

CAPSULE SUMMARY

BA - 569

Saint Abraham's Lutheran Church

4029 Upper Beckleysville Road

Beckleysville, Baltimore County

Ca. 1850

Private

Saint Abraham's Lutheran Church, constructed circa 1850, is located near Beckleysville in Election District Five. The district lies in the northwest corner of Baltimore County, near the Carroll County line, bordering Pennsylvania. The church was founded in 1834 and appears to have been named for Abraham Shaver (Shoeffler), a prominent miller instrumental in the building of the original church on the property, which was donated by John Sauble. The current church, erected circa 1850, originally shared a pastor with nearby Saint Peter's Church. An 1862 deed listed the church as "Shafer's Church."

Saint Abraham's Lutheran Church, is a one-story church with a square two-story tower. It is constructed of stretcher bond brick, features a front-gabled standing seam metal roof and sits on a random rubble stone foundation. The façade, fronting northeast, features the central projecting tower with pyramidal standing-seam metal flared eave roof with boxed wooden cornice. The central entry, located in the tower consists of a paneled double-leaf wooden door with multi-light transom, square-edged wood surround and jack arch soldier bond brick lintel. The tower also features a one-and-a-half story tripartite stained glass window with wooden square-edged surround and sill and double-rowlock circular arched lintel. A small semi-circular wooden nameplate features a rowlock rounded arch lintel and reads "1856 Abraham's Church." A wooden vent with louvered shutters pierces the second story of the tower on each elevation. The vents have Gothic arch shaped rowlock lintels with keystones and wooden under-panels. First story leaded stained glass windows with wooden surrounds and rowlock brick sills flank the tower. A circa 1980s addition extends to the south of the church's main block.

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. BA- 569

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Saint Abraham's Lutheran Church (preferred), Shafer's Church, Shaver's Church

other

2. Location

street and number 4029 Upper Beckleystville Road __ not for publication

city, town Beckleystville X- vicinity

county Baltimore County

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

name Saint Abraham's Lutheran Church

street and number 4029 Upper Beckleystville Road telephone 410-374-4726

city, town Hampstead state MD zip code 21074

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore County Courthouse liber NA folio NA

city, town Towson tax map 15 tax parcel NA tax ID number NA

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 at MHT
- Other: _____

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count		
<input type="checkbox"/> _district	<input type="checkbox"/> _public	<input type="checkbox"/> _agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> X_building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> X_private	<input type="checkbox"/> _commerce/trade	<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	_2_	_1_ buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> _structure	<input type="checkbox"/> _both	<input type="checkbox"/> _defense	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	_1_	_ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> _site		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> X_domestic	<input type="checkbox"/> social		structures
<input type="checkbox"/> _object		<input type="checkbox"/> _education	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation		objects
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> X_funerary	<input type="checkbox"/> _work in progress		_1_ Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> _government	<input type="checkbox"/> _unknown		
		<input type="checkbox"/> _health care	<input type="checkbox"/> _vacant/not in use		
		<input type="checkbox"/> _industry	<input type="checkbox"/> _other:		
				Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory	
				2	

7. Description

Inventory No. BA- 569

Condition

excellent deteriorated
 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.

Located on the south side of Upper Beckleysville Road, Saint Abraham's Lutheran Church, is a one-story church with a square two-story tower. Constructed circa 1850, the building is constructed of stretcher bond brick, features a front-gabled standing seam metal roof and sits on a random rubble stone foundation. The façade, fronting northeast, features the central projecting tower with pyramidal standing-seam metal flared eave roof with boxed wooden cornice. The central entry, located in the tower consists of a paneled double-leaf wooden door with multi-light transom, square-edged wood surround and jackarch soldier bond brick lintel. The tower also features a one-and-a-half story tri-partite stained glass window with wooden square-edged surround and sill and double-rowlock circular arched lintel. A small semi-circular wooden nameplate features a rowlock rounded arch lintel and reads "1856 Abraham's Church." A wooden vent with louvered shutters pierces the second story of the tower on each elevation. The vents have Gothic arch shaped rowlock lintels with keystones and wooden under-panels. First story leaded stained glass windows with wooden surrounds and rowlock brick sills flank the tower. Similar windows are located on the side elevations of the tower. The side elevations of the church measure three bays wide and are pierced with elongated stained-glass windows with molded wood surrounds, leaded tracery, and rowlock sills. Two similar evenly spaced stained glass windows light the southeast, or rear, elevation. An off-center exterior end brick chimney is located on the rear just to the east of the gable peak 6/9-vinyl window with square-edged wood surround and rowlock sill. The main block is further detailed with a boxed cornice with aluminum soffit, returns, and slightly overhanging eaves. A circa 1980s addition extends to the south of the church's main block. Rectangular in form, the brick veneer addition features a front-gabled asphalt-shingle roof, 1/1-vinyl windows, and a double-leaf paneled wood door with shed roof overhang supported by metal posts.

To the southwest of the church, located near the wooded property boundary, sits a circa 1950 one-and-a-half story shed. It features a front gabled asphalt-shingled roof, flush vertical board siding and a concrete block foundation. The building also features an off-center single-leaf door, overhanging eaves, boxed wood cornice and gable peak vertical board hatch door.

Located to the north of the church, across Upper Beckleysville Road lies the church cemetery. It consists of eighteen rows primarily facing southeast with upright granite and marble headstones. Markers include those commemorating Samuel Beckley (died Nov. 25, 1830) and Henry Hoover (died June 7, 1892). The cemetery is still in use, including recent burials such as E. Geneva Lohr (1908-2000).

A small storage shed is located in the cemetery area near Upper Beckleysville Road. Constructed circa 1960, the rectangular shaped shed features a front-gabled metal standing-seam roof, concrete block construction and a

8. Significance

Inventory No. BA- 569

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

Specific dates 1850 ca. **Architect/Builder** Unknown

Construction dates 1850 ca.

Evaluation for:
 National Register Maryland Register 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 projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

Saint Abraham’s Lutheran Church is located near Beckleysville in Election District Five. The district lies in the northwest corner of Baltimore County, near the Carroll County line, bordering Pennsylvania. The church was founded in 1834 and appears to have been named for Abraham Shaver (Shoeffler), a prominent miller instrumental in the building of the original church on the property, which was donated by John Sauble. The current church, erected circa 1850, originally shared a pastor with nearby Saint Peter’s Church. An 1862 deed listed the church as “Shafer’s Church.”

In 1877, Beckleysville was a thriving town, named for a prominent citizen named Jacob Beckley, who owned one of the most significant paper mills in the country. The area was also agricultural in nature, with an emphasis on the production of wheat, corn, oats, and rye. Additionally, limestone was abundant in the district, as was the presence of numerous saw and gristmills, which employed much of the working class population. Prominent families settling the area included the Gorsuchs, Bensons, Armacosts and Fowbles. The area included a number of schools and churches, such as St. Abraham’s Lutheran Church.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. BA- 569

Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland. Philadelphia, PA: G.M. Hopkins, 1877.

Maryland Historical Trust Inventory

Scharf, Thomas J. *History of Baltimore City and County From the Earliest Period to the Present Day: Including Biographical Sketches of Their Representative Men.* Philadelphia, PA: Louis H. Everts, 1881. Reprinted by Higginson Book Company, Salem, MA.

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of surveyed property .2 acre

Acreege of historical setting Unknown

Quadrangle name Linesboro

Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

Saint Abraham's Lutheran Church is located at 4029 Beckleysville Road in Beckleysville in Baltimore County, Maryland. The building, located on Tax Map 15, has been associated with the site since its construction circa 1850.

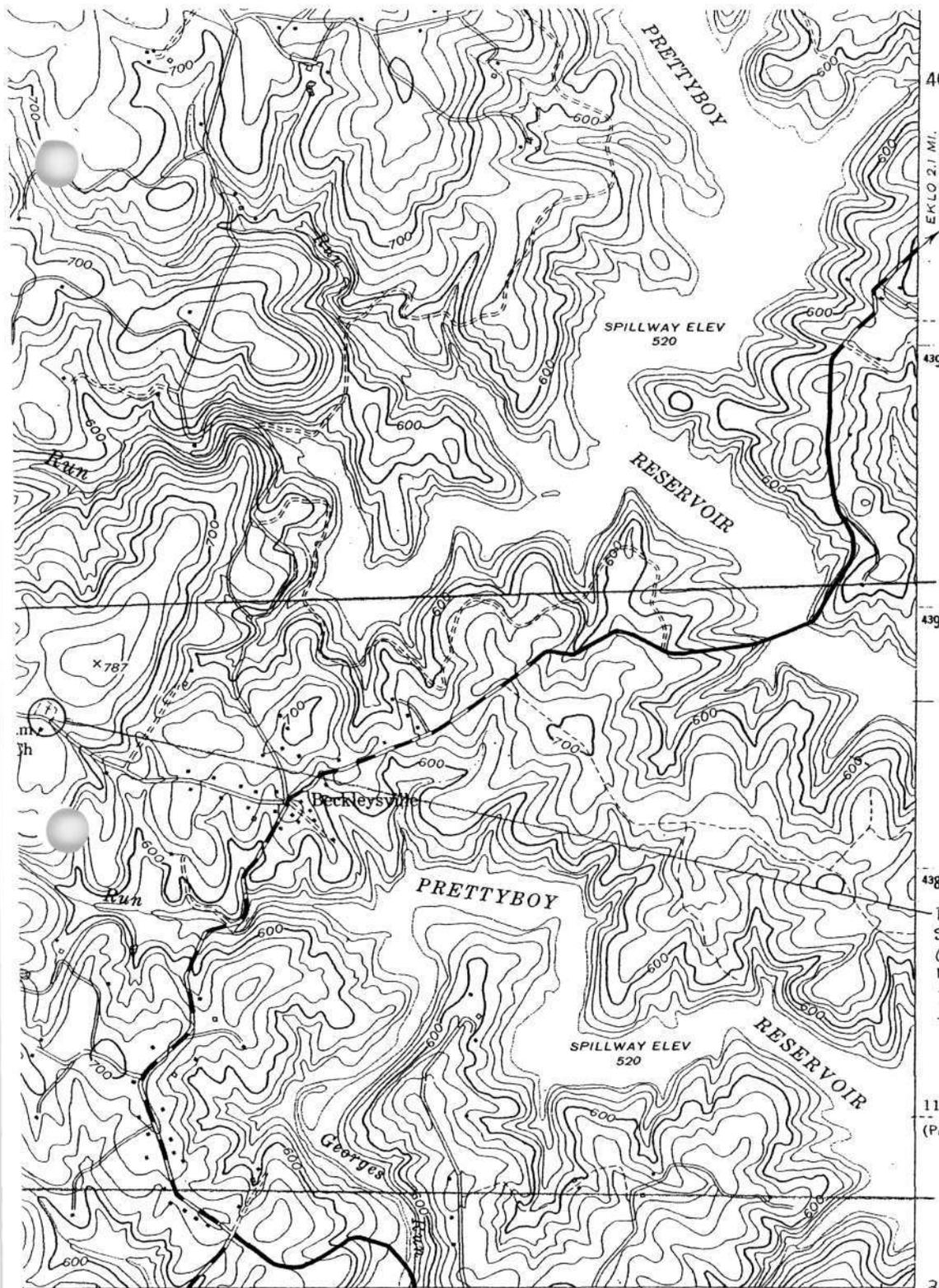
11. Form Prepared by

name/title	J. Bunting and A. McDonald, Architectural Historians		
organization	EHT Traceries, Inc.	date	April 3, 2001
street & number	1121 5th Street, NW	telephone	(202)393-1199
city or town	Washington	state	DC

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 do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600



40'
 EKLO 2.1 MI.
 4391
 4390
 4389000m.N.
 110 000 FEET (PA.)
 39°37'30"
 76°45'

BA-0570
 GRAVE RUN M. E. CHURCH
 1908 FALLS ROAD
 ALBANTOWN
 BALTIMORE COUNTY

BA-569
 ST. ABRAHAM'S LUTHERAN
 CHURCH
 4029 BECKLEYSVILLE ROAD
 BECKLEYSVILLE
 BALTIMORE COUNTY

BA-1851
 MARTIN-MARANTO HOUSE
 1830 BRICK STORE ROAD
 BECKLEYSVILLE
 BALTIMORE COUNTY

FORESTON 1.3 MI.
 2.7 MI. TO MD. 137
 INTERIOR—GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA—1975 L-84
 2 280 000 FEET (PA.)
 349000m.E.

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy-duty 4 LANE | 6 LANE Light-duty
 Medium-duty 4 LANE | 6 LANE Unimproved dirt
 U. S. Route State Route

(HEREFORD)
 596 / SW



LINEBORO, MD.—PA.

N3937.5—W7645/7.5

1953
 PHOTOREVISED 1974



BA-569
St. Abraham's Lutheran Church
4029 Upper Beckleysville Road
Baltimore County, MD

Traceries

3/01

MDSHPO

Church, North corner, view looking south

Photo 1 of 5



BA-569

St. Abraham's Lutheran Church
4029 Upper Beckleysville Road
Baltimore County, MD
Traceries

3/01

MD SHPO

Church, East corner, view looking West

photo 2 of 5



BA-569

St. Abraham's Lutheran Church
4029 Upper Beckleysville Road
Baltimore county, Md

Traces

3/01

MD SHPO

Church, southwest elevation, view looking northeast

Photo 3 of 5



BA-0569

St. Abraham's Lutheran Church
4029 Upper Beckleysville Road
Baltimore County, MD

Traceries

3/01

MD SHPO

shed, North corner, view looking South

Photo 4 of 5



BA-569

St. Abraham's Lutheran Church
4029 Upper Beckleysville Road
Baltimore County, MD

Traceries

3/01

MD SHPO

Cemetery, view looking Northeast

Photo 5 of 5

BA- 569

ST. ABRAHAMS LUTHERAN CHURCH - 1850 - South side of Upper Beckleystville Road. 0.75 mile east of Falls Road. Church founded in 1834 and believed to have been named for Abraham Shaver (Shoeffler), a prominent miller who was instrumental in building the church on land donated by John Sauble. The second church, built in 1850, is the one that survives. That year, the congregation shared a pastor with St. Peter's. It was referred to as "Shafer's Church" in a deed of 1862. Small brick church in vernacular style, three bays deep, ribbed-metal gable roof; open belfry which provides a central entrance. Palladian window over entrance door; recently added hall at rear. Also a cemetery.