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NPS Form 10-900
(Oct. 1990)

OMB No. 10024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY

other names HOLY TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH ~~HA-165~~ HA-167

2. Location

street & number 2929 Level Road ☐ not for publication **N/A**

city or town Churchville ☐ vicinity **N/A**

state Maryland code MD county Harford code 025 zip code 21028

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☑ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ☑ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☑ locally. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments).

Signature of certifying official/Title — Date 11-14-02

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments).

Signature of certifying official/Title — Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby, certify that this property is:

☐ entered in the National Register.
☐ See continuation sheet.
☐ determined eligible for the National Register.
☐ See continuation sheet.
☐ Determined not eligible for the National Register.
☐ removed from the National Register.
☐ other (explain): _____

Signature of the Keeper — Date of Action

Church of the Holy Trinity
Name of Property

Harford County, Maryland
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- ☒ Private
- ☐ public-local
- ☐ public-State
- ☐ public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- ☒ building(s)
- ☐ district
- ☐ site
- ☐ structure
- ☐ object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

N/A

number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Religion / religious facility

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Religion

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Late Victorian / Gothic

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone: syenitic gneiss
Walls Stone: syenitic gneiss
Roof Stone: slate
Other Sills, arches, copings – stone: granite

Narrative Description
(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets)

Description Summary:

The Church of the Holy Trinity was built in 1878, in the Gothic Revival style, an interpretation of the "Early English" period of the 12th and 13th centuries, and the principles promulgated by the [English] Ecclesiological Society and its American counterpart, the New York Ecclesiological Society. It is a small church built of local stone with low walls, steep roof, an architectural chancel in the east end, south porch and sacristy, belfry at the west end, lancet windows and doors with pointed arches. The asymmetrical design of its west end is a creative interpretation of its design precedents. With no substantial changes, containing much original furniture, and its founding, design and construction incredibly well documented,[1] it is an important example of an international architectural movement in the Anglican Communion.

General Description:

The Church of the Holy Trinity, designed by George Archer,[2] architect, and built in 1878, is a one-story stone church in the Gothic Revival style, an original interpretation of the "Early English" of the 12th and 13th centuries. In its general form it follows design principles promulgated by the [English] Ecclesiological Society and its American counterpart, the New York Ecclesiological Society. Typically, Episcopal churches built under these influences are of natural stone construction with low walls, steep roofs, tall narrow lancet window and door openings topped with pointed arches, an architectural chancel in the east end, south entrance porches, a belfry at the west end, stained glass. In all these aspects, the Church of the Holy Trinity is no exception.

An unusual and highly successful creative design feature is the balanced asymmetry of the west end façade with a tall bell cote rising from the northwest corner (rather than from the usual centered position at the top of the west gable), balanced by a massive chimney rising from the southerly slope, and the entrance vestibule or south porch projecting from the westerly bay of the south side. Buttresses support the bell cote at the northwest corner and similar buttresses support the southwest corner beneath the bold chimney. A tall tripartite set of windows in the "Early English" format completes the west façade, providing abundant light to the interior.

The bell, original to the church, was made by J. Regester & Son, a noted bell maker in Baltimore.

The architectural chancel at the east end is characteristic of Episcopal churches in the Gothic Revival style of the 19th and 20th centuries, and of other styles as well, including, significantly in Maryland, the colonial period. A small sacristy, which projects from the south side of the chancel, balances the south porch or vestibule at the main entrance in the westerly bay of the nave. A secondary chimney rises above the east gable of the nave, near the sacristy, topped with an original terra-cotta chimney pot.

Buttresses along the south and north walls mark the four bays of the nave and the two bays of the chancel. A brownstone cornerstone with the date 1878 is in the northeast buttress of the nave. The south porch and sacristy occupy precisely an entire bay each. Other nave bays, the northwesterly bay of the chancel, and the sides of the south porch and sacristy have a single lancet window with a narrow wooden frame and a single tilting wooden sash for ventilation.

The walls are of black and gray rubble syenitic gneiss stone still quarried on James Run, 2½ miles south of Churchville. The sills and arches of windows and doors, and buttress and gable copings, are of granite, quarried in Port Deposit, Maryland, 7½ miles northeast of Churchville, sawn to accurate sizes, chisel-finished without profiled mouldings. The granite imposts and keystones of the arches project slightly in all directions. The east window, above the altar, is the single window with tracery, wooden, describing three Gothic lancets topped, within the Gothic arch, with a roundel containing a trefoil. The ornamental character of this single window bespeaks the importance of its location, above the altar, the focal point of the interior.

The doors, double at the main entrance, single at the sacristy, are constructed with heavy stiles and rails forming two panels in each, backed with diagonal beaded boarding which forms the interior finishes. A bold ogee applied moulding frames each panel. The arched shapes of the inwardly-opening doors extend far above the relatively low imposts, cut flat near the top to clear the exposed roof framing within.

The steep roofs are covered with slate, original materials quarried near the Pennsylvania line in Cardiff, Maryland, about 12 miles to the north. Five to seven courses of rectangular slates alternate with similar numbers of courses of hexagonal and fish-scale slates.

Ornamental wrought-iron crosses, the work of a Churchville blacksmith, Philip Hawkins, top the bell cote, the west gable and the south porch gable.

An original lightning rod system of twisted copper-clad iron banding had major gaps, major losses, and it was replaced with an inconspicuous new system in 2000.

Within, the plan is unchanged from the beginning. From the south entrance an aisle extends to the central aisle which extends the full length of the nave. On either side of the central aisle original pews of black walnut extend to the north and south walls, without side aisles. The pews were made by Churchville cabinetmaker, E. A. Bodt who also furnished the walnut wainscoting which extends around the nave and chancel beneath the windowsills.

The walls above the wainscot are of white-painted plaster on furred wooden lath, added a few years after the church was built originally with plaster directly on the stone. The interior spaces are open clear to the peaks of the roofs. Marking each bay of the nave and chancel are pine arched-braced trusses rising above pendant posts which are tied to the walls and buttresses with wrought-iron ties, detailed in the original specifications. The trusses are stained a flat dark brown; their chamfered edges are painted a dark blue. Golden chestnut plate tracery fills the openings in the upper trusswork. The trusses support purlins, two in each slope, which, in turn, support rafters under beaded boarding which forms the interior finish, stained a slightly lighter brown than the trusses and purlins, finished with a low gloss.

A large Gothic arch in the east wall of the nave, finished with boldly chamfered plaster, opens into the deeply recessed chancel, raised two steps above the nave. Its easterly bay is the sanctuary, the site of the altar, the focal point of the interior, raised an additional step.

A pair of inner doors between the entrance vestibule and the nave are now finished with luan plywood.[3] Originally they were upholstered in leather, typical of the period.

All the windows are original to the church, made by H. T. Gernhardt[4] of Baltimore. Generally the leaded glass windows have borders in deep hues of stained glass surrounding paler fields of square panes set diagonally, all with stencil-etched geometrical and stylized floral patterns influenced by the designs of Christopher Dresser.[5] Above the altar, the focal point of the interior, the east window's design is enhanced by wooden tracery (described with the exterior, above) and additional medallions of stained glass in deep hues, depicting Christian symbols. In the roundel within the top arch, a descending white dove, in a deep blue field with subtle rays in the enameled glass, is surrounded by a triangle within a trefoil, the composition symbolizing the Holy Spirit within the Trinity, after the name of the church. Several nave windows have panels of enameled glass portraying Christian and church symbols, rendered in deep colors. One original memorial window has more deep colors in its design than others.

The original floor was of yellow pine, in narrowish random widths. The aisles and chancel were finished with ingrain carpeting in a dark red and black pattern.[6] The floor beneath the pews was covered with black linoleum, a modern material in the period of the church's construction. In 1973 the floor joists were replaced, due to rot and termite damage, and finished with plywood and carpet.[7]

At the west end of the nave, at the intersection of the entrance and central aisles, is a white marble Baptismal font, original to the church (if not to the original church described near the end of this narrative), in memory of the wife of an original Vestryman. In the sanctuary are three chairs of black walnut, one for the Bishop, and a pair of side chairs, original to the original church and made by R[obert] Renwick & Son, a noted chair and cabinetmaker in Baltimore. The original black walnut table altar, contemporary with them, is in a chapel in the adjacent parish house. The present solid-fronted altar of black walnut, and the brass cross and vases are additions of 1883, made by Geissler, a noted manufacturer of church furniture in New York. The walnut reredos is another addition, 1890, made by a local cabinetmaker William Schuck whose residence and shop were about 2 miles west of Churchville. The brass and walnut pulpit and communion rail are memorials to the Rev. Edward A. Colburn (1830-1907) who served this church from 1866 to 1903.[8]

Other antique furnishings, all of black walnut, include a double sedelia and prayer desk, credence shelf and hymn board, all original to the present church, and two chairs and a single prayer desk brought here from the Church of the Epiphany, Govans, Baltimore City, when it closed about 1970.

Originally the church was heated by two coal stoves at the chimneys near the southwest and southeast corners of the nave. In ca.1949 an oil-fired hot-air furnace was installed in a small cellar dug for that purpose at the west chimney, within the southwest corner of the nave, accessed by a trap door flush with the floor. Originally, coal for the stoves was stored in a small framed structure west of the southwest corner, demolished a few years after the furnace was installed.

Originally the church was illuminated by kerosene lamps fitted into brass brackets attached to the pendant posts at the bases of the trusses, their outlines yet visible. When the church was electrified in the early 1930s, illumination was by large bare bulbs in sockets mounted higher on the arched cords of the trusses. In the 1950s, the existing decorative black metal hexagonal lanterns with white opal glass sides replaced the bare bulbs, suspended from the same connections about ntered on the pews below.

In the south entrance vestibule is the original hall lamp from the rectory, 1869, a kerosene fixture having a cylindrical etched glass shade as the counterweight for the brass base which contained the kerosene lamp, the whole suspended from

a brass canopy with pulleys for the chain suspension system. It was electrified and moved here when the rectory ceased to house the rector, about 1970.

Decorative wrought-iron rails were added to the chancel steps in 2000, an enhancement prompted by today's considerations for safety and accessibility. Noted Baltimore blacksmiths G. Krug & Sons fabricated and installed the rails.

Following English and European tradition dating from Medieval times or earlier, the Church of the Holy Trinity is oriented with its altar in its east end. It stands quite close to the road (Level Road, Maryland Route 155 leading from Churchville to Havre de Grace), and not quite parallel to it to achieve its easterly orientation.

The driveway has always entered the property near the east end of the church with head-in parking on the east side of the driveway following a practice here from the beginning. Until the middle of the 20th century, a fence, contemporary with the church, with two wrought-iron pipe rails and an iron ring on each post, bordered the parking area, its original purpose to hitch horses.

A walk of large rectangular slabs of slate, quarried near the Pennsylvania line in Cardiff, Maryland, about 12 miles to the north, leads from the driveway past the sacristy entrance to the main church entrance. This walk dates from 1888, replacing an earlier board walk.

At the main church entrance is a small stone terrace, about the size of the entrance vestibule or porch, constructed in 1995 to provide an accessible entrance to the church for persons with disabilities. The terrace, paved with Pennsylvania bluestone, is raised two steps above the slate walk to the church floor level and on its west side, earthen fill allows an accessible pathway from a parking area west of the church. The granite steps from the slate walk to the stone terrace are the original steps from the main entrance, rotated 90° to their present alignment. Matching granite steps border the terrace, salvaged by a parishioner in 1980 from the rear entrance (1904) to the Harford County Court House in Bel Air when that entrance was covered by a massive addition. Mounted on the granite border of the raised terrace is a wrought and cast iron fence, part of the fence which originally surrounded the graveyard to the south. A gate of original fence materials, and more Court House steps, give direct access to the graveyard.

A graveyard is south of the church, established shortly after the original church was built in 1866-67.

Young red maple trees stand south of the church, south of the slate walk, replacing originals planted shortly after the church was built, taken down in the 1970s and 1980s. A mature red maple, possibly as old as the church, stands just to the northeast, where the driveway meets the road.

Across the lane stood the original church of 1866-67,[9] a frame Gothic Revival structure sheathed in board-and-batten, its lines not unlike the present building; it burned in 1877 and was promptly replaced by the present building in the following year. South of the original church stood the rectory, built in 1869 and demolished in 1984. Several trees remain of the many planted shortly after the original buildings were built, including a White Ash, two English Basswoods and a Red Maple.

A modern parish house of frame construction, one story in height, stands some 200 feet west of the church and cemetery, built in 1961, enlarged in 1984. The parish house site is joined to the church by an accessible bluestone-paved path from the church porch.

Endnotes

[1] Detailed letters, architectural and construction documents surrounding the founding of the parish, the construction and furnishing of all the early buildings with all workmen and materials identified, and early parish operations, are preserved in the Historical Society of Harford County, the gift of Katharine Baxter Harlan in 1990. She found them in the previous year in the attic of her residence, "Homelands", the Harlan family farm across the road, that residence having been the residence of Dr. David Harlan (1809-1893), the founder of the parish and benefactor of all its early buildings and operations. Various manufacturers and other construction details cited herein are documented in this collection.

[2] George Archer (1848-1920) was born at "Allendale" about 2 miles north of Churchville. After a Princeton education and an apprenticeship with Baltimore architect George A. Frederick (1840-1924) he pursued his architectural practice in Baltimore, eventually inheriting and maintaining as his country residence his grandparents' house "Paradice" just north of his birthplace. He is buried in the graveyard of the Churchville Presbyterian Church with his parents and many family members of previous and subsequent generations. His career is documented by research in the Baltimore Architecture Foundation.

[3] A restoration of the original finish is planned for the near future.

[4] H. (Herman) T. Gernhardt (ca.1825-1897), a Baltimore stained glass maker, flourished from ca. 1846 to his death in 1897; his studio continued in business until about 1942. Research by the Baltimore Architecture Foundation has documented dozens of Gernhardt windows in Maryland and Virginia; moreover Gernhardt is the only 19th century Baltimore stained glass artisan documented by this research.

[5] This observation is not intended to imply that Dresser supplied these designs. They are typical of Gernhardt's work in this period.

[6] Samples of original carpeting from the present church and the original church are preserved, salvaged from kneeler padding.

[7] A restoration is planned for the near future with random-width pine under the pews and patterned carpeting in the aisles and chancel to interpret the original.

[8] The earlier furnishings they replaced were given away, the walnut pulpit to the Church of the Ascension in Scarboro, about 6½ miles northwest of Churchville, the wrought-iron communion rail, made by the same Churchville blacksmith who made the crosses atop the exterior gables, to Olivet Episcopal Church in Franconia, near Alexandria, Virginia.

[9] It was designed by William H. Reasin (ca.1816-1867). He was born near Aberdeen about 9 miles southeast of Churchville (on today's Aberdeen Proving Ground, a U.S. Army base). After an apprenticeship in Baltimore (possibly under Robert Cary Long, Jr. (1810-1849) he pursued his architectural practice in Baltimore. As a country and retirement residence he purchased a small farm in Glenville, about 3½ miles northeast of Churchville, where he died. He is buried in the graveyard of Spesutia Church, St. George's Parish, Perryman, Maryland, near his birthplace. His career is documented by research in the Baltimore Architecture Foundation.

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Church of the Holy Trinity
Name of Property

Harford County, Maryland
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria
(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- ☐ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad pattern of our History.
- ☐ B Property associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations
(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply)

Property is:

- ☒ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ B removed from its original location.
- ☐ C a birthplace or grave.
- ☐ D a cemetery.
- ☐ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ F a commemorative property.
- ☐ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance
(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets)

Area of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1878

Significant Dates

1878

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Archer, George ARCHITECT

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography
(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets)

Previous documentation on files (NPS):

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

Primary location of additional data:

- ☐ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☒ Other

Name of repository:
Historical Society of Harford County, Inc.

Summary Statement of Significance:

The Church of the Holy Trinity, Churchville Parish, in conception and design, reflects the intentions and principles of the Bishop of Maryland, the Right Reverend William Rollinson Whittingham. The designs of the two churches which have stood on this site, 1866 and 1878, follow principles promulgated by the Ecclesiologists from the middle of the 19th century. They were and are the works of important Baltimore architects born nearby in Harford County. For nearly 25 years the parish assumed responsibility for education, despite that responsibility's being made a government responsibility by the Maryland Constitution of 1867, the year Churchville Parish was admitted as an independent parish in the Diocese of Maryland. The land, all the buildings, and all parish operations, were for the first 27 years, the gift of one individual in whose attic over 600 documents were found 123 years, after the parish was founded, and 111 years after the present building was built, making Churchville Parish, Holy Trinity Church, the best documented church of its period in Maryland[1] and surely one of the best in the nation.[2]

Resource History and Historic Context:

From *History of Churchville Parish, Ha. Co. Md.* Pages 3-5[3]

In June, 1866, Mr. Colburn rode to Churchville, and met Dr. Harlan, on the road; he being at home for a day, on leave, from the Naval Academy, at Annapolis.

"What would you think of having a Church built at Churchville?" was the question put, at once, by the Dr. "Think of it, and let me know very soon". Mr. C. did not give the subject much thought -- for he hardly looked upon it as an earnest matter.

About a week or two later, he received a notice from the Dr. to meet him in Churchville, on a certain day in July, which he did. The Dr. then requested him to ride with him, going along by the several cross roads, and to select a place for the erection of a Church.

Mr. Colburn put to him the question, Do you seriously contemplate the building of a Church? "I do" -- was the reply -- "It has been my desire & intention for "some years". Where is the congregation to come from? Was the next natural question. The answer was -- "A congregation, of any considerable size, cd. hardly be gathered in less than 10 years". Then came the further enquiry as to the support of such a congregation. The Dr. stated that he would wish it to be a missionary Church, and that he would see that every needed support was provided. He did not wish it to be known that he was building it – but wished it to be called a mission church, built by funds placed for that purpose in the hands of the Rector of Deer Creek Parish.

During that ride, a site was selected, on the road leading from Bel-Air to Havre-de-Grace, where was quite an extensive grove of Locust Trees. The land belonged to Mrs. Harlan, [wife of Dr. David Harlan] who was a member of the Presbyterian congregation, at Churchville.

Mr. Colburn called on Mrs. Harlan -- & asked her if she would sell six acres of land, for the purpose of erecting a Church, and providing a glebe, for the use of the Church. She consented to do so.

The Dr. paid her $1300.

A few days after this, the Dr. selected as Architect, Mr. Wm Reasin, of the firm of Reasin & Crummer, Baltimore. Mr. Reasin's home was in Havre-de-Grace.

On Aug. 11th -- Dr. Harlan, Mr. Reasin, & Mr. Colburn, met at St. James' Ch. Trap, to talk over the plans for the new Church. It was agreed to build a frame Church, large enough to seat over 150 people; and to begin as soon as possible.

Aug. 30, 1866

Dr. H. & Rev. Mr. C. went to Havre-de-Grace, and found the plans prepared by Mr. Reasin. Mr. T. J. Ives, Carpenter, was selected to conduct the work of building, under Mr. Reasin.

Work was begun in October 1866 – early in the month.

Thusly were decisions made in the first decades of Churchville Parish, quickly, no discussion, no controversy. Architectural decisions in those early years concerning the Church buildings and their furnishings would always be for excellence in design.

In order to establish a new parish in Maryland, the contiguous parishes, which would cede part of their territory, would have to consent and they did.[4] The region was entirely rural. Parishes then were large, and distant Episcopalians could not easily travel to the parish churches with any frequency. The Convention of the Diocese of Maryland, in May 1867, admitted Churchville Parish as an independent parish of the Diocese. In optimistic anticipation of that event land had been secured and the new church had just been completed. The land, the building, its architect and all its furnishings, and the Rector's salary were provided by Dr. David Harlan (1809-1893), Medical Director of the Navy, whose permanent and eventual retirement residence was across the road.[5]

The creation of a new parish was in full accord with the Bishop of Maryland's intentions. The Right Reverend William Rollinson Whittingham had been Bishop of Maryland since 1840 and he would remain in that office until his death in 1879. New churches and architectural excellence were of prime importance to him.

> Having become head of a diocese in dire need of new churches, Whittingham resolved to emphasize the missionary aspects of his duties. He set out to improve the physical condition of existing churches, reform and dignify ceremonial practice in the diocese, and increase the number of parishes and church buildings, but the antipathy of those opposed to High Churchmanship remained. Whittingham's tendency to rule the clergy of the diocese rigidly, his insistence upon "full Episcopal prerogatives during his visitations," and his appropriation of collections "for diocesan use" ultimately involved him in conflicts and charges of "tyranny and persecution of his presbyters." In 1850, however, when the

General Convention defined the duties and role of bishops, it generally supported Whittingham's conception of the tasks of the episcopacy. External circumstances also added to the trials of his long administration. Though there were many in Maryland who sympathized with the southern cause in the Civil War, the Bishop insisted that the Church remain politically neutral.

In addition to all his routine duties (and Whittingham was unusually diligent), he found time to pursue his interest in ecclesiastical architecture and its history. His library contained an impressive and representative collection of the English books and periodicals on architecture which the ecclesiologists and others had written for the enlightenment of amateurs rather than architects . . . When the New York Ecclesiological Society was established, he founded an architectural society in Maryland, an event which the *Ecclesiologist* noted with pleasure. Whittingham was a patron member of both the Ecclesiological Society and the Oxford Architectural Society.

Throughout the diocese new churches had to be built and old ones needed repairs. This situation was not unique to Baltimore, however, but prevailed almost everywhere on the East Coast in 1840. Whittingham made his stylistic preferences known in personal conversation and through his annual reports, which were published in the *Journal of the . . . Annual Convention of the Diocese of Maryland of the Protestant Episcopal Church in Maryland.* He mentioned the design and, where applicable, the architect of the churches he consecrated. He praised those parishes with building aspirations and encouraged others to acquire them. By the end of his first ten years of tenure, he was beginning to achieve his objective: in 1850 every Protestant Episcopal Church under construction in Maryland was in the parish church style. Although Whittingham's convictions and enthusiasms were typical of American High Churchmen, he was, rather more than others, personally preoccupied with architecture and ecclesiological theory.[6]

Two church buildings have served Churchville Parish and it is significant to note that both were and are precisely in accord with Bishop Whittingham's architectural design principles, based on the promulgations of the [English] Ecclesiological Society and its American counterpart, the New York Ecclesiological Society based at the General Theological Seminary in New York City.[7] Bishop Whittingham was trained there for the ministry and after serving several parishes in his native New Jersey, and New York, he was on the faculty of the General Theological Seminary when he was called to be Bishop of Maryland in 1840.[8]

The first church was built in 1866-67, the design of Reasin & Crummer,[9] architects, Baltimore, Maryland, who also designed the furnishings. William H. Reasin (ca.1816-1867) was born near Aberdeen about 9 miles southeast of Churchville, his practice based in Baltimore. Daniel Crummer had only recently been made his partner.

The first church was in the Gothic Revival style of the Ecclesiologists, of frame construction finished in board-and-batten, in form not unlike the present church. It stood across the lane from the present church.[10] It burned on a Sunday morning a few days before Christmas 1877, the result of a chimney fire, slowly, from the roof down, and as the congregation gathered that morning they were able to salvage all the windows except one high above the altar, and all the furnishings.[11] In those days before rural fire departments, a fire usually meant a total loss; such was the case here.

In 1869 a large rectory[12] was built immediately south of the church, large enough to house the rector and his family as well as boarders for a boarding and day school established in the same year. The church still assumed some responsibility for education, then 2 years after public education became the responsibility of government by the Maryland Constitution of 1867. The school[13] was built on the site of the present chancel, west of the church and it was thrived until 1893. Other early structures on the site included privies, a barn and stable, poultry house, a corn house, icehouse, summer house and a larger kitchen for the rectory and school. The rectory, school and all the ancillary buildings were, like the land and church, the gift of Dr. David Harlan and all have disappeared.[14]

Immediately after the first church burned, Dr. Harlan, the benefactor of Churchville Parish, his friends, early Vestrymen, and the parish began the planning for a new church, the present church. George Archer (1848-1920)[15] was engaged as its architect. He was a native of the community, educated at Princeton and after a three-year Baltimore apprenticeship with George A. Frederick (1840-1924) he opened his own practice in Baltimore, 1875. Remarkably, in those times of slow communication and hand labor, with some factory fabrication, the new church was conceived, designed and built within a year, open for Christmas services in 1878,[16] a remarkable feat for a building of no mean significance. It is essentially unchanged to this day.

Within two decades of Dr. Harlan's death in 1893 the parish was no longer self-supporting. When it was time to call its 3rd rector, 1912, it and an adjacent parish, St. George's, made a joint call, a relationship which lasted through two world wars and the depression. Following a brief association with Bel Air, another neighboring parish, Churchville Parish called its own rector in 1957, a young man not yet ordained but who would shortly be ordained in Holy Trinity Church, and the parish has been self-supporting ever since.

The early years of Churchville Parish are documented by a remarkable archival collection, perhaps the best documented parish in Maryland[17], surely one of the best in this period in the nation. Dr. David Harlan personally paid for the land, all aspects of all the buildings (two churches including their furnishings, rectory, school, barn and other ancillary buildings) and all aspects of church and school operations including salaries, books, heat, light and more. He saved every piece of paper documenting these activities and his collection was found in the attic of his residence in the winter of 1989-1990.

The residence and farm had remained in his family, then owned by his granddaughter-in-law Katharine Baxter Harlan.[18] While searching for a few boxes for Christmas gifts, Mrs. Harlan opened a large wooden chest which had never interested her before, revealing over 600 paper items documenting the founding, construction and operation of the Church of the Holy Trinity, Churchville Parish, a collection which included bills and receipts for all building materials and architectural and construction services, indicating sources and costs of the same, construction drawings and specifications, letters to and from all the principals in those early years and more. These documents revealed sources, procedures and costs, professional relationships and practices, social mores and more. Most of the materials documented for the present building may still be seen. Most materials documented for the buildings which are gone are recognized in drawings, photographs and memories. The only major missing items were the construction drawings for the present building and in those days before blueprinting, probably they were consumed in the process of construction. However, the house remains in the next generation of the family and drawings may yet be found.

In addition to documenting Churchville Parish, Dr. Harlan's naval career and the education of his children are documented by materials in other chests opened that winter for the first time in many years.

These collections were donated by Katharine Baxter Harlan to the Historical Society of Harford County, Bel Air, Maryland.

Endnotes

[1] F. Garner Ranney, Historiographer of the Diocese of Maryland, in a letter to this writer 15 February 1990.

[2] See discussion of this archival collection at the end of this narrative, hereinafter noted as the Churchville Parish archives.

[3] Colburn, the Rev. Edward A. *History of Churchville Parish, Ha. Co. Md.* [1866-1893], a handwritten manuscript in the Parish Office. The Rev. Edward A. Colburn was rector of Deer Creek Parish, St. James' Church, Trap, about 4 miles north of Churchville, the mother parish of what would become Holy Trinity, Churchville Parish. Dr. David Harlan was Medical Director, U.S. Navy, then stationed in Annapolis, a vestryman of Deer Creek Parish, and he would become the benefactor of Churchville Parish. His permanent residence "Homelands" was the farm across the road from the site chosen for the Church of the Holy Trinity. "Homelands" was originally a Herbert family farm. Margaret Herbert Harlan was the wife of Dr. David Harlan, hence the church site's being considered her property. The discovery of extensive documentation in "Homelands" attic in 1990 is discussed at the end of this narrative.

[4] Deer Creek Parish, St. George's Parish and Havre de Grace Parish.

[5] *Portrait and Biographical Record of Harford and Cecil Counties, Maryland*, 1897.

[6] Stanton, Phoebe B. *The Gothic Revival & American Church Architecture*. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins Press, 1968, pages 217-219.

[7] *ibid.*

[8] *ibid.*

[9] The Baltimore Architecture Foundation has extensive documentation on William H. Reasin and very little on Daniel Crummer who died about a year after Reasin. Reasin's own practice emerged as Robert Cary Long, Jr. relocated to New York and promptly died, 1849. It is possible that Reasin apprenticed under Long. Among Reasin's estate papers is an inventory of his library containing over 160 architectural books and volumes of periodicals, all titles known today. His partner bought them all but their present whereabouts is unknown.

[10] The original drawings are on display in the Parish House, found in the Churchville Parish archives.

[11] Colburn, *op.cit.* The windows were stored in the Rectory cellar at least until the middle 1950s; their present existence is unknown. The Bishop's chair and a pair of side chairs remain in use in the present church. The table altar is in a chapel in the Parish House. The pews and communion rail are in use in the Church of the Ascension, Scarboro, Maryland, about 6½ miles northwest of Churchville. All of these furnishings were designed by Reasin, documented in the specifications and correspondence.

The Rectory was a traditional house, its design origins firmly in the 18th century despite its construction date of 1869: frame, 2½ stories in height, broad gables centered in front and rear facades, 5 bays in width, 6/6 windows with small panes, a center stair hall

flanked by a pair of large rooms on either side. In its details its mid-19th century construction was revealed: a round arched window in each central gable; single flue chimneys between the pairs of rooms, each serving 6 rooms in 3 stories; German siding; moldings, stair balustrade, doors and hardware of its period. Its front porch, particularly, placed the house firmly in the Italianate era, covering three bays of the house with three narrower porch bays and half bays at the corners, all with bold curved brackets to the beam, those of the half bays forming full arches. Studying the church architect's, Reasin's, domestic work in the Italianate style one could conjecture that he might have sketched the Rectory design before his untimely death at the age of 50 in the spring of 1867. A drafted unsigned floor plan is among the Churchville Parish archives. Rectories adjacent to their churches became undesirable in the late 20th century and after an unsuccessful 14-year period of rentals the rectory was in deplorable condition, its style and location unfashionable, and it was demolished in 1984.

[13] The school was a plain, frame building, two stories in height with board-and-batten siding, a single classroom in each story. When the school was founded, 1869, education had just been established as a governmental responsibility of the State Constitution of 1867. Holy Trinity School thrived until 1893 with a total of 33 boarding students and 165 day students. Advertisements regularly appeared in the local weekly newspapers, together with announcements of new sessions, graduations and the like. The Rev. Mr. Colburn was headmaster, assisted by a total of 15 teachers through the years. The school was moved south of its original site when the present church was built. The school building became a public school at the end of the century, despite private ownership. When a new consolidated elementary school was built in 1936 on land sold by the parish to the Harford County Board of Education, the old Holy Trinity School was moved to an adjacent lot to be a private residence. It was demolished in the 1970s for the expansion of Churchville Elementary School.

[14] These and other past buildings on site are all documented in the Holy Trinity archives and many are recalled by older parishioners including this writer.

[15] The Baltimore Architecture Foundation has extensive documentation on George Archer and his architectural practice which included at least 5 other Episcopal churches, all of them Gothic Revival as influenced by the Ecclesiologists.

[16] Colburn, *op. cit.* and the Churchville Parish archives.

[17] See End Note 1. The Churchville Parish archives are in the Katharine Baxter Harlan Collection in the Historical Society of Harford County, Bel Air, Maryland.

[18] It should be noted here that Katharine Baxter Harlan (1905-1991) was this writer's first cousin twice removed and both of us and our respective families for several generations have had life-long associations with Churchville Parish.

Major Bibliographical References:

Primary Bibliographical Sources:

Archives of the Diocese of Maryland. "Church of the Holy Trinity" or "Holy Trinity Church". Diocese of Maryland, 4 E. University Parkway, Baltimore, Maryland 21218.

Archives of the Historical Society of Harford County, Inc., *Katharine Baxter Harlan Collection* "Holy Trinity Church". These are the original papers documenting the founding, construction and early operations of this church. Historical Society of Harford County, Inc., 143 N. Main Street, Bel Air, Maryland 21014.

Colburn, the Rev. Edward A. *History of Churchville Parish, Harford Co. Md.* n.d. [1866-1893] an unpublished manuscript written in the hand of the founding first rector. Filed in the Parish House, Church of the Holy Trinity, 2925 Level Road, Churchville, Maryland 21028.

Keasin & Crummer. "Drawings of Design/Church of the Holy Trinity/Churchville Harford Co Md" These are the original drawings for the first church, 1866-67, burned 1877 and no longer standing. On display in the Parish House, Church of the Holy Trinity, 2925 Level Road, Churchville, Maryland 21028.

Secondary Bibliographical Sources:

Colburn, Carolyn Workinger. "The Reverend Edward Augustus Colburn". Unpublished manuscript, December 5, 1997, written for American History II, Harford Community College, 401 Thomas Run Road, Bel Air, Maryland 21015. Mrs. Edward F. Colburn, 810 Tydings Road, Havre de Grace, Maryland 21078 and a copy is in this writer's file.

Portrait and Biographical Record of Harford and Cecil Counties, Maryland. New York and Chicago: Chapman Publishing Co., 1897. "David Harlan" pages 132-145; "Rev. Edward A. Colburn" pages 292-293.

Smith, Philip Kingsley, and Smith, William L. "Anglican and Episcopal Churches of Harford County". *Harford Historical Bulletin* (Number 73, Summer 1997): pages 3-39.

Stanton, Phoebe B. *The Gothic Revival & American Church Architecture.* Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins Press, 1968.

Weeks, Christopher. *An Architectural History of Harford County, Maryland.* Baltimore: The John Hopkins University Press, 1996.

Wollon, James T., Jr. and Walker, Irma. "George Archer's Life and Work". *Harford Historical Bulletin* (Number 56, Spring 1993): pages 35-57.

Wollon, James T., Jr. "Architecture of Episcopal Churches in Harford County." *Harford Historical Bulletin* (Number 73, Summer 1997): pages 40-64.

AA-167

Church of the Holy Trinity
Name of Property

Harford County, Maryland
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 2.2 ±

UTM References
(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

ABERDEEN QUAD

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
1	18	392890	4379540	3			
2				4			

☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description
(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet)

Boundary Justification
(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title James Thomas Wollon, Jr., A.I.A., Architect / Junior Warden (Property Warden)

Organization Churchville Parish, Church of the Holy Trinity date 4 September 2001

street & number 600 Craigs Corner Road telephone 410-879-6748

city or town Havre de Grace state Maryland zip code 21078-1204

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

[1]Additional Items
(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO)

Name Church of the Holy Trinity

street & number 2929 Level Road, P.O. Box 25 telephone 410-836-2227

city or town Churchville state Maryland zip code 21028

Paperwork Reduction Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et. seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

Verbal Boundary Description:

The boundaries are indicated on the accompanying base map.

Boundary Justification:

The northerly boundary of the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) site follows the center line of the public road (being the property line), Level Road, Maryland Route 155. At the northeasterly corner of the property the easterly boundary of the NRHP site coincides with the easterly property line. The southerly boundary of the NRHP site coincides with the southerly property line for approximately 370± to a point 2 feet west of the cemetery's westerly edge. The westerly boundary of the NRHP site coincides with a line 2 feet west of the cemetery edge to the center line of the public road.

This area contains the existing historic church, the associated cemetery, the sites of related historic structures no longer standing and historic trees associated with them, contributing to the property's historic significance. This area does not include a 1960-1984 non-historic parish house nor parking area and vacant land associated with it.

The total parish property is approximately 4.3 acres. The NRHP site is approximately 2.2 acres.

The NRHP site is 2929 Level Road, the church building address; the excluded property is 2925 Level Road, the parish house address; both are in Churchville, Maryland 21028.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

HA-147

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Church of the Holy Trinity
Name of Property

Harford County, Maryland
County and State

Photographs

Photographs: James T. Wollon, Jr., Photographer (photographs of ca.1949: unknown photographer)
Photographs taken 1 September 2001 except for numbers 14 and 15 which were taken ca.1949.
Original negatives in the Maryland Historical Trust, MD SHPO.

Photograph 1 of 15: Church from the west, camera facing east. Compare with Photograph 14.

Photograph 2 of 15: Church from the southwest, from the cemetery, camera facing northeast. Compare with Photograph 14.

Photograph 3 of 15: Church from the southeast, from the old rectory front yard, camera facing northwest.

Photograph 4 of 15: Church from the northeast, from the roadside showing immediate setting, camera facing southwest.

Photograph 5 of 15: Site from the west showing south churchyard in the foreground, old rectory front yard beyond with historic basswood trees (pair of round-topped trees left of center); site of original church was at extreme left, just left of the basswoods; camera facing east.

Photograph 6 of 15: Church interior from the west, camera facing east. Compare with Photograph 15.

Photograph 7 of 15: Church interior from the east, camera facing west.

Photograph 8 of 15: East window, above the altar, from the southwest, camera facing northeast.

Photograph 9 of 15: West window from the east, camera facing west.

Photograph 10 of 15: Typical nave window (2nd from east on north side), from the south, camera facing north.

Photograph 11 of 15: One unique (to this building) nave window from the south (westerly window on north side), camera facing north.

Photograph 12 of 15: South porch window from the east, camera facing west.

Photograph 13 of 15: 1869 kerosene lighting fixture now in south porch, originally in rectory, looking from the northeast, camera facing southwest.

Photograph 14 of 15: Historic photograph (summer ca.1949) of church and site including old rectory from the southwest, camera facing northeast; cemetery with former iron fence (foreground); former rectory, right. Compare with Photographs 1 and 2.

Photograph 15 of 15: Church interior from the west ca. Christmas 1949, camera facing east. Compare with Photograph 6.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

HA-167

Church of the Holy Trinity
Name of Property

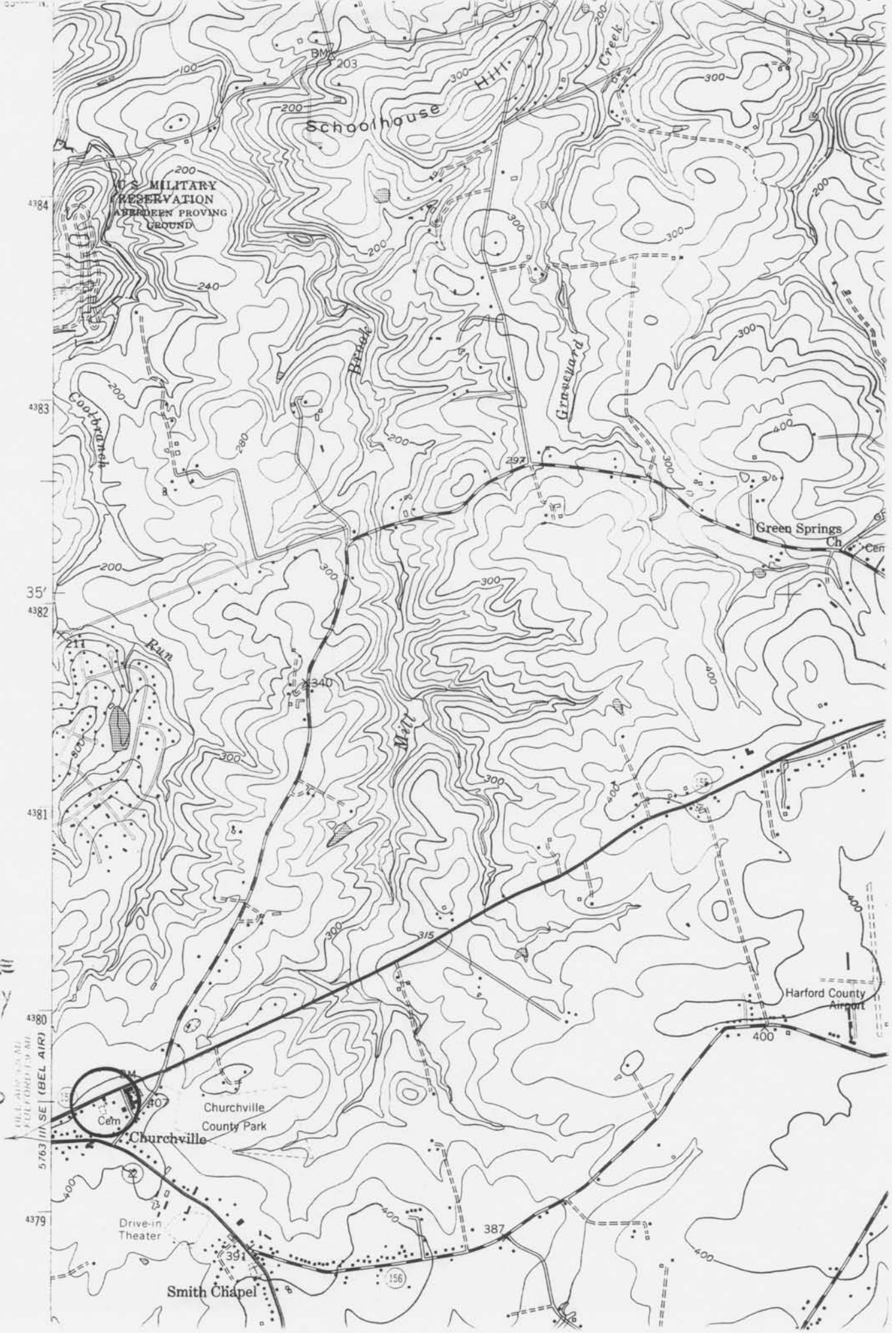
Harford County, Maryland
County and State

Negatives

Negative List

Photograph Number	Negative Number
1	15
2	16
3	31
4	32
5	18
6	2
7	6*
8	8
9	10
10	7**
11	6*
12	11
13	7**
14	19
15	20

* Note: two frames are number 6.
**Note: two frames are number 7.



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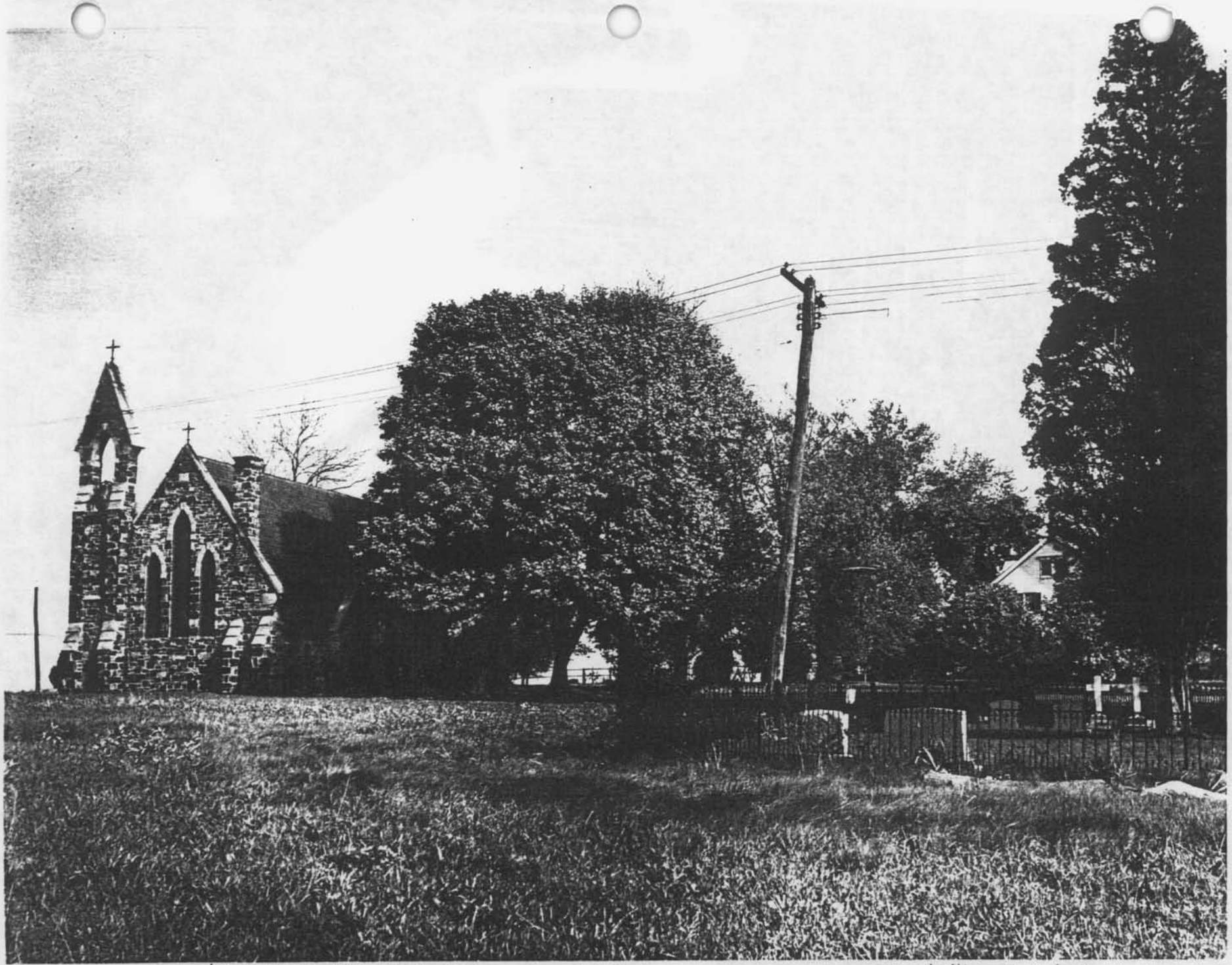

CHURCH of the HOLY TRINITY, HA-167 ca 1949 Churchville, Maryland

over

CHURCH of the HOLY TRINITY - HA-167 ca 1949 Churchville, Maryland

CHURCH of the HOLY TRINITY
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3 of 15

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CHURCHVILLE, HARFORD CO., MD.
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CHURCHVILLE, HARFORD COUNTY, MD
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CHURCHVILLE, HARFORD CO., MD.
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CHURCH of the HOLY TRINITY
CHURCHVILLE, HARFORD CO., MD.
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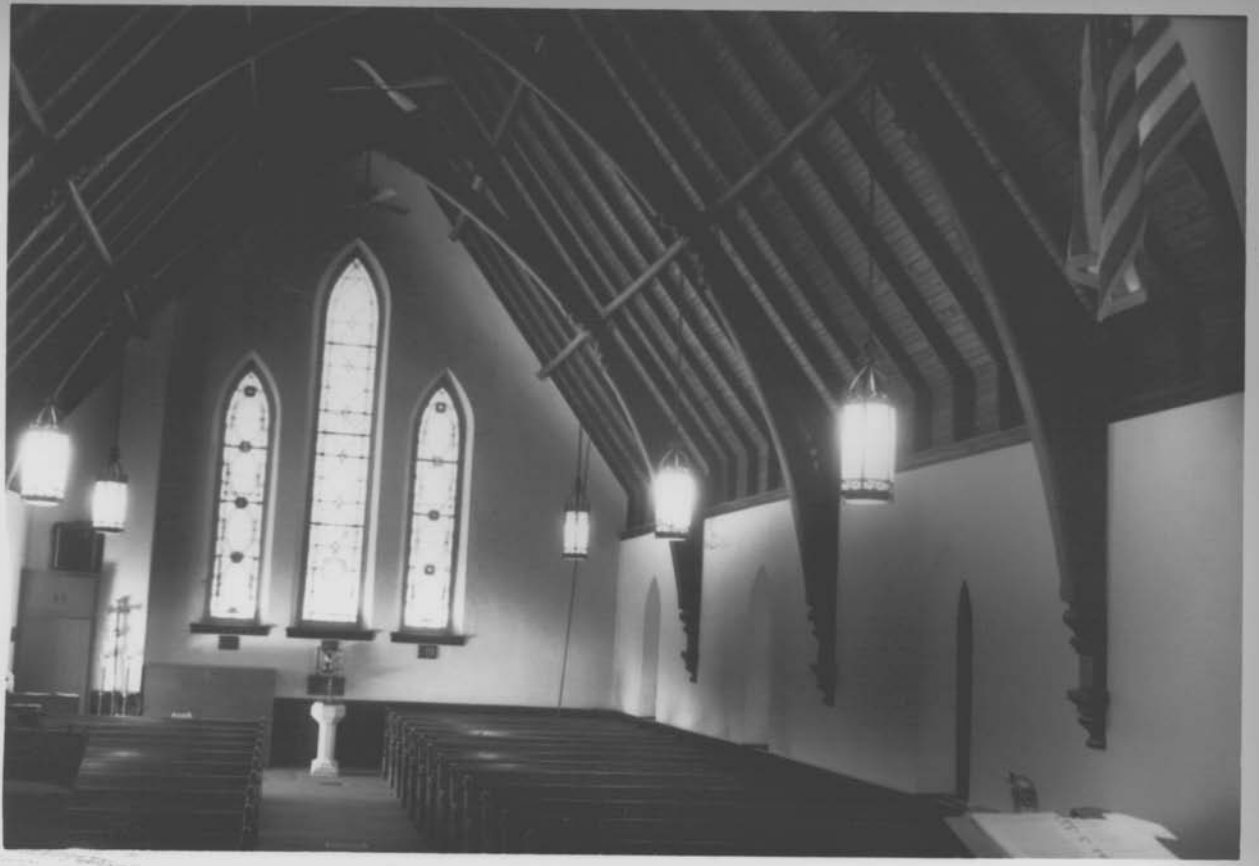

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CHURCH of the HOLY TRINITY
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CHURCH of the HOLY TRINITY
CHURCHVILLE, HARFORD CO., MD.
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In Memory of
Deborah E. Smith

CHURCH of the HOLY TRINITY
CHURCHVILLE, HARFORD CO., MD.
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BY THE SUNDAY SCHOOL
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CHURCH of the HOLY TRINITY
CHURCHVILLE, HARFORD CO., MD.
11 of 15

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CHURCH of the HOLY TRINITY
CHURCHVILLE, HARFORD CO., MD.
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CHURCH of the HOLY TRINITY
CHURCHVILLE, HARFORD CO., MD.
13 of 15

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CHURCH of the HOLY TRINITY
CHURCHVILLE, HARFORD CO., MD.
14 of 15

HA-167

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CHURCH of the HOLY TRINITY
CHURCHVILLE, HARFORD CO., MD.
15 of 15

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