

CAPSULE SUMMARY

BA-1878

St. John's Lutheran Church

3907 Sweet Air Road

Glen Arm, Baltimore County

1888

Private

Located in the Tenth District village of Sweet Air, St. John's Lutheran Church dates to a late-19th century period of growth in the community. The building is representative of modest Gothic Revival style churches constructed throughout Baltimore County in the late 1800s and early 1900s. Sweet Air had not developed by 1850. At that time, only a general store and residence were sited at the intersection. The village was beginning to take shape by the mid-1860s. The 1877 county atlas indicates that the first general store, which was located on the northwest corner of the intersection of Sweet Air Road and Manor Road was supplanted by a parsonage. Additionally, several more dwellings had been constructed at or near the crossroads, indicating significant growth in the community between 1855 and 1877. Development of the village stalled over the course of the turn-of-the-20th century, and the 1915 county atlas indicates that only a few more buildings had been constructed at or near the crossroads. One of these was St. John's Lutheran Church.

The cornerstone of this Gothic Revival style church states the construction date is 1888. Fronting north, the church sits back from the road and is surrounded by a paved parking lot. Standing one-and-a-half stories tall, this three-bay-wide church is clad in stucco and has a front gable roof with asphalt shingles. A distinguishing feature of the façade is a three-story-tall bell tower with a pyramidal asphalt shingle roof that was constructed in 1898. The octagonal third-story of the tower has four, pointed-arch louvered vents. The second-story has a four-part louvered vent with a steeply pointed-arch on the façade. Both the second and third stories are clad variegated wood shingles. The first story of the tower is stucco clad with a two-leaf entry on the front and pointed-arch, stained-glass windows on the sides. This entry has paneled wood doors made with diagonal board and shaped with a steeply pointed arch. Above the doors is a non-historic, recessed panel in the shape of a stylized dove. Flanking the entrance on the façade are two, pointed-arch stained-glass windows with vinyl sills and surrounds. The main block is three bays deep and is connected to a one-story, stucco clad addition by a gabled hyphen. Two exterior-end brick chimneys project from the roofline, one is parged while the other is stretcher bond. Located next to the original church is a circa 1925 Dutch Colonial Revival style parsonage. Also on the property is a circa 1940 garage. To the west is a cemetery with approximately 150 marble and granite gravestones. In 1964 a new church was erected on the property.

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. BA-1878

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic St. John's Lutheran Church

other _____

2. Location

street and number 3907 Sweet Air Road _____ not for publication

city, town Baldwin _____ vicinity

county Baltimore County

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

name St. John's Lutheran Church

street and number _____ telephone Not Available

city, town Phoenix state MD zip code 21131

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore County Courthouse liber 896 folio 320

city, town Towson tax map 44 tax parcel 4 tax ID number 1019000026

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
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	Contributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<u>3</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> domestic	<u>1</u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	structures
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> funerary	objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	<u>4</u> Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	
		<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	
		<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion	
		<input type="checkbox"/> social	
		<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	
		<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	
		<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	
		<input type="checkbox"/> other:	
			Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory
			<u>1</u>

7. Description

Inventory No. BA-1878

Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

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

The cornerstone of this Gothic Revival style church states the construction date is 1888. Fronting north, the church sits back from the road and is surrounded by a paved parking lot. Standing one-and-a-half stories tall, this three-bay-wide church is clad in stucco and has a front gable roof with asphalt shingles. A distinguishing feature of the façade is a three-story-tall bell tower with a pyramidal asphalt shingle roof that was constructed in 1898. The octagonal third-story of the tower has four, pointed-arch louvered vents. The second-story has a four-part louvered vent with a steeply pointed-arch on the façade. Both the second and third stories are clad variegated wood shingles. The first story of the tower is stucco clad with a two-leaf entry on the front and pointed-arch, stained-glass windows on the sides. This entry has paneled wood doors made with diagonal board and shaped with a steeply pointed arch. Above the doors is a non-historic, recessed panel in the shape of a stylized dove. Flanking the entrance on the façade are two, pointed-arch stained-glass windows with vinyl sills and surrounds. The main block is three bays deep and is connected to a one-story, stucco clad addition by a gabled hyphen. Two exterior-end brick chimneys project from the roofline, one is parged while the other is stretcher bond.

Located next to the original church is a circa 1925 Dutch Colonial Revival style parsonage. The building stands two stories high and three-bays wide with an asphalt shingle gambrel roof. Paired with square-edged wood sills on the first story, seven 1/1 vinyl windows pierce the façade. The first story of this wood frame building is clad with stucco while the second story is clad with aluminum siding. A one-story portico with grouped square posts protects the central entry. The entry consists of a single-leaf wood door that is paneled with lights. A brick exterior-end chimney that is shouldered rises up the side of the house.

Also on the property is a circa 1940 garage that stands one-story-high and one-bay-square. The stucco-clad structure has wood shingles in the ends of the front gable roof. The entry is marked by a roll-up metal door with square-edged wood surrounds.

To the west is a cemetery with approximately 150 marble and granite gravestones. These markers range in style from flat, beveled and rounded to obelisk. Surrounded by a concrete-post-and-metal fence, the cemetery is still in use as a burial ground and dates to 1876. Some of the family names include Wolfe, Burk, Reter, Rider, and Heyck.

In 1964, a second church was constructed on the property. The church is clad with a six-course Flemish bond brick veneer. The two-story structure has a cross gable roof with asphalt shingles. The main entrance is located in the hyphen between the main block and the wing with a double-leaf plate-glass door.

8. Significance

Inventory No. BA-1878

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

Specific dates	1888-present	Architect/Builder	Unknown
Construction dates	1888, 1898		

Evaluation for:

National Register Maryland Register 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 projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

Located in the Tenth District village of Sweet Air, St. John’s Lutheran Church dates to a late-19th century period of growth in the community. The building is representative of modest Gothic Revival style churches constructed throughout Baltimore County in the late 1800s and early 1900s. Sweet Air had not developed by 1850. At that time, only a general store and residence were sited at the intersection.¹ The village was beginning to take shape by the mid-1860s.² The 1877 county atlas indicates that the first general store, which was located on the northwest corner of the intersection of Sweet Air Road and Manor Road was supplanted by a parsonage. Additionally, several more dwellings had been constructed at or near the crossroads, indicating significant growth in the community between 1855 and 1877.³ Development of the village stalled over the course of the turn-of-the-20th century, and the 1915 county atlas indicates that only a few more buildings had been constructed at or near the crossroads. One of these was St. John’s Lutheran Church.

St. John’s Lutheran Church was constructed in the Gothic Revival style. Reflective of this style are the central tower and multi-light pointed-arch windows. Although introduced to the United States in the 1830s by architect Alexander Jackson Davis, Andrew Jackson Downing, a landscape architect, popularized the Gothic Revival during the last half of the 19th century as a reaction against Classicism.

¹ J.C. Sidney, *Map of the City and County of Baltimore, Maryland, from Original Surveys* (Baltimore, MD: James M. Stephens, 1850).
² Baltimore County Historic Inventory.
³ *Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland* (Philadelphia, PA: G.M. Hopkins, 1877).

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. BA-1878

- Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland.* Philadelphia, PA: G. M. Hopkins, 1877.
Baltimore County Historic Inventory.
Brooks, Neal A. and Eric G. Rockel. *A History of Baltimore County.* Towson, MD: Friends of the Towson Library, Inc., 1979.
Map of Baltimore County. Philadelphia, PA: G. W. Bromley, 1915.
Scharf, J. Thomas. *History of Baltimore City and County From the Earliest Period to the Present Day: Including Biographical Sketches of Their Representative Men.* Philadelphia, PA: Louis H. Everts, 1881. Reprinted by Higginson Book Company, Salem, MA.
Sidney, J. C. *Map of the City and County of Baltimore, Maryland, from Original Surveys.* Baltimore, MD: James M. Stephens, 1850.
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10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property One Acre
Acreage of historical setting Unknown
Quadrangle name Phoenix Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

Since its construction in 1888, St. John's Lutheran Church has been associated with the acreage known as tax parcel 4 of map 44 located in the Baltimore County Tax Assessor's office.

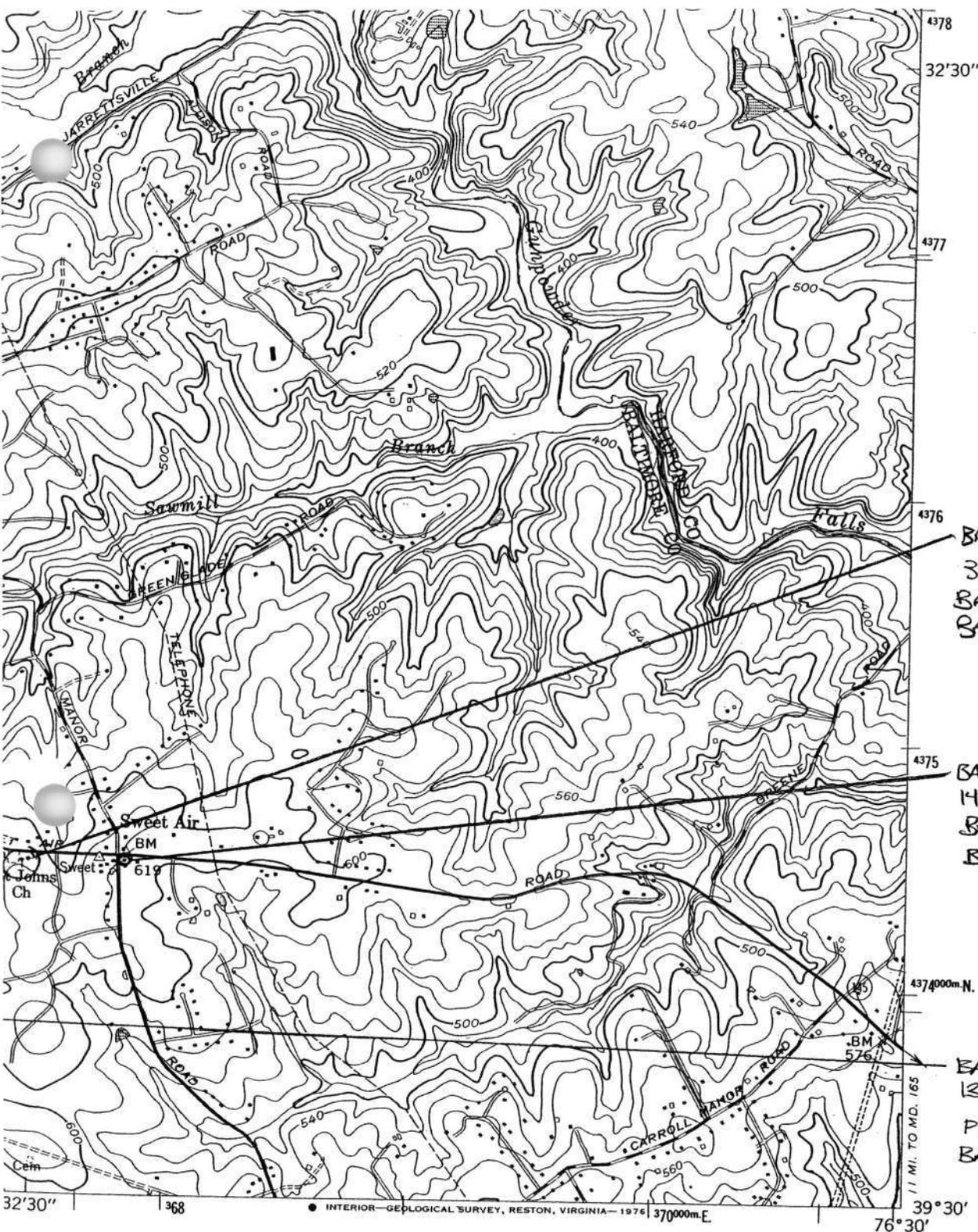
11. Form Prepared by

name/title	A. McDonald and A. Didden, Architectural Historians		
organization	EHT Tracerics, Incorporated	date	May 29, 2001
street & number	1121 5th Street NW	telephone	202.393.1199
city or town	Washington	state	DC

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 21032-2023
410-514-7600



BA-1878
 3907 SWEET AIR ROAD
 BALDWIN
 BALTIMORE COUNTY

BA-0867
 1417 MANDEL ROAD
 BALDWIN
 BALTIMORE COUNTY

BA-2239
 13916 JARRETT'SVILLE
 PIKE
 PHOENIX
 BALTIMORE COUNTY

LE

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

- Heavy-duty Light-duty
- Medium-duty Unimproved dirt

State Route

(WHITE MARSH)
 5762 IV NW



PHOENIX, MD.

N3930-W7630/7.5

1957
 PHOTOREVISED 1974
 AMS 5663 II SE-SERIES V833



BA-1878

3907 SWEET AIR ROAD

BALDWIN

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRAILERIES

3/2001

MD-SHPD

N ELEVATION

1 of 6



BA-1878

3107 SWEET AIR ROAD

BALDWIN

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRUCKS

3/2001

MD-SHPD

NE CORNER

2 of 6



BA-1878

3907 SWEET AIR ROAD

BALDWIN

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRAILER

3/2001

MD SHPD

SW CORNER

3 of 6



BA 1878

3907 SWEET AIR ROAD
BALDWIN

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD
TRAILERIES

3/2001

MO - SHED
SE CORNER

4 of 6



BA-1878

3907 SWEET AIR ROAD

BALDWIN

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRAILER

3/2001

MD-SPD

PASSENGER

5 of 6



BA-1878

3907 SWEET AIR ROAD
BALDWIN

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRAILERS

3/2001

MD-STEP

LEMOERY

6 of 6

- 13200

BA-1878

- 1843 (RAVENSWOOD FARMS HOUSE) CLOVERLAND FARM HOUSE - Jarrettsville Pike, Sunnybrook vicinity.
- 1853 CORBETT ROAD COVERED BRIDGE SITE - 1883 - Corbett Road over Gunpowder Falls, Corbett vicinity. Stone abutments survive on both banks, in Election Districts 8 and 10, from a covered bridge that was replaced by modern highway bridge. The Baltimore County Union reported on August 11, 1883, that the County Commissioners had accepted the new bridge.
- 1878 ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH AND CEMETERY - Sweet Air Road, Sweet Air. Gable-roofed, stuccoed church in simplified Gothic Revival. Square entrance tower with louvered hexagonal belfry, covered with imbricated white shingles. Lancet window and lancet door frame. Good condition. Tower dates from 1898.
- 2079 CARMINE-WHITE HOUSE - 1850-1877 - 13,555 Poplar Hill Road, Poplar Hill - Phoenix vicinity. Two-part vernacular style house entirely covered by shingles, but the older part is a log cabin. In 1980, the owners were restoring the logs to view on the inside. An addition was estimated at 1880. This was the James Torrington house of the 1877 atlas; the Carmine family had it about 50 years. This seems to be the surviving dwelling of a much larger farm. It is on the east side of the road opposite Poplar Hill United Methodist Church.
- 2099 FRAMES MEMORIAL M.E. CHURCH - 1888 - ^{14,500}South terminus of Mount Avenue, Phoenix. Frame, vernacular style country chapel with gable roof, small belfry, stone foundation, opalescent sash windows. It was the company town church of the Phoenix Factory town, originally built on the west side of Carroll Road, north of its junction with the present Phoenix Road. The chapel was disassembled when Phoenix town and mill were demolished in 1922, and reerected on high ground at the southwest corner of town. The congregation dates back to meetings held in the company store as early as 1853.
- 2100 UNION CHAPEL - Before 1877 - 17,341 Troyer Road, My Lady's Manor vicinity. This chapel was built on land acquired c1876 from George Johnson, a black man. The 1877 atlas showed "Col. Ch.", representing the small frame, gable roofed chapel. The building also served as a school before founding of Shepperd School. There is a cemetery in the rear.
- 2101 MOUNT JOY AME CHURCH - 1857-1873 - East side of Troyer Road, 0.22 mile north of Shepperd Road, My Lady's Manor vicinity. Not found on maps of 1850 or 1857, this frame church was used as a school, and school commissioner records of April 24, 1873, contain a petition to establish a colored school at Mount Joy. Shown as an A.M.E. church in the 1877 atlas. The county papers of 1886 reported that a person shot off a pistol at a service and wounded Edward Swan. This church is composed of two segments and its cornerstone is not visible. The building is set well back from the road.