

INVENTORY OF THE CHURCH  
ARCHIVES OF DELAWARE

*by the*

HISTORICAL RECORDS SURVEY

PRELIMINARY DRAFT NOW BEING  
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MARCH 1940

*Binder #1*

WORK PROJECTS ADMINISTRATION

DIVISION OF PROFESSIONAL AND SERVICE PROJECTS

OLD POST OFFICE BLDG.

WILMINGTON, DELAWARE

Incorporation and deeds: Sussex Co. Recorder's office Deeds Record; vol. DDL 163, p.202; vol.DDZ256, p. 328; Kent Co. Recorder's office, Deeds Record; vol. U3, p. 182; vol.S5, p. 19; vol. U9, p. 375; vol. V9, p. 85; vol. R12, p. 191; vol. A12, p. 116; vol. N13, p. 98.

203. WESLEY METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, South State St. Dover.

Organized 1778. Freeborn Garrettson came to Dover, September 12, 1778 and preached from the steps of the Academy, situated on High St. (now Governor's Ave.). The following day a Methodist Society of twenty members was forged and met in the home of Mr. Hilliard. Services were continued until 1748 when a church was erected on the NW corner of North and Queen Sts. Present building dedicated 1851. Enlarged 1870, 1884, and remodeled 1897. A two story brick structure. Inscription cut in stone over entrance. First settled clergyman, Rev. David Abbott, 1782-83.

Minutes (board of trustees). 1787-1915, 1915--, 2 vols., (Official Board)(See File, Walter A. Powell's history says that Wesley has not presented the records of the official Board.) 1892-1907, 1908-1917, 1926-1934, 3 vols.; Register, 1836-57, 1 vol.; 1865--, 3 vols.; Sunday School. 1874--, 2 vols.; in possession of pastor, Rev. Earl M. Shockley. Records of incorporation and deeds: Kent Co. Recorder's office, Deeds Record; vol.R2, p. 166; vol. L2, p. 193; vol. D4, p. 87; vol. P4, p.18; vol. R5, p. 401; vol. M5. p. 508; vol. R6. p. 17; vol. S9, p. 83.

204. THOMAS' CHAPEL, 1779--, (about 6 miles W. of Dover) P.F.R. Marydel, Md.

Organized not later than 1779. Built by Rev. Dr. Samuel McGaw, rector of Christ Church, Dover (entry 528) and called forest Chapel. Feeling that the Methodists under Francis Asbury's leadership could use the chapel to better advantage than the established church, he presented it to Asbury. This was the first meeting house owned by the Methodists in Delaware. It was later named Thomas' Chapel in honor of William Thomas, one of the early local Methodist preachers. The first building of logs was replaced by a frame structure in 1798. Dedication sermon of the latter building was preached by Freeborn Garrettson. In 1825 a brick building was erected and in 1877 was rebuilt. First settled clergyman is unknown but the chapel has probably always been part of a circuit. It now belongs to the Marydel Circuit in charge of Rev. C. Elwyn Ennis, pastor of Marydel Methodist Episcopal Church, Marydel, Md. (see forthcoming Inventory of the Church Archives of Maryland). Current rectors are included with those of Marydel Methodist Episcopal Church in possession of Rev. C. Elwyn Ennis; Marydel, Md. Superintendent of the Dover District of the Wilmington Conference reports no prior records known to exist.

205. ST. JOHNSTOWN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, 1779--, R.F.D., Greenwood.

Organized 1779. Incorporated March 5, 1820. Meetings held in home of William Laws until 1760 when a frame structure was erected. Present building was dedicated 1766. It is a one story frame structure with cupola and bell. First settled clergyman, unknown.

Minutes, 1881--, 2 vols.; Financial, 1886--, 2 vols.; in possession of Wilson C. Batfield . Register, 1881--, 4 vols.; in possession of pastor, Rev. James P. Glow Jr. Sunday School, 1834--. 1 vol.; kept in church. Records of incorporation and deeds: Sussex Co. Recorder's office, Deeds Record;

(Any records 1779-1880 missing).