

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

HA - 166  
1301664508

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC  
St. George's Chapple of Ease/St. James Chapel of Ease

AND/OR COMMON  
Trappe Church

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER  
Northwest corner of Trappe Road and Priestford Road (MD 136); 1.4 mi. north of Deer Creek

CITY, TOWN  
Darlington

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
First

STATE  
Maryland

COUNTY  
Harford

VICINITY OF

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME  
Vestry of the Deer Creek Episcopal Parish Telephone #: 836-3733

STREET & NUMBER  
P.O. Box 35 F. Lee Cutair, minister

CITY, TOWN  
Darlington

STATE, zip code  
Maryland 21034

VICINITY OF

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Liber #:  
Folio #:

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

**7 DESCRIPTION**

HR-166

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED	small addition, <u>restoration</u>	

## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Trappe Church is situated on the corner of Priestford Road (MD 136) and Trappe Road. It faces south.

This is a one story, rubble stone structure, four bays by one. The very steep roof is gable flank and covered with slate. It has a stuccoed, corbelled brick chimney with hips. The chimney rises out of the south west corner and has a round stove flue which was added in the 1950's. The eaves are very wide. The plain, rectangular windows on the North and South facade are 8 lights over 8. A long, narrow, pointed window on the west side contains 5 lights and has a two-centered or pointed arch above it. The door is a modern replacement and clashes with the Church's simple design. A picture in Wright's Our Harford Heritage (P 198) shows the church with an inset, three panel door containing two lights. Stone steps lead up to the entrance on the south facade and these are flanked by rubble stone walls, approximately 3.5 feet tall. The ends of these are impressed with the seal of the Holy Trinity.

A fairly recent one story, Three bay addition is located unobstrusively on the east gable end. A small cemetery surrounds the church.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**8 SIGNIFICANCE**

NA-166

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The history of this is closely related to its grander "parent" The Spesutia Church in Perryman. The church was built to accomodate the large ammount of parishioners living in the northern part of St. George's Parish who found it difficult to attend services at such great distances. Preston writes that "About this time (1760) a chapel was built on Deer Creek at a place called the "Trappe", it was the same in every particular, as to size and fashion, as Spesutia Church. The rector at St. Georges officiated in it at stated times. In the year 1851, some of the remaining churchmen applied to the vestry for a new parish, including that site, with a view of rebuilding, which was granted; they applied to the convention of the diocese and were received as an independent parish." (p. 153). The original church building had fallen into decay, was vandalized, and disappeared about 1800. A second Trappe Church had been built around 1855 of frame construction. The Reverend J. M. Peck was rector and lived in the Trappe rectory which was built about 1861. This church was destroyed by fire in 1869. In the intervening years between the destruction of the old church and the erection of the new, church work was carried on at Trappe, Darlington, and Scarborough in borrowed buildings, the rector retaining his living quarters at Trappe.

An Episcopal Church was erected in Darlington during this interval, but the communicants in the Trappe neighborhood chose to wait until their own church could be rebuilt. In 1875, a new church was erected. This was a well built stone chapel. In 1881, the rectory was sold.

It is believed by some that this simple chapel may have lost some of its appeal when the much more elaborate Holy Trinity Church was constructed in 1876. This church was only a little more than four miles away. In 1929, Episcopal services were discontinued and the building was allowed to fall into serious decay.

Eventually the church fell into the hands of the Vestry of Deer Creek Episcopal Parish and was leased to the Trappe Misionary Baptist Church for 99 years. They have remodelled and restored the building since 1957. Before the Baptist Church leased the building, the adjoining churchyard was allowed to grow up in weeds and the tombstones of many prominent families of the 19th century toppled from their bases. These old tombstones were preserved by the Vestry of Deer Creek Episcopal Parish and have been set in concrete along the edge of the grounds.

Lafayette's troops marched by way of Trappe Church, Priestford, Churchville, Bush, and Abingdon to Baltimore in 1781. Angus Greme, a captain in Lafayette's army, and his friend, fellow officer, Gimat, were so enchanted with the view of the Deer Creek Valley that they agreed to return to that place after the war was over and they would have time to arrange their affairs in France. These two men did return and the wealthier Gimat purchased a farm which he presented to Greme. They returned to France and served in the French Army in the war then in progress on the Continent. Captain Gimat was killed in Santo Domingo. Greme, however, returned, bringing his wife and children. He died in 1800 and is buried in the cemetery at Trappe Church. His tombstone reads:

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

Angus Greme

Captain in the French Army under

La fayette in /the American Revolution/ Died June 11, 1800

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Harford County Directory; 1953. pp. 359-360  
 Preston, Walter W.; History of Harford County, 1901. Press of the Sun Book Office.  
 pp.142, 153.  
 Wright, C. Milton; 1967, Our Harford Heritage. pp. 197,365,366.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1 acre

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE COUNTY

STATE COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

Susan M. Deeney, Field Historian

ORGANIZATION

Historic District Commission

DATE

9/1/76

STREET & NUMBER

45 S. Main Street

TELEPHONE

838-6000 ext 207

CITY OR TOWN

Bel Air, Maryland

STATE

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory 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  
 The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
 Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
 (301) 267-1438





Trappe Church HA-166  
Priestford Road (MD 136)  
Darlington, MD  
Susam M. Deeney  
Southwest

9/1/76



Gravestone with illegible text.

Gravestone with illegible text.

MARGARET SMITHSON  
Died  
JANUARY 1870

Gravestone with illegible text.

IN MEMORY  
ELIHU HALL  
Born  
Sept. 28, 181  
Died  
Nov. 1, 187

Tombstones, Trappe Church HA-166  
Darlington, P.O., MD  
Susan M. Deeney 9/1/76  
North