

KENT COUNTY

Site Name: Reynolds House
CRS Number: K-4406
HABS Number: DE-000

Location: South side of Delaware Route 10 between Routes 108 and 251
Petersburg vicinity
North Murderkill Hundred
Kent County, Delaware

Date of Field Work: November 1998—January 1999

Type of Documentation: Level II: Partial Intensive
Annotated field notes (3 sheets)
Measured drawings (3 AutoCAD format)
4" X 5" black-and-white photos (8)
Architectural Data Sheet

Threat: The Reynolds House had been vacant for some years and the owner applied for a demolition permit rather than try to renovate the house as a rental property. Following this study, the owner found a third party willing to move the Period I section of the dwelling to a new housing development where it will be incorporated into new construction.

Significance: The Reynolds House is an excellent example of the braced timber frame construction commonly found in this part of Kent County in the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries but rarely surviving today. In fact, the house contains three separate building periods, each in a slightly different form of braced frame construction.

Description: The Reynolds House is located on the south side of Route 10, just west of Petersburg. It faces north and is set back approximately 15 yards from the road on a low rise. The house consists of approximately three building periods. The earliest portion of the dwelling is the two-bay wing at the west end of the house and likely dates to the period between 1780 and 1820. Built of braced timber frame construction with brick nogging, the building measures

roughly 15 by 18 feet with an interior gable-end chimney at the west end. Originally one-and-a-half stories tall, this section was raised to two-and-a-half stories and re-roofed to accommodate a second room added to the south in the mid-nineteenth century. The Period II addition is also of braced-frame construction, but without the brick nogging; it replaced an earlier smaller shed in the same location. The third portion of the dwelling is the largest, standing a full two-and-a-half stories and measuring 18 by 22 feet. Although it is labeled Period III on the plan, this refers to the sequence in which it was added to the earlier building, not to the actual construction date of the section. This portion is also braced timber frame and may have been built as early as circa 1830, but it was not added to the earlier dwelling until after 1877. The following description deals with the entire dwelling on the basis of its current appearance.

The main block (Period III) is a two-and-a-half story, three-bay, gable-roofed, frame building with an interior gable-end chimney. This section of the house rests on a full brick cellar. The roof is covered with asphalt shingles and the original horizontal board siding is also covered with asphalt stone-pattern siding. A screened-in porch covers the first floor of the north elevation. The porch roof consists of beaded tongue and groove boards and is covered with asphalt shingles.

A two-and-a-half story, two-bay, frame wing (Period I) with an interior gable-end chimney is located on the west gable-end of the main block. A one-and-a-half story, frame addition (Period II) with an interior gable-end chimney is located directly off the south wall of this wing. Both of these sections rest on a brick foundation and are covered by the same metal clad gable roof. A one-story frame shed was built off of the south elevation of the second addition.

The north elevation of the main block is divided into three bays. The first floor has two six-over-six-light single sash windows, and a door located in the western bay of the elevation. The door has a three-light transom. Three windows are located on the second floor of the main block. A box cornice terminates the elevation of both the main block and the wing. The north elevation of the wing has two six-over-six-light single sash windows.

The west gable elevation of the wing has an irregular window pattern. Two six-over-six-light sash windows are located on the first floor. On the second floor there is a two-over-two-

light rectangular window centered between the windows below. A fourth window opening is located on the second floor of the wing. It is a six-over-six-light sash window, slightly above the level of the other window on this level and it is located in the corner of the main block and the addition. The modern shed has a small two-light casement window located in its west elevation. The west elevation of the main block has two two-over-four-light sash windows at the attic level, located on either side of the interior chimney.

The south elevation of the main block has one six-over-six-light sash window on the first floor adjoining a bulkhead entry on the southeast corner of the elevation. The bulkhead entry is enclosed in a small shed addition. To the west of the bulkhead, there is evidence of a door opening was filled in. The second floor has two six-over-six-light sash windows spaced evenly across this elevation which again terminates with a box cornice. The south elevation of the shed addition has three casement windows and a door.

The east gable elevation of the main block has one six-over-six-light window centrally located in the gable end at the attic level. An earlier window opening to the north of the chimney on the first floor has been filled in. The window openings in the east gable end of the wing and addition form the pattern of a cross. At the attic level, there is a small two-over-four-light sash window. Directly below and to either side of the interior chimney, there is a six-over-six-light sash window and a smaller two-over-four-light sash window at the second floor level of the wing. To the right of the central window at the southwest corner of the elevation is a two-over-four-light sash window located on the attic level of the addition. On the first floor of the gable elevation a six-over-six-light sash window is located directly below the larger window on the second floor. To the right of the window there is an entry door which is covered by a small porch roof. The roof of this porch is constructed of beaded boards. Finally the shed addition has a two-light casement window in its west elevation.

A cellar below the main block is reached by the bulkhead at the southeast corner of the south elevation. The walls of the cellar are brick and the plan is divided into two spaces, each measuring approximately 18 by 10 feet. The eastern section has a relieving arch centered against the east wall. The ceiling joists and the walls are white washed in this section indicating that this area was used for food storage. The joists are notched onto a hewn sill, which is mortised and

tenoned at the corners. This section has three small grated windows which allow light into this section; one in the south wall and two in the north wall. The western section of the cellar has one small window located in the north wall. At the west wall the original hewn sill of the wing is visible with tongue and groove floorboards on top.

The first floor of the main block is currently one room, measuring 21 by 17 feet, but evidence on the walls and the ceiling indicates that it was originally a side-hall plan with a corridor along the stair. The door in the north elevation opened into the stair passage, measuring 7 by 17 feet, with the stair being located against the west wall in the southwest corner of the space. The stair has a straight run that ends in a winder turn to the landing, and a closet with shelves underneath. A shadow of an original door opening is located opposite the entry door on the south wall to the left of the stair. A shadow of a partition wall also remains visible on the ceiling in this area indicating a narrow corridor. The remaining part of the first floor space, which was once a separate room measuring 14 by 17 feet, has two windows in the north wall and one in the south wall. A fourth window, once located on the east wall north of the fireplace, has been filled in. The chimney is located against the east wall. The fireplace has been closed off but the carved fireplace surround is intact. The walls in this space are covered with lath and plaster, likely the wall covering over the timber frame from the beginning.

The first floor of the wing is one step lower than the main block and is also a one-room plan, measuring approximately 17 by 15 feet. The chimney is located against the west wall. The fireplace has been closed up but the original fireplace surround remains. A cupboard is built into the south side of the chimney. The ceiling joists in this room are hewn, with beaded edges, and were originally exposed. They were covered during later periods by whitewash and then lath and plaster. The original walls were exposed frame and brick nogging, covered with whitewash. They also were covered at a later date with lath and plaster. Two windows on the north wall and one on the west wall, south of the chimney, light the room. Two doors open in the south wall, one leading to the winder stair in the southeast corner and the other leading to the southern wing. The winder stair is a later addition, probably dating to the construction of the south room and the raising of the roof. Evidence suggests that the earlier access to the second floor chamber was by a ladder stair in the northwest corner of the room, next to the chimney.

The south room is also a one-room plan, measuring approximately 17 by 15 feet, and has been renovated several times; most recently it was converted to a modern kitchen. The braced frame walls are covered with lath and plaster, as they always were. A chimney is located against the west wall. The addition has two doors in the south wall which open into the two shed spaces, both measuring 9 by 11 feet, one of which is a modern bathroom. A third door opens through the west wall onto the small porch.

The second floor of the main block (Period III) is divided into three spaces: a stair hall and two chambers. The stair hall, measuring 7 by 8 feet, has doors opening into each of the two rooms and a third door opening into a narrow, eight-tread stair leading up to the attic. The largest chamber is located in the eastern part of the second floor and measures 14 by 17 feet. Like the room below it, this room is lighted by three windows and has a fireplace located against the east wall with a very plain surround. The other room on the second floor is located in the northwest corner and measures approximately 8 by 9 feet. The entry door has a louvered transom above it. A narrow door in the west wall of this room provides access to the second floor of the wing. This room is lit by one window in the north wall and there is a small closet located underneath the stair to the attic.

The second floor of the wing contains a single room. The winder stair from the first floor opens in the southeast corner of the room, approximately two feet away from the south partition wall. The north side of the room has a four-foot knee wall below the sloping roof. A chimney stands against the west wall. There are two built-in closets located against the southwestern half of the south wall. A door set in a diagonal piece of the south wall opens into the southern room in this section. A chimney is located against the west wall and there is a boxed-in winder stair to the attic in the northwest corner of the room. There is a four-foot knee wall against the southern side of the roof.

The attic of the main block is divided into three spaces, but this appears to be a later configuration. The presence of the lath and plaster and the knee wall underneath the north and south sides of the roof indicates that the original configuration in this space would have consisted of two rooms. The first was a larger L-shaped space finished with lath and plaster and that included the stairwell. The other was a smaller space, measuring 6 by 10 feet, unfinished,

with no knee wall and exposed rafters. The roof rafters are mortise and tenoned and pegged at the ridge. Collar beams are dovetailed onto the rafters and nailed with cut nails. These collar beams carry the lath ceiling for the finished section.

The attic of the wing has undergone extensive alterations. The rafters on the north side of the building are sawn whereas those on the south side are hewn. All are simply butt joined at the ridge. The sawn rafters for the north face of the roof extend below the knee wall where they are scabbed on to older hewn rafters below indicating that the roof was raised over this section after its original construction. The hewn rafters for the south face are continuous from the ridge to the eaves and may have been salvaged from another building when this roof was raised.

History: The documentary history of this property is as multi-layered as the construction sequence of the dwelling itself. While the archival records for the Reynolds family are rich, they do not particularly aid in determining the building history of the property.

By 1816 Thomas Reynolds had accumulated approximately 1100 acres, which were divided between his sons, Robert W. and John S., after his death that year. The parcel on which the current house sits was part of the property inherited by Robert.

The 1828 tax assessments for Murderkill Hundred show that Robert W. Reynolds owned three different parcels of land, all with houses erected upon them. In 1845 he owned two two-story dwellings and two one-story dwellings (one log and one of frame) on a 515-acre parcel, one of several farms in his possession. By 1860 this specific parcel contained three two-story frame dwellings, three barns, three stables, three smoke and carriage houses, and an office. In addition to this, he also owned a 225-acre parcel with a new two-story frame dwelling upon it, a 150-acre parcel with a one-story frame dwelling on it, and a 163-acre parcel with a two-story frame dwelling and a small tenant house. It is difficult to determine which of these houses may have been either the Period I/II house or the Period III dwelling, since it is likely that one or both of the houses were moved to their current location.

When Robert W. Reynolds died in 1865 he left part of his estate to his daughter Frances Gilder Reynolds, who married William Clough. In 1872 William Clough was assessed for 100 acres of land with a two-story frame dwelling, a barn, stables, and a cowshed. Depending upon

how the assessor measured building height, this could be either the Period I/II house or the Period III house. In 1877 William Clough applied for fire insurance with the Kent County Mutual Insurance Company for a property near Petersburg. One of the buildings to be insured was a one-story frame dwelling consisting of two rooms, each with a brick chimney, and measuring 36 by 16 feet. This description is more specific and appears to match the Period I/II dwelling. The policy makes no mention of the larger two-story section of the house.

Clough died in 1887, without a will. The inventory taken of his property mentions the following rooms: parlor, sitting room, entry, parlor chamber, bedroom, two kitchens. Clearly this identifies more spaces than were found in the house in 1877 when the insurance agent visited the property. Based on structural evidence, the type of framing, cut nails, beaded ceiling joists, and hewn sill and rafters, it can be concluded that all sections of the current house date to the first half of the nineteenth century. Their current configuration, however, must have occurred after 1877 and before 1887, the time of William Clough's death.

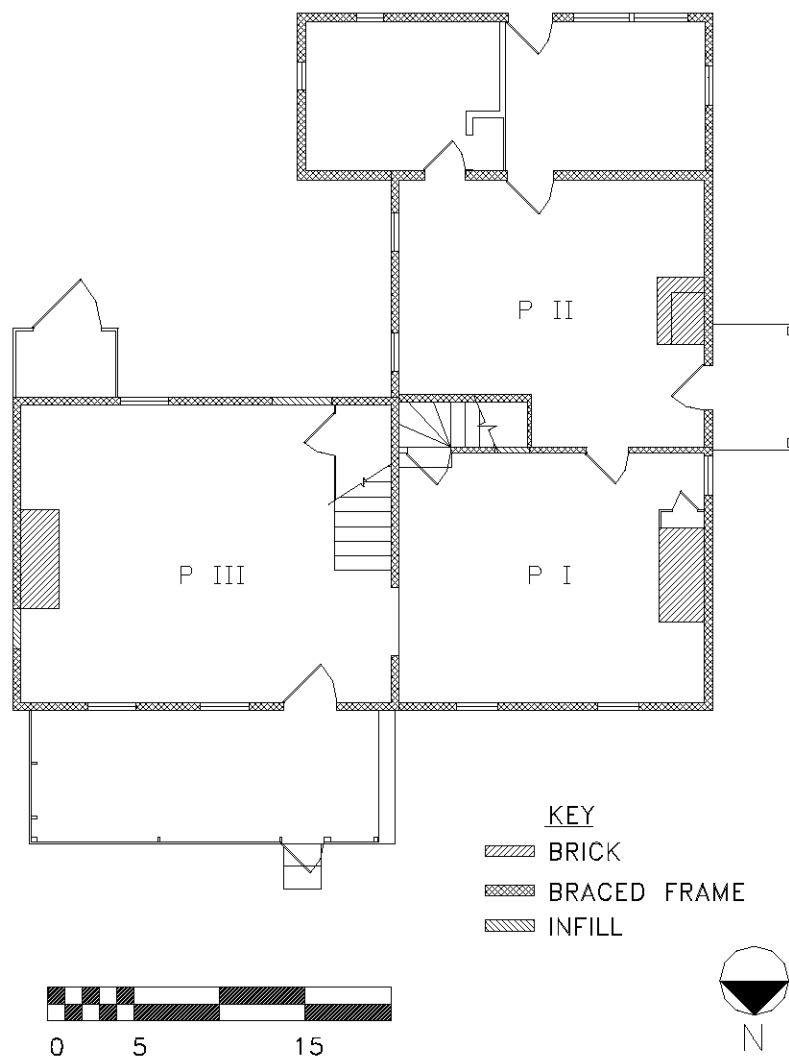


Figure 43: Reynolds House, first floor plan.

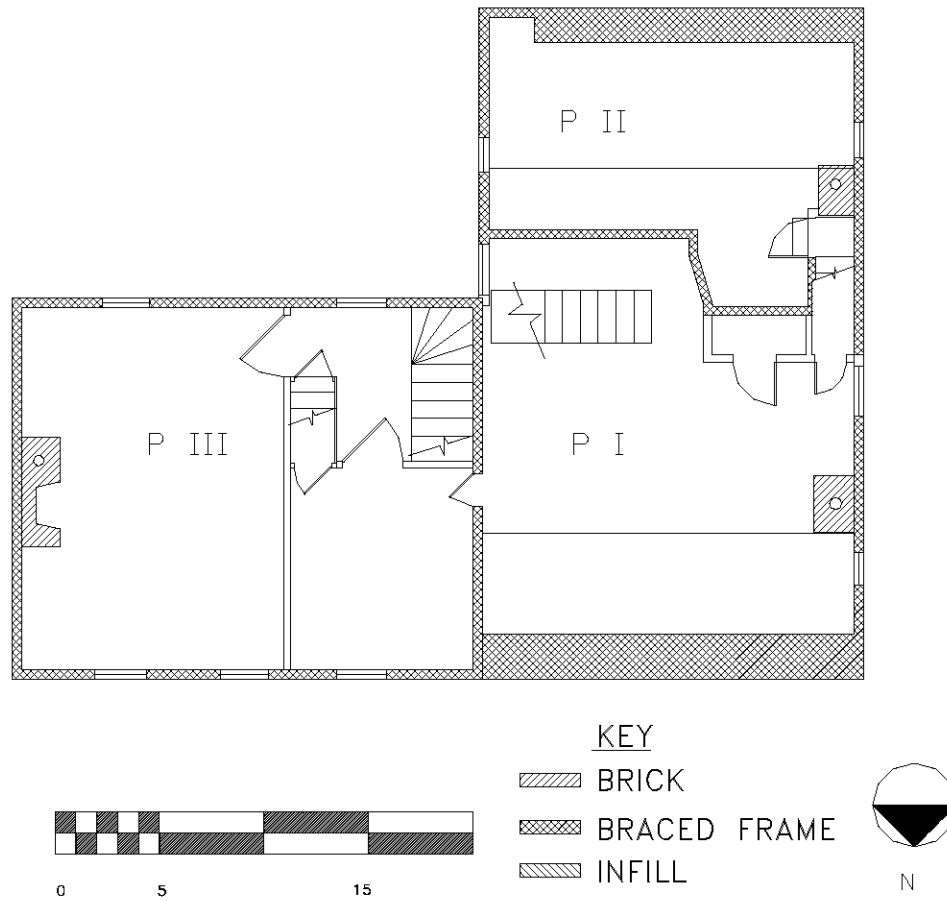


Figure 44: Reynolds House, second floor plan.

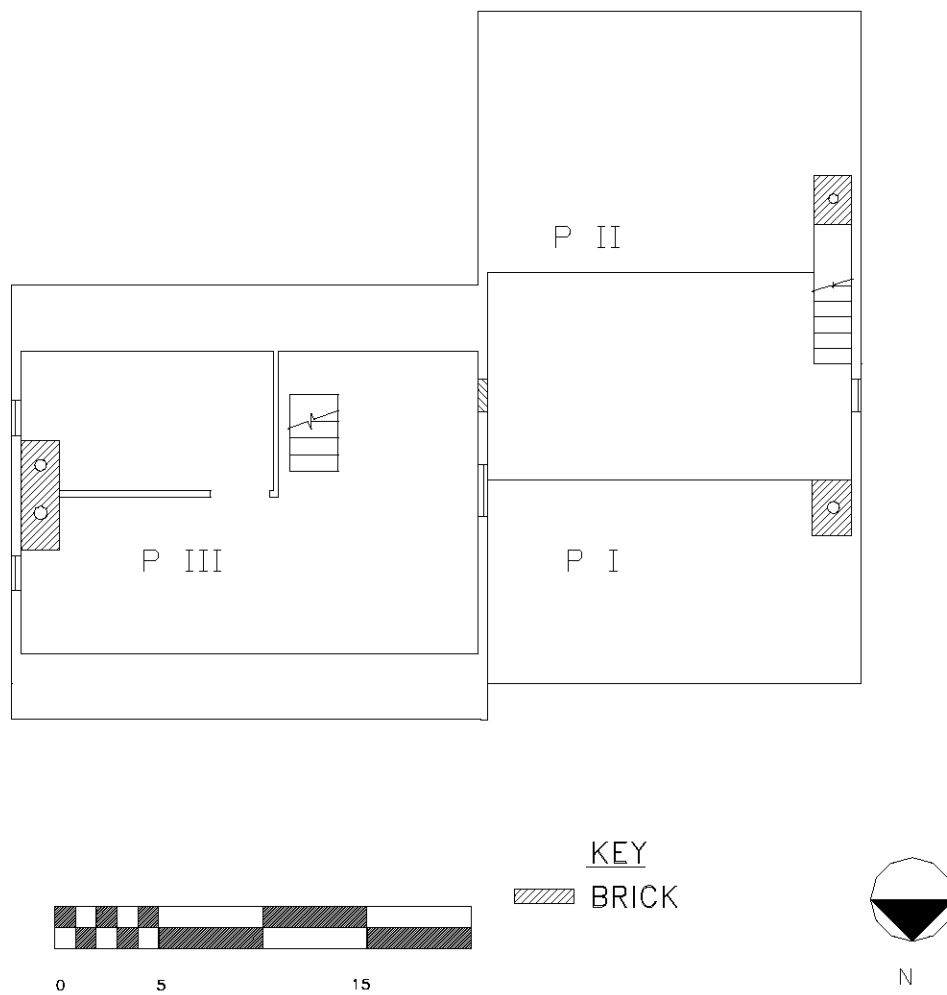


Figure 45: Reynolds House, third floor plan.

MID-ATLANTIC HISTORIC BUILDINGS SURVEY
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Reynolds House
South side of Delaware Route 10
Petersburg vicinity
North Murderkill Hundred
Kent County, Delaware

CRS # K-4406

Photographer: David L. Ames

November 1998

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Figure 46: Reynolds House, environmental view of the farm complex, looking south.



Figure 47: Reynolds House, view of the west elevation, looking east.



Figure 48: Reynolds House, detail of the siding on the west elevation.



Figure 49: Reynolds House, detail of siding and exposed post and sill on the west elevation.



Figure 50: Reynolds House, perspective of east and south elevations, looking northwest.



Figure 51: Reynolds House, view of south elevation looking north.



Figure 52: Reynolds House, detail of south elevation of Period III block, showing filled opening for earlier door.



Figure 53: Reynolds House, cellar, relieving arch on east wall looking east.



Figure 54: Reynolds House, first floor, Period I section: view of north wall looking north.



Figure 55: Reynolds House, first floor, Period I section: detail of framing in northeast corner looking northeast.



Figure 56: Reynolds House, first floor, Period I section: detail of framing in northwest corner looking northwest.



Figure 57: Reynolds House, first floor, Period I section: view of south wall looking south.



Figure 58: Reynolds House, first floor, Period III: view of north and west walls looking northwest.



Figure 59: Reynolds House, first floor, Period II section: detail of framing in southwest corner looking southwest.



Figure 60: Reynolds House, second floor, Period I/II section: detail of roof framing in north wall.



Figure 61: Reynolds House, second floor, Period I/II section: view of northeast and southwest rooms looking east.



Figure 62: Reynolds House, attic, Period I/II section: view of rafters and north wall looking northeast.

Site Name: Saint Paul's AME Church
CRS Number: K-2107.117
HABS Number: DE-000

Location: North Street and Northwest 3rd Street
Milford
Kent County, Delaware

Date of Field Work: December 1998

Type of Documentation: Level II: Partial Intensive
Annotated field notes (3 sheets)
Measured drawings (2 AutoCAD format)
4" X 5" black-and-white photos (10)
Architectural Data Sheet

Threat: In 1998 the owners of the church decided to demolish the existing church and construct a new building. The building was suffering from neglect and deterioration. An auction was planned to sell off all of the interior architectural elements.

Significance/History: The church, built between 1842 and 1847, is a contributing resource to the North Milford Historic District. The building functioned as a town hall and a primary school associated with the Milford Academy, as well as the home of the St. Paul's A.M.E. Church for over a century.

Description: Located at the corner of Northwest 3rd Street and North Street, the entrance to the two-story brick building is located in the center of the south gable end elevation. Covered by a detailed wood portico, the entrance is a double door with a glass clerestory above. The portico has two square wood pilasters on concrete plinth blocks. The portico frieze has dentil molding and wood brackets and the cornice for the pediment roof has similar details. A date stone in the south east corner of this façade says "St. Paul's A.M.E. Church, remodeled in 1896." There are two single-hung arch-top stained glass windows flanking the portico on the first level of the building. Both windows have a three-tiered brick header and a stone sill. The brick coursing on this elevation varies between a four-to-one and a three-to-one common bond. There is a single-height stone foundation block at the base of the building running the full length of this elevation.

Centered above the portico is the largest stained glass window on this façade. This semicircular arch-top single hung window is approximately eleven feet high and three-and-a-half feet wide and is flanked by two similar stained glass windows of slightly smaller proportions. The building is capped by a heavy cornice, which follows the line of the gable roof and is trimmed with dentil molding and wood brackets. The gable roof is covered with asphalt shingles; there is a large wooden cross mounted on the ridge of the roof at this elevation.

The building is made up of a main block that is the nave of the church and several small volumes on the north face comprising the apse and a stair tower. The west elevation of the main block of the church has four equally spaced window openings. The openings on the first level are single hung stained glass windows. The masonry openings for these windows have a segmented arch-top but the windows currently in these openings are square with wood trim filling the remaining arched opening. The windows on the upper level are similar to the window centered over the portico. These are large semicircular arch topped openings with single hung stained glass windows. Each opening on this façade has a triple tiered brick header and stone sill. There is an interior brick chimney centered between the windows on this elevation. There is a large bracketed cornice with dentil molding extending the full length of this elevation. There is extensive damage to the brickwork and the cornice around the chimney area and part of the cornice has been replaced. There are two small ventilation openings beneath the windows at either end of the elevation. The west elevation of the stair tower is a frame construction with two narrow windows stacked vertically. This block is shorter than the main block and is set back several feet. The apse block is set back several feet further from the stair tower block and is brick construction. There is a single shallow arch-top window in the west elevation of the apse set at the upper level. This window is single hung and is similar to the windows on the lower level of the main block. The apse block has a hip metal roof and a deep metal cornice that matches the proportions of the cornice on the main block. The cornice on the apse block was perhaps removed and replaced or the original cornice has been covered with metal trim.

The north gable end of the building is the apse end of the church. The apse block is half the width of the main block and is centered on the gable. The apse has two single-hung window openings on the first level, which match the windows on the first level of the west elevation of

the nave of the church. There is a bulkhead opening to the basement with a metal bilco door below the westernmost window on this façade. The north elevation of the main block has no openings but there is an exterior brick chimney where the corner of the apse block adjoins the main block. The cornice on the north end of this block is the same as that on the south side with dentil molding and wood brackets.

The east elevation is a street elevation. The elevation of the main block is identical to that of the west elevation except for an exposed stone foundation, which runs back three-quarters of the depth of the building. The east elevation of the apse block has a single entry door centered set in an arched opening in the elevation on the first level. There is a rectangular tripartite stained glass window on the second level set in a low sloped arch-top masonry opening. This window has wood trim and a stone sill.

The church cemetery is to the east of the church and is enclosed with a cut stone masonry wall.

The interior of the church is divided into two levels. The main door on the south elevation provides access to the lower level of the church. There are stairs to the nave level on both sides of this entrance. The main block of the lower level is divided into three spaces; a choir room, a Sunday school room and a larger open space for gatherings. Four round columns in the larger space support the main floor above. There is a raised platform at the north end of the large space and a small room with an exterior door below the apse.

The main level of the church is reached by two sets of stairs up from the entry. A choir loft projects out into the nave directly above the entry stairs. The pews are curved and radiate from the altar. These are divided into three sections with two side aisles. The floor is wood plank in the pew sections and carpeted in the aisles. The walls and ceiling are smooth plaster with tongue and groove wood wainscot to the window sill height. A continuous deep curved plaster crown molding circles the main space. The window openings are squared off and are trimmed in wood.

At the altar on the north wall there is an arched opening into the apse. There are ornamental corners at the opening mounted above the wood wainscot. The two platforms for the altar are constructed in a radius like the pews with the second platform two steps above the

first. These platforms are trimmed with wood to match the wainscot. Behind the altar is a half-height wall with wood paneling matching the wainscot and a raised platform in the rear half of the apse. There are two doors in the apse to the stair tower. These doors and frames are wood with bulls-eye blocks at the corners.

The main space is artificially lit with chain-mounted light fixtures and naturally lit with the large stained glass windows on the east and west walls.

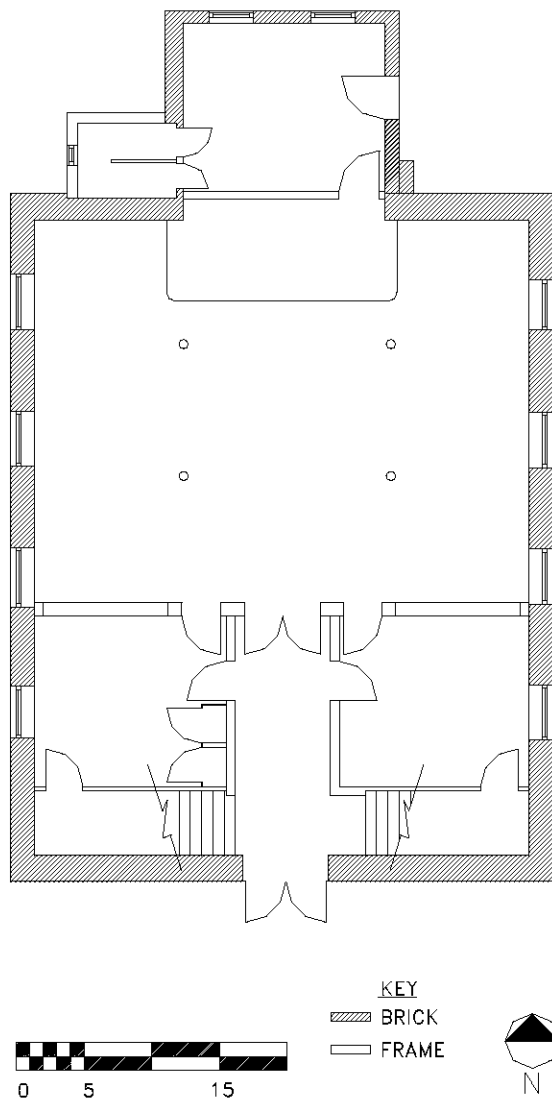


Figure 63: St. Paul's AME Church, lower level plan.

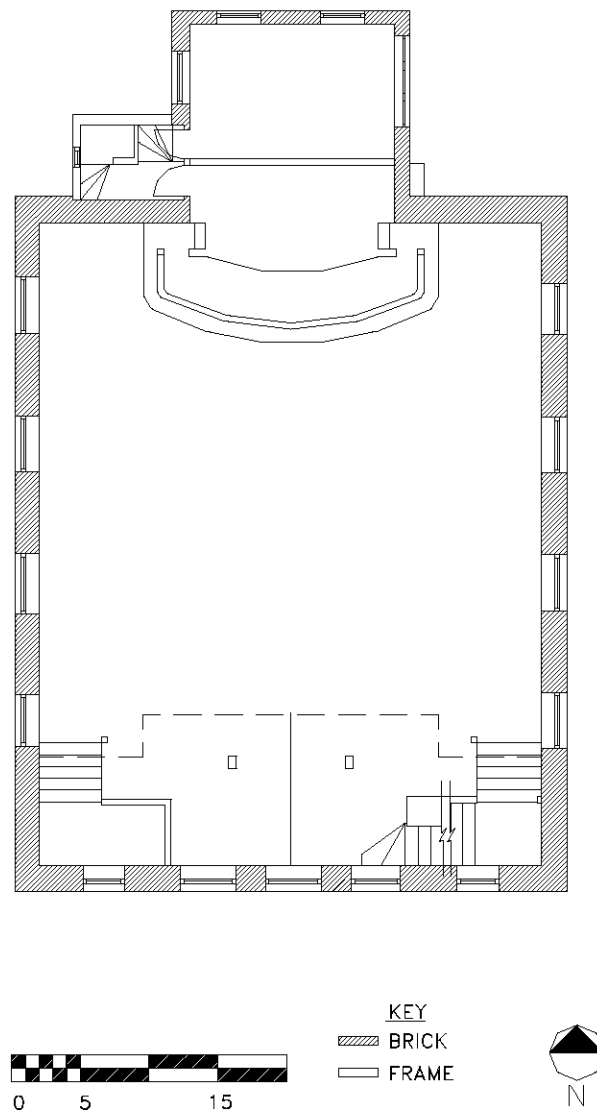


Figure 64: St. Paul's AME Church, upper level plan.

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Saint Paul's AME Church
Milford
Kent County, Delaware

CRS # K-2107.117

Photographer: David L. Ames

December 1998

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Figure 65: St. Paul's AME Church, perspective of south and west elevations looking northeast.



Figure 66: St Paul's AME Church, view of south elevation looking north.

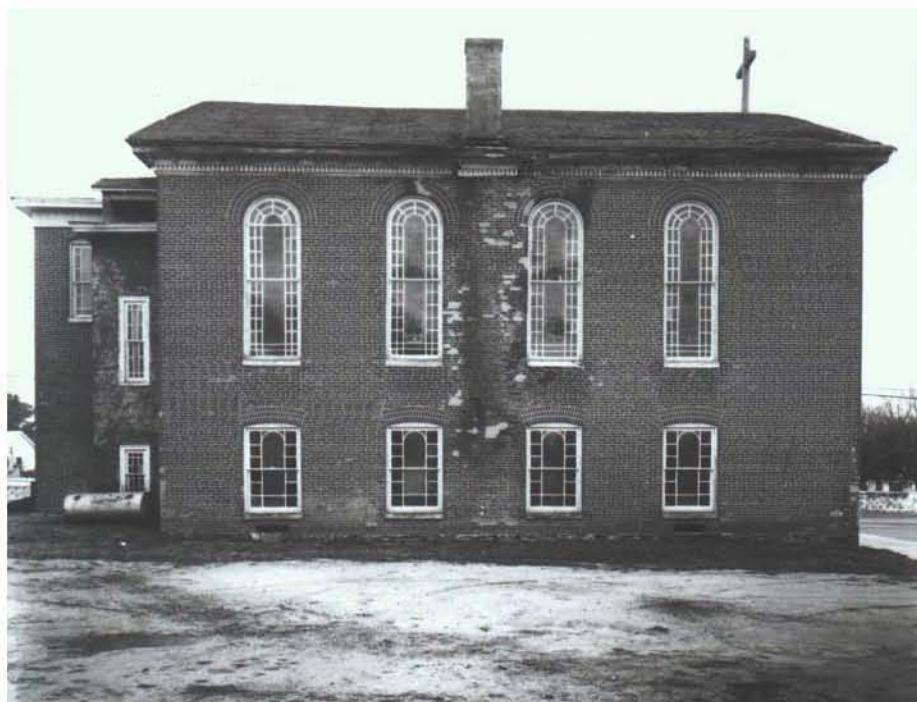


Figure 67: St. Paul's AME Church, view of west elevation looking east.



Figure 68: St. Paul's AME Church, perspective of north and east elevations looking south.



Figure 69: St. Paul's AME Church, view of east elevation and cemetery, looking west.



Figure 70: St. Paul's AME Church, interior, first floor: view of north and east walls of sanctuary looking northeast.



Figure 71: St. Paul's AME Church, interior, first floor: view of east, south, and west walls of the sanctuary, looking south.



Figure 72: St. Paul's AME Church, interior, first floor: view of west and north walls in front of sanctuary, looking northwest.



Figure 73: St. Paul's AME Church, interior, first floor: view of pews and windows in west wall, looking west.



Figure 74: St. Paul's AME Church, interior, first floor: detail of stained glass window in south end of west wall.