

PH0025437

Form 10-306  
(Oct. 1972)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM  
FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:
COUNTY:
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE

JUN 5 1974

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
Building Number E-5715

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
Gunpowder Meeting House

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Magnolia Road

CITY OR TOWN:  
Aberdeen Proving Ground - EA

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:  
First

STATE:  
Maryland

CODE  
24

COUNTY:  
Harford

CODE  
025

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

**4. AGENCY**

United States Department of the Army

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable)

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Aberdeen Proving Ground

CITY OR TOWN:  
Aberdeen

STATE:  
Maryland

CODE  
24

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Harford County Courthouse, Land Records Office

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Main Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
Bel Air

STATE:  
Maryland

CODE  
24

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY: Executive Order 11593 Protection and Enhancement of the Cultural Environment (Inventory of Historic Places)

DATE OF SURVEY: 20 Jan 1972  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
Headquarters, US Army Materiel Command

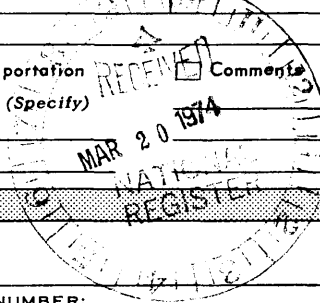
STREET AND NUMBER:  
5001 Eisenhower Avenue

CITY OR TOWN:  
Alexandria

STATE:  
Va.

CODE  
51

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



STATE:  
COUNTY:  
ENTRY NUMBER  
DATE

JUN 5 1974

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The building is a one room brick structure 26'-2" x 35'-4", containing 925 square feet. The brick is laid in common bond with every 6th course being headers. The cornice consists of several corbeled courses of brick. Jack arches over all openings are unbonded. All windows and door openings, except one of the latter, are boarded up. Brickwork near the ground is deteriorating; many soft brick are in evidence, and the pointing is falling out; a few bricks at the corners, and under doors, have fallen out. Oyster shell is evident in the mortar.

A door is centered between the windows on the south end and on both the east and west sides. Two windows flank the former pulpit on the north end; a window in the south gable lit a former balcony, evidence of which may be seen inside. A small arched recess, which may once have been stuccoed and contained founding and erection dates of this church, is high in the south gable.

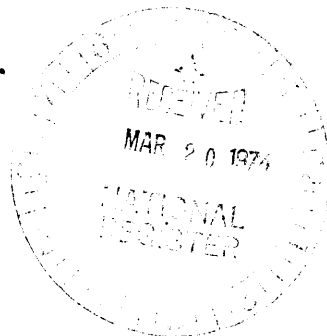
Inside, walls are plastered directly on brick; trim (baseboard is missing, and window and trim partially existing) was applied directly to the brick, and the former pulpit platform is outlined on the north wall.

The ceiling is covered with bead - center - bead boarding, and follows the roof pitch a short way to the ridge and then follows the level collar beams. A trap door does not exist to get to the attic,

Double doors, probably original, still exist in the east and west openings, each set of double doors contain eight panels -- six square panels above two vertical rectangular ones. Only fragments of hardware exist and is of various periods. A pair of cast iron butt hinges and part of a sliding bolt are probably original,

The floor is of modern rough sawn 2" lumber installed by the military to convert the building to a storehouse. The stairway to the balcony was in the southwest corner. The balcony floor sloped and had very little head-room. The profile of stair, balcony floor and its front rail can be seen in the plaster. The chimney in the north gable appears original; the flue is built into the thickness of the wall.

The roof is covered with granulated rolled roofing.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**5. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian       16th Century       18th Century       20th Century  
 15th Century       17th Century       19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

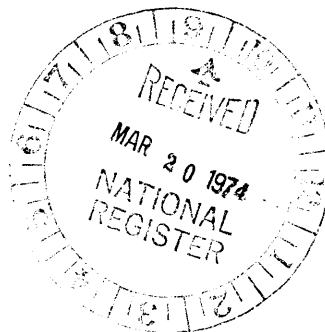
- |  |   |   |  |
|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal          | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input type="checkbox"/> Political                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric         | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science                        | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture         | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture                      | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture        | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian            | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater                        | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce            | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation                 | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications      | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |   |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation        |   |   |  |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Attempts have been made by the United Methodist Historical Society of Baltimore, Maryland, through church records and the land records of Harford County, to establish for certain whether it was the "lately erected" structure mentioned in a deed of one acre from Joseph Presbury to Methodist trustees March 31, 1773. While they have not been able to demonstrate with absolute certainty that the existing building is the original 1773 structure, neither was evidence found that it is not, and they learned that the relatively unique door arrangement is copied from the building of Old St. Pauls' Church in Baltimore erected in 1731.

If, in the future, the 1773 construction can be conclusively demonstrated, then the building may well turn out to be the oldest surviving structure in the country built as a Methodist Church.

The matter of dating this meeting house may also be influenced by the observation that the trim elements that remain inside on the window and door frames are characteristic of the Greek Revival style, and as they appear to be original, may properly indicate this was not the meeting house of 1773 built on this site, but a structure of a later date, possibly of the period 1810-1825.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

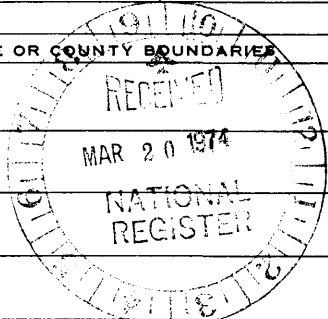
**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		N39° 24' 12" 14"	W76° 18' 30" 29"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: .25 + or -

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE: Thomas W. Alexander, Realty Specialist      DATE: 5 Feb 74

BUSINESS ADDRESS: Facilities Engineering Directorate, APG

STREET AND NUMBER:      PHONE:

CITY OR TOWN: Aberdeen Proving Ground      STATE: Maryland      CODE: 24

**12. CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION**      NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

State Liaison Officer recommendation:

Yes  
 No  
 None

*Orelando R. Santoro*  
 State Liaison Officer Signature

In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Liaison Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The recommended level of significance is  National  State  Local

*William J. ...*  
 Federal Representative Signature      3/6/74  
 Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Title

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

*Amert Allen Cornally*  
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation  
 Associate Director  
 Professional Services  
 Date JUN 5 1974

ATTEST:

*Charles ...*  
 Keeper of The National Register  
 Date 6-4-74

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