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DESCRIPTION OF RECORD REQUESTING: (Include the following information: RG#, Type of Record, Description, Reference, and Date) <i>KC 50</i>			Location:	Barcode(s):
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White Copy - Pull Location
Document No. 20-03/99/07/03

Yellow Copy - With Form

Pink Copy - With Record

Gold Copy - Shelf

Date: 9-1-11

Historic Marker Inspection Report

Marker Name and Number: Star Hill AME Church KC-50

Location: 1/2 mile east of 13 on Star Hill Rd.

Dover 19901

GPS Coordinates: 39.10205000 -75.53587778

General Overall Conditions: Good

Wear/Damage on Marker: Some fading of paint

Wear/Damage on Pole: None

Any Active Verdigris Visible on Marker: No

Additional Notes:

STAR HILL A.M.E. CHURCH

By the end of the 18th century this area was home to a large number of African Americans, many of them freed slaves. Their settlement was largely due to the efforts of local Quakers. A congregation of the African Methodist Episcopal Church was established here circa 1863. On June 12, 1866, the congregation purchased land from Henry W. Postles as the site for their church, which they named "Star of the East." Members of the church are believed to have participated in the activities of the Underground Railroad, and the church's name is attributed to the symbol of the star as guide for escaping slaves.

KC-50

LOCATION: *Near Camden - Approximately 1/2 mile east of the intersection of Route 13 and Star Hill Road (Route 360) north side of Star Hill Road.*

gallery was removed and a recess pulpit was built. It was dedicated on Nov. 25, 1877, by Pres. Elder Charles Hill and the Rev. J. H. Caldwell.

Services are held every other Sunday afternoon. In the rear gable, the date 1825, in large figures, is laid out with black header bricks. The graveyard beside the chapel is well maintained. The oldest tombstone that the writer could find is that of the Rev. John Connelley who died on Dec. 21, 1845.

Parker's Methodist Church, colored, is located two miles s. w. of Westville. This church was founded in 1877. 25 perches of land were donated on Jan. 9, 1878, by Joshua Parker, as a church site. There is a graveyard.

Star Hill M. E. Church, colored, is located at Star Hill, east of Camden. The first building was erected in 1866. The present church was built in 1905. Additional land had been purchased from F. W. J. Heinemann on Feb. 16, 1903.

Star Hill Unity Holiness Church, colored, is located at Star Hill. This building was originally the home of the Lutheran Church at Rising Sun. In 1931, the building was moved to its present location. The church site had been donated by Albert M. Palmer on Oct. 13, 1930.

Rising Sun M. E. Church was organized in 1888, and meetings were held in a local hall. The interest was not sustained and the effort failed in about three years.

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church at Rising Sun. This congregation was formed in 1900, and met over the blacksmith shop at the five corners. On Jan. 13, 1903, a building committee was elected. The church was incorporated on Feb. 16, 1903. A plot of land was purchased from Robert Richardson on Mar. 3, 1903, and the building was started. The corner-stone was laid on Mar. 29, 1903. The opening service was held on May 24, 1903. The church was given the name "St. Paul's" and was dedicated on Aug. 2, 1903, by the Rev. E. L. S. Tressel and W. Zimmerman. Sometime between Mar. 12, 1911 and 1916 this congregation was dissolved. Mission services were held from 1916 until 1924 when the church was closed, the congregation transferring to the Dover church. The building was sold, in 1931, to a congregation of colored Holiness who moved it to Star Hill.

Lebanon Methodist Church (M.E.) at Lebanon, was built in 1858. The church site had been purchased from John Sapp on Oct. 19, 1857. The church was incorporated on Apr. 2, 1874. On Mar. 12, 1922, the church was destroyed by a fire that originated next door in the home of Captain Walker. A new church was built and it was dedicated in 1925. The church was closed in 1939. Since that time occasional services have been held by students of the Wesley Junior College.

Lebanon P. E. Mission was founded by the Rev. Benjamin F. Thompson, B.D., of Dover, in January, 1931. The early meetings were held in a private home. The Methodist church was closed at that time and Father Thompson was given the use of it for his services. In February, 1933, a class was ready for confirmation and this was done by Bishop Philip Cook in St. Paul's Church at Camden. At this time the Methodists decided to reopen their church. This depleted the mission to some extent. One of the members volunteered to transport the members, by bus, to attend the services at St. Paul's Church in Camden, after which the mission at Lebanon was closed.

Church noted for historic railroad

By Joseph D. Harris
Staff writer

STAR HILL — Tidy and non-descript Star Hill AME Church is finally getting the recognition it deserves, C. Russell McCabe, a state archivist, said Wednesday.

Built 130 years ago, Star Hill Church is believed to have been a stop along the Underground Railroad which brought fugitive slaves from the South to Canada and other free areas. It stands in an area which was one of the state's first communities of free blacks who were manumitted by the Quakers in the mid-1700s.

Though it has 35 or so parishoners, Star Hill Church is also a repository for much of the area's black history. Still, the church has quietly endured the years, with its history and that of the surrounding area known only to state historians and nearby residents.

But things are different now, at least somewhat.

Wednesday, Mr. McCabe and two other state workers erected a blue and gold marker designating the church as a point of



State News/Kevin Heslin

Nelson Driggus, right, a steward and trustee of Star Hill AME Church, and C. Russell McCabe of the state's archive division, place a marker Wednesday in front of the church. The sign indicates that the church was once a part of the underground railroad used by slaves.

historical interest.

"It's been more than a while in the making," Mr. McCabe said. "Places like this, where there isn't much written history about them, tend to get passed up sometimes. A lot of the research we did for this came to us orally.

"If you think about it, very few records were kept about the

Underground Railroad and who used it, for several reasons, so most of the information was passed on by word of mouth," he said.

Despite the lack of written history, the state was able to determine that the land where the church sits was purchased by a group of men identified as

trustees from Henry W. Postles for \$30 in 1866. The land was designated for use by the members of the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

Additionally, Mr. McCabe believes that there may have been two schools on the property. He said that one of the schools may

See Marker — Page 2

Marker

Continued from Page 1

have doubled as the church until the church construction was completed. But, he also said that one of the schools may have been moved, added onto and then converted to the present church.

"It's really hard to say what was exactly where," Mr. McCabe said.

The church's clergy and mem-

bers will hold an official ceremony recognizing the church's designation as a point of historical interest Saturday at 1 p.m.

"We're going to let people know we're here," Nelson Driggus, a steward and trustee of the church, said. "It's important that people know what has gone on here."

The marker erected Wednesday at Star Hill is the second denoting a black historical point on interest in the state.



*Star Hill African
Methodist Episcopal Church*

*Star Hill African
Methodist Episcopal Church
request the honor of your presence
at the installation service
of their Historical Marker,
honoring its 130 year history
on Saturday, the fifth of June
Nineteen hundred and ninety-three
at one o'clock in the afternoon
Reception to follow*