

Easement

Bethel A. M. E. Church
112 South Hanson Street
Easton, Maryland 21601

T-412
1877

Bethel A. M. E. Church is very typical of modest brick ecclesiastical building of the mid-to-late nineteenth century. Stylistically, it alludes the Gothic revival with its pointed arch windows and corner buttresses. With a second floor sacristy and recessed chancel and choir, the building closely resembles Asbury M. E. Church (T-421), which, however, has a bell tower.

The Bethel Congregation has played an important role in the religious life of Black Eastonians. Frederick Douglass spoke there in 1878, fifty years after he had fled Talbot County, his childhood home, as a slave. The congregation itself had been established sixty years earlier in 1818.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Bethel A. M. E. Church

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

112 South Hanson Street

CITY, TOWN

Easton

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

FIRST

STATE

Maryland 21601

COUNTY

Talbot

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 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

Bethel A. M. E. Church

Telephone #: 301-822-2968

STREET & NUMBER

c/o Mr. John Howard, Head Trustee
112 South Hanson Street

CITY, TOWN

Easton

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21601

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Talbot County Court House

Liber #: 142

Folio #: 251

STREET & NUMBER

Washington Street

CITY, TOWN

Easton

STATE

Maryland 21601

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

None

DATE

_FEDERAL _STATE _COUNTY _LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

T-412

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input 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

This brick church stands on the east side of Hanson Street near South Street. It faces west.

The structure is two stories in height. Three bays wide, it is covered by a gable roof which faces Hanson Street. The rectangular structure is four bays deep. A simple rectangular building, architectural interest is limited to the front facade; there is no bell tower. Common bond is used throughout; the brick is orange in color. Brick piers set at a forty-five degree angle to each corner rise above the roof line to form small square towers, capped with flat unmolded stone coping. The roof terminates in an overhanging eave treated with composite wooden moldings.

The main entrance is in the center of the front facade. The four-centered arch opening contains double doors each treated with four unmolded panels. Trim is a simple, wide half-round molding which edges the jamb. The arch of headers is the only architectural enrichment at this opening and at the window openings on this facade.

Above the main entrance is a tripartite window contained in a lancet arch. The deep wooden mullions form a pattern of interlocking lancet arches. Patterned, colored glass is used in this window. Lancet arch windows are also found in the side bays on each floor. They have lights of solid, colored glass. The windows on the second floor in the sacristy are quite tall. Trim is narrow, and like the door, consists of a single half-round molding.

In the gable is a circular opening filled with louvers. A stone plaque below this opening says "A. M. E. Church August 1877".

The side bays each contain one window per floor. Those lighting the second floor sacristy are quite tall and contain nine over nine colored glass sashes.

At the east end of the structure is a small two-story brick addition containing the choir and altar.

Inside the church building has an anteroom containing a double stair with turned balusters. The two newels are round and massive.

The sacristy is a spacious room which a balcony at the west end and raised altar at the east. The balcony has an attractive railing with applied wooden decoration. The main entrance door to the sacristy is decorated by very heavy large wooden brackets in the corners.

In plan, the structure resembles another Easton Church, Asbury M. E. (T-421), a contemporary structure, to which a bell tower has been added.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

T-412

8 SIGNIFICANCE

ERIOD		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 1877

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Bethel A. M. E. Church

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This is an example of a modest ecclesiastical building of the mid-nineteenth century. Stylistically it alludes to the Gothic revival structures of that period.

The church has played an important role in the religious life of Black Eastonians. Frederick Douglass spoke here in 1878, fifty years after he had fled Talbot County, his childhood home, as a slave. The congregation itself had been established sixty years earlier in 1818. According to tradition, the Black residents of the town had been brought into the African Methodist Church by an itinerant preacher who spoke on South Street from a cart.

Like other religious and ethnic minorities, this group was aided by the local Quakers, in this case a Mr. Cochran who sold them their first church building, a frame carpenter shop which stood at this site.

The years before the Civil War were particularly hard for the congregation. Laws prohibited their meeting on Sunday and their pastors were frequently threatened with being resold into slavery. Once they nearly lost their church, but a sympathetic Town Clerk succeeded in granting the congregation a charter. The first official pastor was Reverend J. Edward Hawkins, appointed in 1849.

E142/F251 The Trustees, including John H. Banton deeded this property in 1904, to the Bethel A. M. E. Church. In 1879 the half interest of Jenny Ridgaway and the half interest of Lucinda Martin and Maggie Robinson in this property was sold, each interest for \$35.00 was sold to the Trustees of the A. M. E. Church.

E127/F454 The lot adjoining was added in 1897 by a purchase from Mary Ann Webb. She had purchased the property in 1878 for \$800.00 from Thomas and Margaret P. Nicols.

The 1879 deed states:
 "To be built thereon a house or place of worship for the use of members of the A. M. E. Church."

T-412

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Deeds and Land Records, Talbot County Court House.
The Star-Democrat (Easton, Maryland) August 21, 1976.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY NA

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

NA

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

STATE None COUNTY

STATE COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Marsha L. Fritz, Consultant

Cynthia B. Ludlow, Research Historian

ORGANIZATION

Historic Easton, Incorporated

DATE

September 15, 1976

STREET & NUMBER

Box 1171

TELEPHONE Mr. Paul Parsons,

301-822-2706 President

CITY OR TOWN

Easton

STATE

Maryland 21601

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

T-412

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
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		DATE <u>1877</u>

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Bethel A.M.E. Church is on the east side of Hanson Street in the Historic District of Easton. The building faces west. It is a brick structure, 36 feet across the front and 62 feet in length. The building is constructed of brick. The entrance has double four-panel oak doors. There are cathedral windows at either side of the entrance 4 1/2 ft tall with colored glass (red and green). On the top level of the front facade are two 12' tall lancet windows (with green and red colored glass) on either side of a 12' central cathedral window that has three divisions and nine panes of colored glass. The church has four six over six rectangular windows on both the north side and south side on the lower levels. On the top level of the north and south sides of the church are four 12' rectangular windows (four over four). The church is gable-ended (east-west) and has a slate roof.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

T-412

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
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<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" 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
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<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 1877

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Bethel A.M.E. Church is the oldest African Methodist Episcopal Church in Easton and may be the oldest A.M.E. congregation in Talbot County. This rather magnificent brick structure which dates from 1877 shows the amazing solidarity of the black population in that era. This congregation which has survived for over 100 years is still quite large and influential in the community.

T-412

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 James W. Clark, Historic Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION Maryland Commission on Afro-American History & Culture DATE

STREET & NUMBER 20 Dean Street TELEPHONE 269-2893

CITY OR TOWN Annapolis STATE Maryland

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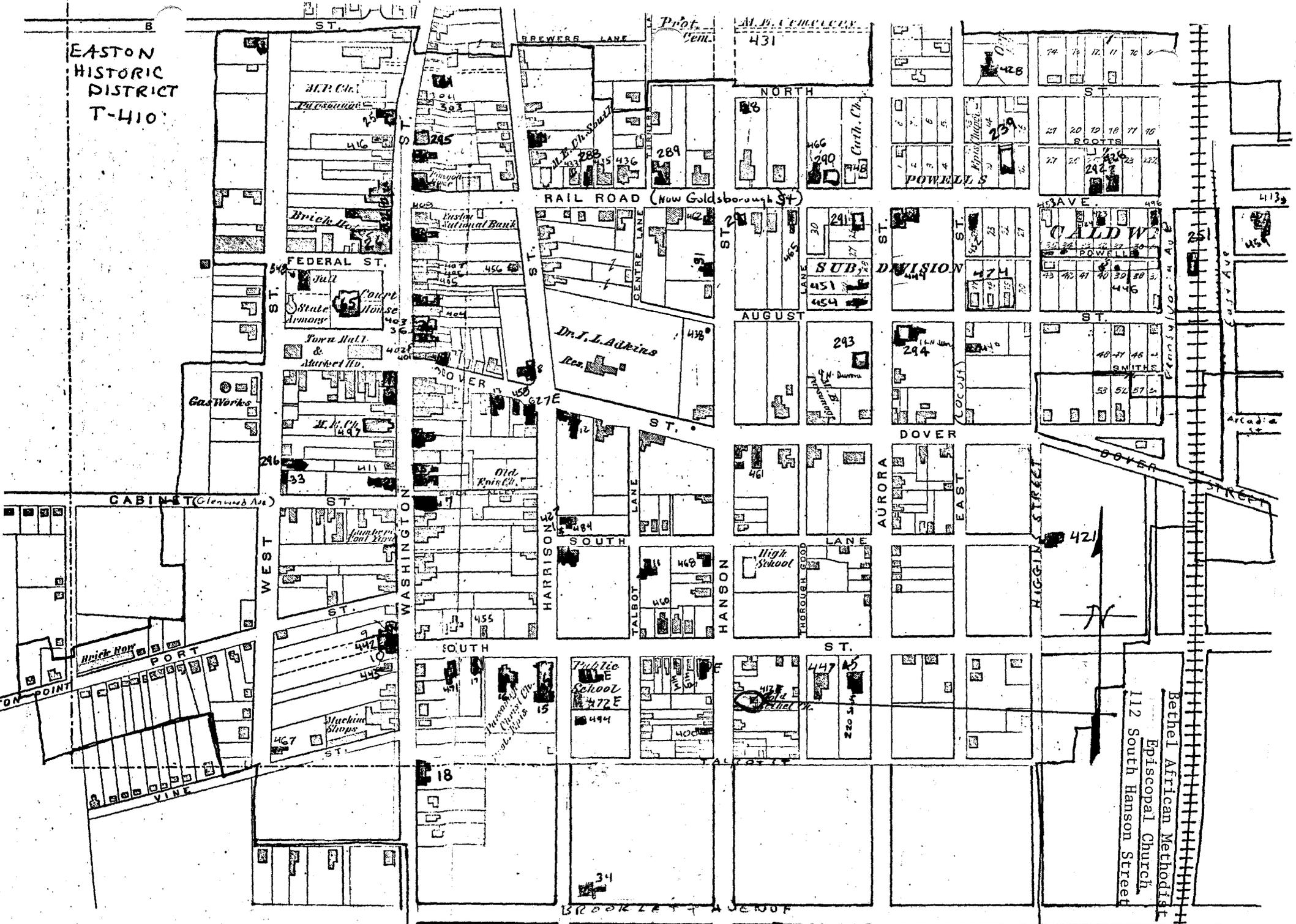
Easement

T-412
Talbot ~~-479-~~
Bethel A.M.E. Church
Hanson St.
Easton, MD 21601

T-412
1877

Bethel A.M.E. Church is on the east side of Hanson Street in the Historic District of Easton. The building faces west. It is a brick structure. Bethel is the oldest African Methodist Episcopal Church in Easton and may be the oldest A.M.E. congregation in Talbot County. This rather magnificent structure which dates from 1877 shows the amazing solidarity of the black population in this area in that era. This congregation which is 103 years old is still quite large and influential.

EASTON
HISTORIC
DISTRICT
T-410



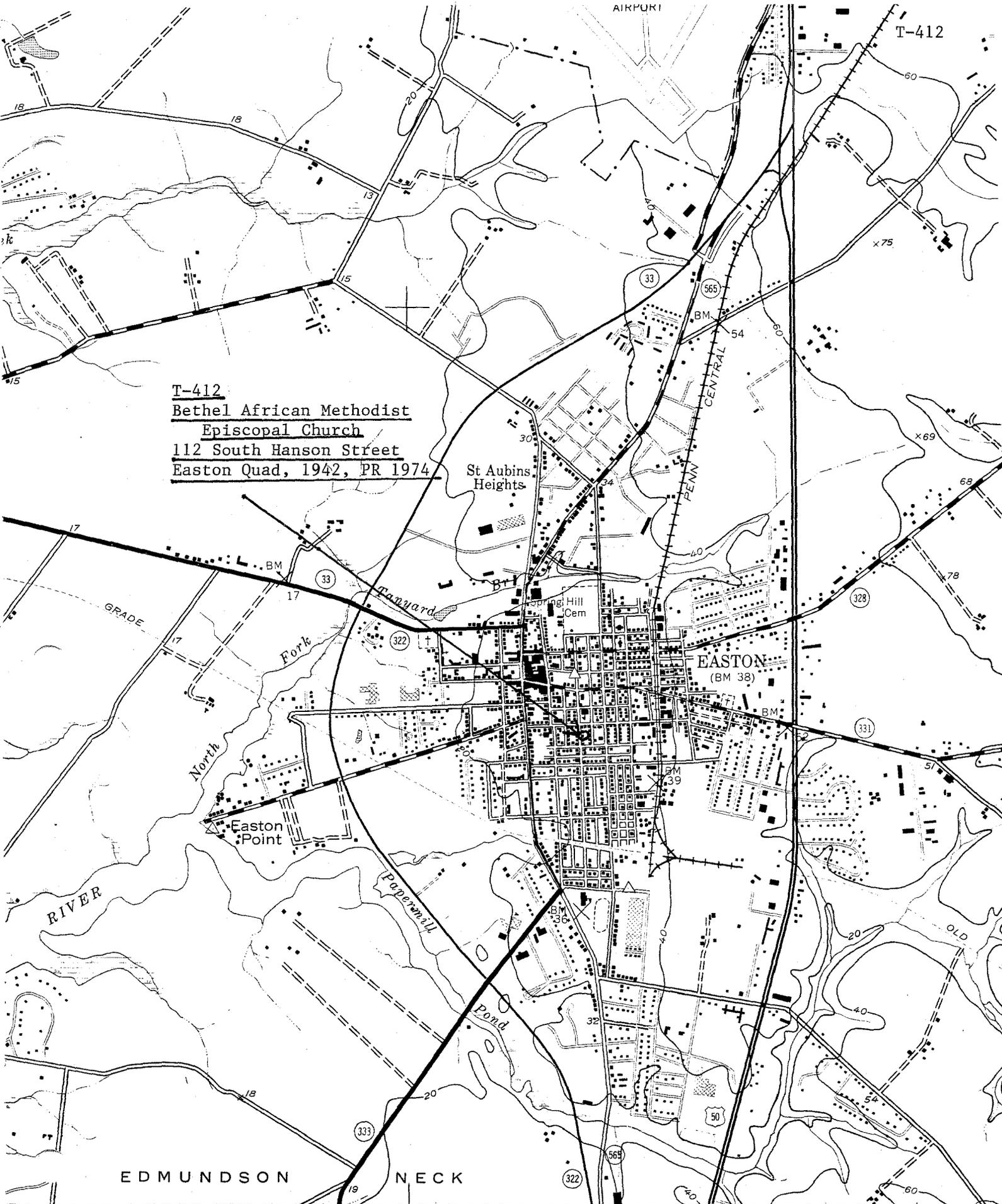
BROOKLETT AVENUE

(H.D. T-410) - EASTON - TALBOT CO.

Scale - 15 Rods to an inch

T-412

T-412
Bethel African Methodist
Episcopal Church
112 South Hanson Street
Easton Quad, 1942, PR 1974



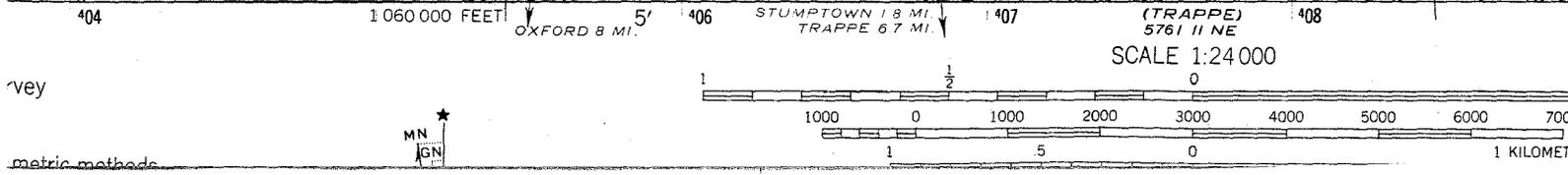
EDMUNDSON

NECK

EASTON
(BM 38)

STUMPTOWN 13 MI. TRAPPE 67 MI.
(TRAPPE) 5761 II NE

SCALE 1:24 000



vey

metric methods





-13 x 1.90

52% 412

BETHUEL CHURCH
112 So HANSON
EASTON, MD.

T-412

WEST FACADE
July 1976

M FRITZ

F. R. VERNON - WILLIAMS, JR.
510 DIAMOND STREET
EASTON, MARYLAND 21601



Bethel A.M.E. Church
Easton, Talbot County, Maryland
Michael Hosford

T-412
~~T-479~~

Maryland Historical Trust, Annapolis, MD
Southwest elevation
1/79



Bethel A.M.E. Church
Easton, Talbot County, Maryland
Michael Hosford

T-412
~~T-478~~

Maryland Historical Trust, Annapolis, MD
West elevation

1/79