

SITE NUMBER: WA-II-517

ADDRESS: St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 209 West Main Street,  
Sharpsburg, MD

OWNER/LOT NUMBER/ACCESS: Episcopal Church, no lot number, open  
during hours of worship

BUILDING DATE: 1871

St. Paul's Episcopal Church is a south-facing, vertically massed, symmetrical, one-and-a-half-story, three-bay, rough-cut stone, freestanding, ecclesiastical structure resting on a stone foundation. It is sited back from the street on a large landscaped lot defined at the street by a stone retaining wall. The siting, as well as the stonework, steeply pitched roof topped by a pointed steeple, and massive appearance of the building create an impressive composition. The front-gable roof is covered with artificial shingles and has slightly over-hanging eaves. It is topped by an open, frame steeple containing the church bell. There are entrances to the building in the center bay and in the addition in the ell. The entrance in the front facade is in a closed projecting bay that has a steeply pitched, slate roof that echoes the design of the roof structure of the main body. The raised, pointed arched entrance is approached by set of steps and has a set of pointed arched double doors. The majority of the fenestration is composed of pointed arched windows, although there is a round window directly above the main entrance.

Joseph Chapline, founder of the town, deeded this site for a church in 1818 and a cornerstone of the original building, sited at the rear of the lot, was laid in 1819. That building was a two-story stone structure that was severely damaged during the Civil War. Shortly thereafter, the congregation decided to demolish the original church and built a new one. The extant structure was

completed in 1871. It is noted on the 1877 map without its wing.

The building is within the Western Maryland Geographic Organization, the Development Period of Industrial/Urban Dominance, and falls within the Historic Period Theme of Religion.

Prepared by Julie Mueller, June 1991

**MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN:**

**STATEWIDE HISTORIC CONTEXT**

Geographic Organization: Western Maryland

Chronological/Development Periods: Industrial/Urban Dominance

Historic Period Theme: Religion; Architecture, Landscape  
Architecture, and Community Planning

Resource Type:

Category: buildings

Historic Environment: small, rural town

Historic Function and Use: ecclesiastical

Known Design Source: unknown

**Maryland Historical Trust**  
**State Historic Sites Inventory Form**

Magi No.

DOE  yes  no

**1. Name** (indicate preferred name)

historic St. Paul's Episcopal Church

and/or common

**2. Location**

street & number 209 West Main Street  not for publication

city, town Sharpsburg  vicinity of congressional district

state Maryland county Washington

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

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

name St. Paul's Episcopal Church

street & number 209 West Main Street telephone no.: 301-

city, town Sharpsburg state and zip code Maryland 21782

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Washington County Court House liber

street & number Summit Avenue and West Washington Street folio

city, town Hagerstown state Maryland

**6. Representation in Existing** Historical Surveys

title

date  federal  state  county  local

pository for survey records

city, town state

# 7. Description

Survey No. WA-II-517

<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.

## The Setting

St. Paul's Episcopal Church is located in Washington County at 209 West Main Street in Sharpsburg. It is prominently sited on a landscaped lot at mid-block on the town's principal thoroughfare. Resembling an English country church, the design of St. Paul's clearly refers to the Episcopal Church's Anglican origins. The church yard contains four, mature pruned maples that are evenly spaced at the front of the lot and a large conifer at the side of the stone addition.

## Exterior

St. Paul's Episcopal Church is a south-facing, vertically massed symmetrical, one-and-a-half-story, three-bay, rough-cut stone, freestanding ecclesiastical structure resting on a stone foundation. It is sited back from the street on a large landscaped lot (154.5' x 206") defined at the street by a stone retaining wall. The siting, as well as the stonework, steeply pitched roof topped by a pointed steeple, and massive appearance of the building create an impressive composition. The front-gable roof is covered with artificial shingles and has slightly overhanging eaves. It is topped by an open, frame steeple containing the church bell. There are entrances to the building in the center bay and in the addition in the ell. The entrance in the front facade is in a closed projecting bay that has a steeply pitched, slate roof that echoes the design of the roof structure of the main body. The raised pointed arched entrance is approached by a set of steps and has a set of pointed arched double doors. The majority of the fenestration is composed of pointed arched windows, although there is a round window directly above the main entrance.

A large, one-story, masonry parish hall has been added to the back of the building. Due to the slope of the site, it is not visible from the street.

# 8. Significance

Survey No. WA-II-517

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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music <input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy <input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates** 1871 **Builder/Architect** Burgan and Kretzer, Sharpsburg  
 check: Applicable Criteria:  A  B  C  D Rohrer of Tilghmanton  
 and/or  
 Applicable Exception:  A  B  C  D  E  F  G  
 Level of Significance:  national  state  local

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

son of the  
 Joseph Chapline, founder of the town, deeded this site for a church in 1818 and a cornerstone of the original building, sited at the rear of the lot, was laid in 1819. The church was established by the consent of the Diocesan Convention of Maryland in 1819. The original church building was a two-story, stuccoed, stone structure that was severely damaged during the Civil War. The majority of the damage occurred, according to a 1962 walking tour brochure of Sharpsburg, written by Clifton Smith, when the church was used as a Confederate hospital and most of the furnishings were removed to make room for beds.

Shortly after the war, the congregation decided to demolish the original church and build a new one. The extant structure was completed in 1871. According to a letter to the editor, dated September 15, 1885 in an uncited newspaper (letter found in the parish records at the Maryland State Archives), the damaged church was photographed and copies of the picture were sold to raise funds to build the new church. The old church was dismantled and the stones were retained to be used in the new building that was placed closer to the street. The letter states that the stone was a native limestone and that it was laid by Mr. Burgan and Mr. Kretzer of Sharpsburg and Mr. Rohrer of Tilghmanton. The stone porch was erected by Jesse Hill of Sharpsburg. Carpentry on the interior was done by Jacob Snyder and John Grason, and the plaster work by James Wilson, all of Sharpsburg. The interior woodwork was finished in walnut that was locally grown. It is possible that the design for the building was based on standard designs for Episcopal churches.

Although the church had been completed for some time, it could not be consecrated until it was debt free. According to the church records, the new building cost \$5000. Lists of subscribers and donors included people and congregations from as far away as San Francisco and included donations from many communities in numerous states.

A notation in the parish records on September 14, 1897 states that the altar was built by Jacob Snyder and William Early and was based on a design by the Reverend H. Edwards who had led the campaign to construct a new church. The chancel rail was carved by the same men based on another design by Edwards. They went on to complete much of the interior

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. WA-II-517

See attached sheets

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property .73 acres

Quadrangle name Shepherdstown, WVA-MD

Quadrangle scale 7.5

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

B	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

C	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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D	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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E	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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F	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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G	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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H	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Julianne Mueller

organization

date July 1991

street & number 2730 Ordway Street, N.W.

telephone 202-364-6594

city or town Washington, D.C.

state

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
 Shaw House  
 21 State Circle  
 Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
 (301) 269-2438

**8. SIGNIFICANCE**

Page 8.1

design by Edwards. They went on to complete much of the interior woodwork, including the stalls, desks, and lectern.

The stone wing to the building was constructed by 1922 and the parish hall was erected in 1966.

Significance

A preliminary architectural evaluation of St. Paul's Episcopal Church was made in April 1991 by Julianne Mueller during a survey of Sharpsburg. At that time a survey site number WA-II-517 was assigned and it was determined that the church is a contributing element to Sharpsburg's historic religious and architectural character. A summary sheet on the building with photographs was submitted to the Maryland Historical Trust in June 1991. The summary provides a basic description of the building and places it with the Maryland Comprehensive State Historic Preservation Plan: State Historic Context (Western Maryland Geographic Organization; the Development Period of Industrial/Urban Dominance; the Historic Period Themes of Religion; and Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Community Planning).

Upon the suggestion of members of the Sharpsburg community, the general history of the church was researched. It was concluded that the building meets eligibility Criterion C for listing on the Maryland Register.

**Criterion A -- The property is not associated with significant historical events.**

**Criterion B -- The property is not associated with a significant person.**

**Criterion C -- The building exhibits exceptional architectural design, method of construction, or craftsmanship, or is the product of a trained architect. For its commanding presence on Sharpburg's principal east-west thoroughfare and for its fine, stone construction, St. Paul's Episcopal Church is a contributing element to the architectural significance of Sharpsburg.**

8. SIGNIFICANCE

Page 8.2

**Criterion D -- The property may provide important information about history or prehistory.** The property has not been assessed for its archeological potential. Because of its long history at this site, it is possible that 19th- and 20th-century archeological remains might be found near the building. However, it should be noted that the original building on this site was demolished and the extant building has received an addition. These construction activities may have obliterated some of the archeological record.

CONTINUATION SHEET

SURVEY NO. WA-II-517

9. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Page 9.1

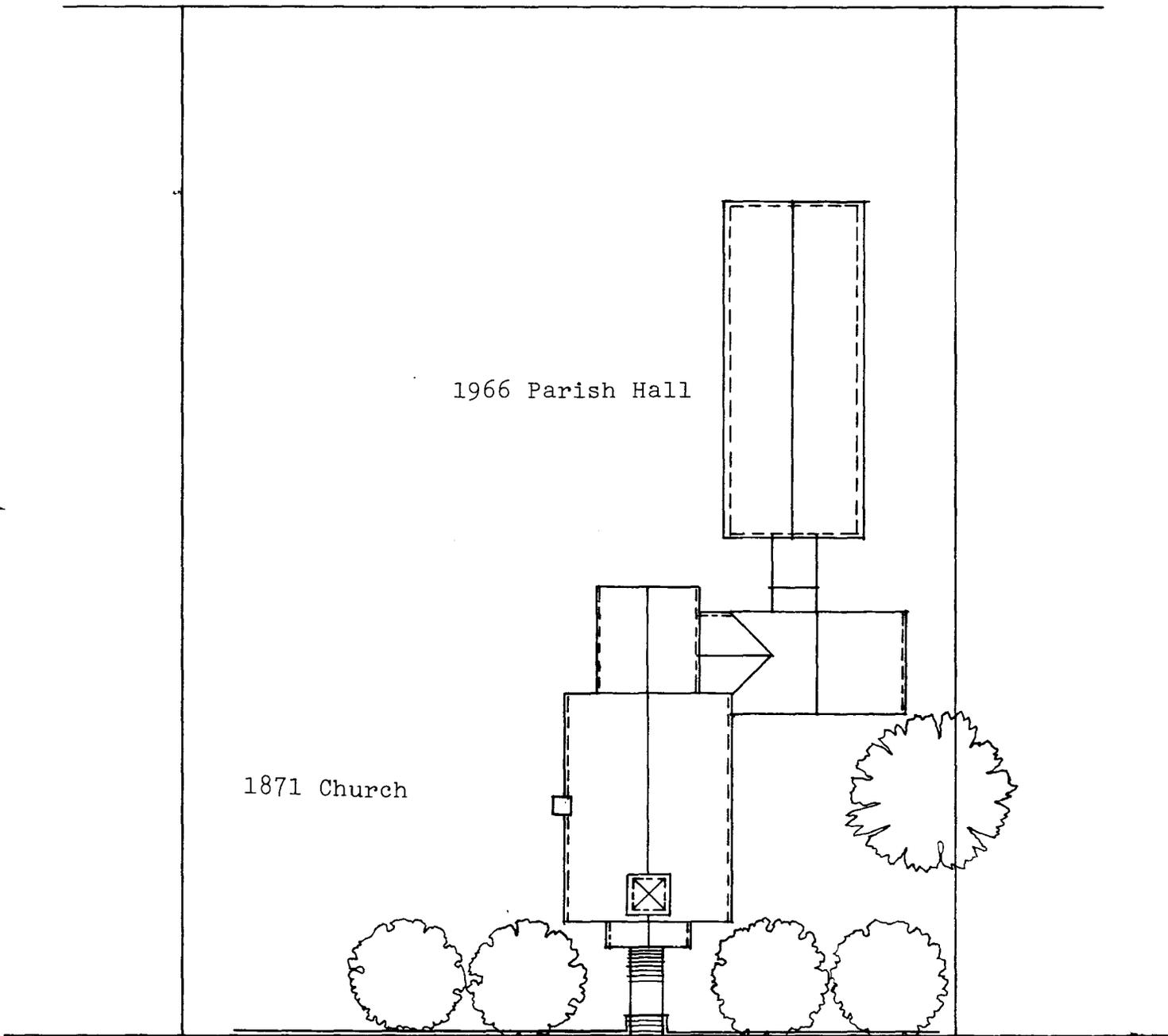
Barron, Lee and Barbara. The History of Sharpsburg Maryland;  
Founded by Joseph Chapline 1763. Privately Published: 1972.

St. Paul's Church Parish Register, 1893-1958, Maryland State  
Archives

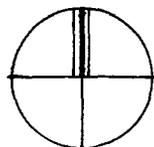
MAPS:

1877 uncited map

1922 Sanborn Map



WEST MAIN STREET





APR. 1822  
SHARPSBURG  
MD.

(617)  
2

W. CHAPLINE

N. POTOMAC

N. HALL

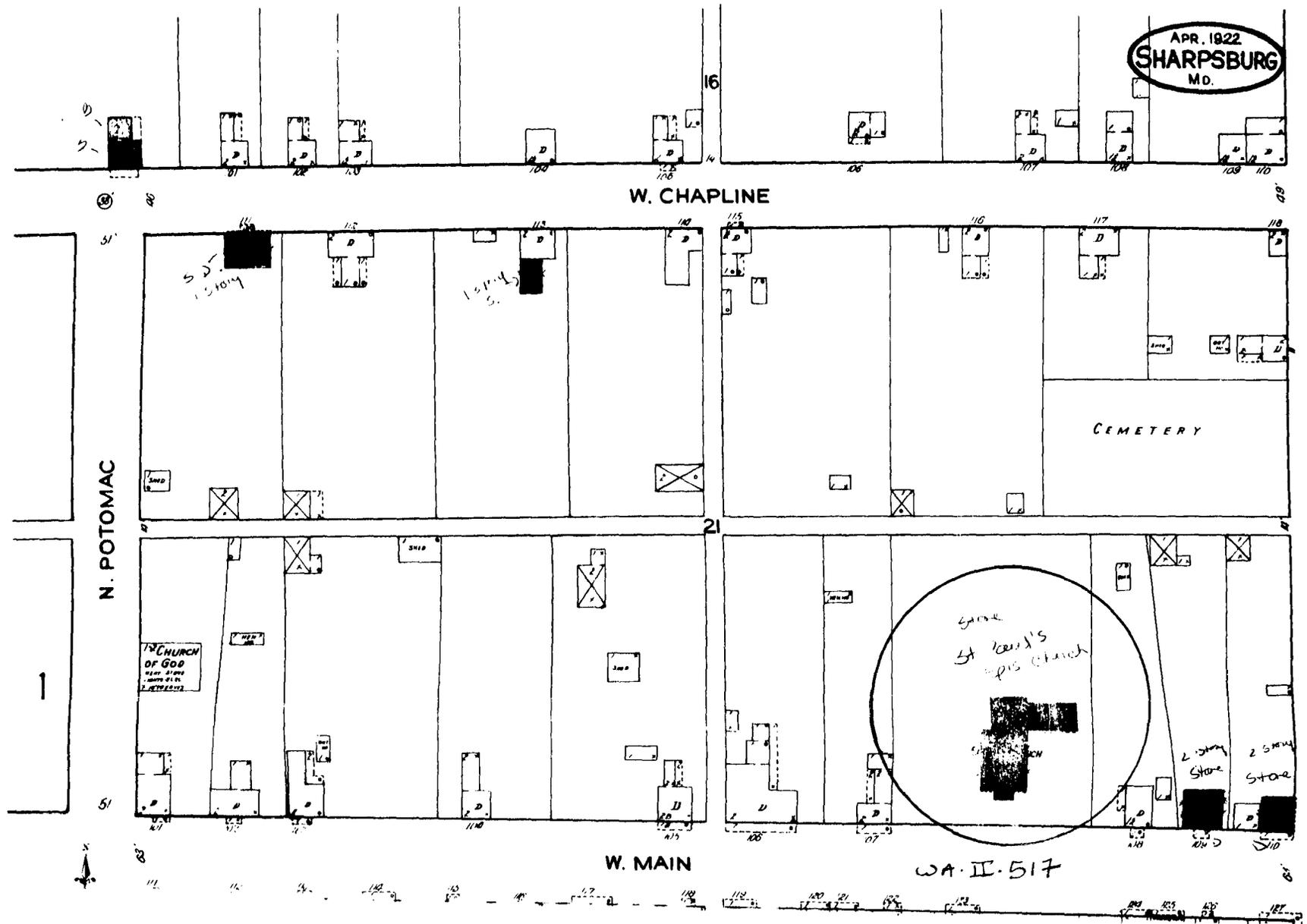
CHURCH  
OF GOD  
near Stone  
corner of St.  
Potomac

same  
St. Louis  
episcopal church

W. MAIN

WA-II-517

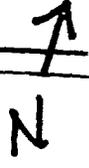
3



MILL	CLD R GETRIDGE 474/508	CLARENCE CRIST 477/51	RAYMOND HEWETT 487/44	WM. D DELAUNEY 324-293	GERALDENE L SPEAKER 405/331	HOMER E. ROWE 265-194	EARL R HOUSER 323-659	THEODORE E DUNDUIS 745/559 206	MERVIN F NUICE 854 / 261
51.5'	51.5'	51.5'	51.5'	51.5'	51.5'	51.5'	51.5'	45'	56'
217	215	213	211	209	207	205	203	201	

ST.

VICTOR T. WITMER 474/304
106'
206'



**W. CHAPLINE**

BAKER	FLOYD KOONTZ 221-656	GARY C HULL 552/830	MARY L DELAUNEY 221/237 615/171 679/163	ELMER C. KOONTZ 222-401	TIMOTHY M ETZLER 908/215	HELEN CAMPBELL'S 195-205
103'	103'	103'	103'	103'	103'	103'
216	214	208	204	108	106	106

PHILIP F. RHODERICK 796/773	WILLIAM H. CANFIELD 789/251	ADRIAN F GRIM 762/990
106	51.5'	51.5'
107	107	107

JOHN GAMPERL 257-298	EVERETT L. ROHRER 176-403	THIRNAME JAMISON 293-347	EPISCOPAL CH  <b>WA-II-517</b>	GUS W. FISHER, L/E 841/112	JOHN P BRUCKSCH 670/267	CHARLOTTE R DAVIS 208-573
51.5'	51.5'	51.5'	51.5'	51.5'	51.5'	51.5'
215	213	211	207	205	201	201

HALL

LEON C SPEILMAN 488-493	JESSE C GIFT 451/60 48/399	JAMES M. PHILLIPS, JR 628/96
103'	51.5'	51.5'
141	139	138

**W. MAIN**

JOHN A. ROHRER 728/333	BONNARD J. MORGAN 704/633	BONNARD J. MORGAN 535/686	IDA M SAUNDERS 244-431	ROBERT W SHANK 528/450	WILLIS C. BAKER 308-571	JAMES A MOSE 912/370	GERALD L. DAGENHART 366-377
51.5'	51.5'	51.5'	103'	51.5'	51.5'	51.5'	51.5'
226	224	222	220	218	216	214	212

RALPH H. HAMMOND 706/103	CHRISTOPHER YEAGER 826/1029
51.5'	102'
138	102

AMPBELL, JR 96	MAKER	CRIST	NORMAN H	VILSON, II 272	WILLIS	WILLIS C	WILLIS C. BAKER
54'	54'	54'	54'	54'	54'	54'	54'
226	224	222	220	218	216	214	212

WILLIS C. BAKER 730/623	ADRIAN E	RODERICK
102	102	102
102	102	102

SHEPHERDSTOWN QUADRANGLE  
WEST VIRGINIA—MARYLAND  
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

5463 II SW  
(FUNKSTOWN)

NE/4 MARTINSBURG 15' QUADRANGLE  
BAKERSVILLE 1.3 MI.  
2 490 000 FEET (W. VA.)

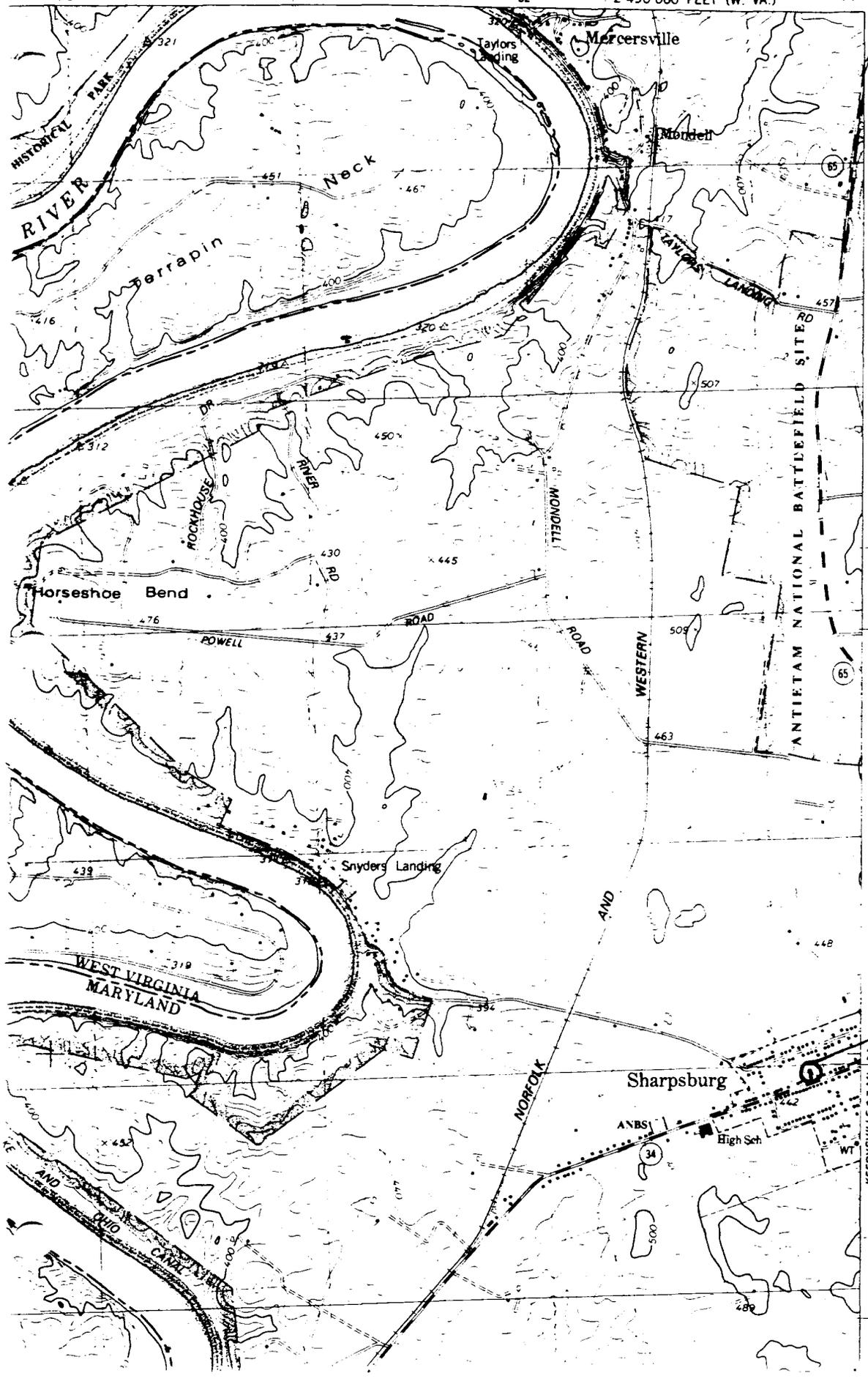
47°30'

361

362

77°45'

39°30'



LAPPANS 4.2 MI.  
HAGERSTOWN 11 MI.

360 000 FEET  
(W. VA.)

WA II 517

KEEDYSVILLE 3.7 MI.



USA - N - 517

7/1991

J Mueller

looking at  
front



WA-10-517

7/1991

J. Mueller

looking SE



JA-11-517

7/1/11

1000

1000

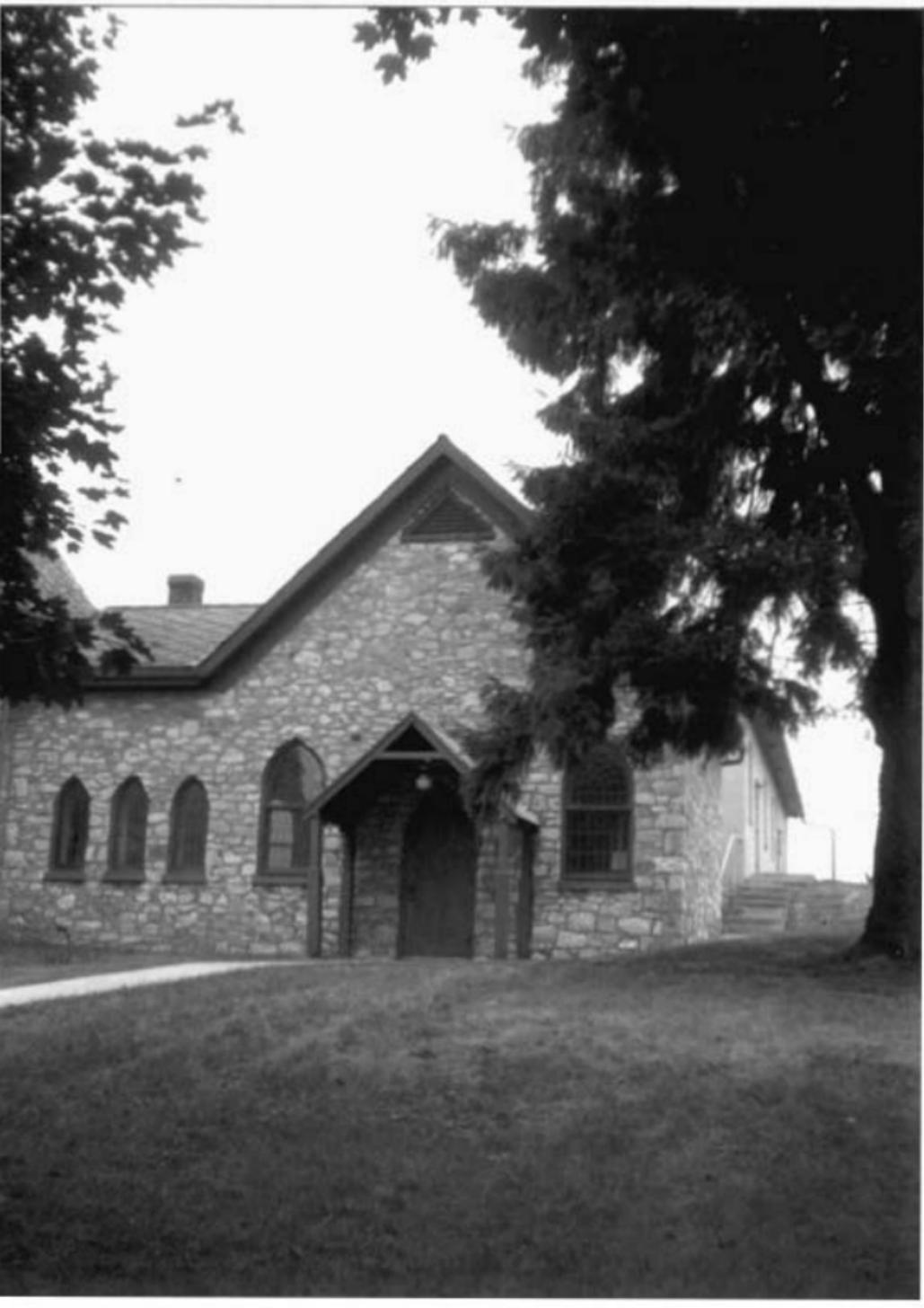


WA-11-517

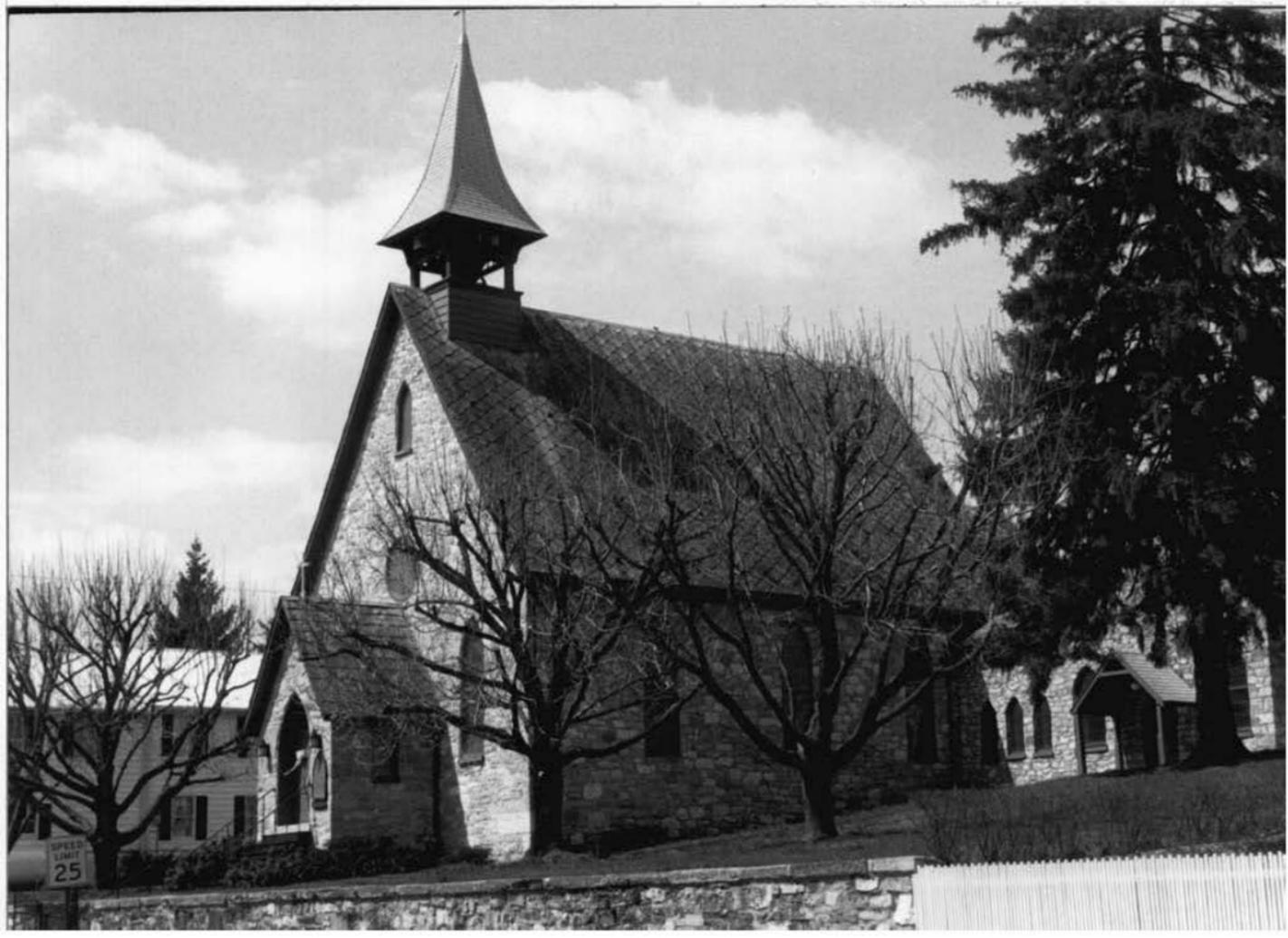
7/1991

J Meller

looking NW at 1966 add.







SPEED  
LIMIT  
25

WA-II - 517

MAIN

209 W. ~~ANTHONY~~ SHARPSBURG, MD.

APRIL 1991

P. SACKEYT CHRISMAN