

## MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

1606544708

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Seneca C.M.E. Church

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Violet's Lock Road

CITY, TOWN

Seneca

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Montgomery

**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**

(ruins)

NAME

Frank Davis

Telephone #:

STREET &amp; NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Chevy Chase

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Montgomery County Courthouse

Liber #:

Folio #:

STREET &amp; NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Rockville

STATE

Maryland

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

\_FEDERAL \_STATE \_COUNTY \_LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

# 7 DESCRIPTION

M:24-28

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

This is a small, clapboard structure in ruinous condition. It has the dimensions and appearance of a typical, one-room schoolhouse, and presently lacks any features that indicate it was ever a church. Entrance is in the (west) gable facade.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

M:24-28

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 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 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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" 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

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

(See research notes by A.J. Asire for Sugarloaf Regional Trails, 1976.)

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

- 1) Sugarloaf Regional Trails (research by A.J. Asire, 1976)

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		Michael F. Dwyer, Senior Park Historian	
ORGANIZATION	M-NCPPC	DATE	2/28/75
STREET & NUMBER	8787 Georgia Ave.	TELEPHONE	589-1480
CITY OR TOWN	Silver Spring	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

1. Name of Landmark: Seneca C.M.E. Church
2. Location: On Violet's Lock Road in Seneca, Maryland.
3. Present use: Not in use as a church.
4. Owner: Frank Davis of Chevy Chase, Maryland.
5. Date or period built: Around 1900.
6. Architectural description: A weathered clapboard building. The roof has caved in and the windows are missing.
7. Builder: The men of the congregation.
8. Original owner: Colored Methodist Episcopal Conference of Richmond, Virginia.
9. Historic association: The church was an important part of the black community of Seneca which centered around the employment provided at the sandstone quarry owned by the U.S. government. The church was built by the men of the congregation; prior to that time the congregation worshiped in private homes. A schoolhouse which is no longer standing was located next to the church as is the cemetery. The Colored Methodist Episcopal Church was the black division of the Southern Methodist Church which after Reconstruction split from the main body of Methodists. In 1941, when the congregation built their new church on Berryville Road, they severed their relationship with the C.M.E. church. Mrs. Harriet Driver was a member of the congregation. She was a midwife for the community and died in 1951 at the age of 115.
10. Bibliography:
  1. Interview with Mrs. Clara Green, daughter of Mrs. Driver.
  2. Interview with Mrs. Mamie Beckwith Payton, niece of Mrs. Green.
  3. Interview with Mr. Milton Clipper, elder of the Community Church.
  4. Interview with the Rev. Walter F. Williams, retired Methodist minister.
11. Researcher: Arydce J. Asire  
402 New Mark Esplanade  
Rockville, Maryland 20850

M: 24-28

M: 24-28  
Seneca Colored Methodist Episcopal Church  
Seneca Quad, 1968, PR 1980

