

CAPSULE SUMMARY

BA-0465

Trenton Evangelical Lutheran Church

16530 Trenton Church Road

Upperco, Baltimore County

1859

Private

The Trenton Evangelical Lutheran Church, constructed in 1859, is significant to the history of the village of Trenton, for it was one of three churches to be constructed for the small milling town. As late as 1850, the village of Zoucksville included only a gristmill, sawmill, and store, all of which were operated by John C. and George Zouck. Additionally, William Brooks had a residence to the north of the mill along Piney Run. Between 1850 and 1877, the name of the village had changed from Zoucksville to Trenton and Trenton Road, the main route through the community, had been extensively developed with residences, barns, and other buildings needed for the survival of a small milling town. The Trenton Evangelical Lutheran Church dates from this period of growth in the community. The village did not grow significantly through the early 20th century. The 1915 county atlas indicates confirms this lack of growth.

Constructed in 1859, the Trenton Evangelical Lutheran Church is a one-and-a-half-story, three-bay-wide wood frame church clad in weatherboard. The building sits on a solid random rubble stone foundation and is capped by a front gable roof clad in standing seam metal. Rising from the front of the roof ridge is a hexagonal bell tower with a steeply pitched pyramidal roof supported by square wood posts. A boxed vinyl cornice spans the eaves sides of the building and continues on the front and rear elevations as cornice returns. One circa 1960 exterior stretcher bond brick chimney rises along the side elevation. The façade, or north elevation, of the church features a central paneled double-leaf metal door with a multi-light leaded transom and vinyl surround. Directly above the entry, a tripartite window with a large, central multi-light leaded stained glass window flanked by smaller rectangular multi-light leaded stained glass sidelights pierces the gable field. Above the central window opening is a semicircular nameplate with the words "Ev. Lutheran Christ Church" surrounding the centrally located date of construction. Circa 1960, a one-and-a-half-story, cinderblock addition was construction on the southwest corner of the four-bay-deep main block. This six-bay-deep addition features a gable roof clad in standing seam metal. The cemetery, which is sited on the west side of the church, is arranged into roughly fifteen rows of approximately 60 graves. Upright marble and granite slabs that face north comprise the majority of grave markers. The earliest readable date amongst the markers is 1858, and the cemetery remains in use for interment. A circa 1990 prefabricated shed is also located on the property.

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. BA-0465

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic

other Trenton Evangelical Lutheran Church

2. Location

street and number 16530 Trenton Church Road __ not for publication

city, town Upperco __ vicinity

county Baltimore County

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

name Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church

street and number 16530 Trenton Church Road telephone Not Available

city, town Upperco state MD zip code 21155

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore County Courthouse liber Not Available folio Not Available

city, town Towson tax map 26 tax parcel 117 tax ID number 0503023050

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

7. Description

Inventory No. BA-0465

Condition

excellent deteriorated
 good ruins
 fair altered

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

Constructed in 1859, the Trenton Evangelical Lutheran Church is a one-and-a-half-story, three-bay-wide wood frame church clad in vinyl siding. The building sits on a solid random rubble stone foundation and is capped by a front gable roof clad in standing seam metal. Rising from the front of the roof ridge is a hexagonal bell tower with a steeply pitched pyramidal roof supported by square wood posts. A boxed vinyl cornice spans the eaves sides of the building and continues on the front and rear elevations as cornice returns. One circa 1960 exterior stretcher bond brick chimney rises along the side elevation. The façade, or north elevation, of the church features a central paneled double-leaf metal door with a multi-light leaded transom and vinyl surround. Directly above the entry, a tripartite window with a large, central multi-light leaded stained glass window flanked by smaller rectangular multi-light leaded stained glass sidelights pierces the gable field. Above the central window opening is a semicircular nameplate with the words "Ev. Lutheran Christ Church" surrounding the centrally located date of construction. Circa 1960, a one-and-a-half-story, cinderblock addition was construction on the southwest corner of the four-bay-deep main block. This six-bay-deep addition features a gable roof clad in standing seam metal.

The cemetery, which is sited on the west side of the church, is arranged into roughly fifteen rows of approximately 60 graves. Upright marble and granite slabs that face north comprise the majority of grave markers. The earliest readable date amongst the markers is 1858, and the cemetery remains in use for interment.

A circa 1990 prefabricated shed is also located on the property. The one-story structure has a wood frame clad in pressed vertical board siding, side gable roof clad in asphalt shingles, and wood post foundation. One double-leaf wood door and two three-light jalousie windows pierce the façade.

8. Significance

Inventory No. BA-0465

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 1859-present **Architect/Builder** Unknown

Construction dates 1859, 1960 ca.

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.)

The Trenton Evangelical Lutheran Church, constructed in 1859, is representative of the many small parish churches built throughout Baltimore County in the mid-19th century. It is significant to the history of the village of Trenton, for it was one of three churches to be constructed for the small milling town. The accompanying cemetery dates from the earliest period of the congregation's formation in the community. As late as 1850, the village of Zoucksville included only a gristmill, sawmill, and store, all of which were operated by John C. and George Zouck.¹ Additionally, William Brooks had a residence to the north of the mill along Piney Run.² Between 1850 and 1877, the name of the village had changed from Zoucksville to Trenton and Trenton Road, the main route through the community, had been extensively developed with residences, barns, and other buildings needed for the survival of a small milling town.³ The Trenton Evangelical Lutheran Church dates to this period of growth in the community. By 1881, Trenton's population had reached 75, and the village included a public school, Methodist Episcopal Church, United Brethren Church, and a Lutheran Church. The Independent Order of Mechanics also established a lodge in the village.⁴ The village continued to maintain only these few buildings and did not grow significantly through the early 20th century. The 1915 county atlas indicates confirms this lack of growth.⁵ Trenton has retained its late 19th century character into the 21st century.

¹ Neal A. Brooks and Eric G. Rockel, *A History of Baltimore County* (Towson, MD: Friends of the Towson Library, Inc., 1979), p. 187.

² J.C. Sidney, *Map of the City and County of Baltimore, Maryland, from Original Surveys* (Baltimore, MD: James M. Stephens, 1850).

³ *Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland* (Philadelphia, PA: G. M. Hopkins, 1877).

⁴ J. Thomas Scharf, *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), p. 869.

⁵ *Map of Baltimore County* (Philadelphia, PA: G. W. Bromley, 1915).

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. BA-0465

- 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 .50 Acre
Acreage of historical setting Unknown
Quadrangle name Hampstead Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

Since its construction in 1859, the Trenton Evangelical Lutheran Church has been associated with the three acres of land known as tax parcel 117 of map 26 located in the Baltimore County Tax Assessor's office.

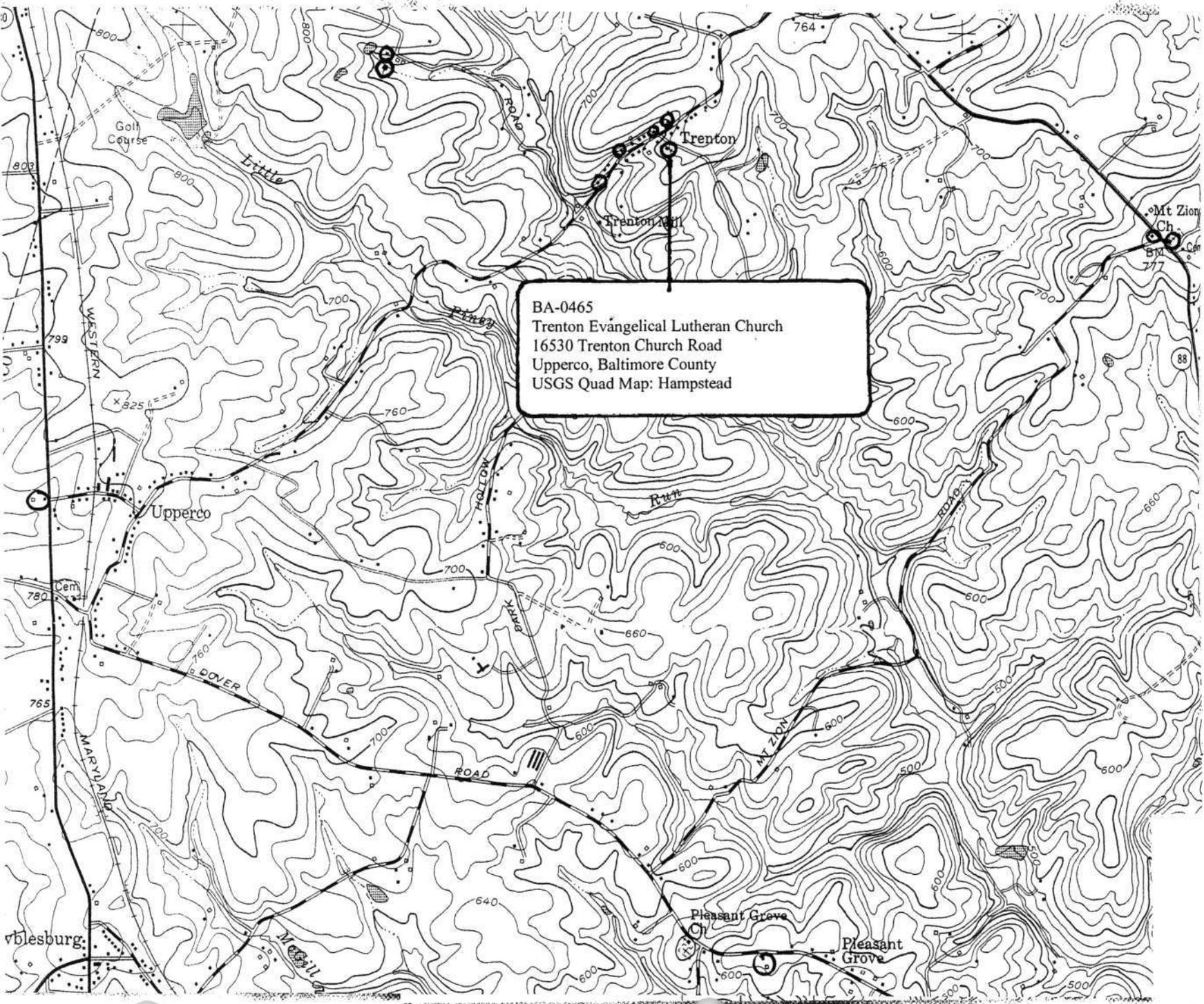
11. Form Prepared by

name/title	A. McDonald and A. Didden, Architectural Historians		
organization	EHT Tracerics, Incorporated	date	May 8, 2001
street & number	1121 5th Street NW	telephone	202.393.1199
city or town	Washington	state	DC

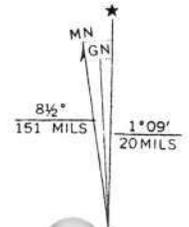
The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

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



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Trenton Evangelical Lutheran Church
16530 Trenton Church Road
Upperco, Baltimore County
USGS Quad Map: Hampstead



UTM GRID AND 74 MAGNETIC NORTH
DECLINATION CENTER OF SHEET



BA-0465
16530 TRENTON CHURCH ROAD
UPPERLO
BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD
TRACOLIES

3/2001
MO-STAP
NE CORNER

1 of 4



BA-0465
16530 TRENTON CHURCH ROAD
UPPERLO
BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD
TRACERIES

3/2001
MD-SHPD
SE CORNER

2 of 4



BA-0465
16530 TRENTON CHURCH ROAD
UPPERLO
BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD
TRAILERES
3/2001
MD-SHPD
NW CORNER

3 of 4



BA-0465

16530 TRENTON CHURCH ROAD

UPPERLO

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRAILERIES

3/2001

MO-SHPD

CEMETERY

4 of 4

BA-465

TRENTON EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHRISTIAN CHURCH - 1859 -
Southwest corner of Trenton Road and Trenton Church
Road. White frame and clapboard church built in 1859 on
a hill overlooking village on land donated by George E.
and Maria Zouck. Shown in 1877 atlas. Congregation is
offshoot of a Manchester body of 1760. Gable roof of
tin, vernacular style, open belfry with pointed spire.