HA-250 Easement

Form 10-300
(Rev. 6-72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY – NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries – complete applicable sections)

STATE: Maryland
COUNTY: Harford
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: Vestry House, St. George's Parish
AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: 1522 Perryman Road
CITY OR TOWN: Perryman
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: First
STATE: Maryland — CODE: 24
COUNTY: Harford — CODE: 025

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
☐ District ☐ Building	☐ Public	Public Acquisition:	☒ Occupied	Yes:
☐ Site ☒ Structure	☒ Private	☐ In Process	☐ Unoccupied	☐ Restricted
☐ Object	☐ Both	☐ Being Considered	☒ Preservation work in progress	☒ Unrestricted
				☐ No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Agricultural	☐ Government	☐ Park	☐ Transportation	☐ Comments
☐ Commercial	☐ Industrial	☐ Private Residence	☐ Other (Specify)	
☒ Educational	☐ Military	☒ Religious		
☐ Entertainment	☐ Museum	☐ Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: St. George's Parish
STREET AND NUMBER: 1522 Perryman Road, P. O. Box 22
CITY OR TOWN: Perryman
STATE: Maryland — CODE: 24

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Clerk of the Court of Harford County
STREET AND NUMBER: 45 South Main Street
CITY OR TOWN: Bel Air
STATE: Maryland — CODE: 24

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
DATE OF SURVEY: ☐ Federal ☐ State ☐ County ☐ Local
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
STREET AND NUMBER:
CITY OR TOWN:
STATE: — CODE:

STATE: Maryland
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DATE

HA 250

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	☐ Excellent	☒ Good	☐ Fair	☐ Deteriorated	☐ Ruins	☐ Unexposed
	(Check One)		(Check One)			
	☒ Altered	☐ Unaltered	☐ Moved	☒ Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The original specification for the Vestry House is an excellent description of the present building.

'At the Vestry Held for St. George's Parish on Tuesday the 10th Day of June 1766. . . .
The Vestry Proceeds to businefs. . . .
The Vestry Agrees that there Shall be a New Vestry House built at St. George's Parish Church: According the following Dimentions Viz: To Be Built Twenty foot Long by Sixteen foot wide in the Clear. The foundation to be Sunk Eighteen Inches in the Ground & Rais'd Eighteen Inches above Ground before the Sleepers are Let Down & Sleepers all to be of Good Sound White Oak. Eight Inches Sqare & Between the floor and Cealing Eight foot. The wall to be Two Brick & half Thick to the Sleepers from the Sleepers to the Sqare two Brick Thick The Gave Ends to be one Brick & half Thick to the Square from the Sqare to the Top one Brick Thick. The Work before mention'd to be done with Sufficient Lime Morter & Sand the Roof to have Eighteen Inches over Jet & the Joist to be of good Sound White Oak Seven Inches by four--& Proper Rafters for ye Same & to be Cover'd with Cyprefs Shingles & to Show Six Inches & the Shingles to be Round'd. The Under floor to be of good Quart'd pine Plank one Inch & half Thick. The Cealing to be Lath'd & plaister'd & the Door to be in the South Gave End with Sufficient Lock & Hinges. The house to have a Corner Chimney well Support'd With a half inch & half Quarter Bar of Iron. the Chimney to be four foot wide at the Back & to be properly fleer'd & the Jams to be Eighteen Inches Thick: from the floor to the Arch of the Chimney four foot & the Chimney to Extend four foot above the Roof of the House--To be Two Sash Windows on Each Side with Twelve Lights in Each Window the Glafs to be Eight Inches by Ten Wide. & Good Sufficient Window Shutters with Spring Bolts to the Same The whole House to be Plaister'd & White wash'd. the Harth to be Laid with Brick Under the fire place & Round the fire place to be Laid with flag Stone that is now Lay'd in the old Vestry House.
The Vestry Adjourns till the 21st day of June by ten oClock'

One side--the west--received but one window because the corner fireplace occupies part of that wall

Exterior walls are of Flemish bond, with closers and occasional glazed headers; both gables appear to have been rebuilt, as they are of common bond, but probably of the original bricks. A slate roof has replaced the wooden shingles, and a rake overhang has been added. The unmoulded cornicework is probably of the twentieth century.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

(See continuation sheet NO. 1)

Vestry House, St. George's Parish

7. DESCRIPTION, continued

Rafters appear to date from the late nineteenth or early twentieth century, but the collar beams are original. Ceiling joists are original. The floor structure has been replaced with concrete.

Interior walls are plastered over sawn lathe, applied to furring strips; original plaster and nailing blocks behind the later finish indicates a chair rail at sill height. The original mantel no longer exists and the fireplace has been reduced in size. The door is of vertical beaded boards, with battens attached by wood screws, probably dating from the nineteenth century.

A restoration program is in progress to restore, authentically, missing elements, including the wooden floor, baseboard and chair rail, and mantel surrounding a fireplace restored to its original size. Adequate electric service, and electric heat, will be introduced. A later phase will restore exterior features, including roofing and cornice work, door and door frame, windows and shutters.

St. George's Parish Church, which the Vestry House was built to accompany, was constructed in 1759-1760, and was the third church to occupy this site. The present building, called Spesutia Church, was designed by Niernsee and Neilson, architects in Baltimore, and built in 1851. It is the fourth church on the site. Vestry records indicate that it stands on the foundations of and incorporates bricks from the third church, but it is not known whether or not the present walls, above ground, incorporate standing sections of the eighteenth century walls.

Designed in the Italian Romanesque style, Spesutia Church is of four bays with a chancel at its east end of one bay plus a semi-octagonal apse. In the second bay from the west end, on the south side, is a small entrance porch and at the northwest corner is an external tower of three storeys, the top one being octagonal with louvres on each side; above is a short concave spire.

The buttressed brick walls are stuccoed, scored in imitation of ashlar. A single window in each bay is a tall round headed lancet, filled with small square quarrels set diagonally in wood muntins. Most of the clear glass is original. The three windows of the apse are filled with distinguished contemporary glass designed by Paul Barchowsky, an artist in the parish.

The low-pitched roofs are covered with slate and the generous eave and rake overhangs are supported by wood brackets.

(See continuation sheet No. 2)

GPO 921-724

HA-250

Form 10-300a
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet) #2

STATE	
Maryland	
COUNTY	
Harford	
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ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

Vestry House, St. George's Parish

7. DESCRIPTION, continued

The roof trusses are exposed, internally, and the walls are plastered. A large round headed arch separates the chancel from the nave and a gallery, one bay deep, extends across the west end, accessible from a stair within the tower.

Vestry records indicate that the church is on the foundations of, and incorporates bricks from the third church, constructed in 1759-60. Whether the present walls, above ground, incorporate standing sections of the eighteenth century walls is not known. Christ Church, Accokeek in Prince George's County, has had a similar building history; although its style was changed drastically in the nineteenth century, to one not unlike Spesutia, the majority of its walls date from the previous century.

The large cemetery which surrounds Spesutia Church, its colonial Vestry House, and its twentieth century Parish House, was established in 1718, when the Parish's second church was established in the present location. The third church was erected in 1759-60 immediately north of the second, which was then demolished. The fourth or present church was built upon the foundations of the third, in 1851.

The cemetery has many eighteenth century tombstones, and is the largest one of this period in the county. Continuing in use to this day, it has many nineteenth and twentieth century tombstones as well, exhibiting the full range of that art.

Several notable trees are intersperced among the graves, and the entire site is well shaded.

Many eighteenth and nineteenth century stones are known to have been moved to this parish cemetery from private cemeteries, mostly from the nearby Aberdeen Proving Ground and Edgewood Arsenal.

GPO 921-724

HA-250

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Pre-Columbian	☐ 16th Century	☒ 18th Century	☐ 20th Century
☐ 15th Century	☐ 17th Century	☐ 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1766

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Aboriginal	☒ Education	☒ Political	☐ Urban Planning
☐ Prehistoric	☐ Engineering	☒ Religion/Philosophy	☐ Other (Specify)
☐ Historic	☐ Industry		
☐ Agriculture	☐ Invention	☐ Science	
☒ Architecture	☐ Landscape Architecture	☐ Sculpture	
☐ Art		☐ Social/Humanitarian	
☐ Commerce	☐ Literature		
☐ Communications	☐ Military	☐ Theater	
☐ Conservation	☐ Music	☐ Transportation	

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

In colonial Maryland, Church of England parish Vestries usually authorized a special building[1] for use as a meeting place to conduct parish business and to perform certain civil duties (as trustees of the government-supported church), particularly the monitoring of the moral codes of the day and the administering of justice for violations. Vestry Houses were often used as schoolhouses, school being conducted by the clergyman or a member of his family, of someone else hired by the parish for the purpose. Vestries often replaced their Vestry Houses, as they did their churches, during the colonial period.

With the disestablishment of a state religion at the time of the American Revolution, Vestries no longer officially monitored their community's morals, but they did continue to function as the governing boards of their parishes, and they presumably conducted their meeting in their Vestry Houses. Vestry Houses continued to be used as schools. The Vestry Minutes, from time to time, name schoolmasters who kept school in the St. George's Parish Vestry House, including the years 1812 and 1821. Without governmental support, however, building maintenance became increasingly burdensome, and Vestries probably found it both more convenient and more economical to meet in private residences, and Vestry Houses gradually fell out of use. Only two have survived in Maryland--St George's and that of St. Paul's Parish, Kent County.

Not only is this Vestry House a rare survivor in the state of one type of building, it is a survivor of the eighteenth century, in an area with relatively few eighteenth century structures. As Harford was the last of the tidewater counties to be settled, it had fewer substantial eighteenth century structures than other tidewater counties, hence fewer have been considered good enough through the years to retain. The Vestry House shows that the workmanship and detail incorporated in such a small building was identical to that incorporated into larger, more impressive and more important structures. Finally, that such a small structure has survived without additions is unusual.

(See continuation sheet No. 3)

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(Continuation Sheet) #3

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Vestry House, St. George's Parish

8. SIGNIFICANCE, continued

St. George's Parish has long recognized the historical value of their Vestry House, for in 1905[2], after apparent neglect, extensive repairs were undertaken, but the original character was not substanitally altered. Appreciation for the antiquity of this structure continued, for a restoration program is in progress to restore, authentically, those parts lost or altered from the original.

The Vestry House stands in an extensive cemetery, established in 1718 when Spesutia Church, St. George's Parish, erected its second church there. The present church (the fourth) dates from 1851, designed in the Italian Romanesque style by Niernsee and Neilson, Architects of Baltimore, Maryland. It is on the foundation, and is the exact size, of the third church of 1758; its stuccoed walls are recorded as being constructed of materials from the third church.[3]

Although the chief significance of this property is the rare eighteenth century Vestry House, the architects of the present church J. Craford Neilson (1816-1900) and John R. Niernsee (1831-1885). This team known as Niernsee and Neilson is responsible for major buildings in Baltimore in the 1850's: St. Luke's Church (National Register), Grace and St. Peter's Church, two of the most prominent residences on Mount Vernon Place (National Historic Landmark), Thomas--Jenks--Gladding and Walters Houses, and Camden Station. The Spesutia Church provides an exception to the firm's predilection for Gothic in the spirit of the ecclesiologists. (See: Phoebe Stanton. The Gothic Revival in American Church Architecture: An Episode in Taste, (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins Press, 1968).

GPO 921-724

HA-250

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

1 Nelson Waite Rightmyer Maryland's Established Church, 1956.

2 Vestry Minutes, St. George's Parish

3 Ibid

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY						OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES					
CORNER	LATITUDE			LONGITUDE				LATITUDE			LONGITUDE		
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"		°	'	"	°	'	"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"							
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"							
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"							

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 15 acres

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
James Thomas Wollon, Jr., AIA

ORGANIZATION
Harford County Committee, Maryland Historical Trust

DATE
July, 1974

STREET AND NUMBER:
600 Craigs' Corner Road

CITY OR TOWN:
Havre de Grace

STATE: Maryland

CODE: 24

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National ☐ State ☐ Local ☐

Name Orlando Ridout IV

Title State Historic Preservation Officer

Date

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

☆ U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE : 1973—729-147/1442 3-1

MARYLAND

AMS 3

HA-250

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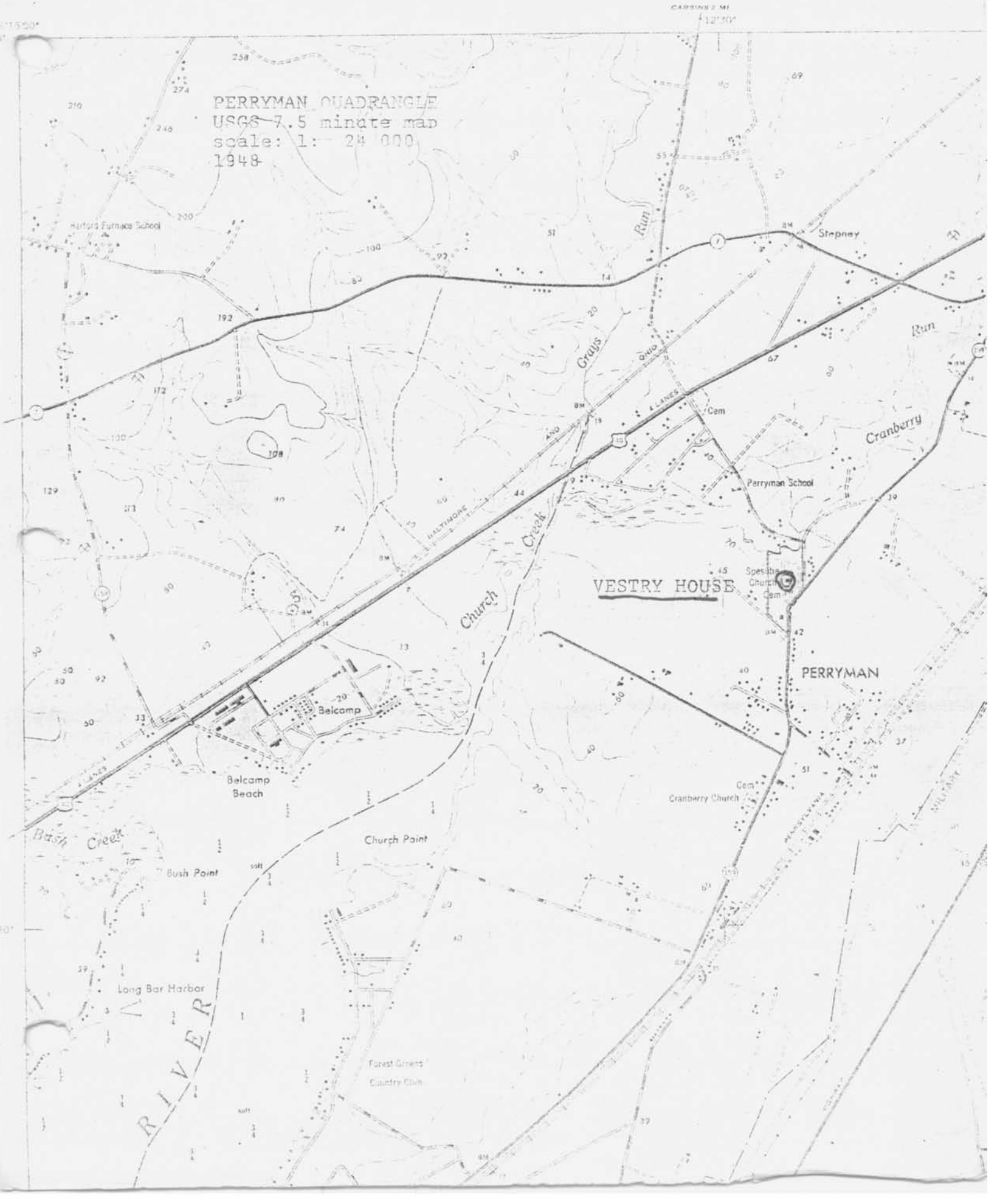
PERRYMAN QUADRANGLE
USGS 7.5 minute map
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1948