

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name OLD FRIENDSHIP UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number Meadow Bridge Road not for publication
city, town West Post Office vicinity
state Maryland code MD county Worcester code 047 zip code 21863

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	_____	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	_____	_____ structures
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____	_____ objects
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:
N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

[Signature] STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER 11-15-95
Signature of certifying official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper _____ Date of Action _____

6. Function or Use

WO-227

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION/Religious Facility

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION /Religious Facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

GREEK REVIVAL

ITALIANATE

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brickwalls WoodWeatherboardroof Asphaltother Wood

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

DESCRIPTION SUMMARY:

Old Friendship United Methodist Church is a one-story, gable-front, frame building erected in 1866, located near the village of West Post Office in western Worcester County, Maryland. The building rests on a brick foundation and is sheathed in plain weatherboard siding; the corners are trimmed with paneled pilasters, and the eaves are bracketed. The south gable facade features a central entrance with double doors, surmounted by a transom and a small pedimented hood supported on consoles. Flanking the entrance on either side are large rectangular colored-glass windows with lancet arches inset in the upper sash; identical windows mark the three bays of each side elevation. The gable is treated as a pediment, with brackets following the raking cornice and a lancet-arched, louvered opening centered in the tympanum. The interior remains substantially intact, retaining its original decorative detailing, including symmetrically molded architrave trim with corner blocks, and original furniture, including pews and pulpit. The building is sited within a small churchyard containing several hundred nineteenth and twentieth century grave markers, which is partially enclosed by a Victorian-period iron fence. Also on the property is a one-story frame gable-front meeting hall of twentieth century date, which does not contribute to the significance of the resource.

8. Statement of Significance

WO-227

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1866-c.1920

Significant Dates

1866

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Builders, Jones Bounds and William Dykes

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY:

Old Friendship United Methodist Church is significant under Criterion C as a well-preserved example of a type of religious building erected to serve Methodist congregations in rural Worcester County, Maryland in the second half of the nineteenth century. Most other examples of this type in the county have been more extensively altered, moved, or have lost integrity through abandonment and deterioration. Typical of rural churches in the lower Eastern Shore region in the mid-to late nineteenth century, the building is eclectic in its architectural character, combining a conservative gable-front temple form associated with the Greek Revival with exterior decorative detailing derived from picturesque Italianate influence. The colored-glass memorial windows, with lancet arches in the upper sash, were added in the early twentieth century, reflecting a trend toward improvement of rural churches in Worcester County during the period 1890-c.1920, when relative prosperity in the local agricultural economy made possible the renovation or replacement of earlier church buildings. The building retains a high degree of integrity, with the majority of its exterior and interior architectural fabric and decorative detailing intact, including original pews and chancel furniture. A small churchyard, partially enclosed with a Victorian-period iron fence, provides the historic setting. The period of significance is defined as extending from 1866, the date of construction of the building, to c.1920, by which date it had substantially achieved its present form.

See continuation sheet no. 3

for Historic Context and Maryland Comprehensive Historic Preservation Plan data.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

See continuation sheet no. 6

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 1 acre

USGS: Dividing Creek, MD

UTM References

A

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4	2	3	0	5	7	0
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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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D

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

See continuation sheet no. 8

Boundary Justification

See continuation sheet no. 8

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Paul B. Touart, Architectural Historian

organization Private Consultant date 11/30/93

street & number P.O. Box 5 telephone (410)651-1094

city or town Westover state Maryland zip code 21871

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OLD FRIENDSHIP UNITED
Wicomico County
Maryland

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INTERAGENCY RESOURCES DIVISION
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

Old Friendship United Methodist Church stands at the intersection of West Post Office Road and Meadow Bridge Road on the north side of the Worcester/Somerset County line in Worcester County, Maryland. The single-story, gable-front church faces south.

Built in 1866, the rectangular, gable-front frame church is supported by a low, continuous brick foundation, and is sheathed with plain weatherboard siding. The corners of the church are trimmed with paneled pilasters, and the eaves are bracketed. The steeply pitched roof is covered with asphalt shingles. Surrounding the church on three sides is a nineteenth and twentieth century cemetery which is partially enclosed by a Victorian iron fence. The cemetery contains several hundred burials marked by upright tombstones. The principal entrance to the church yard is marked by later brick posts topped by concrete ball finials.

Standing on the west side of the church is a single-story, gable-front frame meeting hall supported on a low masonry foundation and sheathed with vinyl siding. The medium sloped tin roof has exposed rafter feet. A small one-room wing extends from the southeast corner. This building does not contribute to the significance of the resource.

The south (main) facade is a three-bay elevation with a center double-door entrance and flanking rectangular colored-glass windows, with lancet arches inset into the upper sash. The colored-glass windows were added during the early twentieth century as memorials to various congregation members. The upper panels of the doors have pointed arches as well. Topping the double doors is a single-pane transom. To each side of the doorway are paneled pilasters that rise to meet ornate consoles which support a slightly projecting entrance pediment. The outside corners of the church are trimmed with pilasters that rise to a bracketed eave. The gable front pediment is trimmed with brackets as well, and piercing the tympanum is a pointed arch louvered opening.

The east and west sides of the church are largely alike with three colored-glass windows evenly spaced across each wall. The

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Maryland

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decorative cornice brackets continue along each side, and paneled pilasters trim the rear corners of the church. The north wall of the church is a plain weatherboard surface with slightly extended eaves.

The interior retains much of its original fabric with plaster walls and wide fluted surrounds with corner blocks framing the window openings. The original pews have survived and feature paneled ends and scroll-shaped railings at each end. A raised platform with a turned baluster railing and an elaborate bracketed pulpit with paneled sides distinguish the chancel. Early twentieth century globe chandeliers hang from the ceiling, which has been lowered with acoustical tiles. The front wall of the sanctuary, featuring a modern mural painting of Christ and Mary Magdalene after the Resurrection at the Garden Tomb of Joseph of Arimathea, is surrounded by modern wood paneling.

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HISTORIC CONTEXT:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Eastern Shore

Chronological/Developmental Period(s):

Agricultural-Industrial Transition A.D. 1815-1870
Industrial/Urban Dominance A.D. 1870-1930

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme(s):

Architecture, Landscape Architecture/Community Planning

Resource Type:

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function(s) and Use(s):

Religion/Religious Facility

Known Design Source: None

See Continuation Sheet No. 4

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HISTORICAL BACKGROUND:

Old Friendship United Methodist Church is a prominent historical and architectural landmark in western Worcester County. It is one of five rural Methodist churches listed on the Worcester County Historic Sites Inventory, and it remains as one of the best preserved. The exterior has had few changes to its historic appearance, and the interior has been modified only slightly.

The church is located on the Worcester/Somerset county boundary line, near the small crossroads village of West Post Office in Somerset County, where many of the congregation members have resided. Especially significant to the architecture of Old Friendship Church is its eclectic mixture of mid-nineteenth century stylistic features.

The temple-front body of the church has a steeper pitch to the roof than other Greek Revival churches in the county, and the exterior features picturesque elements with its eave brackets and Gothic points to the door and louvered vent within the pediment. The colored-glass sanctuary windows were added in the early twentieth century; their Gothic arches strengthen the picturesque quality of the exterior and add historic interest with the donor's names at the bottom of each lower sash. The interior survives with its mid-nineteenth century pews and altar furniture. Bordering part of the church lot and framing the cemetery is an original iron fence.

The first appearance of Methodism in Worcester County dates back to the late eighteenth century and the teachings of Reverend Francis Asbury and other ministers who traveled through the region. An early group of Methodists formed in the vicinity of Newark during the late 1790s, and the Snow Hill congregation had purchased a lot for a church by the early nineteenth century. While the Anglican Church suffered large setbacks in attendance and support after the Revolution, the Methodist Church grew rather rapidly with new congregations forming in various towns and rural communities. By the third quarter of the nineteenth century, Methodist congregations, both white and black, dominated religious life in Worcester County.

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The Friendship Methodist congregation traces its formation back to 1836, when John Pusey, Jr. of Worcester County transferred ownership of a half-acre of a tract called, "Friendship", to Whitty Pusey, Jones Bevans, Thomas Brown, Purnell Pusey, Sr., Purnell Pusey, Jr., William Carey, James Brown, John L. Zeiber, and Tubman Lankford, trustees of the newly formed congregation. A second parcel of land was deeded to the church trustees, also part of "Friendship", in December 1878, by Whitty T. Pusey and his wife, Annie, while a third piece was granted in 1884 for a parsonage. It is not known if an earlier building preceded the 1866 structure, but the site was used for burial during the earliest years. The construction of the present building is credited to Jones Bounds and William Dykes, local carpenters.

The turn of the twentieth century was a period of relative prosperity in the agricultural economy of the rural lower Eastern Shore region. This prosperity enabled the renovation or replacement of church buildings, and a distinct historical pattern is notable in the alteration or new construction of churches in the region between about 1890 and 1920. The colored-glass memorial windows dating from the early twentieth century, illustrate the participation of Old Friendship United Methodist Church in this trend.

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OLD FRIENDSHIP UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
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BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:

Hallman, E.C. The Garden of Methodism. n.p.: Peninsula Annual Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, n.d. [1948].

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties, Maryland Historical Trust, Crownsville, Maryland.

Touart, Paul B. "Historic and Architectural Resources of Worcester County, Maryland", ms., Maryland Historical Trust, Crownsville, Maryland.

Worcester County Land Records, Worcester County Courthouse, Snow Hill, Maryland.

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OLD FRIENDSHIP UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Wicomico County
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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

All that tract or parcel of land upon which the said Church is now located, lying and being in Worcester County, and a part of the tract of land called "Friendship" and a part of land called "Addition", or by whatever name or names the same may be known or called, situated in the county aforesaid, and directly on the county road leading from Beaver Dams to Forktown; beginning at a stone placed in the ground by the northeastern side of the said road, thence running by and with said county road and bounded thereby the three following courses; North fifty-one degrees West eleven and three-fourths perches, thence north forty-one degrees west ten perches, thence north thirty-one degrees west six perches to the end of the bridge across said county road and thence by and with the ditch bounded thereby South sixty-four degrees east twenty-seven perches to a post set up by the side of the said ditch, thence with a sight line to the first bounder, containing one acre more or less. Recorded among the land records of Worcester County as Liber 1498, folio 26, October 26, 1988. This property is indicated as Parcel No. 35 on Worcester County Tax Map No. 44.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION:

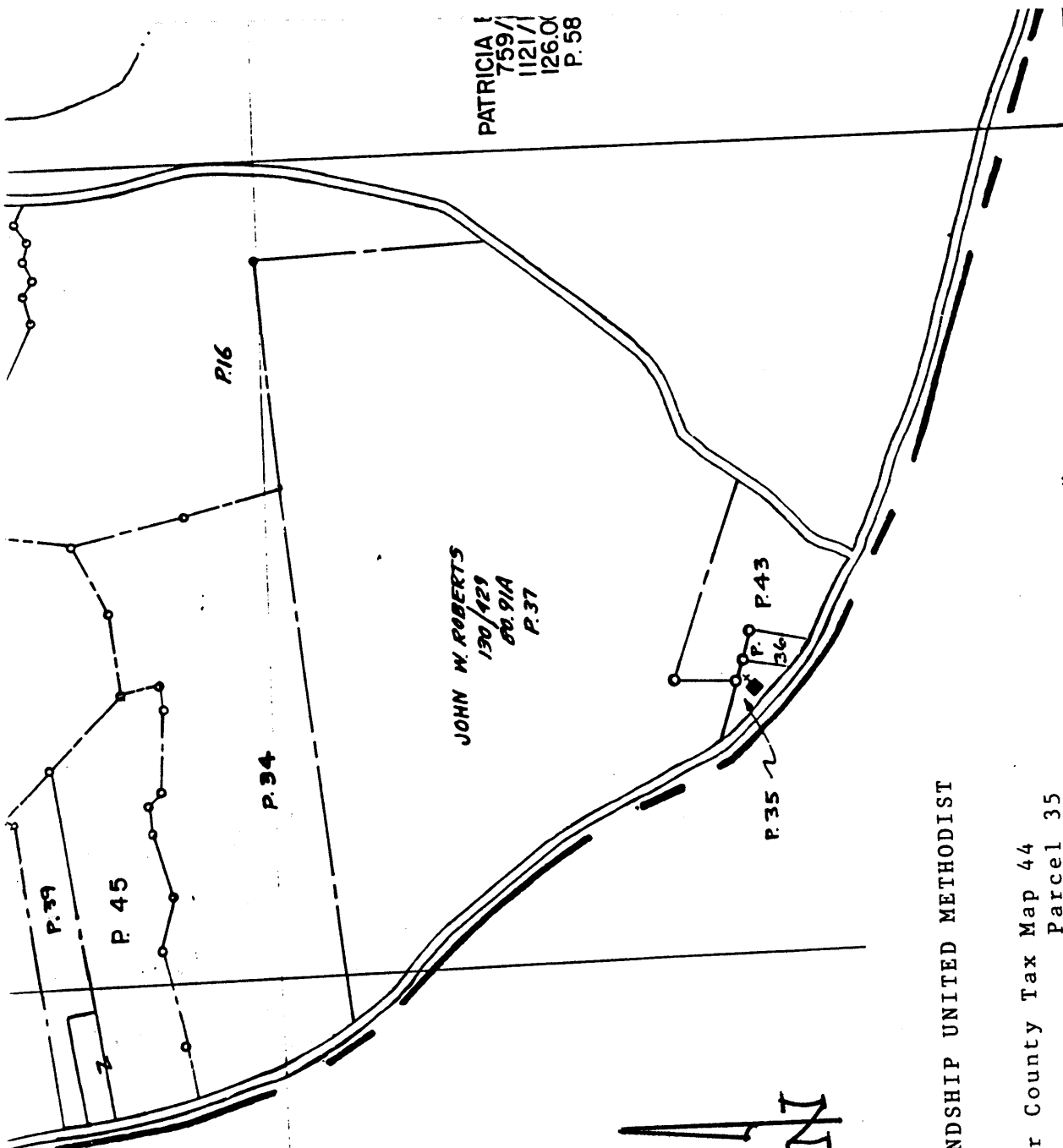
The nominated property, approximately one acre, comprises the entire parcel historically associated with the resource. It corresponds to the churchyard which surrounds the building and represents its historic setting.

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PATRICIA I.
759/1
1121/1
1260X
P. 58

JOHN W. ROBERTS
130/429
600.91A
P. 37

WO-227
OLD FRIENDSHIP UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH
Worcester County Tax Map 44
Parcel 35

COMPILED BY		PROPERTY LINE	
DEPT. OF ASSESSMENTS & TAXATION		SUB-DIVISION BOUNDARY - - -	
PROPERTY MAP DIVISION		CONTINUING OWNERSHIP - Z	
THE INFORMATION SHOWN HEREON HAS BEEN COMPILED FROM DEED DESCRIPTIONS AND IS NOT AN ACTUAL SURVEY IT SHOULD NOT BE USED FOR LEGAL DESCRIPTIONS. USERS NOTING ERRORS ARE URGED TO NOTIFY DEPARTMENT OF ASSESSMENTS & TAXATION, 301 W. PRESTON ST., BALTO. 1, MD.		PARCEL NUMBER - P. 349 ()	
REVISED TO:	DATE	BY	SCALE: 1" = 600'
OCT. '92	OCT. '92	T.F.	180-115
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