DATA SHEET

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY – NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Maryland
COUNTY: Wicomico
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE OCT 2 2 1975

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON:

✱✱ Spring Hill Church

AND/OR HISTORIC:

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

North side of U.S. 50 at Md. 347, one mile N.E. of Hebron

CITY OR TOWN: Hebron *mic*	CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: First	
STATE: Maryland	CODE 24	COUNTY: Wicomico	CODE 045

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
☐ District ☒ Building ☐ Site ☐ Structure ☐ Object	☐ Public ☒ Private ☐ Both Public Acquisition: ☐ In Process ☐ Being Considered	☒ Occupied ☐ Unoccupied ☐ Preservation work in progress	Yes: ☒ Restricted ☐ Unrestricted ☐ No

PRESENT USE *(Check One or More as Appropriate)*

☐ Agricultural	☐ Government	☐ Park	☐ Transportation	☐ Comments
☐ Commercial	☐ Industrial	☐ Private Residence	☐ Other *(Specify)*	
☐ Educational	☐ Military	☒ Religious		
☐ Entertainment	☐ Museum	☐ Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:

Vestry of St. Paul's Episcopal Church

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Hebron	STATE: Maryland	CODE 24

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:

Wicomico County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Salisbury	STATE Maryland	CODE 24

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
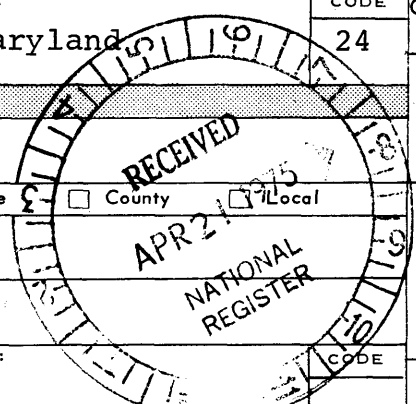
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CONDITION	*(Check One)*					
	☐ Excellent	☒ Good	☐ Fair	☐ Deteriorated	☐ Ruins	☒ Unexposed
	(Check One)				*(Check One)*	
	☐ Altered	☒ Unaltered			☐ Moved	☒ Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL *(if known)* PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Spring Hill Church, or St. Paul's Episcopal Church, is located on the north side of U.S. 50 at the intersection with Md. 347 approximately one mile northeast of Hebron. This one-story church strongly resembles Green Hill Church, located eight miles south on the Wicomico River. Spring Hill is a white frame structure two bays wide and four deep and is set on a brick foundation laid in Flemish bond with glazed headers.

The west end has two double doors, restored in 1972. Each door has four panels and large strap hinges. Above the doors in the gable are two, twelve over twelve windows with green batten shutters. Between these windows is a sign which reads "St. Paul's Episcopal Church 1773."

The east end has one segmental arch window, twenty over twenty light with green batten shutters, in each bay. Between these two windows is a small projecting pavilion with a door in the center and a segmental arch window, twelve over twelve sash, on the north and south sides. The slope of the gable roof echoes that of the church itself.

Both the north and south sides have four segmental arch windows, twenty over twenty sash, with green batten shutters. A wood, cove cornice extends along the roof on both sides.

The interior woodwork is unpainted cedar. There is a barrel vault ceiling and three large beams, with beaded edges one in each gable end. In the center of the north and south sides there is evidence that a narrow chimney stack has been removed. There are two aisles with pews through the center and along both side walls. The closed box pews are paneled. The side pews have benches on three sides of the boxes while the center pews have benches on only one side. There are plain rectangular frames around the segmental arch windows. In the southwest corner a winding stairway rises to the gallery which extends across the west end of the church. The gallery is supported in the center by a square, fluted column with a plain pedestal and entablature. The pews in the gallery are rather crude compared with those on the main floor. They have benches along two sides, perpendicular to the gallery rail.

Spring Hill Church is an active parish.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

PERIOD *(Check One or More as Appropriate)*

☐ Pre-Columbian	☐ 16th Century	☒ 18th Century	☐ 20th Century
☐ 15th Century	☐ 17th Century	☐ 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) *(If Applicable and Known)* 1773

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE *(Check One or More as Appropriate)*

Aboriginal			☐ Urban Planning
☐ Prehistoric	☐ Education	☐ Political	☐ Other *(Specify)*
☐ Historic	☐ Engineering	☒ Religion/Phi-	
☐ Agriculture	☐ Industry	losophy	_____
☒ Architecture	☐ Invention	☐ Science	_____
☐ Art	☐ Landscape	☐ Sculpture	_____
☐ Commerce	Architecture	☐ Social/Human-	_____
☐ Communications	☐ Literature	itarian	_____
☐ Conservation	☐ Military	☐ Theater	_____
	☐ Music	☐ Transportation	_____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Spring Hill Church (also known as Old Spring Hill and St. Paul's Episcopal Church) is an architecturally significant building because it exhibits many of the structural features which were typical of Maryland's eighteenth century country churches and because its interior woodwork is original. H. Chandlee Forman, in Maryland Architecture,[1] states that the walls of the early country churches were often timber-framed, with an overlay of weatherboarding. Floor plans were usually rectangular, and the overall exterior appearance was barn-like. The interior space on either side of the main aisle (or aisles) was divided into box stalls, with a pulpit to one side.[2] The barrel vault type of ceiling was popular, and interiors were painted white or left unpainted, as was done at Spring Hill. "...the Maryland church of this era was plain, simple, and barn-like, except for rare examples...It was the product more of utility and function than of an essay to adorn the Christian religion by impressive baroque or baronial monuments and decoration."[3]

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[1]H. Chandlee Forman, Maryland Architecture. (Cambridge: Tidewater Publishers, 1968) p. 45.

[2]"It was not until a new floor was laid in 1956 that evidence was uncovered which indicated that a high pulpit had originally been in the center of the east side wall." From Virginia M. Dick, Old Spring Hill Church. (Salisbury: Charlie's Print Shop, 1973) p. 3.

[3]H. Chandlee Forman, Maryland Architecture. (Cambridge: Tidewater Publishers, 1968) p. 46.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Dashiell, Cassius M. "History of Stepney Parish." Unpublished
    manuscript, 1892.
Dick, Virginia M. Old Spring Hill Church. Salisbury: Charlie's
    Print Shop, 1973.
Forman, H. Chandlee. Maryland Architecture. Cambridge:
    Tidewater Publishers, 1968.
Stepney Parish Vestry Ledger, 1768-1775. Hall of Records,
    Annapolis, Maryland.
Torrence, Clayton. Old Somerset on the Eastern Shore of Maryland.
    Baltimore: Regional Publishing Company, 1966.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

CORNER	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 TEN ACRES					
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SW	°	' "	° ' "							

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: ~~5 acres~~ 2 ACRES

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES L-E-WOVICIA

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	29 Line	CODE
			1976	
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:		CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:		CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:		CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:

Ann E. Hill, Summer Intern; Lois Snyderman, Research Assistant

ORGANIZATION	DATE
Maryland Historical Trust	July, 1974

STREET AND NUMBER:

2525 Riva Road

CITY OR TOWN:	STATE	CODE
Annapolis	Maryland	24

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

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 _Arthur C. Townsend_

Title State Historic Preservation
            Officer

Date April 18, 1975

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Acting Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 10/22/76

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date 10 - 15 - 76

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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<u>Spring Hill Church</u>

Description continued

Original features remaining in Spring Hill Church are the
brick foundation; the slave gallery; the box pews on the side;
the old Holy Table; square wooden offering boxes; and the
interior woodwork. The framing and walls have undergone
extensive restoration, including much replacement of materials.
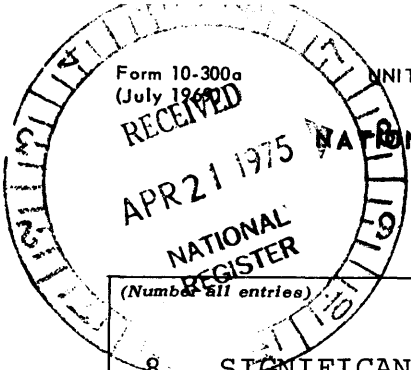
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Spring Hill Church

8.   SIGNIFICANCE, continued

The history of the establishment of Spring Hill Church
illustrates the close church-state relationship which existed
in the Province of Maryland before the Revolution. In 1692
the Maryland Assembly issued "An Act of the Service of Almighty
God and the Establishment of the Protestant Revolution in
the Province,"[4] which made the Church of England the Established
Church in Maryland, provided for the laying out of parishes
and the election of vestries in each parish, and set up a
taxation system to provide financial support for the Church.
The Act further provided for the erection of parish churches
and chapels of ease wherever they were needed.

Soon after the passage of the Act of 1692 Justices of
the Peace and a number of Freeholders from each Hundred met
in the Somerset County Courthouse and divided the County
into four parishes: Stepney, Coventry, Somerset, and Snow
Hill.

Green Hill Church, on the Wicomico River, was erected
about 1694 and became the parish church of Stepney Parish.
Three chapels of ease were built soon after, for the convenience
of settlers who had moved into virgin territory. One of these
was Spring Hill, situated on Rewastico Creek and erected on
a tract called Spring Hill, patented by Colonel Francis Jenkins.

The erection date of the original building is uncertain,
but the Somerset County records for March of 1725 refer to
the appointment of John Hoffington to be overseer of the road
above Spring Hill Chapel, and in 1733 Thomas Covington
was appointed overseer of the roads from Cyprus Bridge to
the Chapel at Spring Hill.[5]

In 1768 the Vestry of Green Hill Church petitioned the
General Assembly to pass an Act to rebuild the two chapels
of ease, "... their chapel of ease known by the name of Spring
Hill Chapel is in a ruinous condition and unfit to be repaired."[6]

[4]The Protestant Revolution in Maryland was part of the
movement which brought about the dethronement of the Catholic
House of Stuart in England, making possible the Protestant
succession of William and Mary. Lord Baltimore's Catholicism
was used against him by his enemies and Maryland became a Royal
Province, under the Crown, instead of a Proprietary Colony under
Lord Baltimore. Clayton Torrence, Old Somerset on the Eastern
Shore of Maryland. (Baltimore: Regional Publishing Company
1966), p. 150.

[5]Clayton, Torrence, Old Somerset on the Eastern Shore of
Maryland. (Baltimore: Regional Publishing Company, 1966)p.189.

[6]Virginia M. Dick. Old Spring Hill Church (Salisbury:
Charlie's Print Shop, 1973) p. 8

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet) #2

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<u>Spring Hill Church</u>

8.   SIGNIFICANCE, continued

The Assembly authorized the vestry to purchase two acres close to the existing chapel and to erect a new building. Six thousand pounds of tobacco was levied for the rebuilding, and the existing structure was completed in 1773.
     An entry in the Stepney Parish Vestry ledger for the years 1768 to 1775 records that the inhabitants of Stepney Parish on January 8, 1771,paid "to John Hobbs for building Spring-hill Chapple £509, one half of which to be paid this year." 7
     In 1780 Stepney Parish became a part of the Diocese of Maryland in the newly formed Protestant Church of America, with Thomas Clagett appointed the first Bishop of Maryland. In 1827 the parish was divided, part of it becoming Spring Hill Parish, with the Spring Hill Chapel becoming the parish church. And in 1867, when Wicomico County was erected from portions of Somerset and Worcester counties, Spring Hill Church became part of the new county.
     A Maryland Historical Society Marker near the Church reads:
     "Old Spring Hill, St. Paul's Church. Established
     here between 1711 and 1725 as a chapel of ease for
     Green Hill Church (1694) located 8 miles south on
     the Wicomico River. The present edifice was com-
     pleted in 1773 to replace the original structure.
     Some of the original furnishings are still in use."

     7Stepney Parish Vestry Ledger, 1768-1775. Hall of Records, Annapolis, Maryland.
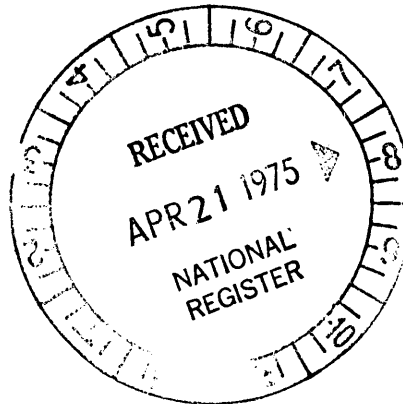
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SPRING HILL CHURCH

CONTINUATION SHEET	ITEM NUMBER	PAGE

\# 1   CHANGE form to read   (historic name):
Spring Hill Church (St. Paul's Episcopal Church.)

\# 4   Owner of Property add:
Contact William Wright, Mardela Springs, Maryland 301-749-7092

\# 7   Description
The restoration of Spring Hill Church consisted of returning
the entrance (west elevation) to its original configuration.
As constructed (1771-1773) the west end had two doors. This
was altered to one centrally placed door before the recent
return to the original configuration. An eighteenth century
(style) door was found in the attic and was duplicated exactly.

NAM/June 1976.