

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM

NR Eligible: yes _____
no

Property Name: Bowen United Methodist Church Inventory Number: WO-566

Address: 7203 Mill Street Historic district: yes no

City: Newark Zip Code: 21841 County: Worcester

USGS Quadrangle(s): Ninepin Branch

Property Owner: Bowen Methodist Episcopal Church Tax Account ID Number: 000773

Tax Map Parcel Number(s): 136 Tax Map Number: 40

Project: Historic Structures Survey along US-113 Agency: Maryland SHA

Agency Prepared By: Hardlines Design company

Preparer's Name: Roy Hampton Date Prepared: 9/27/2007

Documentation is presented in: Compliance Report and Historic Context for Proposed Highway Improvements-U.S. 113: Five Mile Branch Road to Massey Branch

Preparer's Eligibility Recommendation: _____ Eligibility recommended Eligibility not recommended

Criteria: A B C D Considerations: A B C D E F G

Complete if the property is a contributing or non-contributing resource to a NR district/property:

Name of the District/Property: _____

Inventory Number: _____ Eligible: yes Listed: yes

Site visit by MHT Staff yes no Name: _____ Date: _____

Description of Property and Justification: *(Please attach map and photo)*

The building description and significance statement will be found in the attached MIHP form.

NRHP Recommendation: Not eligible

Criterion A: The Bowen church is not associated with any significant historical events or trends, other than Methodist religious practice in twentieth-century Newark and is recommended as not eligible under Criterion A.

Criterion B: The building is not associated with persons important in history, other than the naming of the congregation after the Bowen family. The church is recommended not eligible under Criterion B.

Criterion C: The church is a fairly typical small-scale example of wood-frame, Carpenter Gothic, Worcester County church design, and there are similar churches in the surrounding communities that are equally good or better examples of this style, including examples in Snow Hill, Showell, Germantown, and Campbelltown. The Worcester County historic preservation plan lists 17 surviving churches from 1860 to 1900, including ten wood-frame examples (Touart 1992b 1860-1900 chapter 1-2). The Bowen

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW	
Eligibility recommended _____	Eligibility not recommended <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Criteria: <u>A</u> <u>B</u> <u>C</u> <u>D</u>	Considerations: <u>A</u> <u>B</u> <u>C</u> <u>D</u> <u>E</u> <u>F</u> <u>G</u>
MHT Comments:	
<u>Jim Tarlton</u> Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services	<u>6/5/08</u> Date
<u>[Signature]</u> Reviewer, National Register Program	<u>6/9/08</u> Date

church's exterior integrity has also been compromised by the installation of aluminum siding and trim. The building does not have sufficient integrity of design, materials, workmanship, and feeling, and it lacks historical and architectural significance. It is recommended not eligible under Criterion C.

Criterion D: The building appears to have no potential to reveal any significant historical information, and is recommended as not eligible under Criterion D.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended _____ Eligibility not recommended _____

Criteria: ___ A ___ B ___ C ___ D Considerations: ___ A ___ B ___ C ___ D ___ E ___ F ___ G

MHT Comments:

Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

Date

Reviewer, National Register Program

Date

Name of Property: Bowen United Methodist Church

MIHP Number: WO-566

Location: 7203 Mill Street

Town / Vicinity: Newark

Date of Construction: 1899

Access: Public Private

The church is an aluminum-sided wood frame structure with a gabled nave and gabled transept. The roof is clad in asphalt shingles and all trim is covered in aluminum cladding. The windows are Carpenter Gothic with triangular pointed tops. The windows themselves have wood mullions and fairly simple colored glass. The focal point of the building is a fairly short tower with an open belfry with traceried openings, and a short hipped-roof spire. The main entrance is in the tower, and is a pointed arch opening with double doors and a tympanum that has been covered in aluminum.

Constructed in 1899, the building has minor religious significance as one of only two churches still in operation in Newark in terms of architecture due to its late-nineteenth century design. Under Criterion A the Bowen church is not associated with any significant historical events or trends, other than Methodist religious practices in twentieth-century Newark. Under Criterion B the church is named for the town's Bowen family, but this association does not appear significant enough to warrant individual NRHP eligibility. The church does not have any other associations with historically significant individuals. Under Criterion C the church is a typical example of wood-frame Carpenter Gothic Worcester County church design, and there are several similar churches in the surrounding communities. The Bowen church's exterior integrity of materials has also been compromised by the installation of aluminum siding and trim. Under Criterion D the building appears to have no potential to reveal any significant historical information.

The congregation traces its origins back to 1788, when Jethro Bowen built a Methodist chapel on his Queponco area land, inspired by a sermon by Freeborn Garrison. The Bowen Methodist Episcopal Church was started at Newark in 1840. The Maryland real property database indicates that the current church building was constructed in 1899. The congregation currently is managed along with the nearby Trinity United Methodist Church, under a single pastor.

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. WO-566

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Bowen United Methodist Church

other

2. Location

street and number 7203 Mill St. __ not for publication

city, town Newark __ vicinity

county Worcester

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

name Bowen United Methodist Church

street and number PO Box 36 telephone

city, town Newark state MD zip code 21841

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Worcester County Courthouse liber 122 folio 560

city, town Snow Hill tax map 40 tax parcel 136 tax ID number 000773

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- Contributing Resource in National Register District
- Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
- Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
- Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
- Recorded by HABS/HAER
- Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
- Other: Compliance Report and Historic context for Proposed Highway Improvements-U.S. 113: Five Mile Branch Road to Massey Branch

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count		
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	1	1
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion	0	0
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input type="checkbox"/> domestic	<input type="checkbox"/> social	0	0
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	0	0
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	1	1
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> unknown		
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use		
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> other:		
				Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory	
				0	

7. Description

Inventory No. WO-566

Condition

excellent deteriorated
 good ruins
 fair altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Bowen Church is located in the small town of Newark, Maryland in Worcester County. The church is located at the northwest corner of the intersection of Newark Road and Mill Street. The building is surrounded by single family houses most of which date to the twentieth century. The church sits at the southwest corner of parcel 136, map 40. A paved parking lot is located north and east of the church. State of Maryland real estate records indicate that the current church building was constructed in 1899 which coincides with the architectural style of the building.

Bowen United Methodist Church is a wood frame building with a gabled nave and a gabled transept with some aspects reminiscent of the Carpenter Gothic style. The building has tall narrow windows with pointed triangular tops, which are common to the Carpenter Gothic style and are reminiscent of the Gothic pointed arch. The straight lines used at the tops of these windows would have been easier to create and may be why they were used instead of typical Gothic Revival lancet windows. This type of window with a triangular pointed top is also found on the Curtis United Methodist Church in Campbelltown, the Zion United Methodist Church in Bishopville, the Coolspring United Methodist Church in Girdletree, the Showell United Methodist Church in Showell, the New Bethel M. E. Church in Germantown, and Pullett's Chapel in Whaleyville.¹

The one-story Bowen Church rests on a masonry foundation. The building has a moderately pitched, cross-gable roof clad in modern asphalt shingles in a dark gray color. The building was re-clad in white wide lap aluminum siding in the 1950s or 1960s. The aluminum siding is probably covering original horizontal wood siding. The building's original wood trim is also covered in aluminum. A small square belfry with a pointed arch opening, wood railing, wood corner brackets, and a steep pyramidal spire is located at the southwest corner of the building above the main entrance. The building features tall narrow windows with triangular shaped pointed tops, wood mullions, and simple colored glass as well as larger windows composed of three narrow windows next to one another creating a prominent focal point. The main entrance to the church is located in the belfry and is accessed by a set of four brick steps with a metal railing which lead to a small brick landing in front of the front door. The entrance consists of a pointed arch opening with double doors, double storm doors, and a tympanum above the doors which has been covered in aluminum. The doors appear to be modern replacements. A narrow brick chimney is located on the east side of the church.

The building is surrounded by a few decorative foundation plants. A brick informational free-standing sign is located south of the building facing Newark Road. A large gabled roof wood-frame church community hall is located northeast of the church building. The hall features a front-gable roof clad in asphalt shingles, two-over-two wood windows, aluminum siding, and a simple stoop and hood, knee braced entry.

¹ Paul B. Touart, *Along the Seaboard Side: The Architectural History of Worcester County, Maryland*, (Snow Hill: Worcester County Library, 1992), 320-324, .

8. Significance

Inventory No. WO-566

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____

Specific dates

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Construction dates 1899

Evaluation for:

National Register

Maryland Register

not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

Summary of Significance

Constructed in 1899, the building has minor religious significance as one of only two churches still in operation in Newark. The building is also marginally significant in terms of architecture due to its late-nineteenth century design.

The building is not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. Under Criterion A the Bowen church is not associated with any significant historical events or trends, other than Methodist religious practice in twentieth-century Newark. Under Criterion B the church is named for the town's Bowen family, but this association does not appear significant enough to warrant individual NRHP eligibility. The church does not have any other associations with historically significant individuals. Under Criterion C the church is a fairly typical small-scale example of wood-frame Carpenter Gothic Worcester County church design, and there are several similar churches in the surrounding communities that are equally good or better examples of this style, including examples in Snow Hill, Showell, Germantown, and Campbelltown. The Bowen church's exterior integrity of materials has also been compromised by the installation of aluminum siding and trim. Under Criterion D the building appears to have no potential to reveal any significant historical information.

Historic Context

Newark

Newark began as a cluster of development at the crossing of two roads, Newark Road, which once connected the town to Snow Hill and Berlin, and a second road that is now known on the south side of Newark Road as Langmaid Road, and on the north side as Patey Woods Road. The beginnings of a village at the intersection can be traced to the late eighteenth century, with Langmaid Road providing access to commercial landings on Chincoteague Bay. In 1793, the site was part of a land tract known as Yorkshire.²

² Ibid, 298.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

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Name Bowen United Methodist Church
Continuation Sheet

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It is thought that by 1800, the intersection Newark Road and Langmaid Road probably contained a meeting house, a few dwellings, a blacksmith shop, and a tavern.³ The earliest map found that names the town is an 1839 anonymous map of Maryland, which labels the settlement as "Newark." The Newark name may have originated from an early name for the town's Methodist Episcopal Church that was named New Ark of the Covenant Church.⁴ Another account states that resident A.P. Bowen claimed, in the early twentieth century, that the name had come from a large wood frame building constructed at the town center that was nicknamed "the new ark" because of its resemblance to the biblical Noah's ark.⁵

On an 1877 Lake Griffing atlas, Newark contained one hotel, three retail stores, and three buildings marked G.S. Richardson and Company. Single family residences extended southwest on Newark Road, to the tracks of the Breakwater, Frankford and Worcester Railroad. On Patey Woods Road, single-family house development also extends up to the railroad tracks. The town is shown with about 20 houses, the one-room Schoolhouse No. 3 on Newark Road, and a Methodist Episcopal church. A railroad depot is shown, close to the location of the current 1910-1911 Queponco Station, and a building labeled S.S. Mill was located along the tracks south of the depot building.

Currently, the center of the town features few pre-1900 buildings. This is due to a severe fire in 1905 that destroyed the town's millinery shop, Odd Fellows' Hall, and several houses.⁶ In 1918, the Home Bank of Newark was organized, and operated out of a one-room wood frame building, and in 1919, a brick building replaced the previous frame building.⁷ Industrial development in twentieth century Newark remained very limited in comparison to development in the Worcester County communities of Snow Hill, Pocomoke City, and Berlin.

Most of the existing single-family houses in Newark today were built from about 1900-1930, according to Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation records.⁸ Construction in the town slowed during the 1930s depression and World War II.⁹ In the post-World War II economic expansion of the 1950s and 1960s, several Cape Cod, Minimal Traditional, and Ranch style houses were built on vacant lots in the developed section of Newark, or on the town's outer fringes.

³ Ibid.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Reginald Truitt and Millard Les Callette, *Worcester County, Maryland's Arcadia* (Snow Hill, Maryland: Worcester County Historical Society, 1977), 96.

⁶ Ibid, 96.

⁷ Board of Education of Worcester County. *Worcester County: Past and Present, part VII, Communities of Worcester County*. (Worcester County Board of Education: 1956), 26-27.

⁸ Truitt and Les Callette, *Worcester County, Maryland's Arcadia*, 96.

⁹ Ibid, 339.

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Name Bowen United Methodist Church
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In 1956, work began on a bypass road that took US 113 around the south side of Newark, and routed highway traffic away from Newark's central intersection. Today, Newark is mostly residential, with the post office and Mercantile Peninsula Bank buildings being the main non-residential buildings at the town center. Newark also features an RV sales and repair business and a lumber firm, located near the railroad tracks on Patey Woods Road.

Bowen United Methodist Church: 7203 Mill Street

Maryland was originally founded in 1632 by Lord Baltimore as a safe haven for Catholics, but in 1649, shortly after its founding, the Maryland Toleration Act was issued which allowed freedom of worship for all Christians in Maryland.¹⁰ This religious toleration resulted in a variety of people with different religious backgrounds settling in Maryland. One of the religions that took a foothold in Maryland was Methodism. Methodism began in 1729 by a group of University of Oxford students. The movement was brought to the United States by English and Irish emigrants, and the earliest societies were formed in 1766 in New York City, Philadelphia and Pipe Creek, Maryland. The American Methodist church was first established in 1771, and later was formally organized in 1784 at a Baltimore, Maryland conference.¹¹

The Bowen United Methodist Church congregation traces its origins back to 1788, when Jethro Bowen built a Methodist chapel on his Queponco area land, inspired by a sermon by Freeborn Garrison. The Bowen Family traces its Worcester County history back to the birth of John Bowen in 1687. The family owned several of the early land patents in the county, including Queponco, Bowen's Venture, and Bowen's Right.¹²

The first Bowen United Methodist Church was established at Newark in 1840.¹³ Based on an 1866 map of the area this first Bowen church was located on the east side of town on the south side of Newark Road near the present day Bowen cemetery. Most of the churches labeled on this Worcester County map are Methodist churches suggesting Methodism was the predominant religion in the area at the time. On an 1877 atlas the

¹⁰ Wikipedia, "History of Maryland." http://wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_Maryland#Early_European_exploration (accessed June 28, 2007).

¹¹ John H. Ness, "History of Methodism", http://www.sppauljax.org/history_of_methodism.htm (accessed June 28, 2007).

¹² Genealogy and History of the Eastern Shore of Virginia, Inc, "Bowen Family Genealogy" ghotes.net/bowen (accessed June 20, 2007).

¹³ Board of Education, *Worcester County*, 27.

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Name Bowen United Methodist Church
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 3

church building appears surrounded by a small church grounds. It is not known why the first Bowen church was abandoned in favor of a new building; perhaps the original building was damaged in a fire or the congregation may have outgrown the building, but whatever the reason there is no visible evidence of the first church. The current Bowen United Methodist Church which is located a short distance west of the old church was constructed in 1899 according to the Maryland real property database. The church first appears at the site on a 1902 USGS map of the area. The church building is still in use, and the congregation is currently managed along with the nearby Trinity United Methodist Church, under a single pastor.

The architectural style and form of the current 1899 Bowen United Methodist Church appears to have been typical of church architecture in Worcester County in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Other cross-gable wood frame churches with entrance belfries appear in Showell, Germantown, Campbelltown, Pocomoke City, and Snow Hill.¹⁴ Given the large number of these churches still in existence, Bowen United Methodist Church is a common church type, and there are other examples with better integrity in the surrounding area.

¹⁴ Touart, *Along the Seaboard Side*, 322, 324, 375, and 420.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. WO-566

Board of Education of Worcester County. *Worcester County: Past and Present, part VII, Communities of Worcester County*. 1956, on file at Worcester County Room, Snow Hill Public Library.

Genealogy and History of the Eastern Shore of Virginia, Inc. "Bowen Family Genealogy" ghotes.net/bowen (accessed June 20, 2007).

Lewis, J. Frank. *The Maryland Directory*. Baltimore: J. Frank Lewis and Company, 1878.

Ness, John H. "History of Methodism." http://www.sppauljax.org/history_of_methodism.htm (accessed June 28, 2007).

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 20,909 square feet
Acreage of historical setting 20,909 square feet
Quadrangle name Ninepin Branch

Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

Bowen United Methodist Church is bounded by parcel 136, map 40 of Worcester County. The current boundary and the historical boundary for the property are identical as the property boundaries for the church have not changed. The boundary is large enough to encompass the entire church building and corresponds to the historical boundary of the property. See attached parcel map.

11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Roy Hampton, Senior Architectural Historian and Heather Kenney, Architectural Historian		
organization	Hardlines Design Company	date	06/08/2007
street & number	4608 Indianola Ave.	telephone	614-784-8733
city or town	Columbus	state	OH

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties 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
Maryland Department of Planning
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. WO-566

Name Bowen Methodist Episcopal Church
Continuation Sheet

Number 9 Page 1

Touart, Paul B. *Along the Seaboard Side: The Architectural History of Worcester County, Maryland*. Snow Hill: Worcester County Library, 1992.

Truitt, Reginald and Millard Les Callette. *Worcester County, Maryland's Arcadia*. Snow Hill, Maryland: Worcester County Historical Society, 1977.

Wikipedia, "History of Maryland."

http://wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_Maryland#Early_European_exploration (accessed June 28, 2007).



WO-566, Bowen United Methodist Church, Newark, Worcester County, Ninepin Branch Quad



^{W-0}
Inventory No. 566

Bowen United Methodist Church

Worcester County, Maryland

Heather Kenney

May 29, 2007

MD SHPO

Southwest corner of building looking northeast.

#1 of 2



Inventory No. ^{WO-}566
Bowen United Methodist Church
Worcester County, Maryland
Heather Kenney

May 29, 2007
MD SHPO

Southeast corner of building looking northwest.
#2 of 2