Visit The
STRAWBRIDGE SHRINE for:

- U.S. History
- Maryland History
- Methodist and Religious Heritage
- Confirmation Classes

Celebrating
250 YEARS
And Counting...

Visitors' Center
Archives & Research Room
Open to all!

TOURS

Tours of the Strawbridge Shrine are available for individuals and for groups of any kind.

To arrange a tour, contact us:

410-635-2600
Tours@StrawbridgeShrine.org

For more info, news and upcoming events, please visit us on-line:
www.StrawbridgeShrine.org

See what others are saying, and join the experience:

Like

Facebook.com/StrawbridgeShrine
Tell us about your visit, ask questions, and share your photos!

DIRECTIONS

FROM BALTIMORE

Take I-795 North towards Westminster.
Get off at Exit 9B: MD 140 West.
Follow MD 140 through Westminster (about 12 miles).
Turn left onto MD 31. Go about 5 miles.
Turn left onto Wakefield Valley Rd. Go 2.1 miles.
Where Wakefield Valley Rd. makes a hard right, stay straight onto Wilt Rd.
Turn right onto Strawbridge Lane.

FROM DC

Take I-270 North.
Get off at Exit 16: MD 27 North.
Follow MD 27 about 23.6 miles.
Turn left onto MD 407 Marston Rd. Go about 4 miles.
Turn right onto MD 31 East. Go about 1 mile.
Turn right onto Wakefiled Valley Rd. Go about 1 mile.
Turn right onto Wilt Rd.
Turn right onto Strawbridge Lane.

FROM PENNSYLVANIA

Take US 15 South.
Exit onto MD 140 East.
Follow MD 140 about 19 miles.
Turn right onto MD 31. Go about 5 miles.
Turn left onto Wakefield Valley Rd. Go 2.1 miles.
Where Wakefield Valley Rd. makes a hard right, stay straight onto Wilt Rd.
Turn right onto Strawbridge Lane.

DONATIONS

Donations to The Shrine help in restoration and education, and are greatly appreciated. Without your generosity, The Shrine would cease to exist, and this important piece of history would be lost.

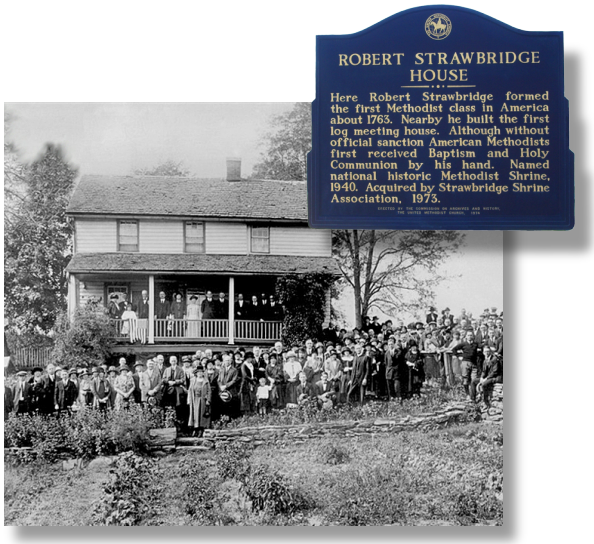
Donations made be made to:

Strawbridge Shrine Assoc., Inc.
P.O. Box 388
New Windsor, MD 21776

The Strawbridge Shrine Association, Inc. is a non-profit entity 501(c)(3). Donations are tax deductible.

The STRAWBRIDGE SHRINE

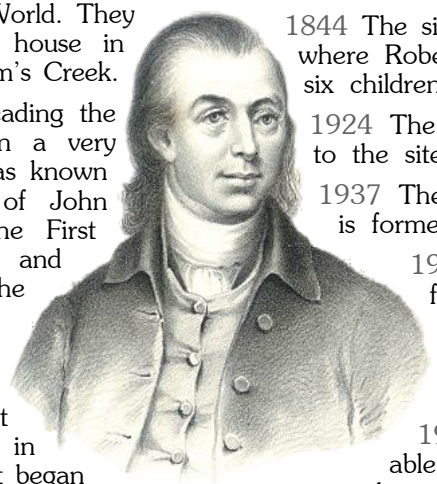
The First Home *Of* American Methodism



2650 Strawbridge Lane
New Windsor, MD 21776

Methodism Comes To America

While preaching near Terryhugan, Ireland, Robert Strawbridge met and married a devoted Wesleyan, Elizabeth Piper. In 1760, they chose, as was a fairly common at the time, to make their home in the New World. They rented a small farm and a log house in Maryland, in an area known as Sam's Creek.



Robert immediately set about spreading the word of Wesleyan Methodism. In a very short time, he established what was known as a house church like those of John Wesley in England. This was the First Society of Methodists in America, and it met in the living room of the Strawbridge House.

Soon, Robert and his followers built a Log Meeting House for preaching and singing – the first dedicated Methodist Structure in America. At the same time, Robert began to travel widely around the area, establishing Methodist Classes in many far-flung places. His journeys took him to Delaware, to the Eastern Shore of Maryland, New Jersey, Georgetown, DC, Virginia, and Pennsylvania.

While Robert traveled, Elizabeth managed their home, farm and six children. Through her witness and influence, one of their neighbors, John Evans, became the first American convert to Methodism.

At the first Annual Conference held in America in 1773, Francis Asbury, Strawbridge, and two others were appointed to Baltimore, the largest circuit of the fledgling church.

Robert passed away while preaching in Baltimore in 1781. Three years later, at the famous Christmas Conference of 1784 at Lovely Lane Meeting House in Baltimore, the Methodist Episcopal Church was launched as a new Protestant denomination.

At this Conference, Wesley's envoys, Asbury and Thomas Coke, were elected as bishops to carry on the work so faithfully begun by Strawbridge.

The Shrine Association

The Strawbridge Shrine Association was created in 1937 to preserve and protect the first home of Methodism in America for all generations.

1844 The site is documented as the location where Robert and Elizabeth lived with their six children and established their ministry.

1924 The first official pilgrimage is made to the site.

1937 The Strawbridge Shrine Association is formed.

1940 The site is recognized as the first National Methodist Shrine.

1959 The Shrine Association begins to try to acquire the house and grounds.

1973 The Shrine Association is able to purchase the house and surrounding thirty-two acre property.

1979 The Evans House is moved five miles from its original site to be placed on The Shrine grounds

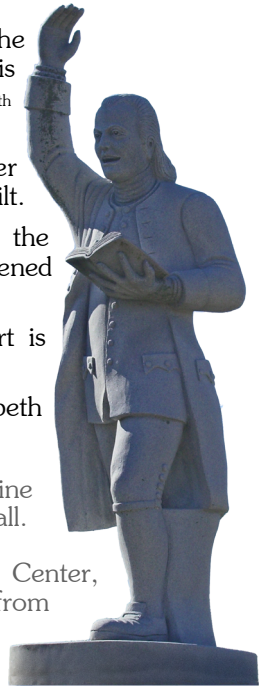
1982 A replica of The Log Meeting House is built from historic 18th century logs.

1989 The Visitors' Center & Curator's house is built.

1999 The interior of the Strawbridge House is opened to visitors.

2004 A Statue of Robert is erected.

2007 A Statue of Elizabeth is completed.



Membership in The Shrine Association is open to all. Membership forms are available in the Visitors' Center, or can be downloaded from our website.