Wesley M.E. Church is abandoned. It stands vacant and neglected at the intersection of Love Point Rd. and Old Love Point Rd. a ¼ mile from Stevensville. Wesley M.E. Church is a wonderful late Victorian structure with double lancet windows in the front facade. The interior also has double lancet windows (three on each side). Unfortunately, the glass is missing from all of the windows in the building. The interior is plaster over lath. The interior had been painted a dark green, a cabinet had been pulled from the wall to expose some stenciling on the white plaster that dated from an earlier era. The property that the church is situated upon and the graveyard behind it is owned by the Peninsulas Conference of the United Methodist Church. The parsonage and the old board and batten Sunday School that are adjacent to the church on the south, have been sold to private holders.

Wesley M.E. Church is the victim of a declining black population, and a three-way split in the congregation. This congregation, founded in 1876 was once the largest black Methodist congregation in this area. A split occurred in this congregation in the 1930's and again after World War II. This internal dissension, coupled with the decline of black farmers and farm workers caused the dissolution of the congregation.
# Maryland Historical Trust

## Inventory Form for State Historic Sites Survey

### 1. Name

**Historic**

Wesley M.E. Church

**And/or Common**


### 2. Location

**Street & Number**

Corner of Old Love Point and Benton Roads

**City, Town**

Stevensville

**State**

Maryland

**Congressional District**

First

**County**

Queen Anne's

### 3. Classification

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Ownership</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Present Use</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>District</td>
<td>Public</td>
<td>Occupied</td>
<td>Agriculture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Building(s)</td>
<td>Private</td>
<td>Unoccupied</td>
<td>Museum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Structure</td>
<td>Both</td>
<td>Work in Progress</td>
<td>Commercial</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Site</td>
<td>Public Acquisition</td>
<td>Accessible</td>
<td>Park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Object</td>
<td>IN Process</td>
<td>YES: Restricted</td>
<td>Educational</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>BEING CONSIDERED</td>
<td>YES: Unrestricted</td>
<td>Private Residence</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 4. Owner of Property

**Name**

Charles Marstellar

**Telephone #**

643-6763

**Street & Number**

Benton Road

**City, Town**

Stevensville

**State, ZIP Code**

MD 21666

### 5. Location of Legal Description

**Courthouse, Registry of Deeds, Etc.**

Queen Anne's Co. Courthouse

**Liber #**

LN 16

**Folio #**

213

**Street & Number**

Courthouse Place

**City, Town**

Centreville

**State**

Maryland

### 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

**Title**

N/A

**Date**


**Depository for Survey Records**

**City, Town**


**State**


This Gothic Church rests on a brick foundation. It measures 46' long and 32' wide. There is a bell tower/entrance 10' wide and 8' deep on the Southwest front of the structure. The building faces West. The exterior walls are covered with bevel siding. There is a double Gothic sash on the front of the building right of the entrance. There are three (3) 12' tall Gothic windows on the North and South walls of the building (six in all). The cornerstone is placed in the Northwest front corner and reads "Wesley MP Church 1877-1912".

I believe the tower and entrance may have been added in 1900 but I don't think the Church was rebuilt. The tower has three diamond shaped windows one on each of its side. The front window is higher than the side windows. The tower has four square sashes under the peaked cupola. The double 4-panel doors are oak. The gable roof is covered with tin but one corner is exposed showing the original shakes.

The interior has been badly vandalized. There is wainscoting 4' around the interior. The walls are plastered and painted (dark green). In the Northwest corner of the front interior wall, there is a square of the original unpainted wall (a cabinet must have once been attached to this corner and some stenciling is exposed). The floor has caved-in on the Southeast side of the building. The sanctuary is inset at the East...
end of the building. It is shallow (only 5\(\frac{1}{2}\) in depth and 14' wide. The rail has been destroyed.

There is a Sunday School 15' from the South wall of the building. This building is of board and batten construction and has floor boards. The building has recently been sold along with the Parsonage (Circa 1873) to a private party.
This is one of the oldest black churches in Queen Anne's County. Blacks have worshipped on this site for over 105 years that can be documented. Wesley M.E. Church was founded by a group of ex-slaves with the help of white Methodists. The church split in the 1920's and again in the 1940's; these congregations are now housed in Stevensville and in Northern Queen Anne's County near Batts Neck.

The Peninsula Conference of the Methodist Church has sold all of the property surrounding Wesley M.E. Church. The only reason the Church itself has not been sold is that a cemetery is located at the rear of the church.
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
The Wesley ME Church was evidently built in 1912, and replaced or expanded upon an earlier building that was constructed in 1877, four years after the property was acquired. It is notable as one of the oldest established black congregations in the county, and architecturally the building is among the finest black churches in this region.
INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME
   HISTORIC
   Wesley Methodist Episcopal Church
   AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION
   STREET & NUMBER
   Northeast corner of Old Love Point Road and Benton Road
   CITY, TOWN
   Stevensville
   STATE
   Maryland
   CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
   Fourth
   VICINITY OF
   Queen Anne's

3 CLASSIFICATION
   CATEGORY
   _DISTRICT
   X BUILDING(S)
   _STRUCTURE
   _SITE
   _OBJECT
   OWNERSHIP
   _PUBLIC
   X PRIVATE
   _BOTH
   PUBLIC ACQUISITION
   IN PROCESS
   BEING CONSIDERED
   STATUS
   _OCCUPIED
   _UNOCCUPIED
   WORK IN PROGRESS
   ACCESSIBLE
   _YES: RESTRICTED
   _YES: UNRESTRICTED
   _NO
   PRESENT USE
   _AGRICULTURE
   _COMMERCIAL
   _MUSEUM
   _MILITARY
   _PRIVATE RESIDENCE
   _EDUCATIONAL
   _PARK
   _PRIVATE RESIDENCE
   _INTERNATIONAL
   _RECREATIONAL
   _GOVERNMENT
   _TRANSPORTATION
   _SCIENTIFIC
   _OTHER
   _VACANT

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY
   NAME
   Wesley ME Church
   STREET & NUMBER
   CITY, TOWN
   Stevensville
   VICINITY OF
   Maryland 21666
   STATE, ZIP CODE
   Telephone #:  

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION
   COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC
   Queen Anne's County Courthouse
   STREET & NUMBER
   Courthouse Square
   CITY, TOWN
   Centreville
   VICINITY OF
   Maryland 21617
   STATE
   Liber #: JW #4
   Folio #: 189

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS
   TITLE
   DATE
   FEDERAL
   STATE
   COUNTY
   LOCAL
   DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS
   CITY, TOWN
   STATE
Situated on the northeast corner of the Old Love Point Road and Benton Road, about one mile north of Stevensville, the Wesley ME Church stands out rather starkly against a backdrop of corn fields and scattered woods. The modest frame structure faces south across Benton Road, with a square frame bell tower with pyramidal roof on the southeast corner of the gable facade. Access to the building is made through a double door on the south facade of the bell tower. Tall Gothic arched windows range along each side of the church. A small shed-roof nave projects from the center of the north gable.

The exterior is plain in appearance. Resting on a continuous brick foundation, the framing is of standard stud construction, covered with German siding. The roof is covered with tin, but a shingle roof can be seen beneath the tin. The eaves are not boxed, the rafters project beyond the eave with a plain fascia board nailed to the rafter ends. An undecorated barge board projects beyond the gable eaves. The corners of the building are treated with wide corner boards with a one-inch
round bead at the corners. The windows are all of the Gothic variety, but the sash has been removed. A photograph published in the Stevensville Bay Times several years ago indicates the windows were wooden double hung sash rather than leaded stained glass.

A cornerstone in the southwest corner of the brick foundation is inscribed

Wesley M. E. Church
1877 - 1912

The interior consists of a single large room with high ceilings approached through a vestibule in the base of the bell tower. A raised altar platform projects forward from the nave, a slightly lower platform to the right of the altar presumably provided for a lay reader and/or the organ.

Ceiling and walls are plastered throughout, with narrow beaded wainscot paneling below a chair rail. Stove chimneys rise along the side walls near the rear of the church.

To the east of the church is a small frame building (16' x 32'), apparently used as a parish hall. The
CONTINUATION SHEET

7.2 DESCRIPTION

stud construction is similar to the church, with oversailing, unboxed rafters, and board and batten siding. There is a single four panel door on the south facade, the windows are of six-over-six sash.

There is a small cemetery about 10 yards to the north of the church.
**PERIOD** | **AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW**  
--- | ---  
PREHISTORIC | ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC  
1400-1499 | ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC  
1500-1599 | AGRICULTURE  
1600-1699 | ARCHITECTURE  
1700-1799 | ART  
1800-1899 | COMMERCE  
1900- | COMMUNICATIONS

**SPECIAL DATES** | **BUILDER/ARCHITECT**
--- | ---

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

The Wesley Methodist Episcopal Church was evidently built in 1912, and replaced or expanded upon an earlier building that was constructed in 1877, four years after the property was acquired. It is notable as one of the oldest established black congregations in the county, and architecturally the building is among the finest black churches in this region.
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UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
CORPS OF ENGINEERS

(LOVE POINT) LOVE POINT 22 MI.

17°30' WESLEY MECHTCHURCH

Stevensville

BM 18

Chester

BM 17

KENT ISLAND
Wesley ME Church
north of Stevensville

Orlando Richart