

S-537

Asbury M. E. Church

Mt. Vernon vicinity

1897

Private

The Asbury M. E. Church is a local landmark in the community of Mt. Vernon on what was formerly known as Hungary Neck in northern Somerset County. Built atop a sizable sand hill in 1897, the church follows the prevailing Gothic Revival style that influenced religious architecture across the region during the Victorian era. Pointed arch colored glass windows marks the asymmetrical elevations, and a multi-level entrance and bell tower accents the southeast corner of the ell-shaped plan. The interior survives with original tongue-and-groove beaded board ceilings and decorated trusses that span the depth of the sanctuary. Quatrefoil shaped cut outs enhance the yellow pine trusses that have integrated iron tie rods. The front entrance vestibule retains vertical beaded board walls and ceiling as well as a paint decorated and grained four-panel door. A marble datestone set in the southwest corner of the church foundation documents the year of its construction.

The Asbury congregation was established around 1870 when trustee's minutes record plans to build a church on land conveyed to the church trustees by Thomas S. Simpkins and his wife Harriet. Serving on the board of trustees at the time were James H. Scott, William S. Sims, Michael Murell, Gabriel T. Parks, Jesse W. Simpkins, Henry W. Causey, and Marcellus Jones. The initial church, erected between 1870-72, was a single story, 40' by 30' frame structure with three nine-over-nine sash windows on each side. The first church served the congregation for over twenty-five years when it was decided to erected a new church in 1896-97. During the first half of the 20th century the congregation grew sufficiently to warrant the construction of a two-story addition on the

west side of the church in 1954. Around the same time, additional land was purchased to expand the cemetery. Later in the 20th century, a brick retaining wall was built around the south, east, and west sides of the hill.

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. S-537

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Asbury M. E. Church
 other Asbury United Methodist Church

2. Location

street and number 26556 Mt. Vernon Road not for publication
 city, town Princess Anne vicinity
 county Somerset

3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Trustees of Asbury M. E. Church
 street and number 26556 Mt. Vernon Road telephone Unlisted
 city, town Princess Anne state MD zip code 21853

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Somerset County Clerk of Court liber LW 12 folio 395
 city, town Princess Anne tax map 7 tax parcel 69 tax ID number 05-084423

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- Contributing Resource in National Register District
 Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
 Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
 Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
 Recorded by HABS/HAER
 Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
 Other: _____

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	Contributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion	<u>1</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input type="checkbox"/> domestic	<input type="checkbox"/> social	<u>1</u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	<u>1</u> structures
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<u>1</u> objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	<u>1</u> Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> other:	
				Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory
				<u>0</u>

7. Description

Inventory No. S-537

Condition

excellent deteriorated
 good ruins
 fair altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

DESCRIPTION SUMMARY

Asbury Methodist Episcopal Church, also known as Asbury United Methodist Church, is a single-story Gothic Revival frame structure built atop a large sand hill in the Mt. Vernon community of what was known formerly as Hungary Neck in Somerset County, Maryland. The church faces south with the principal gable oriented on a north/south axis. Built in 1897, the single-story ell-shaped frame church is supported on an infilled brick pier foundation, and the exterior is sheathed with aluminum siding. The steeply pitched roof is covered with asphalt shingles. Rising in the southeast corner of the ell-shaped plan is multi-level entrance and bell tower capped by a modern needle spire. Fixed in the southwest corner of the main block is a marble datestone inscribed, "Asbury M. E. Church, A.D. 1897." The double door front entrance is topped by a pointed arch colored glass transom. Marking each of the side elevations are pointed arch colored glass windows. The west side elevation of the 1897 structure is covered by a two-story hip roofed frame addition built in 1954. The church is joined on the hilltop site by hundreds of 19th-, 20th- and 21st-century grave markers. A mid-20th-century brick retaining wall extends around the south, east and west sides of the hill.

The interior has retained most of its late 19th-century woodwork including beaded tongue-and-groove board walls and ceilings and decorated roof trusses in the sanctuary. The arched trusses incorporate tie-rods that stretch across the sanctuary. Each truss is pierced by a variety of cut-out designs, principally the quatrefoil form popularly used in Gothic church designs. The altar retains a semi-circular turned baluster railing.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

Asbury Methodist Episcopal Church, located at 26556 Mt. Vernon Road, stands atop a sand hill in the community of Mt. Vernon in Somerset County. Built in 1897, the ell-shaped frame structure was built atop brick piers that have been infilled with brick. Currently sheathed with aluminum siding, the frame structure is covered with steeply pitched roof covered with asphalt shingles. Rising in the southeast corner of the ell-shaped plan is a multi-level entrance and bell tower surmounted by a modern steeple featuring a needle spire. Attached to the west side of the church is a two-story hip roofed frame addition built in 1954.

The south (main) elevation is an asymmetrical façade with a double door entrance in the corner tower. A pair of replacement doors are topped by a pointed arch colored glass transom. A pent eave is fixed above the entrance and wraps around to the east side of the tower, tying into the main roof slopes. The south side of the belfry is pierced by a louvered vent, which is repeated on the other three sides. The steeple is topped by shallow pitched shed roof that extends around the four sides, and is topped by a turned post balustrade. The modern steeply addition rises above with a square base and second tier rectangular section pierced by pointed arch windows. A needle spire, fitted with a cross at this point, rises above the second tier section. The south side of the main block is defined by a three pointed arch colored glass windows; the center window is slightly taller than the ones that flank it. Piercing the gable end is a triangular shaped colored glass window. The peak of the gable end is defined with a projecting section of siding that probably enclosed some Victorian gable end decorative

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. S-537

Name Asbury M. E. Church

Continuation Sheet

Number 7 Page 1

trim. The edge of the roof is extended and the soffit is enclosed with artificial materials. Fixed in the southwest corner of the brick foundation is a marble datestone inscribed "Asbury M. E. Church, A.D. 1897." On the opposite side of the entrance tower, the south side of the projecting ell-shaped section is pierced by a pointed arch Gothic window of colored glass.

The east elevation of the church is anchored on its southeast corner by the entrance and bell tower; the first story of the tower is pierced by a pointed arch colored glass window. The east gable end of the main block is pierced by pointed arch colored glass windows.

The north wall of the church is an asymmetrical façade with the center gable roofed elevation defined by three Gothic arched colored glass windows; the center window is slightly taller than the flanking windows. Fixed above the windows in the gable end is a triangular shaped colored glass window. Repeating the front elevation, the peak of the gable end is enclosed with aluminum siding. The adjacent leg to the east of the main block is defined by a single Gothic arched colored glass window. The eaves of the roof edge are extended and enclosed with artificial materials.

The west side of the 1897 church is entirely covered by the two-story hip roofed, mid 20th-century addition; the roof of which is pierced by a single flue brick stack. The first and second floors are lighted by four-over-four sash windows.

The interior of the church retains a large percentage of its late 19th-century features. The entrance vestibule walls and ceiling are sheathed with vertical tongue-and-groove beaded boards. The west side vestibule wall retains a late 19th-century paint decorated four-panel door framed by a bulls-eye block surround that is supported at the base with molded plinth blocks.

The sanctuary and formerly divided lecture room have been consolidated as one large space with a recessed altar on the west wall. A raised altar platform features a semi-circular turned baluster altar rail. The ceiling of the sanctuary is enhanced with a three-sided tongue-and-groove beaded board ceiling with decorated arched trusses incorporating iron tie rods. The trusses, crafted out of yellow pine, are pierced with a series of quatrefoil shaped cutouts along with other triangular and polygonal shaped holes. Hanging from the ceiling are Gothic Revival inspired hexagonal chandeliers. Frosted glass panels are accented with point arch metal strips and horizontal bands with quatrefoil shaped cut outs. Each of the hexagonal panels is topped by a pointed arch crest piece pierced by a quatrefoil shaped cut out. All of the chandeliers are hung on lengths of chain link. The pews in the sanctuary date from the mid to late 20th century.

8. Significance

Inventory No. S-537

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
X 1800-1899	x architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	x religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____

Specific dates	Architect/Builder
Construction dates 1897	

Evaluation for:

National Register Maryland Register not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY

The Asbury M. E. Church is a local landmark in the community of Mt. Vernon on what was formerly known as Hungary Neck in northern Somerset County. Built atop a sizable sand hill in 1897, the church follows the prevailing Gothic Revival style that influenced religious architecture across the region during the Victorian era. Pointed arch colored glass windows mark the asymmetrical elevations, and a multi-level entrance and bell tower accents the southeast corner of the ell-shaped plan. The interior survives with original tongue-and-groove beaded board ceilings and decorated trusses that span the depth of the sanctuary. Quatrefoil shaped cut out enhance the yellow pine trusses that incorporate iron tie rods. The front entrance vestibule retains vertical beaded board walls and ceiling as well as a paint decorated and grained four-panel door. A marble datestone set in the southwest corner of the church foundation documents the year of its construction.

HISTORY AND SUPPORT

The Asbury M. E. Church, perched atop a prominent sand hill at the western end of the Mt. Vernon peninsula, formerly known as Hungary Neck, has defined this rural, watermen’s community since the 1870s. The Asbury congregation was established around 1870 when trustee’s minutes record plans to build a church on land conveyed to the church trustees by Thomas S. Simpkins and his wife Harriet.¹ Serving on the board of trustees at the time were James H. Scott, William S. Sims, Michael Murell, Gabriel T. Parks, Jesse W. Simpkins, Henry W. Causey, and Marcellus Jones.² The initial church erected between 1870 and 1872 was a single-story, 40’ by 30’ frame structure with three nine-over-nine sash windows on each side. The first church served the congregation for over twenty-five years when it was decided to erect a new church in 1896-97. During the first half of the 20th century the congregation grew sufficiently to warrant the construction of a two-story addition on the west side of the church in 1954.³ Around the same time, additional land was purchased to expand the cemetery. Later in the 20th century a brick retaining wall was built around the south, east, and west sides of the hill.

¹ Somerset County Land Record, LW 12/395, August 27, 1870, Somerset County Courthouse, Princess Anne, Maryland.

² *Ibid.*

³ *A Brief History of Asbury Methodist Church, 1872-1991*, no date.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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"A Brief History of the Asbury United Methodist Church, 1872-1991," no date.

Somerset County Land Records, various volumes, Somerses County Courthouse, Princess Anne, Maryland.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 3 acres

Acreage of historical setting 3 acres

Quadrangle name Monie, Md. Quad. Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The metes and bounds of this surveyed property are coincidental with the current boundary of the lot as designated on the Somerset County Tax map 7, parcel 69.

11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Paul B. Touart, Architectural Historian		
organization	Private Consultant	date	2.21.2018
street & number	P. O. Box 5	telephone	410-651-1094
city or town	Westover	state	Maryland 21871

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties 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
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

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Name Asbury M. E. Church
Continuation Sheet

Number 9 Page 1

Asbury M. E. Church
26556 Mt. Vernon Road

Map 7, Parcel 69

BLB 135/165

Mary E. Simpkins, Thomas Simpkins and Estelle Simpkins, his wife;
Fred Simpkins and Addie Simpkins, his wife, Willie Simpkins and
Mabel Simpkins, his wife, Harvey Simpkins and Tillie Simpkins, all
of Somerset County, and Susie E. Gladdin of Wicomico County

to

1.18.1946

Charles T. Fisher, Charles Hopkins, Moffet Hoffman, Edwin Murray,
Allen Hopkins, Steven O. Hopkins, Milton Stewart, William C.
Murray, and Clayton Simpkins, all of Somerset County... Trustees
of Asbury Methodist Episcopal Church

...for the purpose of being a Cemetery to be used in connection with
the said Church and for no other purposes....

Plat Record
23/53

Plot of the Asbury Methodist Church Cemetery

6.1.1948

Surveyed by W. B. Miles, Jr.

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Name Asbury M. E. Church
Continuation Sheet

Number 9 Page 2

LW 12/395

Thomas P. Simpkins and wife, Harriet E. Simpkins

to

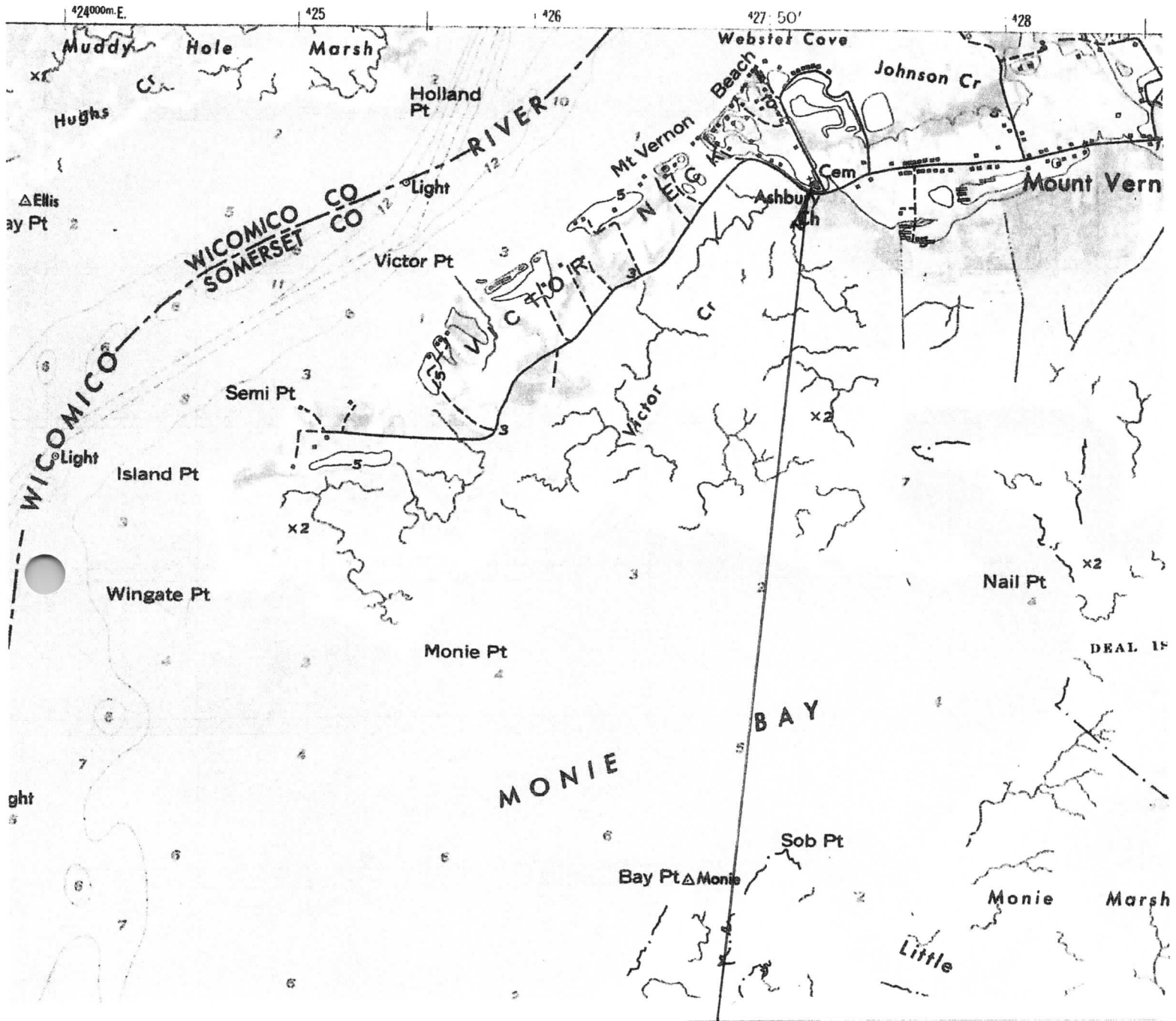
8.27.1870

James H. Scott, William S. Sims, Michael Murell, Gabriel T. Parks,
Jesse W. Simpkins, Henry W. Causey, Marcellus Jones

Beginning at a stone on the north side of the county road and running northward 70 yards to a stone thence running westerly 48 yards to a stone, thence southward 50 yards to a stone by the side of the county road, thence by and with the said county road to the beginning bounder, in trust that the said premises shall be used and kept and maintained and dis...?... of as a place of Devine Worship for the use of the Ministry and Membership of the Methodist Episcopal Church in the United States of America....said tract of land being situated in Somerset county and in Hungary Neck District and on the north side of the county road running down said District.

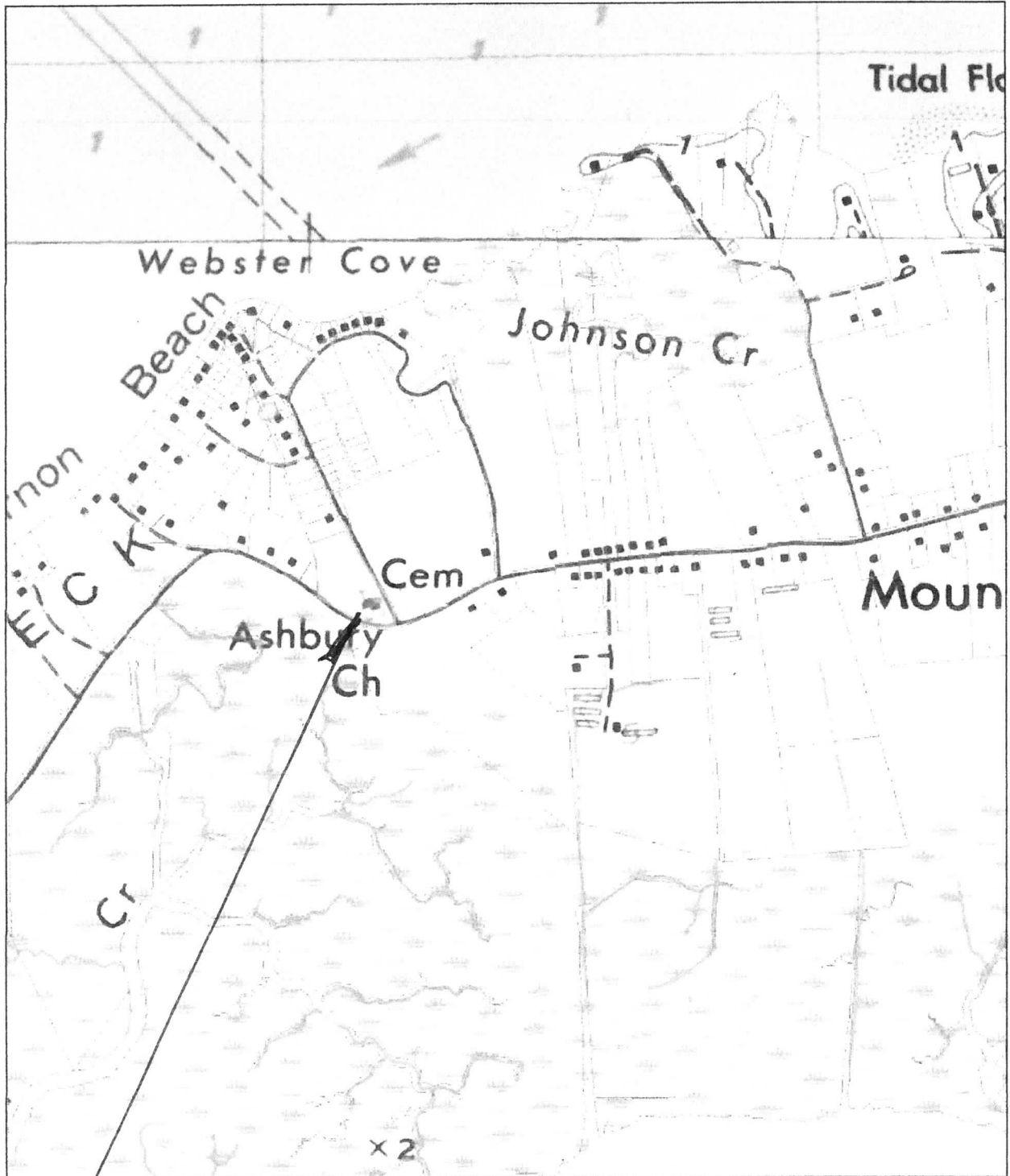
UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

STATE
MARYLAND



S-537
Asbury M.E. Church
Monie, Maryland Quadrangle 1972

Medusa Printout



December 24, 2019

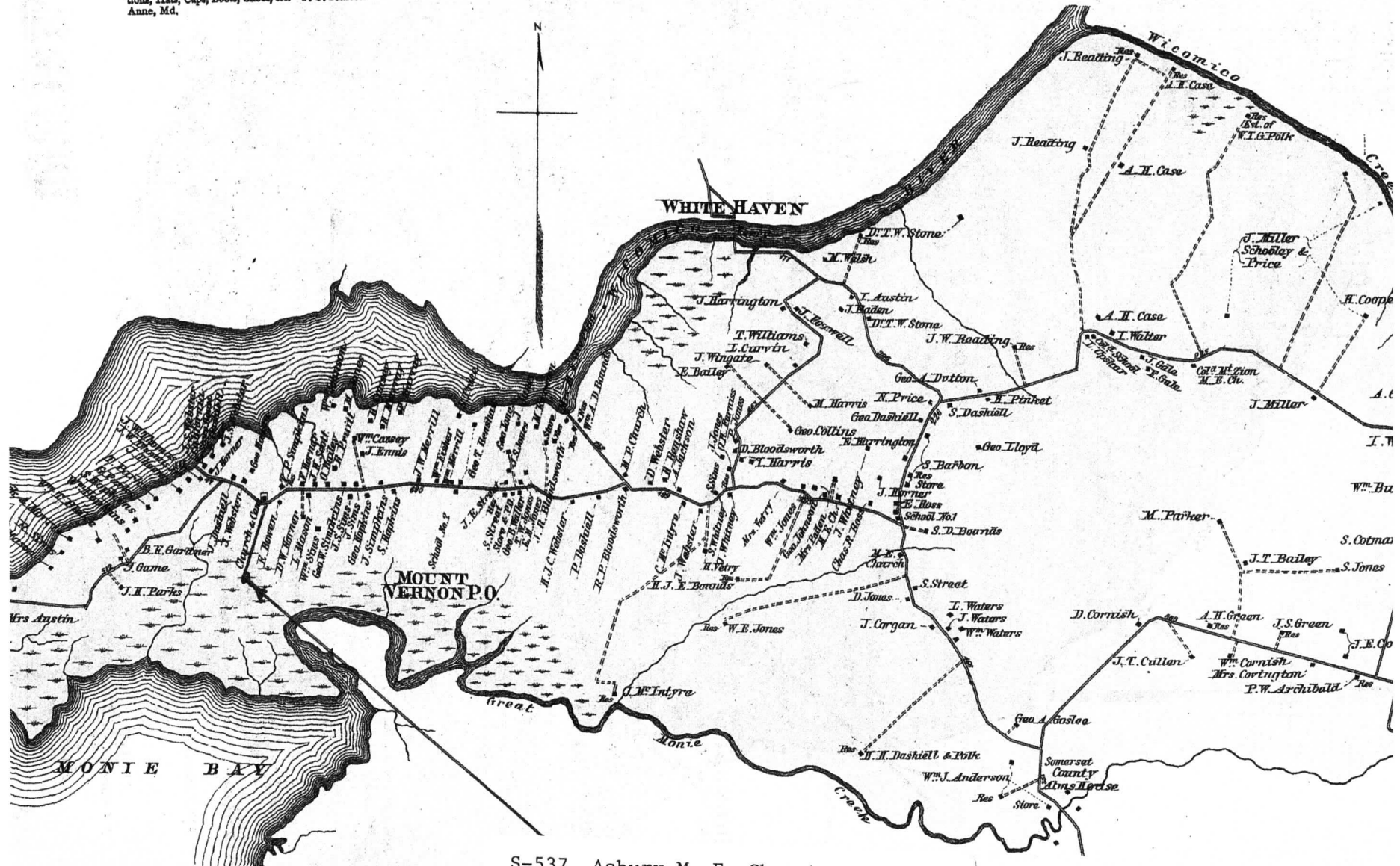
S-537
Asbury M. E. Church
Monie, MD Quadrangle

**HUNGARY NECK DISTRICT REFER-
ENCES.**

SAMUEL STREET & SON, Dealers in Dry Goods, Groceries, Notions, and General Merchandise. Mt. Vernon, Md.
J. S. WEBSTER & SON, Dealers in Dry Goods, Groceries, Boots, Shoes, Hats, Caps, Paints, Oils, Hardware, &c. California. P. O. address Mt. Vernon, Md.
Dr. THOMAS W. STONE, Physician and Surgeon. P. O. Whitehaven, Md.
S. BARBON, Dealer in Dry Goods, Groceries, Notions, Hats, Caps, Boots, Shoes, &c. P. O. Princess Anne, Md.

HUNGARY NECK

Dist. No. 5
SOMERSET CO.



S-537, Asbury M. E. Church
Lake, Griffing & Stevenson Atlas, 1877

Photograph Log

Property Name: **Asbury M. E. Church S-537**

Ink Specifications: Epson UltraChrome Pigmented Inks HDR

Paper Specifications: Epson Enhanced Matte Paper

DVD-R Gold Specifications: Verbatim Ultralife Archival Grade Gold DVD

Photographer, Paul Baker Touart

Photo #	Image File Name	Description
1	S-537_2018-02-21_01	Southwest elevation of church
2	S-537_2018-02-21_02	South elevation of church
3	S-538_2018-02-21_03	Northwest elevation of church
4	S-538_2018-02-21_04	Grained four-panel door in vestibule
5	S-538_2018-02-21_05	Sanctuary looking west
6	S-538_2018-02-21_06	Sanctuary ceiling with decorated trusses
7	S-538_2018-02-21_07	Sanctuary ceiling with decorated trusses
8	S-538_2018-02-21_08	Sanctuary chandelier
9	S-538_2018-02-21)09	Documentary image c. 1910



S-537_2018-02-21_01

Asbury M. E. Church

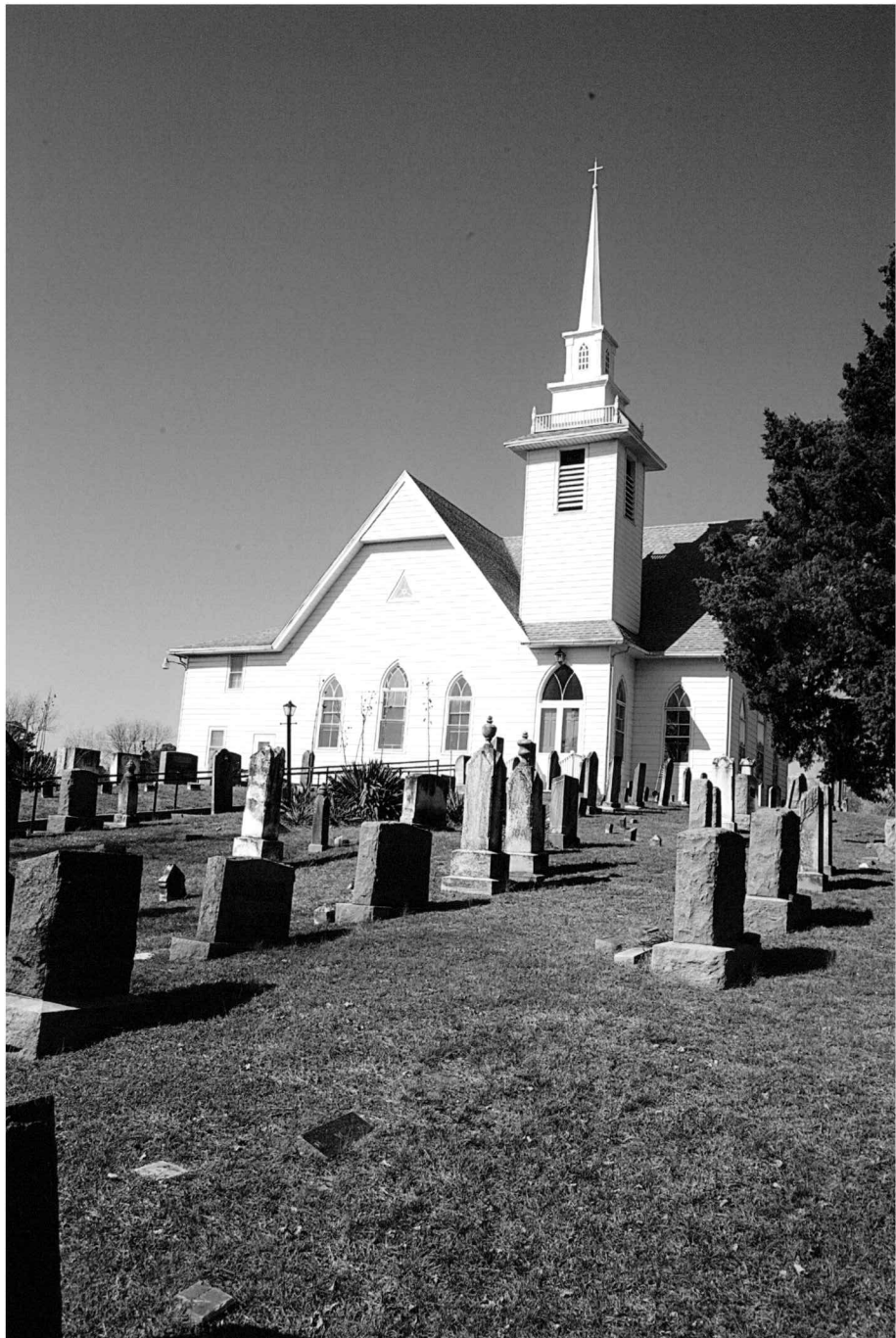
Mt. Vernon, Somerset Co., MD.

SOUTHWEST ELEVATION

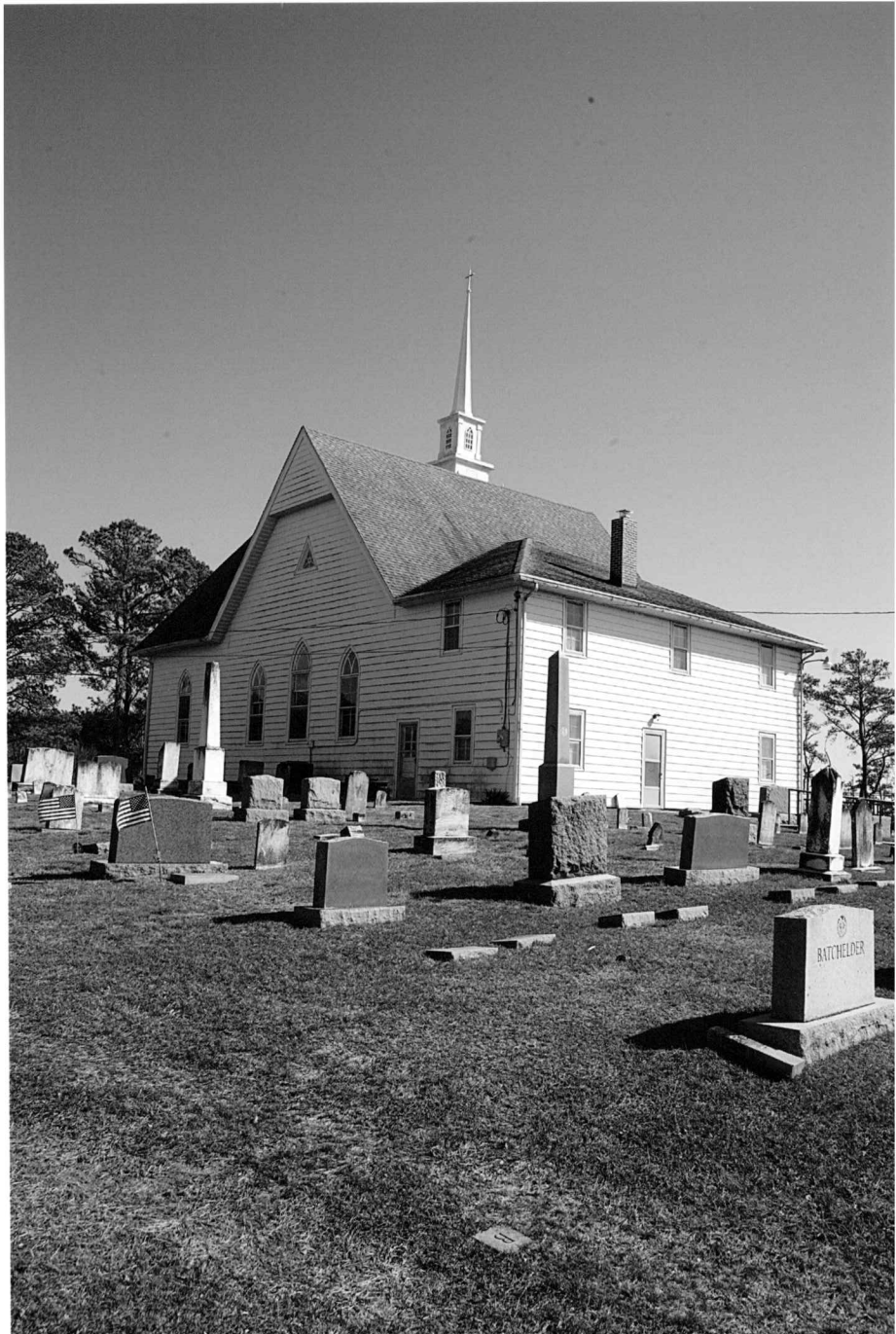
PAUL B. THURMAN, PHOTOGRAPHER

MD / SITE

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S-537_2018-02-21_02
Asbury M. E. Church
Mt. Vernon, Somerset Co. MD.
South Elevation
Paul B. Touart, Pittsry.
MS / Sit PO
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S-537_2018-02-21_03

ASBURY M. E. CHURCH

Mt. Vernon, Somerset Co. MD.

NORTHWEST ELEVATION

Paul B. Touant, PHOTO.

MD/SHPO

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S-537-2018-02-21-04

ASBURY M. E. CHURCH
MT. VERNON, SOMERSET CO., MD.

(INTERIOR DOOR WITH OAK
GRAINING

PAUL B. TOURANT, PHOTOGRAPHER
MD/STPO

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S-537-2018-02-21-05

Asbury M. E. Church
Mt. Vernon, Somerset Co., MD

Sanctuary

Pam B. Touart, Photographer

MD/51700

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S-537-2018-02-21-06

Asbury M. E. Church

Mt. Vernon, Somerset County

Sanitary Agency CERT. IN 4

Paul B. Touart, PITOTR 62201222

MD/SITPO

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S-537-2018-02-21-07

ASBURY M. E. CHURCH

MT. VERNON, SOMERSET COUNTY, MD

SANCTUARY CEILING WITH PIERCED GRASS

PAUL B. THOMAS

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S-537-2018-02-21-08

Asbury M. F. Church
Mt. Vernon, Somerset Co., MD
INTERIOR-SANCTUARY CHAIRS

PAUL B. TOURANT, PHOTO.

MD / SIPP0

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S-537_2018-02-21_09

Asbury M. E. Church

Mr. Vernon, Somerset Co., Md.

Historical image c. 1900-10

Collection of Asbury M. E.

Church

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