BA-4
Old Salem Lutheran Church
701 Ingleside Avenue
Catonsville
Private
1849, 1869

Old Salem Lutheran Church is located at 701 Ingleside Avenue, on the west side of the street, and faces east toward the road. It is a one-story, one-bay by three-bay structure of local rubble stone with granite ashlar quoins, sills, and arches on the east porch. The nave and chancel openings have brick voussoirs. There is a gable roof with wood shingles and an east-west ridge. At the east end of the nave is a belfry with weatherboards, lancet openings on each side, and a broached spire. The east elevation has a porch in the center that is narrower and has a lower gable roof with an east-west ridge and an open doorway on the east side. The interior of the church has a center aisle with two columns of pews. At the east end is a gallery and organ loft supported by two Greek Doric columns with bases that pass through pew seats, and with a stair in the northeast corner. The west end has the altar, pulpit, and sacristy. The walls are plain plaster and the ceiling has flush boards that run east-west. The pews have plain board ends with a plain board seat and a canted board back. The fourth pew from the east, on the north side, is shorter to accommodate a cast iron stove. There is a vestibule that is created under the east-center part of the organ loft, with chamfered posts at the northwest and southwest corners. There is original infill on the west, north, and south sides between these posts that consists of lancet-arched boards. At the west end is a raised platform with a second platform for the altar in the center, under the pulpit. The pulpit projects out into the nave over the altar and is three-sided. The gallery and organ loft has the original organ, which is still hand pumped by a wood lever on the north side of the

case.

The Old Salem Lutheran Church congregation was formed in September 1845 to meet the needs of the large number of German settlers in and around Catonsville. Drawings by Johann Moessmeringer were adopted. These plans were recently donated to the church, and show the existing building without the porch on the east, and with a semicircular apse on the west rather than the trapezoidal sacristy that exists there now. Construction work began in late 1849 and was completed in June 1850. Moessmeringer executed the stonework with the assistance of Friedrich Hahn, Heinrich Schaub, and Robert Dill. Casper Kuemet (Kummet) and Johann Kolb handled the carpentry. In 1869 the porch on the east was added, making the church more closely follow Ecclesiological tenets, though the congregation was probably just responding to the forms it saw on other churches. On the interior, the organ was built in Baltimore and added in 1860, it is believed. All of the interior woodwork is of a piece, and probably dates to the original completion of the church, not to the addition of the organ. The interior is remarkably intact. A parsonage was constructed to the north of the church in 1850, the bell was added to the tower in 1853, and a new school building was completed in 1863, also to the north. None of these buildings survive. From early on the ground to the south of the church was laid out as a cemetery. A new church sanctuary was constructed in downtown Catonsville in 1903, and the old structure was rarely used after that. As a result, it slowly deteriorated until 1976, when Historical Old Salem, Inc. was founded and raised money for a restoration.

Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of
Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. BA-4

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic	Old Salem Lutheran Church
other	

2. Location

street and number	701 Ingleside Ave.	___	not for publication
city, town	Catonsville	___	vicinity
county	Baltimore County		

3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name	Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church				
street and number	701 Ingleside Ave.			telephone	410-744-8724
city, town	Baltimore	state	MD	zip code	21228

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc.	Baltimore County Courthouse	tax map and parcel:	95-137
city, town	Towson	liber	folio

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

___ Contributing Resource in National Register District
___ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
___ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
___ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
___ Recorded by HABS/HAER
___ Historic Structure Report or Research Report
___ Other _____

6. Classification

Category
___ district
X building(s)
___ structure
___ site
___ object

Ownership
___ public
X private
___ both

Current Function
___ agriculture
___ commerce/trade
___ defense
___ domestic
___ education
___ funerary
___ government
___ health care
___ industry
___ landscape
___ recreation/culture
X religion
X social
___ transportation
___ work in progress
___ unknown
___ vacant/not in use
___ other: _____

Resource Count

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
1	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
2	0	Total

Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory 2

7. Description

Inventory No. BA-4

Condition

___	excellent	___	deteriorated
X	good	___	ruins
___	fair	___	altered

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

Old Salem Lutheran Church is located at 701 Ingleside Avenue, between the Baltimore Beltway overpass and Calverton Road on the west side of the street, and faces east toward the road. It is a one-story, one-bay by three-bay structure of local rubble stone with granite ashlar quoins, sills, and arches on the east porch. The nave and chancel openings have brick voussoirs. There is a gable roof with wood shingles and an east-west ridge. At the east end of the nave is a belfry with weatherboards, lancet openings on each side, and a broached spire.

The east elevation has a porch in the center that is narrower and has a lower gable roof with an east-west ridge and an open doorway on the east side. The north and south elevations of the porch have paired two-light casements with two-light transoms and splayed jambs. The south side of the porch has traces of penciling on the mortar below the eave. The eaves are boxed and have a beaded bottom edge. The porch has a brick floor and parged walls. The east wall of the church has two doors with two panels each. They are sunk and flat, with flat panel mouldings. Above is a blind transom of two panels that match the door. The doorframe is beveled. Above the porch is a rose window. The raking eave has a large ogee and bead cornice.

The south elevation has three small vents in the foundation. The first story has three lancet windows with diamond lights that have wood muntins. The sills have a wash and the frames are beveled. There is an interior brick chimney between the center and east bays, with a bishop's cap, but much of the chimney has been re-built. The quoins have drill holes. The west elevation has a projecting three-sided chancel with a lancet sash on the west elevation that consists of three lancets paired together. They are partially covered by a new metal shade. The chancel has a low gable roof with an east-west ridge, and the eaves splay because the walls do, too. There is an interior brick chimney on the southwest side of the chancel, and it has a terra cotta cap. On the northwest side is a new wood door in an original opening with a beveled-edge frame. There are four steps and a wood deck below the door. The cornice on the chancel matches the rest of the church, and there is a copper lightning rod on the west gable end of the nave. The north elevation is identical to the south elevation, but without the chimney.

The interior of the church has a center aisle with two columns of pews. It has a random-width pine floor that runs east-west. The baseboard has a quirked ogee and bevel. At the east end is a gallery and organ loft supported by two Greek Doric columns with bases that pass through pew seats, and with a stair in the northeast corner. The west end has the altar, pulpit, and sacristy. The walls are plain plaster and the ceiling has flush boards that run east-west. The pews have plain board ends with a plain board seat and a canted board back. There is a board on top of the back that is angled and has a stop on the bottom on which to rest hymnals. At the bottom of the back side of each pew is a kneeling board that is fixed in place. The sides and back of the pews are grained. The pews are constructed with nails, and are toenailed to the floor at the front and back. The fourth pew from the east, on the north side, is shorter to accommodate a cast iron stove that sits on a pressed metal plate on the floor near the center of the church. The metal plate was originally nailed to the floor but has been taken up and moved and replaced. The stovepipe turns to the south and passes into the wall. The east doors each have two cast iron butt hinges with five knuckles and fast joints. There is a ghost of a rim lock that has been replaced with a mortise lock that has a cast, geometric escutcheon and a metal knob. The interior panels are sunk and flat. The doors are mortised and tenoned and pegged and still retain much graining. The two panels in the blind transom match the door and have some graining. The doorjambs are splayed. There is an original slide bolt in the top of the north door, set into a mortise so it is flush with the door. The bottom slide bolt is a replacement attached to the face. There is a vestibule that is created under the east-center part of the organ loft, with chamfered posts at the northwest and southwest corners. There is original infill on the west, north, and south sides between these posts. It consists of lancet-arched boards with sunk, flat panels in the spandrels and no panel moulds on either side. The boards are grained. On the west side, the spandrels have carved acanthus leaves. To the north of the vestibule is the stairway to the organ loft, and to the south is an open floor area. The dogleg stair ascends to the north along the east wall, where there is a landing, then turns to the west along the north wall. It has rectangular balusters, a turned newel post, a plain open stringer, and a ramped handrail. Below the stringer are tongue and groove vertical boards with fillets between each board, and fillets in the center of the wider boards. On the west side of the stairs, underneath the landing, is a door to a closet that is constructed of the same boards with fillets. The battens on the back of the door are tapered,

and are dovetailed into the boards. The door is hung on small butt hinges with five knuckles. The stairs are constructed with cut nails. There are two chandeliers in the center and two lamps with cast iron brackets on the north and south walls, plus two on the west, flanking the altar. All are of the same geometric cast iron pattern and support glass oil lamps with globes. The chandeliers each have six lamps, while the other brackets contain one lamp each. Some of the lamps have been replaced. The window jambs and sill are splayed, and the sash have been repaired but appear to be mostly original.

At the west end is a raised platform with a second platform for the altar in the center, under the pulpit. On the north and south sides of the altar platform are railings with turned balusters and newel posts. The newel posts are mortised and tenoned and pegged to the bottom rail, and the top rail is ovoid. The altar has one panel on each side that is sunk and flat and has no panel moulds. The east side of the altar is canted outward toward the nave of the church, and the whole altar is grained. There is a wall that closes off the sacristy from the nave, with a door in it on each side of the pulpit. The doors are lancet-shaped and have vertical boards with fillets that stop short of the top and bottom of the door. They are hung on cast iron butt hinges that appear to be plain, and have five knuckles and fast joints. They each have a plate latch with a brass knob. The east doors are tongue and grooved, but have no battens. The back side of the doors also has fillets, but they extend from the bottom to the top. The architrave also has a fillet. In the spandrels flanking each door are carved wood acanthus leaves that are applied. The pulpit projects out into the nave over the altar and is three-sided, with an ogee and bevel moulding at the bottom and a cavetto and large bead on the top rail. There is one panel on each side of the pulpit that is sunk and flat, and the rails and stiles have beveled edges. There are two pews on both the north and south sides of the platform, and they face in toward the altar. There is a marble baptismal font consisting of an urn on a pedestal, with a wood top.

The sacristy has a window on the west elevation with square lights and Gothic tracery. The end sash are operable. On the northwest side is a new door in an original opening. There is a winder stair to the pulpit that has a square, chamfered newel and two rails. The pulpit has plain vertical boards on the interior and a plain board sitting flat at the east end of the pulpit, held by two flat iron brackets, to hold a Bible or sermon text.

The gallery and organ loft has four tiers that step up to the east. It is constructed of random-width pine flooring that runs north-south. The balustrade at the west end has wide, hand-planed tongue and groove vertical boards on the east side and, on the west side has chamfered battens that cover the joints in these boards. The west side is grained. On top of the rail is a canted board with a stop that matches those on the backs of the pews, to hold a hymnal. In the center of the loft is the organ, which is still hand pumped by a wood lever on the north side of the case. The north and south sides, and the bottom of the west side are paneled with sunk, flat panels that have beveled edges to the rails and stiles. In the center of the case is a horizontal moulding with a deep cove and a bead at the bottom. The top of the case on the west is divided into three parts and has a pediment in the center with a quatrefoil in it and square towers on each side. Each part has a round-arched opening with cusps in the top of the arch. At the top is a cornice moulding consisting of the same cove and bead used around the middle of the case. Above the cornice are battlements. The case has graining. The organ has 17 pipes and ten stops, and was restored in 1987 by the Columbia Organ Works in Columbia, Pennsylvania. The bench here also appears to be original. On each side of the organ, behind it, are lancet-arched openings to the area under the belfry. On the east wall in this area is a rose window with new sash and glass added in 1990 to replace the deteriorated original.

At the east end of the lot, along the street, is a wrought iron fence and gates with "G. W. Lurman" on the gates.

8. Significance

Inventory No. BA-4

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
__ 1600-1699	__ agriculture	__ economics	__ health/medicine	__ performing arts
__ 1700-1799	__ archeology	__ education	__ industry	__ philospohy
X 1800-1899	X architecture	__ engineering	__ invention	__ politics/government
__ 1900-1999	__ art	__ entertainment/ recreation	__ landscape architecture	__ religion
__ 2000-	__ commerce	__ ethnic heritage	__ law	__ science
	__ communications	__ exploration/ settlement	__ literature	__ social history
	__ community planning		__ maritime industry	__ transportation
	__ conservation		__ military	__ other:

Specific dates **Architect/Builder** John Moessmeringer

Construction dates 1849-50, 1869

Evaluation for:

_____ National Register _____ Maryland Register X not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance reports, complete evaluation on a DOE Form - see manual.)

The Old Salem Lutheran Church congregation was formed in September 1845 to meet the needs of the large number of German settlers in and around Catonsville. At this time the newly founded St. Timothy's Episcopal Church (BA-1) was their only other option, and for some years the latter church held some special services in German to attract them. Charles A. Brockman, a German émigré, served as the first pastor until 1855, even though he was not ordained until 1851. During his tenure the church purchased the two-acre lot on Ingleside Avenue from Joseph P. Fusting for $300. The lot had a log schoolhouse on it that was valued at the time at $100. Fusting was responsible for much of the development of Catonsville around the intersection of Frederick Road and Ingleside Avenue at this time. He had purchased the lot over four years earlier for $200, and was likely responsible for the existing schoolhouse. Though there are no records to indicate it, it has been suggested and it seems likely that this building served as the house of worship until the new sanctuary could be built. A plan that was possibly developed by Dr. Adalbert J. Volck was rejected as being too elaborate and expensive, and drawings by Johann Moessmeringer were instead adopted. These plans were recently donated to the church, and show the existing building without the porch on the east, and with a semicircular apse on the west rather than the trapezoidal sacristy that exists there now. The details of the building, including the raised pulpit and the organ loft with the vestibule underneath, are not shown. This could simply reflect the simplicity of the plan, which was likely intended to convey the basics about the final form of the building, but could also indicate that these details were added later. (1)

Construction work began in late 1849 and was completed in June 1850. Moessmeringer executed the stonework with the assistance of Friedrich Hahn, Heinrich Schaub, and Robert Dill. Casper Kuemet (Kummet) and Johann Kolb handled the carpentry. Upon completion it was described as "of Gothic style, surmounted by a pretty tower." The Gothic features include lancet windows with diamond lights in wood muntins. The doorways on the interior also have lancet arches, but the spandrels have acanthus leaf carving that is Classical in derivation and probably reflects the lingering popularity of the Greek Revival. The building contrasts with St. Timothy's Episcopal Church, just down the street. The latter was designed by Robert Cary Long, Jr. several years earlier and was clearly influenced by the Ecclesiological movement of the Episcopal Church. Old Salem does not show the same influence, being much more vernacular in its interpretation of the Gothic. In 1869 the porch on the east was added, making the church more closely follow Ecclesiological tenets, though the congregation was probably just responding to the forms it saw on other churches, including St. Timothy's. On the interior, the organ was built in Baltimore and added in 1860, it is believed. All of the interior woodwork is of a piece, and probably dates to the original completion of the church, not to the addition of the organ. The interior is remarkably intact. The door under the stairs is worthy of note for its use of tapered, dovetailed battens. This construction was common among Germans, and made for a very strong door, as the force of swinging the door forced the boards tighter together. The complexity of the joint, however, probably led to its gradual abandonment beginning in the early nineteenth century. It is not a common technique after the first quarter of the nineteenth century, and suggests that the carpenters were still closely tied to the Germanic traditions not having been Americanized yet. (2)

Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of
Historic Properties Form

Inventory No BA-4

Name Old Salem Lutheran Church

Continuation Sheet
Number 8 Page 1

A parsonage was constructed to the north of the church in 1850, the bell was added to the tower in 1853, and a new school building was completed in 1863, also to the north. None of these buildings survive. From early on the ground to the south of the church was laid out as a cemetery. Rev. George W. Ebeling assumed the pastorate of the church in 1855, and three years later began offering some services in English. These were expanded in 1897 and the German services were not abandoned until 1901, when Rev. Ebeling died. A new church sanctuary was constructed in downtown Catonsville in 1903, and the old structure was rarely used after that. As a result, it slowly deteriorated until 1976, when Historical Old Salem, Inc. was founded and raised money for a restoration. (3)

Notes:

(1) "Historic Old Salem Church," Historical Old Salem, Inc., 1992. Argus, (Catonsville), 30 September 1899, p. 3. The original minutes are in German, but some of them have been translated. The newspaper article refers to an insurance policy on the church from 1850, with the Montgomery County Insurance Company, but a copy of this policy could not be located at the Montgomery County Historical Society, which has many of these records in their collection.

(2) "Historic Old Salem Church." Argus, 30 September 1899.

(3) "Historic Old Salem Church."

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. BA-4

See continuation sheet.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 1.61 A

Acreage of historical setting 1.61 A

Quadrangle name Baltimore West

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundaries encompass the entire lot, much of which is an old cemetery associated with the church.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Kenneth M. Short		
organization		date	01/27/2003
street and number	610 Regester Ave.	telephone	410-377-4953
city or town	Baltimore	state MD	zip code 21212-1915

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville MD 21032
410-514-7600

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. BA-4

Name Old Salem Lutheran Church
Continuation Sheet
Number 9 Page 1

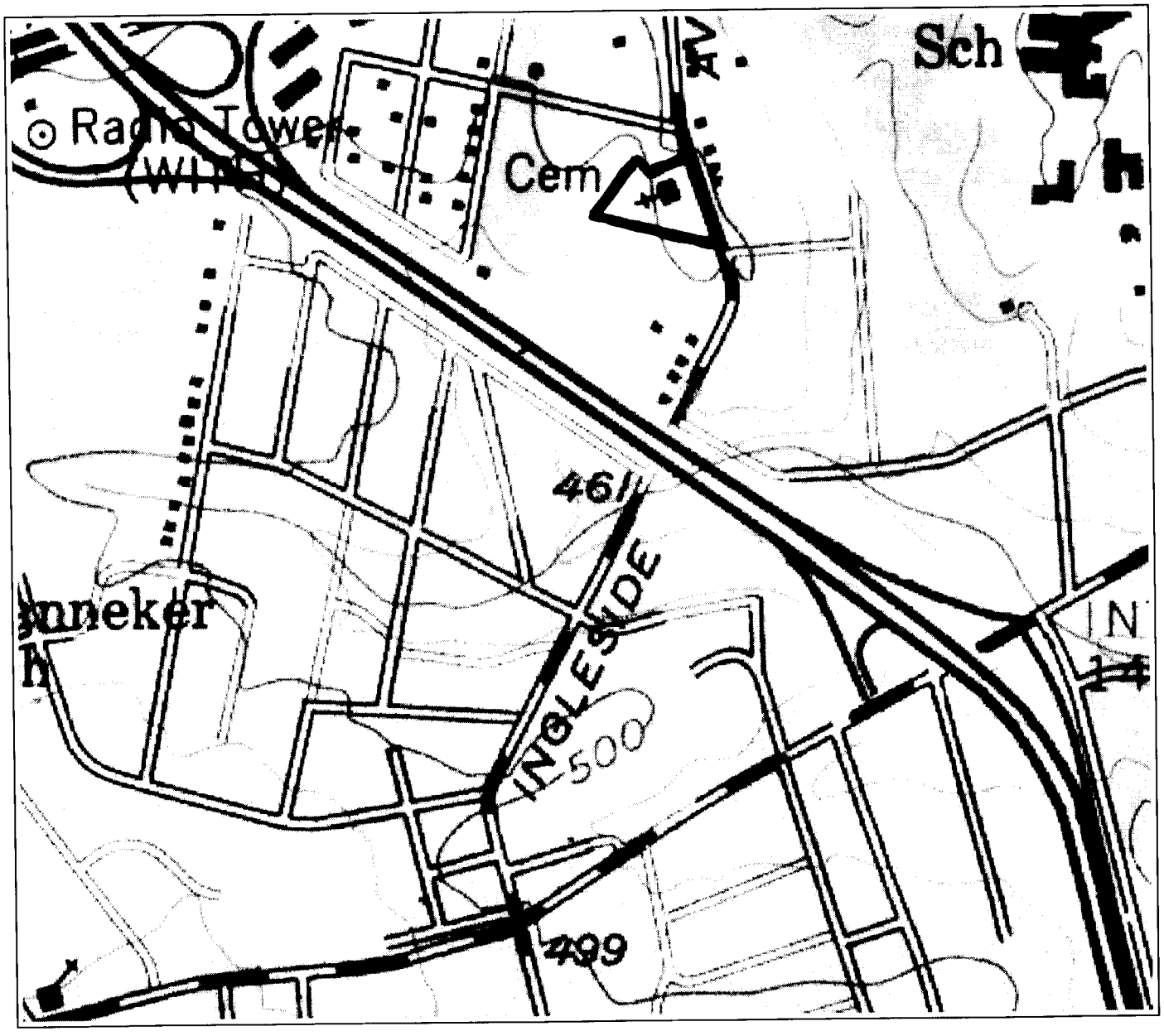
See endnotes

MERLIN Online Map

Base Maps

3.75' Quarter Quad Grid

Baltimore West Quad 7.5' Topo



N 179283.49m E 423099.44m

0 200m

N

Coordinates at center of image in Maryland State Plane, NAD 1983 meters

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BA-4
Old Salem Lutheran Church
701 Ingleside Ave.

BA-4

Old Salem Lutheran Church

701 Inglesida Ave.

Balto. Co, MD

Ken Short

Dec. 2002

MD SHPO

S & E. elevs

1/4

BA-4

Old Salem Lutheran Church

701 Ingleside Ave

Balto. Co, MD

Ken Short

Dec 2002

MD SHPO

Interior - vw NW

2/4

BA-4

Old Salem Lutheran Church

701 Ingleside Ave

Balto. Co., MD

Ken Short

Dec-2002

MD SHPO

Interior - vw East

3/4

BA-4

Old Salem Lutheran Church

701 Ingleside Ave

Balto. Co, MD

Ken Short

Dec. 2002

MD SHPO

Organ

4/4

Easement

BA-4 1849
Old Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church
701 Ingleside Avenue
Catonsville

Located north of Catonsville, opposite Lodge Road, this church was formed by German settlers in the Catonsville area. For many years, sermons and day school classes were given in German. The stone chapel with Gothic lines and diamond window panes was designed by stonemason Johann Mossmeringer. It was consecrated June 16, 1850.

Form No. 10-300 (Rev. 10-74)

EASEMENT B/4 29

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC: The German Evangelical Lutheran Salem Congregation

AND/OR COMMON: Old Salem Church and Cemetery (preferred)

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER: West side of Ingleside Avenue, 2 miles south of Baltimore National Pike (US 40)
(700 block Ingleside Ave. at Calverton Street) NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN: Catonsville — VICINITY OF — CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: Third

STATE: Maryland — CODE: 24 — COUNTY: Baltimore — CODE: 005

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
__DISTRICT	__PUBLIC	__OCCUPIED	__AGRICULTURE	__MUSEUM
X BUILDING(S)	X PRIVATE	X UNOCCUPIED	__COMMERCIAL	__PARK
__STRUCTURE	__BOTH	__WORK IN PROGRESS	__EDUCATIONAL	__PRIVATE RESIDENCE
__SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	__ENTERTAINMENT	X RELIGIOUS
__OBJECT	__IN PROCESS	X YES: RESTRICTED	__GOVERNMENT	__SCIENTIFIC
	__BEING CONSIDERED	__YES: UNRESTRICTED	__INDUSTRIAL	__TRANSPORTATION
		__NO	__MILITARY	__OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME: Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church of Catonsville

STREET & NUMBER: 905 Frederick Avenue

CITY, TOWN: Catonsville — VICINITY OF — STATE: Maryland 21228

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Baltimore County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER:

CITY, TOWN: Towson — STATE: Maryland 21204

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE: Baltimore County Historical Buildings Survey

DATE: on-going since 1964 — __FEDERAL __STATE X COUNTY __LOCAL
~~BA-4 entered 7/29/65*~~ wide

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Baltimore County Historical Society

CITY, TOWN: (Headquarters) Agricultural Building, County Home Park, Cockeysville — STATE: Maryland 21030

B-4

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
__EXCELLENT	__DETERIORATED	X_UNALTERED	_X_ORIGINAL SITE
__GOOD	__RUINS	__ALTERED	__MOVED DATE_____
X_FAIR	__UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Located just south of Baltimore National Pike on the west side of Ingleside Avenue, Old Salem Church stands amid the tombstones of its smaller graveyard. It is in sharp contrast to the modern business areas just north and the busy Baltimore Beltway to the southeast.

The rather flat land slopes gently to the rear of the property. The two-lane Ingleside Avenue frontage is bordered by a chain-link fence with an entrance gate located directly in front of the church. A gravel road circles the building which sits some 60 feet back from the roadway. The original 1.65-acre tract was a triangular plot, purchased from Joseph P. and Caroline Fusting and recorded November 15, 1852. A small triangle was sold from the original, recorded on Nov. 10, 1965, leaving a 1.3-acre area.

The main part of the church building faces east and is a three-bay, irregular-stone structure approximately 28 feet wide and 42 feet long. It has a gable roof, a short boxy steeple, an entrance porch at the front and an apse at the rear. Each side has three lancet windows measuring 3½ feet by 9 feet, with clear glass set in wooden frames pivoted in the middle to tilt outward at the bottom. The builders used concrete window sills and brick arches set in the stone and mortar walls. Granite quoins were used in the four corners. Three small vertical openings evenly spaced along the foundation wall are vents for the undercroft.

The gable roof has hex-type asphalt shingles over wood shingles which can be seen at the roof's edge. The fascia board at the edge of the roof (no overhang) is an ogee molding painted white. On the south side between the first and second windows, a brick interior chimney protrudes from the roof. It rises to the height of the ridge board of the roof, is guyed by wires, and it topped by a corbeled cap and brick-arch covering.

In the front of the building, the entrance is protected by a porch [3] about eight feet wide and eight feet long with a gabled roof. The porch floor, one step (stone) up from ground level, is laid with brick. In the center of each side of the porch is a casement window with pointed arch, opening inward. The sill and arch are stone, contrasting with the window construction of the six large windows. The interior walls and ceiling of the porch are plastered and painted to resemble cut stone. Double wooden doors and wooden trim within the pointed arch of the front entrance form a cross. All wooden trim is painted white. Above the porch on the front of the main part of the building is a circular window bricked into the stone front; it has wood framing and solid-color stained glass. The circle is cut into eight truncated-pie sections with a square window in the center hinged inward at the top opening.

At the front on the gable roof is a bell tower with a hip roof topped by a short steeple. The bell tower is two box-like structures, one on top of the other, covered with white aluminum siding and a ventilator with louvers

See continuation sheet #1

DESCRIPTION (continued)

centered in each of the four sides. The eight-sided steeple rises half again as high as the bell tower and is covered with red tab asphalt shingles and topped by a lightning rod. The covering of the exterior of the bell tower has been changed as evidenced by earlier pictures; the lower box was formerly covered with diamond-shaped asphalt shingles and the upper one with narrow clapboard.

At the rear, a three-sided [4] apse with vaulted roof has been constructed. Each side measures about 10 feet. A brick chimney with clay cap protrudes from the roof on the south side of the apse. A door on the north side has been covered with sheet metal. A pointed arch window in the center of the back contains three pointed arch wooden window frames with red tinted glass and blue in the top panes. A metal sun shield has been constructed to cover the uppper portion of this window.

Interior (See floor plan)

Just inside the entrance doors is a vestibule. Framed under the balcony, it has a pointed arch on each of the three sides. From the vestibule, one can go directly ahead into the center aisle of the nave, to a single pew on the south side or to the north up the open, banistered stair into the choir loft. A pipe organ of European origin rises to the ceiling in the center of the choir loft with the organists's back to the minister. Metal pipes are exposed through the case; the manual is 4½ octaves, with 18 pedales, and is pumped on the side of the case.

The choir loft, though not large, was efficiently designed to hold the maximum number of people. On the south side of the organ are five tiers, space enough for five chairs and a three-foot aisle, and on the north side, three chairs on four tiers, leaving a three-foot aisle to the rear of the organ where access is obtained to the bell tower. A total of 36 people could sit in the choir loft. The bell bears the name Clampitt and Register, Baltimore,Md. Light was provided for the organist by kerosene lamps on each side of the organ manual. Flooring is of tongue and groove yellow pine boards held by steel, square-cut nails.

On the main floor of the nave there are ten pews on the north side and nine on the south, with a tenth set against the wall in the rear. There are no

See continuation sheet #2

DESCRIPTION (continued)

aisles on the outside since the pews extend into the walls. Each pew is built with a non-movable kneeler and hymnal rack [6] on top of the back and suited to a book no more than six-inches tall.

A wood-burning stove [7] is set into the pew area against a short pew with a metal screen protecting the wooden pews. The stove is ventilated by a black smoke pipe rising to the level of the balcony floor but about 30 inches in front and supported by black iron rods affixed to the balcony. The pipe rises gently to the level above the balcony railing and enters the chimney which has been built into the wall on the south. A closet [8] is located under the balcony stairs. It appears that this is the only access to the undercroft, but requires the flooring to be lifted out. Another entrance to the undercroft may have been at the rear of the church, but this is no longer in evidence.

A red and beige carpet runs up the aisle to the altar which is set in front of the pointed arch entrance to the apse. The carpet runner also runs across the front. A wooden wall covering the lower portion of the archway is approximately nine feet high. The pulpit is set behind this wall, the front extending over the altar like a bay window. Panels with pointed arches cover the three surfaces of the pulpit. Steps to the pulpit are short and steep; the first step is made to slide into the second to conceal it. Entrance to the apse is through doors on each side of the altar. These pointed-arch doors are vertically set, tongue and groove boards with part of the groove morticed to give a vertical line effect. Small hymnboards hang over each door.

The altar [9] is small, built of wood and separated on the platform from the aisles at each side by railings. At each side of the nave in the front are two short pews facing the altar apparently for the vestry or church council. In front of each, beside the apse arch, is a chancel chair for the clergyman. The baptismal font of marble stands in front of the south side vestry pews, on the nave floor and the altar platform cut back at that point.

Two ring chandeliers hang from the peak of the ceiling (the ceiling consists of boards nailed to the underside of the rafters) held by long 3/4-inch rods with hooks formed at each end. Each chandelier holds six glass kerosene lamps. One lamp and bracket is mounted between each of the large windows on each side of the nave. There are several wood-carved flower or leaf designs, two on each side of the pulpit over the apse doors and two on the vestibule wall facing the altar. There was a portable lantern for the front entrance hall, rectangular

See continuation sheet #3

DESCRIPTION (continued)

in shape, four inches deep, ten inches wide, and thirteen inches high, glass in its hinged front door and both sides, and a central vent on top. Also, a poor box, obviously hand made and painted black, was kept on the shelf inside the vestibule at eye level. Both items are in storage.

The pine floor appears to have been oiled and is dark in appearance. The apse walls are plum, nave walls are blue-green, ceiling is off-white. Rose designs set in a ribbon around the windows and apse arch are gold with black design; the gold matches the light-oak wood finish. Pews are painted gray.

Notes

[1] Vents for the undercroft were added later. See Protokol Buch, page 103, December 31, 1865. Heinrich Ohle suggested and the congregation decided to have the church board "look to it that from the basement or the cellar wanted air holes in the wall under the church floor".

[2] Roof. Apparently, the first roof lasted 42 years. Protokol Buch, page 158, December 29, 1891: "Besides, it was decided by the majority of the members to put a new shingled roof on the church and that every carpenter who belongs to the church should bring estimates".

[3] Exterior porch, or Front Hall, Protokol Buch, page 111, June 24, 1869. On this date the congregation agreed "that the front hall shall be built and the material, stone, shall be donated (shall be money donated for buying the stones to build a front hall)".

[4] Note that the three-sided apse is a deviation from the sketch submitted by the Stonemason Noessmeringer; he called for a semi-circular apse.

[5] Organ. Dr. John Culler Bowers mentioned in his book, page 12, "A sweet toned pipe organ was brought from Europe".

[6] Hymnal racks were raised from their original position. Protokol Buch, page 191, 1897.

[7] Stove. Original stove was purchased in 1849, a second for the apse in 1851. Protokol Buch, pages 61 and 65.

See continuation sheet #4

Form No 10-300a
(Rev. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

DESCRIPTION (continued)

8 Closet was built for Sunday School books, Protokol Buch, page 158.

9 The altar base was remodeled in the mid-1900's to repair termite destruction. The old base was shaped like the pulpit above it. It had a small, concealed, hinged door. Source of information: Dorothy M. Reis.

Religious Significance

The German Lutherans brought with them their theological understandings of the Christian religion and included those understandings in their buildings, their actions and their words. For instance, the preached word, emphasized by Martin Luther in the sixteenth century reformation, becomes central in this building; the pulpit is in the center of the nave and stands over the altar symbolizing the centrality of the Word. The pulpit is perched high so that the congregation "looks up" to the preacher, emphasizing the lofty "Herr Pastor" role normally assumed by the minister. Other significant aspects of this congregation were the emphasis placed upon education, the love of music, the awe and respect for its God, its aloofness from the rest of the world and yet its willingness to leave its native tongue (German) and its first building to move to the center of the community.

Social Significance

German immigrants were one of the first groups of people to come to this country in large numbers in the 1830's and 1840's, profoundly affecting the small seaport of Baltimore and the rural villages of Catonsville to its west. It is apparent that some of the original immigrants came from Bavaria as middle-aged or older people.[9] It was due to social, political and economic stress that these people left their homelands to make a new life in a new country. Many were master masons, carpenters, farmers, tailors, butchers, cabinet-makers and other artisans with skills needed in the new country.

This group of people immigrated to the United States through the immigration and immunization center set up at Fells Point.[10] Many had friends already established here, but made their way to a densely wooded area just north of Catonsville. They spoke little or no English, were church-oriented, clannish by nature. They settled in the wilderness along New Cut Road, later named Ingleside Avenue. They hewed logs for their cabins, cleared the land for farming and set up their trades. The settlement became known as Germantown.[11]

Notes

1 It was under Moessmeringer's guidance that the stonework was done. Men of the congregation assisted, Protokol Buch, page 62: Kummet and Kolb bill for exterior work: page 63: Maisel and Renz, interior woodwork and roof.

2 Sketch is in possession of Mrs. Doris (Kolb) Ehlers, Oak Drive, Catonsville. Moessmeringer had resided with her father who lived on Stoney Lane at junction with Harlem Lane.

See continuation sheet #6

NOtes (continued)

[3] Einstein, page 28.

[4] Keidel, advertisement reprinted, page 6.

[5] Protokol Buch, schoolhouse references, pages 79, 82, 135, 142; building of a new school, pages 63, 99; suggested size of new school 32' L x 24' W and the outside 12' high.

[6] The Building was burned in 1957 by the fire department.

[7] Public School #118, Baltimore County Public School #12, 1st District.

[8] Rent, Protokol Buch, pages 139-155.

[9] Orser, page 3.

[10] Letter to Friedrich Ludwig Maisel. In possession of Dorothy Maisel Reis.

[11] Reis, page 5C.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
_PREHISTORIC	__ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	__COMMUNITY PLANNING	__LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	X RELIGION
__1400-1499	__ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	__CONSERVATION	__LAW	__SCIENCE
__1500-1599	__AGRICULTURE	__ECONOMICS	__LITERATURE	__SCULPTURE
__1600-1699	X ARCHITECTURE	X EDUCATION	__MILITARY	X SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
__1700-1799	__ART	__ENGINEERING	X MUSIC	__THEATER
X 1800-1899	__COMMERCE	__EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	__PHILOSOPHY	__TRANSPORTATION
__1900-	__COMMUNICATIONS	__INDUSTRY	__POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	__OTHER (SPECIFY)
		__INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES Cornerstone Feb. 12, 1849 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Johann Moessmeringer

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Architecture

Johann Moessmeringer[1], a stonemason, submitted plans for a church to the Salem congregation for approval. They were accepted except for the design of the apse. His original sketch exists and is in the hands of one of the descendants of an early member. [2] The design is similar to another area church, St. Timothy Episcopal, in which these German immigrants worshipped before erecting their own building [3]. The architectural style is simple, clean in lines, efficient in the use of space, and symbolizes the style associated with early German craftsmen. An advertisement for the consecration of the church, held June 16, 1850, described the new building: "This really beautiful little church, its gothic style, its rising tower, and its neat execution and finish, would be an ornament to any neighborhood...."[4]

The building has had no major changes made and is essentially in the same condition as when it was built, certainly as when the congregation moved to its new building in 1903. It does not have electricity, water, sewer, gas or any modern heating system. Adequate information exists to restore it to its original condition.

Education

The Congregation's school, [5] housed in a schoolhouse (no longer standing [6]) built on the church property immediately to the north of the church, was claimed to be the first "public" school [7] in Catonsville, having ceased to be a church school in 1879. Baltimore County apparently took over operation and paid rent [8] for this building, continuing the school in the congregations' building into the early twentieth century. There are still residents who remember being pupils in this school, Baltimore County Public School No. 12.

Music

In the balcony of the church building is a fine example of a direct-tracker playing action pipe organ, built in the mid-nineteenth century. It is cased in wood, but the upper sides are open. It is still in operable condition, and is played at the fall service the congregation holds there each year. A lever action pump provides air for its pipes.

See continuation sheet #5

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES (continued)

Bowers, John C. In Those Days. (Catonsville, Md.): Ladies Aid Society, Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church, 1942.

Einstein, Jacob, Jr. The Story Runneth Thus. (Catonsville, Md.): Vestry of St. Timothy's Episcopal Church by Press of the Hoffman Brothers Co., 1844-1944.

Keidel, George C. The Catonsville Lutheran Church: A Sketch of its Origin. Washington, D.C. 1919.

Orser, W. Edward. Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church, 125 Years of Christian Ministry, 1849-1974. (Catonsville, Md.): Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church, 1974.

Reis, Dorothy Maisel. "Old Salem Church: Place of Peace". The Times, Catonsville, Maryland, Thursday, July 1, 1976, p. 5C.

B7-4

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Protokol Buch, The German Evangelical Lutheran Salem Congregation. Minutes from Old Salem were translated from the original German by Mrs. Frank Roberts, Mrs. Charles Schwarz, and Miss Lena Schoebrodt.
Parish Record, Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church, statistics maintained.

See continuation sheet #7

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY about 1.3 acres

UTM REFERENCES

	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
A	18	350670	4349580
B			
C			
D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The property lies to the west of Ingleside Avenue, south of Calverton Street, in the shape of a truncated triangle with the base along Ingleside starting at Calverton

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

bjn

NAME / TITLE
The Rev. David L. Michel, Chairman, Property Committee/Dorothy Maisel Reis

ORGANIZATION
Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church

DATE
August 29, 1976

STREET & NUMBER
905 Frederick Road/20 Somerset Rd.

TELEPHONE
O-727-7535, H-945-6268/744-3252

CITY OR TOWN
Catonsville/Baltimore

STATE
Maryland 21228/21228

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL ___ STATE X LOCAL ___

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE John McPearce

DATE 5/2/77

TITLE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Easement 0300045408

Form 10-445 (5-62)

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION AND PHOTOGRAPHS MAY BE ADDED ON SHEET OF SAME SIZE

1. STATE Maryland
COUNTY Baltimore
TOWN VICINITY Dist. 1
STREET NO. Ingleside Avenue

ORIGINAL OWNER
ORIGINAL USE
PRESENT OWNER
PRESENT USE
WALL CONSTRUCTION
NO. OF STORIES

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
INVENTORY BA-4

2. NAME Old Salem Lutheran Church

DATE OR PERIOD 1849
STYLE
ARCHITECT
BUILDER

3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE

4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION OPEN TO PUBLIC

Founded by early German settlers in the Catonsville area. Sermons and day school conducted in German for many years.

5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STPUCTURE Endangered Interior Exterior

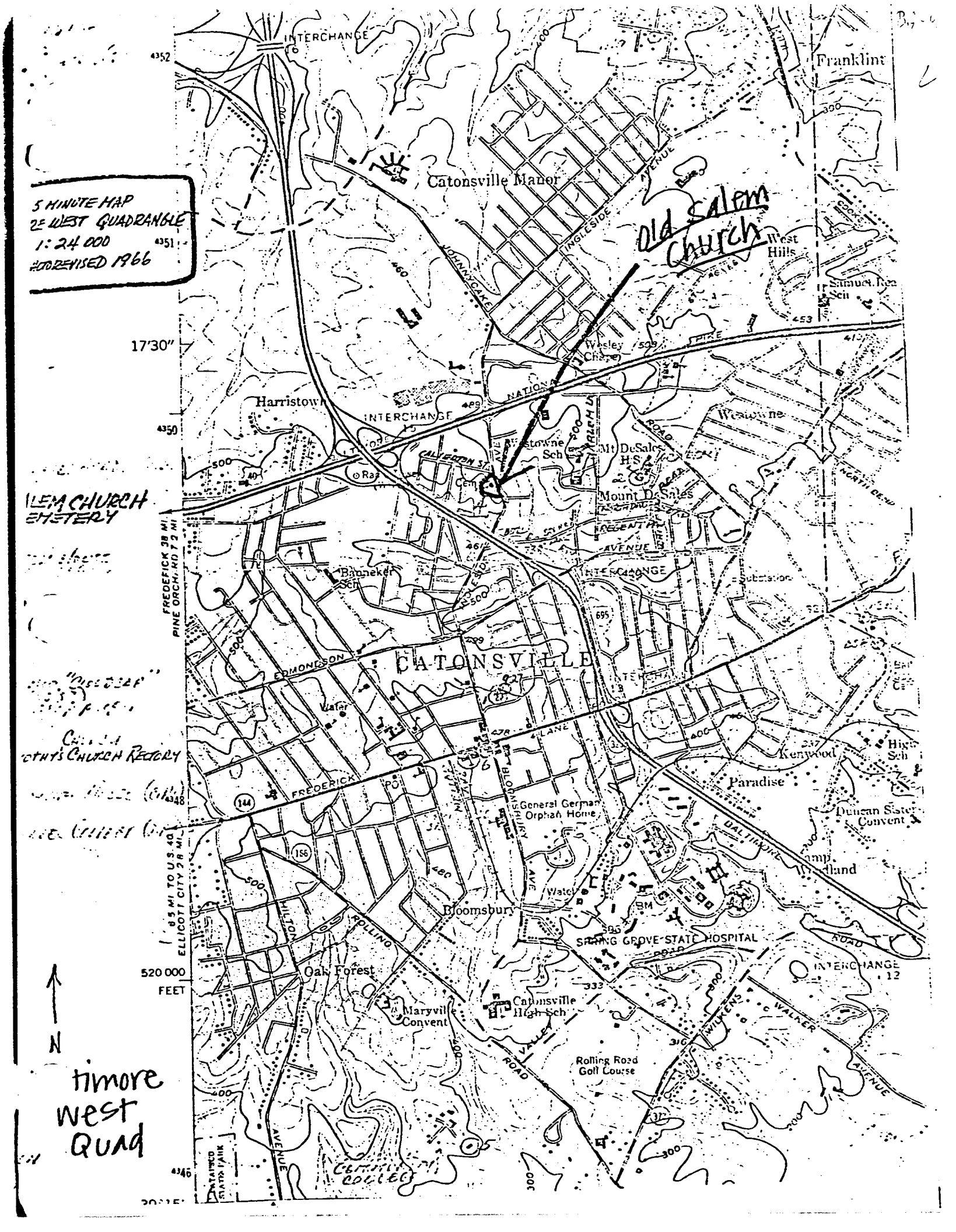
6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional)

7. PHOTOGRAPH

8. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Pages)
INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC.

9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER
(First HABS Report)
E. Frances Offutt
HABS COMMITTEE BALTIMORE COUNTY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

DATE OF RECORD July 29, 1965


5 MINUTE MAP
2E WEST QUADRANGLE
1:24 000
AUTOREVISED 1966
Old Salem Church
LEM CHURCH
EMETERY
OTHY'S CHURCH RECTORY
timore
West
Quad
N
INTERCHANGE
Catonsville Manor
Franklin
West Hills
Wesley Chapel
Harristown
Westowne
Westowne Sch
Mt DeSales H.S.
Mount DeSales
Banneker Sch
CATONSVILLE
Kenwood
Paradise
Duncan Sister Convent
General German Orphan Home
Bloomsbury
SPRING GROVE STATE HOSPITAL
Oak Forest
Maryville Convent
Catonsville High Sch
Rolling Road Golf Course
17'30"
520 000
FEET
FREDERICK
EDMONDSON
NATIONAL PIKE
INGLESIDE AVENUE
JOHNNYCAKE
BLOOMSBURY AVE
HILTON
ROLLING
VALLEY ROAD
WILKENS
WALKER AVENUE
BALTIMORE
FREDERICK 38 MI.
PINE ORCHARD 7.2 MI.
6.5 MI. TO U.S. 40
ELLICOTT CITY 2.8 MI.

BA-4