

MAGI # - 2300061208

WI-6

Form 10-200  
(Rev. 6-72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Wicomico

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY DATE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

1. NAME

COMMON:

Spring Hill Church

AND/OR HISTORIC:

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

North side of U.S. 50 at Md. 347, one mile N.E. of Hebron

CITY OR TOWN:

Hebron

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:

First

STATE

Maryland

CODE

24

COUNTY:

Wicomico

CODE

045

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY  
(Check One)

- District
- Building
- Site
- Structure
- Object

OWNERSHIP

- Public
- Private
- Both

Public Acquisition:

- In Process
- Being Considered

STATUS

- Occupied
- Unoccupied
- Preservation work in progress

ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC

- Yes:
- Restricted
  - Unrestricted
  - No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:

Vestry of St. Paul's Episcopal Church

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

Hebron

STATE:

Maryland

CODE

24

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:

Wicomico County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

Salisbury

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Maryland

Wicomico

STATE

COUNTY

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

|           |                                    |   |                                |   |                                |
|-----------|------------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|
| CONDITION | (Check One)                        |   |                                |   |                                |
|           | <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good      | <input type="checkbox"/> Fair  | <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated             | <input type="checkbox"/> Ruins |
|           | (Check One)                        |   |                                | (Check One)                                       |                                |
|           | <input type="checkbox"/> Altered   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered | <input type="checkbox"/> Moved | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site |                                |

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Spring Hill Church, or St. Paul's Episcopal Church, is located on the north side of U.S. 50 at the intersection with Md. 347 approximately one mile northeast of Hebron. This one-story church strongly resembles Green Hill Church, located eight miles south on the Wicomico River. Spring Hill is a white frame structure two bays wide and four deep and is set on a brick foundation laid in Flemish bond with glazed headers.

The west end has two double doors, restored in 1972. Each door has four panels and large strap hinges. Above the doors in the gable are two, twelve over twelve windows with green batten shutters. Between these windows is a sign which reads "St. Paul's Episcopal Church 1773."

The east end has one segmental arch window, twenty over twenty light with green batten shutters, in each bay. Between these two windows is a small projecting pavilion with a door in the center and a segmental arch window, twelve over twelve sash, on the north and south sides. The slope of the gable roof echoes that of the church itself.

Both the north and south sides have four segmental arch windows, twenty over twenty sash, with green batten shutters. A wood, cove cornice extends along the roof on both sides.

The interior woodwork is unpainted cedar. There is a barrel vault ceiling and three large beams, with beaded edges one in each gable end. In the center of the north and south sides there is evidence that a narrow chimney stack has been removed. There are two aisles with pews through the center and along both side walls. The closed box pews are paneled. The side pews have benches on three sides of the boxes while the center pews have benches on only one side. There are plain rectangular frames around the segmental arch windows. In the southwest corner a winding stairway rises to the gallery which extends across the west end of the church. The gallery is supported in the center by a square, fluted column with a plain pedestal and entablature. The pews in the gallery are rather crude compared with those on the main floor. They have benches along two sides, perpendicular to the gallery rail.

Spring Hill Church is an active parish.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



C. 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) 1773

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                      |   |  |
|--|--------------------------------------|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> At original             | <input type="checkbox"/> Education   | <input type="checkbox"/> Political                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry    | <input type="checkbox"/> Science                        | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention   | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture                      | _____                                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape   | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian            | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature  | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater                        | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Military    | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation                 | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Music       |   |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            |                                      |   |  |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Spring Hill Church (also known as Old Spring Hill and St. Paul's Episcopal Church) is an architecturally significant building because it exhibits many of the structural features which were typical of Maryland's eighteenth century country churches and because its interior woodwork is original. H. Chandlee Forman, in Maryland Architecture,<sup>1</sup> states that the walls of the early country churches were often timber-framed, with an overlay of weatherboarding. Floor plans were usually rectangular, and the overall exterior appearance was barn-like. The interior space on either side of the main aisle (or aisles) was divided into box stalls, with a pulpit to one side.<sup>2</sup> The barrel vault type of ceiling was popular, and interiors were painted white or left unpainted, as was done at Spring Hill. "...the Maryland church of this era was plain, simple, and barn-like, except for rare examples...It was the product more of utility and function than of an essay to adorn the Christian religion by impressive baroque or baronial monuments and decoration."<sup>3</sup>

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

<sup>1</sup>H. Chandlee Forman, Maryland Architecture. (Cambridge: Tidewater Publishers, 1968) p. 45.

<sup>2</sup>"It was not until a new floor was laid in 1956 that evidence was uncovered which indicated that a high pulpit had originally been in the center of the east side wall." From Virginia M. Dick, Old Spring Hill Church. (Salisbury: Charlie's Print Shop, 1973) p. 3.

<sup>3</sup>H. Chandlee Forman, Maryland Architecture. (Cambridge: Tidewater Publishers, 1968) p. 46.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

|                  |          |      |
|------------------|----------|------|
| STATE            | Maryland | WI-6 |
| COUNTY           | Wicomico |      |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY |          |      |
| ENTRY NUMBER     |          | DATE |

(Continuation Sheet) #1

(Number all entries)

Spring Hill Church

8. SIGNIFICANCE, continued

The history of the establishment of Spring Hill Church illustrates the close church-state relationship which existed in the Province of Maryland before the Revolution. In 1692 the Maryland Assembly issued "An Act of the Service of Almighty God and the Establishment of the Protestant Revolution in the Province,"<sup>4</sup> which made the Church of England the Established Church in Maryland, provided for the laying out of parishes and the election of vestries in each parish, and set up a taxation system to provide financial support for the Church. The Act further provided for the erection of parish churches and chapels of ease wherever they were needed.

Soon after the passage of the Act of 1692 Justices of the Peace and a number of Freeholders from each Hundred met in the Somerset County Courthouse and divided the County into four parishes: Stepney, Coventry, Somerset, and Snow Hill.

Green Hill Church, on the Wicomico River, was erected about 1694 and became the parish church of Stepney Parish. Three chapels of ease were built soon after, for the convenience of settlers who had moved into virgin territory. One of these was Spring Hill, situated on Rewastico Creek and erected on a tract called Spring Hill, patented by Colonel Francis Jenkins.

The erection date of the original building is uncertain, but the Somerset County records for March of 1725 refer to the appointment of John Hoffington to be overseer of the road above Spring Hill Chapel, and in 1733 Thomas Covington was appointed overseer of the roads from Cyprus Bridge to the Chapel at Spring Hill.<sup>5</sup>

In 1768 the Vestry of Green Hill Church petitioned the General Assembly to pass an Act to rebuild the two chapels of ease, "... their chapel of ease known by the name of Spring Hill Chapel is in a ruinous condition and unfit to be repaired."<sup>6</sup>

<sup>4</sup>The Protestant Revolution in Maryland was part of the movement which brought about the dethronement of the Catholic House of Stuart in England, making possible the Protestant succession of William and Mary. Lord Baltimore's Catholicism was used against him by his enemies and Maryland became a Royal Province, under the Crown, instead of a Proprietary Colony under Lord Baltimore. Clayton Torrence, Old Somerset on the Eastern Shore of Maryland. (Baltimore: Regional Publishing Company 1966) p. 150.

<sup>5</sup>Clayton, Torrence, Old Somerset on the Eastern Shore of Maryland. (Baltimore: Regional Publishing Company, 1966)p.189.

<sup>6</sup>Virginia M. Dick. Old Spring Hill Church (Salisbury: Charlie's Print Shop, 1973) p. 8

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet) #2

|                    |      |      |
|--------------------|------|------|
| STATE<br>Maryland  |      | WI-6 |
| COUNTY<br>Wicomico |      |      |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY   |      |      |
| ENTRY NUMBER       | DATE |      |
|                    |      |      |

(Number all entries)

Spring Hill Church

8. SIGNIFICANCE, continued

The Assembly authorized the vestry to purchase two acres close to the existing chapel and to erect a new building. Six thousand pounds of tobacco was levied for the rebuilding, and the existing structure was completed in 1773.

An entry in the Stepney Parish Vestry ledger for the years 1768 to 1775 records that the inhabitants of Stepney Parish on January 8, 1771, paid "to John Hobbs for building Spring-hill Chapple £509, one half of which to be paid this year." <sup>7</sup>

In 1780 Stepney Parish became a part of the Diocese of Maryland in the newly formed Protestant Church of America, with Thomas Clagett appointed the first Bishop of Maryland. In 1827 the parish was divided, part of it becoming Spring Hill Parish, with the Spring Hill Chapel becoming the parish church. And in 1867, when Wicomico County was erected from portions of Somerset and Worcester counties, Spring Hill Church became part of the new county.

A Maryland Historical Society Marker near the Church reads: "Old Spring Hill, St. Paul's Church. Established here between 1711 and 1725 as a chapel of ease for Green Hill Church (1694) located 8 miles south on the Wicomico River. The present edifice was completed in 1773 to replace the original structure. Some of the original furnishings are still in use."

<sup>7</sup>Stepney Parish Vestry Ledger, 1768-1775. Hall of Records, Annapolis, Maryland.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Dashiell, Cassius M. "History of Stepney Parish." Unpublished manuscript, 1892.  
 Dick, Virginia M. Old Spring Hill Church. Salisbury: Charlie's Print Shop, 1973.  
 Forman, H. Chandlee. Maryland Architecture. Cambridge: Tidewater Publishers, 1968.  
 Stepney Parish Vestry Ledger, 1768-1775. Hall of Records, Annapolis, Maryland.  
 Torrence, Clayton. Old Somerset on the Eastern Shore of Maryland. Baltimore: Regional Publishing Company, 1966.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

| LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY |                         |                         | O<br>R | 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  | ° ' "                   | ° ' "                   |        | 38° 25' 45"   | 75° 40' 27"             |  |
| NE  | ° ' "                   | ° ' "                   |        |   |                         |  |
| SE  | ° ' "                   | ° ' "                   |        |   |                         |  |
| SW  | ° ' "                   | ° ' "                   |        |   |                         |  |

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 5 acres

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

| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |
|--------|------|--------|------|
|        |      |        |      |
|        |      |        |      |
|        |      |        |      |
|        |      |        |      |

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:  
 Ann E. Hill, Summer Intern; Lois Snyderman, Research Assistant

ORGANIZATION: Maryland Historical Trust

DATE: July, 1974

STREET AND NUMBER:  
 2525 Riva Road

CITY OR TOWN: Annapolis

STATE: Maryland

CODE: 24

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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: Arthur C. Townsend

Title: State Historic Preservation Officer

Date: April 18, 1975

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

W1-6

Spring Hill CAUTION

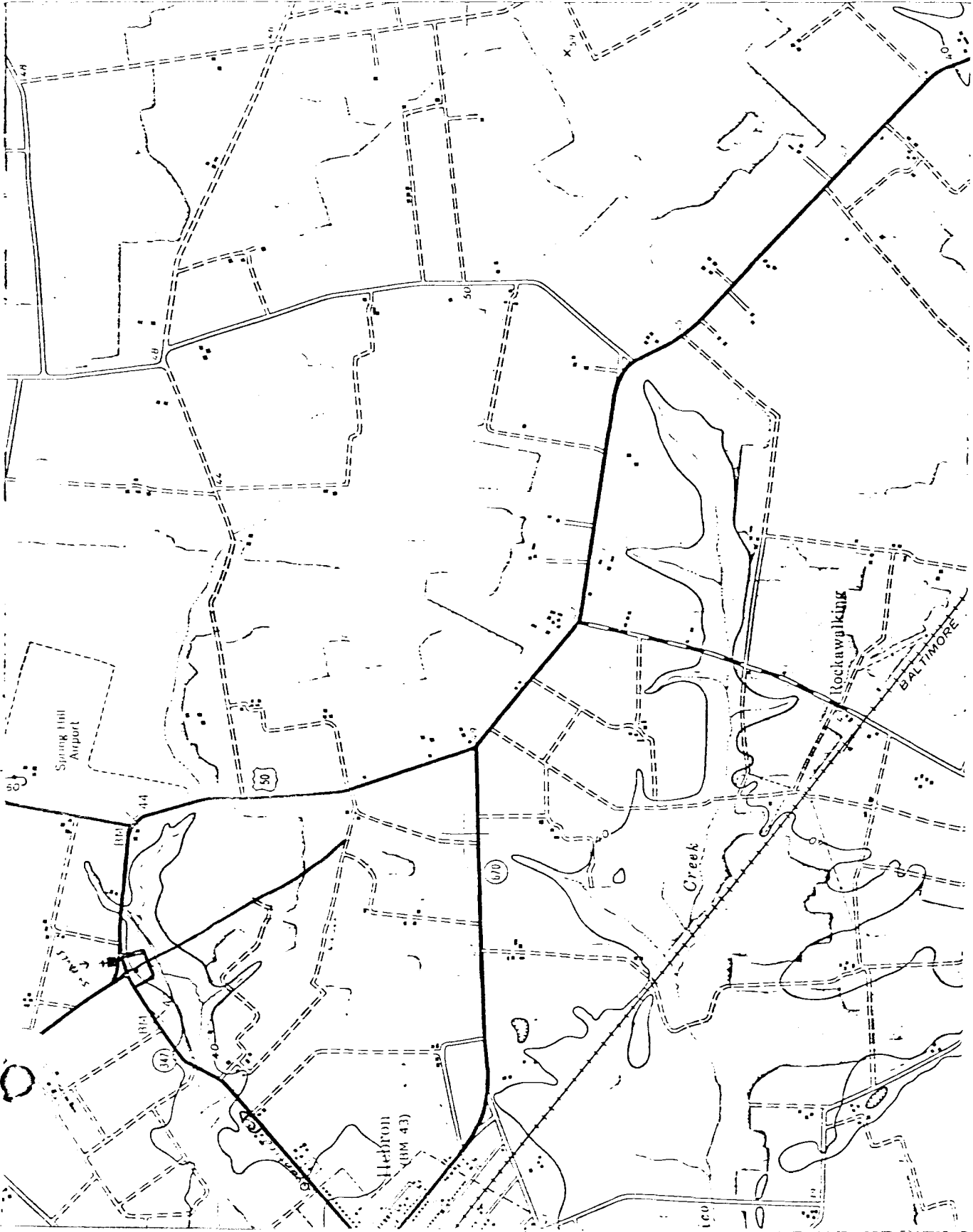
Lat. 38° 25' 45"

long. 75° 40' 27"

HEBRON QUADRANGLE  
U.S.G.S. 7.5 minute

scale 1:24000  
1942

25'

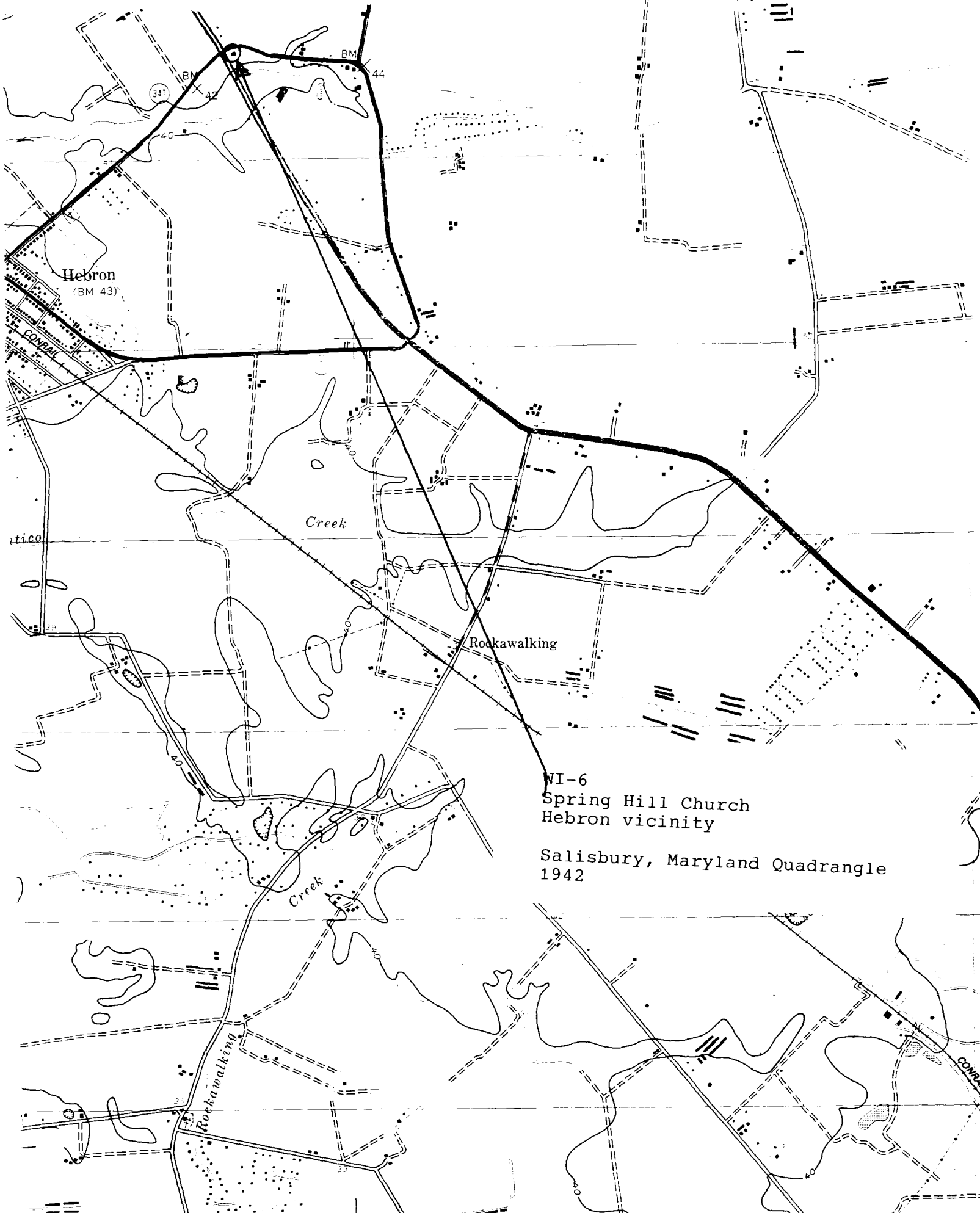




WI-6  
 Spring Hill Church  
 Hebron vicinity

Lake, Griffing, and Stevenson Atlas  
 1877





WI-6  
Spring Hill Church  
Hebron vicinity  
Salisbury, Maryland Quadrangle  
1942

0.5 M. TO NE CORNER 40' 42' 430 000 FEET (DEL.) 43

● INTERIOR—GEOLOGICAL SURVEY RESTON VIRGINIA—1983

1000

450000



1972

Edna ...

Common ...

Spencer ...

4/09 Pine Town ...

Mid ...

1 3













W1 -

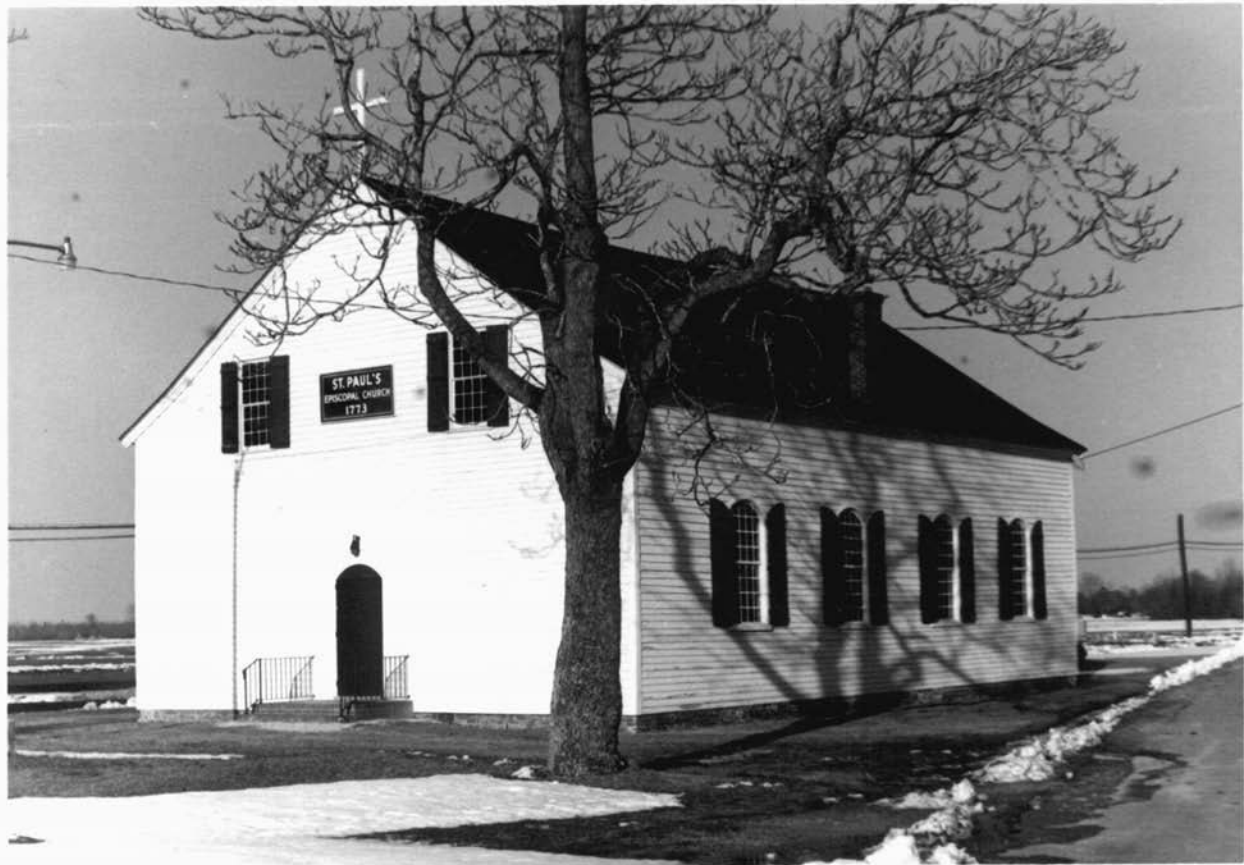
Spring Hill Church (St. Paul's)

W1 - 6

100  
100

MD. HISTORICAL TRUST  
BOX 1704  
ANNAPOLIS, MD. 21404

140B 1968



Springhill Church - (St Paul's) - w:

W1-6

MD. HISTORICAL TRUST  
BOX 1704  
ANNAPOLIS, MD 404

170B 1968

601-109  
22-109