M; 13-48 John Wesley Methodist Church Clarksburg Private

> This one and a half story brick church has replaced a small, frame church built in c. 1878 by the founders of the black communities in Clarksburg. The church combines several architectural styles, especially Gothic. The three bay principal block has lancet windows and a large portal of similar design. The church was built by hired black contractors from nearby Washington, D.C. Behind the church is a well-kept cemetery with inscribed tombstones where many of the founders of the community are buried. This brick church is one of the most imposing of black congregations in rural Montgomery County.

1925

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

HISTORIC				
	esley Methodist Chu	urch		
AND/OR COMMON				
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Marylar		<u> </u>	Montgor	mery
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7 DESCRIPTION

M:13-48

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE	
EXCELLENT	DETERIORATED	XUNALTERED	XORIGINAL	SITE
X.GOOD	RUINS	ALTERED	_MOVED	DATE
FAIR	UNEXPOSED			

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This handsome church stands on the west side of Route 355 south of Clarksburg, and faces east towards the highway. It is one of the largest and most imposing of the black churches to have been surveyed in the communities of upper Montgomery County. It replaces an earlier, small frame church of c. 1878 on this site.

The brick church combines several architectural styles. The plain facade in the east gable end features a stepped gable on the north side, balanced by a tall, square bell tower on the south side reminiscent of Romanesque design. A set of seven steps leads up to a tall portal of lancet desing containing double doors. The building is three bays in depth and each of the three bays of the principal block is buttressed by brick piers.

Behind the church is a large, well-maintained cemetery in which many of the founders of the Black community in Clarksburg are buried. The graves of the Masons, of Benjamin Wims and of the Foreman family were photographed as a part of this survey and illustrate the types of stones used for grave markers by the community. The fact that they were stone markers, rather than simple wood grave markers, indicates that the Black families of Clarksburg were relatively prosperous and could afford these more costly and permanent memorials, unlike many poor people in upper Montgomery County and in Maryland. They are also indicative of the respect that their descendants felt for them.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY



M:13-48

PERIOD	AF	REAS OF SIGNIFICANCE CH	ECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW	
PREHISTORIC 1400-1499 1500-1599 1600-1699 1700-1799 1800-1899 X1900-	ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC AGRICULTURE XART COMMERCE COMMUNICATIONS	COMMUNITY PLANNING CONSERVATION ECONOMICS EDUCATION ENGINEERING EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT INDUSTRY INVENTION	LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE LAW LITERATURE MILITARY MUSIC PHILOSOPHY POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	X RELIGION -SCIENCE SCULPTURE X SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN THEATER TRANSPORTATION XOTHER (SPECIFY) Black History Local History

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

1925

According to the history of the church published for its one hundred and sixth anniversary in 1976, the church was first known as Pleasant View Methodist Episcopal Church. Although the date of the founding of the church is not known precisely, church historians estimate that it was begun in c. 1870. The congregation probably gathered first in houses of its members as did churches founded soon after emancipation by blacks throughout rural Maryland. In 1884 Lloyd Gibbs, one of the members of the church, purchased a tract of land of twenty-four acres (deed EBP 32/409). Two years later he and his wife, Sarah Gibbs, conveyed one acre to George T. Williams and the other trustees of the Pleasant View Methodist Episcopal Church (deed JA 9/399). At that time the small frame church was probably constructed. In the late 1880s the church doubled in use as the school for the black children of Clarksburg until construction of the schoolhouse was completed. In .924 this small frame church burned and was replaced by the present structure. In c. 1932, the name of the church was changed to John Wesley Methodist Church.

According to Ethel Foreman, the church hired two black contractors from Washington, D.C. or northern Virginia to construct the building. She believes that local men in the community may have helped haul bricks to the site but that the common laborers for the construction of the church were probably from Washington, D.C. She adds that there is a church in a black community in Spotsylvania County in northern Virginia that closely resembles this one and that may well have been built by the same contractor.

The brick construction and more architecturaly stylish design of the church indicate that blacks in Clarksburg were more prosperous than blacks in other communities in the survey area.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

M: 13-48

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Land Records of Montgomery County, County Courthouse, Rockville, Md. Deed: JA 9/399; EBP 32/409. Oral interview with Ethel Foreman (not taped) Feb-Mar. 1979 by George McDaniel, Clarksburg, Maryland. 106th Anniversary of John Wesley United Methodist Church, 22420 Frederick CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY Road, Clarksburg, Md. 20734 Private publication. **10**GEOGRAPHICAL DATA ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES STATE COUNTY STATE COUNTY **11** FORM PREPARED BY NAME / TITLE George McDaniel, Surveyor ORGANIZATION DATE Sugarloaf Regional Trails 7/79 TELEPHONE **STREET & NUMBER** Box 87 926-4510 CITY OR TOWN STATE Dickerson 20753 Marvland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust The Shaw House, 21 State Circle Annapolis, Maryland 21401 (301) 267-1438 ACHS SUMMARY FORM

M: 13-12 (date antras 5-4-2)

1. Name: Boyds Charge, Methodist Episcopal Church

- 2. Planning Area/Site Number: 10/58; 13/48 13/10; 18/11; 18/29
- Address: Hyattstown, Clarksburg,
- Boyds, & Gérmantown 5. Classification Summary

10/58-Map 1-J/19; 13/10-Map 7-A/4; 18/11-Map 6-G/4; 18/29-Map 13-K/2

3. M-NCPPC Atlas Reference:

CategorybuildingsPrevious Survey RecordingM-NCPPCOwnershipprivateTitle and Date:1976 Inventory ofPublic AcquisitionN/AHistorical SitesStatus 10/58-unoccupied; all others-occupiedFederalState X County X Local Present use religious

6. Date:

7. Original Owner:

8. Apparent Condition

b. с. a.

9. Description: St. Mark's is a 3 bay by 3 bay, 1¹/₂ story, white clapboard church on fieldstone foundations. The gable roof has a raised seam metal covering. A cemetery is behind the church.

John Wesley is a common-bonded brick church painted white with a brick foundation. The front facade presents 3 distinct, 1-bay sections, a 2stepped roofline, a higher gabled roof and a square tower. A cemetery is behind the church.

The Asbury Church is 4 bays by 3 bays of stucco-covered cinderblock. It has 3 distinct sections, the main church, a vestibule and a front porch, each having a gable roof covered with black asphalt shingles. A cemetery is on one side of the church.

Montgomery Chapel is a frame 1 bay by 2 bay clapboard structure on stone foundations. The gable roof is covered by corrugated tin roofing.

10. Significance: Small communities of blacks clustered together in Montgomery County shortly after the end of the Civil War. They established churches separate from, yet associated with local denominations which were at that time all white. Among these was the formation of the Washington Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, of which Francis Asbury Church, John Wesley Church, St. Mark's Church and Montgomery Chapel were a part. These four churches came to be referred as the Boyd's Charge, or circuit. The original St. Mark's Church in Boyds, for which the circuit was named, was a one room structure, which doubled as the school. In 1892 the present building replaced the original one. The adjacent parsonage was built in 1899 and remained in use until 1968. The John Wesley Church in Clarksburg, built in 1925, replaces a small frame structure which stood on the same site in 1878 and burned in 1924. The Francis Asbury Church, in Brownstown was built in 1959 on the site of the original 1885 church which burned down. The Montgomery Chapel near Hyattstown, dated 1871, is the oldest building of the group, and is the only one now without a congregation. School was held here and community meetings as well. In 1964 the church was abandoned.

Candy Reed 11. Researcher and date researched: Mark Walston-5/79 Arch. Description 13. Date Compiled: 10/79 14. Designation 12. Compiler: Margaret Coleman Approval____ 15. Acreage: 10/58-50 A.; 13/10-1 A.; 18/11-1 A.; 18/29-1.02 A.

Attachment Sheet A

M: 10.58 13/10 18/11 18/29

The north and south facade have four bays. The one-over-one casement windows have stained inner glass, capped by a double row of brick headers, and have cement lintels below. The windows at basement level are half size but also feature double rows of headers. The south side has a door at both ends. Dividing the bays and delineating the corners are square brick pilasters with a second level water course.

The roof is black asphalt shingle. There is a small cinderblock addition at the rear which is veneered with brick on the south facade. The rear (west) facade has a gable roof and a variety of apertures.

The treed, well-kept cemetery lies to the west of the church. The variety of stones and markers includes a round one.

IV. The four bay by three bay Asbury Church faces southwest on Black (18/29) Rock Road. The stucco-covered cinderblock church has three distinct sections, the main church, a vestibule, and a front porch. Each section has a gable roof covered with black asphalt shingle.

> The front double-door entrance is approached by four cement steps with an iron rail, and the wooden porch sign reads "ASBURY METHODIST CHURCH". There is a central exterior brick chimney at the rear of the church.

All windows are two-over-two, double-hung, with brick lintels. Windows on the sides of the main building are separated by square pilasters with slightly corbelled brick at the top. A marble cornerstone reads "ASBURY METHODIST CHURCH 1959".

The well-kent, treed cemetery is to the west of the church.

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M:12-43

Attachment Sheet B

М: 10/58 13/10 18/11 18/29 Magi #

church, which replaced the earlier building, is situated upon one acre of land granted to the trustees of St. Mark's Church for \$50 by Mary Delauder and her husband Edward in 1892.6 Construction was begun immediately, under the charge of Reverend Benjamin F. Myers, and the building was completed on September 24, 1893. The adjacent parsonage was constructed on the same acreage in 1899, under the pastorage of Reverend Daniel Wheeler; it remained in use until 1968. The church today remains as active a part of the community as it was at its inception.

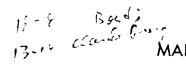
FOOTNOTES:

1 Montgomery County Land Records, JA 9/399.

- Montgomery County Corporation Records, Art. of Inc. PBR 2/285. Land Records, EBP 33/407 (October 15, 1884). Ibid., JA 9/222 (October 2, 1886). 2
- 3 4

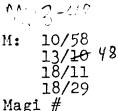
56 Montgomery County Mechanics Lein Docket, Volume 1/34. Land Records, JA 34/45 (August 5, 1892).

Name	Acreage	Liber/Folio_	Number
Rocky Hill Church c/o John Wesley United Methodist Church Box 1130 Clarksburg, Md. 20734	l acre	JA 9/399	13/10
Montgomery Chapel Maryland National- Capital Park & Planning Commission	50 acres	3361/414	10/5 8
Francis Asbury Methodist Episcopal Church at Brownstown and Order Gallilean Fishermen CR James Johnson Boyds, Md. 20720	1.02 acres	2327/561	18/29
St. Mark's United Methodist Church at Boyds	l acre	JA 34/45	18/11



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13-14 6	Bardi MARYLAND	HISTORICAL TR	UST		13/ 10 (18/11
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AND/OR COMMON	us charge, nethour				~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~
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DISTRICT	PUBLIC				MUSEUM
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	-BOTH PUBLIC ACQUISITION	•WORK IN PROGRESS			PRIVATE RESIDE
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•	BEING CONSIDERED	YES: UNRESTRICTED		INDUSTRIAL	TRANSPORTATIO
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-	F PROPERTY .	•			
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STREET & NUMBER			·		
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7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
EXCELLENT GOOD FAIR	DETERIORATED RUINS UNEXPOSED	UNALTERED ALTERED	ORIGINAL SITE MOVED DATE

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

I. Montgomery Chapel is a simple frame one bay by two bay clap-(10/58) boarded structure built on stone foundations. The gable roof is covered by corrugated tin roofing and the gable end faces the street. Double wooden paneled doors lead into this one room chapel. A stone chimney provided heat to the chapel.

II. St. Mark's is a three bay by three bay, one and a half story (18/11) church.

Built on fieldstone foundations, the church faces south and has white clapboarded exterior walls. The south (front) porch has four poured concrete steps, flanked by a black handrail which leads to the double wooden doors. These doors are set into a gabled projective pavilion in the south elevation.

There are one-over-one double-hung marbelized lancet windows. There is a round window in the south gable. The north apse has two, two-over-one double-hung stained glass lancet windows.

The gable roof has a raised seam metal covering. The south door opens into a small entry room. This room opens into a single large rectangular room. There are narrow and random width floor boards. There is tongue and groove wainscotting around the main room and the ceiling has acoustical tile with inset lights. Double wooden paneled doors open into the main room. There are rows of folding chairs. The altar rail, altar and podium are carved wood. There is a piano in the northeast corner. There is a "Monogram" stove on the east side of the room.

III. John Wesley is a (beige, common-bonded) church, painted white. (13/10) The church has a brick foundation below a vertical stretcher course at the above-ground entrance level. The east (front) facade presents three distinct one bay sections. From north to south, these are: a two stepped roofline with one-over-one casement window which has stained glass on the inner glaze; a higher gabled roof with roundedarch vertically-slender window on the third level, pointed-arch mullioned stained glass window on the second level, and a double door with two diamond pane glass windows on the first level; and the tower section, which has a one-over-one casement window with stained glass inner glaze and is capped at the third level with a square tower. The tower features corbelling in an inset on all four sides and within that (on south and east sides) a louvered pointed-arch window. The cement plaque at the foot of the tower reads "THE NEW JOHN WESLEY M.E. CHURCH WAS REDEEMED JUNE 11TH, 1932 REV. J. H. LEWIS, PASTOR".

There is a cement porch with six steps and an iron rail to serve a double door.

(Continued on Attachment Sheet A)

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY



1. 9-27

PERIOD	AF	REAS OF SIGNIFICANCE CH	ECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW	
-PREHISTORIC	ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	COMMUNITY PLANNING	LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	XRELIGION
_1400-1499	ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	CONSERVATION	LAW	SCIENCE
1500-1599	AGRICULTURE	ECONOMICS	LITERATURE	SCULPTURE
1600-1699	ARCHITECTURE	EDUCATION	MILITARY	SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
1700-1799	ART	ENGINEERING	MUSIC	THEATER
X 1800-1899	-COMMERCE	EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	PHILOSOPHY	TRANSPORTATION
X_1900-	COMMUNICATIONS	INDUSTRY	POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	OTHER (SPECIFY)
		INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Shortly after the Civil War, and the subsequent nationwide emancipation, there appeared in Montgomery County a number of small black enclaves. In conjunction with these communities churches were established separate from, yet peripherally associated with, the established white denominations. Among these was the formation of the Washington Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, of which Francis Asbury Church, John Wesley Church, St. Mark's Church and Montgomery Chapel were a part. These four churches came to be referred as the Boyd's Charge, or circuit.

The oldest of these churches appears to be John Wesley, located near Clarksburg at 22420 Frederick Road. The first church was erected upon this ites in 1878, and originally went under the name "Pleasant View." (A formal deed for the one acre church lot was not executed until 1886.)¹ A small plot of ground to the rear of the church was set aside for use as a cemetery. This church, a small frame structure, was destroyed by fire in 1924, and the following year was replaced by the present brick church building. The church was officially incorporated on February 20, 1932, and, at that time, the congregation changed the title to John Wesley Methodist Episcopal Church.²

The Montgomery Chapel, situated north of John Wesley Church on Frederick Road, in the vicinity of Hyattstown, is the second oldest church on the circuit, and is the oldest extant building of the four. The church, which bears the date 1871 on its main facade, is said to have been utilized by a Hyattstown congregation, at a different location. In 1884, George Butler granted to Henry Johnson, Benjmain Price, and John Gray, trustees, for the sum of \$10, 46 perches of "Resurvey on Wild Cat Spring", to be used as a place of worship, and the church building was then moved to this new site.³ Montgomery Chapel, as was common practice, doubled as a community meeting-house, and for a time was used as a school. The church closed in 1964, with the diminished congregation joining neighboring churches, and is currently abandoned.

The original Francis Asbury Church was constructed in 1885 on one acre of land on Black Rock Mill Road, near Germantown conveyed to the church trustees by William Brown. A formal deed for the property was not made until 1886 after the erection of the church building. The church, a one room frame building measuring 16' x 24', was constructed by James B. pleby.⁹ The community which the church served came to be known as Brownstown, in honor of William Brown. The church burned sometime in the 1950s, and the present church was built on its site in 1959.

The original St. Mark's Church in Boyds, for which the circuit was named, was a one room structure, which doubled as the school. The present CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

(continued on Attachment Sheet B)

M13-49

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Montgomery County Land Records, Mechanics Lien Docket, and Corporation Records

Sugarloaf Regional Trails, <u>Inventory of Historical Sites</u> (1977) work of Geraldine Berkman appearing in same

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY <u>See Attachment</u> Sheet B

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE .

STATE

COUNTY

COUNTY

FORM PREPARED BY NAME / TITLE Mark Walston	Candy Reed Architectural Description	
ORGANIZATION	DATE	
Sugarloaf Regional Trails	May 1979	
STREET & NUMBER	TELEPHONE	
Box 87	926-4510	
CITY OR TOWN	STATE	
Dickerson	Maryland 20753	

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

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RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust The Shaw House, 21 State Circle Annapolis, Maryland 21401 (301) 267-1438



John Wealy U. Methodiat church Facade 13-48 m-13-70-15 clarkabung 11/12 sum



Kongregation of Jhn Weolg united methodist church: Ladies of the church Clarksburg, Md. 11/22 Jour Martgage burning day, \$ 1944 13-48 m-+3-10-15 1111 collection of Ethel Foreman Clarksburg



Sancturary of John Wealy church clarkesburg md. 13-48 m-12-18-15 philo in collection of family philosop Ethil Foreman M-13-10-3



John Wesley United Methodist Auch Cemetery 13-48 M- 13-48 Clarkaburg 11/28 Sum