

WO-438

1916

St. John A. M. E. Church
Bishopville vicinity
Public worship

St. John A.M.E. Church, built in 1916, differs from most rural churches in Worcester County due to its concrete block wall construction. The mortar joints between the blocks are slightly recessed in order to give the block an appearance more like stone. A decorative band of repeating circular medallions stretches around the perimeter of the rectangular church at the height of the window header.

HISTORIC CONTEXT INFORMATION

Resource Name: ST. JOHN A.M.E. CHURCH

MHT Inventory Number: WO-438

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA:

- 1) Historic Period Theme(s): ARCHITETURE
RELIGION
- 2) Geographic Orientation: EASTERN SHORE
- 3) Chronological/Developmental Period(s):
INDUSTRIAL/URBAN DOMINANCE
1870-1930
- 4) Resource Type(s):
Church

Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. W0-438

Magi No.

DOE ___yes ___no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common ST. JOHN'S A.M.E. CHURCH

2. Location

street & number Bishopville Road _____ not for publication

city, 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<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:

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

name TRUSTEES OF ST. JOHN'S A.M.E. CHURCH

street & number Bishopville Road telephone no.:

city, town Bishopville state and zip code MD 21813

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 21863

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date _____ federal _____ state _____ county _____ local

depository for survey records

city, town _____ state _____

7. Description

Survey No. WO-438

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input 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.

St. John's African Methodist Episcopal Church is located on the south side of Bishopville Road in the vicinity of Bishopville, Worcester County, Maryland. The single-story church faces northwest with the gable roof oriented on a northwest/southeast axis.

Erected in 1916, St. John's is a single-story, rectangular concrete block church covered by a low pitched asphalt shingle roof. The cast concrete blocks were intended to look like stone with recessed mortar joints articulating each block. Later concrete block sections have been added to the front and back of the main building. Fixed in the foundation is a cornerstone inscribed with the date, "June 16, 1916."

The northwest (main) elevation is largely covered by the more recent concrete block gable roofed addition, which incorporates a porch supported by square posts.

The north and south sides of the church are pierced by single-pane sash windows. Decorating the block walls at the window header level is a molded concrete band of repeating circle forms that stretches around the perimeter of the church.

The interior was not seen.

8. Significance

Survey No. WO-438

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 June 16, 1916 **Builder/Architect**

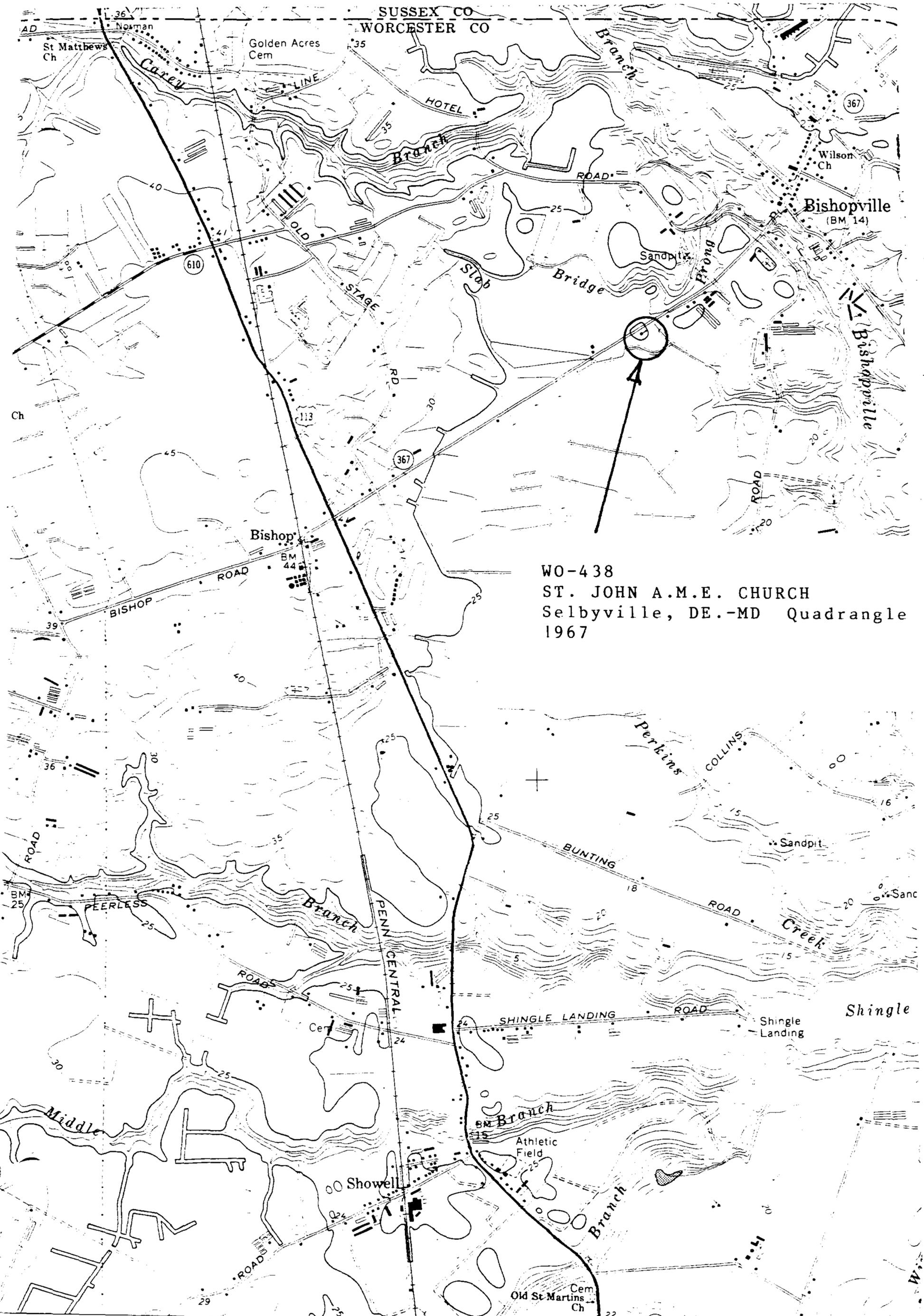
check: Applicable Criteria: A B C D
and/or

Applicable Exception: A B C D E F G

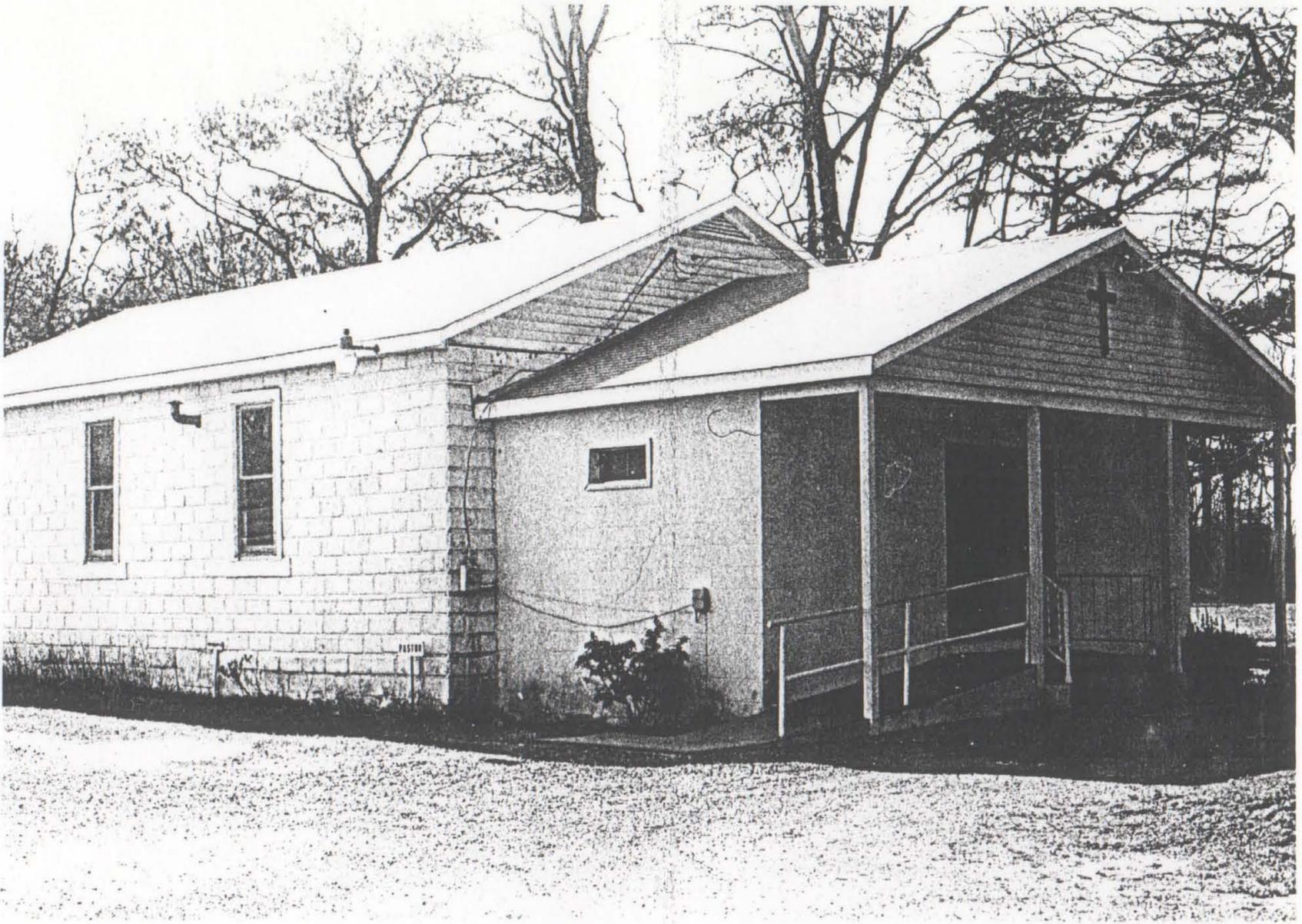
Level of Significance: national state local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

St. John's A.M.E. Church, built in 1916, differs from most rural churches in Worcester County due to its concrete block wall construction. The mortar joints between the blocks are slightly recessed in order to give the block an appearance more like stone. A decorative band of circular design stretches around the perimeter of the rectangular church at the height of the window header.



WO-438
ST. JOHN A.M.E. CHURCH
Selbyville, DE.-MD Quadrangle
1967



WV-438

St. John A. M. E. Church

BISHOPVILLE VICINITY, WORCESTER CO., MD.

MONTH + ELEVATION

2/93, PAUL TOWARD, PHOTOGRAPHER

NEG. (MD. HISTORICAL TRUST