

SITE NUMBER: WA-V-361

ADDRESS: southeast corner of Cumberland and Mill Streets, Clear Spring, MD

OWNER/LOT NUMBER/ACCESS: St. John's United Church of Christ

BUILDING DATE: 1866

This is a north-facing, vertically massed, two-story, three-bay, brick, freestanding, ecclesiastical structure. The Classical Revival building, which is set back from the public-right-of-way on an open lawn, is laid in common bond and has been sandblasted. The open, frame steeple is the tallest landmark in Clear Spring. The church has a front-gable, artificial roll roof. The front facade is composed of three bays that are delineated in brick, and a classical pediment in the gable end. The entrance is located in the center bay and is composed of double doors topped by a six-light transom. The doors are Victorian with heavy paneling. The flanking bays have tall, rectangular stained glass windows. The cornerstone is inscribed with the date: 1866. The building has two one-story mid-20th century additions on the back.

According to a history of the church, the congregation was founded in 1828 and the church was constructed in 1866. This congregation was located on this site in 1877, according to the historic map of that date. The 1922 Sanborn shows the extant structure and notes that it had hot water heat, electric lights, and was 26' to the eaves. According to the map, the address was 241 Cumberland.

The building is within the Western Maryland Geographic Organization, the Development Period of Agricultural-Industrial Dominance, and falls within the Historic Period Themes of Economic; and Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Community Planning.

Prepared by Julianne Mueller, July 1992

CONTINUATION SHEET  
7. DESCRIPTION

SURVEY NO. WA-V-361

**MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN:**

**STATEWIDE HISTORIC CONTEXT**

Geographic Organization: Western Maryland

Chronological/Development Periods: Agricultural-Industrial  
Transition

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

Resource Type:

Category: building

Historic Environment: small, rural town

Historic Function and Use: church

Known Design Source: unknown

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Magi No.

DOE  yes  no

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic St. John's Reformed Church

and/or common St. John's United Church of Christ

## 2. Location

street & number Southeast corner of S. Mill and East Cumberland Streets  not for publicationcity, town Clear Spring  vicinity of congressional district

state Maryland county Washington

## 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 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 St. John's Reformed Church (St. John's United Church of Christ)

street &amp; number As above telephone no.:

city, town Clear Spring state and zip code MD 21722

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Washington County Courthouse liber

street &amp; number Summit Avenue and West Washington Street folio

city, town Hagerstown state MD

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Survey of Clear Spring

date Oct. 1991- August 1992  federal  state  county  local

pository for survey records Maryland Historical Trust

city, town Crownsville state MD

# 7. Description

Survey No. WA-V-361

<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 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.

SEE ATTACHED

# 8. Significance

Survey No. WA-V-361

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input 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** 1866 **Builder/Architect**

check: Applicable Criteria:  A  B  C  D  
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.

SEE ATTACHED



### The Setting

St. John's United Church of Christ is sited on the southeast corner of Mill and Cumberland Streets located in Clear Spring, Washington County. Cumberland Street is the old National Pike and is the principal thoroughfare in Clear Spring, the street along which most of the town's buildings stand. Mill Street has become an important road in that it is the point of entry into Clear Spring when exiting from U.S. 70 which is nearby. This intersection, therefore, is the first that many people see when arriving in Clear Spring. The church is an important landmark--its tall steeple tower provides Clear Spring with one of its few visual landmarks that can be seen from a distance.

The church property also includes an early 20th century parsonage to the east of the church.

### The Exterior

St. John's is a north-facing, vertically massed, two-story, three-bay, brick, freestanding, ecclesiastical structure. The Classical Revival building, which is set back from the public-right-of-way on an open lawn, is laid in common bond and has been sandblasted. The open, frame steeple is the tallest landmark in Clear Spring. The church has a front-gable, artificial roll roof. The front facade is composed of three bays that are delineated in brick, and a classical pediment in the gable end. The entrance is located in the center bay and is composed of double doors topped by a six-light transom. The doors are Victorian with heavy paneling. The flanking bays have tall, rectangular stained glass windows. A sandstone cornerstone provides the date of construction: 1886. The building has two, one-story, additions on the back--one dating to 1954, the other to the 1980s.

### The Interior

The interior is divided into two stories. Upon entering the building, there are sets of stairs to the right and left which lead to the second floor where the sanctuary is located. They also lead downstairs to the ground floor, where, below the sanctuary, are the Sunday School/meeting rooms, offices, and kitchen.

Upon arriving to the second floor there is a hall which leads into the sanctuary. Entry into this space is through a set of double doors that lead to the center aisle. The sanctuary is laid out with seating in two, slightly curved rows of pews. The altar is slightly raised. The apse is round-arched and slightly recessed to create a niche. The arch is defined by dark wood paneling. The choir is seated to the east of the altar, in front of the 1923 Moller Pipe organ which is located in the southeast corner of the space. The pulpit is located just to the west of the niche. The walls of the sanctuary are plastered and have ceiling moldings. A balcony or gallery is located at the back of the church. It is reached by a set of stairs in the hallway. Two doors at the back

of the gallery provide access to the steeple.

The sanctuary is light with a series of recessed, ceiling, canned lights, as well as an immense crown chandelier at the center of the room. The apse is backlight.

The interior of the sanctuary was recently renovated. This work included the removal of a dropped ceiling and florescent lights, the installation of the new lighting system (the formerly gas chandelier was converted to electricity in the 1920s), the installation of new carpeting, and the rearrangement of choir pews so that they face the congregation. Central air conditioning was installed, allowing for the removal of window units.

The ground floor is divided into several spaces, the largest of which is an open room with a stage. This room serves the entire town for community meetings and events. Several smaller rooms are located off of this space, including meeting rooms and offices. A long hall leads into the additions where restrooms and a large kitchen are located.

## 8. SIGNIFICANCE

The history of St. John's begins with the founding of the St. John's Congregation in Clear Spring in 1828. Its first church was built in cooperation with the town's Lutheran congregation sometime between 1828 and 1838.<sup>1</sup> The Congregation was organized as St. John's Reformed Church in 1834.

The Lutheran and Reformed congregations remained linked in Clear Spring until 1860, when the Reformed Church sold their interest in their church building to the Lutherans. For five years, until they prepared to build their own church, the congregation rented the Radical Church, located on what are now the grounds of Clear Spring High School. During this time, the Civil War affected this church, as it did most churches in the area. The building served as a hospital for soldiers wounded in nearby battles.

Following the end of the Civil War, in September 1865, the congregation agreed to purchase a parcel of land for the construction of their own German Reformed church. The parcel was Lot 18, originally sold by Martin Myer to James Prather in 1822 (Liber FF, Folio 949). A committee was formed to supervise the building of the new church and to raise funds for it. In August 1866, Samuel Miller was retained to complete the carpentry work within one year of the as yet unbuilt church. Building materials were provided by Fellingner and Summers and the cornerstone was laid August 16, 1866.<sup>2</sup> According to the diary of Otho Nesbitt, a prominent Clear Spring citizen and landowner, the new church was dedicated on February 14, 1869. The furnishings had been made and donated to the church by congregation member E. Frantz, who was a locally renown furniture maker.<sup>3</sup> That same year, Mrs. Sarah Heller donated a house and land adjacent to the new church on the east for a parsonage.

According to Sharf's History of Western Maryland, St. John's was one of seven churches in Clear Spring in the 1910s. At that time, the town's population was nearly twice what it is today, and many of Clear Spring's prominent families worshiped at this church.

At the turn of the century, forty years after the church was first constructed, a number of repairs were undertaken. In addition, the

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<sup>1</sup> This situation was not unique to Clear Spring. The Lutheran and German Reformed congregations in Boonsboro also joined to build their first church.

<sup>2</sup> "A Review of the History of St. John's." printed leaflet by Nora McDonald Snyder, 1966.

<sup>3</sup> Check oral history with Hilda Frantz Cushwa (July 1992), his granddaughter for additional information on this family that had a local furniture and undertaking business in the community for several generations.

old parsonage was demolished and a new one constructed in 1904 at a cost of \$3,000 (see WA-V-362). Under the direction of Rev. Klingaman, a stable and carriage shed were constructed in 1911 and, in 1914, new walnut pews were installed in the sanctuary.<sup>4</sup> And in 1923 a new organ, a manual Moller Pipe organ was purchased. It was also during this period that the building was converted from gas to electric lighting. The 1922 Sanborn notes that the church had hot water heat, electric lights, and was 26' to the eaves.

During the long pastorate of Rev. J. Wade Huffman, which began in 1931, the church underwent more alterations, including the rearrangement of the chancel, and the construction of an addition to the church to house a school in 1954. In 1957, the stable and carriage house were demolished to make room for a new garage.

The 1970s saw more changes to the building. During this time, the exterior of the building was sandblasted and the interior of the sanctuary was remodeled with the installation of a drop ceiling and florescent lights. In 1984, the Sunday School/meeting area was expanded with another addition that includes a large kitchen. During 1990, many of the interior alterations that had been made to the sanctuary were reversed and much of the interior was renovated. This included the rearrangement of the pews to reopen the center aisle, the laying of a new reproduction carpet that is more in keeping with the 1860s construction date of the building, the removal of window air condition units, and the painting of the walls and trim to reflect more accurately the original colors.

### Significance

A preliminary evaluation of the church was made in November 1991 by Julianne Mueller during a survey of Boonsboro. At that time a survey site number WA-V-361 was assigned and it was determined that the site is a contributing element to Clear Spring's historic character. A summary sheet on the building with photographs was submitted to the Maryland Historical Trust in August 1992. The summary provides a basic description of the site and places it within the Maryland Comprehensive State Historic Preservation Plan: State Historic Context (Western Maryland Geographic Organization; the Development Period of Agricultural-Industrial Transition; the Historic Period Themes of Religion; and Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Community Planning).

Upon the suggestion of the Clear Spring Historical Society, the general history of the church was researched. It was concluded that the site is a good example of ecclesiastical architecture in Clear Spring and that the church's role in the development of the town is an important and vital one. The building qualifies for listing on the National Register as a contributing element to the overall historical character of the town, and meets eligibility

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<sup>4</sup> Two of the original Frantz pews are located in the sanctuary's gallery today.

Criteria A and C for listing on the Maryland Register.

- Criterion A -- The property is associated with significant historical events.** The church is one of the early congregations in Clear Spring and has played a significant role in the history of the town.
- 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.**
- Criterion D -- The property may provide important information about history or prehistory.** The property has not been assessed for its archeological potential. However, due to the construction of large additions on much of the church lot, the probability is low that objects associated with the history of the site are extant.

**9. BIBLIOGRAPHY**

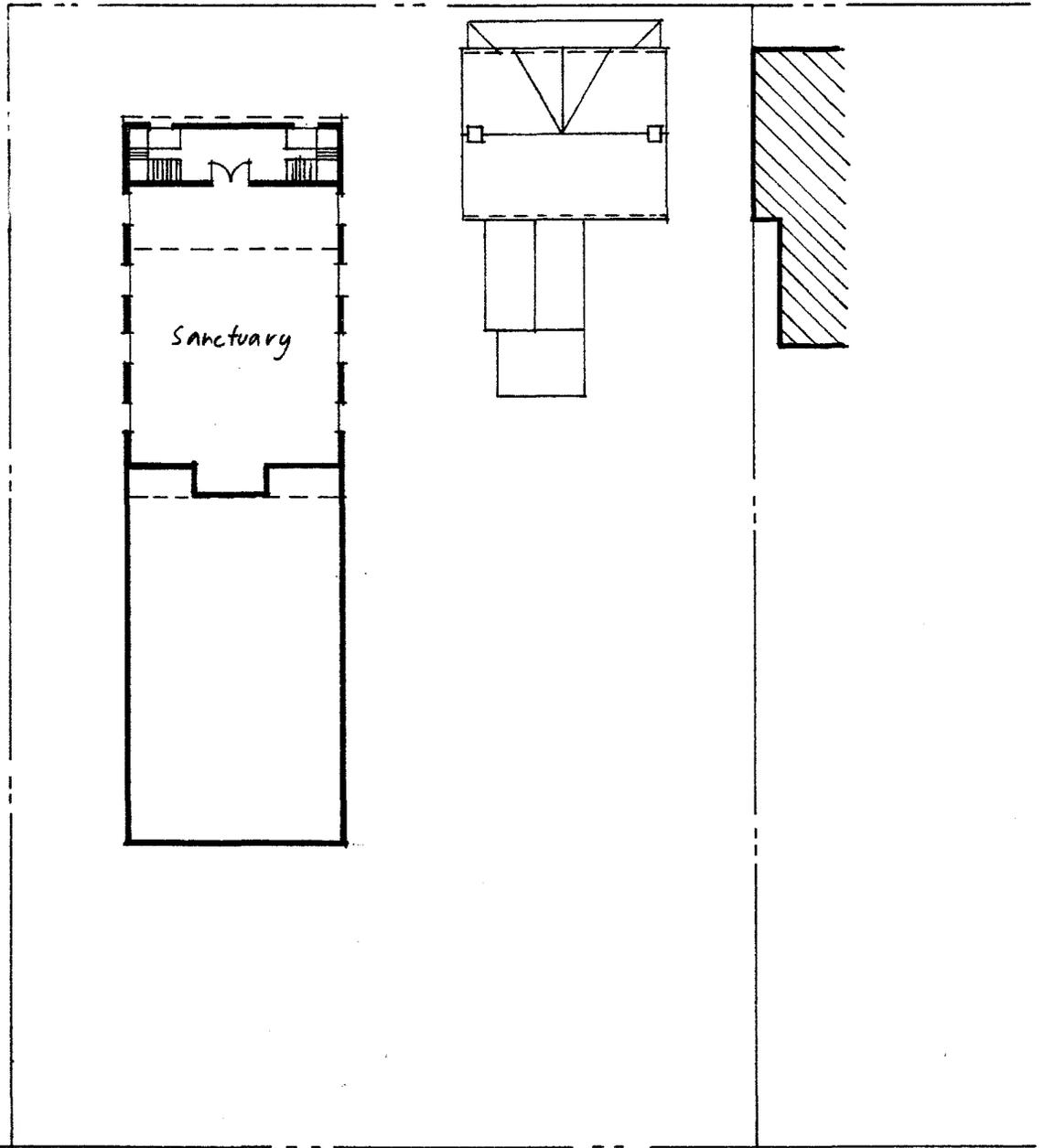
Map of Clear Spring from the 1877 Washington County Atlas.

Sanborn Map Company, 1922 map of Clear Spring.

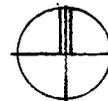
Scharf, J.T. History of Western Maryland. Philadelphia: Louis H. Everts, 1912.

Snyder, Nora McDonald, "A Review of the History of St. John's" printed leaflet, 1966 (centennial of construction of the church).

Cumberland Street



Sanctuary / Site Plan



St. Johns United Church of Christ  
Cumberland Street  
Clear Spring, Washington Co.

WA- I- 361

770/907 WA-V-353  
 C. HAROLD SNYDER INHT. WA-V-354  
 ELVA M. BLAIR 805/926 WA-V-355  
 DAVID CLEVER 589/755 WA-V-356  
 JANE A. STANSBURY 237/515 WA-V-357  
 HAROLD E. STINE 877/793 WA-V-358  
 ANN CROGHAN 752/195 WA-V-359  
 BETTY W. BOYD 482/457 198' WA-V-360

DONALD F. BLAIR 831/193 WA-V-289  
 OMER C. MUNDEY 409/760 WA-V-288  
 DAVID E. WILES 710/400 WA-V-287  
 JOSEPH P. MILLS 545/559 WA-V-286  
 RANDALL W. MILLS 747/154 WA-V-285  
 CELIA N. STALEY 532/649 WA-V-284  
 WAYNE B. MORRIS WA-V-283 828/1001

WA-V-361  
 DONALD W. BISHOP 912/740  
 TODD M. HOFFMAN, ET AL 900/76 WA-V-374  
 FRED W. ROBINSON 709/821 WA-V-373  
 JOHN H. MASON 541/376 WA-V-372  
 HAROLD L. MILES, SR 386/457 WA-V-371  
 DAVID E. WILES, ROBERTS E. SWORD, JR. 702/999 753/317 14314 NO #

ALLEY  
 J. BROWN  
 369/604

STREET

BETTY W. BOYD 630/564  
 WA-V-361  
 REFORMED PARSONAGE CHURCH  
 PARSONAGE - WA-V-362  
 ELIZABETH H. ANKENY W/R WA-V-363  
 KATHRYN M. SNYDER 845/888 WA-V-364  
 HENRY F. STARLIPER 451/27 WA-V-365  
 HAROLD R. MYERS 348/412 WA-V-366  
 LILLIAN COOK WA-V-367 747/346  
 THOMAS F. ALTMAN 477/511 WA-V-412  
 FORREST O. SPRECHER 537/768 198' WA-V-413  
 CLEARSPRING AMBULANCE CLUB, INC. 196/1092 21600'

C. & P. TELEPHONE CO. NO #  
 JEAN E. MILLS 813/783 WA-V-282  
 CHARLES SWORD 592/827 WA-V-281  
 CRIST E. HANBAKER 475/583 WA-V-280  
 CLYDE SHUPP 269/305 WA-V-279  
 DAVID G. NETZ 676/278 WA-V-278  
 BARBARA A. WILES 708/294 WA-V-277  
 BETTY STORM 711/389 NO #  
 ANNABELLE YEAKLE 427/19 WA-V-276  
 WALTER D. IRVIN 527/470  
 WALTER D. IRVIN, SR. 562/620 WA-V-275  
 J. ROGER YEAKLE 266/1 NO #  
 J. ROGER YEAKLE  
 PAUL K. SHUPP 275/203 WA-V-274  
 HELEN W. BAIR 593/228 178' WA-V-273  
 CHARLES J. STALEY 532/379 WA-V-272

CHESTER M. REIFF 297/501 WA-V-300  
 JOHN R. MANGINI 740/853 WA-V-301  
 BOY SCOUT HALL, INC. 246/479 WA-V-302  
 ALFRED E. HOUCK 384/541 WA-V-383

WILLIAM D. KRINER 902/993  
 OLD CEMETERY 119/215  
 GEHR TER  
 CHARL  
 LLOYD P. WEAVER 483/276

RONALD P. SUTEC 558/821  
 SETH F. ATHERTON 723/65  
 THOMPSON TOWING WA-V-271

U.S. ROUTE 40

WAYNE YOST 624/386  
 JOSEPH R. BRIDENDOLPH 492/569

CLEARSPRING WASHINGTON SCALE

RESTRICTED FOR INTERNAL USE OR REPRO.  
 BURGESS & COMM. 576/801

CLEAR SPRING DETAIL

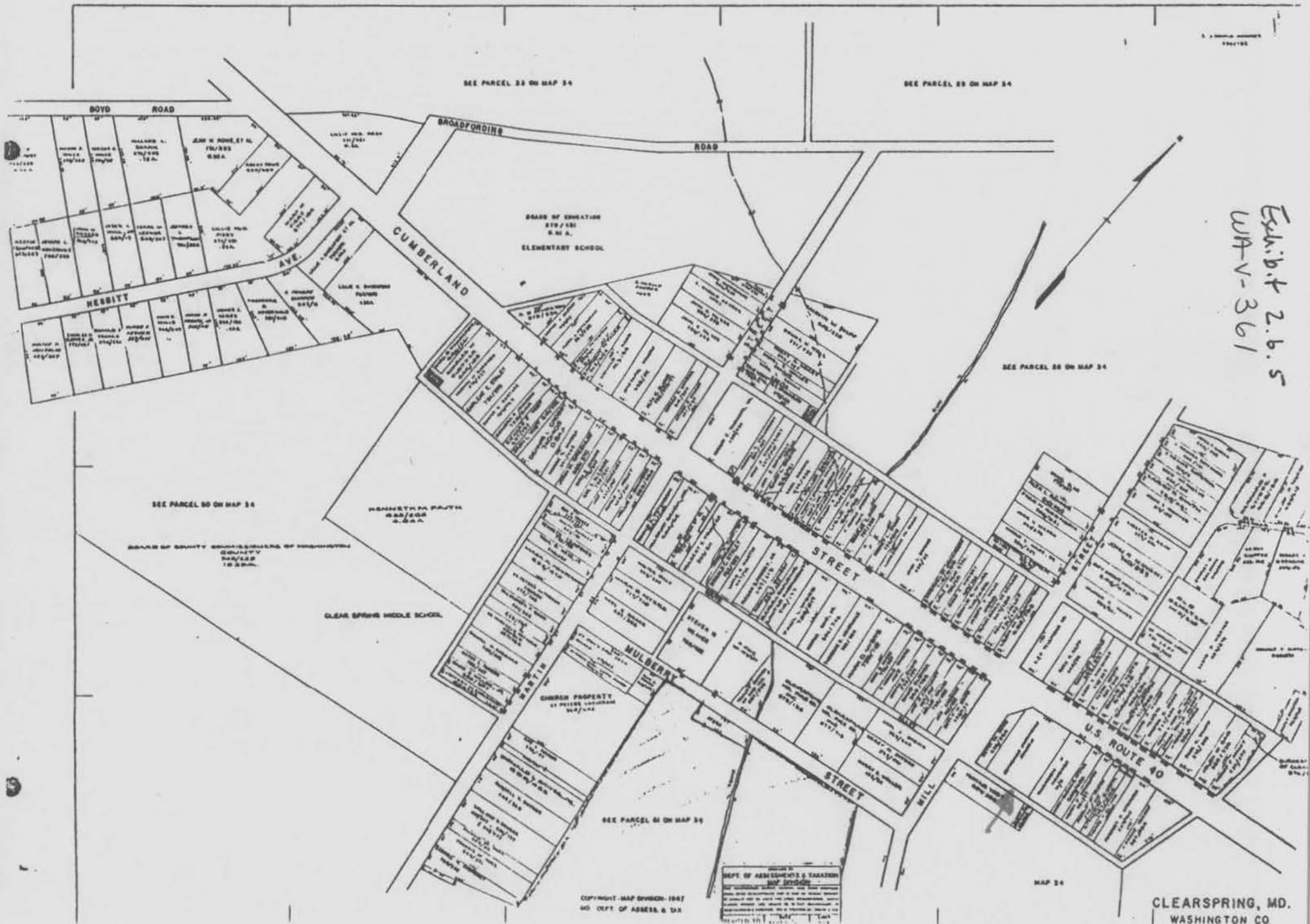


Exhibit 2.6.5  
 WA-V-361

SEE PARCEL 33 ON MAP 34

SEE PARCEL 35 ON MAP 34

SEE PARCEL 36 ON MAP 34

SEE PARCEL 30 ON MAP 34

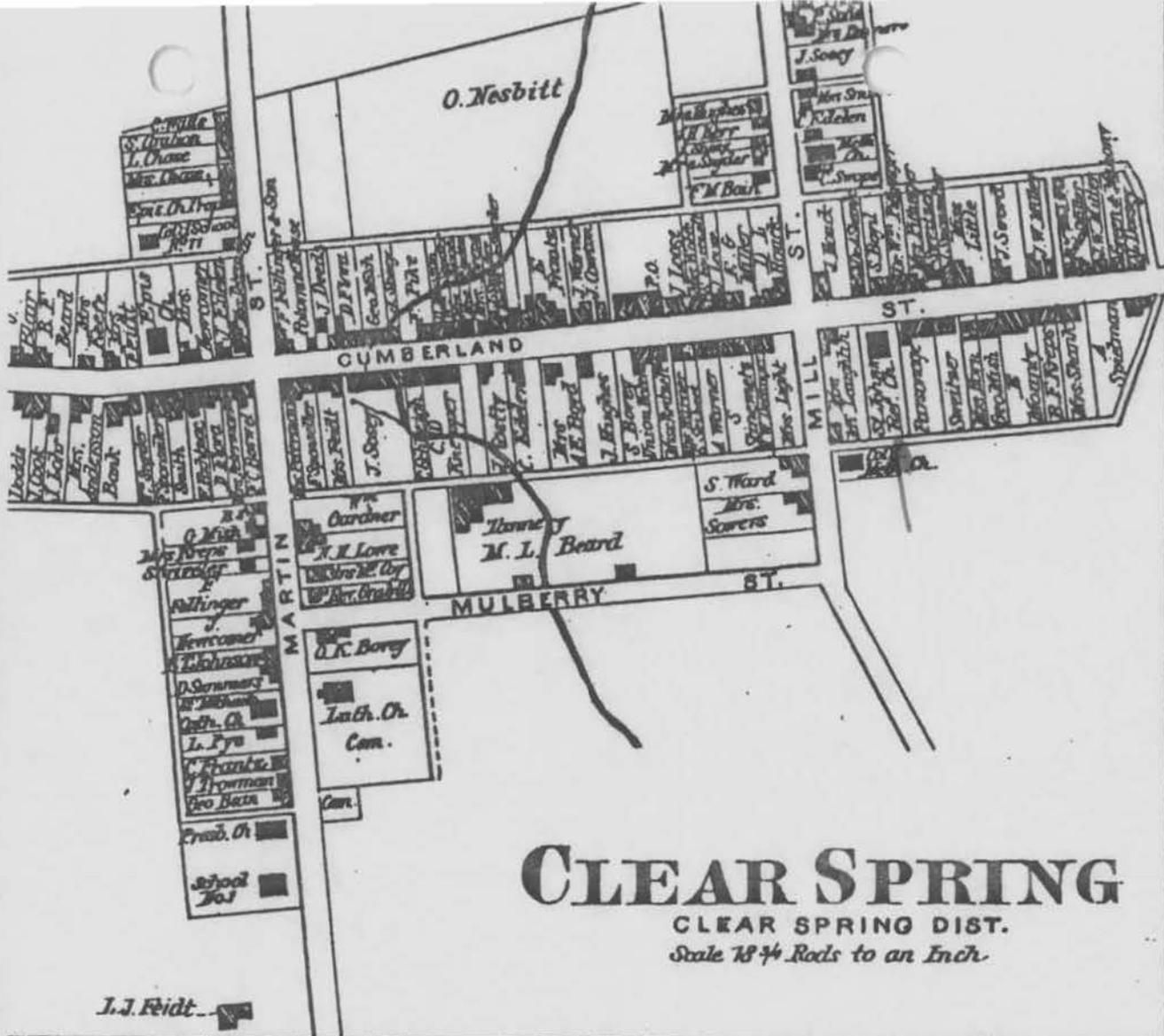
SEE PARCEL 31 ON MAP 34

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 MD. DEPT. OF ASSESS. & TAX

DEPT. OF ASSESSMENTS & TAXATION  
 MAP DIVISION

MAP 34

CLEARSPRING, MD.  
 WASHINGTON CO.



J. J. Reidt

**CLEAR SPRING BUSINESS REFERENCES.**

- S. M. Reitzell, Dealer in Dry Goods, Notions, Hats, Caps, Boots, Shoes, &c.
- John Fellingner, Proprietor of the "FELLINGNER HOUSE." We can assure the public they will receive first class accommodations at the above house.
- A. Spellman, Constable in District No. 4.
- G. A. Warner, Boot and Shoe Maker and Dealer in Eastern Work. Shop on Cumberland street.
- Fred. H. Lathel, Manufacturer of Saddles, Bridles, Harness, Collars, &c.
- John S. Edelen, Dealer in Dry Goods, Notions, Hats, Caps, Boots, Shoes, Groceries, Hardware, &c.
- Daniel Mason, Dealer in Confectioneries, Fancy Candies, Toys, Tobacco, Cigars, Pocket Cutlery, Oysters, &c. Ice Cream in season.
- J. Loose & Son, Dealers in Dry Goods, Notions, Hats, Caps, Boots, Shoes, Queensware, Groceries, Hardware, &c.
- Joel Charles, Proprietor of "Big Spring Mills." Benjamin F. Charles, Manager of "Big Spring Mills" and Dealer in Flour, Feed, Grain, &c.
- F. C. Doyle, Physician and Surgeon, office at Drug store on Cumberland street.
- Lewis Charles, Proprietor of "Cliff Spring Flour Mills," and Dealer in Grain of all kinds.
- L. I. Feldt, Dealer in all kinds of Grain and Hay, at Two Locks.
- Smith & Brother, Dealer in Dry Goods, Hats, Caps, Boots, Shoes, and everything usually kept in a first class country store. Store at Four Locks.
- E. Frantz, Manufacturer and Dealer in all kinds of Fashionable Furniture. Also, Undertaker.
- R. H. Wilson & Son, Dealers in Dry Goods, Groceries, Hardware, Table and Pocket Cutlery, Drugs, Medicines, Paints, Oils, Dried Fruits, Garden Seeds, &c.
- G. A. Warner, Manufacturer of Boots and Shoes. Repairing promptly attended to.

Exhibit 2.b. 4  
 From 1877 Atlas  
 WA-V-361



WA-V-361  
Exhibit 2.b.2



W.A. I-361

ST. JOHNS CHURCH

200 BLK OF CUMBERLAND ST, CLEAR SPRING, WASH. CO.

2/92

JULIE MUELLER

LOOKING SW



March 1912

Dr. L. A. - R. L. and others

Constitution of the State of New York

State of New York

at New York

Sealed and signed



St John's Episcopal Church

Co. Maryland St. Clear Spring, Wa. Co.

John R. Miller

at 002

east side



1) 10-10-2020

2) 10-10-2020

3) 10-10-2020

4) 10-10-2020

5) 10-10-2020

6) 10-10-2020



WA-27-361

ST. JOHN'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
200 BLY. OF CUMBERLAND ST, CLEAR SPRING,  
WASH. CO.

6/92

JULIE MUELLER

interior, main sanctuary



WA-V-361

ST. JOHN'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
200 BLOCK OF CUMBERLAND ST,  
CLEAR SPRING, WASH. CO.

6/92

JULIE MUELLER

interior, main sanctuary



WA-I-361

ST. JOHN'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST,  
200 BLOCK OF CUMBERLAND ST.  
CLEAR SPRING, WASH. CO.

6/92

JULIE MUELLER

back of main sanctuary



WA-V-361

ST. JOHN'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST,  
200 BLK. OF CUMBERLAND ST, CLEAR SPRING, WASH. CO.

6/92

JULIE MUELLER

interior, main sanctuary



WA - U - 361

St. John's Reformed Church  
Cumberland G. C. Co. Spring - Va. Co.,  
Fairfax  
1892  
Cool Springs



WA-VI-361

ST. JOHN'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
200 BLK. OF CUMBERLAND ST, CLEAR SPRING,  
WASH. CO.

6/97

JULIE MUELLER  
interior, main sanctuary