

WI-381
First Baptist Church of Athol
Mardela Springs vicinity
Public worship

c. 1906

Perched atop a sandy ridge southwest of Mardela Springs is the First Baptist Church of Athol. The single-story frame building was erected around 1906 and it features modest architectural decoration including fishscale shingles and twelve-over-twelve colored glass windows. Projecting from the front of the gable end elevation is a single-story, five-sided vestibule that is partially distinguished by fishscale shingles as well. The yard on the south side of the church is dotted with twentieth century grave markers, while a shed roofed two-door privy remains on the northwest side. The privy doors are distinguished by a star cut-out for the men's side and a moon cut-out for the women's side.

This congregation was established during the early twentieth century as the Athol Missionary Baptist congregation, which was granted a small ½-acre lot by Josephine Elliott on August 21, 1905. The architectural details of the church indicate that the building was erected around that time.

MARYLAND HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN INFORMATION

RESOURCE NAME: First Baptist Church of Athol

MHT INVENTORY NUMBER: WI-381

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN DATA

1. Historic Period Theme(s): Architecture
Religion
2. Geographic Orientation: Eastern Shore
3. Chronological/Development Period(s): Industrial/Urban Dominance
1870-1930
4. Resource Type(s): Church

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. WI-381

Magi No.

DOE yes no

**Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form**

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic First Baptist Church of Athol, Athol Missionary Baptist Church

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 8306 Baptist Church Road not for publication

city, town Athol vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Wicomico

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 the First Baptist Church of Athol

street & number 8306 Baptist Church Road telephone no.:

city, town Mardela Springs state and zip code Md 21837

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Wicomico County Clerk of Court liber EAT 47

street & number Wicomico County Courthouse folio 64

city, town Salisbury state MD 21801

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

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	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 First Baptist Church of Athol is located at 8306 Baptist Church Road southwest of Mardela Springs, Wicomico County, Maryland. The single-story, gable-front frame church faces east with the gable roof oriented on an east/west axis.

Built around 1906, the single-story rectangular frame church is supported by a concrete block foundation that includes an excavated cellar. The block foundation replaced original brick piers. The exterior is sheathed with asbestos shingles, and the steeply pitched roof is covered with asphalt shingles. Standing in back of the church is a two-door frame privy.

The east (main) elevation is a symmetrical three-bay front with a gable roofed entrance vestibule occupying the center bay. The vestibule is a five-sided structure with a door piercing the front wall. The gable roof above has extended eaves and the edges of the roof are finished with open soffits and exposed rafter ends. Finishing the underside or roof soffit are diagonally laid tongue and groove beaded edge boards. Piercing the wall of the church to each side are twelve-over-twelve sash windows. The gable end of the church is covered with fishscale shingles and the edge of the roof is extended. Like the vestibule the soffits are open and the rafter ends are exposed. A crown molding trims the edge of the bargeboard. A handicapped ramp is in the process of construction in front of the vestibule.

The north and south sides of the church are defined by three twelve-over-twelve sash windows filled with a blue glass. Two-pane windows pierce the foundation wall.

Attached to the back of the church is a single story hip roofed apse with twelve-over-twelve sash windows in each side elevation. A smaller six-over-one sash window pierces the west wall. Finishing the edge of the roof is an open eave with exposed rafter ends. Extending from the north side is a small gable roofed furnace room sheathed with vinyl siding.

Located on the south side of the church is a twentieth century cemetery.

Standing northwest of the church is a single story, shed roofed, two-door frame privy supported on concrete blocks and covered with asphalt shingles. The front wall has two board doors. The door on the left, used for men, has a star cut-out in the door, while the door on the right, intended for women, is distinguished by a moon cut out.

The interior was not seen.

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 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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" 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	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.

Perched atop a sandy ridge southwest of Mardela Springs is the First Baptist Church of Athol. The single-story frame building was erected around 1906 and it features modest architectural decoration including fishscale shingles and twelve-over-twelve colored glass windows. Projecting from the front of the gable end elevation is a single-story, five-sided vestibule that is partially distinguished by fishscale shingles as well. The yard on the south side of the church is dotted with twentieth century grave markers, while a shed roofed two-door privy remains on the northwest side. The privy doors are distinguished by a star cut-out for the men's side and a moon cut-out for the women's side.

This congregation was established during the early twentieth century as the Athol Missionary Baptist congregation, which was granted a small 1/2-acre lot by Josephine Elliott on August 21, 1905.¹ The architectural details of the church indicate that the building was erected around that time.

The architectural features qualify this building for listing in *Category B*, which identifies buildings of moderate architectural and historical interest.

¹ Wicomico County Land Record, EAT 47/64, 21 August 1905.

WI-381
First Baptist Church of Athol
Mardela Springs vicinity, Wicomico County, Maryland
Chain of title

EAT 52/483 The First Baptist Church of Athol

to

3/24/1906 Maryland Baptist Union Association

Beginning for the same at a marked persimmon tree on
the west side fo the county road that leads from the Hall
of the American Mechanics to No. Four School house

½ acre

EAT 52/482 Josophine Elliott, et al.

to

3/24/1906 George W. Riggin, H. Lee Riggin, C. Holland Riggin,
Peter Graham, John W. Wilson, E. William Bennett,
George E. Bennett, Howard D. Hatton, John F. Hatton

EAT 47/64 Josephine Elliott

to

8/21/1905 Trustees of Athol Missionary Baptist Church

