

WI-18  
Barren Creek Presbyterian Church  
Mardela Springs  
Private

1842

Perched on a small wooded knoll overlooking Barren Creek is the Barren Creek Presbyterian Church, a single story frame building dating to 1842. Characteristic of churches erected during the second quarter of the nineteenth century is its gable front main elevation and modest Greek Revival detailing. The double-door entrance is framed by a widely fluted surround featuring plain corner blocks and a five-light transom. Original beaded weatherboards cover the front wall up to the level of the eave returns. In contrast, the gable end is sheathed with flush weatherboards. Large twelve-over-twelve sash light the spacious interior, which is one large space aside from a small entrance vestibule and a gallery. Also reflective of the Greek Revival style are the shallow pedimented lintels that top the vestibule doorways. An enclosed winder staircase is located in the northeast corner. At the south end of the sanctuary is a raised pulpit platform. Behind the pulpit, the wall is finished with a series of narrow vertical panels.

The land on which the Barren Creek Presbyterian Church is located was conveyed by Joshua Bratten to trustees, Thomas Wilson, Levin Badley (sic), Samuel Badley (sic), Isaac Nicols, George Bounds, Isaac Huffington, James Huffington, Joseph Winsor, Joseph Weatherly, and Newton Mezick. The transfer included,

*One acre of Land laying on the county road between Barren Creek Mill and the Spring whereon ther (sic) is now a new school house built....know (sic) as part of a tract of Land called 'Miles End' and to have the said tract of Land in trust for the purpose of a school house, Preaching House & Burying Ground and to be used and occupied for no other purpose*

Since the second quarter of the nineteenth century, few changes have been made to the structure. Recently, the building has been restored for community use by the West Side Historical Society.

MARYLAND HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN INFORMATION

RESOURCE NAME: Barren Creek Presbyterian Church

MHT INVENTORY NUMBER: WI-18

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN DATA

1. Historic Period Theme(s): Architecture  
Religion
  
2. Geographic Orientation: Eastern Shore
  
3. Chronological/Development Period(s): Industrial-Agrarian Intensification  
1815-1870
  
4. Resource Type(s): Church  
Cemetery

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

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF  
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. WI-18

Magi No.

DOE  yes  no

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

historic Barren Creek Presbyterian Church

and/or common

**2. Location**

street & number South side of Main Street  not for publication

city, town Mardela Springs  vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Wicomico County

**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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input 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 Westside Historical Society

street & number % Mr. Ralph Hooper 407 Main St. telephone no.: 410-749-8011

city, town Mardela Springs state and zip code Maryland 21837

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Somerset County Clerk of Court liber GH 7

street & number Somerset County Courthouse folio 461

city, town Princess Anne state MD 21853

**6. Representation in Existing** Historical Surveys

title Maryland Historic Sites Survey

date 1970  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Crownsville Maryland Historical Trust

city, town Maryland 21032 state

# 7. Description

Survey No. WI-18

**Condition**

excellent  
 good  
 fair

deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

**Check one**

unaltered  
 altered

**Check one**

original site  
 moved    date of move \_\_\_\_\_

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Barren Creek Presbyterian Church stands on the south side of Main Street on the east side of the town of Mardela Springs, Wicomico County, Maryland. The single-story, gable-front frame church faces north with the gable roof oriented on a north/south axis. Located on a beautiful site on the edge of the Barren Creek mill pond, the church is under restoration. A small cemetery is located on the site as well.

Built in 1842, the weatherboard frame church is supported by a new brick foundation, and the exterior is sheathed with a combination of original and restoration beaded weatherboards. The steeply pitched gable roof is covered with asphalt shingles.

The north (main) elevation is a symmetrical three-bay facade retaining its original beaded weatherboards. Above the first floor level the gable end is defined by flush weatherboards. The first floor is defined by a center double door entrance with flanking twelve-over-twelve sash windows. The double-leaf four-panel front doors are topped by a five-light transom and the entrance is trimmed with a Greek Revival fluted surround fitted with plain corner blocks. The original twelve-over-twelve sash windows are framed by a narrow half-round architrave, and each window is hung with louvered shutters. The pediment is pierced by a pair of nine-over-six sash windows that are flanked by louvered shutters as well. Trimming the edge of the roof is a boxed cornice trimmed with a Greek Revival crown molding. Short returns finish the base of the roof cornice.

The east and west sides of the church are pierced by three evenly spaced twelve-over-twelve sash windows. The base of the gable roof is trimmed with a boxed cornice. Louvered shutters, which normally flank the windows, have been temporarily stored.

The south gable end is defined by a pair twelve-over-twelve sash windows evenly spaced on the rear wall. The edge to the roof is flush and trimmed with a replaced bargeboard.

The interior of the church is divided between a small rectangular vestibule and the sanctuary. Four-panel doors are framed by slightly pedimented surrounds that are finished with a inner edge corner bead. Wide pine floors survive in the church, and the rooms are trimmed with a beaded edge baseboard. Fixed in the northeast corner of the church is a partially enclosed winder staircase that provides access to the gallery. A small two-panel door opens into a stair closet. The gallery is defined by a raised panel front wall that stretches across the full width of the sanctuary. Fixed in the south end of the sanctuary is a pulpit platform. The sides are defined by recessed sides. Behind the pulpit, the wall is finished with a row of narrow vertical panels.

# 8. Significance

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 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**    1842                      **Builder/Architect**

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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.

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Since the second quarter of the nineteenth century, few changes have been made to the structure. Recently the building has been restored for community use by the West Side Historical Society.

The building qualifies for listing in *Category A*, which identifies structures that must be preserved due to their architectural and/or historical significance.

<sup>1</sup> Somerset County Land Record, GH 7/461, 1 August 1834.



WI-18  
Barren Creek Presbyterian Church  
Mardela Springs, Wicomico County, Maryland

Somerset County Land Record  
GH 7/461

Joshua Brattan

to

8/1/1834

Thomas Wilson & others (trustees)  
Levin Badley (sic), Samuel Badley (sic), Isaac Nicols,  
George Bounds, Isaac Huffington, James Huffington,  
Joseph Winsor, Joseph Weatherly, Newton Mezick

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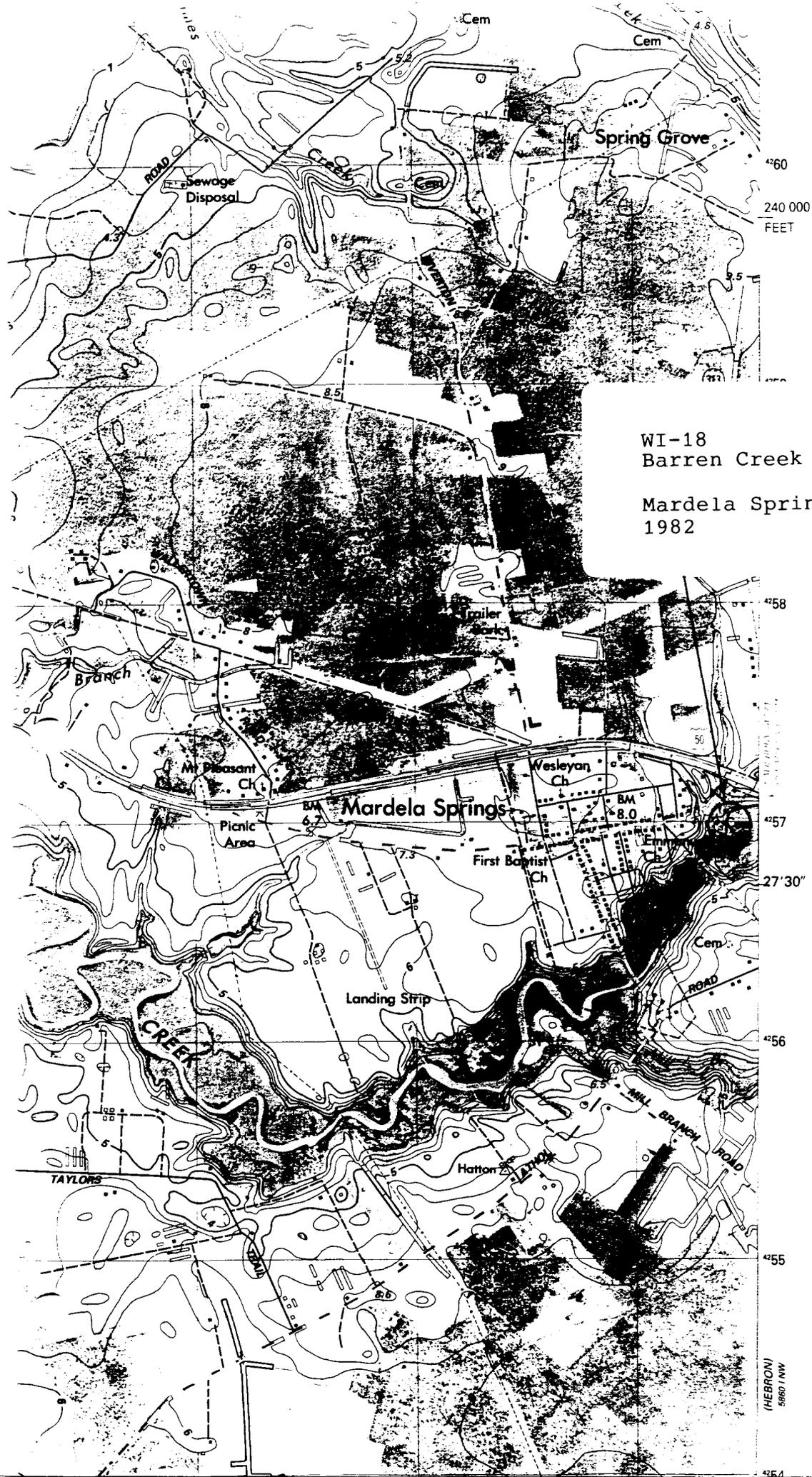
# BARREN CREEK

Dist N<sup>o</sup>1  
WICOMICO C9



WI-18  
Barren Creek Presbyterian Church  
Mardela Springs

Lake, Griffing, and Stevenson  
Atlas 1877



WI-18  
 Barren Creek Presbyterian Church  
 Mardela Springs, MD Quadrangle  
 1982



(HEBRON)  
 5860 / NW



W1-18

BROAD CREEK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
MARBLE SPRINGS, WILSON CO, N.C.

11/97, PAUL TORANT, HISTORIC  
NORTHEAST ELEVATION

Nth. / N.D. HISTORICAL TRUST

1 of 3



Vol. 18

Banner Park Passageway in Cherokee  
Marshall Springs, Wisconsin Co., W.V.  
Southeast reserved

11/97, Paul Touart, Pittsburgh  
New 1/112 Historical Times

2003



W1-18

BROWN CREEK PRESBYTERIAN  
PARISH

MORNING SPRINGS, MISSISSIPPI  
PROPERTY

WIDE ENTRANCE

11/97 PAUL TOWNSEND PRESBYTERIAN

WIDE ENTRANCE HISTORICAL TRUST

EST 3

1. STATE <i>Maryland</i> COUNTY <i>W. Cecil Co</i> TOWN <i>Manders Springs</i> VICINITY STREET NO. <i>Barren Creek Road, 1 mile</i> <i>SW 1/2 R+50</i> ORIGINAL OWNER ORIGINAL USE <i>religious</i> PRESENT OWNER <i>Barren Creek Prebys. Church</i> PRESENT USE <i>religious</i> WALL CONSTRUCTION <i>frame</i> NO. OF STORIES <i>1</i>	HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY INVENTORY <i>Wi-18</i>
	2. NAME <i>Barren Creek Presbyterian Church</i>  DATE OR PERIOD <i>1842</i> STYLE <i>Federal</i> ARCHITECT BUILDER
	3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE
4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION	
<p style="text-align: right;">OPEN TO PUBLIC <i>yes</i></p> <p>[1842 on plaque on Church]</p> <p>3 bays x 2 bays</p> <p>beaded clapboard - brick foundation</p> <p>twelve over twelve sash }          nine over six sash in gallery } louvered shutters</p> <p>flush shiplap in gable</p> <p>box cornice -- beaded molding -- returns on north facade</p> <p>Entrance in center -- four panel double doors -- five light transom</p> <p>molded trim and corner blocks</p> <p>brick chimney in each side</p> <p>entrance -- vestibule (recent)</p> <p>old pews -- 2 aisles -- four sets of pews</p> <p>simple lectern on platform</p> <p>gallery</p> <p>stairs in northeast corner</p>	
5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE    Endangered <i>NO</i> Interior <i>good</i> Exterior <i>good</i>	
 6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional)	7. PHOTOGRAPH
8. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Pages) INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC.	9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER <i>Michael Bourne</i> MD. HISTORICAL TRUST BOX 1704 ANNAPOLIS, MD. 21404  DATE OF RECORD <i>Jan, 1970</i>



W1-18

W1-18

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