



Survey No. BA-2509

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA - HISTORIC CONTEXT

I. Geographic Region:

- Eastern Shore (all Eastern Shore counties, and Cecil)
- Western Shore (Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, Prince George's and St. Mary's)
- Piedmont (Baltimore City, Baltimore, Carroll, Frederick, Harford, Howard, Montgomery)
- Western Maryland (Allegany, Garrett and Washington)

II. Chronological/Developmental Periods:

- Paleo-Indian 10000-7500 B.C.
- Early Archaic 7500-6000 B.C.
- Middle Archaic 6000-4000 B.C.
- Late Archaic 4000-2000 B.C.
- Early Woodland 2000-500 B.C.
- Middle Woodland 500 B.C. - A.D. 900
- Late Woodland/Archaic A.D. 900-1600
- Contact and Settlement A.D. 1570-1750
- Rural Agrarian Intensification A.D. 1680-1815
- Agricultural-Industrial Transition A.D. 1815-1870
- Industrial/Urban Dominance A.D. 1870-1930
- Modern Period A.D. 1930-Present
- Unknown Period (  prehistoric  historic)

III. Prehistoric Period Themes:

- Subsistence
- Settlement
- Political
- Demographic
- Religion
- Technology
- Environmental Adaption

IV. Historic Period Themes:

- Agriculture
- Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Community Planning
- Economic (Commercial and Industrial)
- Government/Law
- Military
- Religion
- Social/Educational/Cultural
- Transportation

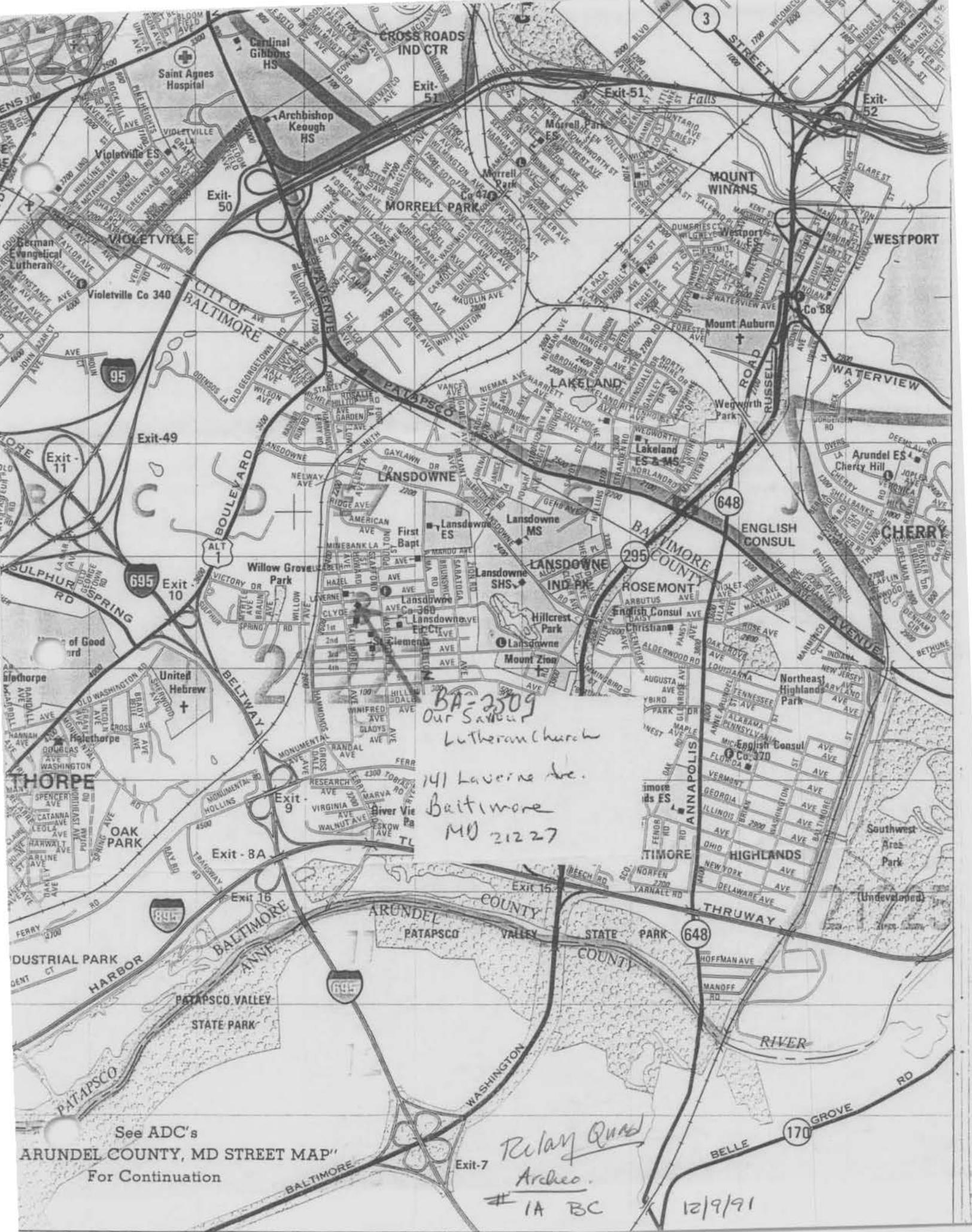
V. Resource Type:

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Suburban

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

Known Design Source: \_\_\_\_\_



See ADC's  
 ARUNDEL COUNTY, MD STREET MAP"  
 For Continuation

BA-2509  
 Our Saviour  
 Lutheran Church  
 141 Laverne Ave.  
 Baltimore  
 MD 21227

Relay Quad  
 Archeo.  
 # 1A BC  
 12/9/91

## **CAPSULE SUMMARY**

**BA-2509**

**Evangelical Lutheran Church of Our Savior**

**143 Lavern Avenue**

**Baltimore, Baltimore County**

**1929**

**Private**

Constructed in 1929, the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Our Savior dates to an early 20th century period of growth in Landsdowne as a Baltimore City. Landsdowne, originally known as Joshua, did not take shape until after the turn-of-the-20th century. In 1909, Charles W. Hull purchased 766 acres of land along Old Annapolis Road for \$30,000 with the intent of subdividing the previously rural tract that was owned in the late 19th century by the Randle, Ring, Caton, and Linthicum families. Through the early 20th century, the development of the Landsdowne community was aided by its proximity to rail service. The Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, which passed near Landsdowne made the community accessible as a suburban residential subdivision. The 1915 county atlas reveals that, although the community was planned in a rectilinear form, its central focal point was the public school. The east-west streets were laid numerically from first to fifth, and then the remaining four were provided names: Elizabeth, Hazel, Lavern, and Clyde. The north-south streets were named after cities, including Baltimore, Washington, Charleston, and Saratoga. By 1915, a fire station and three churches were established in the community, while a post office anchored the west side of the subdivision. However, little development of the lots had occurred by the mid-1910s. With the growth of Baltimore, Landsdowne has become a near suburb on the city's southwest side.

The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Our Savior is a two-story Gothic Revival style church of solid coursed rubble stone construction with a slate-tiled front gable roof that terminates in a façade parapet with a limestone coping. The church fronts north and is banked into a hillside that slopes downward from the sidewalk, revealing the foundation on the sides and rear. The façade is centrally pierced by a paneled double-leaf door with a molded wood surround within a Tudor-arched carved limestone portal. Above the entry, the second story features a tripartite window composed of three lancet-arched multi-light leaded windows with molded wood mullions below a Tudor-arched stone lintel. Engaged coursed rubble stone wall buttresses flank the entry and delineate each bay of the six-bay-deep church. A coursed rubble stone chimney rises along the south elevation of the church. In 1954, a Tudor Revival style wing was constructed on the west elevation of the church. The two-story wing is five bays wide with a random ashlar stone veneered foundation and a false half-timbered second story. Entry into the wing is gained through a gabled projecting central bay with a Tudor-arched entry.



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## 7. Description

Inventory No. BA-2509

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### Condition

excellent       deteriorated  
 good             ruins  
 fair               altered

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

Constructed in 1929, the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Our Savior is a two-story Gothic Revival style church of solid coursed rubble stone construction with a slate-tiled front gable roof that terminates in a façade parapet with a limestone coping. The church fronts north and is banked into a hillside that slopes downward from the sidewalk, revealing the foundation on the sides and rear. The façade is centrally pierced by a paneled double-leaf door with a molded wood surround within a Tudor-arched carved limestone portal. Above the entry, the second story features a tripartite window composed of three lancet-arched multi-light leaded windows with molded wood mullions below a Tudor-arched stone lintel. Engaged coursed rubble stone wall buttresses flank the entry and delineate each bay of the six-bay-deep church. A coursed rubble stone chimney rises along the south elevation of the church. In 1954, a Tudor Revival style wing was constructed on the west elevation of the church. The two-story wing is five bays wide with a random ashlar stone veneered foundation and a false half-timbered second story. Entry into the wing is gained through a gabled projecting central bay with a Tudor-arched entry.

## 8. Significance

Inventory No. BA-2509

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** 1929-present **Architect/Builder** Unknown

**Construction dates** 1929, 1954

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.)

Constructed in 1929, the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Our Savior dates to an early 20<sup>th</sup> century period of growth in Landsdowne as a Baltimore City suburb and is representative of the many Gothic Revival style churches erected throughout Baltimore County in the early 1900s. Landsdowne, originally known as Joshua, did not take shape until after the turn-of-the-20<sup>th</sup> century. In 1909, Charles W. Hull purchased 766 acres of land along Old Annapolis Road for \$30,000 with the intent of subdividing the previously rural tract that was owned in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century by the Randle, Ring, Caton, and Linthicum families.<sup>1</sup> Through the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, the development of the Landsdowne community was aided by its proximity to rail service. The Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, which passed near Landsdowne made the community accessible as a suburban residential subdivision.<sup>2</sup> The 1915 county atlas reveals that, although the community was planned in a rectilinear form, its central focal point was the public school. The east-west streets were laid numerically from first to fifth, and then the remaining four were provided names: Elizabeth, Hazel, Lavern, and Clyde. The north-south streets were named after cities, including Baltimore, Washington, Charleston, and Saratoga. By 1915, a fire station and three churches were established in the community, while a post office anchored the west side of the subdivision. However, little development of the lots had occurred by the mid-1910s.<sup>3</sup> With the growth of Baltimore, Landsdowne has become a near suburb on the city's southwest side.

The stone church was constructed in the Gothic Revival style, which was introduced to the United States in the 1830s by architect Alexander Jackson Davis and popularized through the pattern books of landscape architect Andrew Jackson Downing as a reaction against Classicism. Reflective of this style are the wall buttresses and pointed-arch windows. The Gothic Revival style abstracted elements from Gothic cathedrals of medieval Europe, primarily those of England and France. 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.

<sup>1</sup> Neal A. Brooks and Eric G. Rockel, *A History of Baltimore County* (Towson, MD: Friends of the Towson Library, Inc., 1979), p. 315; see also *Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland* (Philadelphia, PA: G.M. Hopkins, 1877).

<sup>2</sup> Neal A. Brooks and Eric G. Rockel, *A History of Baltimore County* (Towson, MD: Friends of the Towson Library, Inc., 1979), p. 158.

<sup>3</sup> *Map of Baltimore County* (Philadelphia, PA: G.W. Bromley, 1915).

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. BA-2509

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- 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

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Acreage of surveyed property .50 Acre  
Acreage of historical setting Unknown  
Quadrangle name Relay Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

Since its construction in 1929, the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Our Savior has been associated with the lot located at 143 Lavern Avenue, which is a portion of tax parcel 357 of map 109 located in the Baltimore County Tax Assessor's office.

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## 11. Form Prepared by

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

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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-2513  
1709 WOODSIDE AVENUE  
BALTIMORE  
BALTIMORE COUNTY

BA-2510  
112-116 LAVERN AVENUE  
BALTIMORE  
BALTIMORE COUNTY

BA-2509  
143 LAVERN AVENUE  
BALTIMORE  
BALTIMORE COUNTY

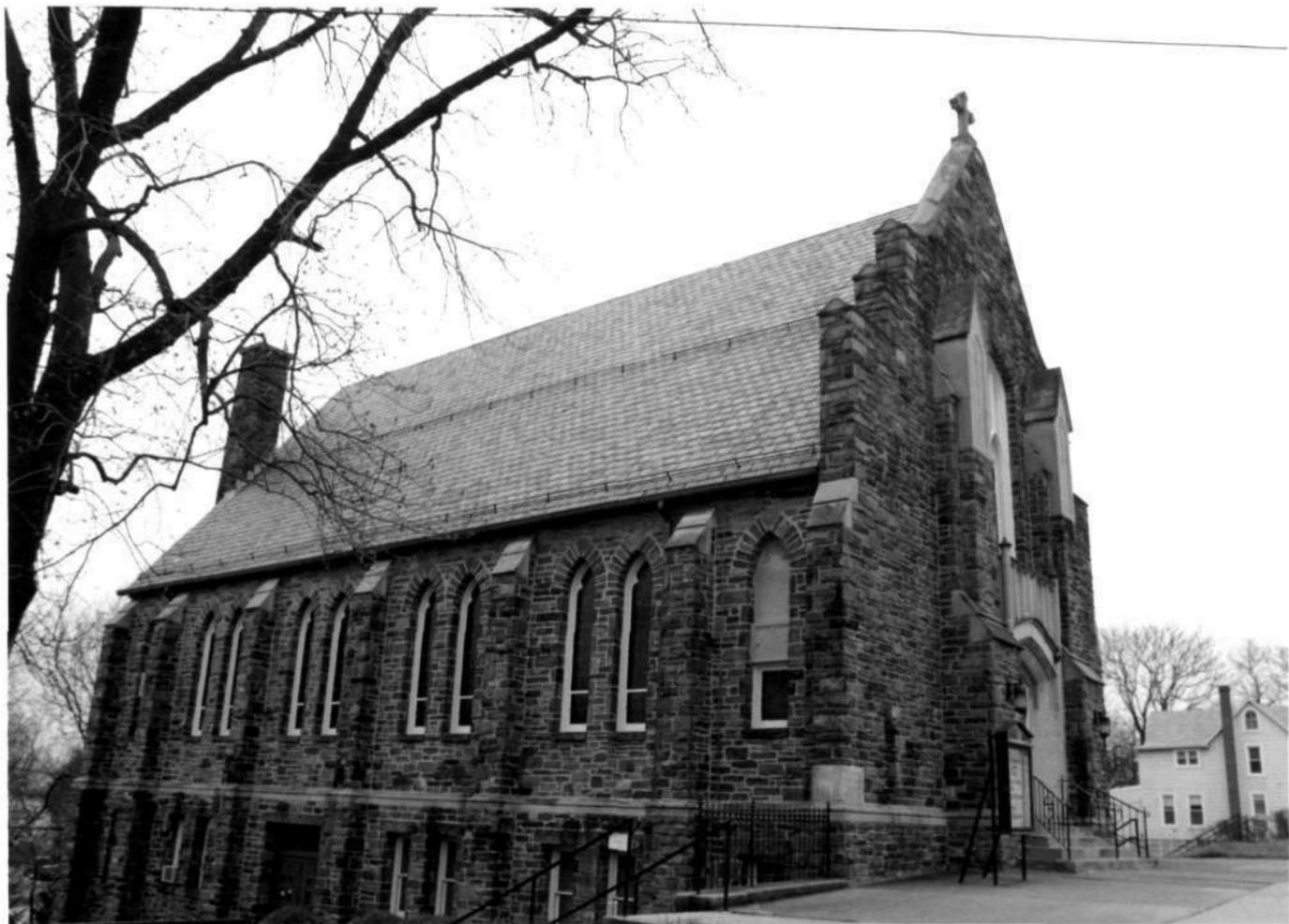
RELAY QUADRANGLE  
MARYLAND  
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)  
NW/4 RELAY 15' QUADRANGLE

5662 SW (BALTIMORE WEST) 355 356 40' 357 900 000 FEET 358 3.3 MI. TO U.S. 40 359 76°37'30" 39°1'



4345  
4344  
510 01  
FEET  
4342

BALTIMORE HARBOR TUNNEL 3 MI.



BAZ509

143 LAVERN AVENUE, BALTIMORE  
BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRUCKS

4/2001

MD STATE

NE CORNER

1053



BA-2509

143 CAVERN AVENUE, BALTIMORE  
BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES

3/2001

MD SHPO

NW CORNER

2 of 3



BA-2509

143 CAVERN AVENUE, BALTIMORE  
BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES

4/2001

MD SHPD

WING

3 of 3

BA-2509

OUR SAVIOUR EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH - 1929 - 143  
Lavern Avenue, Lansdowne. Well designed Gothic Revival  
church in Butler quarry quartzite. White limestone tracery  
around the main doors. Slate roofing. Shallow buttres-  
ses. Amber glass lancet windows. Attached on the south is  
a Tudor Revival school building with a 1954 inscription.  
The church replaces a frame structure built in 1891. The  
original congregation held services in both German and  
English.