

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic St. John's Methodist Episcopal Church, South

and/or common The Southern Church

2. Location

street & number Route 33 and Barneck Road not for publication

city, town Tilghman vicinity of congressional district Fifth

state Maryland county Talbot

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input 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 St. John's M.E.Church

street & number telephone no.:

city, town state and zip code

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

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date federal state county local

pository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. T-829

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.

St. John's Methodist Church is located on the west side of Route 33 on Tilghman Island, Talbot County, Maryland. The church faces east, with the principal gable oriented on an east/west axis.

This one-story frame structure is dated by a cornerstone in the northeast corner which reads "St. John's Chapel A.D. 1891". The church is sheathed in vinyl siding which covers the original weatherboard exterior, and the roof is covered in asphalt shingles. It has a brick foundation.

The three-bay east (main) facade has a projecting bell tower as its central bay, flanked by double hung, pointed-arch, colored glass windows. Smaller versions of these windows light the projecting bay vestibule. The double door entrance through the bell tower has a pointed-arch, colored glass inset above it which reads "St. John's M.E. Church Presented by J.V. Harrington and Family."

A gable roof divides the bell tower in half and forms a sort of shallow portico above the entrance. A diamond pane, colored glass window is inset above this portico. The pyramidal roof of the bell tower is covered in alternating square-cut, fishscale, and sawtooth, green shake shingles. The bell tower roof is supported by plain posts with spindle work brackets, and the open eave has exposed rafter feet.

The four-bay north and south elevations are marked by four double-hung, pointed-arch, colored glass windows. The eaves of the roof are slightly extended with the tips of the rafter feet exposed.

The west elevation has a central projecting bay with a shed roof and a double-hung, colored glass window on the north and south sides of the projecting bay.

The interior was not seen.

8. Significance

Survey No. T-829

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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates	Builder/Architect
check: Applicable Criteria: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D and/or	
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.

St. John s Methodist Episcopal Church, South is also known as the Southern Church both because it represents a branch of Methodism with Confederate sympathies formed following the Civil War and because of its southern location on the Island. St. John s was built in 1891 at the foot of Barneck Road on land purchased from John Harrington. Built for \$2000. Raymond Sinclair writes in his book The Tilghman s Island Story that the lumber came from Black Walnut Cove. James Chaires, however, claims that his grandfather, William James Dobson, transported lumber to Tilghman Island on his skipjack for St. John s, Swan Song and the Dobson House.

St. John s sits alone in the center of the Island, surrounded by fields and a collection of gravestones which date to 1857. The cemetery at St. John s continues to be used, although the church itself is currently operating on a limited service schedule. St. John s is one of four churches on the Island, and it is the least altered of them all.

T-829
St. John's M.E. Church
Tilghman Island Quadrangle





ST. JOHN'S H.E. CHURCH

T-829

TILGHMAN ISLAND, TALBOT COUNTY, MD.

SOUTHEAST ELEVATION:

E. HUGHES, M.D.

9/11/57