

WI-20  
St. Peter's P. E. Church  
Salisbury  
Public worship

1887, 1914, 1924

Pivotal to the early history of Salisbury is the organization and construction of St. Peter's Protestant Episcopal Church. The first church on this site, erected between 1768 and 1773 as a chapel-of-ease for Stepney Parish, measured forty-five feet across by sixty-five feet deep. A mid nineteenth-century engraving of the eighteenth-century church indicates that the Salisbury chapel was a substantial brick church with two-story elevations. The main facade included a two-door front like Spring Hill Church (WI-6) and Christ Church at Laurel. In 1850 a bell tower was erected off the northwest corner.

In August 1860 a fire devastated much of the town leaving solitary chimneys and the gutted brick church. An article describing the fire was published in *The Sun* on August 13, 1860. The paper stated:

*The desolation is complete, nought remaining but the demuded chimneys of the consumed buildings, except in one solitary instance, that of the Protestant Episcopal church—its walls, which are of brick, are still standing.*

Within the year construction had begun on a Romanesque Revival brick church using some of the eighteenth-century walls and the same foundation. The walls of the three-story bell tower were also reused in the rebuilding program.

Twenty-six years later, on October 17, 1886, fire once again gutted St. Peter's Church in a pervasive city fire that destroyed downtown Salisbury a second time. The following summer a building committee including George Waller, Clarence C. Waller, and William A. Trader was appointed by the vestry to begin the rebuilding process. Philadelphia architect Thomas Burns was retained to design a new church, also in the Romanesque Revival style, which reused the same foundation and some of the old brick. Built along the plan of a Christian basilica, the brick church has a center two-story nave flanked by single story, shed-roofed side aisles. The common bond brick walls are accented with decorative terra cotta panels, brick pilasters, molded beltcourses, and corbelled brickwork. A Star-of-David, executed in glazed headers, distinguishes the gable end above the large round nave window. The four-story entrance and bell tower on the northwest corner was built in two stages. The first two stories were part of the 1887 building program, while the third story and belfry were not completed until 1914. On the south side of the church is a brick vestry house built in 1924.

The interior of the 1887 church was enriched with new features in 1916,

and it has remained essentially unchanged since that time. Particularly interesting and dramatic are the 1887 cast iron columns with foliate capitals that support the series of round arches which flank the nave. The multi-colored appearance in the brick walls indicates that many bricks were reused from the previous building. Like many medieval churches, the ceiling timbers were left exposed. The 1916 interior remodeling included a marble laid altar, hardwood floors, tile within the aisles, new wiring, lighting fixtures and new pews.

MARYLAND HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN INFORMATION

RESOURCE NAME: St. Peter's P. E. Church

MHT INVENTORY NUMBER: WI-20

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN DATA

1. Historic Period Theme(s):  
Architecture  
Religion
  
2. Geographic Orientation: Eastern Shore
  
3. Chronological/Development Period(s):  
Industrial/Urban Dominance  
1870-1930
  
4. Resource Type(s): Church

Survey No. WI-20

Magi No.

DOE  yes  noMARYLAND INVENTORY OF  
HISTORIC PROPERTIESMaryland Historical Trust  
State Historic Sites Inventory Form**1. Name** (indicate preferred name)

historic St. Peter's P. E. Church

and/or common

**2. Location**street & number 115 St. Peter Street  not for publicationcity, town Salisbury  vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Wicomico

**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 checked="" 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 Vestry of Spring Hill Parish

street &amp; number 115 St. Peter Street telephone no.: 410-742-5118

city, town Salisbury state and zip code MD 21801

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Wicomico County Clerk of Court liber

street &amp; number Wicomico County Courthouse folio

city, town Salisbury state MD 21801

**6. Representation in Existing** Historical Surveys

title Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties

date 1970  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Maryland Historical Trust

city, town Crownsville state MD 21032

# 7. Description

Survey No. WI-20

### 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.

St. Peter's P. E. Church stands on the southeast corner of Church and St. Peter streets in the center of downtown Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland. The Romanesque Revival brick church faces southwest with the gable roof oriented on a southwest/northeast axis.

Built in several stages between 1887 and 1924, the common bond brick church rests on slightly raised foundation with an excavated cellar. Following a traditional basilica plan with a center nave and side aisles, the main block was erected after the October 1886 fire with an initial service held in the rebuilt church in December 1887. On the northwest corner, the rebuilt church included a two-story tower, which was raised to four stories in 1914. Two years later, in 1916, the congregation initiated a significant remodeling of the interior. The parish house, erected on the south side of the church, was built in 1924. Other than a brick entrance on the east side, and a thorough remodeling of the parish house interior, the church exterior has remained essentially unchanged since the mid 1920s.

The southwest elevation of the 1887 main block is a symmetrical brick facade of seven-course common bond walls that rise to a medium pitched gable roof the covers the center nave and shed roofs that protect each side aisle. The roofs are sheathed with a combination of slate and asphalt shingles. Fixed in the center of the nave is a large double-door entrance accessed by a set of stone steps. The replacement doors, made of mahogany, are topped by a round arched colored glass transom. Surrounding the entrance doors is a corbelled and recessed brick surround. Flanking the entrance are narrow round arched colored glass windows filled with colored glass and sandstone sills. Two molded brick beltcourses stretch across the nave with nine decorative terra cotta panels fixed between. Rising atop the beltcourses are brick pilasters that flank a large, round colored glass window which is accented on four corners by terra cotta panels. The round window is set within a brick recess. The gable end of the nave is finished with a pediment of corbelled brick that frames a tympanum enriched with a Star-of-David set in glazed headers. A wooden crown molding finishes the edge of the roof. Each side aisle is defined by a single round arched door opening framed by corbelled brick, and two round arched windows filled with colored glass. Sandstone sills accent the window and door openings. The corner of each aisle is accented with a brick pilaster that rises to a decorative brick cornice which trims the edge of the shed roof.

Attached to the northwest corner of the main block is a four-story entrance and bell tower laid in seven-course common bond. The west wall is pierced by a series of round arched window openings on each story, which is defined by horizontal bands of decorative brickwork. The first floor is pierced by a single round arched window opening framed by a decorative arch of brick and a sandstone

(Continued)





## 7.1 DESCRIPTION

St. Peter's P. E. Church, WI-20

Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland

sill. The second story is pierced by a pair of colored glass windows also accented with a round arch and sandstone sills. The third story has a single lancet window opening with a raised brick arch and brick pilasters that define the corners. The fourth story is the belfry, which has a tripartite series of arched openings featuring stone columns topped by an carved bell-curved capital. Stretching between each column is a stone railing with cross-patterned balustrade. The tripartite arch is flanked by corner pilasters and topped by decorative basketweave patterned brickwork. Capping the tower is a pyramidal roof with exposed and decorated rafter ends. The north side of the tower is pierced by a double door round arched entrance accessed by a series of stone steps. The upper stories are detailed in the same fashion as the west wall.

The side elevations are seven cross with brick pilasters defining each wall. The bays are filled with round arched openings filled with colored glass windows. The pilasters rise to corbelled and dentiled brickwork that defines the cornice. Glazed headers brick highlight the round arched windows and continue as a decorative band between the window openings. The aisle on the north side includes a side chapel defined by round arched colored glass windows. A tall furnace stack rises on the north side between the chapel and side aisle.

Attached to the south side of the church is the 1924 parish house erected in common bond brick. The parish house, designed on a basilica plan like the church, has a round arched center entrance filled with double doors. Brick pilasters rise on the corners of the center block, and shed roofed aisles extend from the sides. The second floor is pierced by a series of narrow round arched window openings. Finishing the top of the wall is a corbelled brick cornice that tops the parapet wall.

The interior of the main church follows a traditional basilica plan with a center nave flanked by series of arched openings supported on cast iron columns with bell-shaped capitals enriches with foliate carving. The walls are exposed brick and combine portions of the 1861 building as well as reused brick in the upper walls. The nave is covered by an open king-post truss ceiling. The floor is laid in a combination of tile and wood, and oak pews fill the sanctuary. The altar is raised and laid with marble with an oak railing.

The parish house interior has been remodeled with modern offices, library, and a parlor.

*Salisbury Advertiser and Wicomico Countian*, May 17, 1924

Postmaster R. Harry Phillips has received plans and specifications for the new post office to be built on the lot owned by the Government on East Main street.

*Salisbury Advertiser and Wicomico Countian*, June 14, 1924

New Parish House dedicated for St Peter's P. E. Church

St. Peter's Church History

Church was destroyed in 1886, the congregation the following year held services at the Court House. The Rev. Charles F. Sweet was rector at the time.

June 22, 1887, building committee, George Waller, Clarence C. Waller, and William A. Trader.

Contractor was Slemons & Jones,

Architect Burns

The church was re-occupied on Christmas Day 1887

There was some controversy as to the size and style of the church building, but the general idea of the church of Dr. Battersea, of Philadelphia, was finally adopted. The tower, unfortunately, was not completed until about ten years ago.

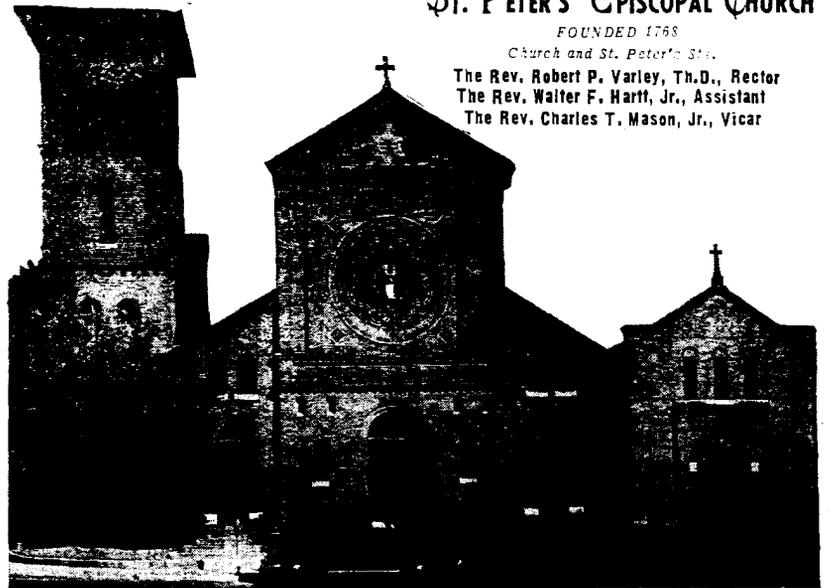
Since 1887 the church has undergone a transformation—the vestry decided to complete the interior work and reported on a plan, February 29, 1916, “including all the work in the chancel, hardwood floors, tile aisles, new wiring, and lighting fixtures and new pews that correspond with the other improvements.”

# ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

FOUNDED 1768

Church and St. Peter's Sts.

The Rev. Robert P. Varley, Th.D., Rector  
 The Rev. Walter F. Hartt, Jr., Assistant  
 The Rev. Charles T. Mason, Jr., Vicar



When settlers came to what is now Wicomico County among the many Old World legacies they brought with them was their religion. In 1632, the Bishop of London divided the Royal Province of Maryland into thirty parishes. One of these was Stepey Parish, more familiarly known to us as "Old Green Hill Church". In that year, the Episcopal Church started its uninterrupted worship of God in this area. In 1733 the building of St. Bartholomew's Church (Old Green Hill) was completed. With missionaries from England the influence of this little church spread throughout the region. In 1766 two "Chapels of Ease" were built. One now known as Spring Hill Church and the other known as Goddard's Chapel. This latter one has passed from existence. By 1768, the population of the area had moved from the Green Hill sight to what is now Salisbury. In the year 1768 a tiny brick church was built from bricks brought from England (so tradition tells us), and this was the beginning of the oldest church in Salisbury -- St. Peter's Episcopal Church. For almost two centuries the people of St. Peter's Church offered worship to God and service to the growing community.

In August of 1860, fire destroyed the original structure. This was replaced with a more elaborate building with a tall spire. This building stood until the disastrous fire of 1888 which destroyed downtown Salisbury. On Christmas Day in 1887 the first service was held in the new St. Peter's Church. This building, remodeled in 1916 and a Parish House added in 1924, has continued to serve Wicomico County. In 1873 St. Peter's

Church accepted the deed to a large tract of land on what is now North Division Street, as "Captain Benjamin Parson's Burying Ground". Substantial additions of land have been purchased by the people of St. Peter's Church to add to Parson's Cemetery. This cemetery, added to and beautified, has served our county for almost a century.

In 1960, St. Peter's Church, Salisbury Parish, continued its long tradition of growth and expansion to better serve God and His people by building St. Alban's Chapel in the growing east section of Salisbury.



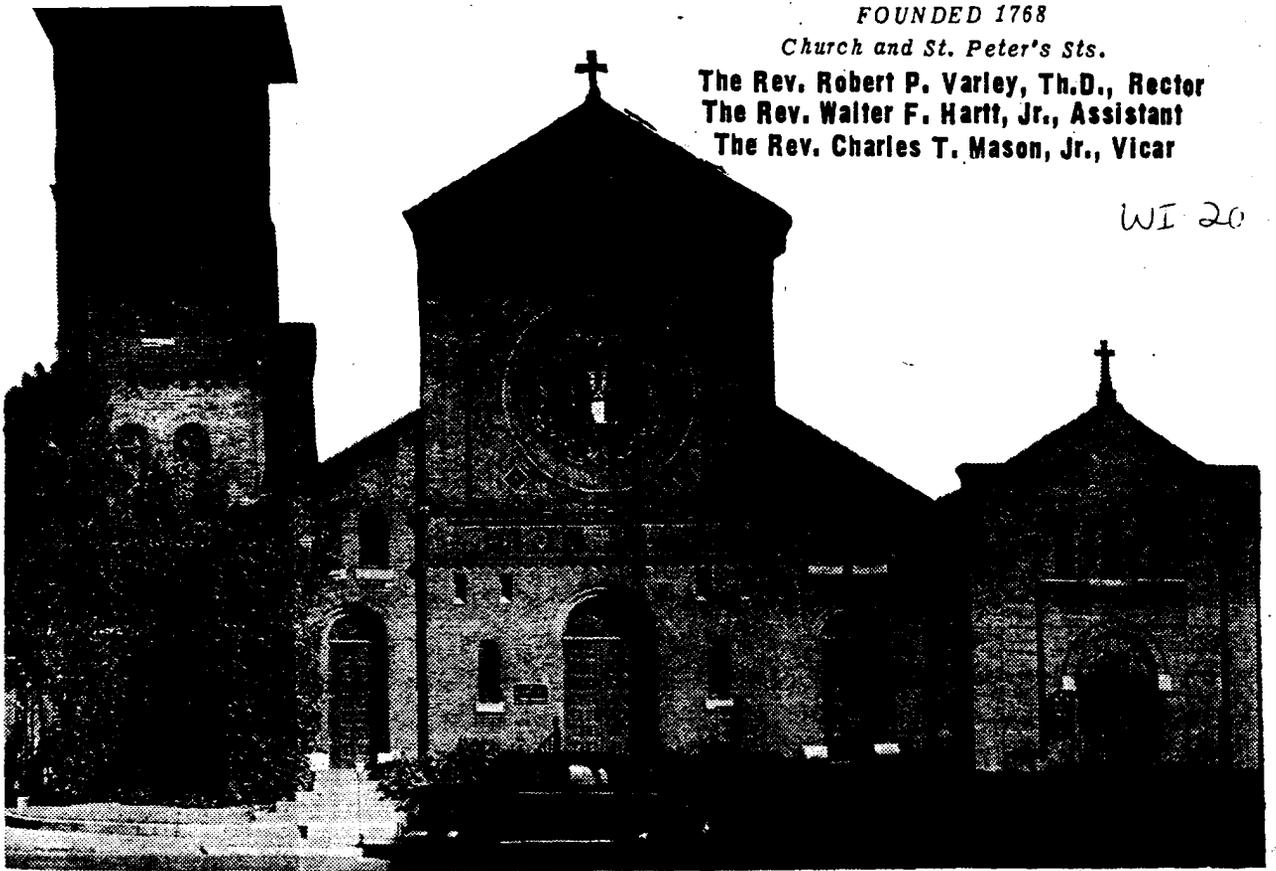
ST. PETER'S CHURCH  
 Before The Fire, 1860

From the first resident clergyman to the present time, the ministry of the Episcopal Church has continued in our county, ever seeking to serve to the glory of God and to the benefit of all who are privileged to live here. Our prayers always will be in thanksgiving to Almighty God for the rich heritage He has given to all who dwell here, while we always ask Him to make us a people ever mindful of His blessings so that we show forth our praise in lives of loving service to others.



The Rev. Robert P. Varley, Th.D., Rector  
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WI 20



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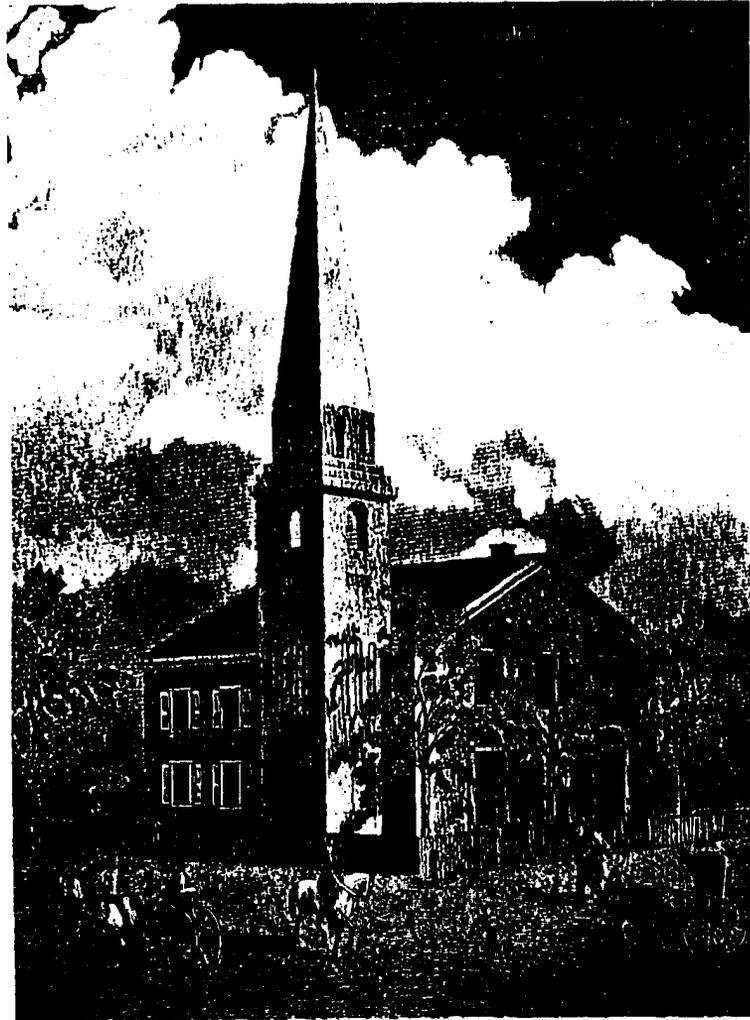
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By 1768, Goddard's Chapel and Spring Hill Chapel were so "old and ruinous" that the General Assembly was persuaded to authorize the Stepney Parish vestry to rebuild them. Spring Hill Chapel was to be rebuilt near its original site. The present St. Paul's Episcopal Church (also called Old Spring Hill Church), located on U.S. Route 50, is this chapel which was completed in 1773.



First St. Peter's Church.  
Begun in 1768, Destroyed by fire 1860.

## The First Saint Peter's



Goddard's Chapel was to be relocated "at the head of the Wicomico" on two acres of land bought from William Venables, a miller who had dammed up a branch of the Wicomico River, forming what was later known as "Lake Humphreys." The new chapel, which in the early period was called the "Head of the River Chapel," "Wicomico Chapel," and "Salisbury Chapel," later came to be known as "St. Peter's." The present St. Peter's Church is the third church building to stand on this site.

The first St. Peter's Church was completed in 1772, at a cost of 600 English pounds. It was built of brick and measured 45 feet X 65 feet. Inside there were galleries on three sides supported by pillars, and there were boxed pews. Two rows of paned windows provided light.

After the death of Stepney's Reverend Alexander Adams in 1770, Reverend John Scott became the rector. Another Chapel of Ease was built around 1772 on Broad Creek near present-day Laurel, Delaware, and that building still stands as "Old Christ Church."

During the American Revolution, Reverend Scott was suspected, as were many Anglican clergymen, of loyalty to England. The "Council of Safety," which supplanted the General Assembly during the Revolution, exiled him to Frederick County. The Council of Safety deprived the Church of England of its lands and property, but these were returned to the parishes by the "Select Vestry Act" of 1779. This act also provided for the election of vestries in the parishes. After the Revolution, the Protestant Episcopal Church of America was founded.

By 1789, the first St. Peter's had fallen into disrepair and was even open to wandering cattle. In 1805, to finance the repair of St. Peter's and other Parish buildings, portions of the church's land were sold as lots. These lots correspond to today's downtown Salisbury.

In 1827, Stepney Parish was divided into Stepney and Spring Hill Parishes. St. Peter's was in Spring Hill Parish. Spring Hill was the parish church and St. Peter's was still a parish chapel.

Reverend William Augustus White was rector of Spring Hill Parish from 1845-1862 and was also rector of Stepney Parish for most of this period. He was a noted poet and seems to have spent much of his time at the Salisbury church. Under his rectorship, a tower was added to St. Peter's in 1850. The tradition of the St. Bartholomew's Day Homecoming Service at Old Green Hill Church was begun during this time. To Reverend White's great sorrow, the first St. Peter's (along with most of Salisbury) was destroyed by fire in 1860.

## The Present (Third) Saint Peter's



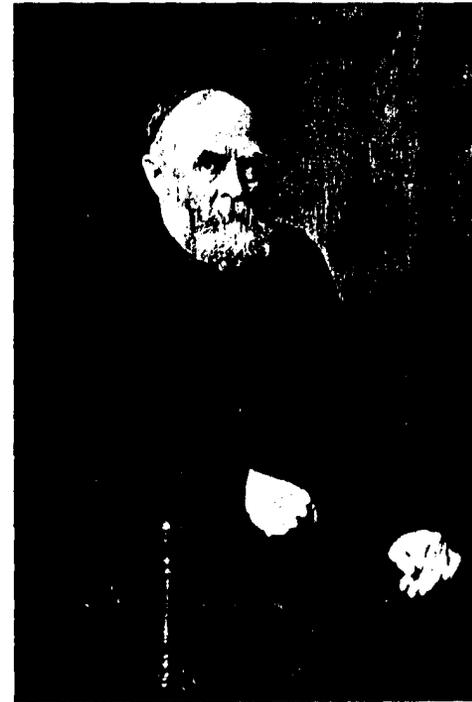
*Third St. Peter's Church, prior to 1914.*



*Church of the Annunciation, 12th and Diamond Sts., Philadelphia, PA, built 1885.*



he Reverend Charles F. Sweet became the rector in early 1887. After some controversy, the Italian Romanesque ("13th Century Lombardy") style was selected for the third St. Peter's building. The architect was Thomas Burns of Philadelphia and the building contractor was Slemmons and Jones. St. Peter's was planned to resemble another church designed by architect Burns, the Church of the Annunciation (Episcopal) which still stands at 12th and Diamond Streets in Philadelphia.



*Rev. Charles F. Sweet, who celebrated the First Holy Eucharist Service in the third St. Peter's Church on Christmas Day, 1887.*

Construction of the main portion of the new St. Peter's, begun sometime after June of 1887, proceeded quickly, but the tower was not completed until many years later. Again, bricks from the second and first churches were utilized in the foundation of the third church building. Reverend Sweet was able to hold the first service, a celebration of the Holy Eucharist, at 6:00 A.M. on Christmas Day, 1887.

From Reverend Sweet's description of this first service, we know that the window glass had not yet arrived and that the window openings, including that of the great (nine foot diameter) rose window, were covered with white muslin. There was only a crude, temporary altar.

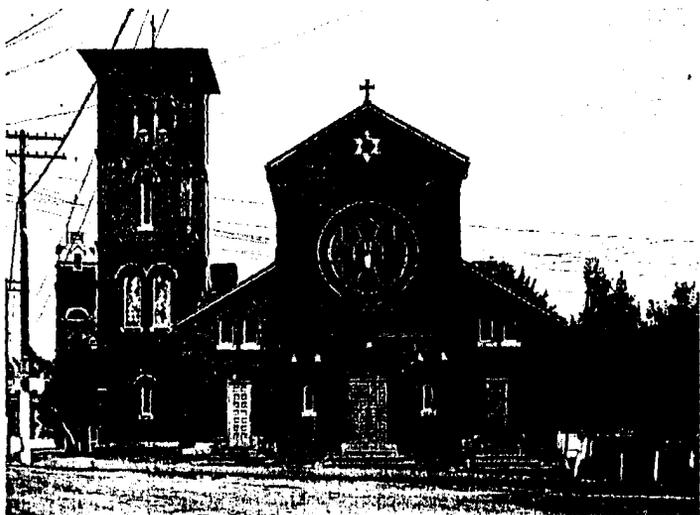
From that day on, services have been held regularly in the present St. Peter's building.

The pulpit in the present church was an 1888 gift from the Church of the Annunciation. Records indicate that a former St. Peter's parishioner, then living in Philadelphia and a member of the congregation of the Church of the Annunciation, helped secure

WI-2  
the gift for St. Peter's. The Annunciation's present rector, Reverend Robert Hofmeister, says that his building was completed in 1885 when Reverend Herman Batterson was the rector. Hofmeister speculates that the pulpit given to St. Peter's may have been a "hand-me-down" from an earlier church, since destroyed. The wooden pulpit would not have fit with the style of the "new" Annunciation's elaborate chancel metalwork and so was available to be given to St. Peter's.

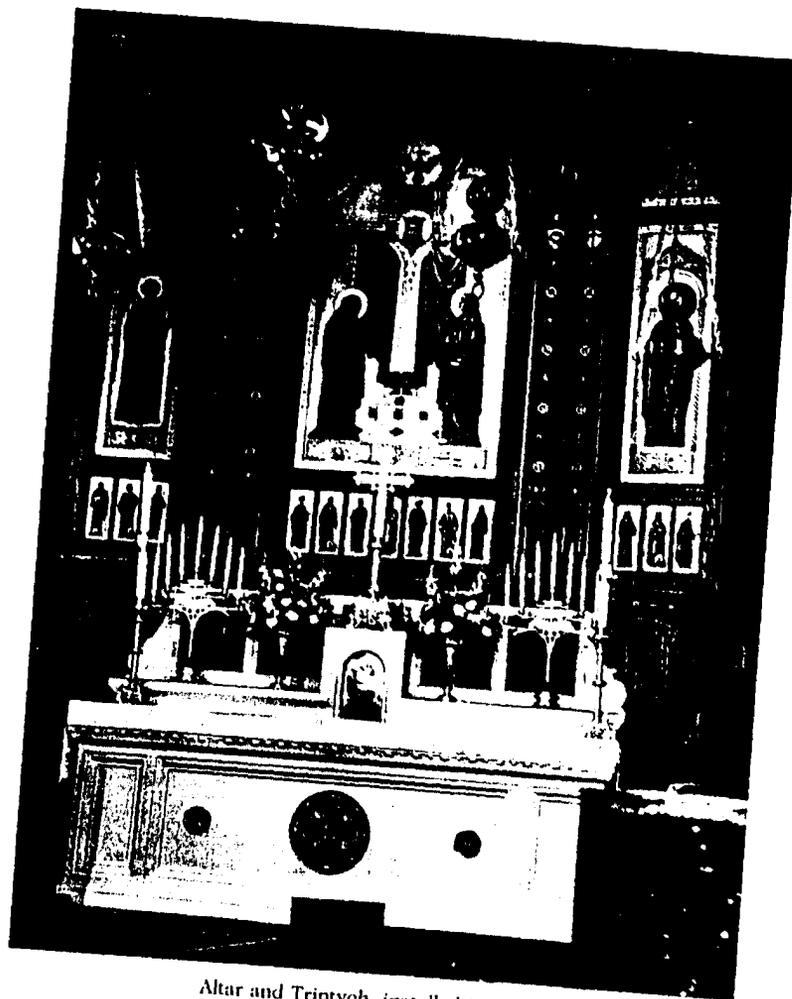
The St. Peter's bell was recast in Baltimore and returned to Salisbury in 1888. Since the tower of the new church had not yet been built, it was decided to place the bell in the clock tower of the nearby Court House where it could serve as a fire alarm and strike the hour. It had done so since 1888. The inscription on the bell, from Isaiah, Chapter 51 reads: "Hearken unto me, ye that follow after righteousness, ye that seek the Lord."

Initial construction costs of the third St. Peter's were \$15,000. Insurance money collected when the second St. Peter's burned amounted to \$6,000. The remaining \$9,000 in construction costs were borrowed, and over the ensuing years, this debt was repaid, mostly through the fundraising effort of the St. Peter's women's guilds. Since no Episcopal church could be consecrated until it was entirely free from debt, the bishop did not consecrate the third St. Peter's until 1901:



Third St. Peter's Church, sometime between 1914-1924.

During Reverend David Howard's rectorship, the church tower was completed in 1914, and in 1916 an ambitious remodeling of the church interior was undertaken. The congregation pledged \$6,000



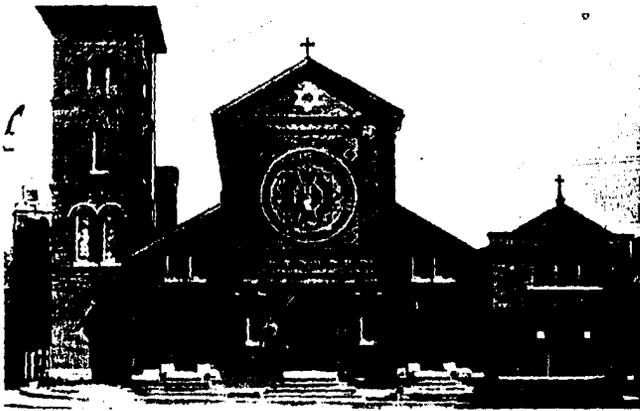
Altar and Triptych, installed in 1916.

for the interior work with, again, contributions by the women's guilds being important. The new stone altar with marble panel inserts was given in memory of all former rectors.

The triptych, painted on oak panels, was created by Chapman Decorative Company, Philadelphia under the "personal supervision" of the architect for the remodeling project, Frank R. Watson of Watson and Huckel, Philadelphia. The cost of the triptych was about \$1,600. "The subject of the central panel is 'Calvary Triumphant.' Our Lord stands with outstretched arms against a cross of gold, in the attitude of King, Lord, and Bishop. St. Mary and St. John stand in reverence and adoration." The subjects of the side panels are St. Peter and St. Paul. At the base of the triptych are Moses and the apostles.

The addition of the beautiful rood and rood beam was also part of the 1916 remodeling. At the top of the rood is a painting of the Heavenly Dove and at the ends of the arms are the Angels of the Resurrection. At the center are the three nails surrounded by the crown of thorns. At the base of the cross is the Lamb of God.

Other 1916 improvements included marble floors for the chancel, seven lamps which hang over the sanctuary rail, "heather brown tiles" for the aisles, new pews, refinishing of the existing wood work, and new wiring and lighting fixtures. The Building Committee's secretary, Mark Cooper, was said to have "had charge of the details" and to have been "the prime mover in getting the work completed." Since 1916, the main features of the appearance of the St. Peter's Church interior have not changed.



Third St. Peter's Church, 1928.

St. Peter's exterior appearance was, however, changed by the addition of the Parish House, at a cost of about \$40,000, in 1924. The Parish House measures 86 feet X 46 feet and contains a large basement room with kitchen. The facility also includes Sunday School rooms, offices, and library.

In addition to the memorials given to the church in the 1916 remodeling, there have been many other gifts presented to St. Peter's both before and after that year. These add great beauty to services at the church. The stained glass windows and the organ come immediately to mind. The St. Peter's Church building and its contents are a magnificent legacy to us all.

*Robert Lane Taylor*  
Jan., 1988

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## Acknowledgements

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Planning and preparing for our recent "Holy Communion Service, "In the Manner of 1887," was done by Father Fred VanderPoel (our interim priest), Lay Phillips, Paul Lowry, and Nancy Cooper.

Others contributing their time and efforts have included Dan and Pegge Anderson, Peggy Bagley, Ann Dawson, Pat Hendrickson, Florence Leist, Bobbie Oakley, and Ted Shea.

Thanks to Wayne Bradford of the Portrait Shoppe and to Evans-Coates Printing, Inc.

We all regret the recent loss of Polly White Burnett.

## Early Anglicanism In The Salisbury Area—A Brief Sketch



In the mid-1600's, the Eastern Shore of Maryland began to be settled by people from England and from Virginia's Eastern Shore. Most of the settlers were followers of the Anglican faith while some were Quakers. By 1682 an Anglican clergyman named John Hewitt was performing marriages and presumably holding other services in Somerset County and also in Dorchester County.

Somerset County, created in 1666 by the General Assembly of the Province of Maryland, included all of present-day Somerset, Worcester, and Wicomico counties, plus that part of Delaware which lies south of the Nanticoke River. Prior to 1692 there was, relatively speaking, religious tolerance in Maryland. The Calverts probably supported religious tolerance for two main reasons: (1) It was not really possible for them to establish an all-Catholic colony under a predominantly Protestant English nation; and (2) The Calverts needed settlers to help solidify the Calvert claim to Maryland. The Quakers who were being expelled from Virginia were available. This tolerance in religious matters was diminished by the General Assembly's passage of the Parish Act of 1692.

The Parish Act established the Anglican Church as the "official" religion of the Province of Maryland and divided Maryland into 30 parishes. Somerset County was divided into four parishes, the northernmost of which was named Stepney. Stepney Parish was bounded by the Wicomico River on the South and the Nanticoke River on the North. This area corresponds to present-day Wicomico County plus much of what is now Sussex County, Delaware. In the parishes, the Church of England would enjoy all the rights which it had in the mother country. The parish freeholders were to select vestrymen who had the power to tax all citizens to raise money to build churches. Records show that there were 368 taxable persons in Stepney Parish. The act also provided for fines to be imposed for Sabbath breaking.

The first rector of Stepney Parish (and the adjacent "Somerset" Parish) was Reverend John Hewitt, mentioned above. By 1711, Reverend Alexander Adams was the rector, and Stepney Parish included a church (at "Green Hill Town") and one "Chapel of Ease," erected for the convenience of those parishoners living great distances from Green Hill. By 1724, there were two Chapels of Ease, one at Spring Hill and one called "Goddard's Chapel," located at the head of the Wicomico Creek. The present "Old Green Hill Church" building dates from 1733.

## The History of St. Peter's Church

(1768 - 1968)

*Polly White Burnett*

It was the year of Our Lord one thousand seven hundred and sixty-eight, in the village of Salisburytown, county of Somerset, Province of Maryland. Two years had passed since the Vestry of Stepney Parish had petitioned the Provincial Assembly in Annapolis that: "Our Chapel of Ease, known as Goddard's Chapel is not only old, unfit to attend Divine Service in, but is inconveniently situated for the Parishioners, and that our Chapel of Ease known as Spring Hill Chapel is in a ruinous condition and unfit to be repaired." History does not tell us just where William Adams (vestryman, Somerset member of the Assembly, master carpenter and son of the venerable Rev. Alexander Adams) reported that the Assembly had agreed to the petition. It may have been at one of his father's plantations, Adams Adventure, near the old Goddard's Chapel on Wicomico Creek, or Glasgow Green near Salisburytown. More than likely he reported to the Vestry, assembled under the vaulted ceiling of the Mother Church at Green Hill.

Thus, Stepney Parish, in existence since 1692, acknowledged the fact that colonists in greater number were moving north and east of Green Hill. The Sheriffs of Worcester and Somerset Counties were immediately authorized to levy a poll tax of forty pounds of tobacco on each of the 1961 taxables in the Parish. This amounted to 509 English pounds for relocating Spring Hill Chapel near the original one, and 600 English pounds to relocate Goddard's Chapel "on two acres of land on the south side of the Wicomico River above the mill of William Venables."

The site thus chosen for the new chapel (variously known in the Account Books of Stepney Parish as "The Head of the River Chappel", "Wicomico Chappel", and Salisbury Chappel".) was on a sandy hill overlooking a busy little harbor. Below the hill, and to the south and east of it, sprawled the small, thirty-six year old village of Salisbury, once known as "Handy's Landing." The mill pond, later to be known as "Lake Humphreys", formed the southeasterly boundary of the town, and on three narrow oyster-shelled streets, Bridge, Back and Dividing, were clustered the raftered taverns and the quaint dormered homes of the few hundred villagers. Along the banks of the river were two primitive lumber mills, the backbone of the town's economy, and the reason for its growth. The two acres authorized by the Assembly grew into six or seven, according to a petition made in 1805 for permission to sell off lots. The land began at Dividing Street and stretched to the river, and possibly to "Glasgow Green" on the other side. So, the heart of modern Salisbury was once the glebe lands of "The Head of the River Chappel."

The vestry of Stepney contracted with William Adams for the building of the chapel; with Samuel McClemmy, joiner, for laying of the floors, plastering and interior woodwork; with William Horsey for a rough pulpit; and with Stephen Garling for an iron bolt. William Adams was paid in June 1769, and the others, presumedly as their work was completed, in 1771 and 1774.

Tradition says that women of Salisburytown went down to the waterfront to unload in their aprons the deep red bricks for their church. Although tradition also says the bricks came from England, it is far more likely they came from the same kiln on the banks of the river that produced the bricks for Pemberton Hall and for the Mother Church of Green Hill.

At any rate, the Chapel soon rose on the sandy hill, dominating the town and bringing the sacraments and comfort of their native church to Englishmen far from home. The building was charmingly simple, measuring 45 feet by 65 feet, with walls of sun-washed brick, three feet thick. There were two rows of recessed, small paned windows to give light to the quaint boxed pews, the galleries on three sides, the stately pillars, and the simple chancel in the east end with its wooden cross.

The Rev. Alexander Adams probably lived to see his new chapel completed (William Adams was paid in June of 1769, and his father died in September of the same year). The Rev. Mr. Adams was rector of Stepney for 66 years, a record almost unequalled in the history of the Colonial Church. He had five churches and served his people with discipline and distinction. As a living testimonial to his devotion to his people and his God, he presented his Parish with the massive Communion Service known as "Green Hill Silver" and inscribed "The gift of the Rev. Alexander Adams, 1752."

The dark days of the American Revolution descended on the people of the River Chapel even as they completed their loving task of building their House of God. To patriots, they were Englishmen, worshipping in the Church of England. Their new rector, the Rev. John Scott was exiled to Frederick County on suspicion of aiding the enemy. Stepney Parish, left without a minister, found that any attempt to use the churches for Divine Service branded them as tories. The buildings soon fell into a terrible state of disrepair. Green Hill was desecrated by use as a stable, Spring Hill was unshuttered and forlorn, and Wicomico Chapel became a barracks for General Smallwood's troops quartered in Salisburytown in 1777. Again according to tradition, one soldier fell to his death from one of the galleries of the chapel. Wild Bold Ben Allen, legendary pirate, who lived on an island in Lake Humphreys, and who robbed patriot and tory alike, is supposed to have been shot down by Smallwood's men in the churchyard. This story gained wide credence

when workers, excavating for a recessed chancel, in 1885, found a huge skull with a bullet hole in the forehead.

With property restored but state support withdrawn, in 1780 the three churches of Stepney Parish became a part of the newly formed Diocese of Maryland, in the Protestant Episcopal Church of America. All ties with the Church of England were severed and, with the consecration of Thomas John Clagett as the first Bishop of Maryland, the first 50 confirmations in the history of Stepney Parish were celebrated on July 20, 1795.

The quick succession of rectors following the reorganization of the Church testifies to the poverty of Stepney, and its struggle to survive: The Rev. Hamilton Bell (1783-1785); the Rev. William Smith (1785-1787); the Rev. George Dashiell (1791-1793, a native of the Parish, who married Esther Handy of Pemberton Hall and who later founded the Reformed Episcopal Church); the Rev. Samuel Tingley (1796-1798, who officiated only in Salisbury and Spring Hill); and the Rev. Joshua Reese (1799-1801).

In 1798, Dr. Kemp, as District Visitor of the Diocese, reported to Bishop Claggett that "the churches were in tolerable repair, except the one in Salisbury which was of brick, but open to cattle and every abomination under heaven. There is a new chapel at Tyaskin but not under the management of the Vestry."

On May 23, 1803, the Vestry met at Green Hill "according to law and agreed with the Rev. William Murray Stone to officiate as minister of Stepney Parish." The Rev. Mr. Stone was born in the Rockawalkin area where his home still stands. He was a gentle man, renown both for his piety and his intellect. A graduate of the Eden School of Somerset, and of the new Washington College in Chestertown, he undertook, as one of his first tasks, the repair of the Chapel in Salisbury. In June, the Vestry met "at the church in Salisbury to let out repairs on the afore-said church. All the windows and doors to be cased and faced (for a total of \$45), and all the sash that the church was deficient of (replaced) at 8¢ a light and furthermore to repair all the ceiling that has given way under the galleries and fit bannisters around the Communion Table." It is obvious that Dr. Kemp was not exaggerating.

In order to finance these repairs, the Vestry petitioned the General Assembly for permission to sell off, in lots, part of the glebe lands in Salisbury, "having more than the two acres of 1768". This permission was granted, and in 1805 six lots were sold for a total of \$605.

The Parish Records become quite detailed and regular with the arrival of the Rev. Mr. Stone. The roof at Green Hill was repaired and an addition made to the Chapel at Tyaskin, now, apparently, under the Vestry. The registrar faithfully recorded several excommunications and public censures of parishioners who had committed sins such as blas-

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phemy, drunkenness, immoral living and non-attendance at church. The Vestry would send out notices to the accused to appear before them, try the case as a jury, and authorize the rector to execute their sentence by public proclamation from the pulpits of all the churches in the parish.

In 1806, the Rev. Stone reported to the Diocese that there were 500 communicants in the parish and the rector had baptized "4 or 500". He also reported that "religion is gaining ground and my prospect is encouraging". Affairs in the parish did not remain so promising. Eight years later, one of his parishioners wrote to Bishop Kemp: "Poor Mr. Stone continues on bread and water". The Rev. Mr. Stone himself complained to the Bishop, "Were I now to judge from the small efforts made for my support, I must form an unfavorable opinion of the piety of my parish. I live among an ungrateful people."

In the same year, Bishop Claggett was prevented from visiting the parish by "the frequent excursions of the enemies vessels in the Chesapeake Bay". But, the following year, Suffragan Bishop Kemp preached in Salisbury, confirmed 20 persons and found the congregation large. This was the period of the War of 1812, and all of the residents along the river lived in terror of the British fleet.

The Rev. Mr. Stone, his health seriously impaired by the arduous ministry in four churches (in addition, he frequently held services in Broad Creek Church, Laurel, Del., built as a Chapel of Ease of Stepney in 1772), his private fortune considerably depleted, and his beloved wife dead in childbirth, persuaded his Vestry to petition the Diocese to divide the parish into two parishes. Thus, in 1827, the northern section became Spring Hill Parish, with Spring Hill the Parish Church, and the Salisbury Chapel its Chapel of Ease, with Tyaskin Chapel and Green Hill Church left in Stepney. In theory this seemed a practical move, but, as happened so often, no new rector was found for the old parish, and the Rev. Mr. Stone continued to have charge of both. In 1829, in what we can only believe was desperation, he accepted a call to Chester Parish, Kent County. One year later, he became the third bishop of Maryland, and returned to his home in Rockawalkin. From there he administered the affairs of the Diocese until his death in 1838.

The next eleven years saw another succession of brief incumbencies: the Rev. Simon Wilmer (1829-1833); the Rev. Francis H. Laird (1834-1836); the Rev. Richard H. Waters (1837-1839); the Rev. Zacariah Goldsmith (1839-1841). During these years, Spring Hill Parish Records are lean, but, through the Diocesan Journals, we learn that the Rev. Mr. Wilmer reported a Sunday School and a Temperance Society at Salisbury Chapel; the Rev. Mr. Laird was President of the Salisbury Academy, and assisted at the first recorded Ordination in Salisbury (the Rev. Thaddeus M. Leavenworth, to the diaconate, in 1835); the Rev. Mr. Waters counted but 50 communicants at the Chapel; and the Rev. Mr.

Goldsmith secured \$700 to repair the building.

The first mention of a parochial school was made in 1842, when the Rev. K. John Stewart was rector. It was established by the Rev. S. G. Callahan, and came to be known as "Claggett Seminary". During Lent of that same year the Rev. Mr. Stewart held daily services in Salisbury and reported the founding of a Church Reading Society. Two new Chapels were built in the parish: Quantico (1844) and St. Matthews-in-the-Forest (1845), located near Pittsville. Salisbury Chapel was first called St. Peter's Chapel in the Diocesan Journal of 1843. Years later, when he revisited Spring Hill Parish, the Rev. Mr. Stewart had this to say:

"(When I came) . . . religion was at its lowest condition. Bishop Stone had served (both) parishes for a quarter of a century until they failed (even) to provide his horse feed. The salary from four churches was \$400 . . . I must keep a horse and cow, pay rent, and meet all expenses of my family. There was not a chimney to either of the churches; the stove pipe went out the windows; they smoked whenever the wind changed, and . . . I was compelled to stop services. In winter, with every protection of coats and overcoats, my teeth chattered and my hands were numbed. The windows were broken, the doors could seldom be closed, the fuel had to be cut while people waited . . . shivering. There were no means of (reaching) the outside world except slow and uncertain sailing vessels, or . . . in a sulky-buggy 150 miles to Baltimore."

After the departure of the Rev. Mr. Stewart, Benjamin Dashiell, on behalf of the Vestry of Spring Hill Parish, wrote the following letter to the Rev. William Augustus White of Philadelphia:

"Rev. and Dear Sir:

. . . . We invite you to take charge of our parish . . . . You will find us a very plain people surrounded by sectarians of several names who dislike us because we do feel constrained to adhere to the principals of our holy catholic church. Our parish has three churches in it, one a new one (St. Matthews). Situated at convenient distances your location will be in Salisbury a town of about 1000 inhabitants. Your salary will be . . . . \$350, but have no doubt the sum may be increased. We hope you may . . . be in our midst ere long to break to us the Bread of Eternal Life."

The Rev. William A. White was to become to Spring Hill Parish what Alexander Adams had been to Stepney. He gave tirelessly of his own money, his energy, and his not-inconsiderable talents to the people in his charge. His somewhat flowery mastery of the written word has left with us many word pictures of his life and times. In the "Traveler", published in Boston, he wrote a column called "Head of Wicomico", under the pen name of "Llandoff". In 1854, we find these interesting comments:

"What a lovely Bay is the Chesapeake! Well-remembered is that bright Autumn day when I first came over these waters in the steamer "Thomas Jefferson" . . . walking the decks . . . guessing what S(alisbury) might be like . . . .

"Midway between the ocean and the bay is the town of S(alisbury). Long before a village was here, the place was known as Head of Wicomico, and the old church standing among the oaks, invited the people to worship. By water and by land they came in crowds, filling the hallowed courts. The oaks are all gone now, save one; but the sacred edifice stands firm . . .

"A very large number of vessels, mostly schooners, are found. Their white sheets glide among the forest trees . . . Steam mills (are) erected in the wilderness. There is a steady caravan of carts passing into S(alisbury) day after day.

"The climate here is more trying than New England . . . I have never known . . . where it rained longer than here . . . Country traders come to town with corn, wheat and . . . lumber."

The Rev. Mr. White also published poems and articles in the "Episcopal Register", "The Baltimore Clipper", "The Daily Republican", and in Salisbury's "Sentinel". In 1859, two books of poetry were published, "Poems by a Priest", written to help finance the building of a tower on St. Peter's Chapel, and "Following Jesus, and Other Poems" to finance the purchase of the bell for the tower.

In a letter to Bishop Whittington (defending himself against a charge of popery) the Rev. Mr. White mentions that the custom of flowers on the altar was only observed at Christmas, Easter and Whitsuntide; that they used adamantine candles and fluid lamps because most of the services at St. Peter's were held at night, since he had the care of five other churches in the daytime. There was a cross in the chancel and on the steeple, a lectern and a pulpit. The rector wore the common surplice and stole. The church bell rang the Angelus ("this being a condition attached to donations for a bell in 1848"). Also the bell was rung by the citizens of Salisbury who employed a bell ringer to sound the fire alarm. He added that "We only wish to worship and serve God in quietness".

In a Special Report to the Vestry in 1857, a committee found the Parish Records in "darkness and confusion". They found no reference to the building of the church in Quantico, the completion of St. Peter's with tower, bell and organ, or the extensive repairs at Spring Hill. They regretted that the Rector's salary had been incompletely paid for the last five years, and that he had personally expended \$300 of his own money on the church deficit. The committee further recommended the sale of a piece of land known as the "Commons" to liquidate all debts. This sale was the last lot from the original glebe lands, except for small areas sold

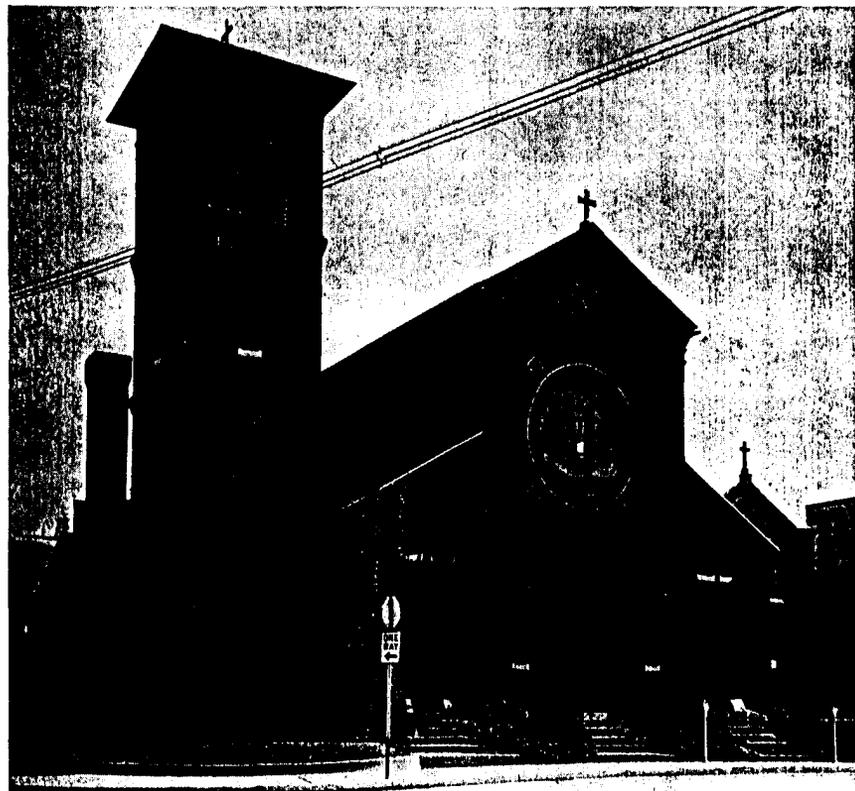


## OLD ST. PETER'S CHURCH

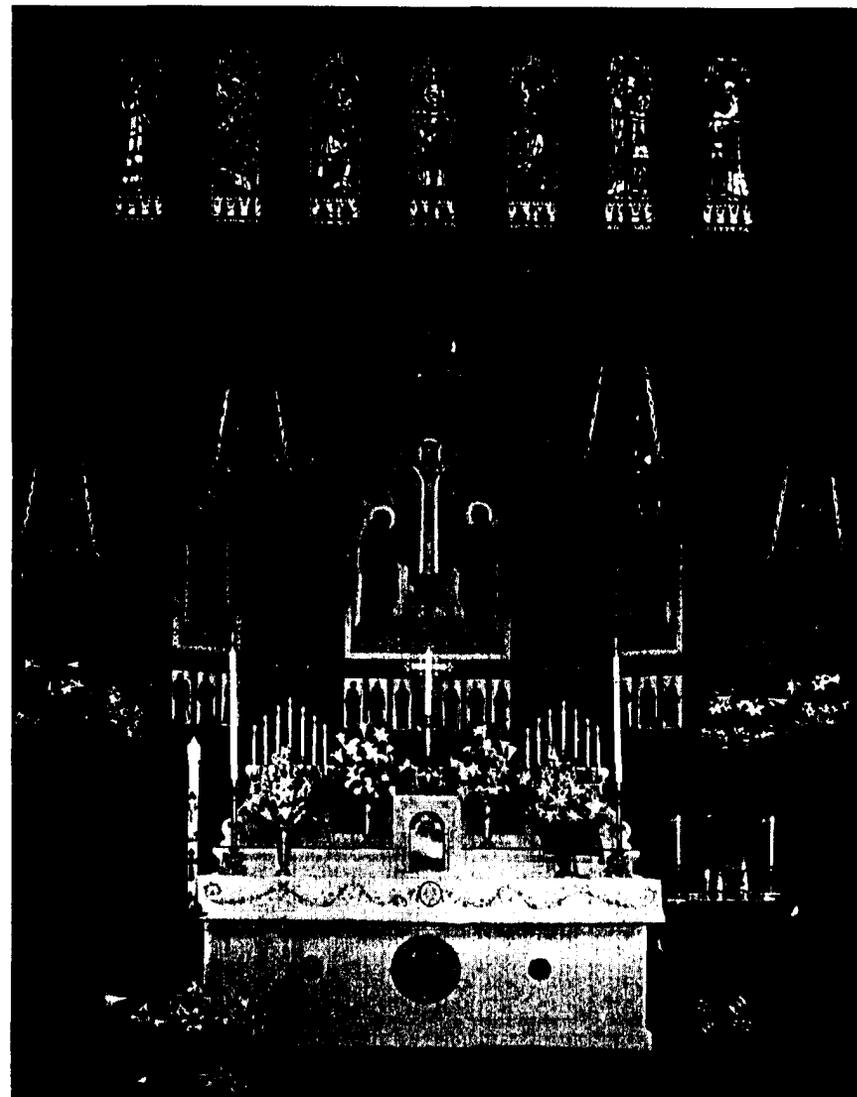
SALISBURY, MARYLAND

1768 TO 1860

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Present Church



Present Sanctuary  
St. Peter's Church



Saint Alban's Chapel

to straighten boundaries.

In the fourteenth year of his rectorship, the Rev. Mr. White held the first Homecoming Service in the Mother Church, Old Green Hill. He chose St. Bartholomew's Day in August for the festival, a custom which is followed to this day.

These golden years of St. Peter's Chapel were abruptly shattered on the sultry night of August 9, 1860, when the bell of St. Peter's gave notice of the great fire that was to destroy not only the colonial town of Salisbury, but the bell itself. The Rev. Mr. White's ever-ready pen described the terrible scene:

"From dwelling to dwelling, from street to street,  
As wild as an Arab, as fierce and as fleet,  
The fire is sweeping our homes away.  
Alas, for the doom of that dreadful day".

Few relics remain of that first "Head of the River Chappel". An 1806 Stepney Prayerbook, inscribed, "Saved by me from the burning sanctuary, August 1860, Wm. A. White"; two solid silver candlesticks, engraved "C. Whitelock, 1851"; an instruction card, almost illegible from smoke and water; an ancient bookmark and a handful of melted brass, are all we have left of Salisbury's earliest church.

The Rev. Mr. White stayed with his destitute parish for almost a year after the fire. Divine services were held in the other churches or in private homes. There is no doubt of the desolate reaction of the Vestry on receiving his resignation on July 4, 1861. They begged him to reconsider, and testified "to his inestimable worth as a private citizen, his untiring zeal as a pastor and his rarely equalled eloquence and efficiency as a minister."

After his departure, the Vestry met in the office of Benjamin Parsons, on the Church Lot next to the charred ruins. They sent out a desperate call to the Rev. Henry Woods (1862-1864), who reported to the Diocese in 1862 that the affairs of the church were still in a confused state, but that the parish was rebuilding the church in Salisbury. The new rector made some attempts to put the records in order, reporting the deaths of parishioners from quinsey, dysentery, consumption and scarlet fever. However, his successor, the Rev. Gustavus W. Mayer (1865-1867) complained that the records were confused, and that St. Peter's had 90 communicants.

As the Revolution had slowed down the building and use of the first church, so the Civil War, with its divided loyalties, its disrupted families, delayed the completion of the second church. Salisbury was again occupied, this time by Union troops, and the men and women of the

church were preoccupied, not only with the hardships of the war, but with their own problems of rebuilding their homes and their businesses, as well as their church. After the surrender at Appomattox, the whole parish became embroiled in the fight for the new county of Wicomico. Both Thomas F. Rider and Purnell Toadvine who led and won the fight, were members of St. Peter's Chapel.

The new chapel bore no resemblance to the simple colonial building which had preceded it, although the Vestry had thriftily reused the old bricks in the floor and foundations. The new style was Romanesque, with a large rose window in the western end, and three stained glass windows in the east. The pews and communion rail were of walnut and columns still led the eye to the beamed ceiling. The Rev. Meyer Lewin, (1868-1869) noted the painting of the interior and exterior "under God and through the energy and zeal of two young ladies of the parish". There was a fund for a recessed chancel, and 100 scholars in the Sunday School. The rector's salary of \$1200 was in arrears \$225, which may explain why he left at the end of the year.

When the Rev. William Fulton arrived in the parish in December of 1869, he and his large family moved into a parish-owned rectory on Division Street near Parson's Alley. The carriage house in the rear had been converted into a parochial school. The Diocese of Easton had been formed the year before, and its first Bishop, Henry C. Lay, wrote to Dr. Fulton; "Salisbury itself is a full charge. If you can manage the country congregations for a time . . . it may be possible for them to support a minister of their own. (I advise you) to keep a horse."

In Dr. Fulton's eight years, he abolished the system of renting pews, formed a Ladies Association, started a Colored Sunday School, which had 55 attending it, revived the Annual Service at Green Hill (and started a drive for funds to save it from decay). In 1873, St. Peter's received a legacy of a large tract of land from Benjamin Parsons, long-time vestryman and benefactor of the parish. This land became Parson's Cemetery, and for a long while the Vestry was preoccupied with setting up rules for its use. (Such as: "Northeast of Central Avenue, only Episcopal clergy may officiate, after its consecration by the Bishop").

Upon Dr. Fulton's sudden death, in 1877, Bishop Lay remarked, "I was profoundly impressed by the unostentatious and reverent sorrow shown in Salisbury. The churches, one and all, in town and its vicinity closed (though it was Sunday). I never saw such a funeral. The church could contain but a portion of those assembled, and the long procession to the graveyard showed the whole public mourned."

The Vestry immediately provided for the support of the widow and children, and the Ladies Association offered to solicit funds for buying them a house. So the Fulton family continued to contribute to the life of

the Church and Community, particularly in the person of "Miss Nannie", who for so many years accumulated and preserved the memorabilia of St. Peter's. The Rev. Dr. Fulton was buried in the Clergy Lot in Parson's cemetery, near the grave of The Rt. Rev. William M. Stone, whose remains had been moved from his family lot in 1876.

When the Rev. James H. B. Brooks came to the parish, in 1878, he found the parish Vestry sharply divided on the question of separating St. Peter's from Spring Hill Parish, but when the Diocesan Convention of 1879 established Salisbury Parish ("within the corporate limits of the town"), all but two of the vestrymen remained with St. Peter's Church.

The face of Salisbury had changed considerably just since the Civil War. A new Courthouse stood on the spot where Byrd's Tavern had once received the stage coach travelers. There were scores of oyster boats and schooners in the harbor, and over 200 people worked in the several mills. Salisbury had Town Commissioners, a new fire engine and a band that played concerts in Bailey's Woods, near the Tumbling Dam. Times were good, the town was prospering. The Rev. Mr. Brooks in his farewell address in 1882, stated that he had prepared 104 persons for Confirmation, baptised 222 souls and the Colored Sunday School had 80 attendants, and the White over 100. He ended by congratulating them on their finances!

The recessed chancel spoken of so many years before was finally completed in the rectorship of the Rev. Mr. George W. Bowne (1883-1886). Graves were moved from the churchyard and reinterred at Parson's Cemetery. A Sunday School room was built under the new chancel. An "elegant new marble altar" was given in memory of Mrs. Elizabeth Humphries, there were memorial windows to Thomas Byrd, Jehu Parsons and the Rev. Dr. Fulton, among others. Isaac Adams and Randolph Humphreys supplied the seven branch candelabra and matching cross for the new altar.

The recording of these memorials became of first importance on a Sunday evening in October, 1886. St. Peter's bell was ringing the Angelus which was also a call to evening service at the church. The mellow tone of the bell suddenly changed into a wild incessant clamor which shouted "Fire! Fire!" to the startled town. Before the bell ceased its dreadful message the entire town was for a second time consumed in flames, and St. Peter's lay again in ashes, with the bell melted in the ruins of the tower. Except for the candelabra, the cross, an eagle lectern, and the few holy vessels now in St. Peter's Museum, there was nothing left of the second church but four roofless, charred walls.

The rector, the Rev. Mr. Bowne, left the parish immediately after the fire (he had actually resigned before the disaster), but, so was the zeal

and faith of the congregation that the Rev. Mr. Charles F. Sweet reported in 1888 that the new church was "so far complete as to be available for constant use, and is regarded as a very admirable specimen of church architecture". Actually, it was on Christmas Day, 1887, that the first service was held in the third church "at the head of the river". The windows were covered with cloth, there was a crude, temporary altar, and no font. The tower was unfinished, and the bell, recast, now rang the Angelus from the Courthouse tower. The inscription on it still reads, "Harken unto me, ye that follow after righteousness, ye that seek the Lord".

Although the new church was larger and more pretentious than the second church, the foundations and the walls were the same. Copied from the architecture of the Church of the Annunciation, Philadelphia, the Italian Renaissance style became more pronounced.

The parish, which during the time of rebuilding, had held both Divine Services and Parochial School in the Wicomico Courthouse, contributed generously to refurbishing and embellishing the interior in spite of their personal losses in the fire. New memorial windows were installed, handsome copper gable crosses put on church, pews were varnished and the chancel and sacristy furnished. When Mr. Sweet left the Parish, in 1889, he had 120 communicants and his successor, the Rev. William Munford, (1889-1895) reported, "The people are at peace and harmony prevails".

By 1892, the Rev. Mr. Munford had this to say, "Salisbury is gradually completing its stately edifice. There is a substantial and healthy growth. Years characterized by discords and painful dissensions are replaced by union and cordiality. We have formed a Children's Guild, and all debts are paid except \$600 on Church and \$120 on organ." Two years later, however, he acknowledged a series of crippling misfortunes: the rectory had burned (the same one the rector had described as "a suitable home for a gentleman and his family"), the insurance barely covered the mortgage, and a legacy from Mrs. Henrietta Byrd had proved not so valuable as hoped. A terrible storm had damaged the unfinished tower and blown out the new Rose Window.

The Rev. Mr. Munford departed soon after this series of catastrophes, and the Rev. Alvin J. VanderBogart (1895-1901) entered. He found an active chapter of the Brotherhood of St. Andrews, an Altar Guild, St. Peter's Guild and a church that was quietly overcoming its disasters. The Rev. Mr. VanderBogart instituted the use of a Processional Cross, and founded a Boys Choir. This is the first mention of formal music since the time of the Rev. Mr. Bowne, who trained and directed a choir in the English style of music. On St. Peter's Day, June 29, 1901, the church debt was finally paid, and the Rt. Rev. William Forbes Adams, second Bishop of Easton, consecrated the building to the service of

Almighty God.

In the fifteen years following the Consecration of the church, the Rev. Mr. David Howard completed the Sunday School room under the Sacristy, and, in 1915, closed the church for several weeks so that it might be completely redecorated. Aside from the usual painting and staining of wood, there were installed numerous new appointments. The Wicomico News of October 5 spoke of the new rood beam, the "heather-brown tile floors", the chancel of Tennessee marble, the oak choir stalls and pews, the Altar of American Caen Stone and the beautiful colors of the hand-painted tryptch above. When the Rev. Mr. Howard died, after a long illness, in September of 1917, his body lay in state in the church he had helped beautify, and he lies today in the Clergy Lot.

In the days of World War I, Salisbury Parish, under the guidance of the Rev. Herbert D. Cone, sold the old rectory on Division Street and purchased a new one on Church Street, opposite the church tower. The rector's study became the scene of the vestry meetings as well as serving as the church office. It was to this rectory that the Rev. Henry Felix Kloman moved his wife and three children when he replaced the Rev. Mr. Cone in 1923.

These were the days of prosperity, and Salisbury, like the rest of America was booming. The breaking of the dam of Lake Humphreys, in 1909, had extended the town across the lake bed, and real estate and business were fast taking the opportunity to expand. The Rev. Mr. Kloman, recognizing the needs of his congregation and the promising outlook, persuaded the parish to plan and build the long needed Parish House. Copying the architecture of the church externally, with simple modern interior, the three floored building now provided church offices, Sunday School rooms, and meeting rooms for the women's guilds. The Rev. Mr. Kloman also founded the Young People's Fellowship, the Girl's Friendly Society and the Junior Choir. He left the parish for Cumberland in 1926.

The twenty-sixth minister of St. Peter's was the Rev. Roy Rolfe Gilson. He was already a distinguished newspaper man and novelist (Who's Who in America) when he decided to enter the ministry in 1913. A very articulate preacher, a deeply compassionate man, and a sincere and genuine friend, he soon became dear not only to his parishioners but to the people of the town. In the eight years of his ministry, he established the first formal Acolyte Guild, the Order of St. Vincent. In his dealings with the young people of the parish, he was especially successful, being prized by them as both their mentor and their friend. Upon his death at the Rectory in 1933, tributes to his character and to his value to the community were widely published: "No one at their departure could have left

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a richer legacy of worth and Christian character; a true shepherd to his flock in Christ and a friend to everyone. To his bereaved family go the heartfelt sympathies of the entire community”.

Following the Rev. Mr. Gilson's death, the Vestry offered the rectorship to the Rt. Rev. George W. Davenport, third Bishop of Easton. The Diocese was in financial difficulties due to the Depression, and the Bishop accepted the Vestry's proposal. From the rectory of Salisbury Parish the affairs of the Diocese of Easton were managed for the next two years, while at the same time, Bishop Davenport administered to the spiritual needs of St. Peter's. Three years later, when he resigned as Bishop, the congregation of St. Peter's gave him a huge farewell banquet in gratitude and love.

From 1935-1940, the Rev. Albert H. Frost was rector. The St. Peter's Key was first published at this time, and there was a 9:30 service for young people and the Church School. The membership of the church had steadily increased, and this was due in large part to his ability as a preacher. When he accepted a call to Staten Island in 1940, the newspapers paid tribute to his community enterprise and his contributions to Christian Social Relations.

For almost a year, visiting priests conducted services at the church, until March 9, 1941, when the Rev. Robert Frazier, former Missionary Archdeacon of Wyoming, accepted the call of the Vestry. The Rev. Mr. Frazier's salary was \$2,400, out of a budget of \$8,759. These were again times of War, and the new rector told his parish that, "In these times full of anxiety and sorrow, we need the peace and security of our common worship". He asked for and secured a Service Flag and Roll of Honor for the members of the congregation in the service of our country. Church life continued in the work of the Womens' Guilds, the Men's Club, the Annual Benefit Antique Show, and in the Rev. Mr. Frazier's attempt to update the Parish Records.

When he left in 1943, the parish sent a call to the Rev. Nelson M. Gage, of Florida. His first publication of the Key showed a picture of the interior of St. Peter's, and for the first time, Lay Readers were mentioned. In the eleven years the Rev. Mr. Gage was in Salisbury, the Key held news of our fighting men, homolies on the use of incense, announcement of Lenten Missions, and a description of the Chapel of St. Andrews, newly refurbished by the Brotherhood. A jeweled Chalice and Platen were given as a memorial in 1944, the tryptch was repaired in 1945 and many memorial windows were installed in the clerestory. In 1950, he consolidated the guilds into the Churchwomen of St. Peter's.

At the Rev. Mr. Gage's departure for Colorado in 1954, the Vestry

were able to secure the services of the Rev. Robert P. Varley, who arrived at the new rectory on Camden Avenue in January, 1955. In the past thirteen years Salisbury Parish has, under his competent and dedicated leadership, entered into a very meaningful participation in the affairs of the community, the Diocese and the National Church. No longer a small family church, St. Peter's finds itself, as it was in the beginning, in the heart of life around it.

In June of 1957 the first assistant minister for Salisbury Parish was called in the person of the Rev. G. William Truitt, who continued in this capacity until he became the first Vicar of the newly established parochial chapel of St. Alban in 1960. Other assistant ministers included the Rev. Ronald Whittall, the Rev. Walter F. Hartt, who left to persue graduate studies, and currently the Rev. Richard Buzby. Following the Ministry of the Rev. Mr. Truitt, the Rev. Guy H. Butler became the second Vicar of the Chapel. At present St. Alban's is under the most capable leadership of the Rev. Charles T. Mason, Jr. The parish family has grown to such a size that three services each Sunday are conducted in St. Peter's and one at St. Alban's.

In the church itself, there is a new Family Altar, recent memorial windows, new Holy Vessels, and superbly embroidered hangings for the High Altar and Pulpit. The church has been painted inside and out, and the Parish House greatly modernized. Under Dr. Varley's guiding hand the congregation elected the first woman to the vestry, and in a great missionary effort, built the Chapel of St. Alban's in the parish (1960). In encouraging his vestry to establish a Stewardship Campaign, he rescued the finances of the parish from the desperate straits of the past forty years. The Rev. Dr. Varley gives no indication that he-or his parish-are through.

Thus has passed a full two hundred years of sorrow and triumph, despair and rejoicing. The church bell of St. Peter's tells the hours from the Court House tower, and the glebe lands of the Head of the River Chapel are teeming with commerce. Still, if one looks carefully enough, the pillars in the church are reminiscent of the early chapel, the cornerstone of the Rev. White's tower of 1851 is embedded in the foundations of the recessed chancel of 1884, and on the High Altar today are the beautiful brass cross and candalabra of the second church. Our memorial windows glow in mute testimony to the devotion of the dead, and our hearts go out in gratitude to all those who went before us to build, and rebuild, and build again to the Glory of God at St. Peter's Church.

**BIBLIOGRAPHY**

- THE ARCHIVES OF THE DIOCESE OF MARYLAND (Maryland Historical Society)
- THE DIOCESAN JOURNALS OF THE DIOCESE OF EASTON (Diocesan House, Easton)
- MANUSCRIPT HISTORY OF STEPNEY PARISH, BY CASSIUS DASHIELL (M. H. S.)
- MANUSCRIPT HISTORY OF STEPNEY AND SPRING HILL PARISHES, BY THE REV. ETHAN ALLEN (Film-Wicomico County Library)
- ACCOUNT AND MINUTE BOOKS OF STEPNEY, SPRING HILL AND SALISBURY PARISHES (Film-Wicomico County Library)
- TWO NOTEBOOKS KEPT BY MISS NANCY R. FULTON (St. Peter's Museum)
- PAMPHLETS, PICTURES, ETC. (St. Peter's Museum)
- ARCHIVES OF MARYLAND (Wicomico County Library, Maryland Room)
- FILES OF THE SALISBURY ADVERTISER (Film, Wicomico County Library)

## 8.1 SIGNIFICANCE

St. Peter's P. E. Church, WI-20

Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland

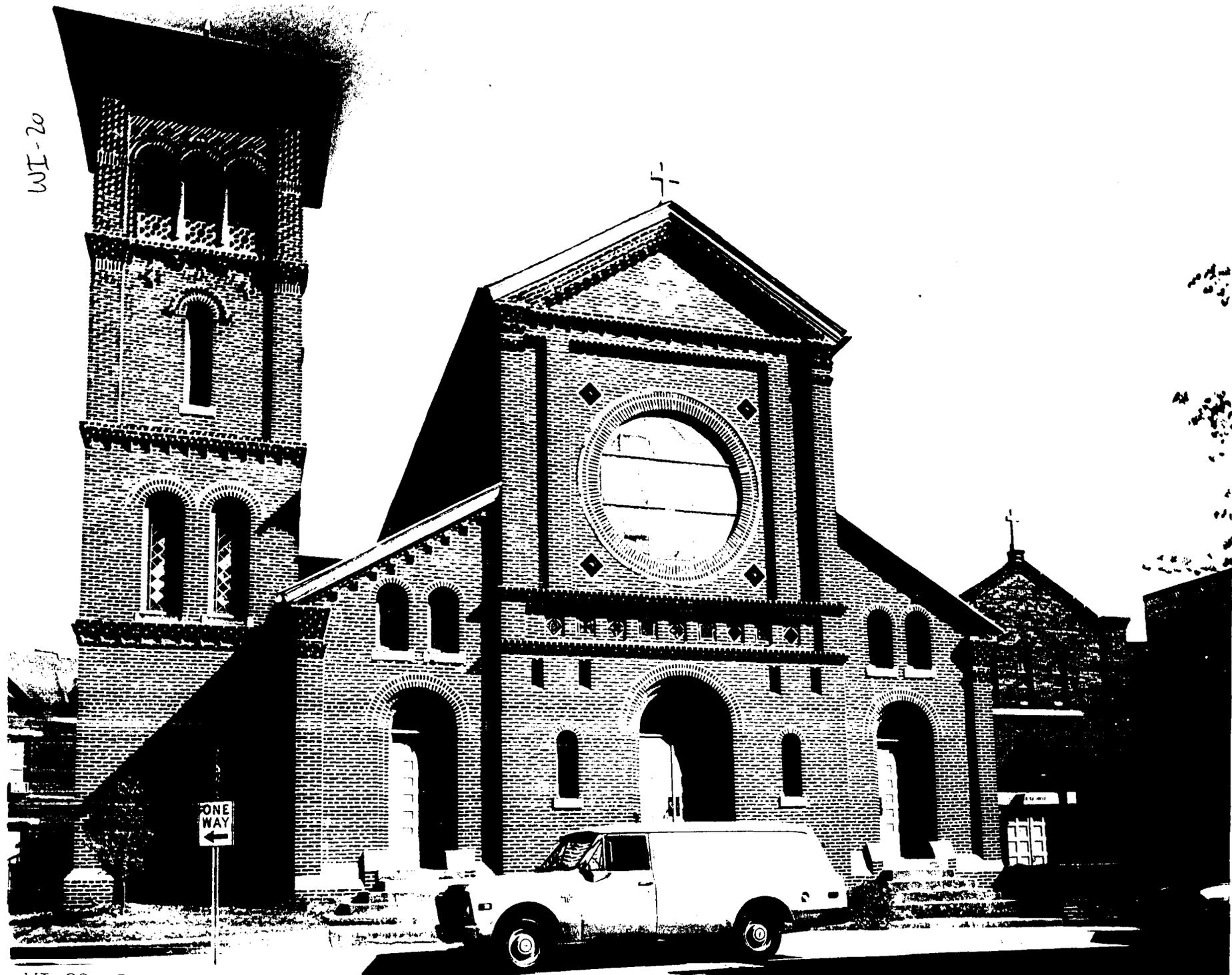
Christian basilica, the brick church has a center two-story nave flanked by single story shed-roofed side aisles. The common bond brick walls are accented with decorative terra cotta panels, brick pilasters, molded beltcourses, and corbelled brickwork. A Star-of-David, executed in glazed headers, distinguishes the gable front wall above the large round nave window. The four-story entrance and bell tower on the northwest corner was built in two stages. The first two stories were part of the 1887 building program while the third story and belfry were not completed until 1914. On the south side of the church is a brick vestry house that was built in 1924.

The interior of the 1887 church was enriched with new features in 1916, and it has remained essentially unchanged since that time. Particularly interesting and dramatic are the 1887 cast iron columns with foliate capitals that support the series of round arches which form the nave. The multi-colored appearance in the brick walls indicates that many were reused from the previous building. Like many medieval churches, the ceiling timbers are exposed. The 1916 interior remodeling included a marble laid altar, hardwood floors, tile within the aisles, new wiring, lighting fixtures and new pews.<sup>3</sup>

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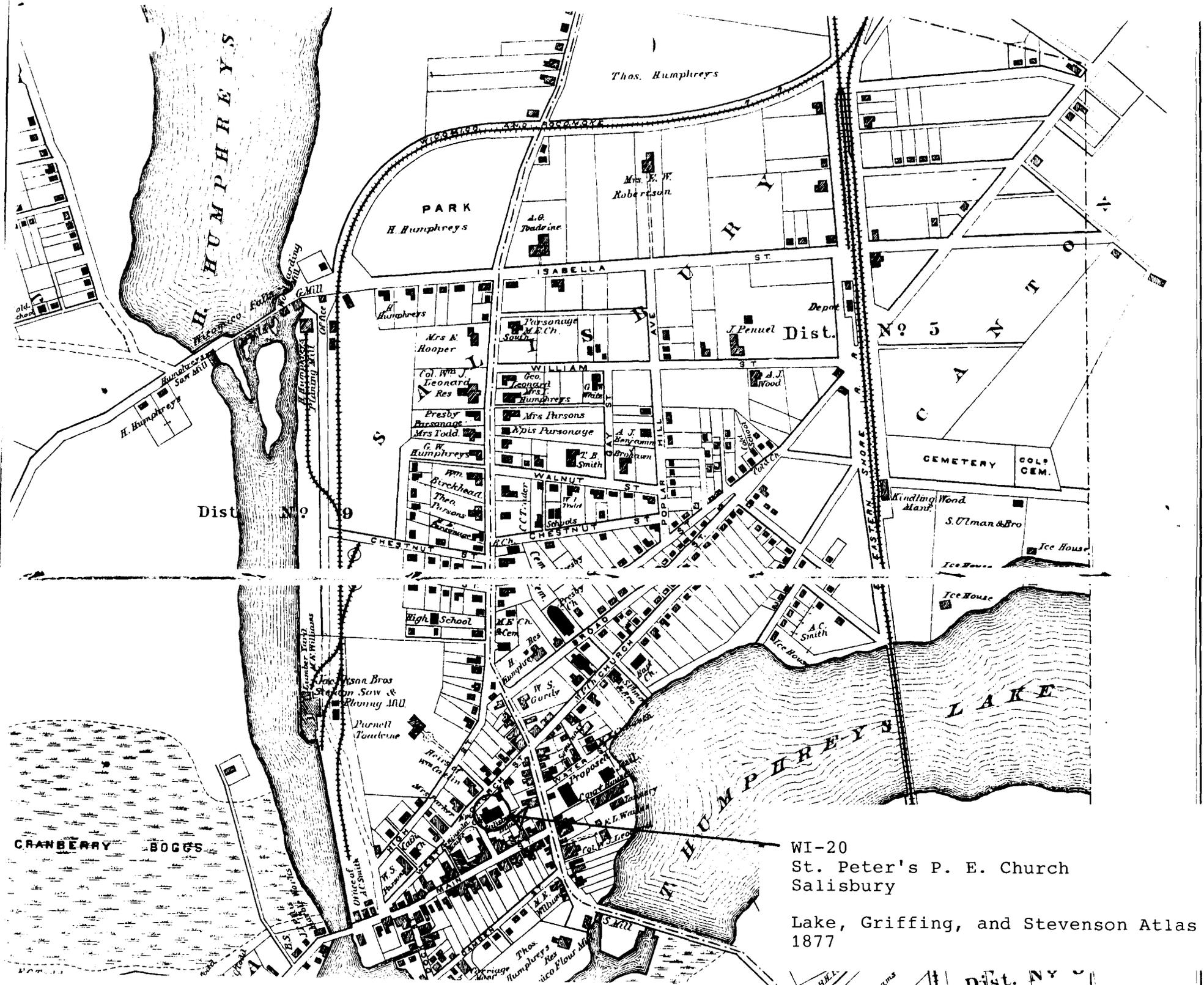
<sup>3</sup> *Salisbury Advertiser and Wicomico Countian*, June 14, 1924.

WI-20

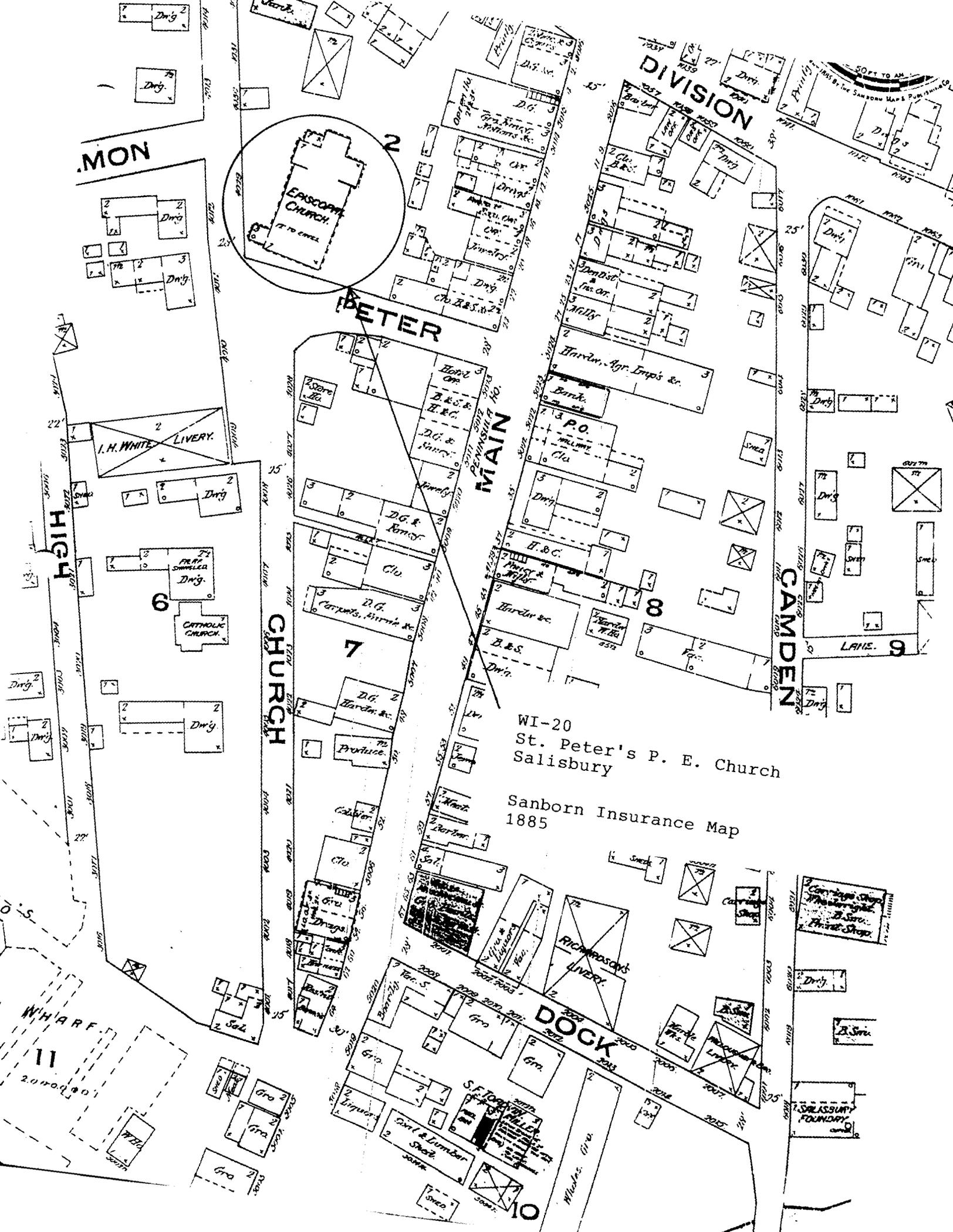


WI-20 St. Peter's Episcopal Church

1974 (



WI-20  
 St. Peter's P. E. Church  
 Salisbury  
 Lake, Griffing, and Stevenson Atlas  
 1877



MON

2  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

PETER

HIGH

I.H. WHITE LIVERY

6

CATHOLIC CHURCH

CHURCH

7

MAIN

WI-20  
St. Peter's P. E. Church  
Salisbury

Sanborn Insurance Map  
1885

DIVISION

8

CAMDEN

LANE 9

WHARF

DOCK

Carriage Shop  
Blacksmith  
B. Store  
Fruit Shop

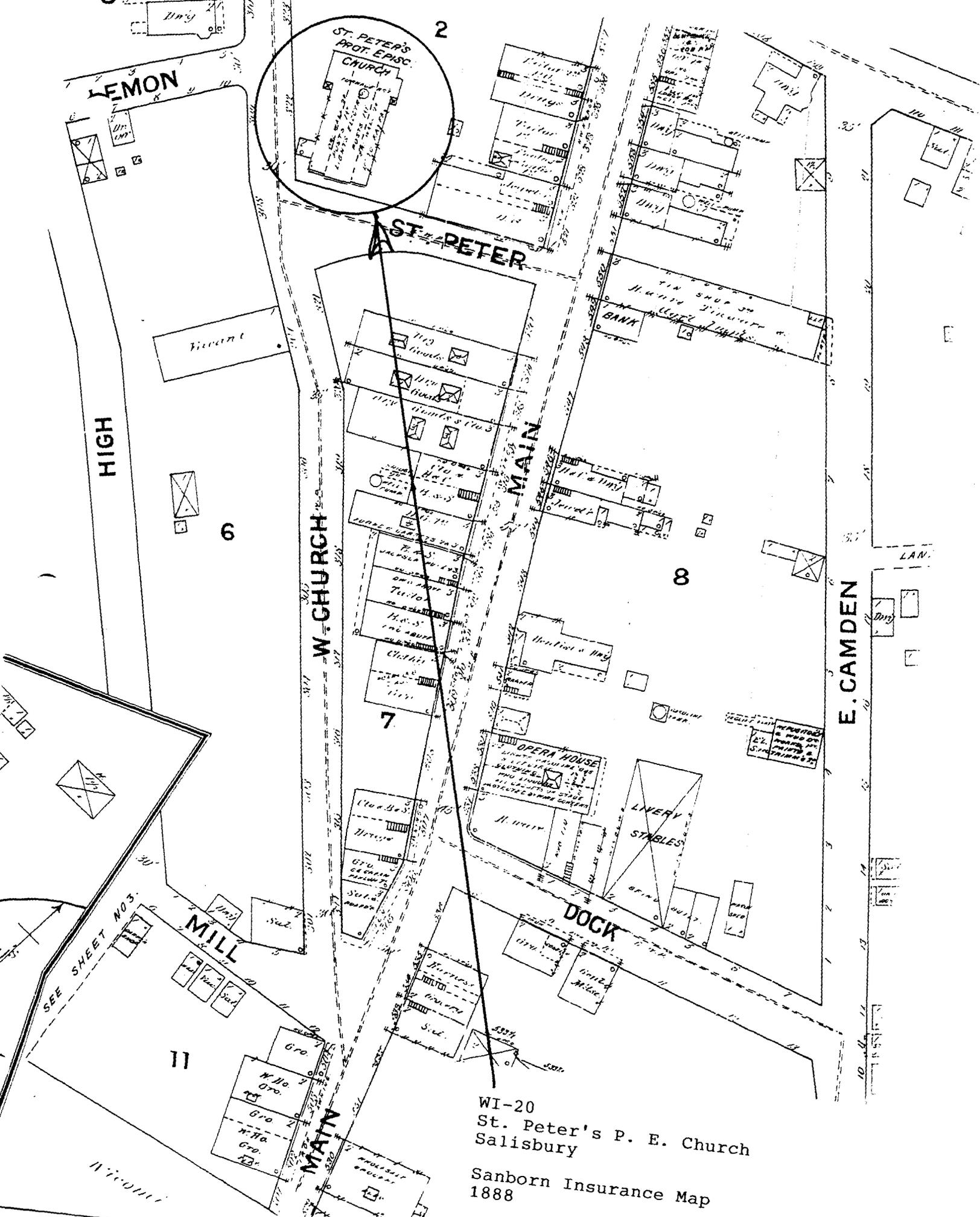
SEASIDE FOUNDRY

S.F. TOWN

WILKINS

Shed

10



WI-20  
St. Peter's P. E. Church  
Salisbury  
Sanborn Insurance Map  
1888





8

W. CHURCH

ST. PETERS

ST. PETERS  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

CITY HALL

PARISH HO

W. MAIN

MARKET (DOCK)

CAMDEN

AV.

L. W. GUNBY, CO.  
GARAGE

WI-20  
St. Peter's P. E. Church  
Salisbury

Sanborn Insurance Map  
1931

CIRCLE

AV.

ARMORY  
INFANTRY, CO. I.M.N.E.

AUTO SALES &  
SERVICE

AUTO REPAIRING

119

1931

1953

2 + 3

SALISBURY MD.



WI-20  
St. Peter's P. E. Church  
Salisbury

Sanborn Insurance Map  
1953

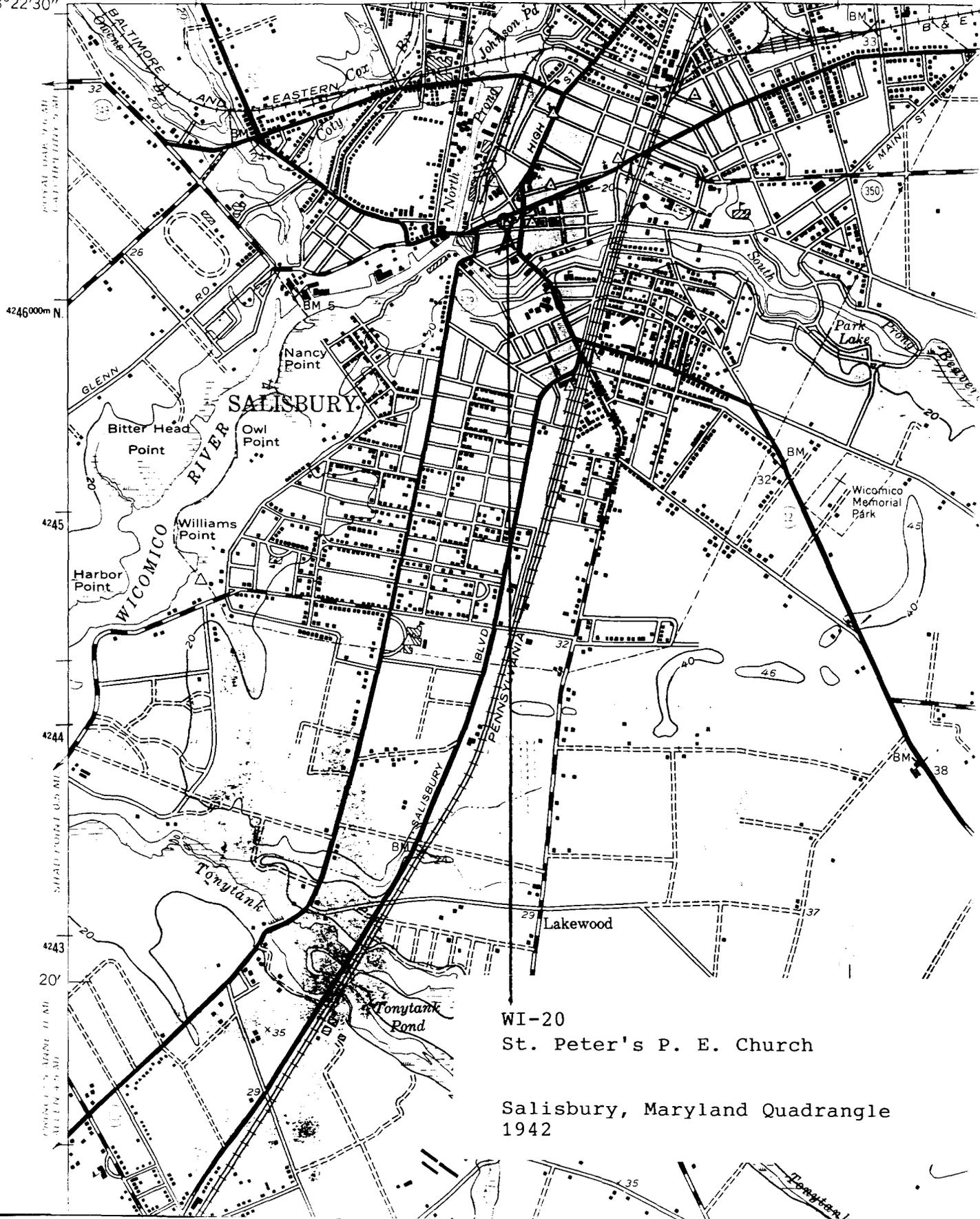
UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

5860 1 NW  
(HEBRON)

75°37'30"  
38°22'30"

47000m E

35'



WI-20  
St. Peter's P. E. Church

Salisbury, Maryland Quadrangle  
1942



W1-20

St. Peter's P. E. Church  
Salisbury, Wicomico County, MD.  
Southwest Elevation

4/99, Paul Touart, Photographer  
N.E.C. / M.D. Historical Trust

1 of 4



W1-20

St. Peter's P. E. Church Parish House  
Salisbury, Wicomico Co., MD.

WEST ELEVATION

4/99, Paul Touart, PITTSLANDER  
NEG. / MD. HISTORICAL TRUST

2 of 4



W1-20

ST. PETER'S P. E. CHURCH  
SALISBURY, WICOMICO Co. MD  
SW ELEVATION OF TOWER  
4/99, PAUL TUGNET, PHOTOGRAPHER  
NEC. / M.D. HISTORICAL TRUST  
3 OF 4



VI-20

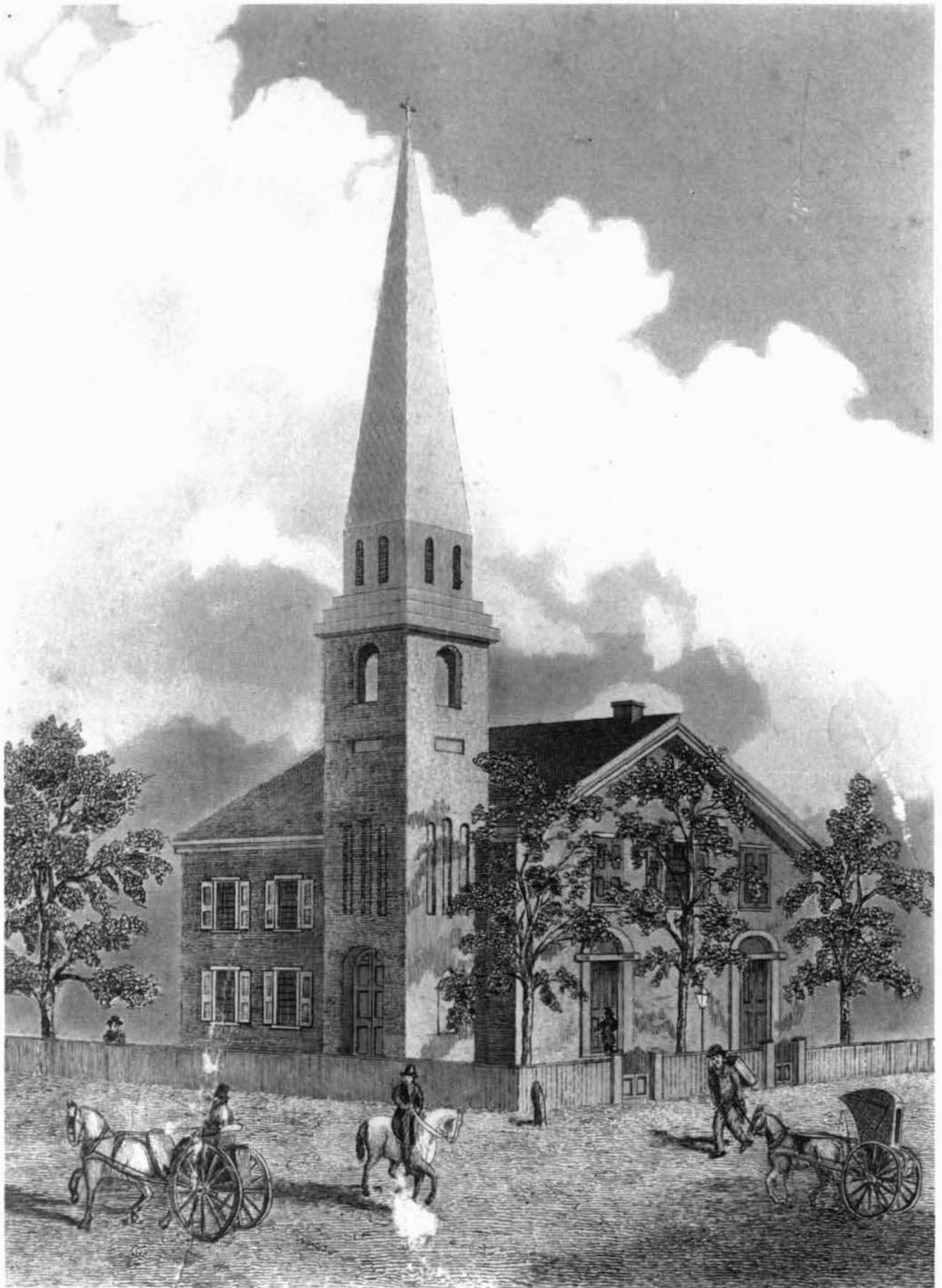
St. Peter's P. & C. Co. Inc.  
SALISBURY, WISCONSIN

WEST ELEVATION

4/99, PAUL TOWNE, PHOTOGRAPHER

NEE (M.D. INSURANCE TRUST)

4 OF 4









NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	
COUNTY:	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON: **St. Peter's Church**

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: **Church Street**

CITY OR TOWN: **Salisbury**

STATE: **Maryland** CODE: COUNTY: **Wicomico** CODE:

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Public <input type="checkbox"/>	Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes: Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/>	Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/>	Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/>
Object <input type="checkbox"/>	Both <input type="checkbox"/>	Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/>	No: <input type="checkbox"/>
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/>	Government <input type="checkbox"/>	Park <input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation <input type="checkbox"/>
Commercial <input type="checkbox"/>	Industrial <input type="checkbox"/>	Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/>	Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/>
Educational <input type="checkbox"/>	Military <input type="checkbox"/>	Religious <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Entertainment <input type="checkbox"/>	Museum <input type="checkbox"/>	Scientific <input type="checkbox"/>	

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNERS NAME: **(St. Peter's Parish)**

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: **Salisbury** STATE: **Maryland** CODE:

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:

ACREAGE

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **city lot**

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:

STATE:

COUNTY:

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION		
CONDITION	(Check One)	
	Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/> Ruins <input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed <input type="checkbox"/>
INTEGRITY	(Check One)	(Check One)
	Altered <input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Moved <input type="checkbox"/> Original Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE		
<p>Built to replace an earlier church that burned down, St. Peter's is basically an Early Christian basilica in plan and style. It has a long, narrow nave, <del>with</del> flanked by lower side aisles, as well as a free-standing campanile, or bell tower. The external decoration is the result of slight constructional variations (recessed windows, niches, and panels, corbelled bricks, and so forth) rather than consciously-applied decorative devices. The external arrangement very closely reflects the internal plan.</p> <p>Interior is made up of a long, narrow nave with low side aisles (these have lean-to roofs) whose simple wood roof (plain king-post trusses for strengthening) continues eastward to cover the chancel; actually the only thing that separates the nave and the chancel is a brick chancel arch, plus three steps and a cross-beam supporting a rood. The nave is 5 bays with a nave arcade supported by plain columns with simplified Romanesque-composite capitals (actually the pews continue into the side aisles without interruption, thus the plan is similar to those employed by Henry Vaughan, e.g. Mission Church of the Holy Cross, New York City, 1885, now destroyed) and generally the interior retains the narrow, medieval feeling necessary to Anglican worship while still accomodating a reasonably large congregation. The nave has simple, round-topped (Romanesque) windows, filled with glass of various periods (some Burnham). The altarward feeling is accented by wide (approx. 4 feet) horizontal bands of different colored bricks. There is a row of six small, round-headed windows high-up on the east wall, most of which is reserved for a large, gold-leafed triptych, featuring the Crucifixion.</p> <p>Overall effect of the interior is one of richness, achieved primarily by constructional polychromy (bricks of different colors, etc.), rather than by actual decoration.</p> <p>Tile floor. Morning chapel at east end of north aisle. There is a new pipe organ (1971, Möhler of Hagerstown).</p>		

**SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Pre-Columbian <input type="checkbox"/>	16th Century <input type="checkbox"/>	18th Century <input type="checkbox"/>	20th Century <input type="checkbox"/>
15th Century <input type="checkbox"/>	17th Century <input type="checkbox"/>	19th Century <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1887**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Include Personages, Dates, Events, Etc.)

St. Peter's Episcopal Church is perhaps the most important ecclesiastical structure in Salisbury and one of the most important churches on the Eastern Shore.

Basically similar to Richard Upjohn's St. Paul's Church in Baltimore (1853), and also stylistically not unlike St. Anne's Church, Annapolis (c1858), St. Peter's, Salisbury, is very interesting architecturally as an outstanding example of Early Christian Revival (or generally referred to as Lombard Romanesque and other titles) — a rather uncommon style and one rarely executed as finely or as accurately as ~~is~~ done here (the basic features — but not usually the spirit — were often employed in Roman Catholic churches). Interesting in the use of polychromy.

St. Peter's, and the neighboring City Hall, are major contributors to Salisbury's meagre ~~skyline~~ skyline.

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Mrs. Burnett's history of St. Peter's (exact title ?)

Vestry Records ?

Rev. Robert P. Varley

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN ONE ACRE		
CORNER	LATITUDE			LATITUDE		LONGITUDE
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
**William Morgan**

ORGANIZATION: **National Collection of Fine Arts**      DATE: **23 June 1971**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Smithsonian Institution**

CITY OR TOWN: **Washington**      STATE: **D.C.**      CODE:

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION      NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

<p>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:</p> <p>National <input type="checkbox"/>      State <input type="checkbox"/>      Local <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Name _____</p> <p>Title _____</p> <p>Date _____</p>	<p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p>_____ <i>Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation</i></p> <p>Date _____</p> <p>ATTEST:</p> <p>_____ <i>Keeper of The National Register</i></p> <p>Date _____</p>
------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

St Peter

lines of black headers at impost level

Windows set within panels - corbel table at cornice

(sanctuary)

Nave continues 2 more bays + section protruding 1/2 bay, with buttress extension to chimney at corner of ~~extension~~ extension.

lower part of leanto has single stain glass window in each bay - corbel table?

W1-20

Interior - central + side aisles - 2 rows of pews.

5 bays - arches on Corinthian columns divide the nave + aisle.

rows of black headers separate brick arches from the multicolored brick work. Clerestory separated by corbel table. Clerestory laid in straw-colored brick. Above impost (another row of corbels) is red brick wood trusses - roof exposed.

Nave divided for sanctuary by high brick arch extending into clerestory. At base of arch is capital in striped brick - beneath this is wood beam supports a cross.

leanto walls same as clerestory - corbels, brick work + roof.

side altar on both aisle - draw on S. dish.  
Organ on both sides, chancel (choir)

Sanctuary - row of 7 windows = clerestory  
small round window above

W1-20

Arched brickwork 3 bays wide + 4 deep

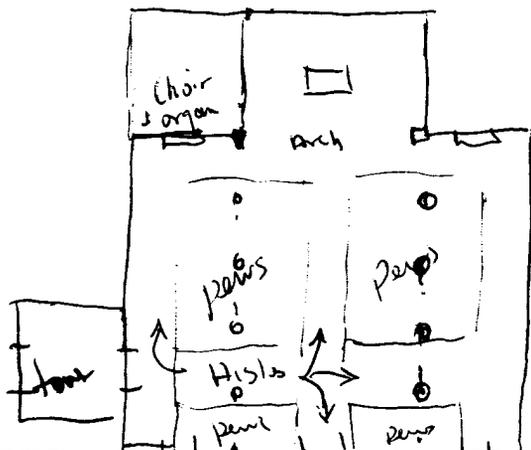
3 steps to altar - with white  
triptych behind altar, above a wood screen

Altar rail at choir + at sanctuary

3 steps to choir for nave.

separate aisle floor.

Vestibule only, in tower - other doors open to  
outside. . . Aisle across ~~at~~ have even  
with lower door.



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	
COUNTY:	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON: ST Peter's Church

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: Church St.

CITY OR TOWN: SALISBURY

STATE: MD CODE: COUNTY: WICOMICO CODE:

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Public <input type="checkbox"/>	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/>	Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/>
Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/>	Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	In Process <input type="checkbox"/>	Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/>	Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Object <input type="checkbox"/>	Both <input type="checkbox"/>	Being Considered <input type="checkbox"/>	Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/>	Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/>
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)				
Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/>	Government <input type="checkbox"/>	Park <input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation <input type="checkbox"/>	Comments <input type="checkbox"/>
Commercial <input type="checkbox"/>	Industrial <input type="checkbox"/>	Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/>	Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/>	
Educational <input type="checkbox"/>	Military <input type="checkbox"/>	Religious <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Entertainment <input type="checkbox"/>	Museum <input type="checkbox"/>	Scientific <input type="checkbox"/>		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: (ST. PETER'S PARISH)

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: SALISBURY STATE: MD CODE:

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:

ACREAGE APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: CITY LOT

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:

STATE:  
COUNTY:  
ENTRY NUMBER  
DATE  
FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Built to replace an earlier church that burned down, St. Peter's is basically an Early Christian style basilica. ~~It has like early Christian~~ in that it has a long and tall and narrow nave, flanked by side lower side aisles, as well as ~~set~~ a free-standing bell tower campanile (or bell tower). Free of ~~any~~ any real decoration, ~~textured~~ is the result of slight constructional variations (recessed panels, corbelled niches, and so forth) rather than conscious decoration. The external arrangement ~~reflects~~ very closely reflects the internal plan.

Interior: A long narrow nave with lower side aisles (have lean-to roofs) ~~with~~ whose simple ~~wood~~ wood roof (simple  trusses for strengthening) continues eastward to cover the chancel; actually only thing that separates nave + chancel are a brick chancel arch, steps, ~~or~~ plus a wood ~~to~~ cross piece (w/ wood screen ). A five bay nave arcade supported by simple columns with simplified composite-Romanesque capitals, lines ~~both~~ narrow nave (actually piers continue into side aisles (plan is similar to those employed by H. Vaughan, e.g. Holy Cross Min. or Ch., NYC 1885) — retains narrow, medieval feeling while accommodating congregation, etc. Nave has simple Romanesque  windows (plan of various periods). ~~Afterward~~ <sup>interior</sup> feeling accentuated by wide (c 4') horizontal bands of different color bricks, as well as bands of mixed bricks. There ~~are~~ is a row of 6 small, round-headed windows high up on east wall, most of which is reserved for a large, gold-leaved triptych, featuring the

Crucifixion. Overall effect is one of richness, achieved ~~primarily~~ <sup>primarily</sup> by structural polychromy (bricks, etc.) rather than by decoration. Tile floor

Small, early chancel - early side aisle

primarily by structural polychromy (bricks, etc.) rather than by decoration. Tile floor

Crucifixion. Overall effect is one of richness, achieved primarily by structural polychromy (bricks, etc.) rather than by decoration. Tile floor

**SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Pre-Columbian <input type="checkbox"/>	16th Century <input type="checkbox"/>	18th Century <input type="checkbox"/>	20th Century <input type="checkbox"/>
15th Century <input type="checkbox"/>	17th Century <input type="checkbox"/>	19th Century <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1887

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Include Personages, Dates, Events, Etc.)

St Peter's Episcopal Church is perhaps one of the most important churches on the Eastern Shore and probably the most important in Salisbury. <sup>Especially</sup> ~~rather~~ similar to Richard Upjohn's St. Paul's, Baltimore (1853) and also stylistically not unlike St. Anne's, Annapolis (1859), St. Peter's, Salisbury is very interesting architecturally as ~~one of few~~ outstanding examples of ~~the~~ Early Christian Revival (or later Lombard Romanesque) — a rather uncommon style and one rarely executed as finely and as accurately as this ~~one~~ church (Basic features often employed in R.C. churches of this period). Made more interesting by use of polychromy.

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

VESTRY RECORDS (?)  
 BURNETT HISTORY OF CHURCH

Rev. Robt P. Varley

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN ONE ACRE		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
 W MORLAN

ORGANIZATION: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: 23 JUN 71

STREET AND NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY OR TOWN: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ CODE: \_\_\_\_\_

**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 \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date \_\_\_\_\_





W-20

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