The Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church, constructed in 1903, is situated at 905 Frederick Road in the heart of Catonsville, Maryland. The congregation was formed in 1849 by Father Carl Friederich Heyer to serve the growing German population of Catonsville. The second church building constructed for the church, the Romanesque Revival style building on Frederick Road was significantly enlarged in 1955 and again in 1997.

Designed in the Romanesque Revival style, the one-and-a-half-story church is constructed of coursed granite with a rough-cut face. Set upon a slightly raised basement, the building articulated by a rough-cut granite watertable and dressed limestone surrounds, modillions, and brackets. The main block of the building is rectangular in plan, augmented by a one-and-a-half-story wing clad with rough-cut granite. This original portion has a side gable roof with projecting front gable bays, dormers, and flared eaves. A tall corbeled capped brick chimney rises from the western slope of the asphalt shingle clad roof. The 1955 addition, giving the building its present L-shape, has a side gable roof with a shallower pitch and gablets. Renovated in 1997, the southern side of the wing stands two stories with stucco cladding. It is covered by a hipped roof of asphalt shingles and pierced by gablets. The church's siting on the corner of Frederick Road and Newburg Avenue presents two facades, visually united by a three-story corner tower. Accessed by late-20th century entry vestibules, the rear of the building opens onto paved parking lots.
Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

1. Name of Property
   historic Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church
   other

2. Location
   street and number 905 Frederick Road
   city, town Baltimore
   county Baltimore

3. Owner of Property
   (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)
   name Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church of Catonsville
   street and number 905 Frederick Road
   city, town Baltimore
   state Maryland
   telephone 410.747.0720
   zip code 21228

4. Location of Legal Description
   courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore County Courthouse
   tax map and parcel m: 101, p: 272
   city, town Towson,
   liber 270
   folio 106

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         Number of Contributing Resources
   ________district  _______public  ______agriculture       ______landscape       Contributing         previously listed in the Inventory
   _______building(s) _______private ______commerce/trade      ______recreation/culture Noncontributing
   _______structure     _______both     ______defense           ______religion
   ______site          _______both     ______domestic          ______social
   ______object

   Total
   government
   health care
   vacant/not in use
   unknown
   work in progress
   work in progress

   Total
   buildings
   sites
   structures
   objects
   Total
   0
The one-and-a-half-story building at 905 Frederick Road was constructed in 1903 and enlarged in 1955. Designed in the Romanesque Revival style, the church is constructed of coursed granite with a rough-cut face. Set upon a slightly raised basement, the building is articulated by a rough-cut granite watertable and dressed limestone surrounds, modillions, and brackets. The main block of the building is rectangular in plan, augmented by a one-and-a-half-story wing clad with rough-cut granite. This original portion has a side gable roof with projecting front gable bays, dormers, and flared eaves. A tall corbeled capped brick chimney rises from the western slope of the asphalt shingle clad roof. The 1955 addition, giving the building its present L-shape, has a side gable roof with a shallower pitch and gablets. Renovated in 1997, the southern side of the wing stands two stories with stucco cladding. It is covered by a hipped roof of asphalt shingles and pierced by gablets. The church’s siting on the corner of Frederick Road and Newburg Avenue presents two facades, visually united by a three-story corner tower. Accessed by late-20th century entry vestibules, the rear of the building opens onto paved parking lots.

EXTERIOR

The north elevation, fronting Frederick Road, includes the original main block of the building and the west wing. A three-story corner tower marks the church’s prominent location along this major Catonsville thoroughfare, with the primary entry into the building accentuated by ascending granite steps. The tower entry features a double-leaf entry holding heavy vertical board doors with strap hinges. The lancet-arched opening is finished with dressed limestone surrounds that are stepped at the sides and a wooden tracery transom with modillions. A limestone cornerstone sits to the left of the entry, inscribed, “Salem Lutheran Church 1849 + 1903.” Directly over the entry is a squint window with a wide wood frame holding a narrow fixed window. Limestone casings with a lug lintel surround the opening. The upper story of the tower is denoted by a limestone stringcourse with an ogee profile. The second story is pierced by paired lancet-arched openings holding louvered wood vents. The openings have limestone surrounds with molded impost and a wide limestone mullion. The tower consists of a limestone frieze with torus molded base and ogee cap. The frieze is embellished with equally spaced quatrefoil relief. The top of the tower, edged with limestone coping, has an exaggerated, crenellated parapet.

A projecting front gable bay marks the western end of the original main block. The raised basement of the bay is pierced by three fixed openings holding glass blocks. A band of five fixed windows with stained glass and lancet-arched surrounds of limestone mark the first story. The upper story has a large round opening with a rose window surrounded by limestone. The gable is finished with limestone coping and molded corner brackets. To the west of the bay are two squint openings with wide wood frames holding narrow fixed windows. Limestone casings with a lug lintel surround the openings. The openings are staggered, illuminating the stair.
The west wing of the church is laid with coursed rough-cut granite similar to that of the original building. A double-leaf entry was installed in the eastern end of the elevation in 1997, replacing an “archway which contained a wonderful religious carving.” It is recessed slightly within the surface of the wall and marked by stone steps with an ornamental metal balustrade. The entry holds paneled wood doors with one light each, an eight-light transom, and four-light sidelights. A limestone hood lintel covers the opening. Two square limestone panels with a rosette motif mark the wall to the east of the entry. The western end of this wing features five lancet-arched openings set above rectangular limestone panels with a quatrefoil relief. The narrow openings hold fixed and awning sashes framed with molded surrounds. Four louvered gable ventilators punctuate the hipped roof.

The west elevation of the 1955 wing is clad in part with rough-cut granite along Frederick Road and a smooth stuccoed wall to the south. The northern end of the elevation is marked by a single entry holding a vertical board wood door with strap hinges. The opening is framed with square-edged limestone surrounds. A single square limestone panel with a rosette motif marks the wall to the north of the entry. The northern elevation of the stair tower on the south elevation of the wing is similarly adorned with seven square limestone panels piercing the edge and top of the granite-clad building. The southern end of the wing, renovated in 1997, is covered by a shallow pitched, hipped roof and stands two stories in height. The wall plane is devoid of openings, with a single front gablet with louvers piercing the roof. As a result of the 1997 renovations, the south elevation of the wing, which is also clad with smooth stucco, is pierced symmetrically by seven metal awning and fixed windows. The three on the first story have fifteen lights, while the four on the second story have twelve lights. The opening on the eastern end, at the first story, holds a multiple-light casement window. The basement level of the wing is visible below grade. Two louvered front gablets mark the roof.

The eastern end of the wing is partially obscured by a one-story hyphen that connects it to the 1997 entry vestibule and the main block of the building. Clad with rough-cut granite, the three-bay wide hyphen has a flat roof and limestone coping. The 1997 addition has a cantilevered plan, marked at the center by a pyramidal entry vestibule designed in a postmodern style. The entry projects from the plane of the hyphen and is clad with a stucco finish. It is pierced by three rectangular openings that provide access to the two double-leaf entry doors in the hyphen. Symmetrically placed over the openings are a circle flanked by two rectangles. A stylized band of quatrefoils runs directly below the roof, which is clad with standing seam metal. The entries into the hyphen contain wood doors with paneling and four lights in each leaf. Multiple light transoms are above each door. Flanking the vestibule are two multiple light casement windows with limestone sills and lintels.

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The west elevation of the main block, finished with rough-cut granite, is only partially visible because of the additions. Over the one-story hyphen is the one-and-a-half-story projecting bay. Covered by a front gable roof, the bay is three bays wide and symmetrically pierced with openings. The two extant openings on the first story are lancet-arched with lug sills of limestone and 2/2 fixed stained glass windows. The upper half story has three lancet-arched one-light windows. All of the windows are framed with lancet-arched granite lintels and have fixed stained glass. The gable is embellished with limestone coping and corner brackets. To the south of the projecting bay, the main block is marked with three unequally spaced lancet-arched openings holding 2/2 fixed stained glass windows. The openings have lug limestone sills and lancet-arched granite lintels. A one-story addition clad in formed stone was added to the southernmost bay of the west elevation. It is pierced on the sides by narrow window openings with fixed lights.

The south elevation of the main block is dominated at the center by the slightly projecting front gable bay. The three-bay wide projection is pierced bay lancet-arched window openings that are staggered on the first story to follow the upward slope of the site. The first story has five 1/1 lancet-arched windows equally placed, while the upper story has three smaller one-light lancet-arched windows. All of the openings have limestone sills and limestone lintels. The gable is dressed with limestone coping and corner brackets.

The east elevation, reading as a secondary façade, comprises the full length of the original church. The main features of this elevation include the stone water table, dividing the basement from the first story, two front-gabled projecting bays, and two gabled dormers. The three-story tower occupies the northern end of the elevation. Ten fixed glass-block windows pierce the basement level. Stone steps access two single-leaf doors, surrounded by stepped limestone casings with lancet arches. The vertical board wood doors have strap hinges. Both doors lead to the auditorium. A trefoil fixed window in a triangular opening with square-edged limestone surrounds is set over the northernmost of the openings. Three 1/1 fixed stained glass windows with stepped limestone casings in a lancet arch are located between the openings. In contrast to these secondary entries is the double-leaf lancet-arched opening at the center of the elevation, leading to the front of the sanctuary. Reached by stone steps with wrought-iron rails, the entry holds two vertical board wooden doors with strap hinges. Over the door, within the arch, is a wooden tracery. Stepped limestone casings surround the opening. A projecting bay with a front gable roof visually separates the primary entry from the secondary. Three equally spaced 1/1 stained glass windows pierce this bay. Surrounded by a lancet arch of limestone, the openings are fixed. The upper story of the gable has three fixed stained glass windows with limestone sills, lancet arches, and shared limestone mullions. A second projecting gable bay marks the northern end of the bay, adjacent to the three-story tower. A large multi-light lancet-arched window opening ornaments the bay. Depicting a religious event in stained glass, the window has ornate muntins with pointed arches and reticulated tracery. The two front gables are finished with limestone coping and corner brackets. The boxed cornice is trimmed at the base by curved limestone modillions. Two imposing front gable dormers pierce the roof between the projecting bays. Similar, the
dormers have been covered with stucco and half-timbering. The overhanging eaves are detailed with exposed rafter ends and scalloped bargeboard.

INTERIOR

The interior of the main block of the church is Renaissance Revival in style, and retains most of its architectural integrity, with few alterations. The main block is divided between the sanctuary in the northern end and an auditorium in the southern end. The primary public entry to the sanctuary is located in the base of the tower, opening onto the transept underneath of the choir set above on the upper story. The enclosed entry vestibule has a polychromatic marble tile floor laid in geometric patterns, wainscot with vertical bead-and-reel moldings at the base of the plaster walls, and a flat plaster ceiling with a hanging lantern light. On the opposite side of the transept is a hollow-newel stair with an open stringer. Enclosed from the nave and transept, the stair features fancy-turned balusters and square newel posts with carved vegetal ornamentation. A low bench along the south wall and wainscot composed of vertical bead-and-reel molding mark the transept.

The open nave is divided into three parts with an east and west aisle. The floor is currently covered with wall-to-wall carpeting. The wainscot on the side walls is composed of a vertical bead-and-reel molding, and stands four feet, two inches high. Similar in design, the wainscot framing the altar is composed of white marble. The plaster walls are articulated by supporting Tuscan pilasters with chamfered corners and large brackets that extend onto the ceiling. Two large lancet-arched stained glass windows mark the center of the side walls. The western wall was originally an exterior wall that was enclosed with the construction of the 1955 wing. The window was retained intact, ornamenting the sanctuary and the rear wing. Modern oak pews have replaced the original pews. The concave apse is recessed behind a molded lancet arch, and features polychromatic mosaics laid in geometric patterns. The upper portion of the wall is painted plaster, depicting Christ ascending above the clouds with a sunburst. To the left side of the apse is a double-leaf wood door with a lancet-arched stained glass transom. The doors have large stained glass panels. To the right of the apse is a single-leaf wood door with a lancet-arched opening leading to the private chamber for the clergy. The altar and pulpit are white marble with a wrought-iron altar railing. The rail features tracery in the upper portion and a bank of quatrefoils along the lower portion. A narrow band of crown molding encircles the room, and the high ceiling is plaster with hanging lantern lights.

The auditorium is located directly behind the sanctuary, and is accessed from the sanctuary through small vestibules flanking the transept. Also Renaissance Revival in style, this room has wall-to-wall carpeting, and vertical board wainscot with bead-and-reel molding. The stage on the southern end of the room has tongue-and-groove floors. The plaster walls are articulated by supporting Tuscan pilasters that support large
wooden brackets. A single-leaf vertical-board door at the southern end of the room provides exterior access, and has a lancet arch.

The rear wing was added in 1955, and renovated in 1997. During the later renovation, a new entry was constructed to the primary hall of the wing. This hall has wall-to-wall carpeting, plaster walls, and plaster ceilings with skylights. The western end of the wing contains classrooms, offices, restroom facilities, and lounges. The baseboards and floor tiles appear to be the only remaining 1955 features.
8. Significance

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Significance dates 1903-1955

Specific dates 1903

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 Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church, constructed in 1903, is situated at 905 Frederick Road in the heart of Catonsville, Maryland. The congregation was formed in 1849 by Father Carl Friederich Heyer to serve the growing German population of Catonsville. The second church building constructed for the church, the Romanesque Revival style building on Frederick Road was significantly enlarged in 1955 and again in 1997.

History of the Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church and its buildings

In the early part of the 19th century, Catonsville was home to a large population of German immigrants, many of whom practiced the Lutheran religion. In 1849, German settlers, led by Father Carl Friederich Heyer, founded the Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church. The small church was located at 701 Ingleside Avenue on two acres purchased from Joseph Fusting for $300. Originally, the services and classes were conducted in German. Stonemason Johann Moessmeringer designed the original stone building, currently referred to as the Old Salem Lutheran Church, in the Gothic Revival style. Construction of this church was completed on June 3, 1850 and the Montgomery Company insured it for $1,500. The consecration of the new church took place on June 16, 1850 and was presided over by Reverend Benjamin Kurtz, Reverend L. Van Bokkelen, Reverend Dr. Morris, and Reverend C.A. Brockman. Brockman served as the first pastor for four years before being succeeded in 1854 by Reverend George Ebeling (1821-1901), who ran the Overlea Home School in his house at 108 Delrey Avenue.²

The growing population of Catonsville was reflected in the growth of the Lutheran congregation, resulting in the need for a new and larger church. On July 27, 1903, the Salem Church of the Evangelical Association of North America, Atlantic Conference, in Baltimore County, Maryland (also known as the Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church of Catonsville) purchased a parcel of land at the southwest corner of Newburg Avenue and Frederick Road from Ida E. Hunter for $291.66. Replacing Newburg Hall, which had previously sat on this site, the new church was constructed in 1903 in the Romanesque Revival style. The architectural firm of Owens

and Sisco, who also re-designed Jesspos Church in Cockeysville, Baltimore County, designed the new church. Benjamin Buck Owens (1848-1918) of Baltimore had joined Spencer Sisco in partnership in the early 1900s, with the firm remaining active through 1920. Cornerstone ceremonies were held in April 1903, celebrating the new construction. At this time, the congregation began conducting its services in English, rather than German.

The Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church was characteristic of the newer institutional and commercial buildings that were being built after 1900 in that it consciously referenced a historic style and handled the forms in an educated manner. Although the Romanesque Revival style, with its massive lithic forms, was nationally popular during the 1890s, by the early 1900s it was quickly becoming outdated. The fortress-like exterior of rock-faced stone gave the building a sense of permanence, strength, and stability. Its corner location, the heavy stone cornice, and the fact that much of the construction along Frederick Avenue was wood-frame with weatherboard siding further accentuated the commanding presence of the building. Another example of the Romanesque Revival style in Catonsville is the Palestine Masonic Lodge at the southeast corner of Frederick Road and Newburg Avenue, also constructed in 1903.

The fresco work on the interior of the church was completed shortly after construction. The Democrat & Journal of Towson reported that artist C. Y. Turner of New York was responsible for frescoing the new Salem Lutheran Church in Catonsville. Turner (1850-1919), born in Baltimore City, also painted the murals in the Baltimore City Courthouse. The building retained its original footprint until the 1955, when a large, two-story classroom wing was added to the west elevation, extending over two previously occupied lots fronting Frederick Road. In 1997, the church once again underwent alterations, with the addition of a new pyramidal entry vestibule facing the parking lot, a larger entry hall in the 1955 wing, additional restrooms, and the

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reorganization of interior spaces in the 1955 addition. This wing currently contains a large entry hall connecting it to the original structure, classrooms, church offices, restrooms, nurses' office, and a nursery.

The Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church has long been involved in the Catonsville community. In 1937, the Ladies’ Aid Society provided aid to the local community. Currently, the church locally supports the Catonsville Emergency Food Ministry, the Suburban Pastoral Counseling Clinic, and Catonsville Cold Weather Shelter. As part of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ECLA), the congregation supports Lutheran colleges and universities, missionaries, seminaries, and social work services.

Chain of Title:

February 24, 1897: Martin Hussey to Ida E. Hunter
Land Records of Baltimore County
Liber 223 Folio 51

July 27, 1903: Ida E. Hunter to Salem Church of the Evangelical Association of North America, Atlantic Conference, in Baltimore County Maryland, a.k.a. Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church of Catonsville
Land Records of Baltimore County
Liber 270 Folio 106

HISTORIC CONTEXT:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Piedmont

Chronological/Developmental Period(s): Industrial/Urban Dominance (1870-1930)
                                                Modern Period (1930-Present)

Historic Period Theme(s): Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Community Planning
                                          Religion

Resource Type:
        Category: Building
        Historic Environment: Town
        Historic Function(s) and Use(s): RELIGION/Religious Facility
        Known Design Source: Owens and Sisco
9. Major Bibliographical References

Baltimore County Land and Will Records. Baltimore County Courthouse, Towson, Maryland.


Vertical Files. Baltimore County Office of Planning, Towson, Maryland.


10. Geographical Data

Acreage of project area Less than one acre
Acreage surveyed Less than one acre
Quadrangle name Baltimore West, MD
Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church is located at 905 Frederick Road in Catonsville, Maryland as noted on Tax Map 101, Parcel 272. The church has historically been associated with this site since its construction in 1903.

11. Form Prepared by

name/title L. Trieschmann, R. Weidlich, and C. Novelli, Architectural Historians
organization EHT Traceries, Inc.
street & number 5420 Western Avenue
city or town Chevy Chase, Maryland

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
410-514-7600
SALEM EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
905 FREDERICK ROAD
CATONSVILLE, MARYLAND
BALTIMORE COUNTY

FIRST FLOOR
NOT DRAWN TO SCALE  N→
BA 2909
Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church
905 Frederick Road, Catonsville
Baltimore County
Traceries
1/oo
Maryland SHPO
north elevation, looking south
1 of 7
BA 2909
Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church
905 Frederick Road, Catonsville
Baltimore County
Traceries
1/100
Maryland SHPO
west elevation LOOKING EAST
2 of 7
BA 2909

Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church
905 Frederick Road, Catonsville
Baltimore County

Traceries

1/00

Maryland SHPO

south elevation    LOOKING NORTHEAST

3 of 7
BA 2909
Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church
905 Frederick Road, Catonsville
Baltimore County
Traceries
1/100
Maryland SHPO
east elevation LOOKING NORTHWEST
4 of 7
Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church
905 Frederick Road, Catonsville
Baltimore County

Traceries

1/00

Maryland SHPO

sanctuary, looking north

5 of 7
BA 2909
Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church
905 Frederick Road, Catonsville
Baltimore County
Traceries
100
Maryland SHPO
sanctuary, looking southwest
6 of 7
BA 2909
Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church
905 Frederick Road, Catonsville
Baltimore County
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