HA-260

St. Margaret's Chapel

Architectural Survey File

This is the architectural survey file for this MIHP record. The survey file is organized reverse-chronological (that is, with the latest material on top). It contains all MIHP inventory forms, National Register nomination forms, determinations of eligibility (DOE) forms, and accompanying documentation such as photographs and maps.

Users should be aware that additional undigitized material about this property may be found in on-site architectural reports, copies of HABS/HAER or other documentation, drawings, and the “vertical files” at the MHT Library in Crownsville. The vertical files may include newspaper clippings, field notes, draft versions of forms and architectural reports, photographs, maps, and drawings. Researchers who need a thorough understanding of this property should plan to visit the MHT Library as part of their research project; look at the MHT web site (mht.maryland.gov) for details about how to make an appointment.

All material is property of the Maryland Historical Trust.

Last Updated: 02-18-2004
Gothic was "the only proper style" for a Christian Church in the 19th century. Churches built in Bel Air during the period from 1860 to the First World War were all built in that style. They varied considerably in complexity. This little carpenter gothic structure is one of the happiest, if the latest, of those churches. With its board and batten construction, its pointed arch windows and its little bell tower it is a warm and friendly expression of a style which can be cold or awesome. It was built in 1905 by Father J. Alphonse Frederick to be Bel Air's first Roman Catholic Church. In its homely way it represents a unity of thought rare in Christendom. All local sects reached back to the years before western Christianity had splintered to express their fundamental similarity of purpose: the worship of God.
**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST**

**INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1 NAME</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HISTORIC</td>
<td>St. Margaret's Chapel</td>
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<tr>
<td>AND/OR COMMON</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>STREET &amp; NUMBER</td>
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<tr>
<td>CITY, TOWN</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<td>DISTRICT</td>
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<tr>
<td>BUILDING(S)</td>
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<td>STRUCTURE</td>
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<tr>
<th>4 OWNER OF PROPERTY</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NAME</td>
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<td>STREET &amp; NUMBER</td>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>STREET &amp; NUMBER</td>
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<tr>
<th>6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TITLE</td>
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<tr>
<td>DATE</td>
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<tr>
<td>DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS</td>
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<tr>
<td>CITY, TOWN</td>
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This small and charming carpenter gothic chapel dominates a little knoll on the east side of Hickory just north of its intersection with Lee Way, in the Town of Bel Air, Harford County, Maryland. A quaint refugee from the mid-nineteenth century, it was built in 1905. It has all of the characteristics of the proper Gothic Revival small parish church: board and batten siding, steeply pitched gable roof in patterned tile, projecting rafters, entrance porches, bell cote. The chancel even has a different roof line to distinguish it from the nave. Its pitch is the same as that of the main block, but it is not so tall. Whether this chancel is an addition or not is not clear. It has a cement block foundation while the nave has a stone rubble foundation. It has tar paper on the roof, while the nave's roof is of tile, and its window (on the north elevation) is pointed arch window and surround, while those of the nave are rectangular. The differences (except for the tar paper) can be accounted for by the fact that the chancel is the site of the most holy parts of the Mass and is thus separated from the more mundane nave.

The facade (west elevation) is divided sharply into three bays by the central gable roofed entrance porch. Double seven panel doors are topped by a narrow horizontal transom, an entablature, and a pediment which echoes the pitch of the roof but which is too small for the entablature. The rafters project here, as they do on the main roof. Two square stained glass windows in plain surrounds flank the entrance porch, their sills almost level with the bottom of the porch roof. A diamond-shaped stained glass window decorates the gable. The aisleless nave is five bays long on the north elevation (one bay is in the chancel); a roofed small gable entrance porch is on this side in the last east bay of the nave. It has a four panel door. On the south elevation a two bay ell is at right angles to the building in the easternmost two bays. This gable roofed, single story ell once housed the sacristy. It has 6/6 double hung sash windows and a seven panel door (north to south). A thin stove chimney rises behind the fourth window on the south elevation.

The back of the chancel (the east elevation) is entirely plain save for a diamond-shaped stained glass window in the gable and a string course of batten which crosses at eave level giving the gable the look of a pediment.

The tiny bell tower with its bell still suspended has a cross at the front (west) gable ridge.

The chapel is now used for parish offices and has been subdivided, but one can still see the tongue & groove wainscotting. The ceiling has been dropped to the level of the floor of the choir loft for warmth and fuel economy, but if one climbs the steep stairs (southwest corner) to the loft one can see the unadorned roof over a sea of pink insulation. No hammer beam roof and no exposed rafters.

This simple and reverent Gothic Revival chapel shows in a concrete way (actually, board and batten way) exactly what the Ecclesiologists meant when they chose this style for their church reform movement.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY
**SIGNIFICANCE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PERIOD</th>
<th>AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW</th>
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<tr>
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<td>ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC</td>
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<th>1905</th>
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<td>BUILDER/ARCHITECT</td>
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**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

This small Gothic Revival chapel was built in 1905 by Rev. J. Alphonse Frederick, the pastor of St. Ignatius Church at Hickory. He had purchased the three acres on which the church and rectory stand at his own expense in 1901 for $3,500 and built the chapel at his own expense. In 1919 he transferred it to James Cardinal Gibbons, the Archbishop of Baltimore (164/27). In 1969 the new church was built and the chapel became the parish offices.

There is no evidence that an architect had anything to do with the building. By 1905 the Gothic Revival had become such a normal idiom for the small parish church that no design was needed.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY
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
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

1. NAME
   COMMON: St. Margaret's Chapel
   AND/OR HISTORICAL:

2. LOCATION
   STREET AND NUMBER: East side of Hickory Avenue opposite Gordon Street.
   CITY OR TOWN: Bel Air
   STATE: Maryland
   CODE: Harford

3. CLASSIFICATION
   CATEGORY (Check One)
   Building
   Site
   Structure
   Object
   Ownership
   Public
   Private
   Church
   Status
   Occupied
   Public Acquisition
   In Process
   Being Considered
   Unoccupied
   Preservation work in progress
   Accessible to the Public
   Yes
   Restricted
   Unrestricted

   Present Use (Check One or More as Appropriate)
   Agricultural
   Government
   Park
   Commercial
   Industrial
   Private Residence
   Educational
   Military
   Religious
   Entertainment
   Museum
   Scientific
   Other (Specify)
   Transportation
   Comments

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY
   OWNERS NAME:

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION
   COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS
   CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT
   STATE: MARYLAND
   COUNTY: HARFORD
   ADDRESS: 40 S. MAIN ST.

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS
   TITLE OF SURVEY:
   DATE OF SURVEY:
   DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
   STREET AND NUMBER:
   CITY OR TOWN:
This small, brick and stucco church has windows on the north side, and
the south, of Tiffany stained glass.
An enclosed entrance is on the east end
of the chapel whose ridge line runs east-west.
A vestry is added to the east end of the
south wall. A small belfry is over the
ridge line at the west end of the building.
A vestry is added at the east end of the
south wall.
**PERIOD** (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian
- 16th Century
- 15th Century
- 17th Century
- 18th Century
- 19th Century
- 20th Century

**SPECIFIC DATE(S)** (If Applicable and Known)

**AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE** (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Aboriginal
- Prehistoric
- Historic
- Agriculture
- Art
- Commerce
- Communications
- Conservation
- Education
- Engineering
- Industry
- Invention
- Architecture
- Literature
- Military
- Music
- Political
- Religion/Philosophy
- Science
- Sculpture
- Social/Humanitarian
- Theater
- Transportation
- Urban Planning
- Other (Specify)

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE** (Include Personages, Dates, Events, Etc.)

Long outgrown by this parish, the chapel has been used for early morning services only while the latter services were held in the school gymnasium behind the elementary school. Now a church, built in 1968, makes this little building obsolete.
9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY

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<th>LONGITUDE</th>
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<td>NE</td>
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<td>SW</td>
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OR

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN ONE ACRE

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STATE</th>
<th>CODE</th>
<th>COUNTY</th>
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11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:

JEAN S. EWING

ORGANIZATION

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

STREET AND NUMBER:

50 STATE CIRCLE

CITY OR TOWN:

ANNAPOlis

STATE:

MARYLAND

CODE:

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National [ ] State [ ] Local [ ]

Name

Title

Date

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date
MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
21 STATE CIRCLE
SHAW HOUSE
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

HISTORIC SITES SURVEY FIELD SHEET
Individual Structure Survey Form

SURVEY NUMBER: HA-260
NEGATIVE FILE NUMBER:
UTH REFERENCES:
Zone/Easting/Northing
U.S.G.S. QUAD. MAP:
PRESENT FORMAL NAME:
Shaw House
ORIGINAL FORMAL NAME:
PRESENT USE:
Church
ORIGINAL USE:
ARCHITECT/ENGINEER:
BUILDER/CONTRACTOR:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>COUNTY</th>
<th>Baltimore</th>
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<tr>
<td>TOWN</td>
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<tr>
<td>LOCATION</td>
<td>141 Hickory ave</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMMON NAME</td>
<td>St. Margaret's Chapel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC:</td>
<td>Yes () No () Restricted ()</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE:</td>
<td>Local () State () National ()</td>
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<tr>
<td>PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE:</td>
<td>Excellent () Good () Fair () Poor ()</td>
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<tr>
<td>U.S.G.S. QUAD. MAP:</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>DATE BUILT:</td>
<td>1865</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

GENERAL DESCRIPTION:
Structural System:
1. Foundation: Stone( ), Brick( ), Concrete( ), Concrete Block( )
2. Wall Structure:
   A. Wood Frame: Post and Beam( ), Balloon ( ),
   B. Wood Bearing Masonry: Brick( ), Stone( ), Concrete( ), Concrete Block( )
   C. Iron( ), Steel( ), Other:
3. Wall Covering:
   Clapboard( ), Board and Batten( ), Wood Shingle( ), Shiplap( ),
   Novelty( ), Stucco( ), Sheet Metal( ), Aluminum( ), Asphalt Shingle( )
   Brick Veneer( ), Stone Veneer( ), Bonding Pattern:
   Other:
4. Roof Structure:
   A. Truss: Wood( ), Steel( ), Concrete( ),
   B. Other:
5. Roof Covering:
   Slate( ), Wood Shingle( ), Asphalt Shingle( ), Sheet Metal( ),
   Built Up( ), Railed( ), Tile( ), Other:
6. Engineering Structure:
7. Other:

Appendages:
Porches( ), Towers( ), Cupolas( ), Dormers( ), Chimneys( ), Sheds( ), Eills( ), Wings( ), Other:
Roof Style:
Gable( ), Hip( ), Shed( ), Flat( ), Mansard( ), Gambrel( ), Jerkinhead( ),
Saw Tooth( ), With Monitor( ), With Bellcast( ), With Parapet( ), With False Front( ),
Other:
Number of Stories: 1
Number of Bays:
Approximate Dimensions: 30' x 10' (Main)
entrance Location: Hickory Ave.

THREAT TO STRUCTURE:
No Threat( ), Zoning( ), Roads( ),
Development( ), Alteration( ), Other:

LOCAL ATTITUDES:
Positive( ), Negative( ), Mixed( ), Other:
ADDITIOJAL ARCHITECTURAL OR STRUCTURAL DESCRIPTION:

This rectangular framed-glass window, in plain surround, is rectangular double door, which has pivot set surround, there is a "head" brick abutment on cement block.  Panel doors toward gable on windows entrance back door (e) plan "ted" gable (string course) at line of gabled roof is gable in plain surround -ell on a side of windows & panel door, slate roof well in self, gable coping roof.  Eave in front entrance, porch double paned, pane wood, horizontal trim, surmount - the first floor, gable roof on projecting kitchen (roof also), frame, stone, gable window, gable end (front) + diamond venting gable.  Windows framing stone.

RELATED STRUCTURES: (Describe)

+ Barn E chain rail - windows - memorial interior all office idea
+ Water tower - dropped | level of under clean light
+ Street in town
+ Parking lot of church
+ Offices + meeting room
+ Furniture in slain plan | dark

STATEMENTS OF SIGNIFICANCE:

Late 19th century church in town, architecture carpenter gothic is rather fat and handsome

REFERENCES:

MAP: (Indicate North in Circle)

SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT:

Open Lane() Woodland() Scattered Buildings()
+ Moderately Built Up() Densely Built Up()
+ Residential() Commercial()
+ Agricultural() Industrial()
+ Roadside Strip Development()
+ Other:

RECORDED BY:

Mr. S. L. L. A.

ORGANIZATION:

DEPARTMENT OF BLDG.

DATE RECORDED:

29 May 79
TITLE:
ST. MARGARET'S CHAPEL AND RECTORY

164/27
1 May 1919
J. Alphonse Frederick, Baltimore County
to
James Cardinal Gibbons, Archbishop of Baltimore
3 a.± the land on which the chapel and Pastor's residence stand

100/465
7 January 1901
Thomas Robinson, trustee
to
Alphonse Frederick

42/495
7 April 1881
Edwin H. Webster
to
Laura C. Raitt
by 20/342 1868 Webster registered a deed by which he promised to convey the property to Cassandra Raitt (she had paid him $1000) or her heirs. She died and left it to Laura Raitt (1870, will 8/154). This deed confirms 20/342.
H1-200
St. Margaret's Chapel, 1411 N. Peckory, Bel Air
w/c oil
Mrs. Lucus, 1979
detail of well
M. Larno, 1979