

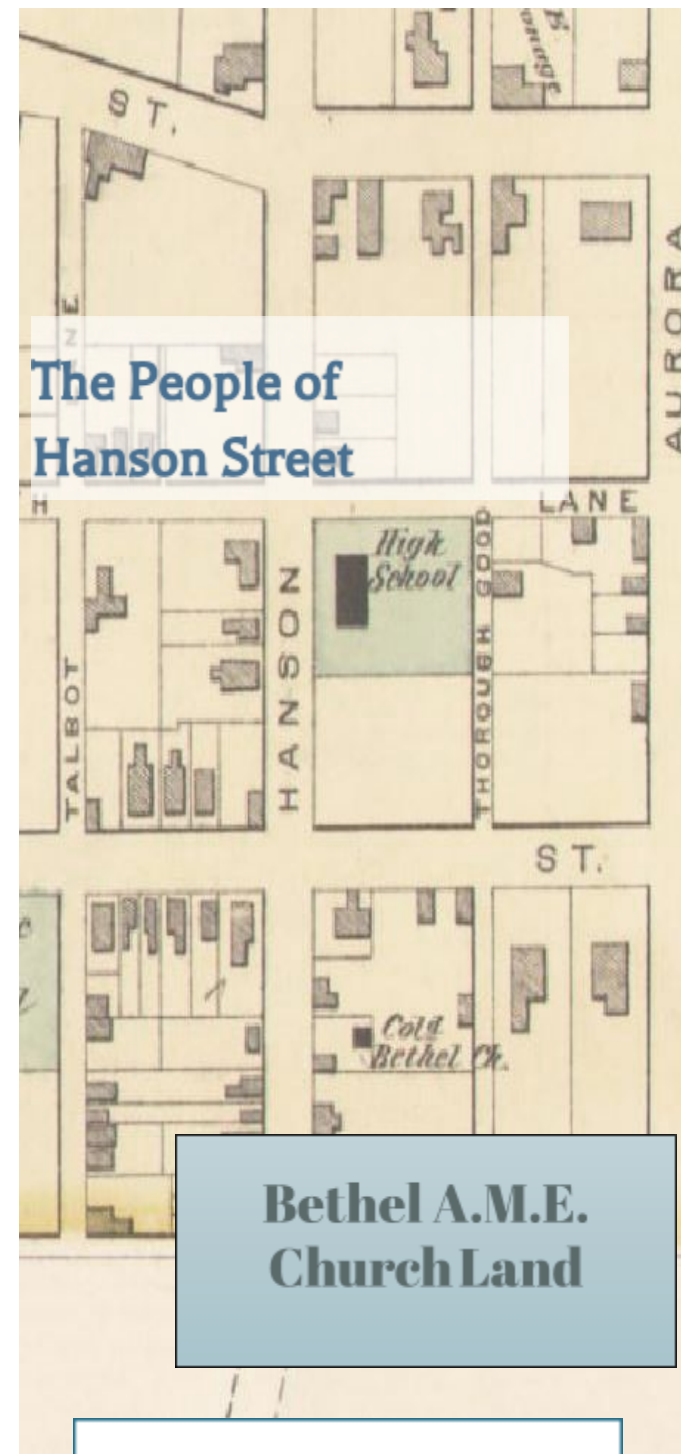
### Annual Conference of the Baltimore A.M.E. Church-

This conference commenced its session in the Bethel Church of Easton, on Wednesday, the 25<sup>th</sup>, Bishop Wayman presiding. On the first day of the Conference there were about 40 ministers present, others have arrived since, making some 50 in number.

Upon the assembling of the Conference Bishop Wayman said that it was usual that some citizen to extend an address of welcome, when it was its first session here, but as he did not see any one present to represent the town in that capacity, he being a native of the Eastern Shore, he would undertake to speak on behalf of the citizens of Easton, which he did as follows:

Rev. Fathers and Brothers: - In behalf of the colored citizens of Easton, I welcome you for the first time in your history, to the Eastern Shore of Maryland. On this sacred spot more than half a century ago, the standard of our beloved Zion was erected. We welcome you to our hospitable domicils, because we believe you are the messengers of the Lord of Hosts. It will give us the greatest pleasure if we can render your stay among us happy. We welcome you to view our fields and gardens, to inhale our sweet zephyrs, and the fragrance of our flowers. We welcome you to feel yourselves at home and whilst here we shall listen with pleasure to your deliberations and to the truth which you will present in the name of our Lord and Master.

Then when your Conference is over and these heralds of free grace shall go forth again "weeping and bearing precious seed," we will pray the great head of the Church to go with you to the mountains and valleys and let your sun set without a cloud and you bring thousands of souls with you in the resurrection of the just as so many stars to deck the crowns of your rejoicing forever.



The People of  
Hanson Street

Bethel A.M.E.  
Church Land

The Hill Community  
Project  
Easton, Maryland

# Bethel A.M.E. Society

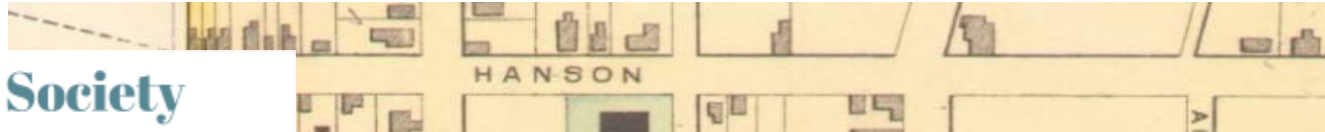
## The Bethel A.M.E. Church Lands

In 1820 the Trustees of the Bethel A.M.E. Society purchased two lots, Nos. 51 and 52, in the town of Easton from Henry Catrup. The Trustees at the time of purchase were Abraham Dobson, Joseph Chain, Isaac Johnson, Paris Chaise, Charles Blake, Adam Hercules and Jacob Howard.

In 1827 the Trustees of the Bethel Society conveyed to Joseph Chain, merchant, member and trustee, the church property for \$160. A loan?

At the same time, Joseph Chain filed a deed conveying Lot No. 52 to fellow trustee, Perry Sprouse retaining Lot No. 51 on which the church house stood.

In 1827, the trustees named were Abraham Dobson, Washington Dorrell, Nace Gibson, Edward Adams, Joseph Stevens, Perry Sprouse and Jeremiah Banning.



the Bethel Church now stands” was now solely in the name of Joseph Chain.

The Court of Talbot County issued a fieri facias against Joseph Chain in 1830 at the suit of G.T.H. Hopkins and Benjamin P. Moore for monies owed them.

Unfortunately, the Bethel Church property was included in this suit, being the property of Joseph Chain. The land was therefore sold to James Parrott at public auction.

ately, James Parrott sold the the trustees, Jacob Howard, John Dobson, William Dobson, Solomon Benson and Pere Dobson, for \$50 *“To hold all mentioned lot or piece of land unto them the said trustees and their successors in office forever in trust that they shall erect or build thereon a house or place of worship for the use of the members of the African Methodist Episcopal Church in the USA or well keep repaired and in good order for the purposes aforesaid **the house already erected on the said lot** and in further trust and confidence that they shall at all times forever hereafter permit such ministers and preachers belonging to the said church or shall from time to time be duly authorized by the general conferences of the Ministers and Preachers of the said African Methodist Episcopal Church or by the annual conferences authorized by the said general conference to preach and expound Gods Holy Word therein”*

In 1879 J.F. Bateman sold part of the original lot No. 51 back to the Bethel Church and in 1897 Mary Ann Webb did the same.

The present church building was built in 1877.

A history, of almost 200 years, for free African Americans and their church land in the heart of the Hill Community.