

WI-19  
Nanticoke M. E. Church  
Nanticoke  
Public worship

1895

The Nanticoke Methodist Episcopal Church is a particularly expressive example of the Gothic Revival with its well-detailed exterior. The single-story frame structure is dated to 1895 by a cornerstone, which is also inscribed with the names of the building committee; H. Jas. Messick, E. S. D. Insley, A. F. Turner, R. G. Evans, and J. R. Travers. The most dominant architectural feature is the entrance and bell tower, which rises from a central post on the west gable end. The belfry is especially noteworthy with its intricate pointed arch woodwork executed in a manner that imitates Gothic tracery. The steeply pitched pyramidal spire is covered with pattern slate as is the main roof of the church. Distinguishing the corners of the building are buttresses, which are finished with a pyramidal shaped finial. Pointed arch colored glass windows light the main body of the church, which is extended on its north side with a lateral wing featuring a large tripartite colored glass window.

The Nanticoke Methodist congregation traces its organization back to the mid nineteenth century with revival camp meetings held during the mid nineteenth century. The lot on which the 1895 church was erected was conveyed to the trustees in 1893, which included

All that lot or parcel of land in Wicomico County, State of Maryland, situated in Nanticoke Point and on the East side of and binding on the County road

leading from Thomas J. Walters store house to Roaring Point wharf

The ½ acre parcel was conveyed to the church trustees; Henry J. Messick, Robert H. Young, Frank M. Travers, Esam S. D. Insley, John F. Jester, Robert G. Evans, and Alexander F. Turner, several of whom were also members of the building committee.

MARYLAND HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN INFORMATION

RESOURCE NAME: Nanticoke Methodist Episcopal Church

MHT INVENTORY NUMBER: WI-19

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN DATA

1. Historic Period Theme(s):      Architecuture  
  Religion

2. Geographic Orientation:        Eastern Shore

3. Chronological/Development Period(s):    Industrial/Urban Dominance  
  1870-1930

4. Resource Type(s):                Church



# 7. Description

Survey No. WI-19

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input 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 Nanticoke M. E. Church stands on a gentle rise of land on the east side of Nanticoke Road (MD 349) in the village of Nanticoke, Wicomico County, Maryland. The single-story frame church faces west with the gable roof oriented on an east/west axis.

Built in 1895, the frame church is supported by a raised common bond brick foundation, and it is sheathed with aluminum siding. The steeply pitched roof is covered with patterned slate. Rising against the gable front is a centered entrance and bell tower topped by a steeply pitched pyramidal spire. Attached to the north side of the main block is a slightly shorter, single story ell wing.

The west (main) elevation of the church is a symmetrical facade with the projecting entrance and bell tower dominating the wall. The outside corners of the front wall are defined by buttresses which are finished with steeply pitched pyramidal finials. The corners of the tower are buttressed as well, and the double six-panel doors are topped by a pointed arch, colored glass transom. The belfry is distinguished by pointed arch openings on each face infilled with Gothic tracery executed in wood. The spire is covered with patterned slate. Piercing the front wall to either side of the tower are narrow pointed arch colored glass windows. Fixed in the northwest corner of the brick foundation is a marble stone inscribed, "Nanticoke M. E. Church" and the date "1895." Also included on the datestone are the names of the "Building Committee, H. Jas. Messick, E. S. D. Insley, A. F. Turner, R. G. Evans, and Jr. R. Travers."

The south side of the church is defined by four pointed arch colored glass windows. Four three-pane windows pierce the foundation wall.

The east (rear) wall features a three-sided apse covered by a shed roof. Pointed arch lancet windows pierce the angled sides. A diamond-shaped colored glass window pierces the upper gable end. The corners of the rear wall feature buttresses topped with steeply pitched pyramidal finials. The top of the east gable end wall is finished with a parapet, and the peak of the roof is accented with a fleur-de-lis shaped finial.

The north side of the main block is partially covered by a single story wing, which is covered by a slate roof like the main block. A tripartite colored glass window pierces the gable end. The edge of the roof is finished with a molded bargeboard and a fleur-de-lis finial rises from the roof peak. Piercing the west slope of the slate roof is a single flue brick stove chimney. Attached to the east (rear) wall is a modern gable roofed addition.

The interior was not seen.

Standing on the north side of the church is a modern, single-story building erected in 1995 and named "The Christian Center." The three-bay by four-bay structure has a gable front, and it is sheathed with vinyl siding.

# 8. Significance

Survey No. WI-19

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.

The Nanticoke Methodist Episcopal Church is a particularly expressive example of the Gothic Revival with its well-detailed exterior. The single-story frame structure is dated to 1895 by a cornerstone, which is also inscribed with the names of the building committee; H. Jas. Messick, E. S. D. Insley, A. F. Turner, R. G. Evans, and J. R. Travers. The most dominant architectural feature is the entrance and bell tower, which rises from a central post on the west gable end. The belfry is especially noteworthy with its intricate pointed arch woodwork executed in a manner that imitates Gothic tracery. The steeply pitched pyramidal spire is covered with pattern slate as is the main roof of the church. Distinguishing the corners of the building are buttresses, which are finished with a pyramidal shaped finial. Pointed arch colored glass windows light the main body of the church, which is extended on its north side with a lateral wing featuring a large tripartite colored glass window.

The Nanticoke M. E. Church deserves listing in *Category A*, which identifies structures of historic significance and exhibit many good features representative of late nineteenth century religious architecture.

The Nanticoke Methodist congregation traces its organization back to the mid nineteenth century with revival camp meetings held during the mid nineteenth century. The lot on which the 1895 church was erected was conveyed to the trustees in 1893, which included

All that lot or parcel of land in Wicomico County, State of Maryland, situated in Nanticoke Point and on the East side of and binding on the County road leading from Thomas J. Walters store house to Roaring Point wharf

The 1/2 acre parcel was conveyed to the church trustees; Henry J. Messick, Robert H. Young, Frank M. Travers, Esam S. D. Insley, John F. Jester, Robert G. Evans, and Alexander F. Turner, several of whom were also members of the building committee.



WI-19  
Nanticoke Methodist Church  
Nanticoke Road  
Nanticoke, Maryland  
Chain of title

Map 63, Parcel 14

644/242

Marvin E. Cox  
Mary Kelly Cox

to

1/30/1967

Albert V. Williams, Arthur Somers, Paul N. Evans,  
Harold B. Kennerly, Jr., Arthur Pruitt, Wilmer R. Jones,  
Howard Cox, J. Price Willing, Edward W. Catlin,  
Trustees of Nanticoke Methodist Church

3/4 acre

653/233

Myra E. Willing, widow

to

6/30/1967

Albert V. Williams, Arthur Somers, Paul N. Evans,  
Harold B. Kennerly, Jr., Arthur Pruitt, Wilmer R.  
Jones, Howard Cox, J. Price Willing, Edward W.  
Catlin

Plat "Survey for Nanticoke Methodist Church"  
6/23/1965, adjacent to .38 acre parcel with church

WI-19  
Nanticoke Methodist Church  
Chain of title continued

JTT 11/467

William S. Travers

to

8/2/1893

Methodist Episcopal Church at Nanticoke

Trustees, Henry J. Messick  
Robert H. Young  
Frank M. Travers  
Esam S. D. Insley  
John F. Jester  
Robert G. Evans  
Alexander F. Turner

All that lot or parcel of land in Wicomico County  
State of Maryland, situated in Nanticoke Point and  
on the East side of and binding on the County road  
leading from Thomas J. Walters store house to  
Roaring Point wharf

½ acre more or less

In trust that said premises shall be used, kept, and  
maintained as a place of Divine Worship for the use  
of the Ministry and Membership of the Methodist  
Episcopal Church

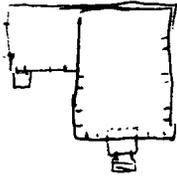


W1-19

Nanticoke Methodist Church

C. 1880

Victorian Gothic Revival



Brick foundation with 3-pane sash in window

Frame - 1 story - clapboard painted white

Facade (gable) entrance in tower - 2 flanking windows -  
~~arched~~ transom above door w/ stain glass  
2 Pediments above. Tower narrows - then square  
base with 4 gothic arches applied on each side  
then bellfry with gothic tracery + louvers  
2 crenelles at each corner - Pediment above  
each side of bellfry then spire with  
weathervane.

- Applied buttresses at corners of bell tower  
and at corners of building with finials  
at main corners.

Each window (stain glass) has pediment above  
a ~~semicircular~~ gothic arch.

North gable has 3 tall thin windows  
resembling large Gothic window.

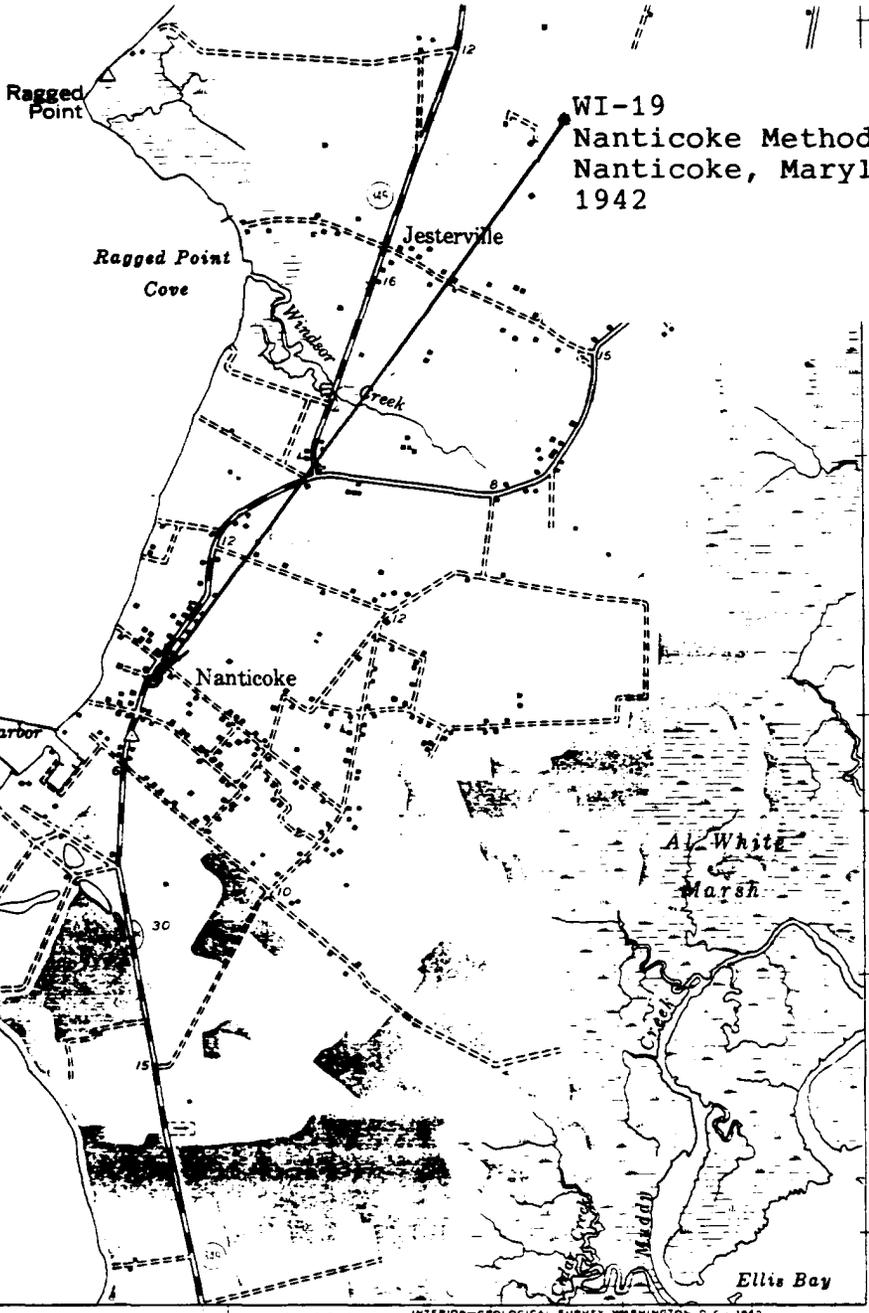
'A' roof covered with slate



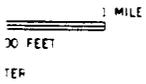
finials

Very good condition!  
is the ordinary for the lower end of country.





WI-19  
 Nanticoke Methodist Episcopal Church  
 Nanticoke, Maryland Quadrangle  
 1942



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Medium-duty ——— Light-duty ———  
 Unimproved dirt . . . . .  
 State Route



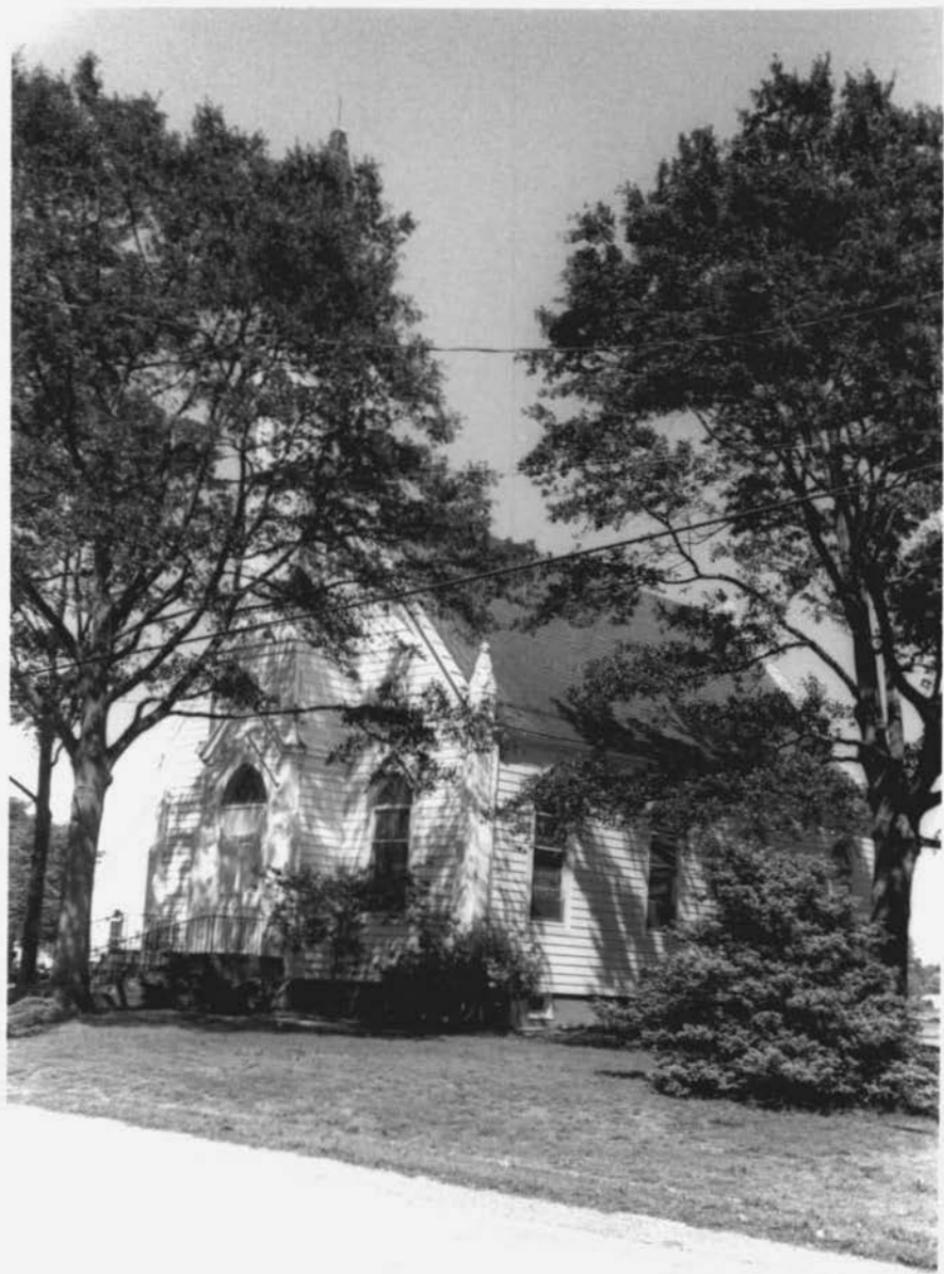
NANTICOKE, MD.  
 SW/4 NANTICOKE 15' QUADRANGLE  
 N3815—W7552.5/7.5

1942

EST

4234000m. N.  
 38°15'  
 75°52'30"  
 423000m. E.  
 (MONEY)

INTERIOR GEOLOGICAL SURVEY WASHINGTON, D. C. 1962



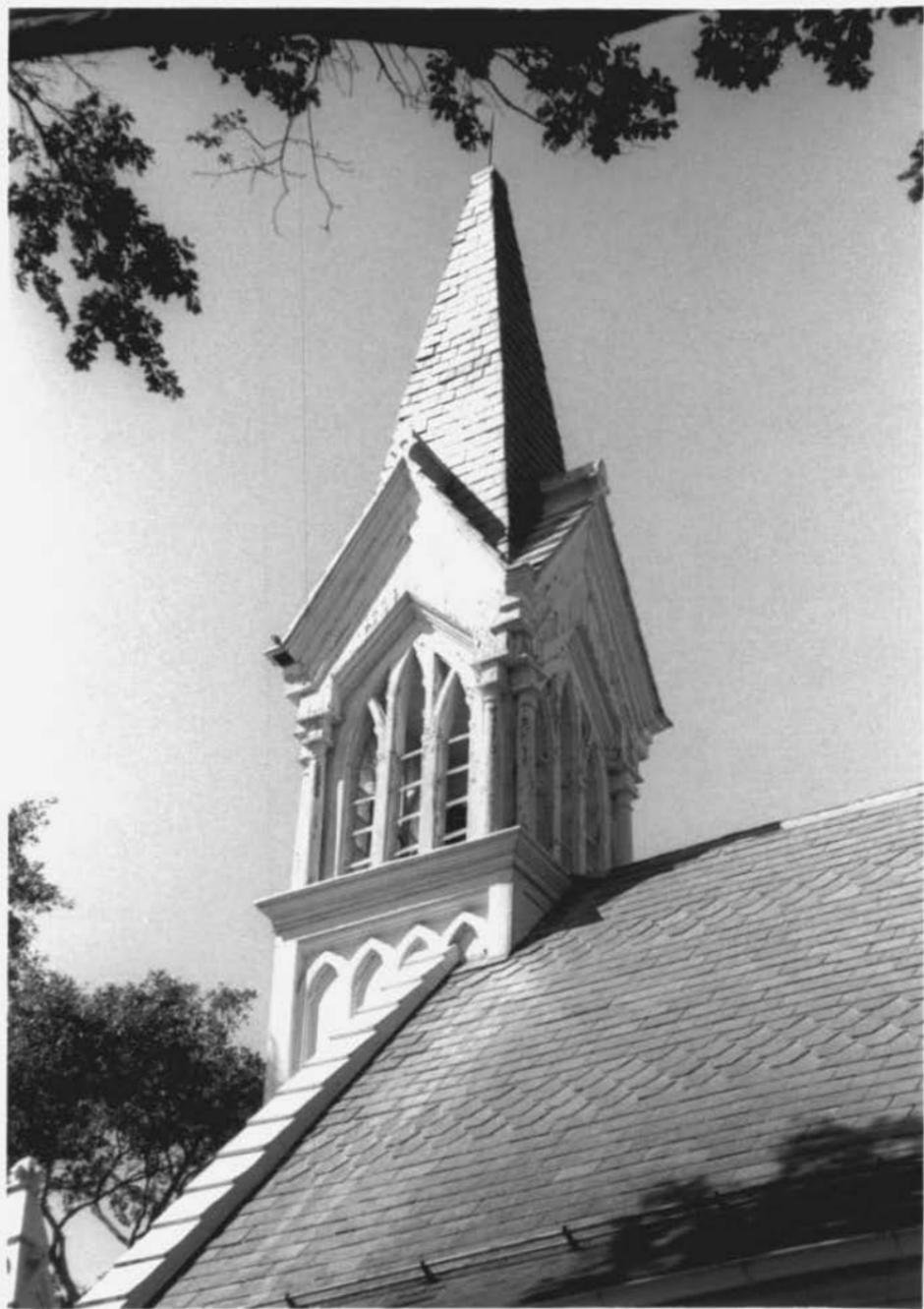
W1-19

NANTICOKE Antiquarian Club

NANTICOKE, WICKESBURG Co., N.C.

5/96, PAUL TOWERS, PHOTOGRAPHER

NEW J.M. HISTORICAL TRUST



WIC 19

NANTUCKET Methodist Church  
NANTUCKET, Nantucket Co. MA  
SILENCE, SOUTHEAST 2 1/2 HOURS  
5/9, PAVE TOWN'S PISTON  
NEG. PMD HISTORICAL TRUST



W1419

NANTUCKET Methodist Church  
SOUTH - 17th St.

NANTUCKET, Nantucket Co., MA.

5/96, Paul Toussaint, Nantucket

Nat'l. Hist. Historical Trust



WI-19 Nanticoke Methodist Church

1974

1970

W 19 Nanticoke Methodist Church

1970 plot