

WI-385

1948

Sneathen Methodist Church
Mardela Springs vicinity
Public worship

Standing on the north side of the road connecting Mardela Springs and the State of Delaware near Mockingbird Pond is Sneathen Methodist Church, a mid twentieth century frame structure that incorporates a traditional gable front rectangular main block and a two-story entrance tower. The 1948 construction of this building is documented along with the 1840 year of its original church on a marble datestone imbedded in the southeast corner. Colonial Revival moldings for the double door entrance and the louvered vents incorporated in the spire are common for the mid twentieth century, however the colored glass octagonal windows incorporated in the spire as well as the colored glass found in the sanctuary windows points to a reuse of older materials in the construction of this building.

E. C. Hallman, the author of a book on the origins of peninsula conference churches published in 1948 states that the "Sneathen" congregation was named after Reverend Nicholas Sneathen, one of the organizers of the Methodist Protestant church. The original 1840 church was located on the road between Riverton and Salisbury.

MARYLAND HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN INFORMATION

RESOURCE NAME: Sneathen Church

MHT INVENTORY NUMBER: WI-385

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN DATA

1. Historic Period Theme(s): Architecture
Religion

2. Geographic Orientation: Eastern Shore

3. Chronological/Development Period(s): Modern Period 1930-

4. Resource Type(s): Church

7. Description

Survey No. WI-385

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 Snethen Methodist Church is located on the north side of Route 54 in a grove of loblolly pines just west of its intersection with Sneathen Church Road in the vicinity of Mardela Springs, Wicomico County, Maryland. The single-story frame church faces south with the gable roof oriented on a north/south axis.

Built in 1948, the single-story gable roofed frame building is supported on a brick foundation with an excavated cellar. The exterior is sheathed with vinyl siding and the steeply pitched roof is covered with asphalt shingles. Dominating the gable front main block is a two-story entrance tower. A single story early twentieth-century hall stands behind the church.

The south (main) elevation is a symmetrical facade with a two-story entrance tower topped by a short pyramidal roofed spire. The double door entrance is framed by a Colonial Revival neoclassical surround. A Wall of Troy bed molding enhances the entablature, and cross-shaped muntins distinguish a multi-pane transom. The second level of the tower is pierced by octagonal colored glass windows that are older than the 1948 construction of this church. The tower is topped by a belfry pierced by louvered openings framed by Colonial Revival surrounds. The pyramidal spire is covered with wood shingles. Fixed in the southeast corner of the brick foundation is a marble datestone inscribed, "Snethen Church, 1840-1948."

The east and west sides are largely alike with colored glass panes in the perimeter of each sash. The cellar is lighted by three-pane windows. Rising through the rear gable is an interior end brick stove chimney.

Standing behind the church is a early twentieth century single-story church hall clad with plain weatherboards and covered with a medium pitched asphalt shingle roof. The eaves are extended and the soffits are open. A small cross gable marks the entrance bay, and the gable front is covered with fishscale shingles.

The interior was not seen.

8. Significance

Survey No. WI-385

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 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 1948 **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.

Standing on the north side of the road connecting Mardela Springs and the State of Delaware near Mockingbird Pond is Snethen Methodist Church, a mid twentieth century frame structure that incorporates a traditional gable front rectangular main block and a two-story entrance tower. The 1948 construction of this building is documented along with the 1840 year of its original church on a marble datestone imbedded in the southeast corner. Colonial Revival moldings for the double door entrance and the louvered vents incorporated in the spire are common for the mid twentieth century, however the colored glass octagonal windows incorporated in the spire as well as the colored glass found in the sanctuary windows points to a reuse of older materials in the construction of this building.

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¹ E. C. Hallman, *The Garden of Methodism*, Peninsula Annual Conference of the Methodist Church, 1948, p. 350.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. WI-385

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A
 Zone Easting Northing

B
 Zone Easting Northing

C

D

E

F

G

H

Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Paul B. Touart, Architectural Historian

organization Private Consultant date 6/15/98

street & number P. O. Box 5 telephone 410-651-1094

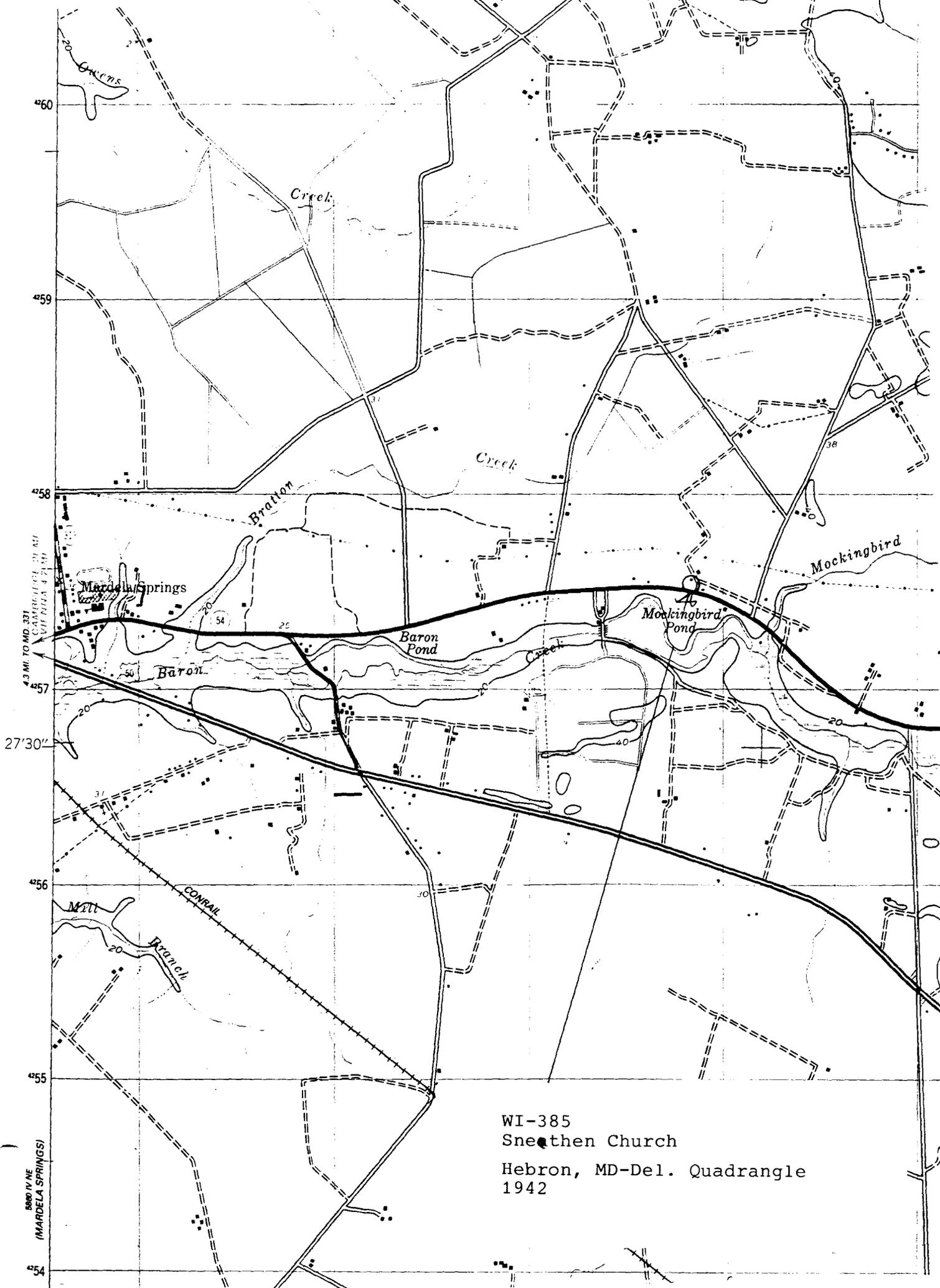
city or town Westover state Maryland 21871

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
 Shaw House
 21 State Circle
 Annapolis, Maryland 21401
 (301) 269-2438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
 DHCP/DHCD
 100 COMMUNITY PLACE
 CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023
 514-7600



4.3 MI TO MD. 331
CAMPBELL CO. MD.
SECTION 4 17 31

27°30'

42°56'

42°55'

42°54'

8800 14 NE
(MARDELA SPRINGS)

WI-385
Sneathen Church
Hebron, MD-Del. Quadrangle
1942