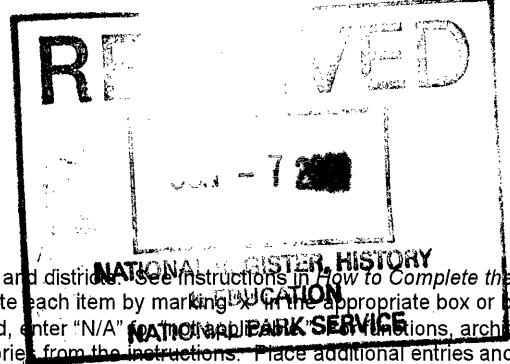


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for not applicable. For nominations, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word process, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Mt. Tabor Good Samaritan Lodge #59

other names AA-775

2. Location

street & number 1407 St. Stephen's Church Road not for publication

city or town Crownsville vicinity

state Maryland code MD County Anne Arundel code 003 zip code 21032

3. 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments).

6-5-01

Signature of certifying office/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments).

Signature of certifying office/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. State/Federal Agency 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

7/20/2001

Mt. Tabor Good Samaritan Lodge #59

Name of Property

Anne Arundel County, Maryland

County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		Buildings
1		Sites
		Structures
		Objects
2	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

N/A

number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

SOCIAL/meeting hall

FUNERARY/cemetery

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

SOCIAL/meeting hall

FUNERARY/cemetery

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

NO STYLE

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICK

walls WOOD

roof ASPHALT

other

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad pattern of our history.
- B** Property associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property as yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets)

Area of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ETHNIC HERITAGE: Black
ARCHITECTURE
SOCIAL HISTORY

Period of Significance

1899-1951

Significant Dates

1899

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

African-American

Architect/Builder

Lawrence Hawkins, Sr., builder

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets)

Previous documentation on files (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 # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: _____

Mt. Tabor Good Samaritan Lodge #59
Name of Property

Anne Arundel County, Maryland
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 0.425 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet) Odenton, MD quad

1	1 8	3 5 8 8 4 0	4 3 1 8 8 7 0	3			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2				4			

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Donna M. Ware, Historic Sites Planner
organization Anne Arundel County Office of Planning and Zoning date January 2001
street & number 2664 Riva Road, P. O. Box 6675 telephone 410-222-7441
city or town Annapolis state Maryland zip code 21401

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

- A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional Items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO)

name _____
street & number _____ telephone _____
city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

Paperwork Reduction Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et. seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Summary Paragraph:

Mt. Tabor Good Samaritan Lodge #59 lies in the small rural community of Chesterfield in central Anne Arundel County. Constructed in 1899, the small, two-story wood frame building commands a prominent location on the east side of St. Stephen's Church Road. It is situated on an open knoll, surrounded by woodland, overlooking the road. The rectangular-plan structure has a gable front and faces south toward the Mt. Tabor United Methodist Church, built in 1893, an arrangement symbolizing the more private nature of business for the lodge in comparison to the open and welcoming position of the church, which fully faces the road. A cemetery, located east and south of the lodge and behind the church, lies mostly in the wooded area of the property and meanders down the steep slopes of the knoll.

Description:

Built in 1899 for the United Sons and Daughters of Levi Beneficial Society No. 1 of Mount Tabor, the small two-story wood frame lodge building has remained relatively unaltered since its construction. Minor repairs were made in the mid-20th century and a more comprehensive renovation was completed in January 2001. The trustees of the Levite Society of Mount Tabor reorganized in 1923 and became part of the Independent Order of Good Samaritans and Daughters of Samaria.

The 1899 main block of the Good Samaritan Lodge measures approximately 20 by 14 feet and rests on a brick pier foundation. It has a gable roof, covered with asphalt shingles. The exterior walls are covered with wood weatherboard siding. A brick, interior, stove chimney is located at the center of the east elevation. A small one-story gable roof addition, measuring approximately 10 by 10 feet, extends from the rear (north elevation) of the building and rests on a poured concrete slab foundation. The addition, built in 2000, houses a bathroom and closet, and serves as a handicap accessible entrance to the building.

The lodge is a simple utilitarian structure with little architectural ornamentation. It has a gable front orientation, facing south. A slight nod to architectural embellishment and symmetry is expressed on this elevation. The entrance to the one-room plan structure is located in the center of the south elevation. Plain poured-concrete steps

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rise to a wood, six-paneled door. The door surrounds are plain boards except for the door head, which is decorated with a pediment-shaped flat board. Small 4/4 wood sash windows flank the entrance. A 6/6-sash window is located above the door at the second story. The east and west elevations have four 6/6 wood sash windows each, two per floor. All of the windows appear to be original, yet they must have been reused sashes because some of the windows consist of two upper sashes. The rear addition has an entrance on the east elevation, which is covered by an extension of the roof. Exterior walls of the addition are covered with modern beaded wood siding.

Interior:

The interior plan of the lodge consists of one single room per floor. An enclosed, boxed stair is located on the rear wall (north elevation). The open entrance to the stair is in the northwest corner of the rear wall. A closet fills the space under the stair. Prior to renovations in 1999 – 2000, the closet door was located on the north wall. Today, this opening provides interior access to the new rear addition. Based on architectural evidence, the original stair location was in the southeast corner of the first floor, similar to Abraham Hall in Prince George's County.

According to members of the Good Samaritan Lodge, the first floor is known as the "ante-room or social room." Here, social functions, such as dinners and informal get-togethers are held. The second floor is the "ritual room," accessible only to members of the lodge during meetings. Situated in the center of this room is a small table or "altar," upon which is placed the Lodge's Bible. Members sit on wooden pews, (originally owned by Mt. Tabor Church) arranged behind (north of) the altar. The Chief of the Lodge and the Presiding Daughter sit side by side in chairs in front of (south) the altar, from where they conduct the meetings. Wooden shepherd's crooks, stored prior to the recent renovation on the west wall, are used during the meeting ritual and funeral burials. Members hold the shepherd crooks in an arch during these ceremonies. Though no longer in use, the second floor still retains its original cast iron "pot-bellied" stove, marked "Tip-Top Winner." It is positioned at the chimney on the east wall. A small closet is located on the north wall in the northwest corner.

Summary of renovation work conducted in 1999 – 2000:

Funding was provided by Community Development Block Grant funds, administered by the Arundel Community Development Services, Inc.; the Maryland Historical Trust; Preservation Maryland, Inc. and the Anne Arundel County Trust for Preservation, Inc. The Historic Sites Planner, Anne Arundel County Office of Planning & Zoning provided

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administrative in-kind services. The major work included the rear addition, which provided the opportunity to introduce plumbing for the first time. The building was moved approximately 12 feet to the south to accommodate the required setback requirement for the addition. This allowed for new footers to be poured for the reconstructed brick pier foundation. Other structural repairs were made to the sills and framing in the northeast corner. The electrical system was upgraded with new baseboard heaters. All of the windows are original, as is 95% of the weatherboard siding. The interior wall covering was upgraded from mid-20th century gypsum board to dry wall. The gypsum may have replaced an earlier wall treatment, however the lack of lath and plaster suggests that the interior walls were not finished originally, leaving the framing exposed. The stair and floors are original.

Setting:

The Lodge and the adjacent Mt. Tabor United Methodist Church (1893) are located in a rural area of central Anne Arundel County, which is characterized by a rolling landscape cut by small creeks feeding into the South River. Much of the surrounding area remains wooded with some adjacent farmland. The lodge and church are situated along a steep rise, commanding an imposing position along St. Stephen's Church Road. The church faces the road, while the lodge building is set at a right angle to the road, facing the church. This arrangement symbolizes the more private function of the lodge in comparison to the open and welcoming position of the church, which fully faces the road.

Cemetery:

The cemetery is situated east of the Good Samaritan Lodge and extends south toward Mt. Tabor United Methodist Church. The Lodge owns a portion of the cemetery, while the Church owns the section closest to and surrounding the church building. The setting for the cemetery is very picturesque with many of the graves located in the wooded glen and on the steep slopes southeast of the Lodge. Many of the early residents of the Mt. Tabor community and the founders of the Church and Lodge are buried in the cemetery, including members of the Hawkins, Queen, Belt, Hall, and Johnson families. Several graves are unmarked. One of the marked stones is for Samuel Green, a former slave who served with the 9th Cavalry during the Civil War.

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Summary Paragraph:

The Mt. Tabor Good Samaritan Lodge #59 is significant under National Register Criterion A for its association with the African American beneficial or benevolent society movement. As such, it is important for its contribution to the history and culture of African Americans in Maryland and the United States. Benevolent societies, organized to promote the social and moral welfare of African Americans, were part of a national humanitarian movement which had its origins in the late 18th century. Built in 1899, Mt. Tabor Good Samaritan Lodge and its associated beneficial or benevolent societies played a key role in the development of the African American community in the Chesterfield area of Anne Arundel County. Originally formed in the early 1890s as the United Sons and Daughters of Levi Beneficial Society, No. 1 of Mount Tabor, the Society reorganized in 1923 as the Independent Order of Good Samaritans and Daughters of Samaria of Mount Tabor, No. 59. The Lodge is one of only two Good Samaritan Lodges still in operation in Maryland (the other is Bright Desire Lodge No. 60, affiliated with Fowler United Methodist Church in Annapolis). Descendants of the founders of the Levite Society and Good Samaritans still live in the community today and have been instrumental in maintaining and preserving the building and surrounding cemetery.

The Good Samaritan Lodge derives additional significance under Criterion C, representing a distinctive and rare building form in Maryland. It is one of six surviving African American benevolent society structures in the State.ⁱ It shares its simple two-story, gable front form and one-room plan with three of the other turn-of-the-20th century lodges in the State, including Freedom's Friend Lodge (1883) in St. Michaels; Abraham Hall (1889) in Beltsville; and St. Jacobs Lodge (1907) in Bacontown. Sons and Daughters of Holland Society Meeting Hall (1905) in Deale is a one-story variant.

The period of significance, 1899-1951, begins with the date of construction of the Lodge and ends with a date fifty years in the past, in accordance with current National Register conventions. The Lodge remains in active use.

Historical Background:

The United Sons and Daughters of Levi Beneficial Society, No. 1 of Mount Tabor (Levite Society) was formed in the early 1890s. The exact date is unknown, however, the Society was in existence by 1895, when it obtained land adjacent to the present lodge building.ⁱⁱ Founders of the Levite Society included members of the nearby Mt. Tabor

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Methodist Church and surrounding African American community. The history of the Church, built in 1893, and the Lodge are closely intertwined.

Benevolent societies emerged in the late 18th century, but were most prevalent in the 19th century, providing aid and support to members during times of sickness, accident and death. Members paid dues, and in return, in times of sickness or death, received monetary relief and/or health care from other volunteer members. The societies became a central focus in many African American communities by sponsoring church construction, and establishing fraternal orders, building associations, and insurance companies. In many cases, the care and maintenance of a cemetery was an important function of the society, as it was for Mt. Tabor and the Holland Society Meeting Hall in Deale.

In the early 19th century, benevolent societies were the most widespread type of organization among free African Americans in the northeast United States. In 1835, forty such associations existed in Baltimore, while Philadelphia supported eighty societies.ⁱⁱⁱ Although research has not been extensive for post Civil War benevolent organizations, it appears that they remained important factors in African American communities.

Following the principles of the national benevolent society movement, the Levite Society made an attempt to establish a community surrounding Mt. Tabor Methodist Church. In 1895, Hannah Ann Gray, a member of Mt. Tabor Church, conveyed 168 ½ acres of land, which she had obtained in 1892, to the Levite Society. The property was conveniently located on the west side of St. Stephens Church Road, across from the church and present-day lodge. The Levite Society partitioned some of the land into lots of 2 ½ to 5 acres each and offered them for sale to their members, apparently hoping to foster the opportunity for land ownership and solidify the African American community surrounding the church and lodge. Some of the first owners of these lots were also members of Mt. Tabor Church, including James Queen, William Carter, and Otho Johnson. The effort to establish a village had mixed success. In 1906, John W. Pindell, another member of the church, bought up several of the original lots and consolidated them into a 37-acre farm.^{iv} Today, the original 168 ½ acre tract is still divided into several smaller lots and includes six houses of post WWII construction.

In 1899, the Levite Society erected the present lodge building adjacent to the Church. It was constructed by Lawrence Hawkins, Sr., a member of the lodge and church. In 1923, the Society reorganized as a "chapter" of the Independent Order of Good

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Samaritans and Daughters of Samaria of Mt. Tabor, No. 59, another benevolent society, which has continued operation of the lodge and cemetery to the present. The Certificate of Incorporation listed five directors: Jeremiah Hall, Benjamin Stepney, Charles E. Johnson, Eugene Hamilton and James Queen.^v

The Independent Order of Good Samaritans and Daughters of Samaria dates its origin from March 9, 1847 in New York City. It was an integrated organization; a charter was granted at the first meeting of the Grand Lodge in 1848 to institute a lodge for African Americans. Interestingly, the Independent Order emerged out of a lodge known as the Grand United Order of Good Samaritans, a temperance, benevolent, and beneficial society for African American men and women. By 1899, the **Cyclopaedia of Fraternities**, compiled by Albert C. Stevens, recorded 400,000 members in the Independent Order. The **Cyclopaedia** described the society as “educational as well as benevolent in its objects and has beneficiary features, including the payment of death, sick, disability, old age, and annuity benefits.” The Order selected the Biblical parable of the Good Samaritan for its name, reflecting the ideal that no man “was better than another on account of his birth or nation. It teaches that man is the constituent of one great family.” Its emblem is a triangle, enclosing a dove and olive branch, with the words “Love, Purity and Truth” on its three sides, symbolizing perfection, equality, and the Trinity. In 1899, the headquarters of the Good Samaritans was located in Washington, D. C. Ten Good Samaritan lodges were established in Maryland, of which only two survive (Mt. Tabor and Bright Desire). The first lodge was the Lily of the Valley Lodge in Waterbury, Maryland (Anne Arundel County). Mt. Tabor was formed from this lodge. The Bright Desire Lodge No. 60 in Annapolis grew out of Mt. Tabor.^{vi}

The construction of Mt. Tabor Church and the Good Samaritan Lodge in the 1890s, and the effort to establish an adjacent village, reflect the ideals espoused by Booker T. Washington during that same time period. A former slave, founder of Tuskegee Institute and great spokesman for African American equality, Washington encouraged self-reliance and sufficiency for African Americans in rural America. In addition to championing the cause for education and labor skills, he urged that the betterment of African Americans could be achieved in self-sufficient communities surrounding churches and schools. Although unrecorded in the Mt. Tabor Church and Lodge histories, it seems that the members were aware of Booker T. Washington’s efforts and philosophy. Embodied in the history of both institutions are the themes of self-determination and tenacity that have served to preserve the church, the lodge and the community for 150 years.

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Endnotes

ⁱ Galilean Hall in Annapolis; Abraham Hall in Beltsville; Freedom's Friend Lodge in St. Michaels; St. Jacob's Lodge in Bacontown, Anne Arundel County (near Laurel); and Sons and Daughters of Holland Society Meeting Hall in Deale, Anne Arundel County.

ⁱⁱ Anne Arundel County Land Records, Liber JCB 3, folio 384.

ⁱⁱⁱ Robert L. Harris Jr. , "Early Black Benevolent Societies, 1780-1830," in **The Massachusetts Review**, Vol. XX, No. 3, p. 611.

^{iv} Anne Arundel County Land Record Liber JCB 3, folio 384; Liber GW 12, folio 382; and Liber GW 52, folio 255.

^v Certificate of Incorporation, The Independent Order of Good Samaritans and Daughters of Samaria of Mt. Tabor No. 59 of Anne Arundel County, March 21, 1923, Charter Records of the State Tax Commission of Maryland, Liber 42, folio 123.

^{vi} Albert C. Stevens, compiler and editor, **The Cyclopaedia of Fraternities: A Compilation of Existing Authentic Information and the Results of Original Investigation as to the Origin, Derivation, Founders, Development, Aims, Emblems, Character, and Personnel of More than Six Hundred Secret Societies in the United States**, New York City and Paterson, N. J.: Hamilton Printing and Publishing Company, 1899, pp. 402-403; the **National Grand Lodge Constitution and By-Laws**, Revised Edition, 1957, pp. 1-2; and personal communication with Katherine Joyce (Mrs. Charles Joyce), January 17, 1995.

Other Sources of Information: Delores Hawkins, Presiding Daughter; the late Charles Joyce, Vice Chief of Lodge; Mary Hawkins Craig, Secretary ; Lillian Hawkins, National Grand Sire Associate; and Katherine Joyce, member.

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Mt. Tabor Good Samaritan Lodge #59

Name of Property

Anne Arundel County, Maryland

County and State

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9. Major Bibliographical References:

See Endnotes, Section 8, Page 4

10. Geographical Data:

Verbal Boundary Description: Boundaries of the nominated property are described in a deed recorded among the Land Records of Anne Arundel County in Liber 8167, folio 392.

Boundary Justification: The nominated property, 0.425 acre, comprises the land historically associated with the resource, and encompasses the lodge and the associated graveyard within their immediate setting.