1 NAME

HISTORIC
The German Evangelical Lutheran Salem Congregation

AND/OR COMMON
Old Salem Church and Cemetery (preferred)

2 LOCATION

West side of Ingleside Avenue, 2 miles south of Baltimore National Pike (US 40)
(700 block Ingleside Ave. at Calverton Street)

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY
DISTRICT
BUILDING(S)
STRUCTURE
SITE
OBJECT

OWNERSHIP
PUBLIC
PRIVATE
BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION
IN PROCESS
BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS
OCCUPIED
UNOCCUPIED
WORK IN PROGRESS
ACCESSIBLE
YES: RESTRICTED
YES: UNRESTRICTED
NO

PRESENT USE
AGRICULTURE
COMMERCIAL
PARK
EDUCATIONAL
PRIVATE RESIDENCE
ENTERTAINMENT
GOVERNMENT
RELIGIOUS
SCIENTIFIC
INDUSTRIAL
TRANSPORTATION
MILITARY
OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church of Catonsville

STREET & NUMBER
905 Frederick Avenue

CITY, TOWN
Catonsville

STATE
Maryland 21228

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS
Baltimore County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN
Towson

STATE
Maryland 21204

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
Baltimore County Historical Buildings Survey

DATE
on-going since 1964

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS
Baltimore County Historical Society

CITY, TOWN
(Headquarters) Agricultural Building, County Home Park, Catonsville

STATE
Maryland 21030
Located just south of Baltimore National Pike on the west side of Ingleside Avenue, Old Salem Church stands amid the tombstones of its smaller graveyard. It is in sharp contrast to the modern business areas just north and the busy Baltimore Beltway to the southeast.

The rather flat land slopes gently to the rear of the property. The two-lane Ingleside Avenue frontage is bordered by a chain-link fence with an entrance gate located directly in front of the church. A gravel road circles the building which sits some 60 feet back from the roadway. The original 1.65-acre tract was a triangular plot, purchased from Joseph P. and Caroline Fusting and recorded November 15, 1852. A small triangle was sold from the original, recorded on Nov. 10, 1965, leaving a 1.3-acre area.

The main part of the church building faces east and is a three-bay, irregular-stone structure approximately 28 feet wide and 42 feet long. It has a gable roof, a short boxy steeple, an entrance porch at the front and an apse at the rear. Each side has three lancet windows measuring 3½ feet by 9 feet, with clear glass set in wooden frames pivoted in the middle to tilt outward at the bottom. The builders used concrete window sills and brick arches set in the stone and mortar walls. Granite quoins were used in the four corners. Three small vertical openings evenly spaced along the foundation wall are vents for the undercroft.

The gable roof has hex-type asphalt shingles over wood shingles which can be seen at the roof's edge. The fascia board at the edge of the roof (no overhang) is an ogee molding painted white. On the south side between the first and second windows, a brick interior chimney protrudes from the roof. It rises to the height of the ridge board of the roof, is guyed by wires, and it topped by a corbeled cap and brick-arch covering.

In the front of the building, the entrance is protected by a porch about eight feet wide and eight feet long with a gabled roof. The porch floor, one step (stone) up from ground level, is laid with brick. In the center of each side of the porch is a casement window with pointed arch, opening inward. The sill and arch are stone, contrasting with the window construction of the six large windows. The interior walls and ceiling of the porch are plastered and painted to resemble cut stone. Double wooden doors and wooden trim within the pointed arch of the front entrance form a cross. All wooden trim is painted white. Above the porch on the front of the main part of the building is a circular window bricked into the stone front; it has wood framing and solid-color stained glass. The circle is cut into eight truncated-pie sections with a square window in the center hinged inward at the top opening.

At the front on the gable roof is a bell tower with a hip roof topped by a short steeple. The bell tower is two box-like structures, one on top of the other, covered with white aluminum siding and a ventilator with louvers.

See continuation sheet #1
DESCRIPTION (continued)

centered in each of the four sides. The eight-sided steeple rises half again as high as the bell tower and is covered with red tab asphalt shingles and topped by a lightning rod. The covering of the exterior of the bell tower has been changed as evidenced by earlier pictures; the lower box was formerly covered with diamond-shaped asphalt shingles and the upper one with narrow clapboard.

At the rear, a three-sided apse with vaulted roof has been constructed. Each side measures about 10 feet. A brick chimney with clay cap protrudes from the roof on the south side of the apse. A door on the north side has been covered with sheet metal. A pointed arch window in the center of the back contains three pointed arch wooden window frames with red tinted glass and blue in the top panes. A metal sun shield has been constructed to cover the upper portion of this window.

Interior (See floor plan)

Just inside the entrance doors is a vestibule. Framed under the balcony, it has a pointed arch on each of the three sides. From the vestibule, one can go directly ahead into the center aisle of the nave, to a single pew on the south side or to the north up the open, banistered stair into the choir loft. A pipe organ of European origin rises to the ceiling in the center of the choir loft with the organist's back to the minister. Metal pipes are exposed through the case; the manual is 4½ octaves, with 18 pedales, and is pumped on the side of the case.

The choir loft, though not large, was efficiently designed to hold the maximum number of people. On the south side of the organ are five tiers, space enough for five chairs and a three-foot aisle, and on the north side, three chairs on four tiers, leaving a three-foot aisle to the rear of the organ where access is obtained to the bell tower. A total of 36 people could sit in the choir loft. The bell bears the name Clampitt and Register, Baltimore, Md. Light was provided for the organist by kerosene lamps on each side of the organ manual. Flooring is of tongue and groove yellow pine boards held by steel, square-cut nails.

On the main floor of the nave there are ten pews on the north side and nine on the south, with a tenth set against the wall in the rear. There are no...
DESCRIPTION (continued)

aisles on the outside since the pews extend into the walls. Each pew is built with a non-moveable kneeler and hymnal rack on top of the back and suited to a book no more than six-inches tall.

A wood-burning stove is set into the pew area against a short pew with a metal screen protecting the wooden pews. The stove is ventilated by a black smoke pipe rising to the level of the balcony floor but about 30 inches in front and supported by black iron rods affixed to the balcony. The pipe rises gently to the level above the balcony railing and enters the chimney which has been built into the wall on the south. A closet is located under the balcony stairs. It appears that this is the only access to the undercroft, but requires the flooring to be lifted out. Another entrance to the undercroft may have been at the rear of the church, but this is no longer in evidence.

A red and beige carpet runs up the aisle to the altar which is set in front of the pointed arch entrance to the apse. The carpet runner also runs across the front. A wooden wall covering the lower portion of the archway is approximately nine feet high. The pulpit is set behind this wall, the front extending over the altar like a bay window. Panels with pointed arches cover the three surfaces of the pulpit. Steps to the pulpit are short and steep; the first step is made to slide into the second to conceal it. Entrance to the apse is through doors on each side of the altar. These pointed-arch doors are vertically set, tongue and groove boards with part of the groove morticed to give a vertical line effect. Small hymnboards hang over each door.

The altar is small, built of wood and separated on the platform from the aisles at each side by railings. At each side of the nave in the front are two short pews facing the altar apparently for the vestry or church council. In front of each, beside the apse arch, is a chancel chair for the clergyman. The baptismal font of marble stands in front of the south side vestry pews, on the nave floor and the altar platform cut back at that point.

Two ring chandeliers hang from the peak of the ceiling (the ceiling consists of boards nailed to the underside of the rafters) held by long 3/4-inch rods with hooks formed at each end. Each chandelier holds six glass kerosene lamps. One lamp and bracket is mounted between each of the large windows on each side of the nave. There are several wood-carved flower or leaf designs, two on each side of the pulpit over the apse doors and two on the vestibule wall facing the altar. There was a portable lantern for the front entrance hall, rectangular

See continuation sheet #3
DESCRIPTION (continued)

in shape, four inches deep, ten inches wide, and thirteen inches high, glass in its hinged front door and both sides, and a central vent on top. Also, a poor box, obviously hand made and painted black, was kept on the shelf inside the vestibule at eye level. Both items are in storage.

The pine floor appears to have been oiled and is dark in appearance. The apse walls are plum, nave walls are blue-green, ceiling is off-white. Rose designs set in a ribbon around the windows and apse arch are gold with black design; the gold matches the light-oak wood finish. Pews are painted gray.

Notes

1 Vents for the undercroft were added later. See Protokol Buch, page 103, December 31, 1865. Heinrich Ohle suggested and the congregation decided to have the church board "look to it that from the basement or the cellar wanted air holes in the wall under the church floor".

2 Roof. Apparently, the first roof lasted 42 years. Protokol Buch, page 158, December 29, 1891: "Besides, it was decided by the majority of the members to put a new shingled roof on the church and that every carpenter who belongs to the church should bring estimates".

3 Exterior porch, or Front Hall, Protokol Buch, page 111, June 24, 1869. On this date the congregation agreed "that the front hall shall be built and the material, stone, shall be donated (shall be money donated for buying the stones to build a front hall)".

4 Note that the three-sided apse is a deviation from the sketch submitted by the Stonemason Noessmeringer; he called for a semi-circular apse.

5 Organ. Dr. John Culler Bowers mentioned in his book, page 12, "A sweet toned pipe organ was brought from Europe".

6 Hymnal racks were raised from their original position. Protokol Buch, page 191, 1897.

7 Stove. Original stove was purchased in 1849, a second for the apse in 1851. Protokol Buch, pages 61 and 65.

See continuation sheet #4
8 Closet was built for Sunday School books, Protokol Buch, page 158.

9 The altar base was remodeled in the mid-1900's to repair termite destruction. The old base was shaped like the pulpit above it. It had a small, concealed, hinged door. Source of information: Dorothy M. Reis.
SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD

- PREHISTORIC
- ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC
- 1400-1499
- 1500-1599
- 1600-1699
- 1700-1799
- 1800-1899
- 1900-

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

- COMMUNITY PLANNING
- LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
- CONSERVATION
- LAW
- ECONOMICS
- LITERATURE
- EDUCATION
- MILITARY
- ARCHITECTURE
- PHILOSOPHY
- ART
- SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
- COMMERCE
- THEATER
- COMMUNICATIONS
- INDUSTRY
- TRANSPORTATION
- INVENTION
- OTHER (SPECIFY)
- COMMERCE
- ART
- EDUCATION
- ARCHITECTURE
- SCULPTURE
- MUSIC
- PHILOSOPHY
- SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
- THEATER
- SCIENCE
- RELIGION
- ENGINEERING
- INVENTION
- TRANSPORTATION
- ARCHITECTURE
- COMMERCE
- ART
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- MUSIC
- SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
- THEATER
- SCIENCE
- RELIGION
- ENGINEERING
- INVENTION
- TRANSPORTATION

SPECIFIC DATES

Cornerstone Feb. 12, 1849

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Architecture

Johann Moessmeringer, a stonemason, submitted plans for a church to the Salem congregation for approval. They were accepted except for the design of the apse. His original sketch exists and is in the hands of one of the descendants of an early member. The design is similar to another area church, St. Timothy Episcopal, in which these German immigrants worshipped before erecting their own building. The architectural style is simple, clean in lines, efficient in the use of space, and symbolizes the style associated with early German craftsmen. An advertisement for the consecration of the church, held June 16, 1850, described the new building: "This really beautiful little church, its gothic style, its rising tower, and its neat execution and finish, would be an ornament to any neighborhood...."

The building has had no major changes made and is essentially in the same condition as when it was built, certainly as when the congregation moved to its new building in 1903. It does not have electricity, water, sewer, gas or any modern heating system. Adequate information exists to restore it to its original condition.

Education

The Congregation's school, housed in a schoolhouse (no longer standing) built on the church property immediately to the north of the church, was claimed to be the first "public" school in Catonsville, having ceased to be a church school in 1879. Baltimore County apparently took over operation and paid rent for this building, continuing the school in the congregations' building into the early twentieth century. There are still residents who remember being pupils in this school, Baltimore County Public School No. 12.

Music

In the balcony of the church building is a fine example of a direct-tracker playing action pipe organ, built in the mid-nineteenth century. It is cased in wood, but the upper sides are open. It is still in operable condition, and is played at the fall service the congregation holds there each year. A lever action pump provides air for its pipes.

See continuation sheet #5
MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Protokol Buch, The German Evangelical Lutheran Salem Congregation. Minutes from Old Salem were translated from the original German by Mrs. Frank Roberts, Mrs. Charles Schwarz, and Miss Lena Schoebrodt.
Parish Record, Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church, statistics maintained.

See continuation sheet #7

GOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACCREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY about 1.3 acres

UTM REFERENCES

ZONE EASTING NORTHING
A 1 8 3 5 0 6 7 0 4 3 9 5 8 0
C 8

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The property lies to the west of Ingleside Avenue, south of Calverton Street, in the shape of a truncated triangle with the base along Ingleside starting at Calverton

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

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE
STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE
The Rev. David L. Michel, Chairman, Property Committee/Dorothy Maisel Reis

ORGANIZATION
Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church

STREET & NUMBER
905 Frederick Road/20 Somerset Rd.

TELEPHONE
0-727-7535, H-945-6268/744-3252

CITY OR TOWN
Catonsville/Baltimore

STATE
Maryland 21228/21228

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL ___ STATE X LOCAL ___

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.

TITLE
SHPO

DATE
5/2/77

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCORPORATED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 12/9/77

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER
Religious Significance

The German Lutherans brought with them their theological understandings of the Christian religion and included those understandings in their buildings, their actions and their words. For instance, the preached word, emphasized by Martin Luther in the sixteenth century reformation, becomes central in this building; the pulpit is in the center of the nave and stands over the altar symbolizing the centrality of the Word. The pulpit is perched high so that the congregation "looks up" to the preacher, emphasizing the lofty "Herr Pastor" role normally assumed by the minister. Other significant aspects of this congregation were the emphasis placed upon education, the love of music, the awe and respect for its God, its aloofness from the rest of the world and yet its willingness to leave its native tongue (German) and its first building to move to the center of the community.

Social Significance

German immigrants were one of the first groups of people to come to this country in large numbers in the 1830's and 1840's, profoundly affecting the small seaport of Baltimore and the rural villages of Catonsville to its west. It is apparent that some of the original immigrants came from Bavaria as middle-aged or older people. It was due to social, political and economic stress that these people left their homelands to make a new life in a new country. Many were master masons, carpenters, farmers, tailors, butchers, cabinet-makers and other artisans with skills needed in the new country.

This group of people immigrated to the United States through the immigration and immunization center set up at Fells Point. Many had friends already established here, but made their way to a densely wooded area just north of Catonsville. They spoke little or no English, were church-oriented, clannish by nature. They settled in the wilderness along New Cut Road, later named Ingleside Avenue. They hewed logs for their cabins, cleared the land for farming and set up their trades. The settlement became known as Germantown.

Notes

1. It was under Moessmeringer's guidance that the stonework was done. Men of the congregation assisted, Protokol Buch, page 62: Kummet and Kolb bill for exterior work: page 63: Maisel and Renz, interior woodwork and roof.

2. Sketch is in possession of Mrs. Doris (Kolb) Ehlers, Oak Drive, Catonsville. Moessmeringer had resided with her father who lived on Stoney Lane at junction with Harlem Lane.

See continuation sheet #6
The German Evangelical Lutheran Salem Congregation
Catonsville, Maryland

CONTINUATION SHEET

Notes (continued)

3 Einstein, page 28.


5 Protokol Buch, schoolhouse references, pages 79, 82, 135, 142; building of a new school, pages 63, 99; suggested size of new school 32' L x 24' W and the outside 12' high.

6 The Building was burned in 1957 by the fire department.

7 Public School #118, Baltimore County Public School #12, 1st District.

8 Rent, Protokol Buch, pages 139-155.

9 Orser, page 3.

10 Letter to Friedrich Ludwig Maisel. In possession of Dorothy Maisel Reis.

11 Reis, page 5C.
MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES (continued)

Bowers, John C. In Those Days. (Catonsville, Md.): Ladies Aid Society, Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church, 1942.

Einstein, Jacob, Jr. The Story Runneth Thus. (Catonsville, Md.): Vestry of St. Timothy’s Episcopal Church by Press of the Hoffman Brothers Co., 1844-1944.


Reis, Dorothy Maisel. "Old Salem Church: Place of Peace". The Times, Catonsville, Maryland, Thursday, July 1, 1976, p. 5C.
<table>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td><strong>CITY OR TOWN:</strong> Catonsville</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>COUNTY:</strong> Baltimore</td>
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<td><strong>STATE:</strong> Maryland</td>
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</table>

**TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS:**
1. Property boundaries where required.
2. North arrow.
3. Latitude and longitude reference.
4. Requirements:
   - Date: 1963 (photographed 1966)
   - Scale: 1:24,000
   - Source: USGS 7.5 minute map (topographic), Baltimore Jersusalemarie

**SOURCE:** TJSGS 7.5 minute map (topographic), Baltimore Jerusalemarie

**FORMAT:** OLD Salem Church and Cemetery

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**PROPERTY MAP FORM**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES**

**NATIONAL PARK SERVICE**

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**