

T-806
Deshields United Methodist Church
Copperville
Private

1895

The Deshields United Methodist church is a central fixture in the small black community of Copperville. Built in 1895, the single story frame church is dominated by an entrance and bell tower that stands on axis with the gable roof. Topped by a pyramidal roof the belfry is topped by a small tapered wood finial. Colored glass windows light the sanctuary. The most significant interior feature is the allegorical mural painted by Ruth Starr Rose around 1940 depicting Moses parting the Red Sea in an effort to represent freedom from slavery. Also worthy of note is the chamfered baluster altar rail and the beaded board wainscoting. Fixed in the southwest corner of the pier foundation is the marble datestone documenting the 1895 construction year.

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic DESHIELDS M. E. CHAPEL

and/or common DESHIELDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

2. Location

street & number East side of Copperville Road not for publication

city, town Copperville vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland 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 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 Deshields United Methodist Church

street & number telephone no.:

city, town Copperville state and zip code Maryland

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Talbot County Clerk of Court liber

street & number Talbot County Courthouse folio

city, town Easton state MD 21601

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date federal state county local

pository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. T-806

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	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 Deshields United Methodist church stands on the east side of Copperville Road in the center of Copperville, Talbot County, Maryland. The single-story frame church faces northwest with the gable roof oriented on a northwest/southeast axis.

Erected in 1895, the frame church is supported on a low brick pier foundation, and the building is sheathed with asbestos shingles. The steeply pitched gable roof is covered with asphalt shingles. Rising in the center of the northwest (main) elevation is a entrance and bell tower topped by a wood shingled pyramidal roof.

The northwest elevation is dominated by the entrance tower and flanking six-over-six colored glass windows. The belfry is finished with large louvered openings on each side, and a tapered wooden spire rises from the peak of the pyramidal roof. Fixed in the southwest corner of the foundation is the marble datestone that is inscribed, "Dashields M. E. Chapel, 1895."

Each side of the of the church is defined by two six-over-six colored glass sash windows that light the sanctuary.

The southeast (rear) wall of the main church is covered with a shorter single-story apse with two different sized windows.

The interior retains some original features including a chamfered post altar rail and beaded board wainscoting around the perimeter of the sanctuary. Plain corner block surrounds trim the window and door openings. Most significant to the interior is a mural painting by Ruth Starr Rose on the back wall of the altar. Painted around 1940, the mural depicts an allegory of Moses parting the Red Sea in an effort to represent freedom from slavery.

8. Significance

Survey No. T-806

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 1895 **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.

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SHAW BAY

Bennett Pt

Wyetown Point

Creek

Woodland

Creek

T-806

Copperville

Tank

Tunks Mills

X10

CREEK

NECK

ER

Unionville



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DESHIELDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Copperville, Talbot Co., Maryland

Southwest elevation

6/90, Paul Touart, photographer

Negative/MD Historical Trust



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DESHIELDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Copperville, Talbot County, Maryland
West elevation
6/90, Paul Touart, photographer
Negative/MD Historical Trust