

WI-354  
Spring Grove M. E. Church  
Riverton vicinity  
Private

1862, 1893

Spring Grove M. E. Church is a rare survival of a mid 19th century Greek Revival chapel that stands in northeastern Wicomico County along the Nanticoke River southwest of the village of Riverton. Now used for storage, the single-story, gable-front frame building retains portions of its neoclassical detailing with wide corner pilasters framing the double door entrance as well as the trimming the church itself. The building experienced a major reworking during the late 19th century, which involved the reworking of the roof and the replacement of the windows. The steeply pitched roof with extended eaves probably replaced a pedimented gable that was more common to Greek Revival churches dating from the mid 19th century.

The original construction 1862 date for the church is reported by E. C. Hallman in his 1948 work, *The Garden of Methodism*, which agrees with the Greek nature of the exterior finish. He also states that the building was renovated in 1893, a date that is supported by the character of the windows and the construction of the roof. According to Hallman, C. J. Gravenor was a principal leader in the initial building effort. Clement J. Gravenor officially sold the parcel of land on which the chapel was built to the Spring Grove Methodist Episcopal church trustees in September 1865.

MARYLAND HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN INFORMATION

RESOURCE NAME: Spring Grove M. E. Church

MHT INVENTORY NUMBER: WI-354

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN DATA

1. Historic Period Theme(s):     Architecture  
                                          Religion
  
2. Geographic Orientation:       Eastern Shore
  
3. Chronological/Development Period(s):     Agricultural-Industrial Transition  
                                                                                          1815-1870
  
4. Resource Type(s):             Church

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

## MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. WI-354  
Magi No.  
DOE  yes  no

### 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Spring Grove M. E. Church

and/or common Spring Grove Chapel

### 2. Location

street & number Riverton Road  not for publication

city, town Riverton  vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Wicomico

### 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: storage

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

name Edgar H. Whitehead

street & number 11005 Sharptown Road telephone no.:

city, town Mardela Springs state and zip code MD 21837

### 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Wicomico County Clerk of Court Map 5/parcel 103  
liber 970

street & number Wicomico County Courthouse folio 669

city, town Salisbury state MD 21801

### 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records

city, town state

## 7. Description

Survey No. WI-354

<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 type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved    date of move _____
<input checked="" 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.

Spring Grove M. E. Church is located on the south side of Riverton Road southwest of Riverton, Wicomico County, Maryland. The single-story frame church faces northwest with the gable roof oriented on a northwest/southeast axis.

Reported to date to 1862 and remodeled in 1893, the single-story Greek Revival frame church is supported on a brick pier foundation, and the exterior is clad with plain weatherboard siding. The steeply pitched gable roof is covered with tin.

The northwest (main) elevation is three-bay facade with a center entrance and flanking window openings that are boarded over. The double-leaf front doors feature heavily molded panels, and the entrance is finished with a Greek Revival surround. Wide pilasters on each side rise to a stepped entablature. Trimming the corners of the church are wide pilasters. The roof appears to have been rebuilt during the late 19th century with extended eaves and exposed rafter ends.

The northeast side is two-bays across with an exterior brick stove chimney rising between the two windows and piercing the extended eave. The top of the stack is finished with a corbeled cap. One window is boarded over while the second window is not. Late 19th century sash windows with colored glass panes fitted around the perimeter of a frosted glass center pane fill the opening. The rear corner of the church is fitted with a wide pilaster. The southwest side is two bays across with a single flue brick chimney rising between a pair of boarded up windows.

The southeast (rear) wall features a shorter single story apse covered by a gable roof and extended to the west by a shed roofed section.

The interior was not seen.





WI-354  
Spring Grove Chapel  
Riverton vicinity  
Chain of title

Map 5/Parcel 103

970/669

Spring Grove M. E. Church (Spring Grove Chapel)  
The Board of Trustees of the Peninsula Annual Conference  
of the United Methodist Church

to

3/2/1982

Edgar H. Whitehead

\$600 property sold at auction

Somerset County  
Land Record  
LW 9/282-283

Clement J. Gravenor  
Brittana A. Gravenor

to

9/30/1865

Severn B. Cooper  
Clement J. Gravenor  
John H. Giles  
Hiram B. Cooper  
James W. Badley

....the following piece or parcel of land upon which Spring Grove Chapel is now situated lying and being in Barren Creek district Somerset County Maryland and beginning at a stone set up on the side of the county or public roads which leads from Vienna to Riverton and on the southwest side of Azariah H. Bradley's mill and from thence....



