

WI-387
First Baptist Church
Mardela Springs
Public worship

1925

The First Baptist Church is a large Gothic Revival brick building that highlights the west end of Mardela Springs. Built in 1925 of stretcher bond brick on a poured concrete foundation, the walls of the rectangular building are pierced by Gothic arched windows of colored glass. The principal sanctuary window is a large tripartite composition with emblematic colored glass windows. Each of the window and door openings is accented by a triple-course rowlock arch. The signature feature of the building, along with the windows, is a three-story entrance tower that dominates the northeast corner. Double door entrances pierce the north and east walls, and each opening has a large pointed arch, colored glass transom. The top of the tower is finished with a crenelated wall.

The church members trace their history back to 1892 when a rural congregation known as Branch Hill Baptist Church was organized under the auspices of the Baptist church in Vienna. The Branch Hill congregation established a mission in Mardela Springs and met in a place known as Wilson's Hall. Construction of this brick church, considered more convenient to the rural site, was begun in 1925 during the pastorship of Gary L. Hostetter. The church was completed at a cost of \$15,000. The purchase of the colored glass windows was sponsored by individual members.

MARYLAND HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN INFORMATION

RESOURCE NAME: First Baptist Church

MHT INVENTORY NUMBER: WI-387

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

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. WI-387

Magi No.

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic First Baptist Church

and/or common

2. Location

street & number Main Street not for publication

city, town Mardela Springs 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	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<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 Trustees of the First Baptist Church

street & number Main Street telephone no.:

city, town Mardela Springs state and zip code MD 21837

5. Location of Legal Description

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

street & number Wicomico County Courthouse folio

city, town Salisbury state MD 21801

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. WI-387

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

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

The First Baptist Church of Mardela Springs is a blockish single-story Gothic Revival brick building that stands on the south side of Main Street near the intersection of Spring Grove Road at the west end of Mardela Springs, Wicomico County, Maryland. The church faces north with the principal gable roof oriented on a north/south axis.

Built in 1925, the stretcher bond brick church is supported on a raised concrete foundation that includes a full cellar. The church is covered by a medium pitched asphalt shingle gable roof. Rising on the northeast corner is a three-story entrance tower.

The north (main) facade is an asymmetrical elevation with a gable-front facade of the church juxtaposed against the vertical three-story form of the entrance tower. The gable-front elevation is pierced by a series of large and small Gothic arched window openings. Centered in the wall is the principal opening, a tripartite composition of colored glass windows. The pointed arch opening is highlighted by a triple-course rowlock arch. Flanking the principal window are smaller pointed arch colored glass windows also defined by triple-course rowlock arches as is a side entrance in the western bay. Fixed within the upper gable is a half-round louvered vent. The edge of the roof is extended and the soffit is enclosed. The foundation level is scored concrete in an effort to imitate stone, and the walls are pierced by eight-over-eight sash windows filled with opaque glass.

The north wall of the entrance tower is defined on the first floor by a large Gothic arched double door entrance filled with a colored glass transom above the double doors. A triple rowlock arch outlines the Gothic point. Fixed in the lower northeast corner of the tower is a marble datestone inscribed "1st Baptist Church, 1925." The second level is defined by paired twelve-pane windows topped by a triple course arch of rowlock bricks. Stretching across the wall at the window sill level is a concrete string or beltcourse. The third level is pierced by a squarish louvered vent also topped by a triple-course rowlock arch and featuring a concrete stringcourse at the window sill height. The top of the tower is crenelated and covered with a concrete cap that follows the profile of the crenelation.

The east side of the tower is identical to the front side, and the side wall of the church is pierced by a series of five Gothic arched windows filled with colored glass. Each arch is highlighted by a triple rowlock arch. The foundation wall is pierced by eight-over-eight sash windows of opaque glass.

The west side is defined by a series of six Gothic arched windows also filled with colored glass and highlighted by triple course rowlock arches. The foundation is pierced by eight-over-eight basement windows.

The south (rear) wall is marked by an asymmetrical elevation of Gothic arched windows and a rear door opening. The upper gable has a half-round louvered vent. Rising through the southwest corner of the church is a single flue stove chimney.

The interior was not seen.

8. Significance

Survey No. WI-387

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1925 **Builder/Architect**

check: Applicable Criteria: A B C D
and/or
Applicable Exception: A B C D E F G

Level of Significance: national state local

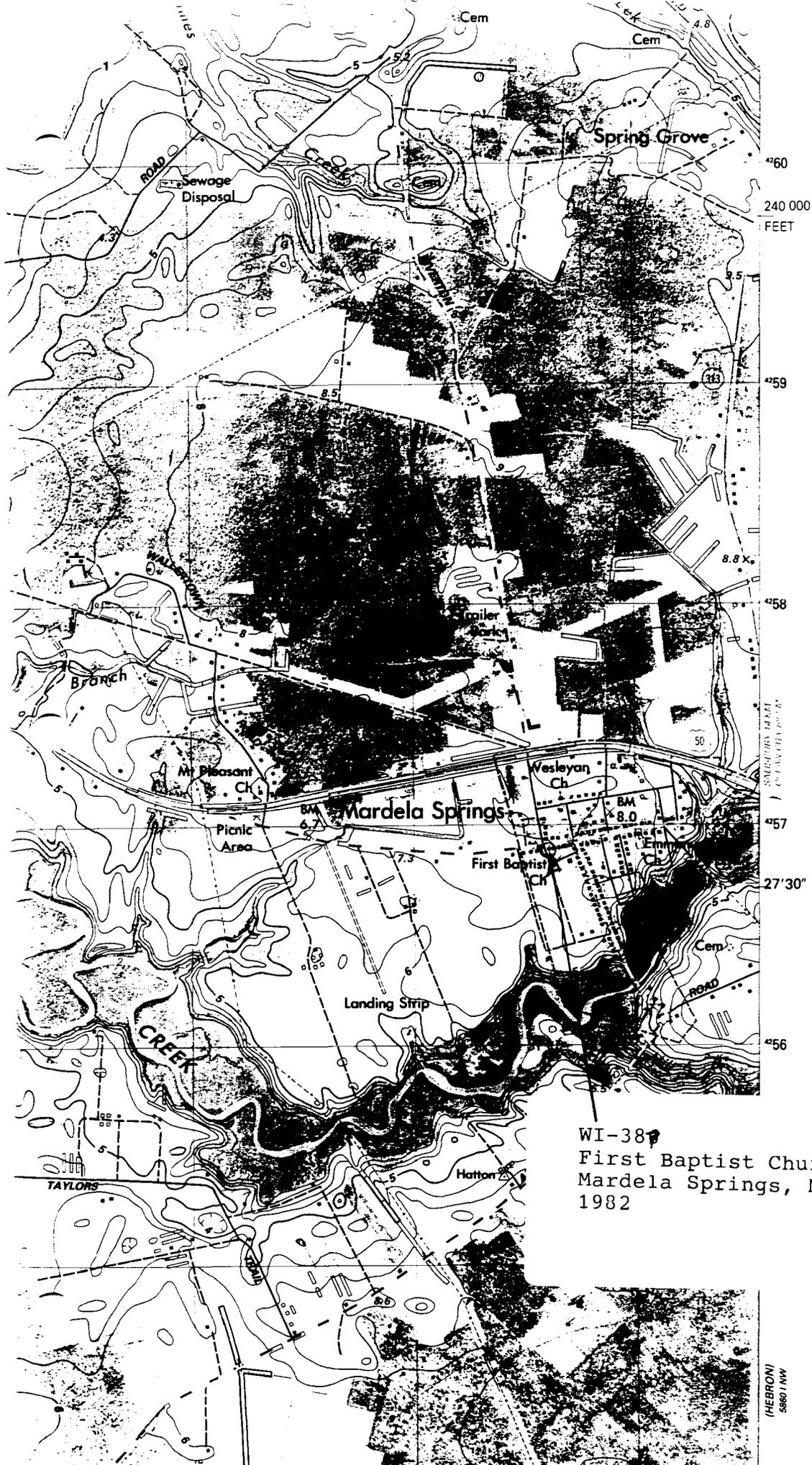
Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

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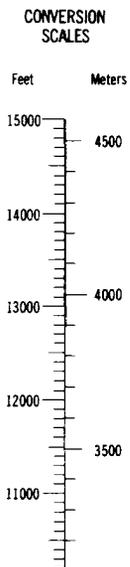
The church members trace their history back to 1892 when a rural congregation known as Branch Hill Baptist Church was organized under the auspices of the Baptist church in Vienna. The Branch Hill congregation established a mission in Mardela Springs and met in a place known as Wilson’s Hall. Construction of this brick church, considered more convenient to the rural site, was begun in 1925 during the pastorship of Gary L. Hostetter. The church was completed at a cost of \$15,000.¹ The purchase of the colored glass windows was sponsored by individual members.

The First Baptist Church is a dominant architectural fixture along Main Street and it deserves listing in *Category A*.

¹ “Our Church History,” authored by the Women’s Missionary Union, 1996, no pagination.



4260
240 000
FEET
4259
4258
4257
27°30'
4256



WI-38
First Baptist Church
Mardela Springs, MD Quadrangle
1982

