

WI-370  
St. Paul's M. E. Church  
Mardela Springs  
Private

1890

Located on School Street in the village of Mardela Springs is a late nineteenth century frame church erected in the Gothic Revival style. Historically known as St. Paul's M. E. Church, the single-story frame structure is distinguished by a three-story entrance and bell tower topped by a crenelated parapet wall. The single-story gable roofed church is defined by long lancet windows with pointed arches and remnants of colored glass. The pointed arch double-door entrance features a pointed arch transom.

The parcel of land on which this church is located was sold by William C. Marsters to the trustees of "Covington's M. E. Chapel" for \$75 in 1886. Serving on the board at the time were William J. Graham, James Horseman, Isaac E. Mills, James A. Venables, Mathias Bailey, and Marcellus Wilson. The deed of transfer, which included 3/8 of an acre, stipulated that the "said premises shall be used, kept and maintained as a place of Divine Worship." According to E. C. Hallman's account published in *The Garden of Methodism* the Gothic Revival church, erected in 1890, was due largely to the work of Reverend J. W. Gray. The congregation altered its name to St. Paul's M. E. Church around the time of construction.

MARYLAND HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN INFORMATION

RESOURCE NAME: St. Paul's M. E. Church

MHT INVENTORY NUMBER: WI-370

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN DATA

1. Historic Period Theme(s):  
Architecture  
Religion
  
2. Geographic Orientation: Eastern Shore
  
3. Chronological/Development Period(s):  
Industrial-Urban Dominance  
1870-1930
  
4. Resource Type(s):  
Church

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

## MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. WI-370

Magi No.

DOE  yes  no

### 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic St. Paul's M. E. Church

and/or common

### 2. Location

street & number 107 School Street  not for publication

city, town Mardela Springs  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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> other:

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

name Bowmar Millwork, Inc.

street & number 107 School Street 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 200, P. 175  
liber 932

street & number Wicomico County Clerk of Court folio 794

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-370

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input checked="" 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 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.

Formerly the St. Paul's Methodist Episcopal Church, the single-story Gothic Revival frame church now used as a warehouse for BowMar Millwork Corporation stands at 107 School Street in the southern residential district of Mardela Springs, Wicomico County, Maryland. The single-story frame church faces south with the principal gable roof oriented on a north/south axis. A congregation has not used this building for more than thirty years. The building is falling into a serious state of disrepair.

Built in 1890, the single-story rectangular frame building is supported on concrete block piers, and the exterior is clad with a combination of plain weatherboard siding on the main body of the building along with a decorative band of vertical sawtooth-edged boards under the eave. The steeply pitched roof is covered with asphalt shingles. Centered on the south gable end is a three-story entrance and bell tower.

The south (main) elevation is a symmetrical facade with the entrance and bell tower dominating the three-bay wall. The first floor of the tower is pierced by a double leaf paneled doors and topped by pointed arch Gothic transom. At the second floor level the tower tapers slightly and the mid section is pierced by a round window that retains portions of colored glass panes. The third floor of the tower is pierced by round arched louvered openings, and the top of the tower is finished with a crenelated parapet. Flanking the tower are pointed arch colored glass windows that retain portions of colored glass. The corners of the church are trimmed with pilasters that rise to an enclosed cornice finished with short returns at the base of the roof.

The east and west sides of the church are marked by a series of three evenly spaced lancet windows with pointed arches and remnants of colored glass. A single flue brick stove chimney rises through the roof.

Attached to the back of the building is a single-story apse covered by a shed roof. The north wall of the apse is obscured by the main Bowmar Millwork office building, which abuts the structure.

The interior has been stripped of its original church fittings. The vestibule in the tower is finished inside with diagonal beaded boards.

# 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input 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	Builder/Architect
check: Applicable Criteria: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D and/or	
Applicable Exception: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> G	
Level of Significance: <input type="checkbox"/> national <input type="checkbox"/> state <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> local	

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

Located on School Street in the village of Mardela Springs is a late nineteenth century frame church erected in the Gothic Revival style. Historically known as St. Paul’s M. E. Church, the single-story frame structure is distinguished by a three-story entrance and bell tower topped by a crenelated parapet wall. The single-story gable roofed church is defined by long lancet windows with pointed arches and remnants of colored glass. The pointed arch double-door entrance features a pointed arch transom.

The parcel of land on which this church is located was sold by William C. Marsters to the trustees of “Covington’s M. E. Chapel” for \$75 in 1886.<sup>1</sup> Serving on the board at the time were William J. Graham, James Horseman, Isaac E. Mills, James A. Venables, Mathias Bailey, and Marcellus Wilson. The deed of transfer, which included 3/8 of an acre, stipulated that the “said premises shall be used, kept and maintained as a place of Divine Worship.” According to E. C. Hallman’s account published in *The Garden of Methodism* the Gothic Revival church, erected in 1890, was due largely to the work of Reverend J. W. Gray.<sup>2</sup> The congregation altered its name to St. Paul’s M. E. Church around the time of construction.

Although distinctive with its late nineteenth century architectural details, the building has fallen into disrepair. Despite its condition it deserves listing in *Category B*, which identifies buildings that should be preserved due to their architectural and historical interest.

<sup>1</sup> Wicomico County Land Record, FMS 1/151, 30 January 1886.

<sup>2</sup> E. C. Hallman, *The Garden of Methodism*, Peninsula Annual Conference of the Methodist Church, 1948, p. 350.



WI-370  
St. Paul's M. E. Church  
Mardela Springs, Wicomico County, Maryland  
Chain of title

Map 200, Parcel 175

932/794

Robert Bruce, Inc.

to

11/19/1979

BowMar Millwork Corporation

JWTS 740/535

Elton H. Bounds

to

9/9/1971

Toby-Shelby Joint Venture

1. from Levin Taylor McLain, pastor, IDT 184/30  
2/28/1934
2. deed and bill of sale from Orland P. Wilkenson  
IDT 184/30, 9/5/1936
3. from Trustees of the Peninsula Annual Conference  
of the Methodist Episcopal Church, JWTS 589/500,  
8/19/1964

St. Paul's M. E. Church of Mardela Springs

Item 1: conveyed unto the Trustees of Covington  
Methodist Episcopal Chapel of Wicomico County  
by William C. Marsters, 1/30/1886, FMS 1/151,  
the said Covington M. E. Chapel of Wicomico  
County having changed its name and become St.  
Paul's M. E. Church

WI-370  
St. Paul's M. E. Church  
Mardela Springs, Wicomico County, Maryland  
Chain of title continued

Page 2

FMS 1/151

William C. Marsters

to

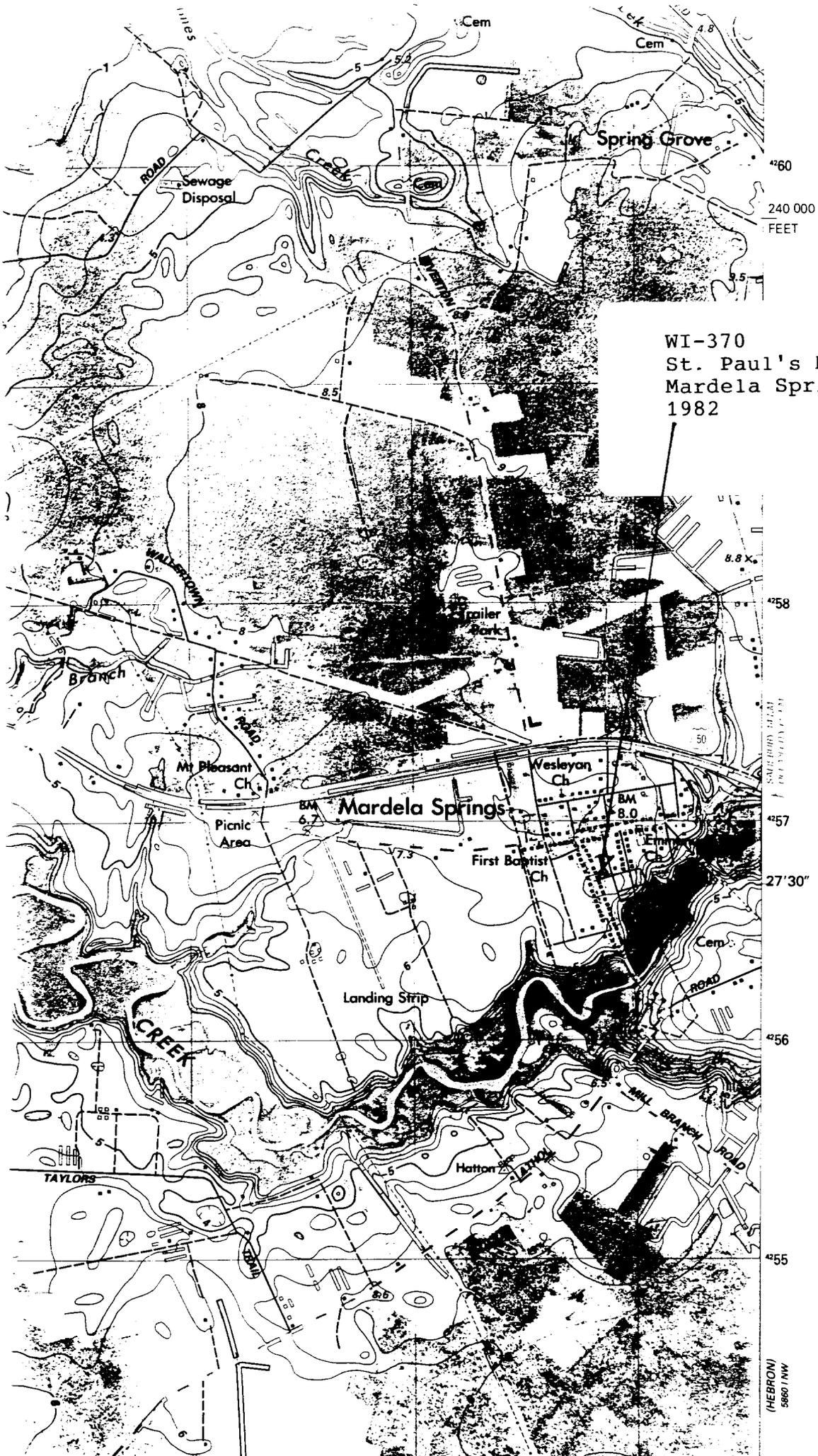
1/30/1886

William J. Graham, James Horseman, Isaac E. Milis,  
James a. Venables, Matthias Bailey, and Marcellus  
Wilson

\$75.00 Trustees of Covington's M. E. Chapel of  
Wicomico County

Containing 3/8 acre "said premises shall  
be used, kept, and maintained as a place of  
Divine Worship"

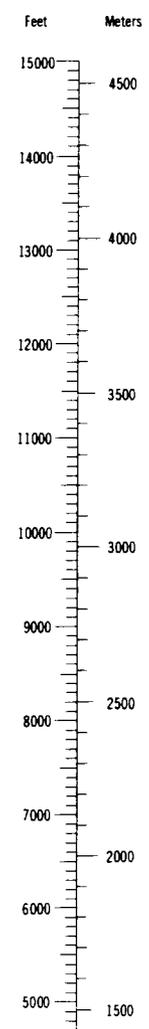




WI-370  
 St. Paul's M. E. Church  
 Mardela Springs Quadrangle  
 1982

4260  
 240 000  
 FEET

CONVERSION  
 SCALES



(HEBRON)  
 5860 / NW