

at the request of William J. Grandison & Others, Trustees of the (Col<sup>d</sup>) M. E. Church  
near Martinsburg (Colledg<sup>d</sup> Dist.) the following Deed was recorded the 22<sup>d</sup> April 1876  
to wit:

This Deed made this twenty second day of January, in the year of  
our Lord, Eighteen Hundred and Seventy six, by us John Peter Bonie &  
Susan E. Bonie, his wife, both of Montgomery County, in the State of Maryland  
Witnesseth, that in Consideration of the sum of Fifty dollars, We, the said  
John P. Bonie & Susan E. Bonie, his wife, do grant, bargain and sell  
unto William J. Grandison, Isaac J. Warren & Almore Green, Trustees, and  
their successors, in fee simple, (in Trust, that the hereinafter described  
premises shall be used, kept, maintained & disposed of as a place of Divine  
worship, for the use of the Ministry & membership of the Methodist Episcopal  
Church in the United States of America, subject to the discipline, usage and  
ministerial appointments of said Church, as from time to time authorized and declared  
by the General Conference of said <sup>Church</sup> and the Annual Conference in whose bounds  
the said premises are situated) all that lot or parcel of land, being part of a  
tract of land called "John's Delight," or by whatsoever name the same may be known  
and being part of a parcel of land heretofore conveyed by Catharine E. Walker  
to John P. Bonie, and also being part of a parcel of land conveyed by Tho<sup>s</sup>  
Reid & Sophia Reid, his wife & by William Reid and Ann T. Reid, his wife &  
by Alonzo Reid & Sarah A. Reid, his wife and by John Reid & Elizabeth  
Reid, his wife & by James Reid, situated, lying & being in said Montgomery  
County - And is bounded as follows, Beginning at a Stone heretofore  
planted near the public road leading from Coolsville to White<sup>s</sup> Ferry  
running N 56<sup>2</sup>° W, 11.93 ps; then N 16° E, 12.10 Ps; thence S 74° E, 11.25 ps; thence  
S 16° W, 16 ps to the beginning, <sup>containing</sup> One acre.

Witness our hands and seals the day & year first herein before written  
John P. Bonie (Seal)  
Susan E. Bonie (Seal)

State of Maryland, Montgomery County, to wit:-

I hereby Certify, that on this 22<sup>d</sup> day of January A. D. 1876, before  
me, the Subscriber, a Justice of the Peace of the said State, in & for the said  
County, personally appeared John P. Bonie & Susan E. Bonie, his wife  
& acknowledged the annexed deed to be their respective act.  
Geo Donohoe J. P.

At the request of Ann Butler & her Children the following Deed was recorded  
the 24<sup>th</sup> April 1876, to wit:-

This Deed made this 20<sup>th</sup> day of March 1876, by Vachel Duffie and  
Ann E. Duffie, his wife, of Montgomery County, State of Maryland,  
Witnesseth, that for and in Consideration of the sum of Fifty Dollars, in  
hand paid, the said Vachel Duffie and Ann E. Duffie, his wife, do  
grant in fee simple, unto Ann Butler and her Children of the said County  
and State, all that piece or parcel of land situated in Montgomery



This grave marker is on Meetinghouse Road, J...

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

Mont. : 16-12-19  
 Warren M.E. Church  
 Martinsburg, Maryland 20753 1903  
 Private

This handsome one story frame church consists of a principal block of three bays in depth, each one containing gothic arch windows. To the gable-end facade was added a vestibule with gothic motifs in the 1930's. The church stands on a tract, purchased in 187<sup>6</sup>, <sup>a</sup> tract that <sup>is</sup> probably among the oldest Black church properties still in use in the state.



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Churches, Methodist  
Warren M.E. Church  
Martinsburg



Mont., 16-12-82  
19

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

Magi #

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC Warren M.E. Church

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER North Side of White's Ferry Road

CITY, TOWN

Martinsburg

— VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

8

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Montgomery

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 type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input checked="" 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	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<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	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Colored Methodist Episcopal

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER 22625 Whites Ferry Road

CITY, TOWN

Dickerson

— VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 20753

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

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

Liber #: EBP 15

Folio #: 10

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE MACPPC

DATE

— FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

M.H.T.

STATE

CITY, TOWN

Annapolis,

MD.



# 7 DESCRIPTION

AGNIF

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input 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

This handsome church stands at the heart of the Martinsburg community. In front of it (south) runs White's Ferry Road. About fifteen yards west stands the Martinsburg school, and behind that is the Love and Charity Hall. These are the only non-residential buildings that remain of old Martinsburg, and they were the heart of the historical community.

The church is one story in height with a tall gable roof and is three bays in length. The line of the roof runs north-south. The facade is the southern gable end. To it has been added a handsome vestibule with tower in the 1930's, according to Lemuel Graham, (who was born in 1894 in Martinsburg, and who has been a life long member of the church). The vestibule contains double doors that have been brightly painted red, and gothic arch windows form the transom above. Into the tower was set a smaller gothic window of similar design. This gothic motif was continued in each of the windows along the length, which were added about twenty five or thirty years ago, replacing large windows with double hung sashes containing four over four panes.

The structure is frame, and the timbers are sheathed with weatherboards that have been painted white. The tin roof is painted silver. The gothic windows are colored in pastel patterns, and the result is a modest, well-kept and attractive church.

Inside, the walls are plastered and painted tan. They contain beaded tongue and groove wainscoting topped with molded chair rails. The ceiling is sheathed with plain tongue and groove siding, popular to the turn of the 19th century. In the nave are aisles of handsome oak pews, which date from the 1920's, according to Lemuel Graham. The older ones were removed at the time and used in the Love and Charity Hall. Some of these are outside in the church yard and were photographed as part of the survey.

According to Graham, a carpenter, Scott Bell, was hired by the congregation to build this church. Apparently the community was pleased with his workmanship, since they hired him to build the Love and Charity Hall about a decade later. He also built the St. Paul's Community Church in Sugarland, which has been recorded also as part of this survey. Compare the two structures in the photographs.



# SIGNIFICANCE

## AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

PERIOD	__ ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	__ COMMUNITY PLANNING	__ LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
__ PREHISTORIC	__ ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	__ CONSERVATION	__ LAW	__ SCIENCE
__ 1400-1499	__ AGRICULTURE	__ ECONOMICS	__ LITERATURE	__ SCULPTURE
__ 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	__ EDUCATION	__ MILITARY	__ SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
__ 1600-1699	__ ART	__ ENGINEERING	__ MUSIC	__ THEATER
__ 1700-1799	__ COMMERCE	__ EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	__ PHILOSOPHY	__ TRANSPORTATION
__ 1800-1899	__ COMMUNICATIONS	__ INDUSTRY	__ POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-		__ INVENTION		

Black History

SPECIFIC DATES                      1903                      BUILDER/ARCHITECT                      Scott Bell

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This church stands on historic grounds in the Martinsburg community. The deed, L/F: E.B.P. 15/10, shows that this tract of one acre was purchased in 1876 by William Grandison, Isaac P. Warren, and Gilmore Green as Trustees of the Colored M.E. Church from John Peter Bowie and his wife Susan for fifty dollars.

The church was not built on the site at that time. Oral informant, Lemuel Graham, recalls that the first building was situated on the hill by the church cemetery in Martinsburg, which is still in use. He knows that the church was "very old", but did not hear when it was built. Probably in the 1890's, it was moved from that hilltop site to this one. However, in 1903 this early church (which had resembled the original design of the present one) was torn down and this one built. This date is confirmed by the cornerstone. This church was not shown on the Hopkins' Atlas of 1879 either at the current site or by the cemetery.

The church was named after Isaac P. Warren, one of the Trustees who purchased the site. It stands on a tract that is among the very old Black church properties still in use in the state. The church has a rich oral history, which ought to be recorded, along with any written documents that could list, date or identify, past members of the historical church for future genealogical or community history studies.



# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Land Records: Montgomery County Courthouse  
Hopkins Atlas, Montgomery County, G.M. Hopkins. 1879

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

# 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 W. McDaniel

6/78

ORGANIZATION

Sugarloaf Regional Trails

DATE

926-4510

STREET & NUMBER

Box 87

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Dickerson

STATE

Maryland

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~~

SUGARLOAF REGIONAL TRAILS  
Box 87, Stronghold  
Dickerson, Md. 20753  
(301) 926-4510





GRANGE UNITARY  
BETHLEHEM CHURCH

REV. P. J. POOLIDGE



Warren M.E. Church

facade: south, and school  
with home & charity Hall in  
background

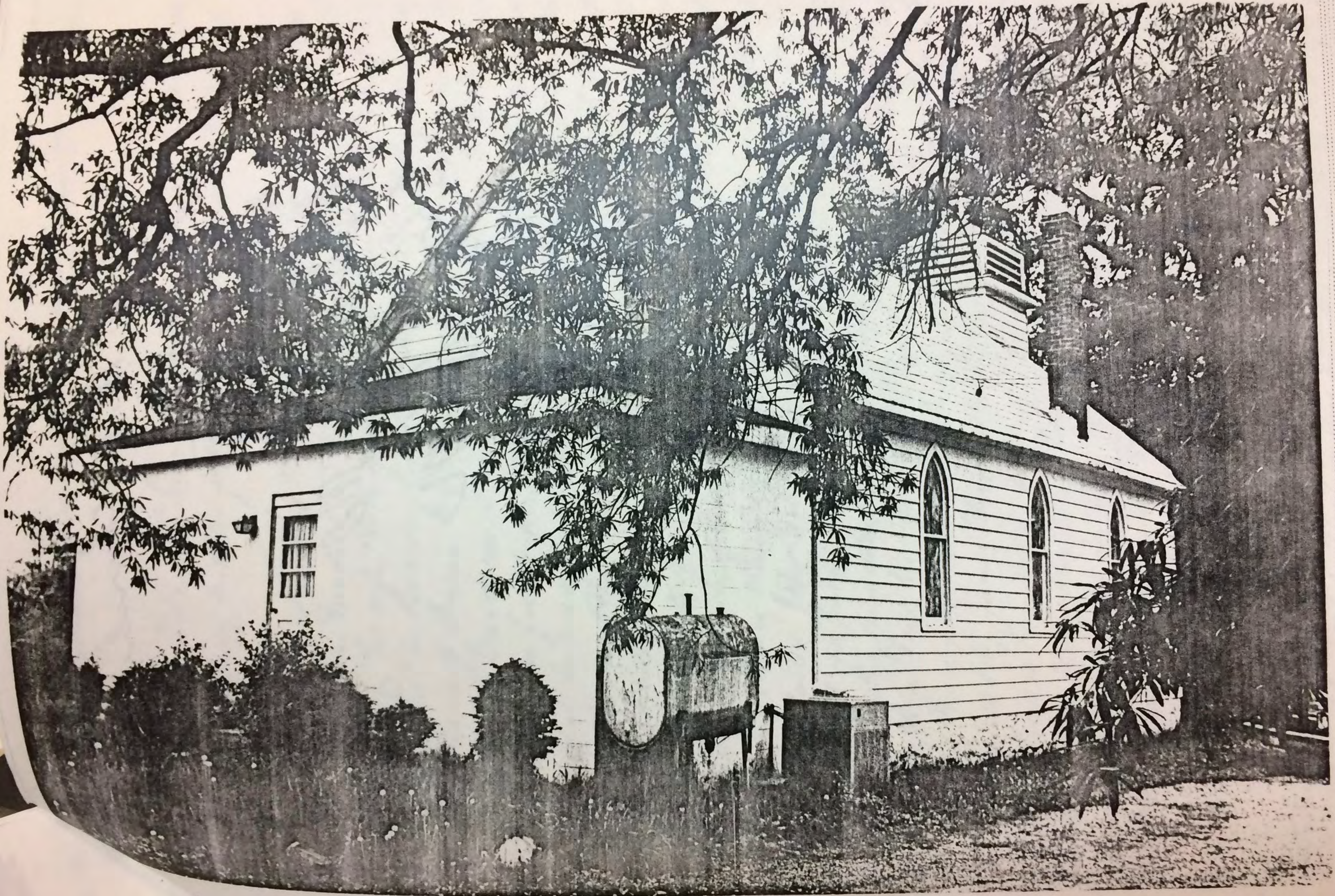
M-16-12-29

Martinsburg, Md.

6/78 GWM

2-1953 #9a







Warren M. E. Church

N. W. elevation

M-16-12-19

Martinsburg, Mo.

6/78 BWM

2-19533 106



WARREN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
22625 WHITES FERRY ROAD, DICKERSON, MD 20842

### HISTORY OF OUR CHURCH

One summer day not too long ago, I had the privilege of talking with some elderly people, who are still living, who knew about our church that stood on the hill of the old Naylor property, where our cemetery is now. This property was given by Nathan Naylor for the purpose of a church and cemetery. I was also told that the church was moved from that spot to this present site on rolls and skids drawn by oxen. That church was a two-story building. The upper level was used as a social and lodge hall; the lower level was where they held worship services.

This plot of land was purchased in the year of our Lord, January 22, 1876, being a part of land called John's Delight, bought from John P. Bowie and Susan Bowie, his wife, by William Grandison, Isaac P. Warren, and Gilmore Green, trustees and their successors, under the pastorate of Rev. H. C. Arnold for the sum of \$50. For the purpose of divine worship for the use of the ministry and membership of the then-called Warren Methodist Episcopal Church. We assume that Isaac Warren must have been the first one to pass, therefore, this present church was named in his memory. It was first called Warren Methodist Episcopal, later Warren Methodist, now called Warren United Methodist Church.

This present church was built in the year of our Lord 1903 at the cost of \$150, people furnishing the material. The builder deducted \$10 from the cost as a contribution, down payment was \$25. This building was 28 x 40 x 12.

Many of the old patriarchs have long since passed on from works to reward. Today we cherish the wonderful works of their hands and are still enjoying the fruits of their labor, as we commemorate them. We feel sure they are somewhere on the plains of an un-cloudy glory, looking this way, waiting and watching for our coming. Some of the old patriarchs are as follows: Ministers Rev. H. C. Arnold, Rev. Washington, Rev. J. S. Cole, Rev. Walter Dorsey, Rev. John Roan, Rev. Walter Williams, Rev. John Morris, Rev. Howard Wallace, Rev. Joseph Stanley, Rev. William Lee, Rev. Luther Brown, Rev. George Allen, Rev. Pearlina Woolridge, Revs. Odell & Alice Carr. All are deceased now except Rev. Luther Brown, Rev. Walter Williams, Rev. George Allen, Rev. Pearlina Woolridge, and Rev. Alice Carr.

We installed electricity during Rev. Morris's stay, renovated the old school, made a dining hall and added the kitchen, also recarpeted the pulpit, put in stained windows, oil heaters and an electric organ during Rev. William Lee's stay. During Rev. George Allen's stay we put in plumbing and added bathrooms, put in a ten-burner cooking range, central heating and air conditioning, Pastor's study, aluminum siding, carpet, new altar and railing, brick planters, and walks. During Rev. Pearlina Woolridge's stay we installed chandeliers, pulpit furniture and carpeting. In 1979 Rev. Odell and Rev. Alice Carr were sent to us. Rev. Odell Carr passed shortly after entering their fourth year, and Rev. Alice Carr completed his term. While they were with us, we did interior and exterior decorating in both the church building and the community house, painted and put up wrought iron railings. While our present pastor, Rev. Homer Bullett, has been with us, we have redecorated the community house, painted the church roof and installed siding, ceiling fans and air conditioning in the dining hall. We have purchased pew cushions and new Communion ware.

Past Trustees, now deceased are: William Gradison, Isaac Warren, Gilmore Green, Isaac Graham, John H. Dorsey, Charles W. Thompson, Otho M. Thompson, Patrick Dorsey, Lewis Brooks, Jacob Beners, Charles Johnson, Frederick Dorsey, Robert Fairfax, Benjamin Graham, Stephen Warren, Obie Dorsey, Claybourne Graham, Leonard Coleman, Allen Thomas, John Thompson, Jr., Hanson Johnson. There is a land of pure delight where saints immortal reign. present Trustees are: Clara Hebron, John Thompson, Sr., Myrtle Thomas, Seymour Thomas, Pauline Bell, Lorraine Bell, and Florence Randolph.

We are now under new leadership. Rev. Lawrence K. Bropleh is our new pastor. He is young and well-educated, an excellent speaker, and has a great singing voice. In 1991, because of his great leadership, we increased our membership. A young adult choir was formed. Remodeling was done on our kitchen and bathroom. The interior of the church has been beautifully painted. Landscaping was done on the church grounds.

Enrollment began to decline in 1992 and due to financial problems Warren has agreed to merge with Mt. Zion United Methodist Church. We will make new friends and be reunited with old friends. Together we hope to reach all of our goals.

John Thompson, Sr. Historian

Elsie Thomas, Asst. Historian

CHURCHES - METHODIST  
WARREN UNITED METHODIST



*Warren Historic Site Committee, Inc.*

*Celebrates*

*2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Historic Homecoming*

*at*

*Warren Historic Site  
22625 Whites Ferry Road  
Dickerson, Md 20842*

*Sunday, July 28, 2002*



*11:00 AM..... Rev. Gertrude Green  
Mt. Olivet United Methodist Church, Catonsville, Maryland*

*3:00 PM..... Rev. Lawrence Bryant  
Pleasant Grove Christian Community Church, Damascus, MD*



**From The President**  
**“ Directing Our Steps By Faith “**

**Dear Warren Historic Site Committee and Friends,**

I greet you in the precious name of Jesus Christ, our Lord. This Historic Homecoming is a blessed occasion in which we gather in praise of His Holy name and when families and friends can feel the warmth of each other's presence. We recall old memories and meet the new additions of our families. We thank God for the opportunity to celebrate our 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Historic Homecoming.

When we look back over the many years we remember the importance of this historic site. It is the only site in the state of Maryland that has the three institutions still standing on one plot of land. The schoolhouse was built in 1886, where our parents and forefathers were educated. The Loving Charity Hall was built in 1914. This building was used to raise funds for the uninsured members of the community in order to have a decent burial. The hall was also used for community meetings, plays, movies and other recreational activities. The Warren Church has always been the main focal point for our family life as we gathered in the name of the Lord and Savior to fellowship and to worship.

As we celebrate this historic day our theme is “ Directing Our Steps By Faith,”. Surely God will direct our steps day by day as we live as a family together in God's wonderful Creation. We must continue to work in unity because “Together we stand, divided we fall “.

It is our responsibility that we are mindful of our moral and spiritual inheritance, without this we will not be able to pass this heritage to our generations. Let us continue to Restore God's Buildings and that He be glorified in our lives.

**Elsie L. Thomas, President**



## History Highlights of Martinsburg, Maryland

1866 – Martinsburg was a strong bi-racial community because many freed slaves remained there and worked as farmers, farm laborers and craftsmen.

1866 – Nathan Nailor, a free black man, purchased 97 acres of land for \$1,141.00 from John Bowie and his wife Susan. Mr. Nailor sold a plot to the trustees of the church they were getting ready to build in 1876. They were William Grandison, Isaac Warren and Gilmore Green, Pastor Rev. H.C. Arnold for \$50.00.

1876 – Census records show the Green, Peters, Warren, Ridout, Thompson families and others were owners of small plots of land 5 to 10 acres in Martinsburg. The church was moved to this site by oxen rolling it on logs down the hills to this site.

1903 – This new church building was built by Scott Bell of Poolesville. It was named for Isaac Warren a community leader.

1880 – School was opened in the church.

1886 – The first school house was built near the church.

1899 – The school was deeded to the county. It was called Elmer School, grades 1 – 5. \$200.00 was appropriated for the teacher's annual salary but was used to build the schoolhouse.

1914 – The Love and Charity Hall was built by Scott Bell of Poolesville. Mr. Bell donated \$10.00 when he built the church. The school, church, and hall, all on the same plot of land is the only historic spot in the state of Maryland that has the three most important buildings in a community.

20<sup>th</sup> Century – There were about 40 homesteads in Martinsburg. The community developed along two road junctions, Martinsburg and White's Ferry Roads. There was a store, post office, and a blacksmith shop owned by John Peters. The old cemetery of the first church remains on the hill of the first church. The property adjoining the old cemetery has been donated for a new cemetery. Many blacks also lived on Trundle Road and Club Hollow Road.



1993 - Warren United Methodist Church was merged with Mt. Zion United Methodist near Barnesville on Route 109. This was 127 years after Martinsburg Church's inception.

1993 - 94 - Mr. John Thompson, Sr. and Mrs. Elsie Bell Thomas showed interest in saving their old church, school, and hall. They were falling into disrepair. Elsie Bell Thomas interceded with Mary Gardner of the Montgomery County Historic Preservation Commission to see what could be done to save the buildings on this site.

1997 - Elsie Bell Thomas and Rev. Laurence Bropleh of Mt. Zion - Warren United Methodist Church initiated the Committee to save the buildings on this site. The committee members are listed on the back of this program.

There have been many fundraisers to fund the extensive repairs that have to be made at this site. There were musical extravaganzas, grants, dinners and donations from friends who were interested and committee members. Homecoming programs have been held in the church. The project has been noted in local newspapers and TV stations.

2001 - This committee was ready to purchase this site from Mt. Zion-Warren United Methodist Church. They had raised the proper amount of money to purchase this site. There is still much work to be done to save this important historic site. The committee is hoping to revive this little church and use the hall and school for many community activities.

Submitted by;  
Mrs. Nina H. Clarke, Historian



# " Directing Our Steps by Faith "

Mistress of Ceremonies  
Guest Speaker

Mrs. Shirley M. Allen  
Rev. Gertrude Green

Mt. Olivet United Methodist Church,  
823 Edmondson, Ave. Catonsville, Md 21228

## 11:00 AM - Service

Prelude

\* Processional Hymn of Praise

Guest Choir

\* Call to Worship:

We kneel before the father, from whom his whole family in Heaven and on Earth derives his name.

We pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen us with power through His Spirit.

So that Christ may dwell in our hearts through faith.

That we may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ.

\* Opening Hymn

Leaning on the Everlasting Arms

Scripture

Mrs. Suzie Johnson

Silence in Memory of Deceased Members of Warren Church and the Martinsburg Community.

*Mary Abie Jones / Viola Wamen*

Morning Prayer

Rev. George Allen

Choral Response

Guest Choir

Welcome

Mr. Ray Reese

Selections

Guest Choir

Introduction of Guest Speaker

Mrs. Shirley Allen

\* Hymn of Preparation

Guest Choir

Sermon

Rev. Gertrude Green

\* Invitation to Christian Discipleship

Rev. Gertrude Green

Offering

Finance Committee

\* Offertory

Acknowledgment of Visitors and Announcements

Mrs. Shirley Allen

Remarks

Mrs. Yvonne T. Copeland

\* Closing Hymn

Guest Choir

\* Benediction / Blessing of Food

Rev. George Allen

## Special Thanks

Special thanks to Rev. Gertrude Green, choir, congregation, MC. Mrs. Shirley Allen, Rev. George Allen, ushers and all that have participated. We thank all of you for your presence and support in helping us make this our "Second Annual Historic Homecoming A Success."

A meal will be served following this service.

\* Please Stand

*→ I come that you might have life, and have it more abundantly  
→ being a steward  
→ showing love  
God, Here Am I*



## " Directing Our Steps By Faith "

Mistress of Ceremonies  
Guest Speaker

Mrs. Elsie L. Thomas  
Rev. Lawrence Bryant

Pleasant Grove Christian Community Church  
11225 Mountain View Rd. Damascus, Md. 20872

### 3:00 PM - Service

Prelude

\* Processional Hymn of Praise

Guest Choir

\* Call to Worship:

This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.  
This is none other than the house of the Lord, and this is  
the Gate of Heaven.

The hour is coming, and now is, when true worshipers will worship him  
Father in spirit and truth, for such the Father seeks to worship him.0

Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise !  
Give thanks to him, bless his name.

\* Opening Hymn

Blessed Assurance  
Ms. Pauline Bell

Scripture

Silence in Memory of Deceased Members of the Warren Church  
and the Martinsburg Community.

Evening Prayer

Rev. Howard Copeland III  
Guest Choir

Choral Response

Mrs. Yvonne T. Copeland  
Guest Choir

Welcome

Selections

Mrs. Myra Mack

Introduction of Guest Speaker

Guest Choir

\* Hymn of Preparation

Rev. Lawrence Bryant

Sermon

Rev. Lawrence Bryant

\* Invitation to Christian Discipleship

Finance Committee

Offering

\* Offertory

Acknowledgment of Visitors and Announcements

Mrs. Elsie L. Thomas

Remarks

Mrs. Elsie L. Thomas

\* Closing Hymn

Guest Choir

\* Benediction

Rev. Lawrence Bryant

### Special Thanks

Special thanks to Rev. Lawrence Bryant, choir, congregation, ushers and  
all who have participated. We thank all of you for your presence and  
support in helping to make this our "Second Annual Historic  
Homecoming A Success.

\* Please Stand



*~ Directing Our Steps by Faith ~*  
*~ Warren Historic Site Committee, Inc. ~*

*~ Officers ~*

<i>Elsie L. Thomas</i>	<i>President</i>
<i>Gloria Crampton</i>	<i>Secretary</i>
<i>Yvonne T. Copeland</i>	<i>Treasurer</i>
<i>Nina H. Clarke</i>	<i>Historian</i>
<i>Otho Thompson</i>	<i>Legal Advisor</i>

*~ Members ~*

<i>Shirley Allen</i>	<i>Suzie Johnson</i>
<i>Barbara Ambush</i>	<i>Richard King</i>
<i>Pauline Bell</i>	<i>Myra Mack</i>
<i>Diane Boyd</i>	<i>George Nailor</i>
<i>Lawrence Coleman</i>	<i>George Parker</i>
<i>Steven Cooper</i>	<i>Ray Reese</i>
<i>Vicki Custis</i>	<i>Barbara Talley</i>
<i>Bertha Cuthberson</i>	<i>Harriett Tapps</i>
<i>Delores Davis</i>	<i>Emma Thomas</i>
<i>Dorothy Fardan</i>	<i>John Thomas</i>

*~ THANKS To All ~*

*Once more we, the Warren Historic Site Committee, take pleasure in extending thanks to our families and friends for their support. A special thanks to our visiting pastors, congregations, and other visitors for being with us. Last but not least, thanks to our committee members who worked so hard and faithfully to make this 2nd Annual Homecoming a Success.*



# A purchase to preserve history

by Kristen Milton

Staff Writer

Elsie Thomas still remembers her feeling of pained shock on finding the lock changed on the tiny Martinsburg church she attended for decades.

"That was a hurting thing," the Poolesville resident said Thursday, sitting in a pew at Warren United Methodist Church. Then with a smile as bright as her yellow dress she shook what she calls her "\$10,000 keys" in front of her, secure in the knowledge that she can now enter whenever she wants.

Ten thousand dollars is the price the Warren Historical Site Committee paid last month for a tiny piece of property containing more than a century of upcounty — and especially African American — history.

The White's Ferry Road property holds three separate buildings that once made it the heart of Martinsburg, a tiny African American town now numbering about a dozen homes. There is Warren United Methodist Church, built in 1903; Loving Charity Hall, built in 1914; and a one-room schoolhouse that served generations of children, built in 1886 and used into the 1930s.

The historical site committee began meeting in 1997, three years after Warren United Methodist Church merged with Dickerson's Mt. Zion Methodist Church due to dwindling membership. The group wanted to maintain the no-longer-used buildings, perhaps even restore them. Then last year the merged church approached them about buying the land.

"They could no longer maintain both sites due to financial difficulties," said Thomas, the committee president.



Dan Gross/The Gazette

Members of the Warren Historical Site Committee sit inside the Warren United Methodist Church, which they recently purchased.

**"There was a sense of people forgetting where this community stood in the past and if they had the reminder of what happened here — the way the community came together, the black and the whites — ... I think it will begin to flourish."**

— Ray Reese

The group reacted with mixed feelings.

"I was happy to be able to open that door when I wanted but I was sad because it felt like they were selling us our own property," Thomas said.

"I was skeptical," said Richard "Calvin" King of Dickerson, one of about a dozen active site committee members. "[But] if we had not purchased it someone else would and we didn't want to lose the property."

Ray Reese said he felt it was their "responsibility" to buy the land and the group was soon of "one accord" on the issue.

"Praise the Lord," Thomas said from the pew in front of him, raising her hands slightly.

The year was spent fund-raising

through grant applications, individual donations, dinners and gospel extravaganzas. The sale was formalized in July — 13 months after the idea was first mentioned.

Now that they own the buildings, the committee can move with more freedom into its restoration projects. In 1999 the Warren site was put on the county's list of the 10 most endangered historic sites by the Historic Preservation Commission and Montgomery Preservation Inc. and there has been some progress though much remains to be done.

In September a service organization will try to stabilize Loving Charity Hall, and in October a new brick sign will be dedicated in front of the church. The committee is continually seeking grants and maintenance assistance from both local businesses and state organizations. They need painting, plumbing and landscape help, for example.

The buildings tell "a whole history of Martinsburg, Poolesville and the people who lived here," Reese said. "There was a sense of people forgetting where this community stood in the past and if they had the reminder of what happened here — the way the community came together, the black and the whites — ... I think it will begin to flourish."

The first priority is Loving Charity, the most severely dilapidated of the buildings. A recent feasibility study estimated it would take \$300,000 to \$500,000 to restore the hall, which hosted lectures, plays and youth dances in the 1950s, to a usable condition.

That is a lot of money but the com-

mittee is determined to find it. They envision a day when the collection of buildings will draw people in — rented out for weddings and family reunions, hosting field trips, offering speakers on various topics and serving as a museum.

The reason for their effort is as basic as the 9-month-old girl Thomas bounced on her knee, her first granddaughter, said Reese, a Poolesville resident who moved to the area in 1977.

"Her grandchild there can say, 'I'm a proud part of this history'... and hopefully it will motivate them to keep it going, not to let it get to be falling down again, to instill in them ... the pride in that," he paused, then ended. "That's my goal anyway."

"The committee's goal," Thomas agreed.

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