

WO-235

1901-1902

Bates Memorial Methodist Church  
Snow Hill  
public worship

Bates Memorial Methodist church stands prominently in the center of Snow Hill on the southeast corner of Washington and East Market streets. The Romanesque Revival brick church, erected between 1901 and 1902, is highlighted by a three-story entrance and bell tower topped by a pyramidal roof. The large ell-shaped structure is dominated by a center, domed roof that covers the sanctuary. Large round arched colored glass windows light the sanctuary from the north, east and west sides.

The details of the organization of Bates Memorial Methodist church are somewhat vague, but the written sources agree a Methodist Protestant congregation was meeting in Snow Hill by the early 1830s. The members of the early congregation met in a structure located on Franklin Street until the new church was finished. An entry in the Wicomico News, printed on September 4, 1902, announced,

The Methodist Protestant denomination will lay the Corner Stone for "Bates" Memorial Church, Snow Hill Sept. 7th. The following ministers will take part: Rev. J. M. Sheridan of Pocomoke City, Rev. F. T. Little, D.D. president of the conference, and Rev. S. B. Southerly, D. D., a life-long friend of the late Dr. Bates will lay the stone.

Wicomico News, September 4, 1902

The Methodist Protestant denomination will lay the Corner Stone for "Bates" Memorial Church, Snow Hill Sept. 7th. The following ministers will take part: Rev. J. M. Sheridan of Pocomoke City, Rev. F. T. Little, D.D. president of the conference, and Rev. S. B. Southerly, D.D, a life-long friend of the late Dr. Bates will lay the stone.

HISTORIC CONTEXT INFORMATION

Resource Name: BATES MEMORIAL METHODIST CHURCH

MHT Inventory Number: WO-235

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 INDUSTRIAL-URBAN DOMINANCE

4) Resource Type(s):

i. STANDING STRUCTURE

a. CHURCH

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic BATES MEMORIAL METHODIST CHURCH

and/or common

## 2. Location

street & number 100 East Market Street  not for publication

city, town Snow Hill  vicinity of congressional district Maryland

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 type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input 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 type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input 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 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 Bates Memorial Methodist Church

street & number 100 East Market Street telephone no.:

city, town Snow Hill state and zip code MD 21863

## 5. Location of Legal Description

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

street & number Worcester County Courthouse folio

city, town Snow Hill state MD

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date  federal  state  county  local

pository for survey records

city, town state

# 7. Description

Survey No. WO-235

<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.

Bates Memorial Methodist church, located at 100 East Market Street, stands in the center of Snow Hill, Worcester County, Maryland. Situated on southeast corner of the intersection of East Market and Washington streets, both the north and west elevations serve as principal facades.

Built in 1901, the beige-colored, stretcher bond brick church is supported by a combination poured concrete and granite foundation, while the roof is sheathed by a mixture of slate and asphalt shingles. The church follows an asymmetrical, roughly ell-shaped plan with a three-story pyramidal roofed entrance and bell tower rising on the northwest corner.

The northwest (East Market Street) elevation is an asymmetrical facade with a large gable front wall flanked by the three story tower to the west and a short single story tower to the east. A large, round arched colored glass window pierces the gable front wall with decorative brickwork highlighting the opening. A small round arched opening pierces the upper gable, and plain brick buttresses mark the wall to each side of colored glass window. Small, narrow colored glass lights with jack arches pierce the gabled elevation outside each buttress, and the foundation wall is marked by single-pane windows also topped by jack arches. The northwest elevation of the bell tower consists of a large round arched first floor opening with a slightly recessed double door entrance at the head of granite steps. Round brick courses distinguish the arch, while the doors are flanked by a pebbled glass transom and sidelights. The second floor of the tower is defined by elongated colored glass windows with granite bars that cross the window opening. The third level or belfry is marked by round arched openings between corner piers. The piers are trimmed with crown moldings that assume the appearance of columns under a modillioned cornice. The base of the pyramidal spire has slightly kicked eaves, and the point of the spire is topped by a metal cap. Marking the northeast corner of the church is a arched side entrance with a recessed door, and a single-story corner tower surmounted by a octagonal slate covered roof with a modillioned cornice at the base of the roof.

The west (Washington Street) elevation is an asymmetrical facade as well with the tower anchoring the north corner. Marking the center section of the the west wall is a projecting gabled bay that intersects the domed sanctuary roof. The gabled bay is pierced by a large round arched window highlighted by decorative brickwork, and to each side the curving walls are defined by rectangular colored glass windows with brick jack arches. Also marking the west wall is a rusticated granite stringcourse, and single-pane foundation windows. South of the projecting sanctuary bay are three additional openings that pierce the main block. A round arched door opening is accompanied by two colored glass windows.

(continued)

# 8. Significance

Survey No. W0-235

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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" 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** 1901 **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.

Bates Memorial Methodist church stands prominently on the southeast corner of the intersection of Washington and East Market streets in the center of Snow Hill, Maryland. The Romanesque Revival brick church, erected between 1901 and 1905, is highlighted by a three-story entrance and bell tower topped by a pyramidal roof. The large ell-shaped structure is dominated by a center, domed roof that comprises the sanctuary. The sanctuary is lighted from three sides by large, round arched colored glass windows.

### HISTORY AND SUPPORT

The details of the organization of Bates Memorial Methodist church are somewhat vague, but the written sources agree a Methodist Protestant congregation was meeting in Snow Hill by the early 1830s. The members of the early Methodist Protestant congregation met in a structure located on Franklin Street until the new church was built at the intersection of East Market and Washington streets. In 1900, the church purchased the corner lot and proceeded to finance the construction of the ell-shaped building, which lasted until 1905.



## Bates Memorial Methodist church description (continued)

The northeast (rear) facade faces the parking lot off East Market Street. This off-street elevation is asymmetrical as well with the leg of the ell marking the northeast corner, and the projecting, curved sanctuary wall with a domed roof with another gable dominates the center section of the building. A large round arched colored glass window pierces the gable with pairs of rectangular colored glass windows to each side. The windows are highlighted with decorative brickwork and jack arches. Rising in the corner of the ell is a brick stove stack. The balance of the exterior follows along similar or less elaborate finishes as the balance of the house. In fact the south wall of the church was erected with less expensive brick since it is hardly visible from any public right-of-way.

ALL HALLOWS EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
The Reverend James A. Fisher, Rector

During the reign of William and Mary, Snow Hill Parish was established by Act of the General Assembly in 1692, called "An Act for the Service of Almighty God and the Establishment of Protestant Religion within this Province." In 1734, the first church of worship stood near the bank of the Pocomoke River, being located on the original plat of Snow Hill, at the foot of what is now Bank Street. In 1748, an Act of the Colonial Assembly was passed for a levy of 80,000 pounds of tobacco for the building of a parish church of brick to be erected on a part of the ground laid out for public use in Snow Hill Town, on a hill immediately opposite the Town Market Lot on the west side of Church Street, to the same size as the original Church Lot. In 1756, eight years after the first levy, an Act of Assembly was found necessary for a supplementary levy of 45,000 pounds of tobacco to complete the structure.

According to tradition, bricks used in construction of the church were brought from England, and the ivy covering part of the outside wall of the building came from Kenilworth Castle in England. The Bible, the Sermon on the Mount, the Holy Communion Service and linen Eucharistic Veil, and the bell are said to be gifts from Queen Anne.

At the time of the renovation in 1872, the box pews, the galleries on the side walls, and the side doors were removed. The present recessed chancel, Altar, reredos, ceiling and slate roof were built in 1891. The original window sash and clear glass in the Church proper were replaced in 1899 with the present stained glass.

A more complete history and "Walking Tour" guide can be found in the church.

During the Tricentennial celebration, All Hallows will be open to visitors and will offer at 10:00 A.M. Sunday morning a historical celebration of Holy Communion from the first American Book of Common Prayer, which came into use the first Sunday in October, 1789.

BATES MEMORIAL METHODIST CHURCH  
The Rev. Robert G. Kelly, Minister

632-1319

116 N. WASHINGTON  
STREET

Bates Church can trace its spiritual ancestry back to the early Disciples but it will be necessary to pass through a number of stages. Some of the early Disciples, perhaps one of the Apostles, founded Churches in Greece which sent missionaries to what is now England sometime before 300 A.D. When Augustine came to England, he was able to get this Church to unite with the Church at Rome. This connection was never strong and eventually the Church of England was formed.

In 1839, two priests of the Church of England felt their "Hearts strangely warmed" and received the insight that even the poor people could live a new life as Christians. Thousands of the common people were converted and finding difficulty in fitting into the mother Church,

they were reluctantly formed into Methodist Societies.

The new Methodist Episcopal Church spread to America and began to experience a greater desire for freedom. Finally, in 1824, a group of ministers and laymen began to demand "Mutual rights," that is, for the Layman to have equal voice in making laws at the Annual Conference. Some were expelled and formed the "Methodist Protestant Church" in 1828, and in 1939 the three churches merged into the "Methodist Church."

The first church building was on Franklin Street, and the group worshipped there until a new building was erected in 1901 at the present site. The cost, small to us, was \$17,000 for the Church and \$3,000 for the present parsonage. The present value of the buildings is in excess of one million dollars. In the early days of Bates Church, it was customary for the ministers to change almost every year. There were 49 ministers between 1833 and 1900. One of these, L. W. Bates, served as assistant in 1840 and as minister in 1844 and 1858. He is buried in Nassawango Cemetery and it is in his honor that the Church is named. It is interesting to note that many people around Snow Hill bear names of one of these early ministers.

The present Church building was rebuilt in 1947 under the leadership of Reverend Elmer Shield at a cost of \$65,000.00.

---

EBENEZER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
The Reverend Carrol Scott, Minister

Ebenezer Methodist Episcopal Church was an offspring of Whatcoat Methodist Episcopal Church. A lot was given on Collins Street where the dead could be buried. The following men were named as trustees: William Roxbury, Samuel Williams, William Dickerson, Charles Spencer and Littleton Smith. The log cabin built on the burying lot became the first church built in 1869. The lot where the present church now stands was purchased from The Rev. and Mrs. J. C. Carroll for the sum of \$126.00 in 1872, and the church was built in 1873 by The Rev. I. Henry White. The first church was destroyed by lightning, and the present structure was built in 1899.

The first baptism recorded was Henry W. Purnell, infant son of George W. and Martha Purnell, July 10, 1878, by The Rev. J. R. Webb. The first marriage recorded - Thomas Collins and Caroline Collins of Worcester County, August 22, 1887.

---

MAKEMIE MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
The Reverend Reuel Lanphier Howe, Jr., Minister

The Makemie Memorial Presbyterian Church building is located at 103 West Market Street (across from the Snow Hill Volunteer Fire Company Fire House parking lot).

On June 29, 1890, our congregation dedicated its fourth and present



WO-235  
BATES MEMORIAL METHODIST CHURCH  
Snow Hill, MD Quadrangle, 1966

