

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

0A-178

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED **OCT 2 1979**

DATE ENTERED

NOV 15 1979

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Dudley's Chapel

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

SW of Sudlersville off MD 300

STREET & NUMBER East side of Benton Corners Road, 1/4 mile south of Maryland
Route 300

NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

CITY, TOWN

Sudlersville

VICINITY OF

First

STATE

Maryland

CODE

24

COUNTY

Queen Anne's

CODE

035

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

DISTRICT

PUBLIC

OCCUPIED

AGRICULTURE

MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

UNOCCUPIED

COMMERCIAL

PARK

STRUCTURE

BOTH

WORK IN PROGRESS

EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

OBJECT

IN PROCESS

YES: RESTRICTED

GOVERNMENT

SCIENTIFIC

BEING CONSIDERED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

INDUSTRIAL

TRANSPORTATION

NO

MILITARY

OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Trustees of Dudley's Chapel

c/o Laretta Walls

STREET & NUMBER

Box 47

CITY, TOWN

Millington

VICINITY OF

Maryland

STATE

21651

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Queen Anne's County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Courthouse Square

CITY, TOWN

Centreville

STATE

Maryland

21617

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<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 _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Old Dudley's Chapel rests on a low hill on the east side of Benton Corners Road, just south of Maryland Route 300 and approximately two miles west of Sudlersville. There is a small cemetery to the rear of the chapel. Large trees are scattered throughout the churchyard and heavy woods to the north and east extend down to the Red Lyon Branch, a small creek which meanders north to the Chester River.

Built in 1783, Dudley's Chapel is a simple brick structure with a moderately pitched gable roof. The west gable, facing the road, is the principal facade, while the altar and pulpit are located at the east end of the church. This is a very simple and unpretentious building, made even plainer by a series of renovations and repairs undertaken periodically throughout the nineteenth century. The most significant change to the exterior of the building was the application of a coat of stucco in 1883, covering all of the original brickwork, and also hiding evidence of alterations to the windows and one door. Although the bonding pattern is not known, it seems probable that it was laid in Flemish bond, perhaps with random glazed headers, but without a watertable or belt course.

On the west gable, double paneled doors are flanked by a tall six-over-six window on each side. Each of these openings has a recessed relieving arch, the most significant decorative feature of the building. In the upper gable there is a small window concealed by louvered shutters.

The north and south facades are very plain, with three tall six-over-six windows symmetrically ranged along each wall. An interior brick stove chimney pierces the roof on each side between the east window and the center window.

The east gable is equally plain, with a single six-over-six window at each corner, flanking the pulpit. The north window was originally a door to the vestry, but this was closed in and changed to a window in 1900. There is no window in the upper gable at this end.

Several cast-iron tie plates have been secured through the walls; some of these are "S" shaped, others are plain square plates. A box cornice with crown mold and bed mold extends along each facade, returns at the gable and is carried up the eaves. This presumably dates to 1856, when the roof was rebuilt.

The interior of the church is a single large room, with the pulpit in the center of the east wall and a gallery at the west end. A small vestibule for the front door and the stair is partitioned off below the gallery.

The gallery has been closed off and the stair removed, but sufficient evidence remains to trace the original location in the northwest corner of the building. The original landing and part of one carriage remain in the vestibule, and wrought nails used to secure the treads are visible in several places. The gallery has evidently been rebuilt, as the supporting columns and front railing are Victorian, highlighted with painted and grained paneling. The interior doors, the window trim, and the pulpit and communion rail also date to the Victorian period.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #1.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

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 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 1783

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Dudley's Chapel is primarily significant for its prominent place in the early history of the Methodist Church in Maryland. The society which built Dudley's was organized by 1774, only eight years after Francis Asbury first preached in New York City. The church, built nine years later, is one of the earliest surviving Methodist churches in Maryland, and was the first Methodist church built in Queen Anne's County.¹

Architecturally, Dudley's Chapel is significant as one of only two 18th century churches remaining in the county. It represents a simple yet graceful example of the small, brick parish churches built throughout the Tidewater region during the 18th century. Of particular interest are the three recessed brick relieving arches on the front gable, reminiscent and perhaps anticipating the work of the neo-classical movement popularized in the early 19th century.

Many of the prominent early leaders of the Methodist Church are known to have preached both at Dudley's and in the Sudlersville area. Among the more notable figures were Francis Asbury, Thomas Coke, Richard Whatcoat, Jesse Lee and Freeborn Garrettson. Asbury, Coke and Whatcoat were the first three Bishops of the American Methodist Church, Lee became a noted historian of the church and a missionary to New England, and Garrettson was the first native American Methodist minister.²

The Methodist movement reached America in the mid-1760's, and the first services are believed to have been held in New York City in 1766. About the same time, Robert Strawbridge organized a Methodist society in Maryland. In July, 1773, the first Methodist Conference was held at Old St. George's Church in Philadelphia. There were more than 1500 people present, approximately one-fourth of them from Maryland. In that year, Francis Asbury was appointed to the Maryland Circuit.

In November of 1773, William Watters was transferred from a station in New Jersey to Kent County. Watters is known to have preached in Queen Anne's County as well, and by 1774 a Methodist society had been formed in the area of Sadlers Cross Roads, now known as Sudlersville.³

In 1783, a movement was undertaken to build a proper meeting house in the Sudlersville area. A site was selected near Red Lyon Branch, about two miles west of town. The land was donated by Joshua Dudley, on a tract called Sarah's Portion.⁴

The church was begun the same year, but apparently a board of trustees was not appointed until 1794. At that time the formal record of the church was begun. The first vestry minutes record that:

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #2.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #5.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

UTM NOT VERIFIED

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1.59 acres

QUADRANGLE NAME CHURCH HILL QUAD

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 18 422920 4337160
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

History compiled by Mrs. Laretta Walls and Mrs. Marjorie Orlando Ridout V. Clements.

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Queen Anne's County Historical Society

TELEPHONE

STREET & NUMBER

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Centreville

Maryland 21617

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE X

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

9-24-79

TITLE

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

acting Cheryl D. Stull
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

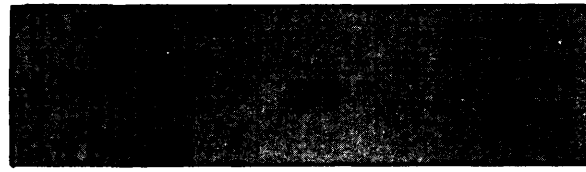
DATE 11-15-79

ATTEST: Emma Jane Sapp
CHIEF OF REGISTRATION
Regional Coordinator

DATE 11-14-79

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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**



Dudley's Chapel
Queen Anne's County

CONTINUATION SHEET Maryland . ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1

(DESCRIPTION, continued)

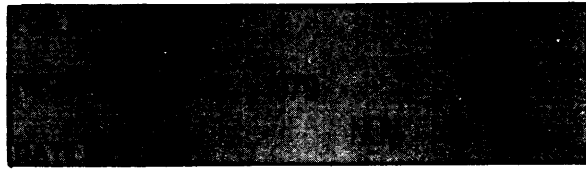
Simple freestanding pews with boxed ends are arranged to allow two aisles. The pulpit is on a low platform, with the communion rail at the front of the platform.

There are two space heaters, one on each side of the church; and these are the only source of heat in cold weather.

The cemetery to the rear of the church is believed to be the resting place of Joshua Dudley, who gave the land for the chapel to be built on, and was a prominent member in the early history of the church. The stone believed to mark his grave is badly weathered and the inscription is illegible. Other stones mark graves of the Benton and Devenish families, two local families which figured prominently in the early years at Dudley's. Also interred here are three early ministers, the Reverend Wesley Henderson, who was pastor in 1839, the Reverend William Allen, pastor in 1840 and 1841, and the Reverend Robert H. Ray, who was the pastor in 1843.

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Maryland

CONTINUATION SHEET ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

(SIGNIFICANCE, continued)

...the house was raised in 1783, covered with cypress shingles in 1784, glazed in August 1784, floored and seated in 1786, and since that the windows have been broken by hail...⁵

There is no record of who the earliest preachers were, but in 1786 Jesse Lee and Richard Whatcoat were pastors on this circuit. Other prominent figures associated with the early history of Dudley's include Joseph Hartley, Freeborn Garrettson, and Thomas Coke. Francis Asbury is also known to have preached here at least half a dozen times between 1783 and 1811.

In 1796 the Society initiated a drive to raise money to finish the gallery at the west end of the church. In 1803 lumber was purchased, but the gallery was not completed until 1812.⁶

In the meantime, a vestry was constructed to the rear of the church. This has been described as a small building, about 16 x 20, heated by an open fireplace.⁷

In 1810, William Price asked to use the vestry building as a school. This request was granted, and Price contributed ten dollars toward the necessary repairs.⁸

In 1812 two stoves were purchased for the church at a cost of fifty-five dollars.⁹ These were placed on each side of the building, with metal flues running up through the roof. The first major repairs to the church were undertaken in 1840. An iron rod was run through the building to tie the side walls together, the brick aisles and the floor of the vestibule were replaced, and the present benches were installed. In 1856 a new roof was put on.¹¹

The Civil War was a difficult time for the members of Dudley's and controversy simmered even after the war ended. In 1865 a committee was appointed to notify the colored people that they would not be permitted to occupy the vestry as a place of worship after September 1, 1865. The same committee was asked to notify the school trustees that they would not be able to use the vestry as a school¹², and in 1869 the vestry was torn down.

The schism within the church widened, and in 1868 one group split away from Dudley's, forming the Methodist Episcopal Church South. They settled in nearby Sudlersville, and built a small frame church known as Asbury Methodist Church. Although no longer used as a church, this building still stands, and has been adapted for use as a public library.

In 1869, more repairs to Dudley's Chapel were undertaken, despite a small membership and a shortage of money. Brick flues were built on either side of the church,

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #3.

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CONTINUATION SHEET Maryland ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 3

(SIGNIFICANCE, continued)

and the old windows were torn out and replaced with new sash that were not as wide. The door was also replaced, and the interior was painted. The total cost was \$650.00.

In 1883 the centennial of the church was celebrated. Part of the preparations for this event included more repairs, and at this time the exterior of the church was covered with stucco.

More work was undertaken in 1900. The roof was repaired, the high arched ceiling was lowered and softened in pitch, the old door that once led to the vestry was closed and replaced by a window, the gallery was closed off, and the interior painted.¹⁴

In 1917 the Reverend Arthur S. Walls published a brief history of Dudley's Chapel. Included in that account is a lengthy description of how the church looked before the interior was renovated:

...On the side of the main building the ceiling was arched and about eight feet higher than now, the gallery was open, the pulpit about four feet higher than now with about 10 steps leading to it, over the pulpit was a window and a hat rack. The hat rack also ran above the pulpit stairs and along nearly the entire length of the men's side of the church; it consisted of a strip with wooden pegs projecting about five inches. A door to the minister's right entered the vestry; long brick aisles ran about the church to the brick floor of the vestibule; the floor was bare, and the benches plain with a narrow strip for a back; there were no flues, and stove pipes ran from wood stoves to the ceiling on either side of the church to flues yet seen above the roof; a stairway ran from the vestibule to the gallery and from under the stairway there opened a door into the church which admitted the sexton to a dark closet sometimes filled with fire wood. There were no chandeliers and the big rod which runs through the center of the church was not there. To either side of the Sacred desk on the outer corners of the pulpit gallery stood square paneled posts about four feet high with flat tops upon which rested lamps. Two similar lamp posts stood and one near each end of the chancel.¹⁵

Despite the repairs undertaken in 1900, and the 135th anniversary celebration which prompted Reverend Walls' history, declining membership continued to plague the church, and in 1919 regular services were ended. Dudley's Chapel is now under the Sudlersville charge, and is maintained by a Board of Trustees. It is opened several times each year for special services, including an Homecoming Service in early October and a sunrise service at Easter.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #4.

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Dudley's Chapel
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Maryland

CONTINUATION SHEET ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 4

(SIGNIFICANCE, continued)

¹Bridgetown Methodist Church on Tuckahoe Creek was built circa 1773 by the Church of England, and was taken over by the Methodists in 1778. The present building dates to 1887, when the church was rebuilt. Fragments of the 18th century walls remain on the front and rear gables, and the early bricks were reused, extending up to within two feet of the cornice.

²Rev. Arthur S. Walls, Dudley's Chapel, Centreville, 1917. p. 6-7.

³Ibid, p. 5.

⁴See Queen Anne's County Deeds, Liber STW#3, folio 524.

⁵Vestry Minutes for Dudley's Chapel, p.6.

⁶Ibid, p. 6-14

⁷Walls, p. 7-8.

⁸Vestry Minutes, p. 14.

⁹Ibid, p.33.

¹⁰Walls, p. 8-10.

¹¹Vestry Minutes, p.52. Also see Walls, several entries:

¹²Ibid, p. 63.

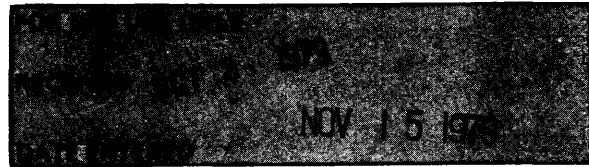
¹³Ibid, p. 68.

¹⁴Ibid, p. 69.

¹⁵Walls, p. 8-10.

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Dudley's Chapel
Queen Anne's County
Maryland

CONTINUATION SHEET ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 5

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Edwin Brown Papers, Centreville Public Library, Vol. 2 and Vol. 7B.

Emory, Frederick, Queen Anne's County, Maryland. Baltimore, 1950.

Hallman, E.C. The Garden of Methodism (no date).

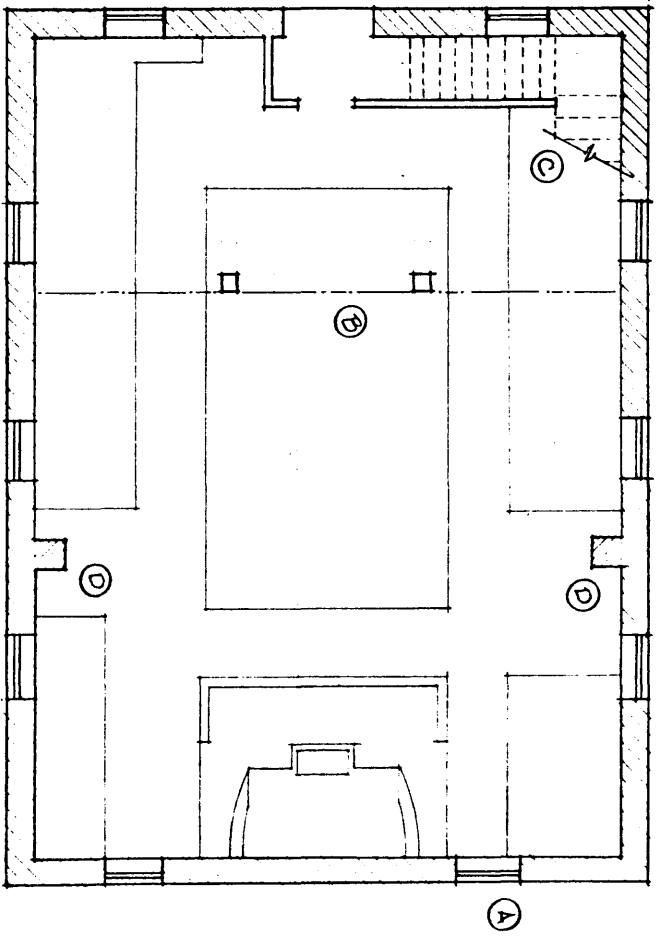
Lee, Charlotte Ware, Dudley's Chapel: 1794-1900 (unpublished manuscript).

Phillips, Paul W. Sudlersville, Queen Anne's County, Maryland (no date)

Tipple, Ezra Squier, The Heart of Asbury's Journal, Eaton and Mains, 1904.

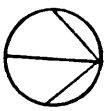
Vestry Minutes of Dudley's Chapel: 1794-1900 (stored in the vault of the
Sudlersville Bank).

Walls, Reverend Arthur S. One Hundred and Thirty-Fifth Anniversary of Dudley's
Chapel: 1782-1917, Centreville; 1917.



- Ⓐ LOCATION OF ORIGINAL VESTRY DOOR
- Ⓑ EXTENT OF GALLEY OVERHANG
- Ⓒ LOCATION OF ORIGINAL GALLEY STAIRS
- Ⓓ STOVE FLUES, ADDED IN 1869

0 2 4 6 8 10 12 14
SCALE: 3/8" = 1'-0"



ORLANDO RIDOUT V

QA-178

DUDLEY'S CHAPEL
SUDLERSVILLE, MARYLAND

JULY 12, 1978.