

AMITY METHODIST CHURCH

Amity United Methodist Church is a large white two-story frame building located on U.S. Highway 264 about half way between Lake Landing and Engelhard on a sight that was once known as Indian Ridge. The Church has a balcony which was built to accomodate the slaves who attended Church with their white masters. Some members of the Community who remembered the early days of the Church said that the first lecturn was on a raised platform and was reached by steps on either side of the lecturn. This Church is a landmark in the community, being much larger than is usually found in rural areas. The guest register in the vestibule of the Church shows that many people passing through stop to see the Church, one from as far away as Germany. Amity is a part of Mattamuskeet Charge which consists of 4 Churches.

Much of the history of Amity was never recorded and it is believed some of the records have been destroyed. Research by Mrs. Nell Wechter of Stumpy Point shows that in Návember 1841 a deed was executed for the property on which Amity Church now stands and was acknowledged in open court by Thomas Ballance in person. It was recorded in Book T, page 378 in the Register of Deed's Office on February 9, 1842 by Green Bridgman. This property which contained on acre and 96 poles was purchased for \$80.00.

Research by Miss Rebecca Swindell and Guy F. Gibbs shows that on December 30, 1844 another plot of land was deeded to the Trustees in Trust of the Methodist Episcopal Church. This probably expanded the plot that was bought in November 1841. It is described as being on Indian Ridge and embracing all the land whereon the Mattamuskeet Chapel stands. It was to be used for the erection of a place of worship for the members of the Methodist Episcopal Church South. This deed is recorded in Book 5 page 54, Register of Deeds Office, Hyde County Court House.

The Chapel referred to in the deed of 1844 apparently was used as a place of worship for all Methodists in the area of what is now Lake Landing Township except those in Gull Rock, then known as Mt. Pleasant. There is no record of when the Chapel was built or what disposition was made of it after Amity Church was built. It is assumed that it was either torn down or moved to another location. According to information handed down by

