

QA-375

Salem Methodist Episcopal Church
Starkey's Corner vicinity

1845

The congregation which built Salem Church was organized in 1829, and was officially incorporated in 1835. The present church was built in 1845 and replaced an earlier building on a different site which was sold to the African Methodist Episcopal Church. Architecturally, this is a fine example of the small frame parish churches commonly built during the mid-19th century. The pleasing proportions and pitched gable roof blend perfectly into the rural, wooded setting. Details of interest include the original Greek Revival trim and the extensive use of painted and grained decoration on the interior.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC
 Salem Methodist Episcopal Church
 AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER South side of Maryland Rt. 213, approximately one
 mile west of Starkey Corner
 CITY, TOWN Starkey Corner VICINITY OF
 STATE Maryland COUNTY Queen Anne's

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input 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 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"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Salem Church, c/o Marion H. Chambers, Telephone #:
 STREET & NUMBER 202 Belvedere Avenue Treas.
 CITY, TOWN Centreville VICINITY OF STATE, zip code Maryland 21617

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, LIBER #: Registry of Deeds, ETC. Queen Anne's County Courthouse Folio #:
 STREET & NUMBER Courthouse Square
 CITY, TOWN Centreville STATE Maryland 21617

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
 DATE
 DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS
 CITY, TOWN STATE

Q4-375

7 DESCRIPTION

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

The Salem Methodist Episcopal Church is a small, frame building located on Maryland Route 213 approximately half-way between Centreville and Church Hill. It is sited on the east side of the road and on the north side of Granny Finley Branch, a small stream which forms the east branch of Island Creek. Large old hardwood trees shade the churchyard and cemetery, which includes grave stones dating back to the latter half of the 19th century.

The church is of frame construction on a continuous brick foundation. It is 34 feet long and 30 feet wide, with a vestibule projecting from the front (northwest) gable and a small chancel projecting from the rear gable. The main building and the vestibule have relatively steep gable roofs, but the chancel forms three sides of a hexagon and has a low-pitched tripartite roof.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

QA-375

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
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

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The congregation which built Salem Church was organized in 1829, and was officially incorporated in January 1835. The present church was built in 1845 on land willed to the vestry by Catherine Chambers. It replaced an earlier building on a different site which was sold to the African Methodist Episcopal Church, and remained in continuous use until the 1930's. The church and grounds are still carefully maintained, and the congregation continues to use the church several times each year for special services.

Architecturally, this is a fine example of the small, frame parish churches commonly built during the mid-19th century. The pleasing proportions and pitched gable roof blend perfectly into the rural, wooded setting. Interesting details include the original Greek Revival trim, early if not original pews, and the extensive use of painted and grained decoration on the interior.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE COUNTY

STATE COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Orlando Ridout V, Historic Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Queen Anne's County Historical Society

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Centreville

STATE

Maryland

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

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.1 DESCRIPTION

The entrance is located in the northwest wall of the vestibule, facing the road. The double doors have long rectangular panels typical of the Greek Revival period. There are small one-over-one windows on each side wall of the vestibule, and a large six-over-six window in the upper gable of the main building. The northeast and southwest walls of the church are virtually identical, with three six-over-nine windows ranged along each side. These have molded exterior frames and are fitted with louvered wooden shutters.

On the southeast gable, the chancel projects from the center of the wall, with a pair of six-over-nine windows flanking it. Smaller two-over-two windows are located in each side wall of the chancel. There are no openings in the upper gable.

Plain horizontal siding is used throughout the building, and the corner boards are finished with a heavy bead on the corner, and a much smaller bead along the inside edge. The eaves are enclosed by a box cornice with a heavily beaded crown mold, the bed mold consists of a single large bead.

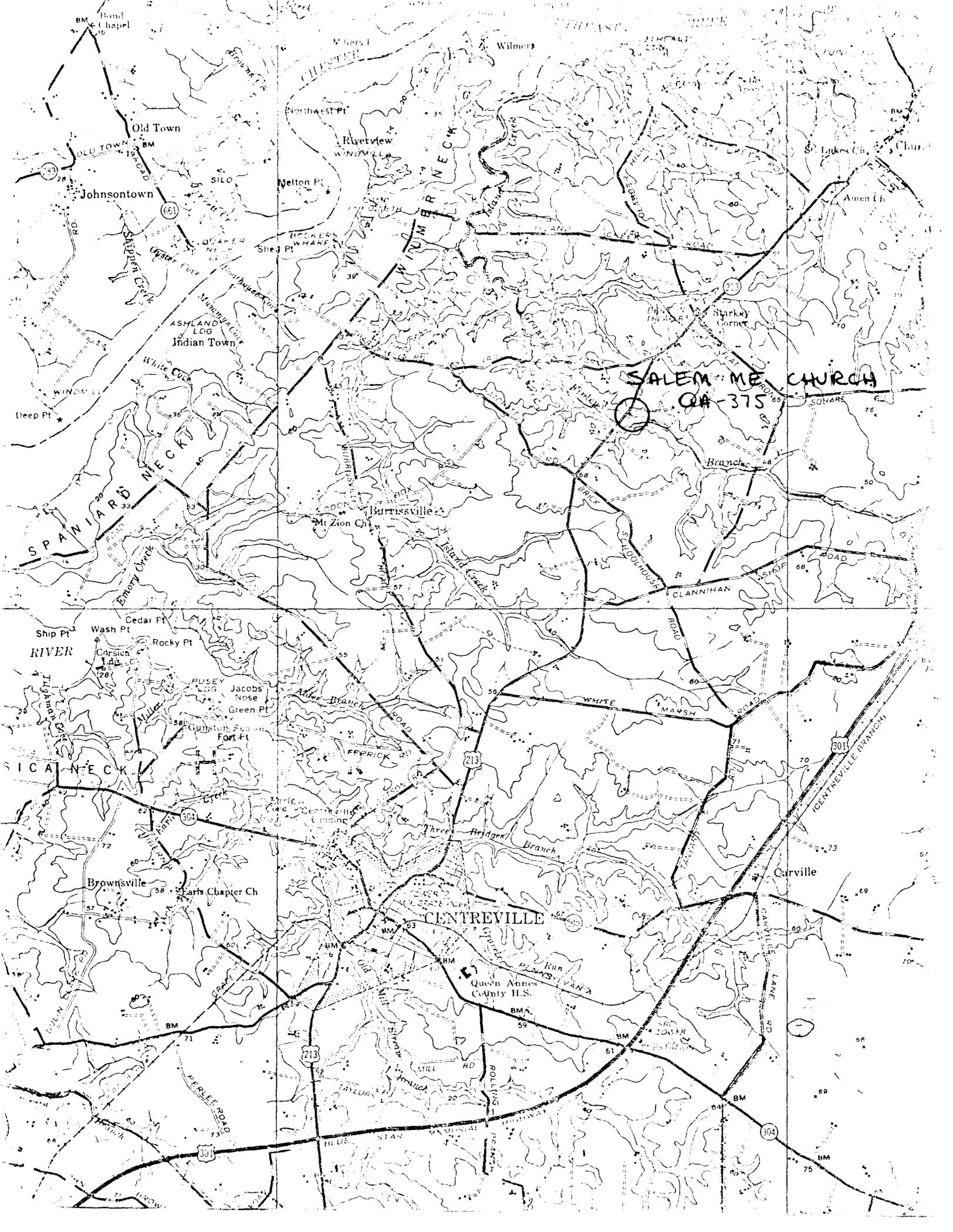
CONTINUATION SHEET

7.2 DESCRIPTION

The cornice is carried across both facades and returns at the gables. The gable eaves are finished with molded rakeboards.

The interior consists of a single large room in which wooden pews with boxed ends form two aisles. The pulpit is located on a raised platform at the southeast end of the church. The pulpit is enclosed by a walnut railing with turned walnut newels and square-section ballusters. The interior window and door trim as well as all of the wooden pews are also painted and grained.

An ornate, late 19th century chandelier with six kerosene lamps is suspended from the center of the ceiling. A walnut organ made by the Packard Company of Fort Wayne, Indiana, is located to the left of the pulpit. A brick stove chimney on the south wall services a space heater, which provides the only source of heat for the building.



SALEM ME CHURCH
OA-375

Old Town
Johnsonstown

SPANIARD NECK
Indian Town

SHIP RIVER
SICA NECK
Brownsville

WILMONT
RIVERVIEW
WINDMILL
MELTON PT
Burrissville

CENTREVILLE
Carville

St. Lukes Ch.
Amen Ch.
Starky Corner
CLANNIHAN

ICENTREVILLE BRANCH
Carville

QA-375
Salem M.E. Church

Mary McCarthy
Spring/Summer 2003
Digital color photo on file at MHT





QA-375

MS



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