

WI-81  
First United Methodist Church  
Quantico  
Public worship

1820, 1847-48

The First United Methodist Church in Quantico is an important example of Greek Revival church architecture in Wicomico County. The well-preserved temple-front exterior, with its arched front entrance, corner pilasters, flush board tympanum and bracketed roof belfry, remains intact. The interior, on the other hand is reflective of the changes made to many churches during the late nineteenth century and early twentieth century. The pressed metal walls and the beaded tongue-and-groove board finishes were added in 1915. The most significant original interior feature is the balcony or gallery, which has Tuscan columns that extend from the gallery floor to the ceiling.

Methodism in the vicinity of Quantico is traced back to the Revolutionary War era through the ministry of Reverend Freeborn Garretson. By the early 1780s a congregation built a small chapel about a mile south of the present village. The chapel was dedicated by Bishop Thomas Coke in 1784. About his visit in November 1784, Thomas Coke wrote, "Near this Chapel, I was entertained by one, Mrs. Walters, a widow lady of considerable fortune--The Chapel is most beautifully situated in a grove and the congregations were very large. On the Lord's Day the Chapel could not contain the people."

During the first half of the nineteenth century the village of Quantico developed into a modest sized mill community with a handful of stores and a dozen or more dwellings. In 1847, the church membership decided to relocate to the village, and a second chapel, which had been

erected in 1820, was moved to the current site. According to church records the building was lengthened fourteen feet at the time of its move. It was redicated March 26, 1848. At the same time a bell, cast in Baltimore, was placed in the belfry.

HISTORIC CONTENT INFORMATION

Resource Name: FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

MHT Inventory Number: WI-81

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA:

- 1) Historic Period Theme(s): ARCHITECTURE  
RELIGION
- 2) Geographic Orientation: Eastern Shore
- 3) Chronological/Developmental Period(s):  
Agricultural-Industrial Transition  
1815-1870
- 4) Resource Type(s): Church

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

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF  
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. WI-81

Magi No.

DOE  yes  no

**1. Name** (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

**2. Location**

street & number Main Street  not for publication

city, town Quantico  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	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<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 United Methodist Church

street & number c/o Reverend William T. Sterling telephone no.: 749-9536

city, town Quantico state and zip code MD 21856

**5. Location of Legal Description**

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

street & number Wicomico County Courthouse folio

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

Survey No. WI-81

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>	
<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 United Methodist Church stands on the west side of Main Street south of the intersection with Cherry Walk Road in the center of Quantico, Wicomico County, Maryland. Facing east, the principal gable roof is oriented on an east/west axis.

Initially erected in 1820 and moved to its current site and enlarged in 1847-48, this single-story, temple-front frame church is supported on a low brick foundation, and it is sheathed with plain weatherboards. The medium pitched gable roof is covered with asphalt shingles. Attached to the back of the church is a single-story frame addition built in 1937 with a roof oriented on a perpendicular to that of the main structure.

The east (main) elevation is a symmetrical three-bay facade with a center arched entrance and flanking colored glass windows. Trimming the corners of the church are paneled pilasters that rise to a boxed cornice, which encloses the pediment. The front entrance is a large round arched opening filled with four-panel, double-leaf doors and framed by a wide surround fitted with a molded keystone at its head. The arched transom is fitted with translucent glass. Flanking the entrance is a pair of colored glass windows framed by wide board surrounds topped by molded lintels. The tympanum is finished with flush board sheathing and a round arched opening is centered within the pediment. Rising from the roof is a small weatherboard frame belfry featuring corner pilasters, rectangular louvered vents, and a low pitched pyramidal roof trimmed with a bracketed eave.

The side elevations are essentially alike with three long colored glass windows framed by wide board surrounds, each trimmed with a heavy crown molding. Interior side brick stove stacks pierce the roofline between the second and third bays from the east corner. The back of the church is largely covered by a single-story frame Sunday School addition that rests on a concrete block foundation and is covered by a steeply pitched asphalt shingle roof.

The interior of the church has been modified over the years with the introduction of beaded board wainscoting, pressed metal walls, and a beaded board ceiling. Fixed in the east end of the church is the original mid-nineteenth century balcony or gallery that is reached by an enclosed winder stair which rises in the northeast corner. An early nineteenth century door with its back turned outward encloses the winder stair. At the top of the gallery stair is an early nineteenth century chamfered newel post railing. The gallery railing, which stretches between smooth Tuscan columns, is supported by bold turned balusters. At the south end of the front entry is a closet that is entered through a two-panel Greek Revival door.

(continued)

# 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 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** 1820, 1847-48      **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 First United Methodist Church in Quantico is an important example of Greek Revival church architecture in Wicomico County. The well-preserved temple-front exterior, with its arched front entrance, corner pilasters, flush board tympanum and bracketed roof belfry, remains intact. The interior, on the other hand is reflective of the changes made to many churches during the late nineteenth century and early twentieth century. The pressed metal walls and the beaded tongue-and-groove board finishes were added in 1915. The most significant original interior feature is the balcony or gallery, which has Tuscan columns that extend from the gallery floor to the ceiling.

Due to its high level of integrity, the First United Methodist church falls in Category A, which identifies a structure of historic significance that exhibits many good architectural details representative of a period of architectural development and which also contributes uniquely and superlatively to the character and collective value of the structures within the district.



WI-81  
First United Methodist Church  
Quantico, Maryland  
Description continued

The front entry or vestibule is partitioned from the sanctuary, which is entered through a pair of swinging leather-bound doors. The sanctuary has been remodeled with narrow oak flooring, beaded board wainscoting, and pressed metal walls. A classical metal cornice made up of egg-and-dart and Greek key motifs stretches around the perimeter of the room. The ceiling has been reworked as well with beaded tongue-and-groove board panels set in an angular three-sided vault. Hanging from the ceiling are early twentieth century chandeliers. The altar has been reworked on a raised platform with a turned baluster altar rail in front. Flanking the altar are early twentieth century five-panel doors that open into rooms on each side.





## HISTORY OF THE FIRST METHODIST CHURCH

Quantico, Maryland

Methodism had its beginning in Somerset County, Md., at Quantico in the summer of 1778, and it was through an invitation to the Reverend Freeborn Garretson by a Mr. and Mrs. William Rider who were visiting friends in Broad Creek, Del., heard him preach and were so touched, that they remarked, "We cannot hide ourselves any longer from Him. Our house and our hearts are open to receive you and the blessed words you preach." Thus was Methodism brought to Quantico in 1778, and became the first Methodist congregation south of Delaware. Soon after the organization, a rude meeting house was erected about one mile south of the town. A little later the first Methodist Chapel was opened for worship and dedicated by Bishop Thomas Coke. In his journal he made this notation, "Quantico Chapel, Somerset County, MD., Saturday and Sunday, November 20th and 21st, 1784. Near this Chapel, I was entertained by one, Mrs. Walters, a widow lady of considerable fortune — The Chapel is most beautifully situated in a grove and the congregations were very large. On the Lord's Day the Chapel could not contain the people."

Incidentally, the Quantico Chapel was built just 16 years before the one at Salisbury, Md. This Chapel was burned and another erected in 1820 and as the town became the center of church life in the community, it was deemed advisable to move the Chapel to the Present location, which was done in 1847, enlarged by adding 14 feet to its length and rededicated March 26, 1848.

In 1873 the auditorium was remodeled, the side galleries removed, and the remains of the slave gallery still exist above the main entrance.

When Bishop Francis Asbury, according to his Journal, visited Quantico on November 5, 1778, he made this statement, "I found no lack of anything in Quantico, except religion."

From 1778 to 1839, Quantico was a part of Somerset Circuit, of which Moore's Chapel was the head and contained 21 appointments. Moore's Chapel was erected in 1781, the year after Barrett's Chapel in 1780.

From 1839 to 1849, Quantico was a part of Salisbury Circuit, and in 1850, Quantico was the head of its own Circuit which embraced the following churches — Massey's, Mezick's, Jones', and Quantico. At the First Quarterly Conference, held at Mezick's Church in June of 1877, resolutions were adopted to hold a centennial in 1878, commemorating the One Hundredth Year of Methodism in Somerset County, but due to the lack of interest, the plan was dropped.

It may be of interest to mention that the Bible was presented to an organization of the church known as the Sons of Temperance, Quantico Division No. 52, by Mrs. Hester A. Parvin and Mrs. Sarah R. Fletcher in behalf of the ladies of Quantico, and has been in use constantly since the dedication in 1848.

The bell was cast in 1848 in Baltimore, Md., and has been tolled for every President of the United States who died in office since Abraham Lincoln.

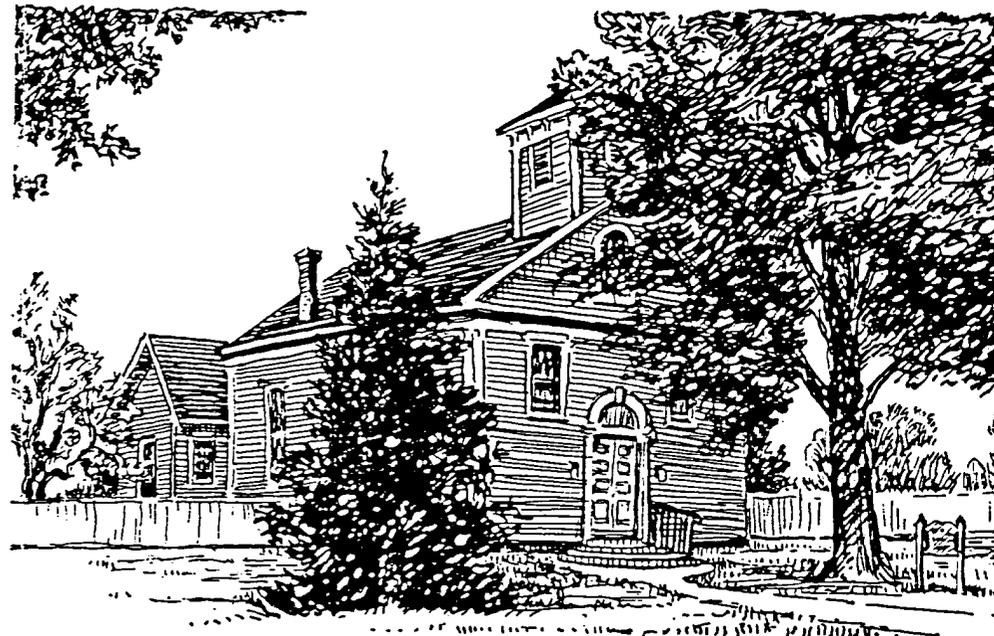
The Bible, presented to the Church in 1848, contains an unbroken record of all the Ministers serving Quantico Church from 1778 to 1991, the present minister being the Rev. William T. Sterling, Jr.

The First Quarterly Conference of Quantico Circuit was held in the present building on May 11th and 12th, 1850, with the Reverend Robert Pattison as the Minister in charge.

# First United Methodist Church of Quantico

QUANTICO, MARYLAND

Organized 1778

SUSAN M. MORRISON, *Bishop*P. THOMAS McKELVEY, *Dist. Supt.*WILLIAM T. STERLING, JR., *Pastor*

Telephone 749-9536

9:15 A.M.-Morning Worship

10:15 A.M.-Church School

Richard Taylor, *Choir Director-Organist*

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ANNIVERSARY SUNDAY  
The Lord's Day, November 1, 1992  
214 YEARS OF MINISTRY  
1778 - 1992  
2:30 P. M.

THE PRELUDE "The Voice of Praise" Northam  
"Beyond the Sunset" Brock

THE LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES Eric Elliott,  
Acolyte

CHORAL INTROIT "The King Is Coming"

THE CALL TO WORSHIP Rev. Sterling

\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN # 575  
"Onward Christian Soldiers"

THE CALL TO PRAYER

THE WORDS OF ASSURANCE - THE LORD'S PRAYER

THE MINISTRY OF MUSIC Dawn Cooper  
Jeni Feeney

\*THE PSALTER - Psalm 107 p. 830

\*THE GLORIA PATRI

\*THE APOSTLES' CREED # 881

THE MEMORIAL READING Virginia Humphreys

THE SCRIPTURE READING

THE ANTHEM "The Lord is King" Barbara Williams  
Soloist

THE PASTORAL PRAYER

THE OFFERTORY "Above The Bright Blue"  
Madalyn Parrott  
Walter Donoway  
Soloists

\*THE DOXOLOGY "Our Father's God To Thee"

\*HYMN # 528  
"Nearer My God to Thee"

THE SERMON - Rev. William T. Sterling, Jr.

\*HYMN # 701  
"When We All Get To Heaven"

\*THE BENEDICTION

\*THE CHORAL RESPONSE # 558  
"We Are the Church"  
(Choir and Congregation)

\*THE POSTLUDE "Forth In Thy Name" Thompson  
\*Congregation Standing



First Methodist  
Church of  
QUINCY  
ILLINOIS













