

F-4-43

Dahlgren Chapel

Ca. 1881

(Chapel of St. Joseph of the Sacred Heart of Jesus)

Middletown vicinity

Private

The Dahlgren Chapel is a stone Gothic Revival chapel with a projecting foyer and a belfry on the south elevation and four window bays with stained glass windows and buttresses on the side elevations. Built about 1881 as a family chapel and mausoleum by Madeleine V. Dahlgren, the chapel is a good example of the Gothic Revival style in churches, which was popular from the second quarter of the 19th century through the third quarter of the 20th century. In 1876 Mrs. Dahlgren, widow of Rear Admiral John A. Dahlgren, the U.S. Navy's Chief of Ordnance during the Civil War, purchased the 18th century stone tavern on the south side of the Old National Pike (now the South Mountain Inn) which was the Mountain House around which much of the Battle of South Mountain took place on September 14, 1862. Admiral Dahlgren, who died in 1870, was the inventor of the Dahlgren gun which revolutionized naval armament.

F-4-43

Dahlgren Chapel

(Chapel of St. Joseph of the Sacred Heart of Jesus)

Middletown

Frederick County

HISTORIC CONTEXT:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Piedmont

(Harford, Baltimore, Carroll, Frederick, Howard, Montgomery
Counties, and Baltimore City)

Chronological/Development Period:

Industrial Urban Dominance A.D. 1870-1930

Prehistoric/Historic Period Themes

Architecture, Landscape Architecture, Community Planning

Resource Types:

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function and Use:

Religion/religious structure/church

Known Design Source: None

Maryland Historical Trust

State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Magi No.

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Chapel of St. Joseph of the Sacred Heart of Jesus

and/or common Dahlgren Chapel (preferred)

2. Location

street & number 1600 block Old National Pike not for publicationcity, town Middletown vicinity of congressional district 6th

state Maryland county Frederick

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	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

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

name Richard B. Griffin

street & number P.O. Box 842 telephone no.:

city, town Frederick state and zip code Md. 21701

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Frederick County Courthouse liber 671

street & number 100 W. Patrick Street folio 267

city, town Frederick state Md. 21701

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Paul Brinkman Survey of Frederick County #1095

date C. 1968 federal state county local

depository for survey records Md. SHPO

city, town Crownsville state Md.

7. Description

Survey No. F-4-43

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" 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.

CONTRIBUTING RESOURCE COUNT: 1

The Dahlgren Chapel (Chapel of St. Joseph of the Sacred Heart of Jesus) is a circa 1881 Gothic Revival stone church located on the north side of Old National Pike (U.S. 40A) at the summit of Turner's Gap on South Mountain, near Middletown, Frederick County, Maryland. The chapel is located just east of the boundary between Frederick and Washington Counties. The chapel is not currently in use as a religious building and is privately owned.

The chapel faces south toward Old National Pike and is sited on a southward slope at the edge of open fields on the north and east and adjoining a residential lot on the west. A hedge of shrubbery separates the chapel lot, which is an irregular rectangle about 76.5 ft. by 156 ft. by 48 ft. by 143.5 ft., from the surrounding land. It has coursed fieldstone walls with a projecting foyer on the south elevation containing double diagonally paneled doors under a circular stained glass window. A belfry tower rises from the southwest corner, terminating in a gable roof covered with composition material and topped by a stone cross. The main roof is slate. The east and west elevations have four bays each with buttresses and arched stained glass windows. The north end of the church is apsidal with openings only at side doors to the vestry on the east and west.

The interior of the chapel was inaccessible for this survey; however, some descriptive information is given in Bevan's 200 Years . . . A History of the Catholic Community of the Frederick Valley (1977). The interior has native walnut paneling, white marble floors, and a marble altar. The chapel had been vandalized by the late 1950's, although Bevan does not state what damage had been done. The Dahlgren family members buried in the crypt were removed about 1959 to the cemetery of St. Michael's Church in Poplar Springs, Md. Bevan states that the current owner, Mr. Richard Griffin, has tried to restore the chapel since 1962.

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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input 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)

Specific dates C. 1881 **Builder/Architect**

check: Applicable Criteria: A B C D
and/or
Applicable Exception: A B C D E F G

Level of Significance: national state local

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

The Dahlgren Chapel is a good example of the Gothic Revival style for churches which was an enduring historical revival from the mid 19th century through the mid 20th centuries. The chapel is generally reminiscent of English Gothic country churches, with a simple entrance through a foyer, a bell tower with a gable roof, an apse, and buttresses on the side elevations. It was built about 1881 as a family chapel and mausoleum by Madeleine Vinton Dahlgren, widow of Rear Admiral John A. Dahlgren. Madeleine Dahlgren (1825-1898) purchased the Mountain House, now the South Mountain Inn, on the south side of the Old National Pike in 1876 for her summer residence. Admiral Dahlgren (1809-1870) was Chief of the U.S. Navy's Bureau of Ordnance during the Civil War and his innovative gun designs, called "Dahlgrens", revolutionized naval armament.

The only Catholic church which may be considered as a private chapel in origin is St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church (F-2-13) in Petersville, built about 1826 with a bequest from the will of former Governor Thomas Sim Lee, reportedly in gratitude for the recovery from illness of his Catholic wife Mary Digges Lee. Sited near the Lee estate at Needwood, it contained a family pew for the Lees and many of the family are buried in the church cemetery. St. Mary's was not private in service, however, and Catholics of the Petersville and Brunswick vicinity were members of the parish. Madeleine Dahlgren's first husband David Converse Goddard (1825-1862) was buried in the Dahlgren Chapel crypt, along with several Dahlgren descendants. In her will, Mrs. Dahlgren expressed a desire to be buried there herself. It is clear that the building was intended as a family mausoleum on private land. The bodies were removed to the cemetery of St. Michael's Catholic Church in Poplar Springs, Maryland about 1959 to protect them from vandals and the chapel was deconsecrated about the same time.

The old Mountain House is just west of the county line in Washington County. It was heavily involved in the Battle of South Mountain, September 14, 1862. Mrs. Dahlgren wrote about ghosts and legends of the South Mountain vicinity in an 1882 book, South Mountain Magic. In the 1890's, Mrs. Dahlgren provided restoration money for the Washington Monument a short distance to the north.

Dahlgren Chapel

Survey No. F-4-43

(Chapel of St. Joseph of the Sacred Heart of Jesus)

Frederick County

9.1 Bibliography (Continued)

Concise Dictionary of American Biography, 4th ed. New York: Charles Scribneis
Sons, 1990, pp. 248-249

Dahlgren Chapel					
LIBER/F 10	GRANTEE	GRANTOR	ORIGINAL TRACTS	COST	DATE
671/267 433/241 671/267 433/241 15 May 41	Vernon E. Hutzell	Josiah Peire	... stone memorial chapel		
671/267 17 Jul 62	Richard B. Huffin	Foster E. Ford & Oline M. Ford	10 a. excepting all that small lot ... on which is a stone memorial chapel erected by Madeline Sarah Vinton Dahlgren		
547/459 19 Feb 55	Foster E. & Oline M. Ford	Carl B. & Flora V. Phillips	10 a. except (as above) conveyed to Vernon E. Hutzell		
506/11 11 Jul 52	Vernon E. Hutzell Carl B. & Flora V. Phillips	Carl B. & Flora V. Phillips Vernon E. Hutzell	10 a.		
433/241 15 May 41	Vernon E. Hutzell	Josiah Peire	10 a.		
Well Record GES 2/63 → 12 Apr 26 probated	Josiah Peire NYC.	Ulrica Dahlgren Peire of D.C.	lot is 76.5' x 156', 43' x 143.5' stone memorial chapel erected by my (Josiah's) grandmother Madeline Sarah Vinton Dahlgren		
362/314 10 Jan 25	Ulrica Dahlgren Peire	St. Mary's Academy of Notre Dame, St. Joseph's Co., Ind.	"The Dahlgren Property"		
340/170 31 May 22	St. Mary's Academy	Ulrica Dahlgren Peire			

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Concise Dictionary of American Biography

F-4-43

4th ed. New York: Chas Scribner's Sons
1990, p. 248-249

Dahlgren, John Adolphus Bernard
b. Phila, Pa. 1809; d. Wash. D.C. 1870

assigned Ordnance duty in Wash. 1847

Became Chief, Bureau of Ordnance 1862

Innovations revolutionized naval armament

Sarah Madeleine Vinton Dahlgren

b. Gallipolis, Oh. 1825; d. Wash. D.C. 1898

author; married Dahlgren 1865

P. 2 Dahlgren Chapel

LIBER/FOLIO	GRANTEE	GRANTOR	ORIGINAL TRACTS	COST	DATE
Will Record IKW 2/304 30 Nov-1890	Ulrica Mary Dahlgren	Madeline Sarah Vinton Dahlgren			
TG 5/708 19 Apr 1876	Madeline V. Dahlgren	George S. Smith Wash. Co.	partly in Fredank & partly in Washington Co's 60a.	\$3,500	

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Bevan, Thomas P. 220 Years... A History of the Catholic
Community of the Frederick Valley. Frederick: Da-Mark
Associates, Inc., 1977. P. 38-39

F-443

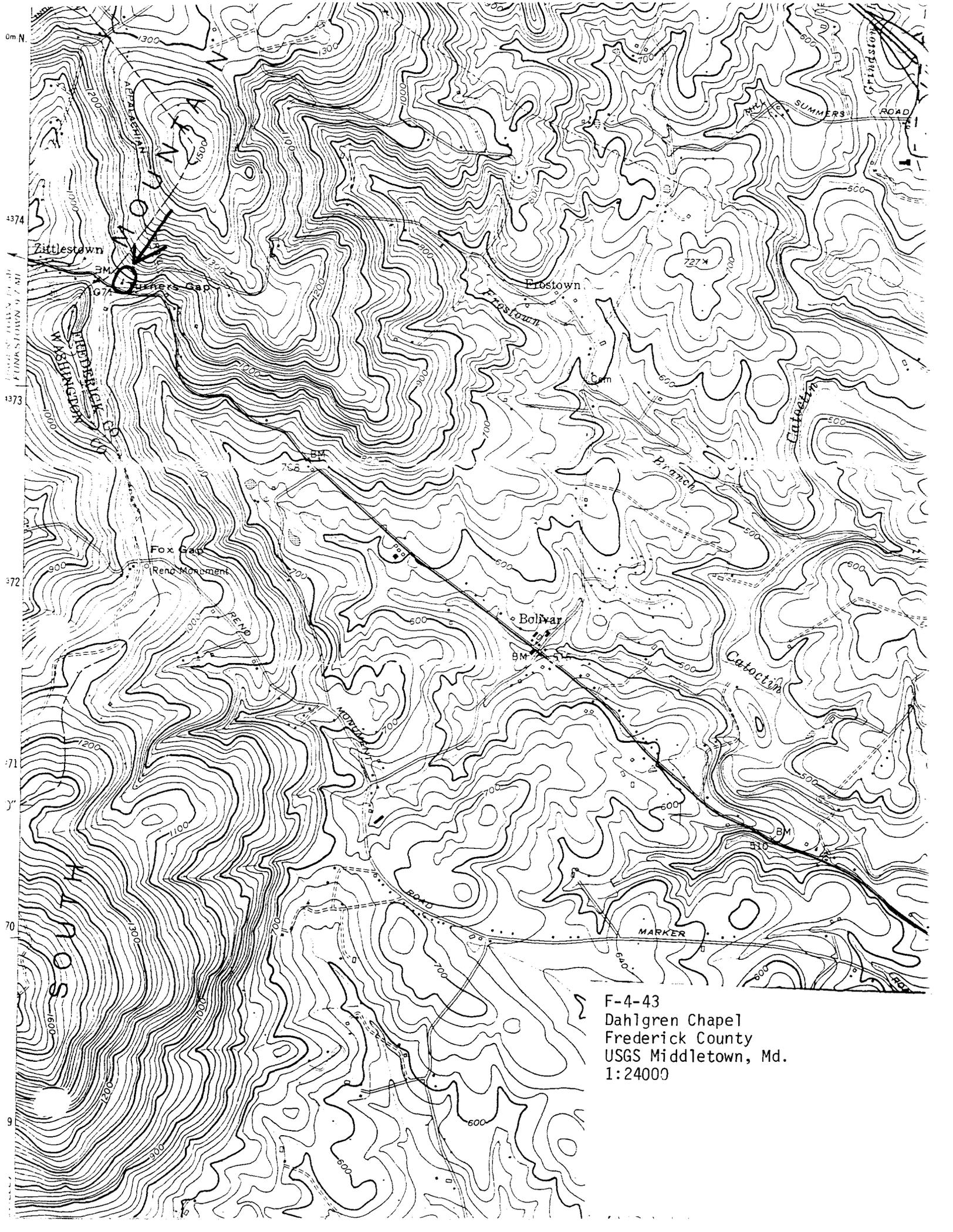
1882: Mrs. Dahlgren was a pious woman, a Catholic who had
always been very cordial to the Jesuits and their work.
Her son John V. Dahlgren & his wife Eliz. Drexel donated
Chapel of Georgetown N.C., cornerstone laid on 19 May 1892.
Admiral Dahlgren began as ordinary seaman, app to
U.S. Nav. Academy. Chief of Ordnance for U.S. Navy during
Civil War.

Widow lived in Washington; sequestered at Turners Lake.
By 1881 she was well advanced in years. Her grandson
Josiah Price (sic) in that year built the present
chapel dedicated to the Sacred Heart. Not built to be
a parish church or mission... but as a family chapel
or burial crypt... Josiah Price and Alma Dahlgren
were married there by Cardinal Gibbons. Mrs.

Madeline Dahlgren expressed a desire in her will
to be buried there. Original bell cast by McShane
Bell Foundry in Balto.; sent to Benlitt St. Michael's
Church in Poplar Springs. Since brought back and hung
at Dahlgren Chapel. Weighs 400 lbs. Cost \$28 + 25¢ for
other metal parts

Buried in crypt: David Comense Goddard (1825-1862)
first husband of Madeline Dahlgren
Madeline Venton Dahlgren (1825-1898)
Josiah Price (sic) (1866-1925)
Eric Dahlgren (1866-1922)
Venton Dahlgren Price (sic) (1896-1925)

D. 39 Interior: mature walnut paneling, white marble floor
& altar. Windows "cathedral" shaped, edged with
grapes and leaves, colors red, green, gold, amethyst.
By 1959, family had long ago sold the tower (So. Mt. Dan)
Chapel fell into disrepair & vandalized. Bodies moved
1959 to cemetery of St. Michael's Church, Poplar Springs.
Chapel deconsecrated
Since 1960, Richard Griffin has tried to repair damage & opened chapel
to visitors on weekends



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Dablgren Chapel
Frederick County
USGS Middletown, Md.
1:24000



F. 4-43

Del. '100' 'Singer'

Friedrich Coe

Pro. T. and P.

March 1902

W. H.

Southwest

...



F. J. 113

Dahlman Chapel

Friedrich County

Photo: Trent + Davis

March 1932

Location: 1/2 mi. S. of Trent, 1/2 mi. S. of Davis

Northwest corner view

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