



HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION FREDERICK COUNTY, MARYLAND

30 North Market Street, Third Floor Frederick, Maryland 21701 (301) 600-1147



CASE NO. DOE 23-03 DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY TO COUNTY REGISTER STAFF REPORT

SUMMARY

Property: Buckeystown United Methodist Church
6923 Michaels Mill Road, Buckeystown

Applicant: Pastor David Fossett

Public Hearing for consideration of determining the property located at 6923 Michaels Mill Road, Buckeystown United Methodist Church, eligible for the Frederick County Register of Historic Places. Originally submitted by former Pastor Derek Shackelford and supported by current Pastor David Fossett.

The public hearing for the determination of eligibility to the Frederick County Register of Historic Places will be held at 6:30 p.m., or thereafter, on October 16, 2023.



Figure 1: Subject Property outlined in blue.

DESIGNATION STATUS

The property is listed on the Maryland Inventory of Historic Places (MIHP) as the Buckeystown Methodist Church F-1-71. It is also included in the Buckeystown National Register Historic District F-1-29 as a contributing structure. The property contains the church. The nominated property encompasses approximately 0.344 acres of land.

SUPPORTING MATERIALS

A completed County Register nomination form, maps, a statement of significance, and photographs were submitted. Staff assisted with writing the architectural and historical description of the property.

SITE VISITS

Site visits were at the convenience of the Commissioner's schedule since the building is visible the public right-of-way.

REVIEW CONSIDERATIONS

1) Analysis

The architectural and historical significance of the Buckeystown United Methodist Church is documented in the supporting materials. The property is associated with the African American history. Based on the information provided, Staff finds the property is eligible for listing under Criteria 6B(1A), 6B(1D), and 6B(2A).

2) History Summary

The Buckeystown United Methodist Church building was built in 1900 and rebuilt in 1930. However, the congregation is most likely much older than the extant building. The 1873 Titus Atlas of Frederick County indicates there was a "Colored" Methodist Church on Manor Woods Road, just west of the main intersection in Buckeystown. Deed record searches of this former church did not produce an ownership record that showed church ownership. The church may have been built on land that was owned by the Buckeystown Protestant Methodist Church which would explain why no deed history has been found. Records of the current building show that a deed was recorded on October 15, 1898 between William and S. Ella Baker (Grantors) to the Buckeystown Church of the Washington Annual Conference, Buckeystown Circuit, Frederick County (Grantee). The church has retained ownership of the lot ever since. In early 1900s Washington Conference minutes, Buckeystown is described as having four properties plus one

parsonage. The parsonage is located next to the current church, but the other two properties are currently not known. Further research is necessary. In its beginning years all Methodist churches in the United States were referred to as Methodist Episcopal. However, divisions occurred beginning in 1787 when some African Americans left to form the African Methodist Episcopal Church and the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church. Other divisions occurred in 1830 and again in 1844 forming the Methodist Protestant and Methodist Episcopal, South churches, respectively. However, unification between several of the branches and the Evangelical United Brethren was proposed and accepted in 1968, thus creating the United Methodist. Additional research about the Buckeystown United Methodist Church's history still needs to be completed to create a fuller picture of the people and events associated with this church. The period of significance for this property is 1930 when the building was rebuilt.

3) Historic, Archaeological, and Cultural Significance Criteria

The property is eligible for listing under this category for meeting criteria 6B(1A) and 6B(1D) as outlined in Chapter 1-23-6B(1) of the Frederick County Code:

- 6B(1A): *The property has significant character, interest, or value as part of development, heritage, or cultural characteristics of the county, state, or nation.*
- 6B(1D): *The property exemplifies cultural, economic, social, political, or historic heritage of the county and its communities.*

The property has significant character, interest, and value in the development and heritage of the County and exemplifies cultural, economic, social, and historic heritage of the African American community. The church plays an important role in the lives of African Americans who lived in and around Buckeystown. It not only served a religious purpose but also a social one where the local African American community could come together and gather. The church was often the centerpiece of African American culture. In Buckeystown, it was the only Black church with the Black school located next door. Together they are reminders of the early institutions that African Americans built and funded following the Civil War and Reconstruction. The property maintains a high level of integrity of setting, location, feeling, workmanship, materials, and design. With future research into the church and its people, the historic and cultural significance can be expanded.

4) Architectural and Design Significance Criteria

The property is eligible under this category for meeting criteria 6B(2A) as outlined in Chapter 1-23-6B(2) of Frederick County Code:

- 6B(2A): *The property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or architecture.*

The Buckeystown United Methodist Church is an excellent example of Gothic Revival style architecture. It embodies characteristics of steeply pitched roofs, pointed-arch windows, horizontal cladding, and fishscale shingles. The building can convey its historic architectural character through these characteristics as well as the form and mass of the building.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the Buckeystown United Methodist Church be determined eligible for designation to the Frederick County Register of Historic Places pursuant to Criterion 6B(1A), 6B(1D), and 6B(2A) as described in Section 1-23-6B of the County Code.