

PH# 365572

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	JUN 22 1976
DATE ENTERED	NOV 28 1977

**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 Paw Paw; Odd Fellows Academy, Odd Fellows Hall;
Old Methodist Episcopal Church

AND/OR COMMON

Paw Paw building (Preferred)

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 68 North Main Street

CITY, TOWN	Port Deposit	___ VICINITY OF	___ NOT FOR PUBLICATION
			CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
			First
STATE	Maryland	CODE	COUNTY
			Cecil
			CODE
			005

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Port Deposit Heritage, Inc.

To be restored as a library and museum.

STREET & NUMBER
68 North Main Street

CITY, TOWN Port Deposit VICINITY OF Maryland STATE

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Cecil County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN Elkton Maryland STATE

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input 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

The Paw Paw building or Paw Paw was built in 1821 by the First Methodist Episcopal congregation of Port Deposit. This slightly rectangular building measures 36' x 40'. It is two stories in height and has a hip roof covered with asbestos shingles. The Paw Paw is constructed of stone covered with plaster on both the interior and the exterior. There was a box pulpit very high at the north end. Across the southern end was a gallery for the black members of the congregation who had a separate entrance in the southeastern corner of the church. There were also separate entrances for the men and women. The women's entrance was also on the north side of the building, but at the western end of that wall. The men's entrance was on the facade of the Paw Paw. Once inside the church, the women sat on the eastern side and the men sat on the western. Located centrally on the rear wall is a chimney made of brick which was for an old stove. The window sash throughout are 6/6. Some of them remain but are without glass. Every window had louvered shutters in 1914 and most of these are on the building site. Several of the shutters on the facade have strap hinges. Over the windows there are stone and wooden lintels as well as splayed arches of stone. There is no conformity or pattern evident. The exterior is very plain as is the box cornice and the frieze board. Each of the doors is panelled and has a transom over it. The sills of the doors are granite.

The facade of the Paw Paw has a centrally located entrance. A raised platform porch once extended from it with stairs leading down to a lower level on the south (in 1914 picture). This door is flanked on both sides by a pair of windows. The second story has two windows located on either side of the center of the building like the first story. Directly over the first floor door is an indented square space which could have housed a name or date plaque. The rear wall of the Paw Paw has no windows or doors.

The northern exterior wall has five windows, three on the first story and two on the second. Its southern counterpart has two panelled entrance doors located at each end with one window in the middle. On the second story there are two windows evenly separated.

The interior of the first story has a new floor. Dividing the building in half are three square columns spaced at different intervals. On the east wall the brick chimney is visible. This was connected to a small stove on each story. The interior of the second story has had the most alteration: Where there was no floor but open space for those in the gallery to listen and watch a floor has been added. One long hewn beam is exposed running north and south. Off of the main room which is located over the men's seating section are three small rooms. All of the doors on the second floor are panelled and have architrave trim. The

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 type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" 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 checked="" 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

1821

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Paw Paw building was used as a church from the time of its erection in 1821 until 1839 when a new church was built across the street. In the 1820's it was one of the churches on the Cecil and Strasburg circuits. After 1839 it was used as a school and was called Heath of Health Academy from the name of the teacher. From 1852 to 1867 the building served as a meeting place for Harmony Lodge. In 1860 it was also known as the Odd Fellows Academy which was a local school.

In 1877 the Cornish family operated a grocery store and "dining salon" in the Paw Paw. In 1894 Snow's Battery held their reunion at the "Odd Fellows Hall." This group was a society of Civil War Veterans, all from Port Deposit.

Until recently the building has been used as an apartment and also a recreation hall for the youth of the town. During the 1950's record hops and square dances were held on the first floor.

The Port Deposit Heritage, Inc: intends to restore the building to its 1914 appearance and use the Paw Paw for a library and museum.

In 1849, Mr. Elijah Reynolds had to move his carpenter shop into the Academy due to ice damage to his shop.

The following is from December 15, 1888 edition of the Whig (Elkton):

"In 1824 he [Rev. John Goforth] was on the Dauphin Circuit and in 1826 was junior preacher for Cecil Circuit. He was virtually in charge of Rock Run the first three years of its history (1819-1821) and in the latter year the first or Paw Paw church was built against the hill about the middle of the town on land donated by the mother of the Hon. J.A.J. Cresswell. It is a solid stone building, 36' x 40'....

"In May 1839, the official board resolved to build a new church.... It is a solid granite structure opposite the first or Paw Paw church, and was dedicated December 29, 1839.... (Nesbitt Hall - 40' x 55'.)

CONTINUED

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Miller - History of Cecil County

The Daily Times, Smyrna, Delaware, March 19, 1875

Methodist Episcopal Church Records --Historical Record

Cecil Whug -- Private letters.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 60 x 100 feet

UTM REFERENCES

A	<u>1,8</u>	<u>40,39,7,0</u>	<u>4,38,46,1,0</u>
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C			

B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
D			

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 Grace C. Humphries, President

ORGANIZATION Port Deposit Heritage, Inc. DATE 12/18/75

STREET & NUMBER 68 North Main Street TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN Port Deposit STATE Maryland 21904

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL STATE 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 John N. Pearce DATE 6/21/76
TITLE SHPO

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

<u>Robert B. Rettig</u>	DATE <u>11/28/77</u>
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHITECTURE AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION	KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER
ATTEST: <u>Cecil O. Shull for Charles Deming</u>	DATE <u>10-28-77</u>
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER	

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Paw Paw Building
Cecil County

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

7

PAGE

1

Description - continued

ceiling of the main room has some crown moulding under it. The baseboard of this room changes as it reaches the north and south walls. It slowly arches upward about one and a half feet then runs across the wall to the side where it again slopes downward. The stairway to the second floor is completely enclosed and separated from the first floor by a plaster wall. The interior walls are lath covered by plaster. The main room has some wallpaper remaining on the walls.

Outside of the black's entrance are several granite stones arranged in a square to form a small stoop. Extending from the northeast corner of the Paw Paw and running parallel to the facade is a stone retaining wall which is broken only for steps down to the street level. Near the southwest corner are several granite steps leading down from the side entrances to the ground between the Paw Paw and the retaining wall.

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Paw Paw Building
CONTINUATION SHEET Cecil County ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

Statement of Significance - continued

"During the pastorate of J.A. Brindle, Hon. Jacob Tome had begun the erection of the third structure as a memorial to his wife, a short distance north of the first and on the same side of the street. This was finished in 1872....

"This handsome structure is 55' x 102'---- it will be perceived that every time we have built a new church we have taken the length of the next preceding for the width of the new--- and this promises to be more than adequate for all the needs of the indefinite future...."

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CONTINUATION SHEET Maryland ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 3

ADDENDUM TO SIGNIFICANCE

Port Deposit Heritage, Inc. believes the Paw Paw Building should be nominated to the National Register for Historic Places for the following reasons:

Now called the Paw Paw building because of two trees of that species which once grew in its frontyard, this structure was built in 1821 as the Methodist Episcopal Church on land owned by John and Rebecca Creswell. In 1829 the Creswells gave the land to the Church for the sum of one cent in hand.¹ It is one among the half dozen oldest buildings in Port Deposit. It was the ONLY church in the town for at least eighteen years,² until 1839 when a new church was built across the street, now known as Nesbitt Hall. A school was then started in the old church, not only for religious purposes, but for educational instruction as well.³

Tome Memorial Church, built in 1872 next to the original church (or Paw Paw building), is the third of this church complex, all still standing. When Nesbitt Hall was built, the length of the first church (36 x 40) was used as the width of Nesbitt Hall (40 x 55), and when Tome Memorial was built, the length of Nesbitt Hall was used as the width of Tome Memorial (55 x 102). The Rev. J. P. Otis wrote in 1888: "This handsome structure is 55 x 102 -- it will be perceived that every time we have built a new church we have taken the length of the next preceeding for the width of the new -- this promises to be more than adequate for the indefinite future."⁴

The old Methodist church was used as an academy, starting in 1821 with one pupil and growing to number one hundred students by 1837, divided into thirteen classes of white and one of colored children.⁵ The school continued to grow and by 1873 there were two hundred eighty nine scholars. From the January 5, 1873 report is the following: "the Secretary congratulates the school upon its removal from the cramped quarters in the old church to the pleasant rooms and abundant accomodations of the new (Nesbitt Hall)."⁶ During these years the Old Methodist Episcopal or the Paw Paw was often referred to as the Port Deposit Academy.⁶

In 1844 the Independent Order of Odd Fellows' Mt. Pisgah Lodge #24, which had been organized in 1834, signed a ninety-nine year lease for the upper or second story of the Old Methodist Episcopal Church, and such ground privilege as was necessary for access to and from and as much of the first story as was needed.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET 4.

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ADDENDUM TO SIGNIFICANCE (Continued)

They were required to erect a flight of stairs to the second story, not to exceed 12 feet 6 inches in length or more than 7 feet in width, and the lease was to run from the first day of April, 1843 for ninety-nine years with yearly rent of \$10.00 current money.⁷

On the Jack map of 1860 the Paw Paw lot no. 19 is designated as the Odd Fellows Academy Lot; also, in land records of the deeds of lot no. 19, it is called the Odd Fellows Academy Lot. In the Historic Records of the Methodist Episcopal Sunday School, dated January, 1871, 50th Year, it is written: "A vote of thanks was tendered to the Trustees of the Odd Fellows Hall for the use of it for the lectures." The archives in the Grand Lodge of Baltimore, Brisc Building, have minutes showing rent was paid by the Odd Fellows to the Methodist church until 1891, and then to Jacob Tome until 1905.

The Paw Paw was used as a meeting place for Harmony Lodge, a Masonic order still active in Port Deposit from 1851-1867.⁸

continued
For many years the old Methodist Episcopal Church was a center of community activities and it has been adapted to many useful purposes. It has been standing for (56) years through ice gorges and floods, and it is still structurally sound enough that we plan to restore it as a library and museum to house the many antiquities associated with our town.

References.

¹Deed JAD 23/290, Cecil County Courthouse

²Church histories of all other churches in town

³Historical Records of Methodist Episcopal Sunday School, Port Deposit

⁴Otis, The Rev. J.P., Methodism in Port Deposit," Sketches of Cecil County M.E. Churches, The Whig, Elkton, Dec. 15, 1888. Also by actual measurement

⁵Historical Records of Methodist Episcopal Sunday School, Port Deposit

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET 5.

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ADDENDUM TO SIGNIFICANCE (Continued)

References (Continued)

⁶Deed GMC #7/351, Cecil County Courthouse

⁷Deed GMC #7/35], Cecil County Courthouse

⁸History of Harmony Lodge #53, from Lodge Records located in Cecil National Bank, Port Deposit

Grace C. Humphries.
President
Port Deposit Heritage, Inc.
Port Deposit, Maryland 21904