UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

## 1 NAME

HISTORIC

TOWN CLOCK CHURCH (preferred); German Evangelical Lutheran Church

AND/OR COMMON

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

## 2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

312 Bedford Street                                    __NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN                                           CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Cumberland            __ VICINITY OF             Sixth

| STATE | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |
|-------|------|--------|------|
| Maryland | 24 | Allegany | 001 |

## 3 CLASSIFICATION

| CATEGORY | OWNERSHIP | STATUS | PRESENT USE | |
|----------|-----------|--------|-------------|--|
| __DISTRICT | __PUBLIC | X OCCUPIED | __AGRICULTURE | __MUSEUM |
| X BUILDING(S) | X PRIVATE | __UNOCCUPIED | __COMMERCIAL | __PARK |
| __STRUCTURE | __BOTH | __WORK IN PROGRESS | __EDUCATIONAL | __PRIVATE RESIDENCE |
| __SITE | PUBLIC ACQUISITION | ACCESSIBLE | __ENTERTAINMENT | X RELIGIOUS |
| __OBJECT | __IN PROCESS | X YES: RESTRICTED | __GOVERNMENT | __SCIENTIFIC |
| | __BEING CONSIDERED | __YES: UNRESTRICTED | __INDUSTRIAL | __TRANSPORTATION |
| | | __NO | __MILITARY | __OTHER: |

## 4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

First Christian Church   Attention:  The Reverend Evert C. Millard

STREET & NUMBER

312 Bedford Street

CITY, TOWN                                           STATE

Cumberland            __ VICINITY OF             Maryland    21502

## 5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS,ETC.   Allegany County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

30 Washington Street

CITY, TOWN                                           STATE

Cumberland                                           Maryland    21502

## 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE


DATE

__FEDERAL  __STATE  __COUNTY  __LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN                                           STATE

# 7 DESCRIPTION

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

The Town Clock Church is located on Bedford Street at High Street in Cumberland, Maryland.

The church is a one-story brick building on a high stone basement and is three bays wide by four long. The east gable end is the principal facade and the clock tower rises from the peak of the roof at this end. The brick is laid in common bond with five or six rows of stretchers to each row of headers on all facades except the east; here the brick is laid in all stretcher bond. The basement is constructed of neatly laid blocks of sandstone on the east and random coursed rubble stone elsewhere. (The east was faced with sandstone in 1910.) At the northeast corner there are quoins in the basement and a granite cornerstone dated "Juni 1, 1848."

The gable roof retains its original covering of slate shingles. There are four brick chimneys, three in original positions near the center of the building set just inside the eaves line. One chimney, at the northwest corner, is new. The steeple consists of a four-part brick tower with spire on top. The base is square with a wood cornice; above this is a section with clock faces on all four sides, pilasters on the corners, and another cornice. The belfry portion has round-arched ventilators on all sides with one pilaster at each corner, making it octagonal, and a dentiled cornice. The spire, sitting on an octagonal base with recessed panels, is covered with slate in alternating rows of rectangular and imbricated shingles. A lightning rod extends from the end of the spire.

The north, south, and east facades are divided into bays by brick pilasters with wooden caps. The pilasters at the end of each facade meet and form a right angle at the corners. The wide cornice on the north, south, and east consists of two narrow bands of brick forming a belt course just above the capitals on the pilasters and a wood cornice above; both of these and the brick wall between are painted white, creating the illusion of a very wide cornice around these three sides of the building. On the rear (west) facade the wide, white cornice returns; however, though the wood cornice ends here the brick part continues across the back.

Above the cornice on the east facade is a pediment with slightly projecting pavilion in the center. Two round-arched, double-hung sash, stained glass windows are contained in the projecting section. The wood cornice on the top of the pediment and the brick cornice below also both project in the center. A marble plaque in the brick part of the cornice reads "Deutfche Evng Luth Chirche 1848." Below the projection in the pediment is a narrow bay formed by two pilasters set rather close together. Between these is a round stained glass window, and below this is the entrance with a portico standing on a high stone base.

The main entrance is composed of double doors, each with one panel, and above is a semicircular, stained glass transom with brick arch with marble keystone. The portico has a pediment with three-part entablature with dentils supported by two wood columns and two wood pilasters, all of the Ionic order. The stair with fancy iron railing leading up to the entrance was built in 1910. On either side of the center bay is a stained glass window with four rectangular lights and two quarter-circles above. There is a marble keystone in the brick arch above each window and wooden sills below.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #1.

| PERIOD | AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| __PREHISTORIC | __ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC | __COMMUNITY PLANNING | __LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE | X RELIGION |
| __1400-1499 | __ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC | __CONSERVATION | __LAW | __SCIENCE |
| __1500-1599 | __AGRICULTURE | __ECONOMICS | __LITERATURE | __SCULPTURE |
| __1600-1699 | X ARCHITECTURE | __EDUCATION | __MILITARY | __SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN |
| __1700-1799 | __ART | __ENGINEERING | __MUSIC | __THEATER |
| X 1800-1899 | __COMMERCE | __EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT | __PHILOSOPHY | __TRANSPORTATION |
| __1900- | __COMMUNICATIONS | __INDUSTRY | __POLITICS/GOVERNMENT | X OTHER (SPECIFY) |
| | | __INVENTION | X ethnic history | history of western Maryland |

SPECIFIC DATES  1848                          BUILDER/ARCHITECT  Harry Schmenner

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

~~HISTORY~~ SIGNIFICANCE

The Town Clock Church was built in 1848 by its German Lutheran congregation. Western Maryland was largely settled by Germans coming from Pennsylvania, beginning in the 18th century and continuing into the 19th century. The cornerstone and name stone of this church are in German, serving as a visual reminder of the building's past.

Although the church has been used by a congregation other than the German one which built it for 45 years, its is still historically significant for its relationship to Cumberland's 19th century German population. The building was designed by a German-speaking member of the congregation, one Harry Schmenner, and has remained basically unaltered since its construction. The date on the cornerstone is inscribed in German as is the name of the church over the main entrance.

The church building itself is modest and typical of institutional architecture of the 1840s and 1850s. The clock tower and the building's location on a hill give the church an impressive height resulting in its prominence in the city scape.

~~SIGNIFICANCE~~ HISTORY

The high number of German immigrants arriving in Cumberland around 1838 necessitated the formation of a separate German speaking congregation at St. Paul's Lutheran Church. The first confirmation service in German was conducted in 1844.[1] Nativist feelings in America were running high during these times and Cumberland was not an exception. In 1848 the English speaking congregation of St. Paul's gave notice to the German speaking congregation that after the first of October no services in an alien language could be conducted in their building.[2]

In February of 1848 the German congregation received a charter as the German Evangelical Lutheran Church and began building their own church.[3]  With land and foundation stones donated by Thomas Shriver, the mayor of Cumberland at that time, the congregation of 35 had laid a cornerstone by the first of June.[4] This cornerstone, located in the northeast corner of the building, contains coins of every denomination, German church literature, and copies of the charter and deed of the church. Designed by Harry Schmenner, a member of the congregation, the building was completed and dedicated in March of 1850.[5]

Local tradition suggests that the German Lutheran Church won its clock and chimes in a city-sponsored competition awarding them to the congregation which finished the 1st clock tower. Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic Church was the only competitor.[6]

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #3.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Allegany County Land Records, Courthouse, Cumberland, Maryland.
  (Also see footnotes to the Significance Statement)

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _less than one acre_

QUADRANGLE NAME _Cumberland Quadrangle_          QUADRANGLE SCALE _1:24000_

UTM REFERENCES

A |1,7| |6|9,2|0,8,0| |4,3|9,1|8,7,0|    B |__| |__|__|__| |__|__|__|
  ZONE  EASTING      NORTHING             ZONE  EASTING    NORTHING
C |__| |__|__|__| |__|__|__|             D |__| |__|__|__| |__|__|__|

E |__| |__|__|__| |__|__|__|             F |__| |__|__|__| |__|__|__|

G |__| |__|__|__| |__|__|__|             H |__| |__|__|__| |__|__|__|

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Lot Size:  75' x 120';  Ref.:  Allegany County Deed 199/221.

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

| STATE | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |
|-------|------|--------|------|
|       |      |        |      |

| STATE | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |
|-------|------|--------|------|
|       |      |        |      |

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

William Pratt and Dave Dorsey

| ORGANIZATION | DATE |
|--------------|------|
| Allegany County Historic Sites Survey | October 4, 1977 |

| STREET & NUMBER | TELEPHONE |
|-----------------|-----------|
| County Office Building, Pershing Street | (301) 777-5967 |

| CITY OR TOWN | STATE |
|--------------|-------|
| Cumberland | Maryland    21502 |

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL ___          STATE ___          LOCAL _X_

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE        6-19-79
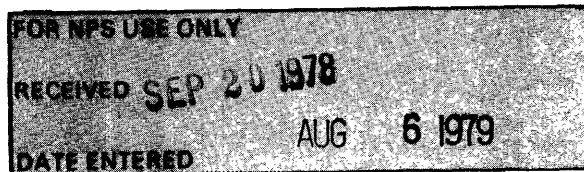
TITLE   STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER          DATE

GPO 921-803

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
# INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

Town Clock Church
Allegany County
CONTINUATION SHEET Maryland          . ITEM NUMBER      7      PAGE      1

(DESCRIPTION, continued)

Two doors beneath the portico lead to the basement.

The north and south side elevations have windows identical to those in the front,
without the marble keystones and with brick sills.  There are three basement windows
on the north with arches of rough stone; two have 2/2, double-hung sash and one has a
three-light casement sash.  The windows are the same on the south, where there is also
an original entrance with a new door.

The west end has a gabled parapet capped with tin.  The chancel projects in the
center of this facade; a stained glass, round-arched window is located in this
projection.  A small hipped roof addition is built onto the north side of the
projection.  The door and window openings of this small addition have been altered
somewhat; the roof is covered with slate shingles.  A second addition stands on the south
side of the church.  It is a  one-story, brick structure, stuccoed and scored to resemble
masonry.  It has a shed roof with a false parapet on the east, and is three bays across
on the east and seven bays long.  Both the additions were built with nails rather
than pegs as the church was.

The Town Clock Church is constructed with a central entrance, narthex, inset
tower, nave, chancel, and balcony.  In each of two rooms on either side of the narthex
is a stairway leading to the balcony, which is divided in half by a large pipe organ.
The chancel area is raised on a platform and includes a choir loft on both sides,
an organ loft, and behind this a baptismal pool.  At the rear of the chancel area are
two wooden pilasters supporting an elliptically arched vault.  Between these pilasters
are two tiers of paneling, one on either side of a window-like frame closed by a heavy
curtain, which is opened for the viewing of baptisms in the pool behind the paneling.
The present tiled ceiling is below the original plaster one; both of them are shallow
arched vaults.  The walls of the church are plastered.

Each stairway leading to the balcony has one run with a winder.  They are simply
made of oak, with balusters carved in a rounded cross pattern and a newel with a
J-shaped curve and simple post.  The wooden pegs connecting the handrail and the newel
are clearly visible.

The woodwork in the church is mostly architrave trim.  In the nave are three
sets of double doors, each a single wide plank with a cross-shaped window.  At the
entrance to the nave are two pilasters supporting the balcony.  The face of the
balcony is decorated with slats with arches between them.  In the nave are twenty-four
long pews.  The chancel is surrounded by a railing with architrave panels made of oak.
The wooden pilasters at the base of the vault behind the chancel are fluted.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
## INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

Town Clock Church
Allegany County
CONTINUATION SHEET Maryland          ITEM NUMBER    8       PAGE    3

(SIGNIFICANCE, continued)

The most historic event to take place at this church was the visit of Henry Ward
Beecher, famous abolitionist, political campaigner, and humanitarian, who practiced
his emotional style of preaching at this church in 1866.  In 1895 services were
changed to English.[7] The building has been the home of the First Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ) since 1931.[8]

Being the oldest church building without major renovations to be found in Cumberland,
the Town Clock Church has several distinguishing architectural features.  The most
prominent of these is the bell and clock tower that is clearly seen from different
parts of downtown Cumberland.  The white marble keystones, circular stained glass
window, and wide cornice are smaller features that greatly contribute to the overall
impressiveness of the east facade.  The inscription and cornerstone are features that
reveal the German heritage of the church, and the prominence of the structure illustrates
the large part the German population played in this area.

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[1]James W. Thomas and T.J.C. Williams, History of Allegany County, Maryland
(Philadelphia:  L.R.Titsworth and Co., 1923), p. 472.

[2] Harry Stegmaier, Jr., Allegany County - A History (Parsons, W. Va.:  McClain
Printing Co., 1976), p. 166.

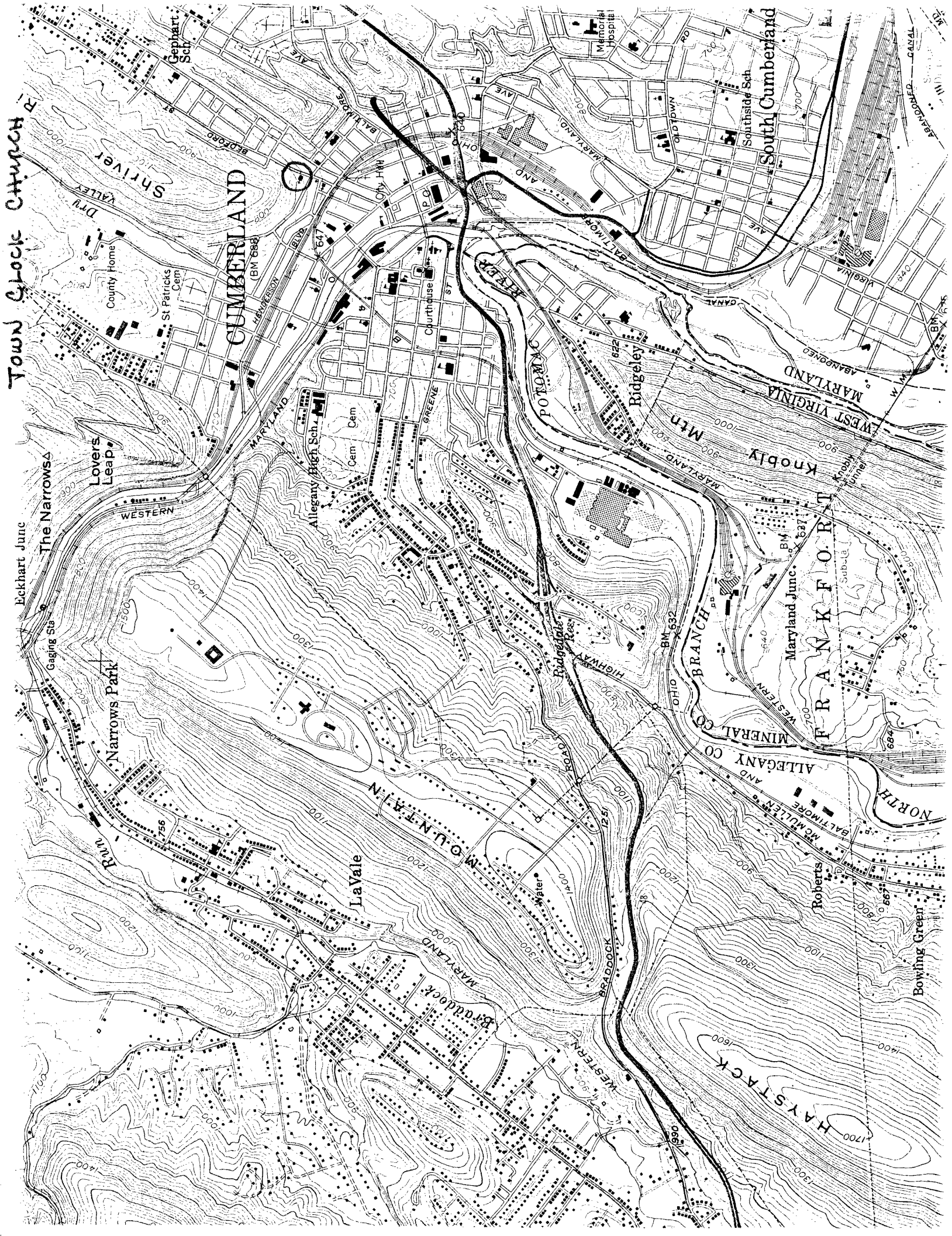[3]Thomas and Williams, History of Allegany County, p. 473.

[4]United Church Women of the Greater Cumberland Area, Bicentennial Histories of
Old Area Churches, 1776-1976, p. 27.

[5]Thomas and Williams, History of Allegany County, p. 473.

[6]Bicentennial Histories of Old Area Churches, p. 27.

[7]Thomas and Williams, History of Allegany County, p. 473.

[8]Bicentennial Histories of Old Area Churches, p. 27.

Town Clock Church →

CUMBERLAND

Shriver

Dry Valley

Lovers Leap.
The Narrows
Eckhart Junc
Gaging Sta
WESTERN

Gephart Sch
Memorial Hospital
South Cumberland
Southside Sch
VIRGINIA

County Home
St Patricks Cem
BM 688
JEFFERSON
MARYLAND
Allegany High Sch.
Cem
Cem
Courthouse
GREENE ST

POTOMAC RIVER
Ridgeley
Knobly Mtn
WEST VIRGINIA
MARYLAND
Knobly Tunnel

Narrows Park

Ridgedale Res
HIGHWAY
ROAD

BRANCH
OHIO
BM 632 × 632
Maryland Junc.
WESTERN
McMULLEN
ALLEGANY CO AND MINERAL CO
BALTIMORE
FRANKFORT
Roberts
NORTH

LaVale
MOUNTAIN
MARYLAND
Braddock
WESTERN
BRADDOCK ROAD

Water

HAYSTACK
Bowling Green

Run