

Capsule Summary
SM-401
Ebenezer A. M. E. Church
White Marsh
Private

circa 1860 - 1873

The Ebenezer A.M.E.Church is a late example of horizontal log construction in St. Mary's County. This single pen structure, joined with half dovetail notches, has not been significantly altered, but is in a badly deteriorated condition. In addition to the log building, two twentieth century churches and a cemetery are located on the site. A free-standing cornerstone which reads "Ebeneza A.M.E. Church 1894" suggests that a fourth church once stood here. Though currently used for storage, the log building has served both as a church and as a school for the African-American community in the White Marsh and Charlotte Hall area.

SM-401, Ebenezer A.M.E. Church
St. Mary's County
Maryland Comprehensive Historic Preservation Plan Data

Historic Context

Geographic Organization: Western Shore

Chronological/Developmental Period: Agricultural/Industrial Transition 1815-1870.
Industrial/Urban Dominance 1870-1930.

Historic Period Theme: Architecture
Education
Religion

Resource Type

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Village

Historic Function and Use: Church
School

Known Design Source: None

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Ebenezzer A.M.E. Church

and/or common Ebenezzer Methodist Church

2. Location

street & number Old Route 5 ___ not for publication

city, town White Marsh (near New Market) ___ vicinity of congressional district 5

state county

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 checked="" 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: storage

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

name Trustees of A.M.E. Church

street & number telephone no.:

city, town Charlotte Hall state and zip code MD 20622

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Clerk of Court liber JFF 2/94

street & number St. Mary's County Courthouse folio and JJC 4/111

city, town Leonardtown state

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ___ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input checked="" 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.

Contributing Resource Count: 1

The Ebenezer African Methodist Episcopal Church is located on the west side of Old Route 5 near New Market. This single story, log structure stands in a grove of trees next to two twentieth century cinderblock church buildings. A cemetery extends to the west of this complex. The log building faces east with its principal gable oriented on an east/west axis.

Built during the third quarter of the nineteenth century, the Ebenezer Church has no visible support system. The structure consists of horizontal log construction notched with half dovetail joints. These lightweight logs are hewn on all sides and chinked with mortar. The roof is covered with corrugated metal.

The Ebenezer Church is a one room building measuring 24'2" by 18'1". The gable roof consists of rafters on four foot centers which are mitred and joined with mature cut nails. Some of these rafters were salvaged from an earlier structure and reused here. The gable end studs are half lapped into the gable end tie beam. One tie beam now spans the interior space of the building, although the persistence of uniformly spaced tie beam butts notched into the structure's longitudinal top plate suggests that a series of tie beams once spanned the interior. Four narrow openings on each of the building's four elevations create a cross axial plan. The jambs of these openings consist of narrow boards which have been nailed into place.

The east (main) elevation is pierced by a central door opening 5'2" in height by 2'11" in width. Above this opening is a wooden plaque placed here in 1961 to commemorate the founding of the church. Above the plaque is a window opening in the eave, partially covered by boards. The eave of the church is sheathed with wide weatherboards which once covered this entire elevation. The gable end is finished with a plain eave board.

The south elevation is pierced by a central opening 4' in height by 2'11" in width. This elevation is sheathed with remnants of corrugated metal sheathing. An interior brick chimney projects from the roof which is in very bad condition. Much of the southeastern end of the roof has rotted away.

The west elevation is pierced by a central opening 4' in height by 2'11" in width. The weatherboards which once covered the eave are now gone. Remnants of a saw tooth trim eave board survive on this west elevation.

The north elevation was once pierced by two openings. One of these appears to have been cut out and then immediately closed up again with the same log material.

8. Significance

Survey No. SM-401

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) Afro-American History
	<input type="checkbox"/> invention			

Specific dates	Unknown	Builder/Architect	Unknown
check: Applicable Criteria:	<input type="checkbox"/> A	<input type="checkbox"/> B	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C
and/or	<input type="checkbox"/> D		
Applicable Exception:	<input type="checkbox"/> A	<input type="checkbox"/> B	<input type="checkbox"/> C
	<input type="checkbox"/> D	<input type="checkbox"/> E	<input type="checkbox"/> F
	<input type="checkbox"/> G		
Level of Significance:	<input type="checkbox"/> national	<input type="checkbox"/> state	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The Ebenezer A.M.E.Church is a late example of horizontal log construction in St. Mary's County. The structure has not been significantly altered, but is in a badly deteriorated condition. This log building has served both as a church and as a school for the African-American community in the White Marsh and Charlotte Hall area.

The Ebenezer A.M.E.Church stands in a grove of trees off of Old Route 5. West of this log building is a graveyard with markers dating to the twentieth century. Northeast of the structure stand two outhouses. To the southeast stand two twentieth century churches. One, a cinderblock building with a stepped steeple, was constructed in 1949 and is now used as a church hall. The other, also built of cinderblock, was constructed in 1961 and is currently used as a place of worship by the Ebenezer congregation. Its cornerstone is inscribed with the dates "1804 - 1961." A free-standing cornerstone from yet another church building stands next to this church and reads "Ebeneza A.M.E. Church 1894."

It is unclear when the log structure, once used as a church and later as a school, was built. In 1876 the Edwards family transferred a half acre tract of land to J.F.Dorsey, William Green, Minor Coleman, Marshall Smallwood, and J.O.Brooks, Trustees of the Ebenezer A.M.E. Church, for the specific purpose of erecting a church or school on the property. Yet, the date plaque on the log church suggests a construction date of 1861. It reads:

"Dedicated October 15, 1961.

Here in this log cabin 100 years ago in this little patch of woods, a group of free humble pious colored folk met, catching the spirit of Richard Allen in Philadelphia, a hundred and fifty miles away. They organized the Ebenezer A. M. E. Church, the first of its denomination in Southern Maryland.

In this hollowed spot their spirits were enshrined forever, tho' their names and faces have been forgotten and dimmed by time; nature in this glade still catches their voices in the murmuring breeze; reverberates their song and praise along the leafy turf, while the trees, silent and still around the cabin wait

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. SM-401

Biondi, Patricia, "Research Findings on the Methodist Churches in St. Mary's County, Md." (n.d.= Ridge, Md, 1984) Unpublished Manuscript. Ford, Mary, Personal Interview December 1993.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 7.5 Acres

Quadrangle name Charlotte Hall

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

B	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

C	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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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"/>
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Verbal boundary description and justification See attached.

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

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Elizabeth Hughes, Historic Sites Surveyor

organization St. Mary's County DPZ

date December 1993

street & number Leonardtown

telephone (301) 475-4662

city or town

state

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	MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
	Shaw House	DHCP/DHCD
	21 State Circle	100 COMMUNITY PLACE
	Annapolis, Maryland 21401	CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023
	(301) 269-2438	514-7600

SM-401, Ebenezer A. M. E. Church
St. Mary's County
7.1 Description

The second opening is on axis with the opening on the southern elevation. Some of the weatherboard cladding which once sheathed this elevation remains intact.

A faded coating of whitewash survives on the interior walls of the log building, and the floor boards have rotted away, exposing the hewn beams below. Although there was space for a loft, the lack of nail holes in the surviving tie beam suggests that this area was not utilized. The interior of the church is currently being used for the storage of old appliances and furniture.

SM-401, Ebenezer A. M. E. Church
St. Mary's County
8.1 Significance

as sentinels for the final shout.”

Patricia Biondi, author of “Research Findings on the Methodist Churches of St. Mary's County, Maryland,” notes that an announcement of an 1873 camp meeting describes its location as “Ebenezer Church near Charlotte Hall on the road to Mechanicsville.” This particular meeting was to last a week and accomodation tents would be furnished for visitors from a distance. Abraham Dent was the pastor at that time. This suggests that the log house may have been in use as a church as early as 1873 and possibly earlier.

In 1896 James and Florence Milburn transfered a seven acre tract of land to the “Trustees of Ebeneza Church in St. Mary's County and Trustees of Charles Chapel in Charles County and their successors in trust representing A.M.E. churches in the United States of America.” The description of this land notes a “colored school house” and a “colored church” already on the adjoining property as landmarks. It may be that the log structure was already being used as a school for African-American students in 1896. It continued to serve as a school until the 1940s. Currently used for storage, this building is quickly deteriorating.

SM-401, Ebenezer A.M.E. Church
St. Mary's County
8.2 Significance

Chain of Title

TO: Trustees of Ebeneza Church in St. Mary's County and Trustees of Charles Chapel in Charles County and their successors in trust representing A.M.E. churches in the United States of America.

FROM: James T. Milburn and Florence Milburn.

RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber JYG 4, folio 111.

DATE: November 12, 1896.

NOTES: Transfer of seven acres "...beginning at the Northwest corner of a lot bought of E.H.Edwards and others by James Gross in JFF 6/427, then in a Westerly direction on a line of land owned by William T. Briscoe, 156 yards more or less to the corner of a lot owned by Thomas Gant thence in a Southerly direction with said Gant lot 73 yards more or less to the land of Neal H. Curtis thence with said Curtis land in an Easterly direction 210 yards to a large Chesnut tree and the line of J.F.Shaws land and the land owned by the colored church to the south corner of the land bought of E.H.Edwards and others by James Gross between the colored school house and the said colored church on the public road leading from Charlotte Hall to Mechanicsville..." Being the same as JFF 3/105. Price: \$150.

TO: J.F.Dorsey, William Green, Minor Coleman, Marshall Smallwood, J.O.Brooks, Trustees of A.M.E. Church or their successors.

FROM: T.D.Edwards, E.H.Edwards, and Mary F. Edwards.

RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber JFF 2/94.

DATE: February 10, 1876.

NOTES: Transfer of half acre property "for the purpose of erecting a Church or School House, and if used for any other purpose to revert back to the said T.D.Edwards, E.H.Edwards, and Mary F. Edwards." Price: \$20.

SM-401, Ebenezer A.M.E. Church
St. Mary's County
10.1 Geographical Data

Verbal Boundary and Description:

"...on the right of the Public road leading from Charlotte Hall to Mechanicsville, known by the name of White Marsh, containing a half acre, running as described in the within Plot."

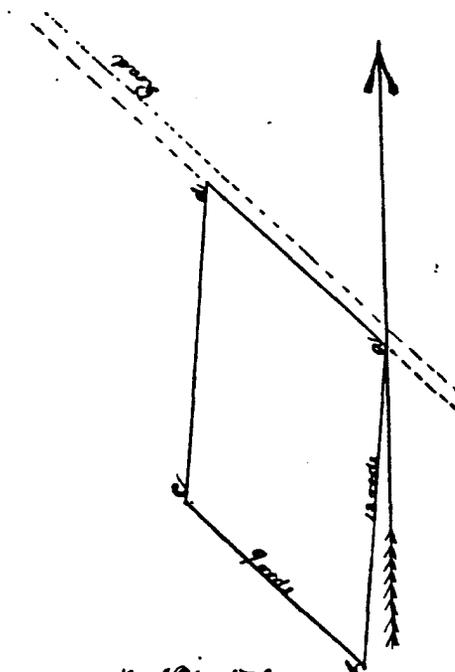
Source: St. Mary's County Land Records, Liber JFF 2/95.

State of Maryland, Saint Mary's County, to wit:
I hereby certify that on this 16th day of February, in the year 1876, before
the subscriber a Justice of the Peace, personally appeared J. D. Edwards
E. H. Edwards and Mary D. Edwards and acknowledged the foregoing
deed to be their respective act.

E. W. Burroughs J. P.

Here follows the Plot referred to in the foregoing Deed.

*Beginning at a stake (A) by the road side S. 74° W. 12 rods, thence S 46° W
9 rods, thence S 6° E to the road 12 rods, thence S 46° E 9 rods to the
beginning and containing one half acre.*



*Received this 4th day of April 1876 at 9 o'clock A.M. to be recorded
same day, recorded & examined by me.*

J. Frank Ford Clerk

del^d to J. Parsons because not charge for recording

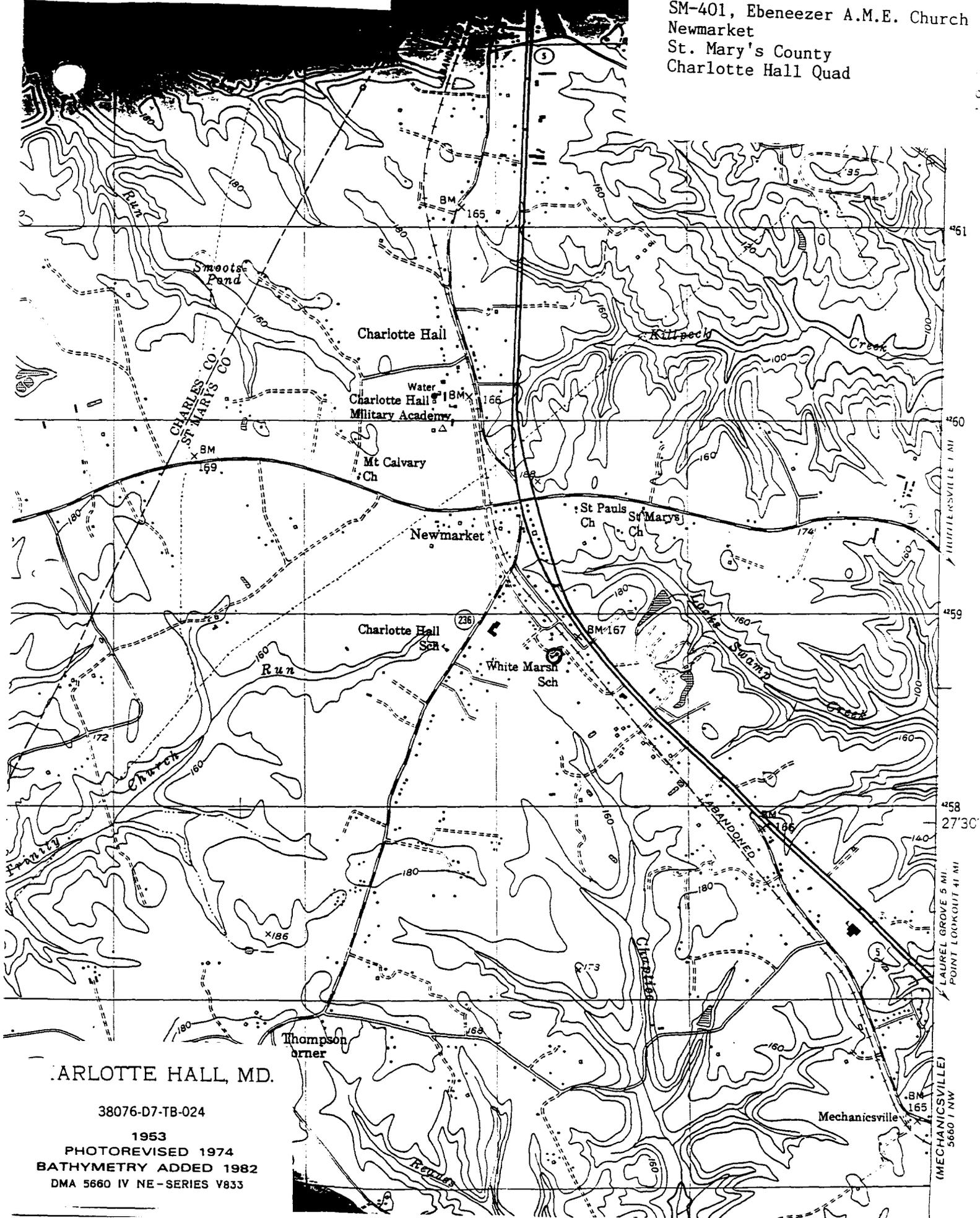
SM-401, Ebenezer A.M.E. Church
St. Mary's County
10.2 Geographical Data

Verbal Boundary and Description:

"...beginning at the Northwest corner of a lot bought of E.H.Edwards and others by James Gross in JFF 6/427, then in a Westerly direction on a line of land owned by William T. Briscoe, 156 yards more or less to the corner of a lot owned by Thomas Gant thence in a Southerly direction with said Gant lot 73 yards more or less to the land of Neal H. Curtis thence with said Curtis land in an Easterly direction 210 yards to a large Chesnut tree and the line of J.F.Shaws land and the land owned by the colored church to the south corner of the land bought of E.H.Edwards and others by James Gross between the colored school house and the said colored church on the public road leading from Charlotte Hall to Mechanicsville, containing 7 acres, more or less."

Source: St. Mary's County Land Records, Liber JJG 4/111.

SM-401, Ebenezer A.M.E. Church
Newmarket
St. Mary's County
Charlotte Hall Quad



CHARLOTTE HALL, MD.

38076-D7-TB-024

1953
PHOTOREVISED 1974
BATHYMETRY ADDED 1982
DMA 5660 IV NE-SERIES V833

LAUREL GROVE 5 MI
POINT LOOKOUT 41 MI
(MECHANICSVILLE)
5660 1 NW

TO BE KEPT IN THIS LOG CABIN TO REMIND YOU ALSO IN THE BATTLE
OF BATAVIA ON SEPTEMBER 19, 1777. A FORT WOMAN ALL PIONEER
COURAGE WAS NOT FADING THE SPIRIT OF HER HUSBAND ALLEN
IN PHILADELPHIA A SOLDIER AND HIS WIFE'S WIFE
THEY WROTE TO THE FORT'S GARRISON IN PHILADELPHIA
ON SEPTEMBER 19, 1777 IN PHILADELPHIA

IN THIS CABIN THE TWO BRITISH SPOILS ARE KEPT
FORWARD THE THEIR HANDS AND FEET HAVE BEEN FORGOTTEN
AND BURNED BY THE BRITISH IN THIS CABIN THE TWO
POOR WIVES IN THE MORNING WROTE IN PHILADELPHIA
SOME AND PHASES ALONG THE CABIN THEY WROTE THE LETTERS
AND THE BRITISH THE TWO MUST BE KEPT FOR THE FINAL BATTLE



SM-401 DELIMITED A. M. E. CHURCH

ST. MARY'S COUNTY, MD

ELIZABETH HUGHES

JANUARY 1914

MD SHIP

125 ELEVATION

Y4



SM-101 EBENEZER A. M. E. CHURCH

ST. MARY'S COUNTY, MD

ELIZABETH HUGHES

JANUARY 19-14

NE SHPD

SW ELEVATION

3/4



SM- 401 BRANDEEN A.M.E. CHURCH
ST. MARY'S COUNTY, MD

ELIZABETH HUGHES

JANUARY 1994

MD SHPD

DETAIL OF SE CORNER

14



SM-101 BRUNNEN A. PARK CHURCH

ST. MARY'S COUNTY, MD

ELIZABETH BRUNNEN

JANUARY 1974

1/4 SHED

SE VIEW OF BRUNNEN CHURCH SITE.

2/4