

S-92  
Mount Pleasant M. P. Church  
Crisfield  
public worship

1892

Distinguished as the most elaborate Victorian Gothic church in Somerset County, Mount Pleasant Methodist Protestant church stands on the south side of West Main Street in the heart of Crisfield. Highlighted by granite accents for beltcourses, watertables, and buttress caps, the stretcher bond brick facade is flanked by a four-story bell tower on the west and a two-story octagonal tower on the east. Centered on the north (front) wall is a large tripartite colored glass window flanked by two colored glass lancet windows. The northeast corner tower is also lighted by lancet windows, and equally notable are the round terra cotta decorative panels that mark the second floor. The tapered octagonal spire is finished with a dentiled cornice and capped with a ball finial.

The west tower, however, is the architectural focus. Rising four stories, the combination entrance and bell tower dominates the brick church as well as the Crisfield skyline. Fixed in the northwest corner of the base are two datestones. The most obvious stone commemorates the 1892 construction of the current church, while an additional stone on the back of the tower was evidently salvaged from the former 1876 building.

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Mount Pleasant M.P. Church

and/or common

## 2. Location

street & number South Side of West Main Street \_\_\_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Crisfield \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ congressional district First

state Maryland \_\_\_\_\_ county Somerset

## 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 checked="" 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 Mt. Pleasant Church

street & number \_\_\_\_\_ telephone no.:

city, town Crisfield \_\_\_\_\_ state and zip code 21817

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Somerset Clerk of Court \_\_\_\_\_ liber

street & number Somerset County Courthouse \_\_\_\_\_ folio

city, town Princess Anne \_\_\_\_\_ state MD 21853

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Maryland Historic Sites Inventory

date 1967 \_\_\_\_\_ federal  state \_\_\_\_\_ county \_\_\_\_\_ local

depository for survey records Maryland Historical Sites Inventory

city, town Annapolis \_\_\_\_\_ state MD 21401

# 7. Description

Survey No. S-~~000~~ 92

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>	
<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 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 Mount Pleasant M.P. Church stands on the southeast corner of West Main and 3rd streets in the heart of Crisfield, Somerset County, Maryland. The Victorian Gothic brick church faces north with the principal gable oriented on a north/south axis.

The 1892 Victorian brick church has a stretcher bond principal facade and seven-course common bond side and rear walls. The base of the church is defined by a projecting brick watertable capped by a course of beveled granite. The steeply pitched gable roof and the two tower roofs are covered with slate shingles. Attached to the southeast corner of the church is a single-story concrete block Sunday school room and church hall addition.

The north (main) facade is an asymmetrical elevation with the body of the church flanked by a four-story bell tower to the west and a two-story octagonal tower on the northeast corner. The church body itself has a balanced three-bay fenestration divided by brick buttresses capped with granite blocks; the corner buttresses rising two stories. Decorative rusticated granite bands run across the facade at the level of the window sills and at the bottom of the Gothic arched front windows. The center bay is filled with a Gothic arched tri-partite window with the upper portion distinguished by three round windows. Flanking the center window are narrow colored glass lancet windows. The upper portion of the parapet front wall is pierced by a colored glass lunette window with a granite sill, and the peak of the wall is vented in the shape of a cross. The parapet wall is capped with stone and finished with a floral iron finial. Rising on the northeast corner of the sanctuary is a two-story octagonal tower lighted by lancet windows on the <sup>first</sup> floor and finished with round terra cotta panels on the second floor, and rectangular panels are the base of the cornical roof. The tower cornice is embellished with a dentil row, and the peak is capped with a ball finial.

The west tower contains the principal entrance, a Gothic arched double door with a colored glass transom. A flight of three granite steps front the entrance and three-story buttresses flank the entrance as well as frame the tower. The granite datestone is fixed in the base of the northwest buttress and reads, "Mount Pleasant Methodist Protestant Church, 1892." The second story of the tower is pierced by a narrow lancet window as well as being marked by horizontal granite string courses. Two Gothic arched louvered vents fill the third story, after which the tower tapers to the spire. The base of the spire is pierced by eight Gothic arched louvered openings. The tapering octagonal spire is distinguished on four sides; north, south, east and west by a narrow gable roofed vent pierced by a louvered opening. The spire is finished by a delicate iron lightning rod. An old datestone is found at the base of the tower and reads, "M.P. Church, 1876."

# 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 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** 1892 **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.



Description Continued

The west side of the sanctuary behind the tower is divided into five bays marked by colored glass lancet windows and brick buttresses without granite block caps. The eaves to the roof are extended, and the soffits are sloped.

The south side of the main block is covered by a single-story apse with a blocked up round window centered within the gable. A Gothic arched lancet window pierces the wall surface west of the apse, while a diamond shaped brick vent is located in the uppermost portion of the gable end. A square brick furnace stack rises against the east side of the church body, and the concrete block Sunday school rooms extend from the southeast corner.

The east side of the church has a gable-roofed section which extends out from the main building at a right angle. This side chapel is one bay across by four bays deep and is covered by a parapet gable roof pierced by an internal and brick chimney. Brick buttresses with granite capping stones mark the corners and sides as in the main building, and the sides are distinguished by Gothic arched openings. Two louvered attic vents with granite lintels and sills flank the interior and chimney.

2000924608

Maryland  
Somerset  
Crisfield VICINITY  
STREET NO.

INVENTORY

2. NAME First Methodist Church

DATE OR PERIOD c. 1887  
STYLE High Victorian Gothic  
ARCHITECT  
BUILDER

ORIGINAL OWNER 1st Methodist Church  
ORIGINAL USE Religious  
PRESENT OWNER 1st Methodist Church  
PRESENT USE religious  
WALL CONSTRUCTION brick  
NO. OF STORIES 1

3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE

4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION OPEN TO PUBLIC

The first Methodist Church in Crisfield is nearly identical to Christ Methodist Church, Chestertown. Its High Victorian Gothic style varies in that the towers and entrance are on the opposite sides of the building and the tower lacks the small turrets which make the composition more complete on the Church in Chestertown.

The entrance is located in the tower which is set back four bays from the facade. The tower is three stories tall with a tall octagonal spire. Buttresses with serpentine stone washes are located on each corner of the building and the tower, and between the Gothic windows. The same stone is used for window sills and decorative bands. A shorter octagonal tower is situated on the east side of the gable facade. It is shorter than the entrance tower and resembles the type tower used in domestic architecture of the Queen Anne style. A huge gothic window with tracery fills a large area of the gable facade. Above the window is a lunette rose window.

5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE Endangered Interior Exterior



6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional)

7. PHOTOGRAPH

8. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Pages)  
INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC.

9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER

DATE OF RECORD





Mount Pleasant M.E. Church  
Crisfield, Somerset Co. Md.  
Norhtwest - Elevation  
2/86, Paul Touart, Photographer  
Neg/ Md. Historical Trust

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Mount Pleasant M.P. Church  
Crisfield, Somerset County  
South Elevation  
7/85, Photographer, Paul Touart  
Neg/Md. Historical Trust

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Mount Pleasant M.P. Church  
Crisfield, Somerset County  
North Elevation  
7/85, Photographer, Paul Touart  
Neg/Md. Historical Trust

S-92



MOUNT PLEASANT  
METHODIST EPISCOPAL  
CHURCH  
BUILT 1882

Mount Pleasant M.P.Church

S-92

Crisfield, Somerset County

Datestone-1892

7/85, Photographer, Paul Touart

Neg/Md. Historical Trust



Mount Pleasant M.P. Church  
Crisfield, Somerset County  
Northeast Elevation  
7/85, Photographer, Paul Touart  
Neg/Md. Historical Trust

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