave, and has a roof ridge parallel with the nave's. This is the entrance porch, with a tower along the ridge.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

Acreage Justification:

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

STATE:	COUNTY:

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Christopher Owens, Park Historian

ORGANIZATION: M-NCPPC DATE: 11 Mar 74

STREET AND NUMBER:
8787 Georgia Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: Silver Spring STATE: Maryland

12. State Liaison Officer Review: (Office Use Only)

Significance of this property is:

• National State Local

Signature _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Chain of Title
First Baptist Church of Riverdale
P.G.A. 69 - 12

4729:353 The First Baptist Church of Riverdale, Maryland, Inc., a Maryland Corporation
14 Feb. 1977 Trustees of Refreshing Spring Church of God in Christ (Branch #4), a religious
Corp. Deed corporation organized under the laws of the District of Columbia; Parcel #1
Lots numbered 37 thru 41 both inclusive in Block lettered "A" in Section number
1 in the subdivision known as "Riverdale Hills" as per plat recorded in Plat
SDH #3, plat no. 24, among the land records #1374:1.

1374:1 District of Columbia Baptist Convention, a District of Columbia corporation
10 March 1949 The Columbia Association of Baptist Churches, and Charles Werner, surviving
Deed to The First Baptist Church of Riverdale, Maryland, Inc., a Maryland Corporation
all those lots of ground in the subdivision known as "Riverdale Hills," known
Lots 37, 38, 39, 40, and 41 in Section A by #292:17; Plat Liber SDH 3:24; and
#243:45.

292:17 National Homesite Realty Company, Inc., to The Columbia Association of Baptist
19 Feb. 1927 Churches, Charles Werner and William Allen Wilbur, Trustees, Lots 37, 38, 39
Deed and 41 in Section "A" conveyed to National Homesite Realty Company by #243:45

SDH 3:24 Plat of Riverdale Hills
June 1925 Abandonment - Equity D6919
Plat Liber File No. 5 - 83128

243:45 Mary Pauline Massie, widow, Garrett H. DeLong and Fannie May DeLong, his wife
13 May 1925 parties of the first part; and Emmett Leo Sheehan, Trustee under a Deed of Trust
Deed 13 September 1924 by #230:195, from Mary Pauline Massie, party of the second
to National Homesite Realty Company, Inc., party of the third part, 77.8 acres
of land being part of the same tract of land conveyed to Massie by #12:513.

PARCEL 7
PARKVIEW GAR
3782



REFRESHING SPRING CHURCH
OF GOD IN CHRIST
4729/353

IC 22A
P 94

MAP 42-P.47

MAP 42
P.43

79.17

16.1

PARCEL A
4882
C-0

69-12

R-9
4.15 A
P.78

R-55

R-18

R-55

BALTIMORE

R-

R-



P.G.#69-12

Riverdale Baptist Church
Prince George's County, MD
Susan G. Pearl
April 1985
South elevation
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, md



P.G. #69-12

Riverdale Baptist Church
Prince George's County, MD.
Susan G. Pearl
April 1985
East elevation
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD.



P.G. #69-12

Riverdale Baptist Church
Prince George's County, MD.

Susan G. Pearl

April 1985

South elevation

Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD.



P.G.#69-12

Riverdale Baptist Church

Prince George's Church

Susan G. Pearl

April 1985

Northeast 3/4 elevation

Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD



NAME #69-12 FIRST BAPT. CH. OF RIVERDALE

LOCATION RIVERDALE Rd RIVERDALE, MD

FACADE SE

PHOTO TAKEN 3/11/74 MDWYER