

WO-326

1900

St. Paul's By-The-Sea Episcopal Church  
Ocean City  
Public worship

St. Paul's By-The-Sea Episcopal church is a prominent historic and religious landmark in Ocean City. The turn of the century Gothic Revival frame church has survived largely unchanged with only minor alterations to its wood shingled exterior. The corner entrance and bell tower is distinguished by pointed arch openings, and the sides of the church are defined by pointed arch colored glass windows.

The Episcopal Church was one of the earliest congregations to erect a house of worship in the new seaside resort. The church was initially located at the south end of the original town between South First and Second streets facing Baltimore Avenue. However, in September of 1899 John F. and Alice V. Waggaman decided to donate two lots in the north end of the community to the Vestry of Worcester Parish in an effort to relocate the church. In memory of their daughter Alice Virginia Waggaman, lots 5 and 6 in Block 4 North were transferred to the vestry with the provision that,

...the Vestry of Worcester Parish commence the erection of an Episcopal Church upon said property within one year from the date of these presents and that said church is complete & ready to hold sacred service therein, within 3 years from the date hereof in default of which conditions, said property shall revert to the said grantors their heirs & assigns...

The church was built during the following year.

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic ST. PAUL'S BY-THE-SEA EPISCOPAL CHURCH

and/or common

## 2. Location

street & number 302 North Baltimore Avenue  not for publication

city, town Ocean City  vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Worcester

## 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 Vestry of Worcester Parish c/o Rev. John C. Zellner

street & number 302 North Baltimore Avenue telephone no.:

city, town Ocean City state and zip code MD 21842

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Worcester County Clerk of Court liber FHP 12

street & number Worcester County Courthouse folio 604

city, town Snow Hill state MD 21863

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date  federal  state  county  local

pository for survey records

city, town state

# 7. Description

Survey No. W0-326

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

St. Paul's By-The-Sea Episcopal church stands on the northeast corner of North Baltimore Avenue and Third Street in the center of Ocean City, Worcester County, Maryland. The single-story, ell-shaped frame church faces south with the principal gable oriented on an east/west axis.

Erected in 1900, the wood shingled frame church is supported on a raised and rusticated concrete block foundation, and the building is covered by a steeply pitched asphalt shingle roof. Rising on the southwest corner of the main block is a two-story entrance and bell tower topped by pyramidal spire.

The south facade is an asymmetrical elevation with a double-door entrance topped by a pointed arch colored glass transom. Marking the second level or belfry is a tripartite louvered vent with Gothic points as well. The eave to the tower is trimmed with small brackets, and a cross rises from its top. Pointed arch colored glass windows pierce the adjacent wall surface between the entrance and the projecting ell that faces Third Street. The gabled Third Street elevation is marked by three colored glass windows. A round arched window is flanked by two Gothic arched windows. Piercing the foundation are two-over-two sash windows. The corners of the church are trimmed with plain boards, and the eaves are slightly extended.

The west elevation fronting North Baltimore Avenue features the west face of the tower as well as a four-bay gabled facade of the main block. The first floor of the tower is defined by a single Gothic arched window, and like the south side, the belfry is marked by a tripartite Gothic vent. The sanctuary is pierced by four Gothic arched, colored glass windows, and a round colored glass window is fixed in the upper gable. Two-over-two sash windows pierce the foundation wall.

The east wall of the church is partially covered by a shorter single-story apse which connects a modern church hall. The north side is covered by an attached church residence and office.

The interior was not seen.

# 8. Significance

Survey No. W0-326

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/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" 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	1900	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 checked="" 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.

St. Paul's By-The-Sea Episcopal church is a prominent historic and religious landmark in Ocean City. The turn of the century Gothic Revival frame church has survived with only minor changes to its wood shingled exterior. The corner entrance and bell tower is distinguished by pointed arch openings, and the sides of the church are defined by pointed arch colored glass windows.

The Episcopal Church was one of the earliest congregations to erect a house of worship in the new seaside resort. Initially located at the southern end of the city, the vestry of Worcester Parish was ~~acquired~~ <sup>donated</sup> two lots in the north end of the community by John F. and Alice V. Waggaman as a memorial to their daughter Alice Virginia. The deed, executed in September of 1899, included a provision that read,

...that the Vestry of Worcester Parish commence the erection of an Episcopal Church upon said property within one year from the date of these presents and that said church is complete & ready to hold sacred service therein, within 3 years from the date hereof in default of which conditions, said property shall revert to the said grantors their heirs & assigns...(FHP 12/604)

The church was built during the following year.



WO-326  
ST. PAUL'S BY-THE-SEA EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
Ocean City, Maryland  
Chain of title

FHP 12/604

John F. Waggaman and Alice V. his wife

to

9/9/1899

The Vestfy of Worcester Parish

as a memorial to our daughter Alice  
Virginia Waggaman

Lots 5, 6, in Block 4 North  
land conveyed to John F. Waggaman  
by Samuel Maddox and Fielder C. Slingluff  
dated 2/19/1896

that they may erect and maintain  
thereupon an Episcopal Church of public  
worship; together with the improvements  
thereon and to rights and appurtenances  
thereto belonging or appertaining...To  
Have and to Hold the above granted  
property unto the said Vestry of Worcester  
Parish and their successors in office,  
forever in fee simple, Provided however  
that said Vestry of Worcester Parish  
commence the erection of an Episcopal  
Church upon said property within one year  
from the date of these presents and that  
said church is complete & ready to hold  
sacred service therein, within 3 years  
from the date hereof in default of which  
conditions, said property shall revert  
to the said grantors their heirs & assigns...

W-326 Ocean City Lifesaving Station Museum  
Collection  
St. Paul's By-the-Sea Episcopal Church



No. 664

CROP

CROP

~~THE~~ OCEAN CITY LIFESAVING STATION MUSEUM

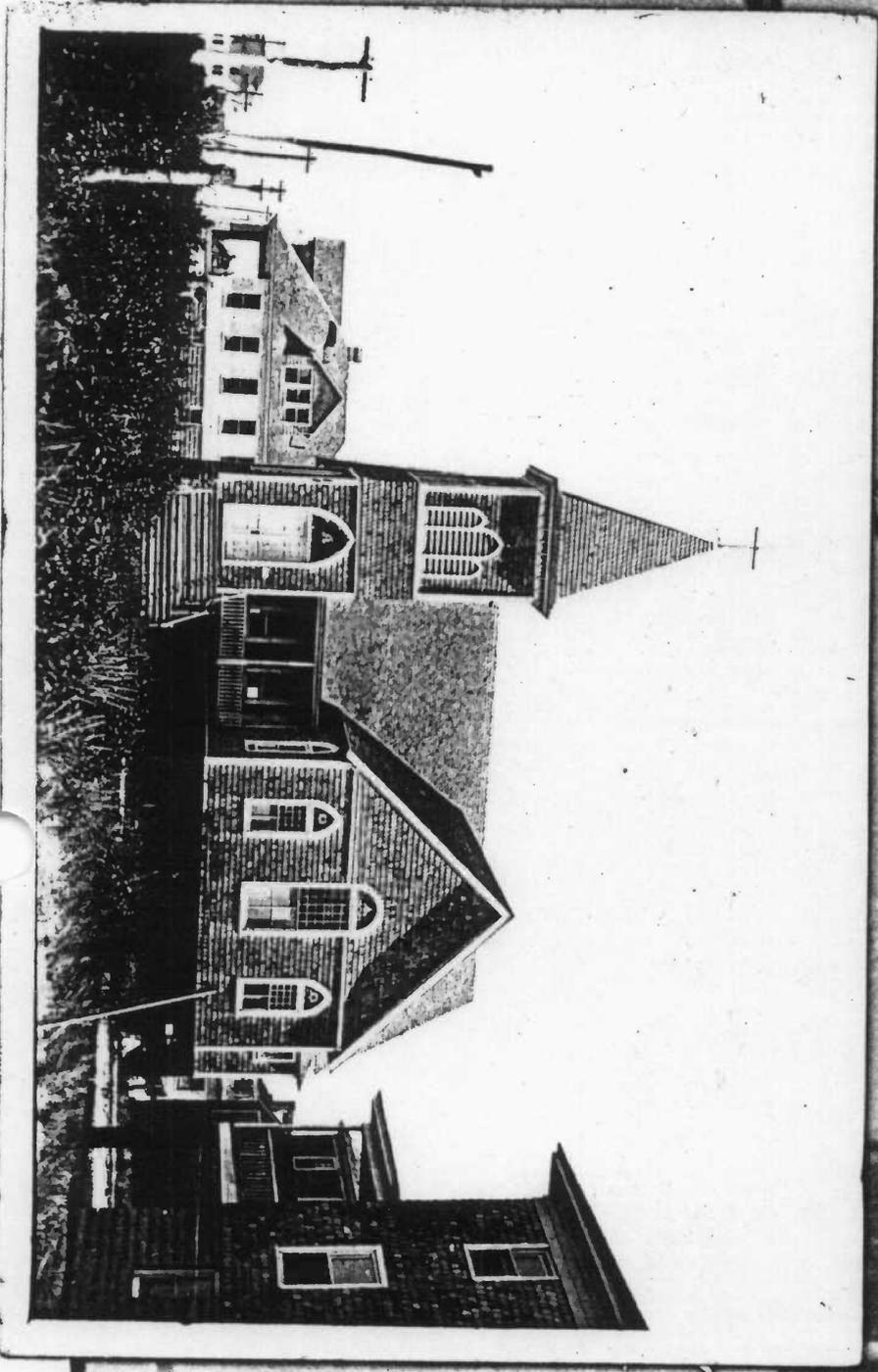
W0-326

COLLECTION

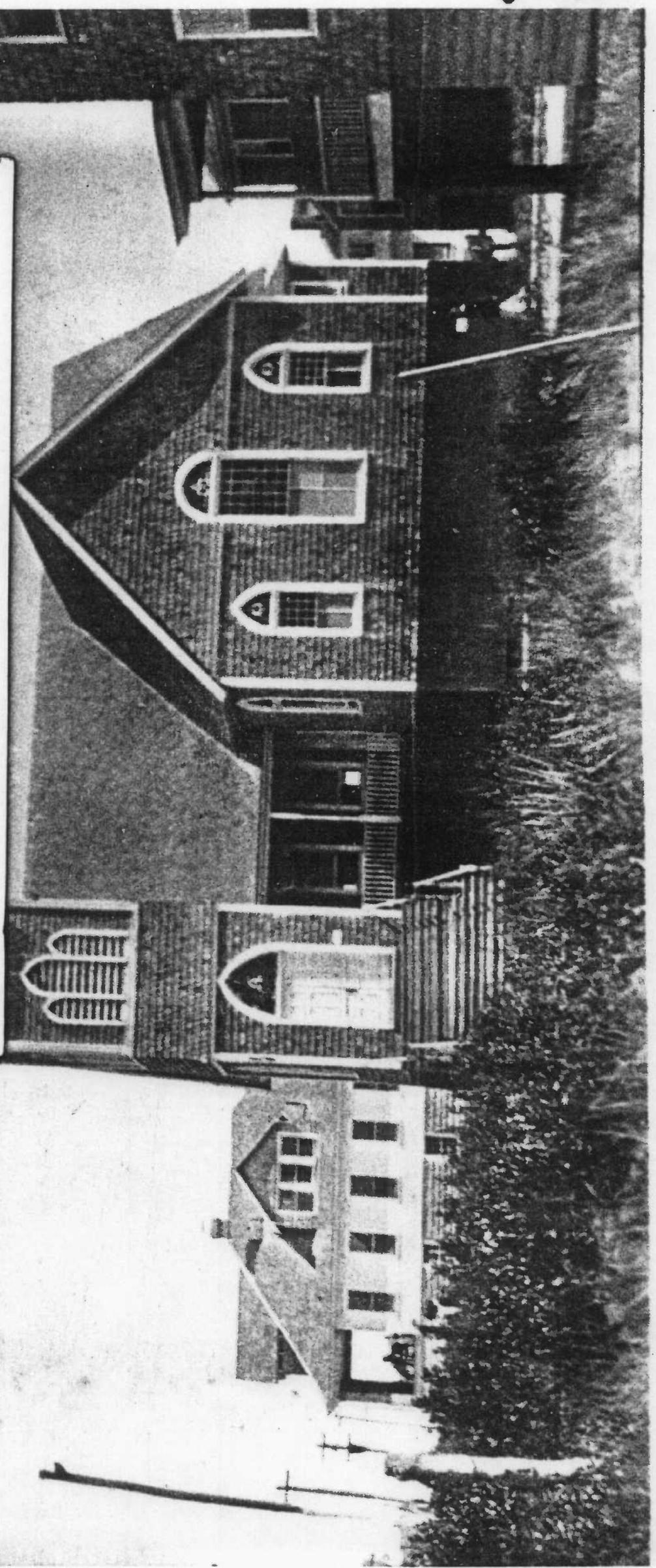
ST. PAUL'S BY-THE-SEA EPISCOPAL CHURCH

1900

1900



No. 662



O W I G H T  
B A Y

North Ocean City

Trailer Park  
Filtration Plant  
Water

BM 6

N. 26TH ST

Trailer Park

N. 18TH ST

N. 14TH ST

N. 12TH ST

N. 10TH ST

N. 8TH ST

N. 6TH ST

N. 4TH ST

N. 2ND ST

N. 1ST ST

N. 3RD ST

N. 5TH ST

N. 7TH ST

N. 9TH ST

N. 11TH ST

N. 13TH ST

N. 15TH ST

N. 17TH ST

N. 19TH ST

N. 21TH ST

N. 23TH ST

Dog and Bitch Islands

Drum Island

Drum Pt

Shore Acres

Horn Island

Mallard Island

Light

Sewage Disposal Plant

Ocean City

Coast Guard Sta

Municipal Pier

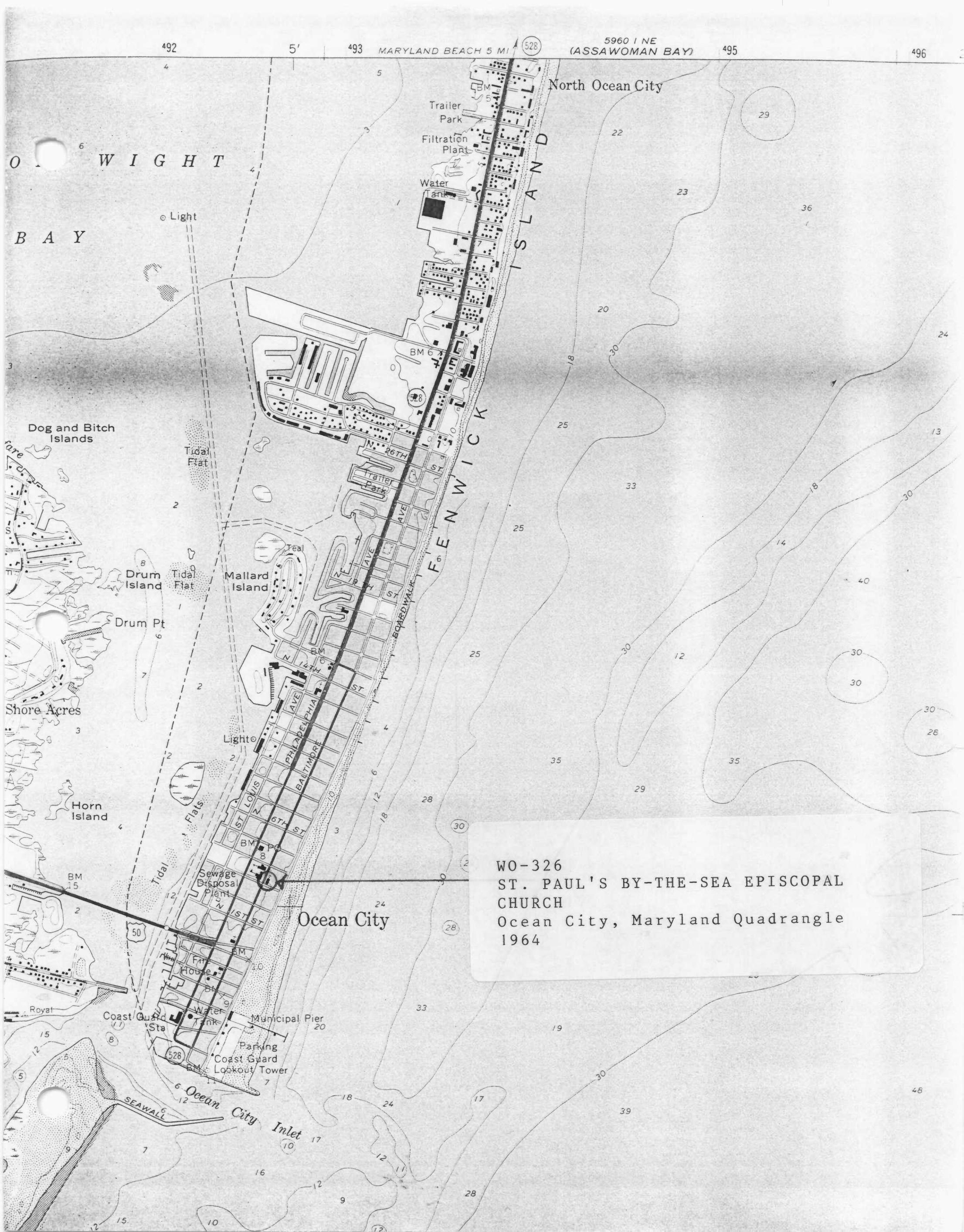
Parking

Coast Guard Lookout Tower

Ocean City Inlet

SEAWALL

WO-326  
ST. PAUL'S BY-THE-SEA EPISCOPAL  
CHURCH  
Ocean City, Maryland Quadrangle  
1964



HISTORIC CONTEXT INFORMATION

Resource Name: St. Paul's By-the-Sea Episcopal Church

MHT Inventory Number: WV-326

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA:

1) Historic Period Theme(s):

Architecture

Religion

2) Geographic Orientation:

Eastern Shore

3) Chronological/Developmental Period(s):

Industrial/Urban Dominance

(1870-1930)

4) Resource Type(s):

Standing Structure

1. Church