

PHO 3525 86

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED JAN 16 1976
DATE ENTERED JUN 1 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 Moriah Baptist Church

AND/OR COMMON * * * Cow Marsh Old School Baptist Church (Preferred Name)

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER NE of Sandtown
On State Route 10, near Sandtown
DE

CITY, TOWN Sandtown VICINITY OF one
STATE Delaware CODE 10 COUNTY Kent CODE 001

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER: •

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Trustees of Cow Marsh Old School Baptist Church

STREET & NUMBER
CITY, TOWN STATE VICINITY OF

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Kent County Court House

STREET & NUMBER The Green
CITY, TOWN Dover STATE Delaware

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Survey of Delaware Historic Sites and Buildings, K-183

DATE 1973
FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Historic Preservation Section, Hall of Records

CITY, TOWN Dover STATE Delaware

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input 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

Cow Marsh Old School Baptist Church is a clapboard-sheathed frame building with a low gable roof and corner pilasters.

The front wall, which faces the highway to the east, is broken by two doors and a lunette window high in the gable. On the sides are three windows each, with green shutters. Heat is provided by a stove.

In keeping with Old School Baptist doctrine, the church is unadorned, inside and out.

Only minor changes have occurred since the church was built in 1872; electric service has been installed and cement steps have been installed in front.

A cement-block wall along Route 10 separates the churchyard from the road.

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

SPECIFIC DATES 1872 BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Cow Marsh, or Mount Moriah, was the fourth Baptist Church established in Delaware. Today it is the oldest Baptist congregation in the state still holding regular services. Architecturally, it is unusual because it has survived since its construction in 1872, virtually unchanged.

Baptists were among the first dissenters to answer William Penn's invitation for religious minorities to settle in his territorial claims in the new world. In the Lower Counties on Delaware, now the state of Delaware, a Baptist congregation was worshipping as early as 1703.

Delaware's first Baptist congregation was organized in Wales in 1701, and settled as a body in western New Castle County in 1703. Its members constituted themselves as a "church emigrant" before leaving their homeland. They travelled together until they settled on the 30,000-acre grant that Penn had awarded to several of their countrymen.

The Welsh Tract congregation was the parent of other Baptist congregations, including Cow Marsh, Bryn Zion, and Mispillion in Kent County, and others as far away as the Cape Fear River in North Carolina. Bryn Zion's corporate body still exists, but the church is no longer standing.

According to Morgan Edwards, the chronicler of early Baptist churches, the Welsh Tract congregation introduced singing, laying-on of hands, church covenants, and other practices among the Baptists of the middle colonies.

John Sutton, pastor at Welsh Tract, preached in western Kent County during 1780. In 1781, the Cow Marsh church was constituted. In 1782, it was admitted to the Philadelphia Association. By 1791, the congregation was prepared to build a meeting house. The first building was erected before 1796.

On September 7, 1793, Job Meredith conveyed a 99-year lease on the original portion of the church site to Joseph Flood, "professor of theology." The place was described in the deed of lease as formerly called "the stand," but now called "Mount Moriah." Flood transferred Mount Moriah on June 4, 1796 to the trustees. By now, a meeting house had been erected on the site. Another acre was added in 1926. The present frame chapel was completed in December 1872.

The opening service at the new Mount Moriah church was held December 20, 1872, with W. L. Purrington preaching the dedicatory sermon.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Richard B. Cook. The Early and La'er Delaware Baptists. Philadelphia: American Baptist Publication Society, 1880.

Frank R. Zebley. The Churches of Delaware. Wilmington: the author, 1947.
(see continuation sheet)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY about 2 $\frac{1}{2}$

UTM REFERENCES

A	118	439	860	4321	4510	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING				ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C						D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The property is bounded on the east by Delaware Route 10, on the south by a branch, and on the west, north, and east by the churchyard wall

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE
EDWARD F. HEITE, HISTORIC REGISTRAR

ORGANIZATION
DIVISION OF HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

DATE
OCTOBER 1975

STREET & NUMBER
HALL OF RECORDS

TELEPHONE
302-678-4564

CITY OR TOWN
DOVER

STATE
DELAWARE

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
[Signature]

TITLE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF HISTORICAL & CULTURAL AFFAIRS DATE 1/12/76

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER	
<i>[Signature]</i>	DATE 6/28/76
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION	
ATTEST <i>[Signature]</i>	DATE 6-22-76
CLERK, OFFICE OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER	

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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

Mount Moriah Baptist Church

CONTINUATION SHEET 1

ITEM NUMBER 9

PAGE

Deed, Joseph Flood and wife to trustees, June 4, 1796. Kent County Deed Book E2, fo. 265

Deed of lease, Job Meredith to Joseph Flood, September 7, 1793. Kent County Deed Book D2, fo. 209

Deed and Plat, John G. Meredith and wife to Cow Marsh Old School Baptist Church, April 24, 1926. Kent County Deed Book A13, fo. 212

The Delawarean, Dover, December 14, 1872.