

AA-1058  
Christ Lutheran Church  
Elvaton  
Private

1908

Built in 1908, Christ Lutheran Church is a fine example of an early-20th century frame, vernacular Lutheran Church. It was built for the German-speaking Lutheran population in the crossroads community of Elvaton, in Anne Arundel County, Maryland and was the first church of that denomination to be constructed in that overwhelmingly Methodist community. Christ Lutheran Church is one of Anne Arundel County's most intact historic Lutheran churches.

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. AA-1058

Magi No.

DOE  yes  no

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic  Christ Lutheran Church--preferred (also Elvaton Lutheran Christus Kirche)and/or common  Listman Chapel

## 2. Location

street & number  8245 Jumpers Hole Road  not for publicationcity, town  Elvaton  vicinity of  congressional districtstate  Maryland  county  Anne Arundel

## 3. Classification

| Category  | Ownership                                   | Status  | Present Use  |
|---|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> district               | <input type="checkbox"/> public             | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied        | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum                 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private | <input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied                 | <input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> structure              | <input type="checkbox"/> both               | <input type="checkbox"/> work in progress           | <input type="checkbox"/> educational <input type="checkbox"/> private residence      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> site                   | <b>Public Acquisition</b>                   | <b>Accessible</b>                                   | <input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious |
| <input type="checkbox"/> object                 | <input type="checkbox"/> in process         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted | <input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific              |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> being considered   | <input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted          | <input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation          |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> not applicable     | <input type="checkbox"/> no                         | <input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other: abandoned          |

## 4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name  Trustees of Christ Lutheran Churchstreet & number  8245 Jumpers Hole Road  telephone no.:  (410) 647-0349city, town  Millersville  state and zip code:  Maryland 21108

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc.  Anne Arundel County Court House  liber  1461street & number  7 Church Circle  folio  594city, town  Annapolis  state  Maryland

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title  federal  state  count  localdepository for survey records  Library of Congress, and the Maryland Department of Transportation state

## 7. Description

Survey No. AA-1058

| Condition                                     |                                       | Check one                                     |   | Check one    |       |
|---|---------------------------------------|---|---|--------------|-------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site |              |       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> good                 | <input type="checkbox"/> ruins        | <input type="checkbox"/> altered              | <input type="checkbox"/> moved                    | date of move | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> fair                 | <input type="checkbox"/> unexposed    |   |   |              |       |

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Christ Lutheran Church is located on the east side of Jumpers Hole Road directly behind a newer church of the same name. The building faces west and is surrounded on the north and east by heavy stands of mature trees, on the south by a grass yard, and on the west by an unpaved parking lot. Christ Lutheran Church is an simple yet elegant one-story, gable-front frame building. This essentially rectangular structure measures approximately 25' x 30' , excluding the square steeple tower that projects from the southwest corner. Walls are covered with vinyl siding and rest on concrete slab foundation. The roof, covered with asphalt shingles, has open eaves and narrow wooden verge boards.

The steeply pitched roof and lancet windows relate this vernacular building with the Gothic Revival style. Excepting the windows, however, this building makes very few concessions to ornament. The steeple offers the only other decoration, specifically the flared or kick eaves of the roof and the small, probably wooden, cross at its pinnacle. A marble date stone is present, located at the north end of the west wall. Executed in white marble, it reads "EV. LUTH. CHRISTUS KIRCHE" under which is "DEC 6, 1908"

The front (west) façade is dominated by a its ensemble window arrangement, which consists of a set of three lower, two-over-two window. Immediately above, and in direct alignment, are three fixed-sash windows. Specifically, a center, four-light lancet window, flanked on either side by a right-triangle window. Collectively, these six windows form one large lance window. This theme is reinforced by a triangularly-shaped ventilator window in the upper end. Side walls are three bays deep. Here fenestration consists of individual two-over-two lancet windows. Entry is achieved through a pair of modern, double doors in the west wall of the steeple. This entrance is protected by a simple gable roof hood, which is supported on either side by a downbrace that runs between the eaves and the west wall of the steeple.

Most original interior finish is removed, and the once open space is now divided into Sunday school rooms. Surviving historic material includes the faux-vault ceiling, some beaded wall board and plain window trim.

# 8. Significance

| Period                                    | Areas of Significance---Check and justify below  |   |   |  |
|---|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric      | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric  | <input type="checkbox"/> community planning     | <input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499        | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic     | <input type="checkbox"/> conservation           | <input type="checkbox"/> law                    | <input type="checkbox"/> science                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599        | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> economics              | <input type="checkbox"/> literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> sculpture                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> education              | <input type="checkbox"/> military               | <input type="checkbox"/> social/                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799        | <input type="checkbox"/> art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> music                  | <input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899        | <input type="checkbox"/> commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement | <input type="checkbox"/> philosophy             | <input type="checkbox"/> theater                         |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900- | <input type="checkbox"/> communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> politics/government    | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation                  |
|   |  | <input type="checkbox"/> invention              |   | <input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)<br>(recreation) |

| Specific dates               | Builder/Architect                 |                                |   |                            |                            |                            |                            |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|---|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Check: Applicable Criteria:  | <input type="checkbox"/> A        | <input type="checkbox"/> B     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C     | <input type="checkbox"/> D |                            |                            |                            |
| and/or Applicable Exception: | <input type="checkbox"/> A        | <input type="checkbox"/> B     | <input type="checkbox"/> C                | <input type="checkbox"/> D | <input type="checkbox"/> E | <input type="checkbox"/> F | <input type="checkbox"/> G |
| Level of Significance:       | <input type="checkbox"/> national | <input type="checkbox"/> state | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> local |                            |                            |                            |                            |

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Christ Lutheran Church was built in 1908 to serve the German-speaking Lutheran population of the crossroads village of Elvaton. It was the first church of that denomination to be constructed in this predominately Methodist community. Prior to the construction of this church, services were held in private homes and ministered to by an itinerant preacher. Between 1902 and 1904 the congregation was under the charge of Reverend F.W. Lowenstein of St. Pauls Lutheran Church in Curtis Bay. J.F. Muller was minister between 1904 and 1908, and officially organized the Elvaton Church, as well as St. Johns Lutheran Church in Ellicott City, Maryland. Christ Lutheran Church was incorporated on April 13, 1908 with ten male charter members (1). On October of that year the Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Ohio and Other States granted Christ Lutheran Church of Elvaton a \$300 mortgage toward the construction of this building (2).

Ethnic Germans came in continual waves from the early colonial period into the 20th century and became the nation's largest ethnic group. Those who found their way to Elvaton most likely came via Baltimore, and moved to the area to purchase land and establish farms. During the late-19th and early-19th century, the number of German names appearing in area land records show a marked increase over earlier periods (3).

This simple frame building is architecturally significant as a very intact early-20th century German Lutheran Church. Its small size and stylistic simplicity exhibited in this church reflect the comparatively small number of German Lutherans living in this predominately Methodist area, and the faith's rejection of excessive ornamentation and worldly display. The design is inspired by the extremely popular and long-lived Gothic Revival style. Its gable-end, side-steeple form also enjoyed national popularity, especially in rural areas. According to Jennings and Gottfried, this form was often sited in an open area where the understated, straightforward quality of the building created a strong profile and sensible relief against a natural background (4).



AA-1058  
Christ Lutheran Church  
Elvaton, Maryland

**Built 1908**

**MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA**

Geographic Organization: Western Shore

Chronological/Development Period(s): Industrial/Urban Dominance (1870-1930)

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme(s): Architecture

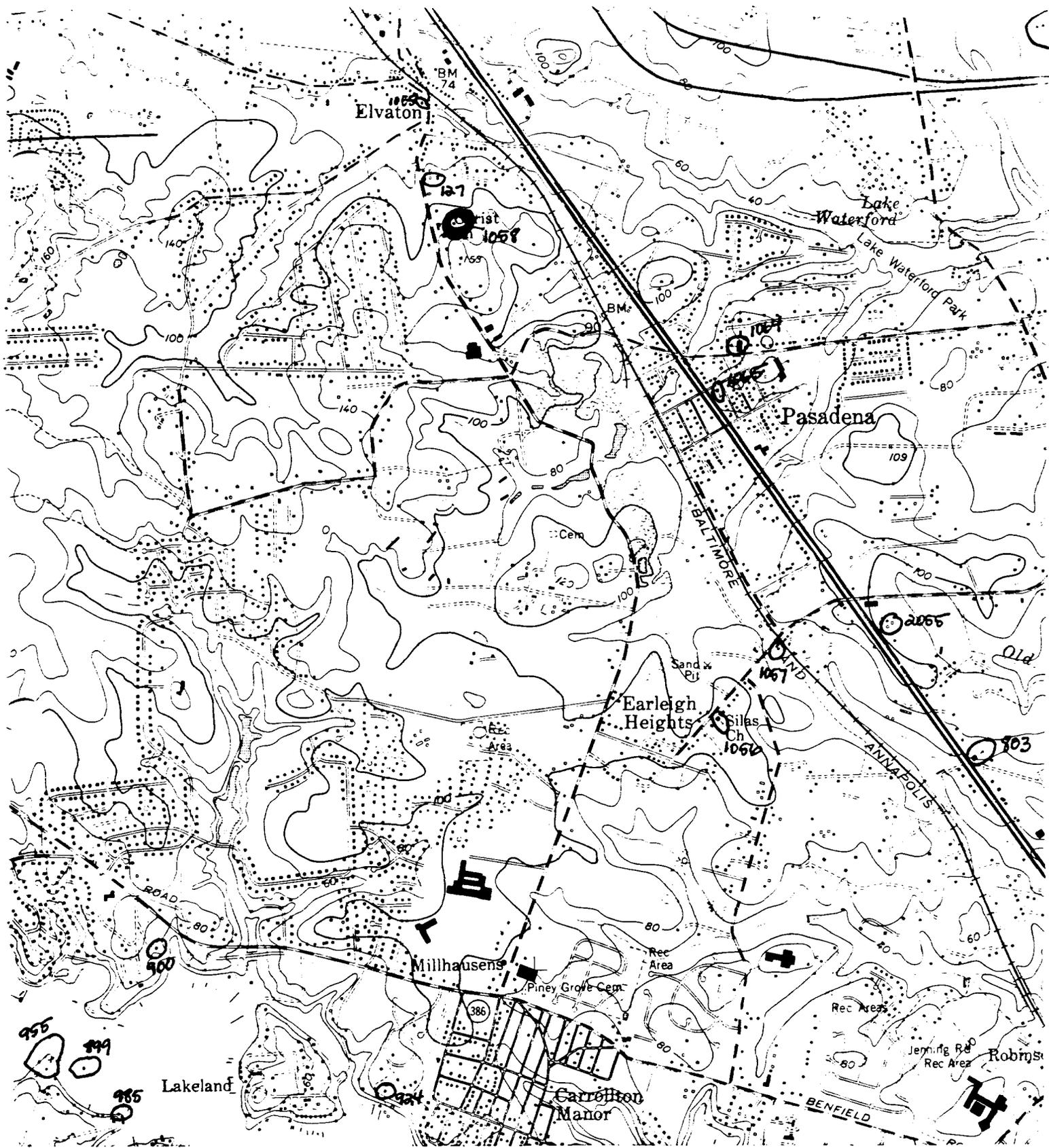
Resource Type:

Category Type: Building

Historic Environment: village

Historic Function(s) and Use(s): church

Known Design Source: none



**ROUND BAY**  
**USGS 7.5 minute series**  
**Scale: 1:24,000**  
**1956, photo revised 1979**

**Site Number: AA-1058**  
**Site Name: Christ Lutheran Church**  
**Location: Jumpers Hole Road, Elvaton**



AA-

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

ANNE ARUNDEL CO., MARYLAND

Photo by SHERRI M. MARSH, AUG 1996

NEG at MD SAPO

SOUTHWEST PERSPECTIVE

Photo 1 of 1