

WO-233  
Old Ebenezer Church  
Whaleyville vicinity  
private

c. 1880

The old Ebenezer Methodist church is a prominent site along MD Route 610, also known as Ebenezer Church Road. The plain single story story is dominated by a three-story entrance and bell story that is capped by a short broach spire. Inside the church is fitted with narrow beaded board wainscoting and an intricate diagonal board ceiling executed in sixteen grids. The altar and choir at the west end is raised and finished with narrow beaded board as well. To the north and west of the church is the cemetery, and standing behind the church is a single-story church hall.

HISTORIC CONTEXT INFORMATION

Resource Name: DR. EBENEZER METHODIST CHURCH

MHT Inventory Number: W0-233

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA:

1) Historic Period Theme(s):

ARCHITECTURE, RELIGION

2) Geographic Orientation:

EASTERN SHORE

3) Chronological/Developmental Period(s):

1870-1930 URBAN-INDUSTRIAL DOMINANCE

4) Resource Type(s):

1. STANDING STRUCTURE

a. CHURCH

2. OBJECT

b. CEMETERY

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common OLD EBENEZER METHODIST CHURCH

## 2. Location

street & number Northwest side of Ebenezer Church Road  not for publicationcity, town Bishopville  vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Worcester

## 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	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input 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: none

## 4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Trustees of Ebenezer Church

street &amp; number telephone no.:

city, town state and zip code

## 5. Location of Legal Description

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

street &amp; number Worcester County Courthouse folio

city, town Snow Hill state MD 21863

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records

city, town state

## 7. Description

Survey No. W0-233

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input 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 Old Ebenezer church stands on the northwest corner of the intersection of Ebenezer Church Road and Ebenezer Road in northern Worcester County in the vicinity of Whaleyville. The church faces east with the gable roof oriented on a east/west axis.

Built around 1880, the single-story, frame church is supported by an infilled brick pier foundation and sheathed with a uniform layer of weatherboard siding. The steeply pitched roof is covered with asphalt shingles. Dominating the gable front is a three-story entrance and bell tower. North and west of the church is a nineteenth- and twentieth-century cemetery as well as a single story frame church hall. Both buildings have been abandoned for some time.

The east (main) elevation is dominated by the three-story bell tower that is capped by a squat broach spire. Double six-panel doors are framed by a plain surround, and each of the tower is lighted by a single-pane sash window. The middle level is marked by diamond pane sash windows on each side, and the uppermost story is distinguished by paired Gothic arched louvered openings.

The north and south sides of the church are defined by three evenly spaced two-over-two sash windows. The eave is treated with a simple boxed cornice trimmed with a crown molding.

Extending from the west gable end wall is a short single story apse that is covered with a hip roof. Small single pane sash windows pierce the north and south sides. The eaves of the main block are extended with returns at the base.

The interior has been stripped of all church furniture. Despite the open condition of the church the interior has not been seriously vandalized. The vestibule walls and ceiling are trimmed with narrow beaded board, and the walls of the church are fitted with beaded board wainscoting. Highlighting the interior is a matched board ceiling executed in sixteen grids. Also unusual is the diagonal board floor. At the west end of the sanctuary is a raised altar and choir. The platforms are finished with narrow beaded board sheathing as well. Fixed on each side of the sanctuary are interior brick stacks that provided flues for stoves. Also significant are the period chandeliers which remain with paired bulbs.

Standing west of the church is a single-story, two-bay frame church hall that is supported by a continuous brick foundation and is sheathed with asbestos shingles. The steeply pitched roof is covered with wood shingles. Attached to the north end of the hall is a shed roof extension. The gable-front elevation faces the road with a center entrance. Two-over-two sash windows pierce the front and side walls. Rising through the north gable end is a narrow brick stove stack. The interior is finished with narrow beaded boards.

# 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/ 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	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.

The Old Ebenezer church is a prominent site along MD Route 610, also called Ebenezer Church Road, between Whaleyville and the Maryland-Delaware line. The plain single story church is dominated by a three-story entrance and bell tower that is capped by a short broad spire. Since the church has been abandoned, all the furniture has been removed. The interior walls and ceiling retain good examples of late nineteenth-century beaded board craftsmanship. The ceiling is executed in a sixteen panel grid, and the walls are trimmed with beaded board wainscoting. At the west end of the sanctuary is a raised altar and choir. A nineteenth- and twentieth-century cemetery remains to the back of the church as does a single story church hall.

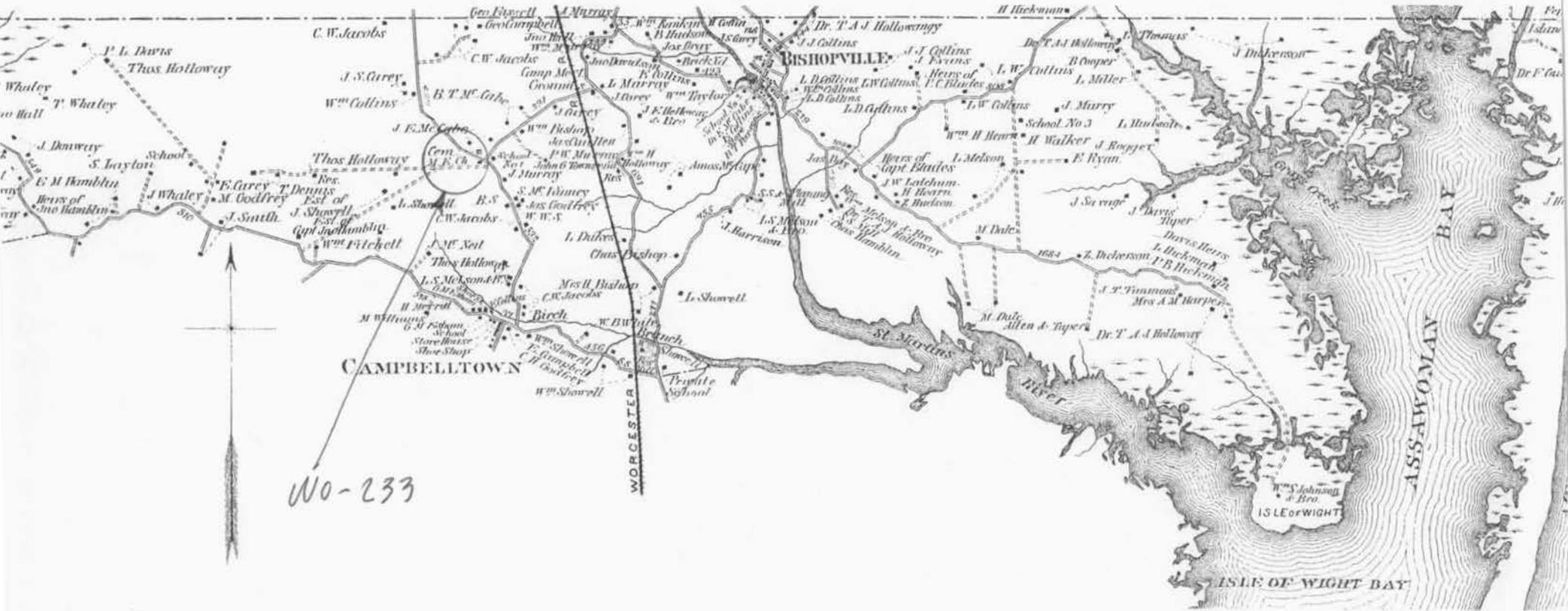
HISTORY AND SUPPORT



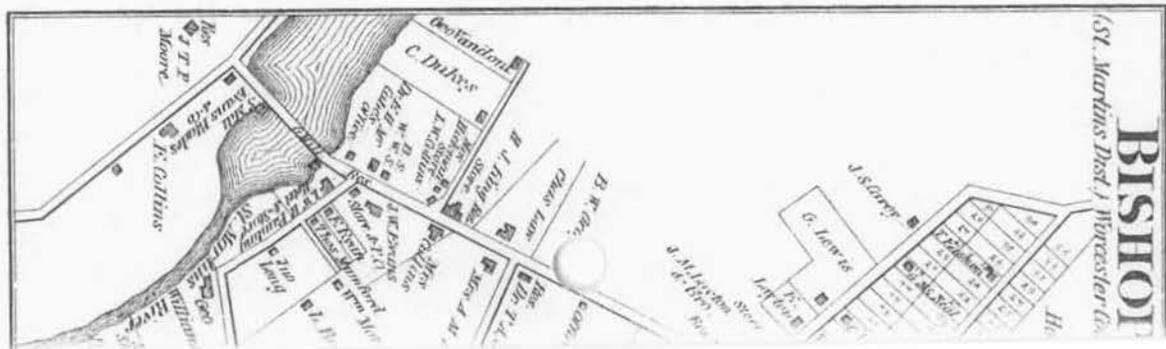
# ST. MARTINS

Dist. No 5  
WORCESTER CO.

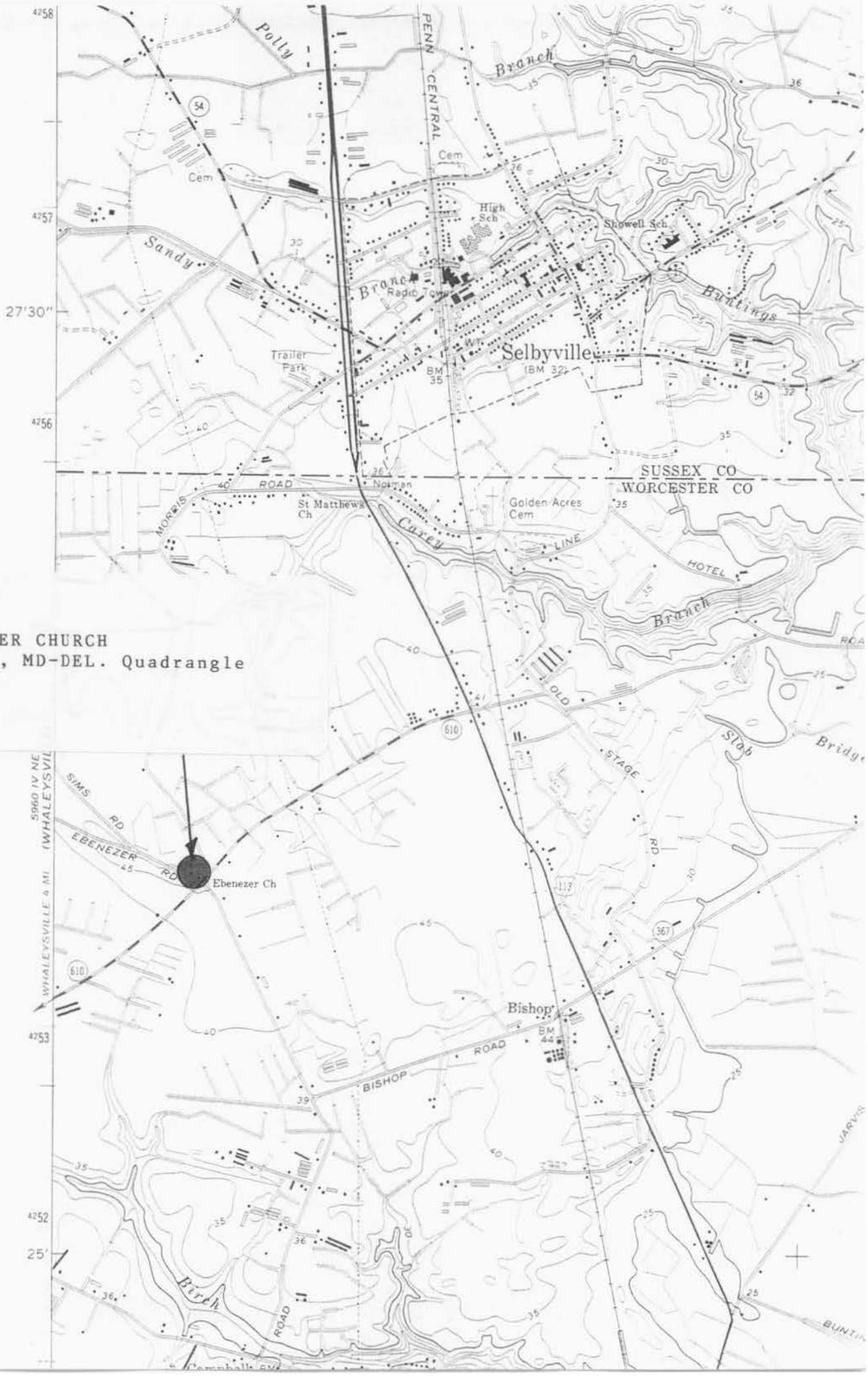
1877 LAKE, GRIPPING, AND STEVENSON ATLAS



W0-233



**BISHOPVILLE BUSINESS**  
**DR. T. A. J. HOLLOWAY**,  
 Genl.  
**L. W. H. BUNTING**, Dealer  
 Boots, Hats, Caps, Books, Shoes  
 Ing. Ke., &c.  
**L. S. NELSON & BRO.**, Sit-  
 in Lumber of all kinds, both  
 prepared to ship  
**JOS. M. LAYTON**,  
 SHOES, Notions, U-  
 highest prices given for country  
 produce  
**H. J. KING**, Dealer in Dry Goods,  
 Millinery, Fancy Goods,  
 &c. The highest prices paid



WO-233  
 OLD EBENEZER CHURCH  
 Selbyville, MD-DEL. Quadrangle  
 1967