



86A-059 St. Thomas' Episcopal Parish Historic District (NR)

Extending from the east side of Croom Road along the north and south sides of St. Thomas Church Road eastward for about 1,500 feet

Croom

The St. Thomas' Episcopal Parish Historic District includes approximately 43.77 acres situated in Croom. The district is centered on St. Thomas' Church. In 1850, the church became the parish church for the newly created St. Thomas' Parish, and continues this purpose today. In 1850, a rectory was built. In 1894, the parishioners of St. Thomas oversaw the construction of St. Simon's Mission Chapel, a chapel for African-American worshippers and one of only three black Episcopal congregations in Maryland. St. Simon's continued to serve black parishioners until the congregation merged with St. Thomas' in 1964. The Croom Industrial and Agricultural School was established in 1902, first under the aegis of the Episcopal Church and later as a nonsectarian institution, to teach practical education to black children. The Mission Chapel was demolished c. 1974; an associated cemetery and a marker provide the only physical vestiges of the former church. Pictured left to right are the Sexton's House behind the Rectory (86A-027-08); the interior of St. Thomas' (86A-027-07), and a marker for the Mission (86A-027-012).