SITE NUMBER: WA-II-680
ADDRESS: Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 201 East Main Street, Sharpsburg, MD
OWNER/LOT NUMBER/ACCESS: Lutheran Church, no tax number, open during hours of worship
BUILDING DATE: 1892

The Holy Trinity Lutheran Church is a south-facing, one-story-and-tower, three-bay, brick, freestanding, ecclesiastical structure resting on a stone foundation. Built in a simplified, yet robust Gothic Revival style, it is set directly at the public-right-of-way on a corner lot. The church exhibits characteristics that are typical of German Gothic churches and are thus reminiscent of the church's religious heritage. Among these features are the simple decorative brickwork, the squat form, and the two front towers of similar yet different design and size.

The facade of the church is composed of three bays: the center holding the principal entrance, the east holding the minor, slightly projecting "tower", and the west bay with its clearly defined, two-story bell tower. The center-bay entrance is approached by a wide set of stairs leading up to a corbelled brick, pointed arch entry that holds two sets of rectangular, heavy wood, double doors. Above the doors is traceried woodwork defining the stained glass windows. The east tower is buttressed and holds a narrow lancet window. Brick beltcoursing delineates the top of the bay which is crowned by a crenelated parapet. The bell tower projects from the front facade, yet is aligned with the side elevation (Church Street). It is a clearly defined on four sides and has similar decorative features as the east bay: a lancet window at the ground floor, brick buttressing, beltcourses, and the crenelated parapet at the top. However, it stands much higher than

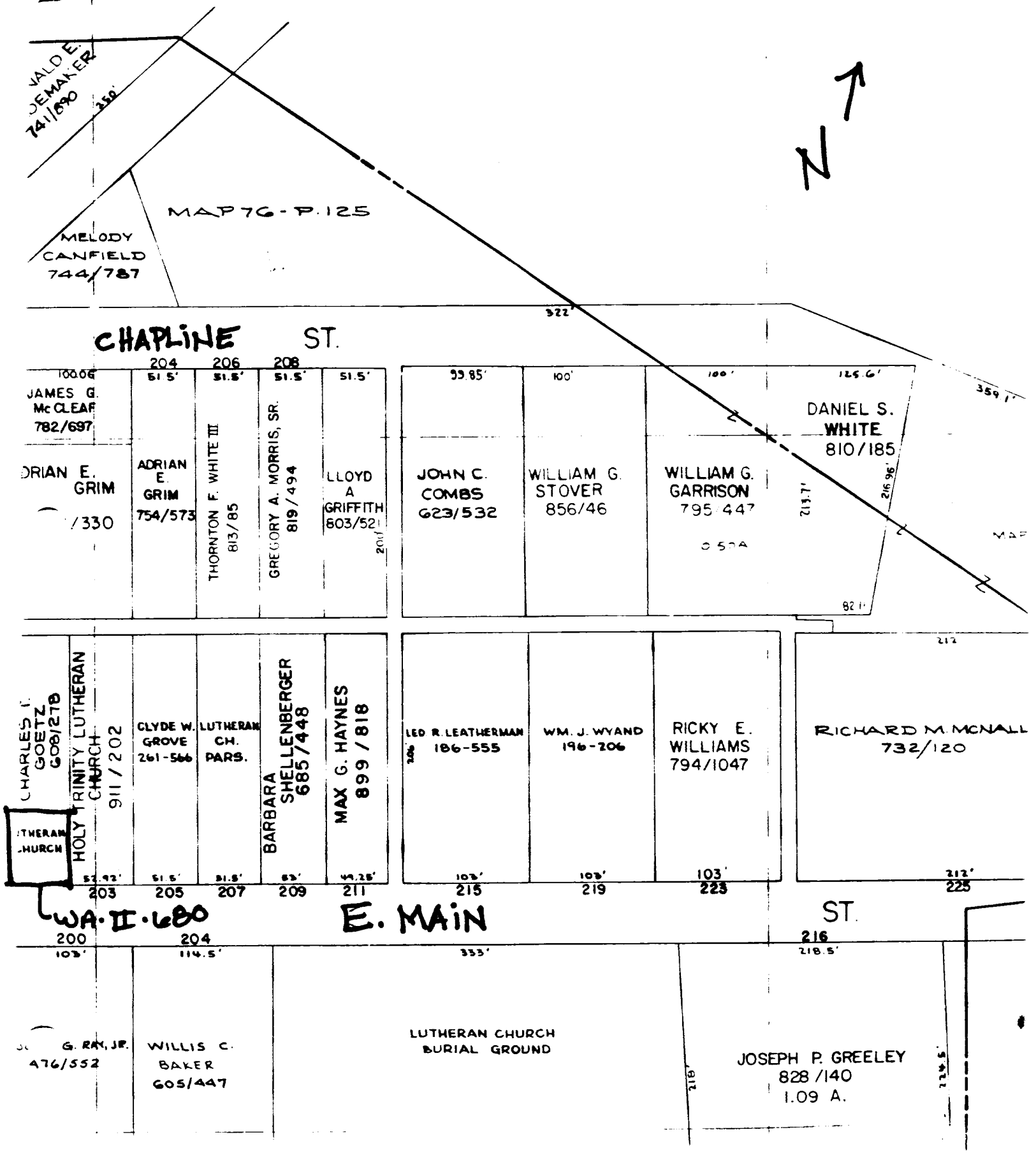
the east bay and also features round windows in each face, paired lancet openings in each face of the belfry, and brick corbelling near the parapet. The west or Church Street facade of the building slopes downward from Main Street, thus exposing the basement level of the church. Here there is a stone watertable and band of lancet windows connected by a brick beltcourse. The principal feature is a large traceried, pointed arch window that provides light to the apse. The roof of the building is a steeply pitched cross gable covered with artificial roll.

The Lutherans first formed a congregation in the Sharpsburg area in 1756 and, in 1768--five years after the town was founded--erected the first church in Sharpsburg. The original church was located about half a block from the present site on high land deeded by Joseph Chapline for a church and cemetery. It was a large, log building with a tall, square cupola that housed the churchbell. During the Battle of Antietam, this cupola was used by Confederate forces as a lookout tower from which the battlefield could be viewed. Although the building was damaged by heavy shelling, it was used as a hospital for six months after the battle before it was torn down in April 1863. A second church, erected on the site of the current building, was dedicated in 1869 as the Mount Calvery Lutheran Church. By the early 1890s the congregation had outgrown this building and the decision was made to build a larger structure on the same site. By 1893 the new church had been completed and rededicated as the Holy Trinity Memorial Evangelical Lutheran church in memory of the soldiers who died during the Civil War. The extant building is the result of a 1942 fire that

destroyed the earlier building.

The building is within the Western Maryland Geographic Organization, the Development Periods of Industrial/Urban Dominance/Modern, and falls within the Historic Period Themes of Religion; and Architecture, Landscape Architecture and Community Planning.

Prepared by Julie Mueller, June 1991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MAP 76 - P. 125
MELODY CANFIELD 744/787
CHAPLINE ST.
204 206 208
JAMES G. McCLEAF 782/697
ADRIAN E. GRIM /330
ADRIAN E. GRIM 754/573
THORNTON F. WHITE III 813/85
GREGORY A. MORRIS, SR. 819/494
LLOYD A GRIFFITH 603/521
JOHN C. COMBS 623/532
WILLIAM G. STOVER 856/46
WILLIAM G. GARRISON 795/447
DANIEL S. WHITE 810/185
CHARLES F. GOETZ 608/278
HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH 911/202
LUTHERAN CHURCH
CLYDE W. GROVE 261-566
LUTHERAN CH. PARS.
BARBARA SHELLENBERGER 685/448
MAX G. HAYNES 899/818
LED R. LEATHERMAN 186-555
WM. J. WYAND 196-206
RICKY E. WILLIAMS 794/1047
RICHARD M. MCNALL 732/120
203 205 207 209 211 215 219 223 225
WA-II-680
E. MAIN ST.
200 204 216
G. RAY, JR. 476/552
WILLIS C. BAKER 605/447
LUTHERAN CHURCH BURIAL GROUND
JOSEPH P. GREELEY 828/140 1.09 A.

STOP

DA-II-680

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, E. Main, Sharpsburg, MD

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P. Sackett Chrisman

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