

CE-1453  
Old St. Paul's Methodist Church  
Earleville vicinity  
Private

circa 1840

Old St. Paul's Methodist Church, or Johntown Chapel, is one of the few known surviving examples of antebellum Methodist churches in Cecil County. Constructed during the second quarter of the nineteenth century, most likely circa 1840, the small, one-story frame church has undergone minor alterations in the late 19th century but much of the original materials remain intact both inside and out. Key features such as the balcony, columns, windows, doors and Greek Revival trim survive. The interior walls have been covered with vertical beaded boards; the roof has been rebuilt and the ceiling lowered to the balcony railing and sheathed with the same vertical boards. With the exception of the removal of the balcony stairs, the interior floor plan remains the same. The exterior weatherboards are visible underneath asbestos shingles.

The church is located adjacent to an 18th century cemetery. A new church, serving the St. Paul's community, was built in the 1890s. During the 1920s, the old church building was altered for use as the church hall.

HISTORIC CONTEXT:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Eastern Shore

Chronological/Development Period(s):

Agricultural/Industrial Transition A.D. 1815-1870

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme(s):

Architecture/Landscape Architecture/Community Planning

Religion

Resource Type:

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function(s) and Use(s):

RELIGION/religious structure

Known Design Source: None

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF

HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Magi No.

DOE  yes  no

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Johntown Chapeland/or common Old St. Paul's Methodist Church (preferred)

## 2. Location

street & number Old Crystal Beach Road  not for publicationcity, town Earleville  vicinity of                      congressional district                     state Maryland county Cecil

## 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

## 4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Earleville  
St. Paul's Methodist Churchstreet & number Maryland  
Old Crystal Beach Road telephone no.:                     city, town Earleville, state and zip code Maryland

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc.                      liber                     street & number                      folio                     city, town                      state                     

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title                     date                       federal  state  county  localpository for survey records                     city, town                      state

## 7. Description

Survey No. CE-1453

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved      date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Resource Count: 1

Old St. Paul's Methodist Church is located on the east side of Old Crystal Beach Road between Earleville and Crystal Beach. The church faces west, towards the road, and sits in the middle of a cemetery. There is a newer 1892 church building to the south of the old building (see CE-23).

The church was built in the second quarter of the nineteenth century, most likely circa 1840; a small, modern, rear addition was added circa 1965. The gable roofed church is one story high, three bays wide and four bays long with the gable end facing front. All original windows are 8/12. Originally, the frame construction was sheathed in weatherboard siding; modern shingles now conceal the earlier siding. The stone foundation has deteriorated and been covered with concrete block; it is parged on the front facade. There is a single, interior, stove chimney centered on the south facade.

The principal facade of the church is three bays wide. The entrance is located in the center bay, flanked by a single window symmetrically placed on either side. The entrance consists of double five-panel doors topped by a seven pane transom. A porch hood, with overhanging eaves and vertical boarding in the gable creating a row of dentils across the bottom, shelters the entrance. Two molded and chamfered brackets, attached to flanking pilasters, supported the hood but more recent posts have added additional support. Four wooden steps rise to the doors.

The north and south facades are now identical with the exception of the stove chimney projecting from the roof of the south side. Fenestration consists of three windows symmetrically placed in the rear three bays. The south facade originally had an exterior door located at its (front) western edge. Although covered by the siding, the door is still intact and visible from the interior.

The rear facade originally had two doors leading outside. One door now provides access to the small addition on the southern half of this facade, the other door was removed and the entrance closed off. The addition is of frame construction, with a low pitched shed roof. It has a single door on the north side, and a small single pane window on both the east and south facades.

## Continuation Sheet 7.1

The roof, covered with modern asphalt shingles, creates a large overhanging eave on all four facades. The fascia and soffit are wood and no cornice is visible. A panelled shutter was found in the attic suggesting the windows may have originally had shutters. The window trim is similar to the interior reflecting the early Greek Revival style.

An opening in the foundation allows access to the crawl space below the first floor. The framing system consists of straight sawn floor joists half lapped onto the sill; it appears that no nails or mortise and tenon joints were used. The weatherboard siding is straight sawn, horizontal wood boards secured with transitional cut nails. One corner post is partially visible.

The interior of the church was laid out in a one room plan with a gallery over the front entry. Columns supporting the balcony created a division between the entrance area and the pews in the main sanctuary. Stairs to the balcony were located along the southern wall of this entrance area. An exterior door provided direct access to the balcony. Although the steps were removed and the door closed off, evidence suggests a partition separated the stairs from the main body of the church. This area was not plastered and is covered with wide horizontal planks. Local tradition states this provided a separate access to a slave gallery; architectural evidence reinforces this idea. The same feature can be found in nearby Queen Anne's County at the Burrisville Methodist Church (QA-223). The remainder of the entrance area is plastered.

The pews have been removed and the main portion of the interior walls and ceiling are covered with double beaded, vertical paneling, a finish typical of the late 19th century. The baseboard was replaced during this alteration and the ceiling was dropped to the upper edge of the balcony railing. A series of vertical, recessed, molded panels embellish the railing and are similar to the recessed panels of the exterior doors. These panels, along with the window trim, are dominated by Greek ogees with astragals. The tapered columns rest on a square base and are topped with a Greek cap.

An interior stove and chimney stack sit between the first and second windows of the south wall. A modern kitchen is located in the addition to the rear. The building is currently used for storage.

The common rafter roof system is constructed with a mixture of straight and circular sawn timbers, some of which have been reused. This evidence suggests a post Civil War rebuilding of the roof. The common rafters rest on a false plate and are mitered at the ridge. The floor boards of the gallery are still intact.

# 8. Significance

Survey No. CE-1453

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates c. 1840

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria:  A  B  C  D  
and/or

Applicable Exception:  A  B  C  D  E  F  G

Level of Significance:  national  state  local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Old St. Paul's Church is significant as one of the few known surviving antebellum Methodist churches in Cecil County. Architecturally, the church is representative of the small, rural frame Methodist church built during the first half of the 19th century along the Delmarva Peninsula. Although the structure is said to be 18th century, the visible architectural fabric dates to the second quarter of the 19th century with post-Civil War alterations. The Greek Revival church retains its architectural integrity in such key features as the columns, balcony railing, trim, and windows and doors. The later 19th century alterations include a rebuilding of the roof and closing off the gallery by adding double beaded vertical paneling along the ceiling and walls. Few other alterations have changed this late 19th century appearance.

The church is also significant for its association with the development of Methodism on the Eastern Shore of Maryland and as a symbol of the early Methodist congregations in the county. The Methodist movement reached America in the mid-1760s and spread quickly throughout the Delmarva Peninsula with the first Methodist itinerants preaching in private homes or open areas. The first Eastern Shore society was organized in Maryland in 1772 at Bohemia in Cecil County.<sup>1</sup> The second society in the county is believed to have been organized at the site of St. Paul's in 1773 by Reverend William Watters.<sup>2</sup> John Garrettson, brother of the first American born Methodist minister, Freeborn Garrettson, moved to the area after he married a woman from a local family. John Garrettson died in 1778 and is buried in the cemetery adjacent to the church. The area then became known as Johntown. With the establishment of a Kent circuit, the society at Johntown became part of the first circuit on the Eastern Shore. Freeborn Garrettson was assigned to this circuit.

## Continuation Sheet 8.1

After the Revolutionary War, Methodism increased significantly throughout the Eastern Shore and by 1784 the Methodists outnumbered any other church on the Delmarva Peninsula. After a slight decline in membership at the end of the century, the Methodists increased dramatically on the Delmarva peninsula between 1800 and 1805, mainly as a result of the camp meeting.<sup>3</sup> Although the increase leveled off, Methodism continued to gain prominence in the 19th century and a number of permanent church buildings were constructed in the area. Approximately twenty Methodist churches were built in Cecil County before 1850; seven of these may have been built between 1825 and 1850.<sup>4</sup> Very few remain today. Only five rural, pre-1850 structures have been previously identified; three of them are of frame construction, one was rebuilt in 1871 and little evidence remains of the original structure.<sup>5</sup>

Alterations were completed on the Old St. Paul's Church sometime after the Civil War; possibly in response to changes within the church. By 1892, the congregation had grown enough to construct a larger church building. After some debate, it was decided that the new church would remain at the same location next to the cemetery and original building. By 1920, Old St. Paul's was used as the church hall.

## Continuation Sheet 8.2

1. William H. Williams. The Garden of American Methodism: The Delmarva Peninsula 1769-1820 (Wilmington: Scholarly Resources, Inc., 1984), 28.
2. "St. Paul's Methodist," Cecil County Archives. William Williams states that five Methodist meeting places were located in Cecil and Kent Counties in 1773. Williams, 28.
3. William H. Williams, 58, 81.
4. E. C. Hallman. The Garden of Methodism (published at the request of the Peninsula Annual Conference of the Methodist Church, 1948), 290-299.
5. See the Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties, Cecil County.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. CE-1453

See Notes

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 1 acre

Quadrangle name Earleville

Quadrangle scale \_\_\_\_\_

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

B	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

C	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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D	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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E	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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F	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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G	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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H	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Marcia M. Miller, Administrator of Architectural Research

organization Maryland Historical Trust date September 8, 1992

street & number 100 Community Place telephone (410) 514-7646

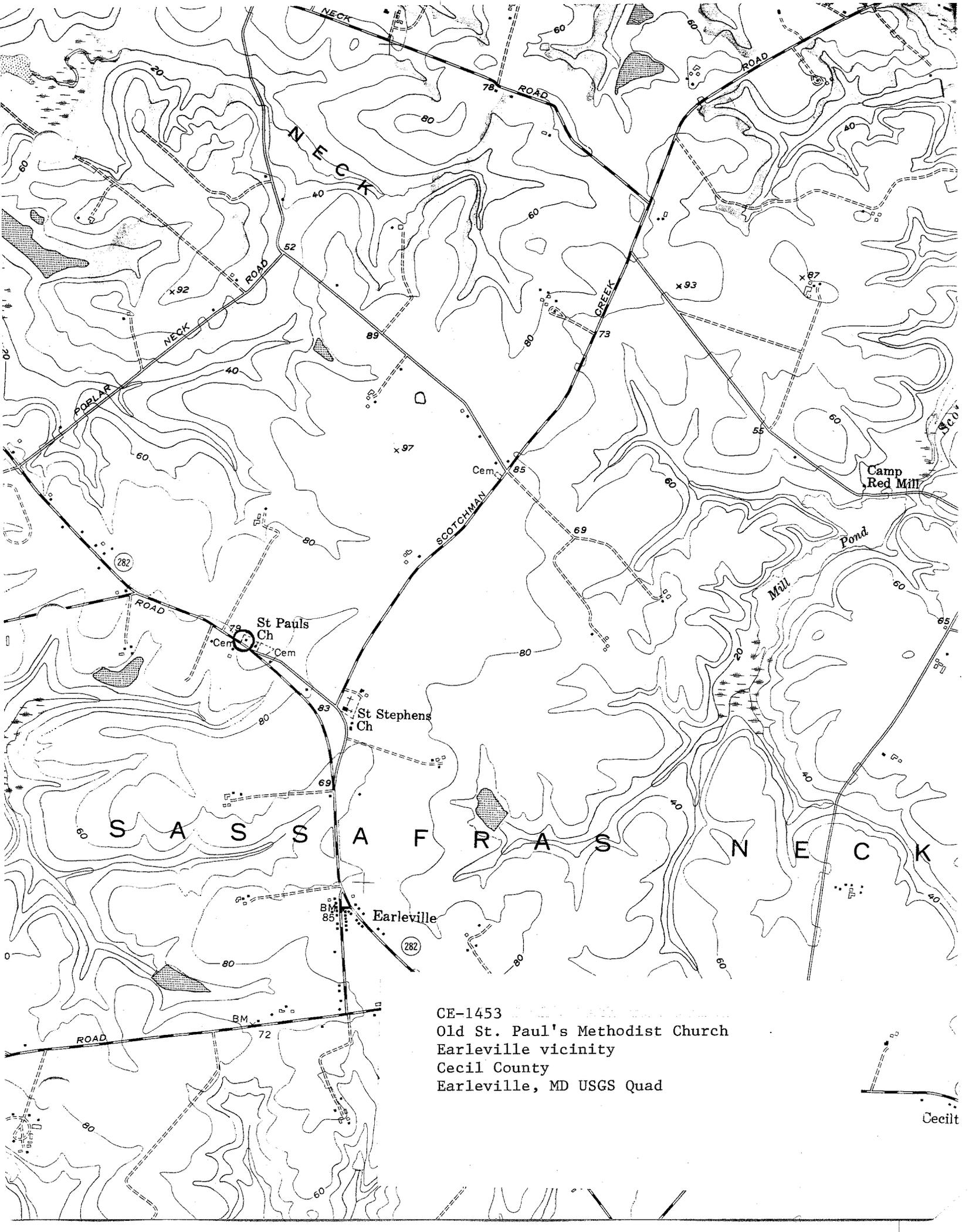
city or town Crownsville state Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
Shaw House  
21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 269-2438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
DHCP/DHOD  
100 COMMUNITY PLACE  
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023  
(410) 514-7500



CE-1453  
Old St. Paul's Methodist Church  
Earleville vicinity  
Cecil County  
Earleville, MD USGS Quad

Cecil



CE 1453

07/2/05 - North ...

Sevier County, TN

Margaret H. Miller

June 1911

100 ...

West ...

100



10/1/20

1. The first part of the  
document is a list of  
names.

2. The second part of the  
document is a list of  
names.

3/1/2



CE 14573

Old St. Paul's Methodist Church

Cecil County

Grace W. Miller

June 1972

115 5420

East Grand and tower elevations

204



CF 1453

0125 2-11-11 - Mailed to C. H. ...

CECIL COUNTY MARYLAND

WALTER M. MILLER

JUNE 1908

NO. 50

VOL. 12 OF ...

4/14







CT 1583

Old St Paul's Methodist Ch. 1876

Detail of weatherboard

in side of building

June 1947

15 2483

Detail of weatherboard at entrance

612



CE 1410  
of 2-10-1988

Cert. Copy, MD

Marcia H. H. 1988

June 1988

1988 0105

2000 1000 1000

7/4



Old St. Paul's Methodist Church

Cecil Johnson

Marcia M. Hiler

June 1992

MD 5100

Dave Detail

E/S



CE-1453

Old St Paul's Hospital at  
1000 ...

March 11 12 20

June 1902

...

View of gallery entrance with  
steps removed

...



EE 1453

Old St Paul's Methodist Church

Chattanooga

Margie H. Miller

June 1982

102540

go to gallery

10/2



20-10-92

Old St. Paul's Methodist Church

100 - 2005

Marcia M. Miller

June 1992

MS 9090

column detail

2



CF 1453

of St. Paul's Methodist Church

Cecil County

Margie M. Miller

Jan. 1957

1972-1973

Interior view of sanctuary

1453



CE 1453

Old St. Paul's Methodist Church

Cecil County

Margaret M. Miller

June 1912

105 540

Inventory of church records

131



CE-1053

Great Plains Laboratory, Inc. 1972

3000 5000

10000 10000

June 1972

10000 10000

10000 10000

10000