

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED JUL 13 1976
DATE ENTERED OCT 21 1976

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

****** Mount Gilboa Chapel

AND/OR COMMON

MOUNT GILBOA AME CHURCH

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

northwest corner of Oella and Westchester

Avenues

___ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Oella

___ VICINITY OF

Sixth

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Maryland

CODE

24

COUNTY

Baltimore

CODE

005

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

___ DISTRICT

BUILDING(S)

___ STRUCTURE

___ SITE

___ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

___ PUBLIC

PRIVATE

___ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

___ IN PROCESS

___ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

OCCUPIED

___ UNOCCUPIED

___ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

___ YES: RESTRICTED

___ YES: UNRESTRICTED

NO

PRESENT USE

___ AGRICULTURE

___ COMMERCIAL

___ EDUCATIONAL

___ ENTERTAINMENT

___ GOVERNMENT

___ INDUSTRIAL

___ MILITARY

___ MUSEUM

___ PARK

___ PRIVATE RESIDENCE

RELIGIOUS

___ SCIENTIFIC

___ TRANSPORTATION

___ OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Benjamin Banneker Memorial Committee, Reverend Roland Howard, President

STREET & NUMBER

7334 Roosevelt Boulevard

CITY, TOWN

Baltimore

___ VICINITY OF

STATE

Maryland

21227

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Baltimore County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Towson

STATE

Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

___ FEDERAL ___ STATE ___ COUNTY ___ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Mount Gilboa Church is located on the west side of Westchester Avenue, just north of Oella Avenue in Baltimore County, Maryland. This small stone church, three by four bays, faces east. A plaque in the front gable gives the date 1859.

The front facade is ashlar masonry, but the sides and rear are of rubble. The sanctuary on the principal floor sits on a high basement which is used for the Sunday school and social area. Basement openings are boarded and have large stone lintels and sills.

Entry to the building is through double paneled doors at the front of the basement. Inside is a small vestibule flanked by a quarter turn stair with a landing leading up to the sanctuary. The sanctuary is plain, finished with white plaster walls. On the interior the openings, having 4/4 windows, are splayed.

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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) black history
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1859

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Mount Gilboa has served the same community of black families since the 18th century. That community today continues to look to this building as its central focus and important local landmark.

Mount Gilboa A.M.E. Church is remembered as the site where Benjamin Banneker, free black scientist of the 18th century, worshipped and attended school. Located in Oella in Baltimore County, Maryland not far from the site of Banneker's farm, it stands as a symbol of honor to an ingenious American.

Benjamin Banneker was born in 1731 on a farm in Oella. A self-taught mathematician, he published an almanac from 1792 to 1806 for which he made all the astronomical calculations and weather predictions. His work was praised by Thomas Jefferson, then Secretary of State. His achievement was considered the more remarkable because he had little schooling and studied mathematics and astronomy in the time that he had free from farming. The Ellicott brothers, prominent because of the milling industry (see Ellicott City Historic District, Howard County, and Oella and Ellicotts Mills Historic Districts, Baltimore County), were friendly with Banneker, and shared with him their books on science and mathematics.

Banneker was also a surveyor and was hired in this capacity to work with the Ellicotts on the plans for the City of Washington. Although he did not play a major role in this project, his participation on any level is important for that time.

The present Mount Gilboa Church (1859) is located on a tract of land dedicated in the 18th century by the Ellicott family for "an African Meeting House and School House." In 1836 the Ellicott family formally deeded the property to the black community for their use as long as the property continued to function for religious and educational purposes.

The Benjamin Banneker Memorial Committee and the adjacent community at large have undergone a twelve-year project to provide recognition for Benjamin Banneker. His 100-acre farm at the southeast corner of Oella and Westchester Avenues has been cut up into numerous tracts and does not resemble its 18th-century appearance. The site of Banneker's house is not known, leaving Mount Gilboa as the sole above ground memorial to Banneker.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Baltimore County Land Records, Baltimore County Courthouse
 Towson, Maryland
 Bedini, Silvio. The Life of Benjamin Banneker. New York:
 Charles Scribners Sons, 1972
 Joynes, J. William. "Oella Church Symbolizes Strength of Brotherhood."
 Personal Collection of Reverend Howard

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY one

UTM REFERENCES

A

ZONE	EASTING	EASTING	EASTING	EASTING	EASTING	EASTING	EASTING	EASTING	EASTING

NORTHING	NORTHING	NORTHING	NORTHING	NORTHING	NORTHING	NORTHING	NORTHING	NORTHING	NORTHING

C

ZONE	EASTING	EASTING	EASTING	EASTING	EASTING	EASTING	EASTING	EASTING	EASTING

NORTHING	NORTHING	NORTHING	NORTHING	NORTHING	NORTHING	NORTHING	NORTHING	NORTHING	NORTHING

B

ZONE	EASTING	EASTING	EASTING	EASTING	EASTING	EASTING	EASTING	EASTING	EASTING

NORTHING	NORTHING	NORTHING	NORTHING	NORTHING	NORTHING	NORTHING	NORTHING	NORTHING	NORTHING

D

ZONE	EASTING	EASTING	EASTING	EASTING	EASTING	EASTING	EASTING	EASTING	EASTING

NORTHING	NORTHING	NORTHING	NORTHING	NORTHING	NORTHING	NORTHING	NORTHING	NORTHING	NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

The Reverend Roland Howard

ORGANIZATION

Benjamin Banneker Foundation

DATE

Fall 1975

STREET & NUMBER

7334 Roosevelt Boulevard

TELEPHONE

(301) 796-1060

CITY OR TOWN

Baltimore

STATE

Maryland

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 M. Pearce

7/7/76

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Charles D. ...

DATE

10/21/76

ATTEST

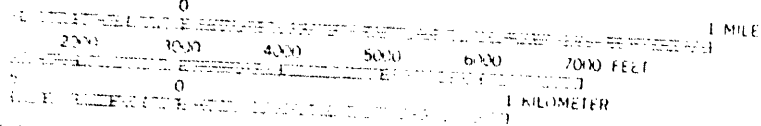
DATE

10/18/76

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



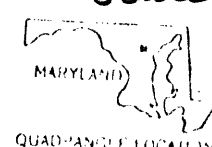
(SAVAGE)
5662 III NE
SCALE 1:24,000
1.3 MI. TO MD 175
WEST ELKRIDGE 5.9 MI



CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL

over

Ellicott City
Scale: 24



QUADRANGLE LOCATION

- Heavy duty
- Medium duty
- Interstate Route