

ABSTRACT

WA-I-276

1822

Salem Church

Cearfoss-Hagerstown Vicinity

private

Salem Church, a limestone building dated 1822, is significant for its age, its congregation having been established in the mid 18th century, very early in Washington County's history. Architecturally, it displays stylistic influence of the early 19th century such as the federal-inspired elliptical arches at the gable windows. Apparently the present church building replaced a log structure that was used as a church from about 1747.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

MACT # 220425308  
582

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Salem Church

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

Salem Church Road

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

VICINITY OF Cearfoss-Hagerstown

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Washington

**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 type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Salem Reformed United Church of Christ

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

Box 296

CITY, TOWN

Maugansville

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21767

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Washington County Court House

Liber #: No reference found  
Folio #:

STREET & NUMBER

West Washington Street

CITY, TOWN

Hagerstown

STATE

Maryland 21740

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Maryland Historical Trust Survey

DATE

Summer 1967

\_\_\_ FEDERAL  STATE \_\_\_ COUNTY \_\_\_ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Maryland Historical Trust

CITY, TOWN

Annapolis

STATE

Maryland 21401

**7 DESCRIPTION**

CONDITION	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED

**CHECK ONE**  
 UNALTERED  
 ALTERED < 50%

**CHECK ONE**  
 ORIGINAL SITE  
 MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Salem Church is located on the west side of Salem Church Road between Hagerstown and Cearfoss in Washington County, Maryland. The church, a one and a half story, three bay stone structure is situated on high ground and faces east. A one story modern entrance bay also of stone construction has been added at the front or east end wall. A flat roofed stone addition five bays in length dated 1951 extends to the rear. A more recent addition, a one story, five bay brick structure attached to the 1951 structure was built in 1962.

The main part of the church, its original section, was constructed of coursed native limestone in the year 1822 as indicated by the date inscribed in the cornerstone. Noteworthy features associated with the exterior masonry include elliptical arches above windows in the east and west gables. The window in the west wall has been filled with stone. Other windows are topped with flat arches. High in the gables are small round openings lined with bricks. In the west gable wall, near its south end is evidence of a window which has been walled with stone. The masonry here, however, does not appear to be as recent as that which fills the arched window higher in the wall. A low water table is present at all elevations.

The main story windows have wide frames joined with pegs and trimmed with quarter round molding. The frames hold twelve over twelve light sashes and are flanked with pairs of three panel shutters. The arched window in the east gable has a six over three light sash between smaller two over one pane sashes below a fan with ray muntins.

The roof is sheathed with modern asphalt shingles and extends beyond the end walls. A small brick flue which is not original is attached to the west end wall.

To the south and west of the church is the cemetery which includes a number of markers from the 18th as well as the 19th century. The church and the cemetery are in excellent condition and stand on a tract containing less than five acres.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES 1822 (Additions 1951, 1962) BUILDER/ARCHITECT

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Salem Church, a limestone building dated 1822, is significant for its age, its congregation having been established in the mid 18th century, very early in Washington County's history. Architecturally, it displays stylistic influence of the early 19th century such as the federal-inspired elliptical arches at the gable windows. Apparently the present church building replaced a log structure that was used as a church from about 1747.

The history of Salem Church is further related in the attached excerpt from A History of Washington County by T.J.C. Williams.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> T.J.C. Williams, A History of Washington County, Hagerstown, Md: Mail Publishing Co., (1906) p. 551.

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Williams, T.J.C., History of Washington County. Hagerstown, Md: Mail Publishing Co., 1906.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than 5 acres

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

Paula Stoner Dickey, Consultant

ORGANIZATION

Washington County Historical Sites Survey

DATE

March 1977

STREET & NUMBER

County Office Building, 33 West Washington Street

TELEPHONE

791-3065

CITY OR TOWN

Hagerstown

STATE

Maryland 21740

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  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438

**SALEM REFORMED CHURCH** was formerly known for seventy-five years as Deyshere Church. Peter Deyshere was the moving spirit in establishing this church about 1747. Mr. Deyshere came from Maiden Creek Township, Berks County, Pa., in 1747. He had a wife and several children. They settled a farm, on which the church was located. The Indians were very plentiful at this time, and the family were often disturbed. On one occasion Mrs. Deyshere hid in a sycamore tree during nights for many weeks, when the Indians were on the war path. The Deyshere family of three generations were buried in the Salem graveyard.

In 1822 the name of the church was changed to Salem Church. Among the early members were the Renchies, Schnebleys, Zellers, Kellars, Troups, Brumbaughs, Longs, Gross, Felker, Cunninghams, Barnett, McLaughlin, Weavers, Gabriels, Strocks, Neikirks, Kuhns, Moyers, Kershners, Rummels, Seiberts, Fouks, Millers, Newcomers, Osters, Frantz, Stitzels.

Rev. Jonathan Rauhanser, Rev. James R. Riley, Rev. Brunner, were among the early ministers. The first church was a log house in which the church sexton, Ebrocht, taught school in the German language, and many of the early members of the church took instructions.

The present church is a stone building about 50x40 feet, one story, with seating capacity of 300. Services every two weeks. Sunday-School every Sunday. The elders are Elmer Bostetter, Richard Deibler; Deacons, Mr. Zimmerman, Lewis Frantz; minister, Rev. Conrad Clever, D. D.; membership now about 60.

**THE COLORED METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, OF SHARPSBURG.**—\*The corner-stone of the Colored Methodist Episcopal Church was laid Oct. 20, 1866, and the church was dedicated Oct. 1867. It is built of logs one story in height and weatherboarded. The building is 18 by 30 and is surmounted with cupola and bell and is known as "Tolson's Chapel" and is situated on High street.

The ground on which the church is erected was presented by Samuel and Catharine Craig, (colored) both ardent members of the church.

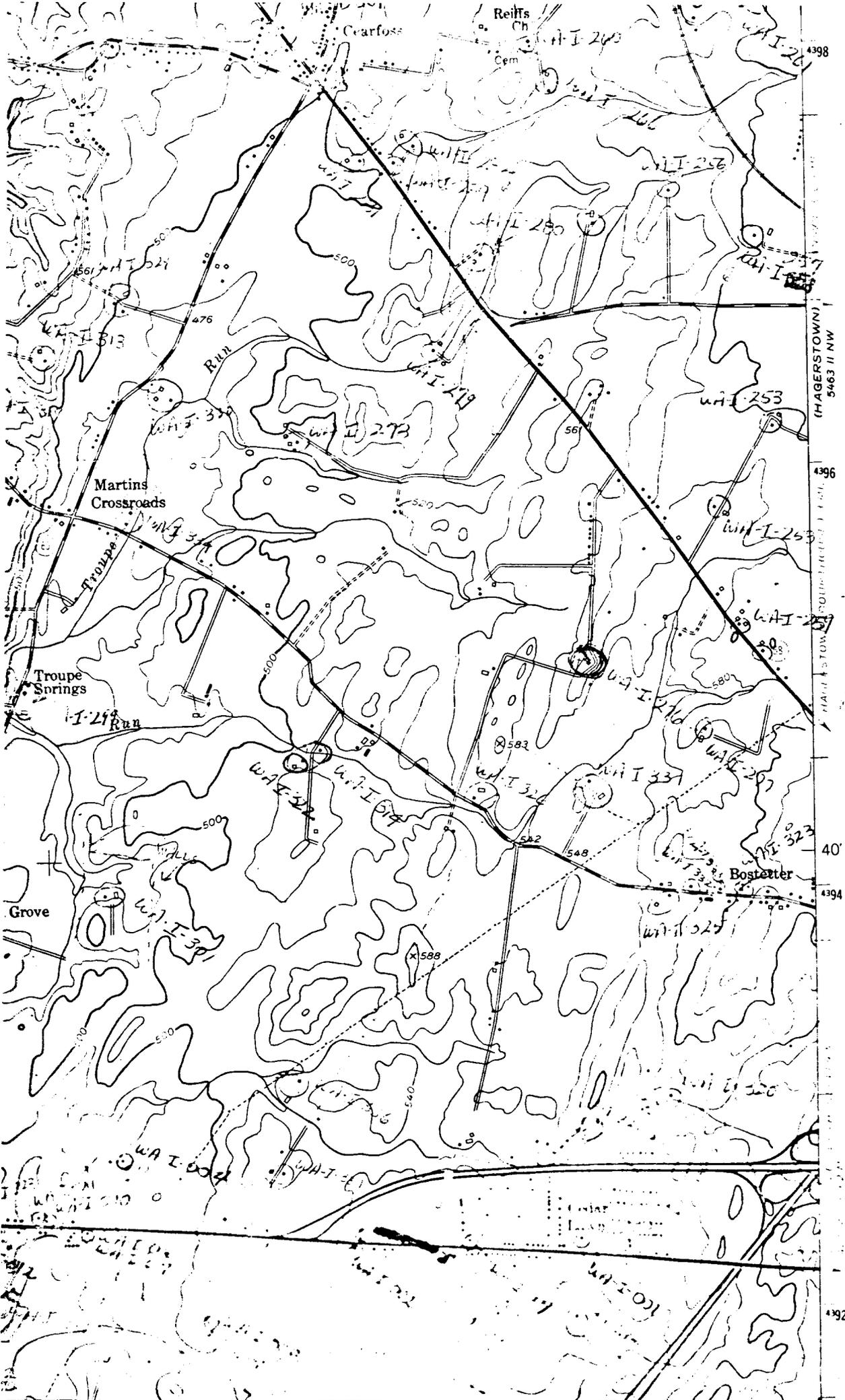
One-fourth of an acre of ground is attached to the church which is laid out in lots and dedicated under the title of "Fairmont Cemetery."

The following are a list of some of the ministers who have been pastors of this church: Revs. Jarrett Bowman, J. R. Tolson, D. Aquilla, H. Kennedy, J. Armstrong, J. Gross, Samuel Brown, Henry Williams, G. W. Jenkins, Benjamin Brown, and the present pastor, Rev. Richard Boston. The Sharpsburg charge is composed of the colored M. E. churches of Williamsport, Clearspring and Sharpsburg. The membership at Sharpsburg consists of 35 members who are mostly well to do people.

**MOUNTAIN VIEW CEMETERY.**—\*The Citizens Cemetery Association of Sharpsburg (consisting of six and three-fourths acres of land located at the northeast end of the town and directly opposite Antietam National Cemetery), was incorporated April 16, 1883, under the Corporate name of "The Mountain View Cemetery Association of Sharpsburg in Washington County, Maryland." The name of the incorporators were Henry W. Schamel, Jacob Snyder, Jacob McGraw, Moses Cox, John H. Smith, Samuel H. Miller, Charles W. Adams, John P. Smith and John Benner. The grounds were solemnly dedicated with appropriate religious ceremonies, September 8, 1883. The following named ministers took part in the dedication: St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Rev. Henry Edwards; M. E. Church, Rev. C. A. Jones; Reformed Church, Rev. A. C. Geary, U. B. Church, Rev. B. F. Cronise; Church of God, Elder J. W. Kipe. A large choir of male and female voices with organ accompaniment occupied a position in the centre of the grounds and rendered appropriate music.

The cemetery is beautifully laid out in walks and drives and neatly planted in evergreen and deciduous trees, and flowering shrubs. On the sides and rear it is ornamented with a hedge. In front with handsome iron fence and massive iron gates costing \$850. The interior is neatly kept, and it bears the reputation of being the neatest kept cemetery in Washington County. The names of its present board of managers are: Henry W. Schamel, President; John P. Smith,

\*Contributed by John P. Smith.



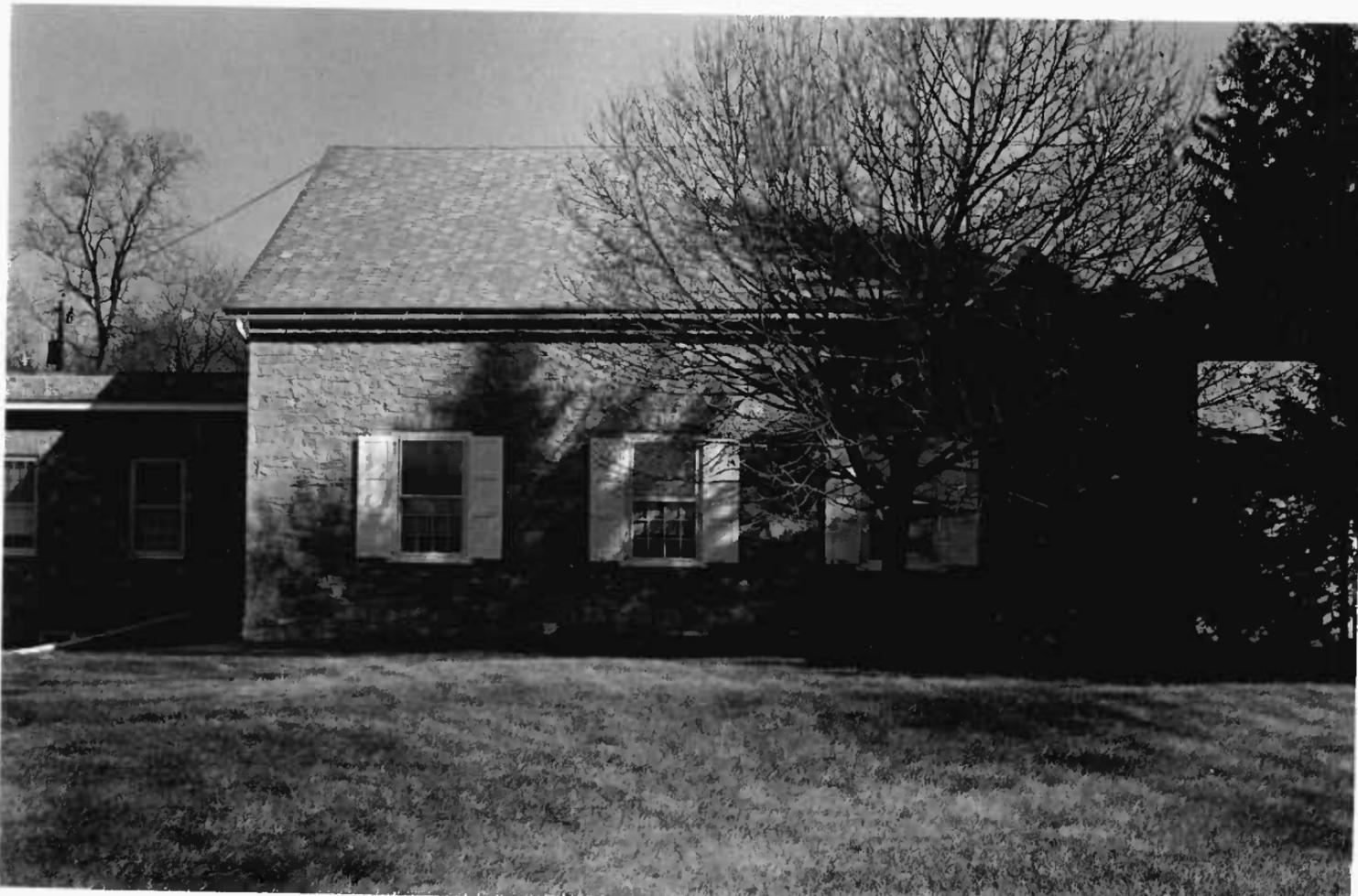
WA-I 276

WA-I 323



SALOM CHURCH

PAULA STONER DICKEY  
CONSULTANT, WASHINGTON CO  
HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY



WH-1-1-1-1  
3  
Dec. 1974

SALEM CHURCH

PAULA STONER DICKEY  
CONSULTANT, WASHINGTON CO.  
HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY



WA-I-176

SALEM CHURCH

Site

See 1078

HERMAN DICKEY  
WAS. WASHINGTON CO.  
LOCAL SITES SURVEY



SALEM CHURCH

PAULA STONER DICKEY  
CONSULTANT, WASHINGTON DC  
HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY



(1942-3 911)

SALEM CHURCH

0 1/2 mi N. of ...

June 19 1944

PAULA STONER DICKEY  
CONSULTANT, WASHINGTON CO.  
HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY