

T-421

Asbury Methodist Episcopal Church

Architectural Survey File

This is the architectural survey file for this MIHP record. The survey file is organized reverse-chronological (that is, with the latest material on top). It contains all MIHP inventory forms, National Register nomination forms, determinations of eligibility (DOE) forms, and accompanying documentation such as photographs and maps.

Users should be aware that additional undigitized material about this property may be found in on-site architectural reports, copies of HABS/HAER or other documentation, drawings, and the “vertical files” at the MHT Library in Crownsville. The vertical files may include newspaper clippings, field notes, draft versions of forms and architectural reports, photographs, maps, and drawings. Researchers who need a thorough understanding of this property should plan to visit the MHT Library as part of their research project; look at the MHT web site (mht.maryland.gov) for details about how to make an appointment.

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Last Updated: 04-05-2004

Asbury M. E. Church
18 South Higgins Street
Easton, Maryland 21601

421
T-427
1876

The Asbury M. E. Church is a modest Gothic revival church of brick. The rectangular building has an outstanding bell tower with lattice belfry and a pyramidal roof with flaring eaves. The second floor sacristy with an embossed tin ceiling and wainscoting is lighted with pointed arch windows. The congregation was founded in 1834; this building was dedicated in 1876.

Talbot - ~~421~~ 421
Asbury United Methodist Church
18 S. Higgins Street
Easton, MD 21061

1856

Asbury United Methodist Church stands eight feet from the east side of South Higgins Street in Easton. The building faces west. The structure is brick, two stories (offices below and church atop), and contains a great deal of decorative tin work. (Stamped tin ceilings and wainscoting abound.)

Asbury United Methodist Church was the home of a predominantly white congregation until after the Civil War. It became a black church in the 1870's. This church has already been designated an historic building by Historic Easton, Inc.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

Asbury United Methodist Church

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 18 S. Higgins Street

CITY, TOWN Easton

___ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT First

STATE Maryland

COUNTY Talbot

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- MUSEUM
- COMMERCIAL
- PARK
- EDUCATIONAL
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ENTERTAINMENT
- RELIGIOUS
- GOVERNMENT
- SCIENTIFIC
- INDUSTRIAL
- TRANSPORTATION
- MILITARY
- OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Trustees, Asbury U.M. Church
c/o Rev. Gonzalee Matthews

Telephone #: 822-8654

STREET & NUMBER Dover Road

CITY, TOWN Easton

___ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code Md. 21061

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Talbot County Court House

Liber #: WCH 12

Folio #: 326

STREET & NUMBER Court St.

CITY, TOWN Easton

STATE Md.

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE n/a

DATE

___ FEDERAL ___ STATE ___ COUNTY ___ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

T-421

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>1856</u>

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Asbury U.M. Church stands eight feet from the east side of South Higgins Street in Easton. The Church faces west. The structure is brick. Asbury is two stories (offices and hall below-church atop). The Church is 48 feet across the front and 62 feet in depth. There is a tower in the middle of the front facade which rises to a pillared belfry with a short spire. The Church has double oak doors, four steps from street level at its entrance. There is a frontispiece Cathedral (12 foot) stained glass window in the second story above the entrance. There are six cathedral colored glass windows, three up and three down, on the north and south sides of the building. The interior is covered with stamped tin. Stamped tin ceilings and wainscotting abound. The main body of the church has oak pews as does the choir loft. This church has already been designated an historic building by Historic Easton, Inc.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

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 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
<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES	BUILDER/ARCHITECT
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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Asbury U. M. Church was the home of a predominately white congregation until after the Civil War. It became a black congregation in the 1870's. The structure contains a great deal of decorative tin work and is in a good state of preservation. It is definitely one of the most beautiful churches in Easton. It is presently being used for a number of government programs. The congregation is large and very active

T-421

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 and Culture DATE

STREET & NUMBER 20 Dean Street TELEPHONE 269-2895

CITY OR TOWN Annapolis, MD 21401 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
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

210421 4608
421
T 537

Town of Easton

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC Asbury M. E. Church
AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 18 South Higgins Street
CITY, TOWN Easton VICINITY OF FIRST CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
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 Asbury M. E. Church, Reverend Frank Robinson Telephone #: 301-822-6259
STREET & NUMBER 48 Glenwood Avenue
CITY, TOWN Easton VICINITY OF STATE, zip code Maryland 21601

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, LIBER #: 163
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Talbot County Court House FOLIO #: 285
STREET & NUMBER Washington Street
CITY, TOWN Easton STATE Maryland 21601

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE None
DATE
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS
CITY, TOWN STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

F-421

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

This tall brick church stands at the end of Talbot Lane facing west. Its neighbors are mostly small frame dwellings built in the late nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

Two-stories in height, the rectangular building is three bays wide and four bays deep. The square bell tower, protruding from the center of the west facade, provides an anteroom at the main entrance. At the east alter end is a two-story, one bay addition. The building is covered with a gable roof which is finished in a classical cornice and return. The building is constructed of light red brick laid in one over seven English bond; there are brick pilasters at the corners.

The main entrance is located in the bell tower; it has double doors set in a pointed arch opening. Each door has four panels trimmed with deep, broad moldings; the transom light is of colored, pattern glass. There is a sandstone keystone at this opening as at the others in this facade; they are decorated with an incised fleur-de-lis design. Stone haunches terminate the arch.

Above the entrance is a tracery window with opalescent glass in green and yellow tones. A pent eave surrounds the tower above this window. A round opening window in the tower level with the roof ridge is filled with painted wood, although it was evidently intended to hold a colored window. A plaque in the tower below this window says "built 1846, rebuilt 1876", the later being the construction date of this structure.

The shingle-covered belfry is the building's chief ornament. Two lancet arch openings filled with lattice are found in each facade. The narrow pyramidal roof has flaring eaves supported by large brackets; an ornamental finial, resembling a pineapple surmounts the spire.

Other windows are found on both floors on the west facade; they are lancet arch window openings which flank the bell tower and contain opalescent glass. Those on the second floor are quite tall.

There is one window per bay on the sides of the building. The upper sashes have lights which are shaped to resemble a pointed arch; lower sashes have six lights. Plain, colored glass is used.

The sacristy on the second floor is a spacious room well lit by the side windows. There is a balcony at the rear (west) and a raised altar and choir in the east addition. A wainscoting of tin embossed in a lancet arch pattern is found on the walls and the balcony railing. The ceiling is also covered with elaborately patterned embossed tin which, like the wainscoting, was added C1920.

The stair hall leading to the sacristy has double stairs and embossed tin wainscoting. The stair is quite heavy with bold, turned balusters.

This church is still used by the congregation which built it, remaining a center of its community, both symbolically and geographically.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

T-421

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 1876 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Asbury M. E. Church

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This building is significant for its architecture and for the part the Asbury M. E. Church has played in the life of the town of Easton.

According to a history of the church written to celebrate its 118th anniversary in 1954, the Asbury Methodist Church was organized in 1836 with both black and white members. For some years, the group met in a building called Old Carriage Shop. By the late 1840's there was a move to separate black and white members and in November 1849 the lot at Higgins and South Lane was purchased for the black congregation. The first house of worship was a frame structure used until the present building was constructed in 1876. The steeple and bell tower were built between 1893-1898. And the chancel, or tabernacle, was constructed in 1901-1903. After 1903 the building stood in its present form although improvements were made through the years: between 1907 and 1913 the choir loft was constructed and the metal ceiling was added between 1919-1923.

Asbury M. E. Church has served the community in various ways: as temporary high school classrooms in the 1930's and now as a community center for Senior Citizens group.

L58/F353 In 1844, James McNeal and his wife Elizabeth deeded a plat of ground to the Trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church of Ebenezzer to "erect a house or place of worship for the use of colored members of the M. E. Church in the United States of America."

L84/F445 It wasn't until 1878 that they were able to get a loan of \$1100.00 from Joseph H. White. In 1879, their building was completed and the name was changed to the Asbury Methodist Episcopal Church of Easton. This was the first M. E. Church in the state of Maryland to be so named in honor of the great

L108/F383 founder of the movement, Francis Asbury. The mortgage was paid in 1888 and a deed of correction was given the Trustees in 1912 by Mr. White.
L163/F285

T-421

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Deeds and Land Records, Talbot County Court House.
History of Asbury Methodist Church, 1954.
"History of Asbury Methodist Church" written to celebrate its 118th
Anniversary in 1954.

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 9, 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.

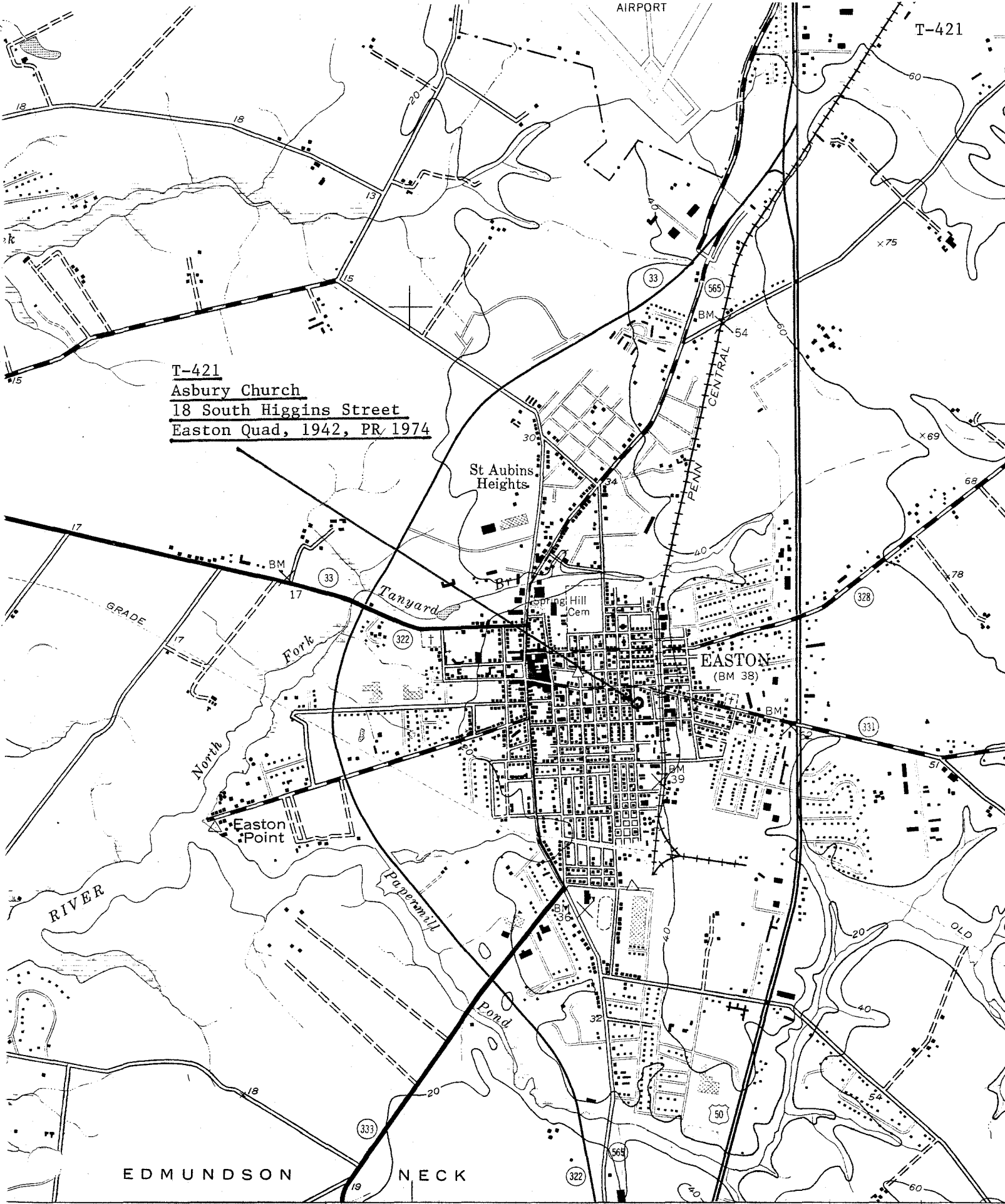
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RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

AIRPORT

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T-421
Asbury Church
18 South Higgins Street
Easton Quad, 1942, PR/1974

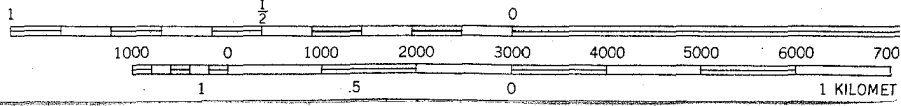


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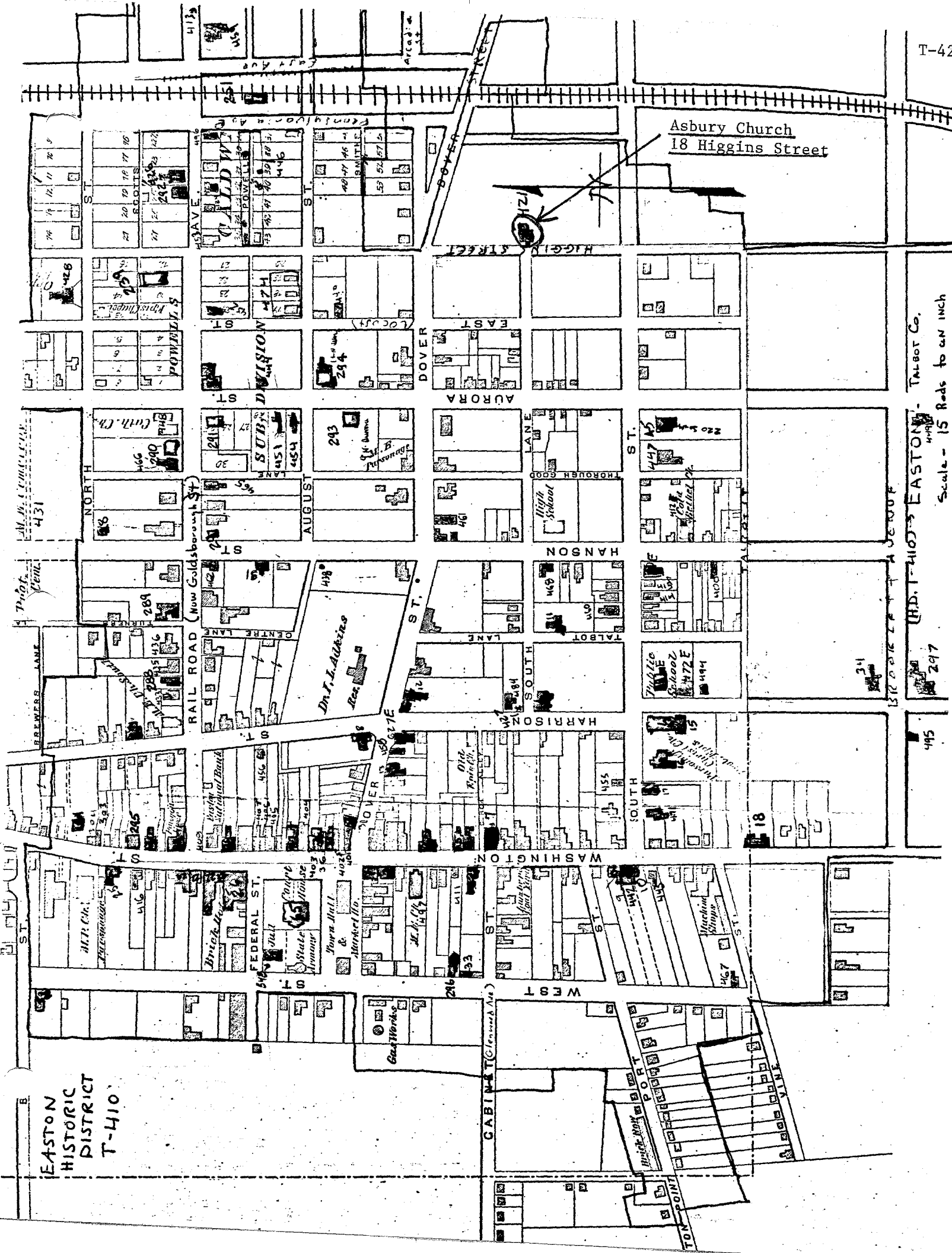
EASTON
(BM 38)

STUMPTOWN 1.8 MI.
TRAPPE 6.7 MI.

SCALE 1:24 000



vey
metric methods



EASTON
HISTORIC
DISTRICT
T-410

Asbury Church
18 Higgins Street

Scale - 15 Rods to an inch

ESTON - EASTON

Talbot Co.

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297

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WEST

WASHINGTON

SOUTH

HARRISON

TALBOT

HANSON

AURORA

DOVER

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NORTH

RAIL ROAD (Now Goldsborough St.)

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Asbury United Methodist Church
Easton, Talbot County, Maryland
Michael Hosford

T-~~1111~~
421

Maryland Historical Trust, Annapolis, MD
Southwest elevation
5/82



14 x 1.23

421

48%

Asbury United Methodist Church
Easton, Talbot County, Maryland
Michael Hosford

T-~~421~~
T-421

Maryland Historical Trust, Annapolis, MD
West elevation
5/82



T-421

ASEBURY METHODIST CHURCH
BIGGINS & SOUTH LANE
EASTON, MD.

WEST FACADE.

July 1976
ML FRITZ

RE: VERNON - WILLIAMS, JR.
310 DIAMOND STREET
BOSTON, MARYLAND 21601