

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM**

NR Eligible: yes \_\_\_  
no \_\_\_

Property Name: Pilgrim Evangelical Lutheran Church of Baltimore County Inventory Number: BA-2954

Address: 7000 Liberty Road City: Baltimore, MD Zip Code: 21207

County: Baltimore USGS Topographic Map: Baltimore West

Owner: Pilgrim Evangelical Lutheran Church of Baltimore County

Tax Parcel Number: 531/4, 5, and 6 Tax Map Number: 78 Tax Account ID Number: 0216450120, 0216450123 and 0216450124

Project: I-695/MD 26 Agency: FHWA and SHA

Site visit by MHT Staff:  no  yes Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Eligibility recommended  Eligibility **not** recommended

Criteria:  A  B  C  D Considerations:  A  B  C  D  E  F  G  None

Is the property located within a historic district?  no  yes Name of district: \_\_\_\_\_

Is district listed?  no  yes Determined eligible?  no  yes District Inventory Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Documentation on the property/district is presented in: Project review and compliance files.

**Description of Property and Eligibility Determination:** *(Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map and photo)*

Although the Pilgrim Lutheran Church retains excellent integrity of materials, workmanship, setting and location, the building is a product of two construction campaigns. While the southern portion is fifty years of age, the northern portion is not, since it was constructed in 1959. As a result, the building is a hybrid. The second addition did not alter the integrity of the first building. Furthermore, the church's design does not display distinctive characteristics. While it does represent an aspect of Modernism, it is a more conservative branch which was typical of suburban developments. Also, the addition does not meet the requirements of Criterion Consideration G for buildings that have achieved significance within the past fifty years. Based on this, the Pilgrim Lutheran Church is not eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.

Prepared by: Anne E. Bruder, Architectural Historian, SHA

Date Prepared: August 15, 2001

<b>MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW</b>	
Eligibility recommended <input type="checkbox"/>	Eligibility not recommended <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Criteria: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D	Considerations: <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 <input type="checkbox"/> None
Comments: _____	
<u>Andrea Lewis</u>	<u>09/25/01</u>
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services	Date
<u>[Signature]</u>	<u>9/25/01</u>
Reviewer, NR program	Date

✓ entered



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## 7. Description

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Inventory No. BA-2954

### 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.

The Pilgrim Lutheran Church was founded in 1924. However, the church did not construct its building at 7000 Liberty Road until 1949. Two building campaigns, the second in 1959, completed the complex, which consists of a church, chapel, classrooms and offices.

The first portion of the church to be built is the southern-most stone edifice. This building is three bays wide. The stones are quarry face and laid in a regular bond pattern. On the exterior of the chapel, the gable wall is recessed and decorated with a sculpture of Christ with a child. Above it, a decorative truss which projects from the roof provides shelter for the sculpture. There are several types of windows: louvered, rectangular and three part windows with diamond shaped lights of colored glass in the chapel. In the classroom area, there are aluminum frame windows. The entrance, which supports the bell tower, has carved wood beams set in a three-part arch on the west side and a stone arch on the south side. Doors set at an angle provide entrance to the interior of the building from the south. In the rear of the building, the exterior is covered in stucco with a stone base and decorative wood beams in the gable.

The 1959 section to the north matches the original building in scale and massing at the front of the building. It is a two-part building consisting of an entrance through a one-story gable hall and the larger church building which extends to classrooms in the basement. At the rear, the building becomes two-and-one-half stories, which is six bays wide and eight bays long. It forms an "L" with the classrooms and offices at the rear of the building. However, rather than continue the stone cladding, the walls are finished in stucco and stone at the bottom. The windows have wood and stone sills. The entrance to this portion of the building is through a pair of wood doors set within a pointed arch which also contains quoins. The quoins also appear in several of the windows. The entire building is covered by a red shingle roof. The 1959 building reflects the Modernist aesthetic in that the simple gable forms and the cream stucco with the large pointed arch openings are reduced to an abstraction that contrasts with the original building.

The interior of the sanctuary is a large nave, entered at the rear south wall. There are two sections of pews and the chancel is set up at a slightly higher level. It contains a pulpit, lectern, altar and communion rail. The walls are plaster, painted white, and the roof trusses are exposed wood. A large three-part stain glass window within a pointed arch frame with two rectangular windows on either side are in the rear wall. Both lateral walls are decorated with square stain glass windows.

## 8. Significance

Inventory No. BA-2954

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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input 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 1949 - 19511

Architect/Builder

Construction dates 1949 - 1959

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.)

Pilgrim Lutheran Church was founded in 1924 and construction of the original building at 7000 Liberty Road began in 1949. This building recalls the Arts and Crafts Gothic Revival churches, which were popular in the first quarter of the twentieth century. Like many other institutions, churches joined the migration to the suburbs when their parishioners moved. Because the church is an important community institution, its presence lends stability to the neighborhoods.

Pilgrim Church appears to have been in several locations before settling in Milford. In the 1926 *Baltimore City Directory*, the church was located at 6 West Belvedere Avenue and in the 1942 *Directory*, the church is listed at 5100 Dunmore Avenue.<sup>1</sup> The Pilgrim Lutheran Church purchased lots 4, 5 and 6 in the Milford development, and combined them to provide space for a growing complex of buildings, which were constructed between for 1949 and 1959. As a denomination, Lutherans build their churches for the purposes of liturgy rather than preaching. Thus the church has a center aisle which allows for processions and a separate chancel which contains the altar and pulpit.

Lutherans first came to Frederick, Maryland in the eighteenth century and migrated throughout the state following the end of the American Revolution. There are three groups of Lutherans in the United States, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod and the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod. They trace their denomination's founding to Martin Luther who began the debates regarding salvation by faith or through works in the sixteenth century.

Two Baltimore County resources are pertinent to the history of the area know as Richland: Gwynns Falls and Liberty Road. The first is a natural feature while the second is manmade. Settlement began five miles west of the project area in the early eighteenth century after the Randall family moved to Baltimore County from Anne Arundel County and opened a tavern. The area between Randallstown and Baltimore remained largely rural. However, by the 1790s, Liberty Road connected Baltimore with Frederick, and several mills had been established along Gwynns Falls.

The Milford Mill, north of the project area, was built in 1795, and as the nearby farmers turned from growing tobacco to raising corn and wheat, the grain mills became productive. The James Ridgely Powder Mill was built in 1850. However, it lies east of the project area. Both mills remained in operation through the nineteenth century.

During the nineteenth century the area between the Baltimore City and Randallstown remained rural, consisting of small farms interspersed with larger land holdings. Farmers continued to seek ways to bring their produce to nearby markets. A group of investors proposed turning Liberty Road into a turnpike in the 1840s. However, the charter was not granted until 1860, and the turnpike opened in 1864 with tollhouses at Rolling Road and Garrison Avenue. The railroads passed to either the north or the south of

<sup>1</sup> *Baltimore City Directory*, 1926 and 1942.

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Name

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the project area. The Western Maryland Railroad went north towards Reisterstown, while the B&O went through Howard County before turning west.

Without the railroads, there was little to encourage suburban development during the 1800s. In the twentieth century, Liberty Road remained a turnpike until 1910, when the Maryland State Roads Commission (SRC) took it over. By 1912, the SRC had widened and paved the road. This began to spur some development, and in the 1910s, the Villa Nova Real Estate Development Company began to sell lots on the east side of Gwynns Falls, north of Liberty Road.

The real estate developers hoped to persuade the United Railway & Electric Trolley Company to build a trolley line from Gwynn Oak Junction to Randallstown as a way to bring development. The United Railway Company was reluctant to do so, since the number of potential riders did not justify the cost of tracks and cars in the area. However, when the developers agreed to guarantee any losses suffered by the trolley company, a trackless trolley was built. The overhead catenary provided power, while rubber tires allowed the trolley to travel Liberty Road without putting the company to the expense of laying down track. Developments such as Villa Nova and Milford, east of the project area were constructed as a result.<sup>2</sup>

There is no evidence that the Villa Nova Annex, Inc. developers planned to incorporate a church into their subdivision. Rather, Pilgrim Church came to the area independently and acquired the site which is on or near two major roads in western Baltimore County.

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<sup>2</sup> Michael R. Farrell, *Who Made All Our Streetcars Go?*, page 122.

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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See attached Section 9, Continuation Sheets 1 and 2.

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## 10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of surveyed property 2  
Acreage of historical setting 2  
Quadrangle name Baltimore West Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

Pt. Lt. 4, Pt. Lt. 5, and Pt. Lt. 6, Milford (the northeast corner of the intersection of Liberty and Latham Roads).

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## 11. Form Prepared by

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name/title	Anne E. Bruder/ Architectural Historian		
organization	State Highway Administration	date	August 8, 2001
street & number	707 North Calvert Street	telephone	410-545-8559
city or town	Baltimore	state	MD

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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

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

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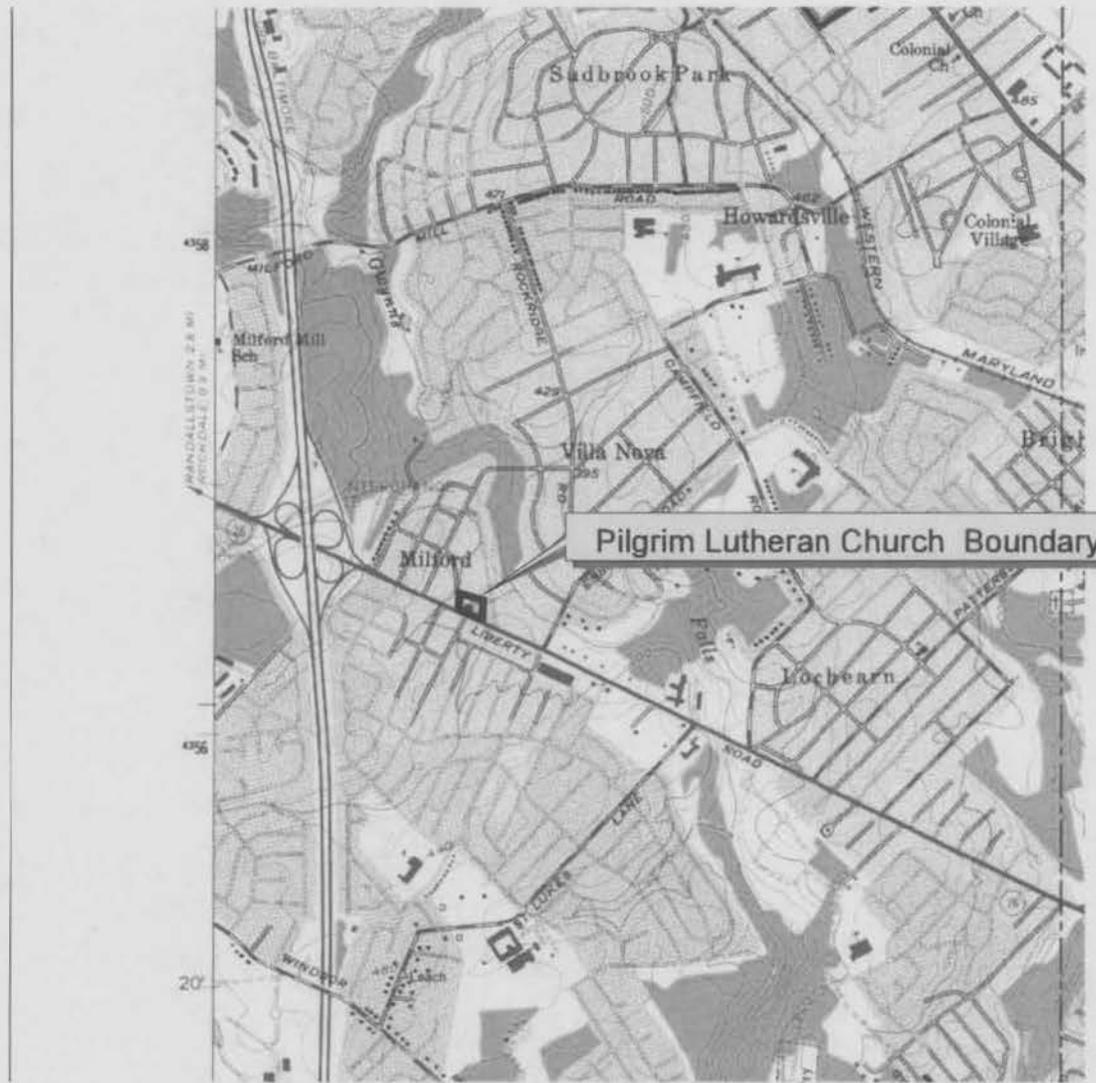
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BA-2954



1 0 1 2 Miles



BA-2954

Pilgrim Lutheran Church 7000 Liberty Rd

Baltimore County, MD

Anne E. Bruder

July 2, 2001

MD SHPO

Front facade of Pilgrim Lutheran Church  
(when facing east)

#1 of 6



BA-2954

Pilgrim Lutheran Church 7000 Liberty Rd

Baltimore County, MD

Anne E. Bruder

July 2, 2001

MD SHPO

Interior of Pilgrim Lutheran Church  
(when facing east)

#2 of 6



BA-2954

Pilgrim Lutheran Church 7000 Liberty Rd

Baltimore County, MD

Anne E. Bruder

PA 1165

201

July 2, 2001

MD SHPO

Southwest view (facing northeast)

#3 of 6

\*not for inventory



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Pilgrim Lutheran Church 7000 Liberty Rd

Baltimore County, MD

Anne E. Bruder

20-105

100

July 2, 2001

MD SHPO

Western front of church (from northeast)

#4 of 6

\*not for inventory



BA-2954

Pilgrim Lutheran Church 7000 Liberty Rd

Baltimore County, MD

Anne E. Bruder

July 2, 2001

MD SHPO

Southern facade (from the north)

#6 of 6

\*not for inventory



BA-2954

Pilgrim Lutheran Church 7000 Liberty Rd

Baltimore County, MD

Anne E. Bruder

7/2/07

500

July 2, 2007

MD SHPO

Eastern facade (from the southeast)

#5 of 6

\* not for inventory