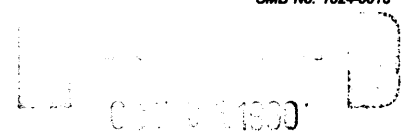


1724

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

NATIONAL
REGISTER

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 St. Peter's Methodist Episcopal Church
other names/site number S-289

2. Location

street & number Old Crisfield-Marion Road N/A not for publication
city, town Hopewell vicinity
state Maryland code MD county Somerset code 039 zip code 21817

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>1</u>	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____	_____ structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	_____	_____ objects
		<u>2</u>	<u>0</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 of certifying official [Signature] STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER Date 9/25/90
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. **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 [Signature] Date of Action 11/2/90

6. Function or Use

S-289

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION/religious structure

FUNERARY/cemetery

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION/religious structure

FUNERARY/cemetery

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

GOTHIC

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICK

walls WEATHERBOARD

roof ASPHALT

other WOOD

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

DESCRIPTION SUMMARY:

St. Peter's Methodist Episcopal Church is a large single-story Gothic frame church with four-story bell tower on the southern corner. Spreading to the southwest, northwest and northeast sides is a cemetery with nineteenth and twentieth century markers. Built in 1850 and extensively reworked in 1901, the church is sheathed with a combination of narrow weatherboards and fishscale shingles. The upper gable and top fourth of the tower are sheathed with a combination of round-butt and pointed shingles. The steeply pitched asphalt shingle roof has extended eaves and exposed rafter feet. The northwest or rear elevation has a centrally located shed-roofed apse. The church interior dates from the extensive 1901 remodeling. The sanctuary ceiling has narrow beaded boards with a cove cornice around the sides. The altar is separated from the main body of the sanctuary by a turned post balustrade.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**St. Peter's Methodist Episcopal Church
Somerset County
Maryland

S-289

Section number 7 Page 1 **GENERAL DESCRIPTION:**

St. Peter's Methodist Episcopal Church stands on the southwest corner of the intersection of the Old Crisfield-Marion Road and Heart's Ease Road near Hopewell, Somerset County, Maryland. The large single-story Gothic Revival frame church faces southeast with the principal gable oriented on a northwest/southeast axis. A four-story bell tower rises on the southern corner. Spreading to the southwest, northwest and northeast sides is the church cemetery with markers dating from the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

The gable-front frame church, first built in 1850 and extensively reworked in 1901, is supported by a minimal brick pier foundation and is sheathed with a combination of narrow weatherboards and fishscale shingles. The upper gable and top fourth of the tower are sheathed with a combination of round-butt and pointed shingles. The steeply pitched asphalt shingle roof has extended eaves and exposed rafter feet.

The southeast (main) facade of the church is distinguished by a single Gothic-arched window opening which consists of a pair of pointed arch windows. A round, colored glass window pierces the upper gable at the transition between weatherboards and patterned wood shingles.

The southeast tower elevation consists of a large Gothic-arched double-door opening with a diamond-pane transom. A small diamond-paned, diamond-shaped window marks the second level, while a small round window distinguishes the third level. The pyramidal roofed belfry is framed by four shingled columns with arched openings between each column. Patterned wood shingles cover the pyramidal tower, which is topped by a turned wood finial.

The northeast and southwest sides are essentially alike with each wall marked by three diamond-pane lancet windows.

The northwest or rear elevation has a centrally located shed-roofed apse. Each side of the apse has a narrow lancet window, while the apse itself is flanked by lancet windows.

See Continuation Sheet 7.2

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

St. Peter's Methodist Episcopal Church
Somerset County
Maryland

S-289

Section number 7 Page 2

The church interior dates from the extensive 1901 remodeling of the 1850-1852 structure. Along with the addition of the front entrance tower, the sanctuary ceiling was reworked with narrow beaded boards with a cove cornice around the sides. The small area around each chandelier is highlighted by molded trim in the shape of a diamond. The angled Victorian pews are traditionally divided by a center aisle. The altar is separated from the main body of the sanctuary by a turned post balustrade. Access into the roof structure is provided by a long ladder in the tower. Inside the roof structure of the church it is clearly apparent that the frame of the 1850-1852 church was reused. Ell-shaped corner posts survive and structural evidence suggests the mid nineteenth-century Greek Revival church had a gable-front pediment. The majority of the roof structure was completely reworked during the 1901 renovation.

8. Statement of Significance

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

1901

Significant Dates

1901

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

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

SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY:

St. Peter's Methodist Episcopal Church is important for the architectural character of its present appearance which is the result of a 1901 remodeling. The building has the distinctive characteristics of the Gothic style rural church built in Somerset County in some numbers in the closing decades of the nineteenth century and continued to a lesser amount in the early decades of the twentieth. Typically, these buildings have a central rectangular block with a sharply pitched roof and large Gothic arched windows. Added to this generally are a bell tower and pavilions with a resultant complex Tee or cross plan. These churches are prominent usual landmarks on the flat terrain of Somerset County. St. Peter's represents a restrained version of this Gothic church on the exterior. The interior, however, is elaborately decorated with beaded boards and turned balusters. Distinctive is the angling of the pews which is more unusual than usual for this type of church in the county. Rock Creek Methodist Episcopal Church near Deal Island has a sweeping curve arrangement of pews but is a larger structure. Unlike the other Gothic churches but a reflection of its turn of the century date is the Romanesque treatment to the cap of the bell tower. The cap is characterized by shingle siding, round arches, and a pyramidal roof.

See continuation sheet 8.1

For HISTORIC CONTEXT and MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN data.

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties, Somerset County, Maryland Historical Trust, Annapolis, Maryland.

Somerset County Land Records, Courthouse, Princess Anne, Maryland.

Touart, Paul Baker. Somerset: An Architectural History. Published for Maryland Historical Trust and Somerset County Historical Trust, 1990, pp 319-336.

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

Primary location of additional data:

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

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of property 2 acres
USGS Quad: Marion, Maryland

UTM References

A 18 428000 4207810
 Zone Easting Northing

C _____

B _____
 Zone Easting Northing

D _____

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

See continuation sheet 10.1

Boundary Justification

See continuation sheet 10.1

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Paul Baker Touart, Architectural Historian

organization Somerset County Historical Trust date 10/13/87

street & number P.O. Box 5 telephone (301)651-1094

city or town Westover state Maryland zip code 21871

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

St. Peter's Methodist Episcopal Church
Somerset County
Maryland

S-289

Section number 8 Page 1

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
Religion

Resource Type:

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function(s) and Use(s):

RELIGION/religious structure
FUNERARY/cemetery

Known Design Source: Unknown

See Continuation Sheet 8.2

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

St. Peter's Methodist Episcopal Church
Somerset County
Maryland

S-289

Section number 8 Page 2

HISTORIC CONTEXT:

St. Peter's Church, first organized as Miles Meeting House, has served members of the Methodist faith living in southern Somerset County since its formation in 1782. As the earliest Methodist congregation located in the lower half of Somerset County, St. Peter's Church holds a key position in the formative history of Methodism on the lower Eastern Shore.

The organization of a Methodist congregation near Jones Creek in southern Somerset County dates to 1782. First known as Miles Meeting House, the initial church structure is reported to have been built around 1784. In 1813, the congregation was renamed St. Peter's. By 1817 a second church building had been erected which lasted until the mid nineteenth-century. Between 1850 and 1852 a third edifice was raised that evidently followed the currently popular Greek Revival style with a gable-front orientation and a classical pediment. Trustees' minutes document that a church spire was erected in 1884, and at the same time, the Ladies Aid purchased a bell for \$1,000 from the McShane Foundry in Baltimore. In 1901, the congregation financed the rebuilding of the Greek Revival church. A Baltimore architect only remembered as Professor Abdul was retained for redesigning the exterior and interior. It was at this time that the roof was rebuilt, the entrance was relocated to the tower, and Gothic Revival windows were substituted for the old sash windows. The interior was reworked as well with the removal of the slave gallery and the application of the beaded board wainscoting and ceiling. Since the turn of the century the church has not received any significant alterations.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

St. Peter's Methodist Episcopal Church
Somerset County
Maryland

S-289

Section number 10 Page 1

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

All that lot or parcel of land situate in Lawson's Election District, Somerset County, Maryland, beginning at the intersection of the old Crisfield-Marion Road and Heart's Ease Road which forms the northeast corner of the church lot, thence in a northwesterly direction for a distance of 300 feet along the south side of Heart's Ease Road to a point, thence in a southwesterly direction across an open field for approximately 637.5 feet to a point, thence in a southeasterly direction for approximately 112 feet to a point on the north side of the old Crisfield-Marion Road, thence in a northeasterly direction along the north side of the aforesaid Road for approximately 637 feet to the place of beginning, containing 2 acres more or less.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION:

The property consists only of the rural lot upon which it stands and has stood historically.