CITY, TOWN

PH035 4716

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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STATE

INVENTORY	NOMINATION I	FORM DATE	ENTERED SEP 1	<u>5 1977</u>
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HISTORIC **				
	Memorial Christian	Church		
AND/OR COMMON				
Lansdo	wne Christian Chui	ch		
2 LOCATION	J			
STREET & NUMBER				
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city, town Lansdo	NWN A	VICINITY OF	CONGRESSIONAL DISTR Third	IICT
STATE		CODE	COUNTY	CODE
Marvla		24	Baltimore	005
CLASSIFIC	ATION			
CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRES	ENT USE
DISTRICT	PUBLIC	XOCCUPIED .	AGRICULTURE	X_MUSEUM
*BUILDING(S)	X_PRIVATE	UNOCCUPIED	COMMERCIAL	PARK
STRUCTURE	ВОТН	WORK IN PROGRESS	EDUCATIONAL	PRIVATE RESIDENCE
SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	ENTERTAINMENT	X_RELIGIOUS
OBJECT	IN PROCESS	XYES: RESTRICTED	GOVERNMENT	SCIENTIFIC
	BEING CONSIDERED	YES: UNRESTRICTED	INDUSTRIAL MILITARY	TRANSPORTATIONOTHER:
				
OWNER OF	F PROPERTY c/d	Mr. Vernon Neilso		
NAME _		Linthicum Heights	, Maryland 21090	(301) 789- 7390
Lansdow STREET & NUMBER	ne Christian Churc	h Council		7030
	de Avenue			
CITY, TOWN			STATE	
Lansdow	ne	VICINITY OF	Maryland	1 21227
LOCATION	OF LEGAL DESCR	IPTION		
COURTHOUSE,				
REGISTRY OF DEEDS,	Baltimore Co	uncy Courthouse	<u>,</u>	
STREET & NUMBER				
CITY, TOWN	Chesapeake A	venue	STATE	
0111,10001	Towson		Maryland	1 21204
REPRESEN	TATION IN EXIST	ING SURVEYS	<u> </u>	1 21207
TITLE		ING DON VEID		
111 LE				
DATE				
DEBOSITORY FOR		FEDERAL	STATECOUNTYLOCAL	
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS				

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

CHECK ONE

CHECK ONE

__EXCELLENT

__DETERIORATED

__UNALTERED
X__ALTERED

X_ORIGINAL SITE

_GOOD

__UNEXPOSED

....RUINS

__MOVED DATE____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Located on the southeast corner of the intersection of Clyde and Baltimore Avenues in Lansdowne, Baltimore County, Maryland, is the Lansdowne Christian Church.

The north facade is made up of two square towers on either side of a two-story, slightly projecting bay. The entrance, in the face of the west tower, has plain wood double doors topped with a pointed arch, three-light transom of frosted, colored glass. The window in the face of the east tower is of the same glass and has two lights topped with the same treatment as the entrance. In the central section are two three-part windows, one above the other. The bottom one is a memorial window similar in design to the other windows in the body of the church; it is situated directly behind the altar. The second window is taller and has a round-arched pane in the center. Commemorative of the Grand Army of the Republic, the central panel has an eagle above a vertically placed American flag above a "bronze" star.

The two towers are presently identical, with mansard roofs with small spires with heart-shaped decorations on the corners. There is a cross atop the peak of the gable roof between the towers.

Built with white clapboard siding, the church is presently covered with light gray asphalt shingle. The second floor of the central projection has been boxed in and the commemorative window moved forward. A railing that formerly ran between the towers is gone. The west tower had a belfry with pointed roof originally. Weakened by a storm in 1952, it was removed; the bell is now perched on a stone base in front of the church.

The body of the church extends for five bays behind the towers. The ground slopes away from the front of the building and a full basement exists under the church. A small, shed-roofed addition on the rear was made later.

The cornerstone of the church reads: "Hull Memorial Christian Church, November 26, 1903." The bell, purchased of Meneely, Troy, New York, in 1904, is inscribed "Lansdowne Christian Church, Lansdowne, Maryland."

On the interior of the church the pews are arranged with two side aisles. The benches are of dark wood with pointed-arch designs and simply scrolled arms on the ends. The walls are of plaster with beaded wainscoting around three sides below the windows. The windows are simple, stained glass ones, each dedicated to one or two of the first parishioners. At the rear (south) of the church, on either side of a door, are two more elaborate windows. Both have "Dushane Post No. 3" at the bottom. The east one is of the Women's Relief Corps and reads, "In Memoriam of Our Deceased Members." The west one is of the Grand

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Hull Memorial Christian Church Baltimore County

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Army of the Republic and reads, "In Memoriam of Our Deceased Comrades." Each shows an open book on an American flag draped over a podium, with the seals of the groups above.

The organ, built in 1930, stands in the northeast corner. When it was installed, the pipes were placed above the chancel, blocking the inside view of the three-part window commemorating the Grand Army. The area around the altar has been changed somewhat, whereas the rest of the interior remains largely unaltered. The chancel is surrounded by a tall cornice ending in pilasters facing the congregation. Modern wood paneling was recently added to the wall behind the altar. A pool (with cover) for baptisms is located behind the altar. An old photograph shows that the walls of the church were originally stenciled just below the narrow strip of molding at their top.

Entrance to the nave is gained through stairs up from the west tower. Stairs to the basement are found in both towers. The basement has been remodeled. It contains a Sunday School room and a mini-museum of the Grand Army of the Republic. Included in this collection are books, newspaper clippings, medals and other artifacts of the Army.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

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PREHISTORIC	ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	COMMUNITY PLANNING	LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	X_RELIGION
1400-1499	_ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	CONSERVATION	LAW	SCIENCE
1500-1599	AGRICULTURE	ECONOMICS	LITERATURE	SCULPTURE
1600-1699	ARCHITECTURE	EDUCATION	_XMILITARY	_SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
1700-1799	ART	ENGINEERING	MUSIC	THEATER
1800-1899	COMMERCE	EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	PHILOSOPHY	TRANSPORTATION
_X1900-	COMMUNICATIONS	INDUSTRY	POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	OTHER (SPECIFY)
		INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

1903-1904

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Lewis Reeser & Sons

(William D. & Burton W. Reese

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Lansdowne Christian Church was organized on March 1, 1903. group wanted to erect a building which would give their congregation a place to worship and would make for the betterment and upbuilding of the community. Mr. Charles Wesley Hull, a former member of the Union Army of the Civil War, felt it was his duty to leave behind him a memorial of some kind that would mark his esteem of his comrades who remained loyal to the government of the United States and sustained the Union. He decided to give the ground and some funds to build a church to the glory of God, and in memory of the Grand Army of the Republic of the United States.

Mr. Hull gave Lots #25 and #26, Elock 1, in the Joshua section of Lansdowne, as the site of the new church. Mr. Burton W. Reeser, the architect, submitted plans which were reviewed, adjusted and approved, and ground breaking took place on November 10, 1903. Those participating were Reverend J. B. DeHoff, Minister; Mr. Charles W. Hull, donor of the property; Mrs. C.J. Hull, president of the Ladies' Aid Society; and Mr. T. W. Ingles, Superintendent of the Sunday School. The ground was turned over to Lewis Reeser & Sons (William D. and Burton W. Reeser), contractors and builders, on November 11, 1903. On November 26, 1903, the cornerstone was laid by Howard Lodge #1 of the Masonic Order. February 28, 1904, the basement was completed and was occupied by the Lansdowne Christian Church and Sunday School. The building was completed and dedicated on June 12, 1904.

Stipulated in the deed was the desire of Charles W. Hull and his wife, Mary A. Hull, that the church be used for religious worship and services only. It was further specified that the second Sunday in May of each year was to be set apart and observed as memorial day of the Grand Army of the Republic with suitable services conducted. memorial service was held on the second Sunday in May 1905, and the tradition continued until the death of the last veteran in 1956. Memorial services have been held off and on since that date but not in the last ten years. Now in 1976, the Bicentennial Anniversary of our nation, a renewal of that Grand Army service was held on May 9, 1976, at 2 P.M.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Land records, Baltimore County Courthouse, Towson, Md. Personal records from the family of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Wesley Hull

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STATE		CODE	COUNTY		CODE
ORGANIZATION				DATE	
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ORGANIZATION Lansdowne-Balti STREET & NUMBER 2614 Willow Ave CITY OR TOWN Baltimore/Annar STATE HIST	imore Highlan e./21 State C polis ORIC PRESEI THE EVALUATED SIGN	ds Bicent ircle	242-04 N OFFICER THIS PROPERTY V	DATE nmittee/MHT 4/ TELEPHONE 482 - wk. 962-3 STATE Maryland 2122 CERTIFICATION	27/76 3750/267-1438 37/21401
Lansdowne-Balti STREET & NUMBER 2614 Willow Ave CITY OR TOWN Baltimore/Annar 12 STATE HIST NATIONA As the designated State hereby nominate this procedures so state HISTORIC PRESER TITLE FOR NPS USE ONLY	imore Highlan e./21 State C polis CORIC PRESEI THE EVALUATED SIGN AL e Historic Preservation Coroperty for inclusion in set forth by the National RVATION OFFICER SIGNATION THAT THIS PROPERTY	ds Bicent ircle RVATION NIFICANCE OF THE Note of the National Real Park Service. URE	NOFFICER THIS PROPERTY V egister and certify	DATE mmittee/MHT 4/ TELEPHONE 482 - wk. 962-3 STATE Maryland 2122 CERTIFICATION WITHIN THE STATE IS: LOCAL eservation Act of 1966 (Proportion in the servation act of 1966) That it has been evaluated as the servation act of 1966 (Proportion in the servation act of 1966) DATE	27/76 3750/267-1438 37/21401 DN ublic Law 89-665), I

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A mini-museum has been dedicated in this church which houses mementoes of the Grand Army of the Republic as well as historical items on the church and the community. It is the hope of the Heritage Committee of the Lansdowne-Baltimore Highlands Bicentennial Committee that the museum will become a permanent part of the church. We have the support of the church council who have already given us the use of one room in the basement of their church. Many interesting articles have been donated and we are trying to obtain all of the badges representing the different encampments of the Grand Army of the Republic. The first was held in 1866 and the last in 1949.

The church is thought to be unique because it is the only church that was built to honor the Grand Army of the Republic. Usually church windows depict religious scenes, but the large stained glass window in the front of the church shows the badge of the Grand Army of the Republic (in the interior of the church the G.A.R. emblem is now blocked by the pipe organ). The two stained glass windows in the rear of the church were donated by the Women's Relief Corps and the G.A.R. Dushane Post #3, Department of Maryland, "in memoriam of our deceased comrades." A bronze plaque of the Gettysburg Address, which is seen on the west wall on entering the sanctuary, was donated by the Women's Relief Corps in 1930.

Lansdowne is a small community of houses built around the turn of the century. None of its structures are of particular architectural merit, except for the Christian Church, which is a community landmark, of interest to many residents though they are not members of the church itself. The American Revolution Bicentennial engendered much interest in local history throughout the country. In Lansdowne this interest was directed at the Christian Church, the oldest and most architecturally interesting of the community's buildings.