

G-II-B-078

1864

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Cove  
Private

St. John's Lutheran Church (LCMS) is in the center of the small farming community known as Cove.

The Church is a one-story, gable-roofed structure measuring six bays on the sides. The NW end measures one bay wide, and the facade vestibule measures three bays by one bay. The facade points SE. A bell tower is attached to the facade and the facade has been covered by a modern, hipped-roofed vestibule.

This church is one of two Lutheran Churches at Cove, both established early in the 19th century.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

MAGI # G-II-B-078  
#1203755508  
ML

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**  
 HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON  
 St. John's Lutheran Ch. (LCMS)

**2 LOCATION**  
 STREET & NUMBER  
 Cove Rd. SW side, approximately .1 mi. SE of Griffith Rd.  
 CITY, TOWN  
 Cove VICINITY OF CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
 6th  
 STATE  
 Maryland COUNTY  
 Garrett County

**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	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input 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"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**  
 NAME Telephone #:  
 STREET & NUMBER  
 CITY, TOWN STATE, zip code  
 VICINITY OF

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**  
 COURTHOUSE, LIBER #: Folio #:  
 REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Garrett County Courthouse  
 STREET & NUMBER  
 Third and Alder Streets  
 CITY, TOWN STATE  
 Oakland Maryland 21550

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**  
 TITLE  
 None  
 DATE  
 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL  
 DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS  
 CITY, TOWN STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION**

G-II-B-078

<b>CONDITION</b>		<b>CHECK ONE</b>		<b>CHECK ONE</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED	DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED			
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED				

**DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**

St. John's Lutheran Church (LCMS) is located with St. John's English Lutheran Church (G-II-B-076) and the Schutte House (G-II-B-077) in the center of the small farming community known as Cove. The three structures together, with the small cemeteries attached, provide a focal point in the rolling landscape around.

The church is a one-story, gable-roofed structure measuring six bays on the sides. The NW end measures one bay wide, and the facade vestibule measures three bays by one bay. The facade points SE. A bell tower is attached to the facade and the facade has been covered by a modern, hipped-roofed vestibule.

The church rests on a rock-faced concrete block foundation. The walls are covered with white aluminum siding over German siding. The windows are double-hung lancets, two lights over two with an extra small diamond-shaped pane set into the point of the lancet. The facade doors are modern double plate-glass in metal frames. The roof is covered with asphalt shingles.

There is a one-story, one-bay by one-bay addition at the W end of the SW elevation. It rests on a cinderblock foundation and is covered with white aluminum siding. On its SE elevation is an entrance reached by a flight of wooden steps. Between the steps and the sanctuary wall is an enclosed cellar entrance.

There is one exterior brick stove chimney on the NW elevation. The square bell tower rises above the ridgeline of the sanctuary. On all four sides are louvered vents with lancet tops. Above, the roof is a pyramid covered with black asphalt shingles. The top of the pyramid is flattened and a wooden cross is attached.

The graveyard stretches to the NE & NW of the church.

The church has had several renovations over the years. Two extra bays were added to the church's original four on the SE gable end: one in 1891 and one circa 1963. The facade vestibule and the addition on the SW elevation are modern, and the bell tower, originally similar to that of the Methodist Church at Blooming Rose (G-II-A-022) was replaced in 1963. In 1948 the church was moved from its old low stone foundation to its present full basement. At some date after 1908, the rectangular two over two sash windows were given lancet heads.

**CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY**

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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES                      1864    BUILDER/ARCHITECT

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

The Cove area was settled by German farmers, possibly as early as the 1820's. Many of the names that were found in the Cove area then are still found there today: names such as Harmon, Hockman, Margroff and Oester are all represented. They brought with them their traditions, language and Lutheran faith, and soon began to establish their faith in the new land.

Today, two different Lutheran churches, both called St. John's but of different synods, stand in the settlement of Cove (see G-II-B-076, St. John's English Lutheran Church). Because of the scarcity of accurate early records and the identical names, it is difficult to trace their individual origins.

A church called St. John's is listed as part of the Petersburg (now Addison), Pennsylvania charge of the Alleghany Synod in 1842. It is not clear to which St. John's this refers, and both churches lay claim to a log building as their first church. At this point, however, their histories begin to diverge.

St. John's Lutheran Church (LCMS) worshipped in their log church until 1863, when it burned. At that time, "... a frame church was erected measuring about 30 x 40 feet" under the pastorate of Rev. Herman Krebs. The church had no chancel, but simply an altar on the "west" wall.

In 1891 a schoolroom and narthex were added to the "east" end of the church. It was probably at this time that the first bell tower was erected.

In 1901, the congregation called Rev. E.P.G. Blievernicht to the Cove pastorate. St. John's had decided to broaden its appeal, and for the first time in its history had hired a minister capable of preaching in English as well as German. Rev. Blievernicht was requested to preach one sermon per month in English, and gradually the church changed completely from German to English services.

In 1907, the church separated from Zion Church of Accident, with which it had been affiliated since the mid-nineteenth century and became a separate parish.

The church and its history are indicative of the changing and expanding needs of Cove area Lutherans since the early nineteenth century. This church and the other Lutheran church near it provide a focal point for the Cove area and the history of its people.

**CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY**

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

"Lutheranism - Part V: St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church (LCMS)," Glades Star, 5, #9, 10, 11, 12 (September & December 1979, March 1980), pp. 181-83, 190; 196-97, 211-212; 218-221.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY \_\_\_\_\_

STATE \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY \_\_\_\_\_

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

Ann Burns, Historic Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Maryland Historical Trust/Bureau of Mines

DATE

April 1981

STREET & NUMBER

Shaw House, 21 State Circle

TELEPHONE

301-269-2438

CITY OR TOWN

Annapolis

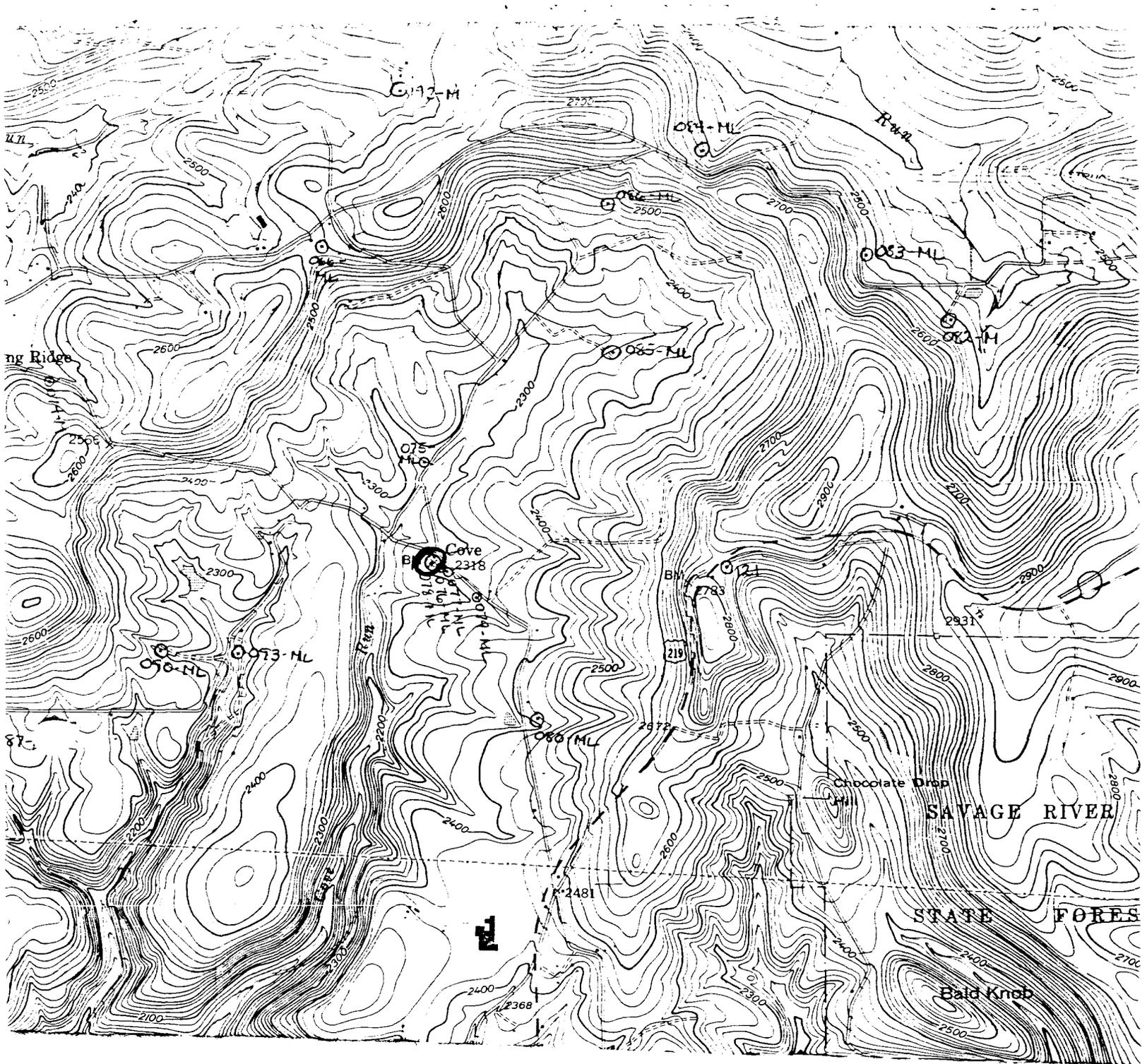
STATE

Maryland 21401

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory 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  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438



Accident, MD-PA  
 USGS 7.5 minute series  
 Scale - 1:24,000  
 1948; photorevised 1974

Site #: G-II-B-078  
 St. John's Luthern Church (LCMS)  
 Cove Rd. SW side, approximately  
 .1 mile SE of Griffith Rd.



G-II-B-078

St. John's Luth. Ch.

Garrett Co., MD

Ann Burns 1/27/81

Fac-SE; NE elevs.



G-II-B-078

St. John's Luth. Ch.

Garrett Co., MD

Ann Burns 1/27/81

NW, SW elevs.