K-123, 124

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC
St. Paul's Church

AND/OR COMMON
Old St. Paul's

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER Northeast corner Sandy Bottom Road and Ricaud's Branch-Lankford Road

CITY, TOWN
Chestertown X VICINITY OF Fairlee
__NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
First

STATE
Maryland

CODE
24

COUNTY
Kent

CODE
029

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
__DISTRICT	__PUBLIC	X OCCUPIED	__AGRICULTURE	__MUSEUM
X BUILDING(S)	X PRIVATE	__UNOCCUPIED	__COMMERCIAL	__PARK
__STRUCTURE	__BOTH	__WORK IN PROGRESS	__EDUCATIONAL	__PRIVATE RESIDENCE
__SITE	**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**	**ACCESSIBLE**	__ENTERTAINMENT	X RELIGIOUS
__OBJECT	__IN PROCESS	__YES: RESTRICTED	__GOVERNMENT	__SCIENTIFIC
	__BEING CONSIDERED	X YES: UNRESTRICTED	__INDUSTRIAL	__TRANSPORTATION
		__NO	__MILITARY	__OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Vestry of St. Paul's Church

STREET & NUMBER
R. D. #2, Box 657A

CITY, TOWN
Chestertown __ VICINITY OF

STATE
Maryland 21620

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Kent County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER
High Street

CITY, TOWN
Chestertown

STATE
Maryland 21620

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE
around 1940 X FEDERAL __STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS
Library of Congress

CITY, TOWN
Washington

STATE
D. C.

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
__EXCELLENT	__DETERIORATED	__UNALTERED	X ORIGINAL SITE
X GOOD	__RUINS	X ALTERED	__MOVED DATE_____
__FAIR	__UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Saint Paul's Church is located in southwestern Kent County at the headwaters of the west branch of Langford Creek, approximately seven miles west of Chestertown. It is situated in a grove of old trees on the west side of a mill pond. The building is surrounded by a graveyard with a few stones bearing 18th century dates; most, however, are later. At the western boundary, along Sandy Bottom Road, stands the vestry house, constructed in 1766. East of the parking area, and not included in the nomination, are the mid-20th century parish hall and rectory.

The church was constructed in 1712 by Captain James Harris for the sum of 70,000 pounds of tobacco and was finished in the following three years. Ordered to be erected by the vestry in 1711, it measures thirty by forty feet with a semi-circular apse on the east gable. After 1841, a robing room was built on the north side of the apse, which was enlarged in 1967. Around 1908, an organ room was built on the north side of the nave.

Facing west, St. Paul's entrance gable is laid in Flemish bond brickwork interrupted only by the semi-circular arched entrance and window above. A pair of rectangular doors closes beneath the arched panel with quatrefoil fret. The window has four-over-four sash and appears to have been lengthened from its original size. There is a slight kick to the eaves, as in several churches in Virginia. An overhanging eave is a 19th century feature, as are the cornice returns with their shaped modillions.

On the south side the orignal cornice with plain modillion blocks can be seen. This facade is also laid in Flemish bond and is interrupted by two wide, semi-circular arched windows and a former entrance with arches of rubbed and gauged brick. The west window has a pair of nine-over-nine sash windows with a panel above like that of the west entrance and a pair of louvered blinds. The east window is completely filled with a stained glass representation of Christ bearing a lamb. The stained glass was installed in 1912. A modern bulkhead was installed in 1940, when a small cellar was dug for the heating plant. A brick chimney rises nearly in the center of the wall.

Glazed headers enliven the Flemish bond of the east apse. In the center of the apse is a large opening, which is arched and has a three-part 19th century window with semi-circular headed units. The stained glass has the symbols of the Trinity, Holy Spirit, and the Episcopal Shield. A conical roof covers the apse.

Protruding from the north side of the apse is the two-part robing room, with distinct difference in the color of the brickwork between the mid-19th century and mid-20th century sections. Adjacent the robing room on the west side is the larger organ room. It is built of even-colour, machine-made brick with very narrow mortar joints. In its west gable is a small lunette. On its west side are a pair of windows with leaded stained stone. This organ room covers the original east window of the north facade of the church, but the west window remains and is identical to its corresponding window on the south side. There appears to have been an entrance centered on the north facade, but the arch has been removed and the brickwork re-laid.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #1.

Form No. 10-300a
(Rev. 10-74)

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(DESCRIPTION, continued)

The interior of St. Paul's is composed of a large rectangular nave with a vaulted ceiling. On the east end is the semi-circular apse containing the sanctuary and lecturns It is separated from the nave by a broad, semi-circular arch. In the northeast corner of the nave is the choir with screen from the first pipe organ built in the arched recess behind. Above the entrance on the west wall is a gallery. There are two aisles with box pews flanking them.

In 1978, the pews were stripped and refinished in a medium brown stain on the body of the pews and doors, contrasting with a natural walnut of the arms and top rails. This was accomplished after a thorough paint colour and analysis was prepared by Frank Welsh. Generally, the pews date from the mid-19th century.

The Gothic-style benches in the choir date from around 1900. The beaded wainscot board around the entire church also appears to date from 1900. They have recently been painted white.

The Communion Rail is on the arc of a circle and dates from the second half of the 19th century. Its gothic trefoil design balustrade is a repetition of the gallery railing. The altar is essentially that described in 1893 as being made of white marble, donated by Mrs. Sarah Jones, and portions of the old wooden altar. Behind the altar are three tall, narrow windows with symbols appropriate to the Episcopal Church, i.e., th shield of the Episcopal Church, the Trinity, and the Holy Spirit.

On the left of the north side of the sanctuary is the Bishop's Chair and on the right is a credence table. A pair of 17th century English chairs are recent additions to the Sanctuary.

Returning to the nave, on both sides of the east wall are plaques, the north in honour of the services of Reverend Denroche and the south in memory of the original vestrymen of St. Paul's. A modern organ is located below the latter. Behind the organ is a stained glass window depicting Christ as the good shepherd given by Alverta P. Beck. in 1912. Hanging from the center of the vaulted ceiling is a cast-iron electrified oil chandelier given by Miss Maria Gamble in 1882.

St. Paul's interior is the result of a gradual development over 266 years with the majority of its appearance being a product of the mid and late 19th century. The three small additions have been built in such a manner that they enhance the service-ability of the structure without detracting from its appearance.

West of the church, along the road, stands the 18th century vestry house. As is evident from the glazed date in the north gable, the one-story brick building was constructed in 1766. The initials IOT beneath the date probably identify the builder.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #2.

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(DESCRIPTION, CONTINUED)

Each side facade is identical, with two windows with six-over-six sash and paneled shutters and a paneled central door. The chimney on the south end of the building is built on the outside of the structure, while the chimney on the north end is within. Both side facades are laid in Flemish bond with glazed headers. The brick bond and date resemble Ringgold's Fortune only a mile away.

Inside, the only features original to the building are the two fireplaces. Paneling, plaster, and the brick paving are additions/restorations of the 1960's.

In 1954 a parish hall was built north of the church from the design of Bryden B. Hyde, A.I.A. Shortly thereafter a house was erected for the pastor to the east of the parish hall.

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
__PREHISTORIC	__ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	__COMMUNITY PLANNING	__LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	X RELIGION	
__1400-1499	__ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	__CONSERVATION	__LAW	__SCIENCE	
__1500-1599	__AGRICULTURE	__ECONOMICS	__LITERATURE	__SCULPTURE	
__1600-1699	X ARCHITECTURE	__EDUCATION	__MILITARY	__SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
X 1700-1799	__ART	__ENGINEERING	__MUSIC	__THEATER	
__1800-1899	__COMMERCE	__EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	__PHILOSOPHY	__TRANSPORTATION	
__1900-	__COMMUNICATIONS	__INDUSTRY	__POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	__OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		__INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES Parish established 1692 Church 1712 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Captain James Harris

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

St. Paul's architectural significance lies in the fact that it is the earliest existing Episcopal church building on the Eastern Shore of Maryland, except for the restored Trinity Church, Church Creek. The brickwork, semi-circular apse, and original fenestration are rare survivors from the early 18th century. St. Paul's is an obvious amalgam of three centuries of growth and change and boasts of that character. Its vestry building is a remarkable survivor from the 18th century, and the graveyard is the handsomest on the Eastern Shore because of the huge boxwood and oak trees and location adjacent to the mill pond.

From the standpoint of religion, St. Paul's is one of the first parishes established by the Colonial Assembly in 1692 for the dissemination of the Church of England throughout the province. It has remained an active parish from that time.

St. Paul's is one of the thirty parishes laid out in the Province of Maryland, pursuant to an Act of Assembly in the year 1692. The records indicate that two church buildings were erected very close to the present one between 1692 and 1707. Due to inferior workmanship and materials, they did not endure.

Excerpts from a few minutes of some vestry meetings:
1711 August 27 - "This vestry doth agree with Mr. James Harris, as undertaker, to build a church for the use of this parish of St. Paul's in Kent County according tot he dimensions following: 40 feet long in the clear and thirty feet wide in the clear; to 16 feet from the ground; 5 windows, 2 doors and cases; the brick wall to be 2½ bricks thick to the water table and two bricks thick from thence upwards; a circle to be at the east end for the Communion, and in consideration the Vestry doth agree to pay Mr. Harris 70,000 pounds of tobacco."
1713 February 2 - "This day, Capt. James Harris having complied with his obligation to the Vestry for building the Church hath made delivery of said Church and has taken up his bond."
1713 February 20 - The Vestry contracted with William Salisbury of Queen Anne's County to erect and set up 34 pews, a Pulpit and Reading Desk."
1715 May 16 - "The Vestry agreed with William Mackey to build a gallery in the Church and to make use of the old stuff from the old church."
1715 - "The Vestry agreed with Thomas Cook to plaster the Church and chancel to lay the aisles and altar with brick. The brick to be laid in herring-bone fashion."
1766 - "The Vestry House was built. A small simple structure of no particular architectur with a fireplace at each end, it was completed within a year at a cost of 20,000 pounds of tobacco"
. . ."Colonial elections were held in the Vestry House and furing the War of 1812 it was used as a barracks for Troops".

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #3.

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(SIGNIFICANCE, continued)

The stained glass chancel window was installed in 1864 at a cost of $250.00. With the exception of the organ chamber, which was added in about 1895 and the enlargement of the robing room in 1968, the dimensions of the church remain the same.

St. Paul's has ministered to the spiritual needs of no less than ten generations. The family of Captain Lambert Wickes of Revolutionary War fame were communicants and still are to the present date. Its rural situaiton is ideally located to serve people living within a radius as far as 12 miles distant. The average attendance recorded in 1732 is just about the same as that at present. The guest book lists visitors from all parts of the world.

In the original church yard of ten acres, there are massive, centuries old oaks, sycamores, and spruce and handsome boxwood. It is second to none in quiet grandeur and exquisite beauty.

St. Paul's, rich in experience and rooted deeply in tradition, seems not to mind the turmoils of the day. It has learned that Time is the Great Physician and that Virtue is its own Reward. It stands as a silent witness to the piety of past generations and is today a sign and symbol that "Man shall not live by Bread alone".

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

K-123, K-124

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 12+ acres

UTM REFERENCES

	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
A	18	398310	4338040
B	18	398160	4337800
C	18	397890	4337880
D	18	397940	4337970

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

See attached plat map.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Mrs. Owen Selby, Historiographer and Michael Bourne, Restoration Consultant

ORGANIZATION St. Paul's Church

DATE December 28, 1978

STREET & NUMBER Mrs. Selby-Box 43, Michael Bourne-P.O. Box 716

TELEPHONE 778-0966/778-0069

CITY OR TOWN Chestertown

STATE Maryland 21620

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL ___ STATE X LOCAL ___

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE [signature] 12-28-79

TITLE STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST: DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

GPO 892-453

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St. Paul's Church
Kent County
CONTINUATION SHEET Maryland ITEM NUMBER 7 & 9 PAGE

#7. DESCRIPTION

The round arch doorway along the south elevation that is bricked in is believed to be original to the structure but closed sometime during the 19th century. No documentation is known to support the why or when of the closing.

#9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Hanson, George A. Old Kent. Baltimore: John P. Des forges, 1876.

Swain, Robert L, Jr. Colonial Saint Paul's. n.p.,n.d.

Deuroche, Rev. Christopher. "A Souvenir History of the Parish of St. Paul's, Kent County, Maryland." n.p. 1893.

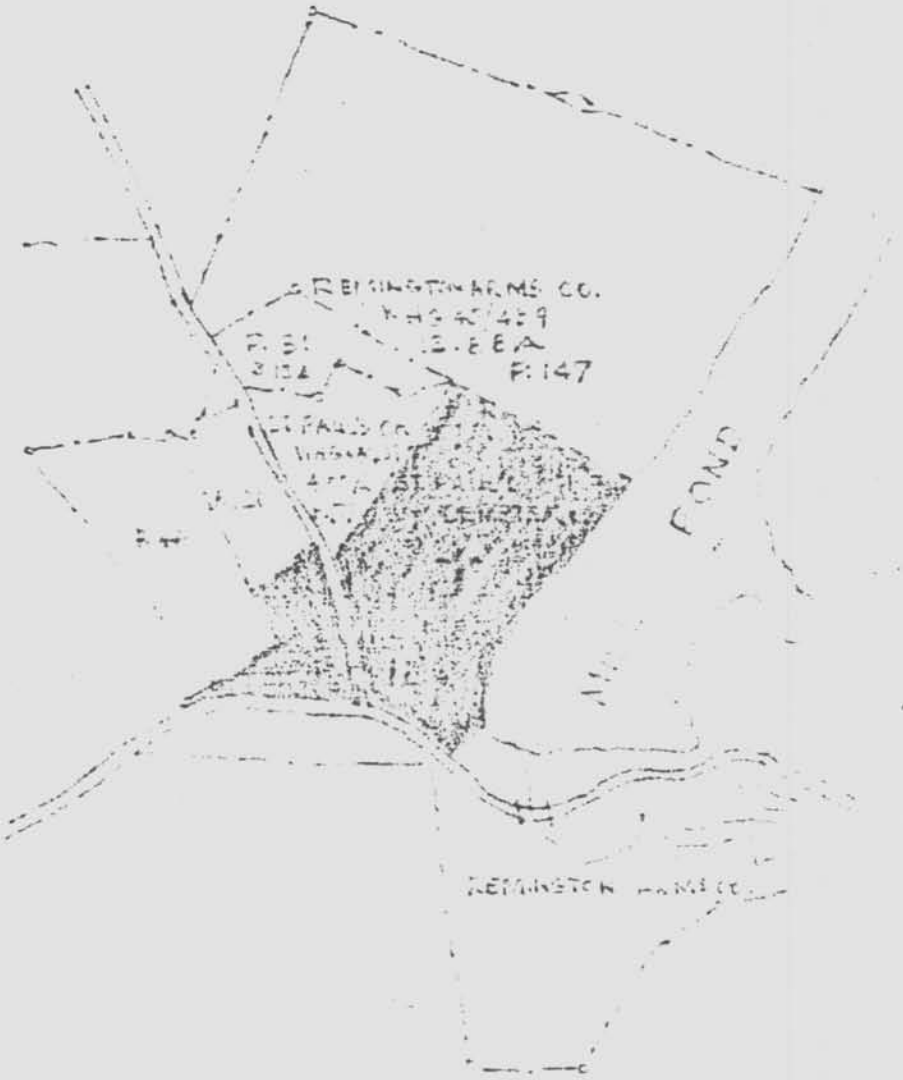
Saint Paul's Parish Register.

Kent Co., Md.

Parcels: 31, 57, 148

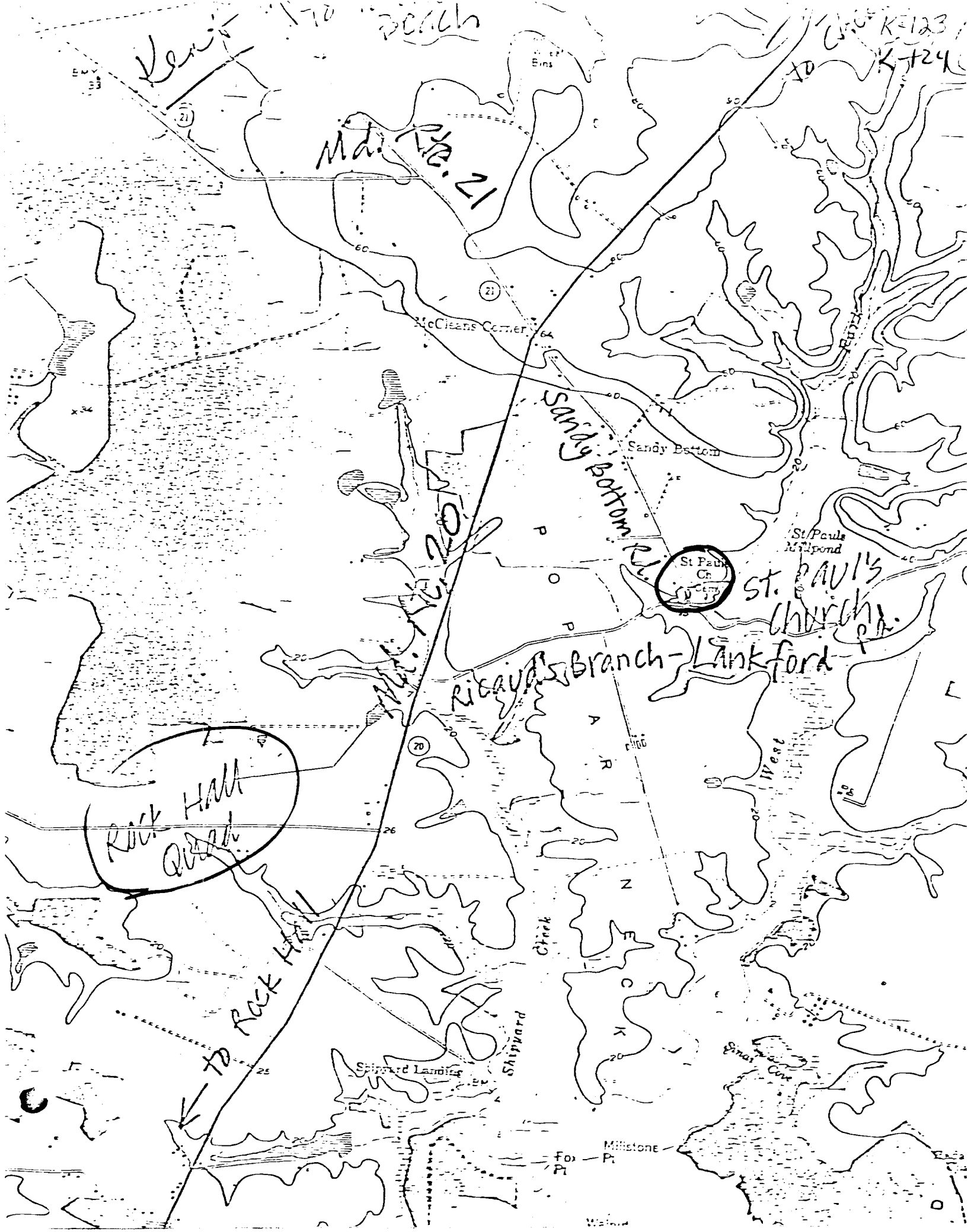
traced by M. Bourne 2/7

K-123, K-124



KENT COUNTY, MD.

ASSESSMENT MAP #41



Kent to Beach
to Chu K-123
K-124
Md. Rte. 21
McCleans Corner
Sandy Bottom Rd.
Sandy Bottom
St Paul's Millpond
St Paul Ch
St. Paul's Church Rd.
Ricaud's Branch - Lankford
Md. Rte. 20
Rock Hall Quad
to Rock Hall
Shipyard Landing
Shipyard Creek
West
Sinai Cove
Millstone Pt
Fox Pt

K-123

St. Paul's Church M. H. T. K. 123
Sandy Bottom Rd.
Rock Hall Md
South Each.
C. Engstrom Aug 1977

B-10-1

St. Paul's Church - K-123

EASTERN SHORE
KENT COUNTY

B-47

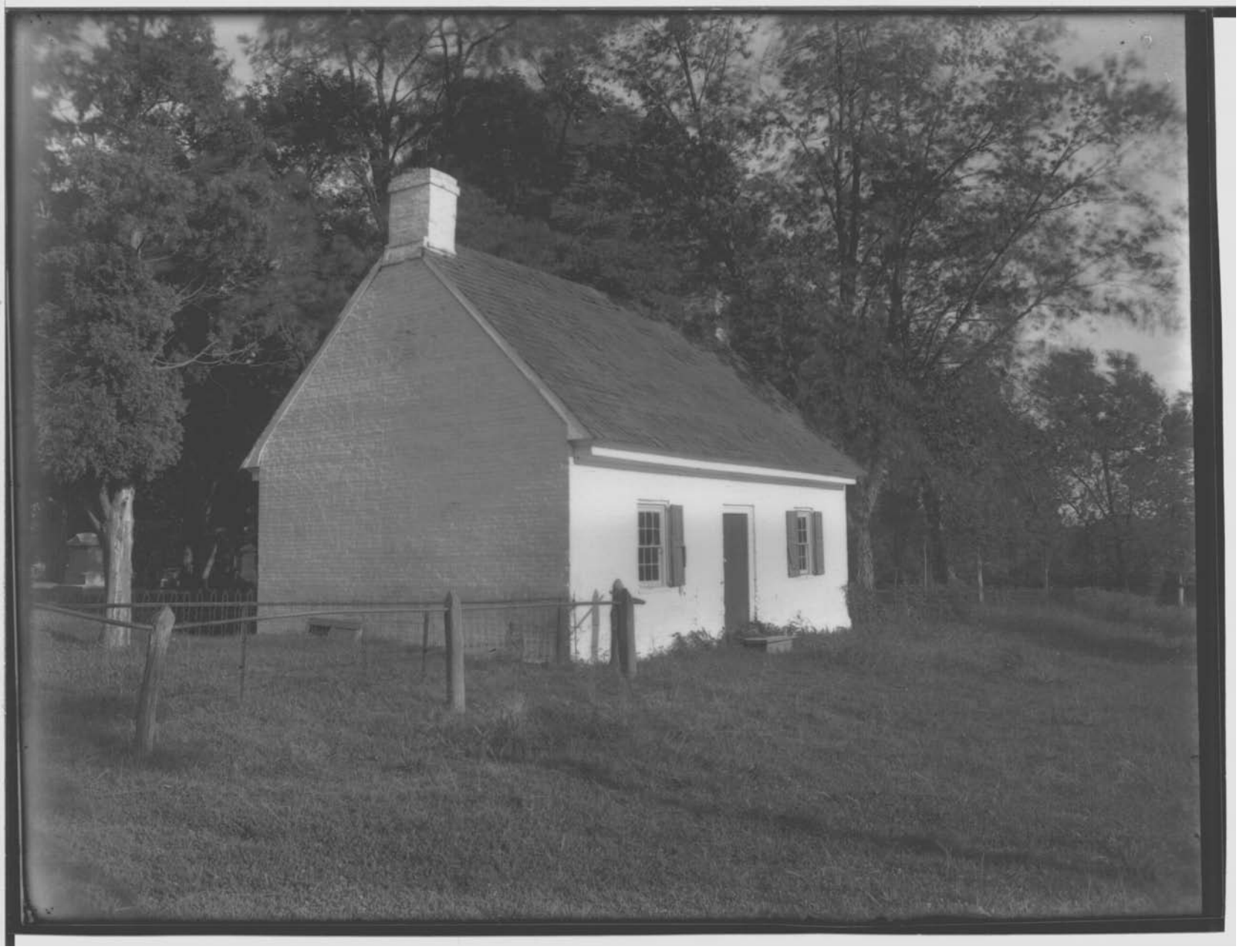
L-124

St. Francis Vestry House.

Photographer: [illegible]

1967

B-10-2



St. Paul's Church Vestry Bldg.

From glass negative
Kent Co. News

K-124