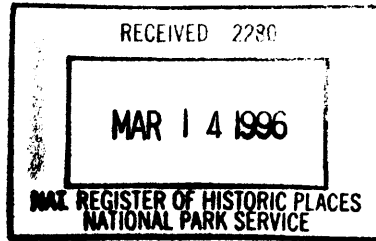


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name ST. PAUL'S METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number Corner of MD Route 413 and Sign Road N/A not for publication

city or town Westover N/A vicinity

state Maryland code MD county Somerset code 039 zip code 21871

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature] 3/11/96 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

- I hereby certify that the property is:
- entered in the National Register. See continuation sheet.
 - determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.
 - determined not eligible for the National Register.
 - removed from the National Register.
 - other, (explain:)

[Signature] Signature of the Keeper
Edson A. Beall
Date of Action 4-12-96

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION/Religious facility

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

OTHER/storage

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN/GOTHIC

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick

walls Weatherboard

roof Asphalt

other _____

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET NO. 1

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

c.1883

Significant Dates

c.1883

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance SEE CONTINUATION SHEET NO. 6

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography SEE CONTINUATION SHEET NO.

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: Somerset Co. Historical Trust, Inc.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property .504

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1 8	4 3 8 0 1 0	4 2 1 9 5 0 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing
2			

3			
	Zone	Easting	Northing
4			

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description SEE CONTINUATION SHEET NO. 12
(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification SEE CONTINUATION SHEET NO. 12
(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Paul B. Touart, Architectural Historian

organization Private Consultant date 10/18/94

street & number P.O. Box 5 telephone (410) 651-1094

city or town Westover state MD zip code 21871

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Mrs. Luther Catlin, Jr.

street & number P.O. Box 185 telephone _____

city or town Westover state MD zip code 21871

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

ST. PAUL'S METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Somerset County
Maryland

Section number 7 Page 1

DESCRIPTION SUMMARY:

St. Paul's Methodist Episcopal Church is a T-shaped frame church building erected around 1883 at the intersection of MD Route 413 and Sign Post Road in the railroad village of Westover, Somerset County, Maryland. The church reflects the influence of mail-order plans promulgated in the late 19th century by the Methodist Church Board of Church Extension. The building rests on a high brick pier foundation and is sheathed in wood weatherboards. A two-story entrance and bell tower is located in the reentrant corner. The gable-front elevations are pierced by colored-glass windows in a combination of rectangular and circular shapes. The building retains a high degree of integrity among 19th-century churches in the area. On the interior, an altar and choir platform is located in the west end of the large T-shaped sanctuary. Walls are finished in plaster above beaded-board wainscoting; remnants of original stenciled decoration survive.

See Continuation Sheet No. 2

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

ST. PAUL'S METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Somerset County
Maryland

Section number 7 Page 2

GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

St. Paul's M. E. Church stands on the northwest corner of the intersection of MD 413 and Sign Post Road in Westover, Somerset County, Maryland. The ca. 1883 single-story T-shaped frame church faces south with the principal gable roof oriented on an east/west axis.

The building is supported on a high brick pier foundation and sheathed in plain weatherboards. The steeply pitched gable roofs are clad with asphalt shingles. A two-story entrance and bell tower rises in the southeast reentrant corner of the T-plan.

The south elevation is asymmetrical, with a gable-front facade balanced with the two-story tower. The south gable is marked by a pair of narrow colored glass windows framed by a shallow pointed arch surround. The window lintel is embellished with an applied clover-leaf decoration. Fixed above the two rectangular windows is a round light of pie-shaped colored glass panes. The eave is extended and the soffit is sloped. An interior single-flue brick stove chimney rises in the southeast corner of the south wall. The south face of the tower is dominated by a double-door entrance topped by a pointed arch, colored glass transom. An arched cornice trims the base of the tower, repeating the pointed arch motif. The tower base curves slightly inward as it rises toward the open belfry. The belfry is distinguished by a turned baluster handrail and sawn corner brackets. The steeply pitched pyramidal tower roof has a flared eave and a metal cap.

The east gable end elevation is marked by a pair of rectangular colored glass windows below a round window of pie-shaped, colored glass panes. A narrow brick stove chimney rises from the northeast corner of the church. A marble datestone was formerly fixed in the corner of the southeast pier; this was removed when the Methodist Conference sold the property.

The north side of the church is three bays wide, defined by three evenly spaced rectangular colored glass windows with clover-leaf lintel decoration.

See Continuation Sheet No. 3

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

ST. PAUL'S METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Somerset County
Maryland

Section number 7 Page 3

The west gable end is marked by a single round window of pie-shaped colored glass panes, and the west side of the south arm of the T-plan has a rectangular colored glass window.

The double front doors provide access into a small vestibule with double doors in each wall opening into the sanctuary. The walls are plastered above beaded board wainscoting. Green and yellow stenciled decoration survives at chair rail height and at the cornice level. This comprises a floral motif at the chair rail level, and a wreath design alternated with an eternal flame on the upper wall surface. A board ceiling is pierced by a small access panel.

The sanctuary is treated similarly, with plastered walls above beaded board wainscoting. The ceiling is a three-sided, vaulted space covered with a grid pattern of beaded tongue-and-groove boards. Early twentieth century globe lights hang from the ceiling. The altar and choir are raised on a platform above the sanctuary floor. The altar furniture and the pews have been removed from the church, but the upright piano and hoop backed choir chairs remain. A small cupboard fixed in the southeast corner of the sanctuary formerly held hymnals. This area also shows evidence of early stencil decoration surviving under later wallpaper.

See Continuation Sheet No. 4

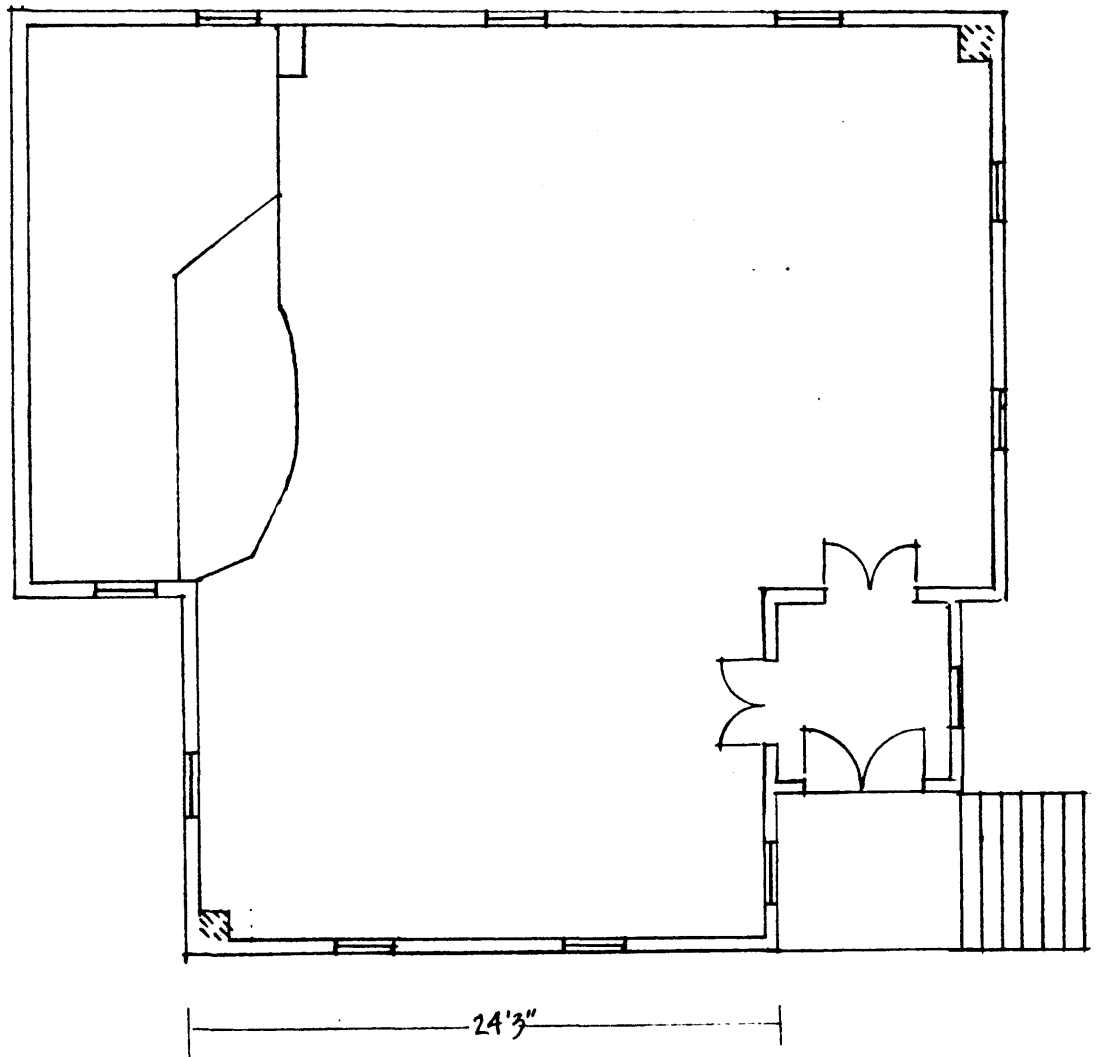
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

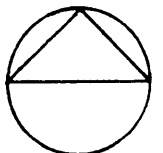
ST. PAUL'S METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Somerset County
Maryland

Section number 7 Page 4

FLOOR PLAN



ST. PAUL'S M. E. CHURCH S-182
 WESTOVER, SOMERSET COUNTY, MARYLAND
 1/8" = 1'0" P.B.T.



See Continuation Sheet No. 5

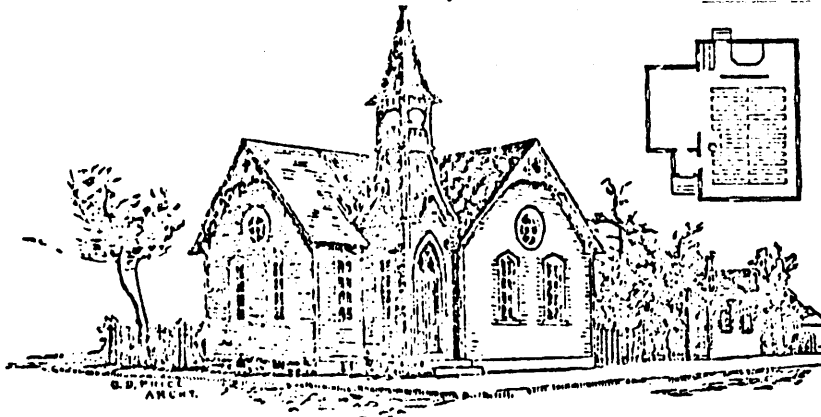
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

ST. PAUL'S METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Somerset County
Maryland

Section number 7 Page 5

"Church Plan No. 19A" from Catalogue of Architectural Plans for Churches and Parishes
(Philadelphia: Methodist Episcopal Church Board of Church Extension, 14th ed., 1889).



CHURCH PLAN, No. 19 A.—PLANS FOR FRAME.

Price List.	$\left. \begin{array}{l} 22 \times 36 \text{ feet.} \\ 22 \times 40 \text{ " } \\ 24 \times 40 \text{ " } \end{array} \right\} \5.00	$\left. \begin{array}{l} 21 \times 45 \text{ feet.} \\ 28 \times 45 \text{ " } \\ 28 \times 50 \text{ " } \end{array} \right\} \6.00	$\left. \begin{array}{l} 30 \times 45 \text{ feet.} \\ 30 \times 50 \text{ " } \\ 32 \times 50 \text{ " } \end{array} \right\} \7.00

The lecture-room is 14x21 feet, and will seat 60 persons. The tower is 8x8 feet, 40 feet high. The walls are 14 feet to the square, and the ceiling 18 feet high in the middle. The audience-room of the 21x40 size, will seat 136. The 30x50 size will seat comfortably 210.

The heating is by a furnace in the cellar. The cost will range from \$900 to \$1800.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

ST. PAUL'S METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Somerset County
Maryland

Section number 8 Page 6

SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY:

St. Paul's M. E. Church is significant under Criterion C as an example of a church building whose design was derived from the Catalogue of Architectural Plans for Churches and Parsonages, which was printed in a series of annual editions during the late 19th century and distributed nationwide by the Board of Church Extension of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Architect Benjamin D. Price of Philadelphia prepared the plans under the auspices of the Board of Church Extension. These plans depicted frame or masonry church buildings in various sizes, with estimated construction costs ranging from \$300 to \$20,000. The catalogue also offered designs for parsonages, and included advertisements for roofing, hardware, varnish, furnaces, movable partitions, church bells, stained glass windows, and organs. Church plans were sold by mail at prices of \$3.50 to \$75.00. The Board of Church Extension's purpose in making such plans available at nominal cost was to enable congregations throughout the country, whatever their means, to construct attractive, convenient, and economical houses of worship. St. Paul's M. E. Church, with its T-plan and two-story entrance and bell tower, corresponds to Church Plan No. 19A illustrated in this publication. The builders of St. Paul's Church made only minor changes to the published plan. Very few nineteenth-century churches in Somerset County have identifiable design sources.

See Continuation Sheet No. 7

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

ST. PAUL'S METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Somerset County
Maryland

Section number 8 Page 7

HISTORIC CONTEXT:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Eastern Shore

Chronological/Developmental Period(s):

Industrial/Urban Dominance - A.D. 1870-1930

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme(s):

Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Community
Planning

Resource Type:

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function(s) and Use(s):

RELIGION/Religious facility

Known Design Source: design derived from Plan 19A,
Catalogue of Architectural Plans for Churches and
Parsonages, Philadelphia: Board of Church
Extension of the Methodist Episcopal Church, 1875
and later. Benjamin D. Price, architect.

See Continuation Sheet No. 8

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

ST. PAUL'S METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Somerset County
Maryland

Section number 8 Page 8

HISTORIC CONTEXT:

St. Paul's Methodist Episcopal Church is the best-preserved of three late nineteenth century churches in Westover. The other churches, St. Elizabeth's Catholic Church (S-184) and St. James United Methodist Church (S-179), have been altered with mid-20th century additions and synthetic siding. St. Paul's M. E. Church has undergone few changes since the early twentieth century, and retains a high degree of integrity.

St. Paul's M. E. Church is one of a very small number of historic rural churches in the Eastern Shore region for which the design source has been identified.

RESOURCE HISTORY

St. Paul's Methodist Episcopal Church is a landmark in the village of Westover, reflecting the growth of the community following the establishment of a railroad connection between Princess Anne and Crisfield in 1866. Through the remainder of the nineteenth century, the community of Westover, named for the nearby Wilson family plantation (S-50), coalesced into an independent village of several stores, a railroad depot, a steam saw mill and flour mill, a post office, and a dozen dwellings. St. Paul's Methodist Episcopal Church was erected around 1883 to serve a newly-established congregation, reflecting the growth of the new community.

The construction of St. Paul's M. E. Church is tied to a June 1883 transfer of a lot of land between Levin H. and Margaret E. Beauchamp and the trustees of the newly formed St. Paul's Methodist Episcopal congregation. Named in the deed were William M. Ruark, Samuel F. Layfield, Levin H. Beauchamp, George B. Zell, William H. Ruark, Robert H. Jones, and William J. Layfield.

In his compendium of church histories called The Garden of Methodism, E.C. Hallman wrote in 1948 that St. Paul's was organized in 1882 with construction following the year after. He states that William Mahew Ruark was largely responsible for financing the

See Continuation Sheet No. 9

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

ST. PAUL'S METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Somerset County
Maryland

Section number 8 Page 9

building program, which totaled \$1,775. William M. Ruark was a prominent Westover resident who established the village flour mill around 1876.

The design of St. Paul's M. E. Church is clearly derived from the elevation, plan, and specifications designated as "Church Plan, No. 19A", as drawn by architect Benjamin D. Price for the Board of Church Extension. Only minor modifications were made to the published plan. The front door was moved to the other (south) wall of the tower, and the decorative eave sawnwork shown in the drawings was not applied. While the specifications called for a cellar furnace, St. Paul's was warmed by coal-fired stoves set up in opposite corners of the structure. St. Paul's final cost of \$1,775 fell within the range of \$900 to \$1,800 estimated in the Catalogue.

The Board of Church Extension offered a variety of plans available at nominal cost to enable congregations throughout the country, whatever their means, to construct attractive, convenient, and economical houses of worship. In Westover, the small size and modest financial resources of the congregation dictated the construction of a diminutive church with limited decorative embellishment. Nevertheless, the asymmetrical plan, the dominant entrance and bell tower, and the pointed arch windows signaled the congregation's acceptance of the current fashion in religious architectural design.

So well accepted were these plans that they were used across the United States. In 1880, a Methodist Bishop Warren spoke at an anniversary function, commenting on the wide distribution of churches following the published plans:

You can tell them at sight. As I go along in the [railroad] cars, and look out of the window, I see the churches in view here and there, and say, there is church architecture after plan No. 1, and there is church architecture after plan No. 5, etc. And so we come to recognize them scattered all through the land.

See Continuation Sheet No. 10

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

ST. PAUL'S METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Somerset County
Maryland

Section number 8 Page 10

St. Paul's Methodist Episcopal Church became the principal Protestant congregation in the Westover area after the late 1880s, when the older Methodist congregation at Curtis Chapel lost their building in a fire. The Curtis Chapel property was ultimately sold and the proceeds given to the St. Paul's congregation. Little more information on the St. Paul's Church is available since the membership disbanded during the mid-1960s. The church and the triangular lot on which it is located were sold by the Peninsula Annual Conference of the Methodist Church to Jennings R. and Bernice E. Richards in 1966.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

ST. PAUL'S METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Somerset County
Maryland

Section number 9 Page 11

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

- Graham, John L. Ed. The 1877 Atlases and other Early Maps of the Eastern Shore of Maryland. Salisbury, Maryland: Wicomico Bicentennial Commission, 1976.
- Hallman, E. C. The Garden of Methodism. Peninsula Annual Conference of the Methodist Church, 1948.
- Interview, Mrs. William Hooper Ruark, wife of grandson of William Mahew Ruark, 20 October 1994, Westover, Maryland.
- Kynett, Rev. A. J., ed. Catalogue of Architectural Plans for Churches and Parsonages. Board of Church Extension of the Methodist Episcopal Church: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 1889.
- Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties, Maryland Historical Trust, Crownsville, Maryland.
- Somerset County Land Records, various volumes, Somerset County Courthouse, Princess Anne, Maryland.
- Touart, Paul B. Somerset: An Architectural History. Princess Anne, Maryland and Annapolis, Maryland: Somerset County Historical Trust, Inc. and Maryland Historical Trust, 1990.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

ST. PAUL'S METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Somerset County
Maryland

Section number 10 Page 12

BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

The nominated property is identified as Parcel 141 on Somerset County Tax Map 32 and described as follows: beginning at a concrete post on the westerly side of MD Route 413 located at the southeasterly corner of the land of O. L. Creasy; thence running south 27 degrees 14 minutes and 30 seconds west by and with the westerly side of the said State Road a distance of 253.48 feet; thence running north 8 degrees 39 minutes west by and with the easterly side of [Sign Post Road] a distance of 196.47 feet to a concrete post; thence south 67 degrees 10 minutes east by and with the lands of a O. L. Creasy a distance of 173.80 feet to a place of beginning, containing 0.504 acres, more or less.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION:

The nominated property, 0.504 acres, encompasses the single triangular lot which is historically associated with the resource and which constitutes its historic setting. The property is bounded on the east by MD Route 413 and on the west by Sign Post Road, both hard surface roads.

See Continuation Sheet No. 13

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

T. PAUL'S METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Somerset County
Maryland

Section number 10 Page 13

NATIONAL REGISTER BOUNDARY, Somerset County Tax Map 32, Parcel 141
Scale: 1" = 600'

