

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED SEP 20 1973

DATE ENTERED

20

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

TOWN CLOCK CHURCH (preferred); German Evangelical Lutheran Church  
AND/OR COMMON

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

312 Bedford Street

CITY, TOWN

Cumberland

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

VICINITY OF

Sixth

STATE

Maryland

CODE

24

COUNTY

Allegany

CODE

001

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:
			<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENC
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

First Christian Church Attention: The Reverend Evert C. Millard

STREET & NUMBER

312 Bedford Street

CITY, TOWN

Cumberland

STATE

Maryland 21502

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Allegany County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

30 Washington Street

CITY, TOWN

Cumberland

STATE

Maryland 21502

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

# DESCRIPTION

AL-IV-A-102

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Town Clock Church is located on Bedford Street at High Street in Cumberland, Maryland.

The church is a one-story brick building on a high stone basement and is three bays wide by four long. The east gable end is the principal facade and the clock tower rises from the peak of the roof at this end. The brick is laid in common bond with five or six rows of stretchers to each row of headers on all facades except the east; here the brick is laid in all stretcher bond. The basement is constructed of neatly laid blocks of sandstone on the east and random coursed rubble stone elsewhere. (The east was faced with sandstone in 1910.) At the northeast corner there are quoins in the basement and a granite cornerstone dated "Jun 1, 1848."

The gable roof retains its original covering of slate shingles. There are four brick chimneys, three in original positions near the center of the building set just inside the eaves line. One chimney, at the northwest corner, is new. The steeple consists of a four-part brick tower with spire on top. The base is square with a wood cornice; above this is a section with clock faces on all four sides, pilasters on the corners, and another cornice. The belfry portion has round-arched ventilators on all sides with one pilaster at each corner, making it octagonal, and a dentiled cornice. The spire, sitting on an octagonal base with recessed panels, is covered with slate in alternating rows of rectangular and imbricated shingles. A lightning rod extends from the end of the spire.

The north, south, and east facades are divided into bays by brick pilasters with wooden caps. The pilasters at the end of each facade meet and form a right angle at the corners. The wide cornice on the north, south, and east consists of two narrow bands of brick forming a belt course just above the capitals on the pilasters and a wood cornice above; both of these and the brick wall between are painted white, creating the illusion of a very wide cornice around these three sides of the building. On the rear (west) facade the wide, white cornice returns; however, though the wood cornice ends here the brick part continues across the back.

Above the cornice on the east facade is a pediment with slightly projecting pavilion in the center. Two round-arched, double-hung sash, stained glass windows are contained in the projecting section. The wood cornice on the top of the pediment and the brick cornice below also both project in the center. A marble plaque in the brick part of the cornice reads "Deutfche Evng Luth Kirche 1848." Below the projection in the pediment is a narrow bay formed by two pilasters set rather close together. Between these is a round stained glass window, and below this is the entrance with a portico standing on a high stone base.

The main entrance is composed of double doors, each with one panel, and above is a semicircular, stained glass transom with brick arch with marble keystone. The portico has a pediment with three-part entablature with dentils supported by two wood columns and two wood pilasters, all of the Ionic order. The stair with fancy iron railing leading up to the entrance was built in 1910. On either side of the center bay a stained glass window with four rectangular lights and two quarter-circles above. There is a marble keystone in the brick arch above each window and wooden sills below.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #1.

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Town Clock Church  
Allegany County  
Maryland

CONTINUATION SHEET ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1

(DESCRIPTION, continued)

Two doors beneath the portico lead to the basement.

The north and south side elevations have windows identical to those in the front, without the marble keystones and with brick sills. There are three basement windows on the north with arches of rough stone; two have 2/2, double-hung sash and one has a three-light casement sash. The windows are the same on the south, where there is also an original entrance with a new door.

The west end has a gabled parapet capped with tin. The chancel projects in the center of this facade; a stained glass, round-arched window is located in this projection. A small hipped roof addition is built onto the north side of the projection. The door and window openings of this small addition have been altered somewhat; the roof is covered with slate shingles. A second addition stands on the south side of the church. It is a one-story, brick structure, stuccoed and scored to resemble masonry. It has a shed roof with a false parapet on the east, and is three bays across on the east and seven bays long. Both the additions were built with nails rather than pegs as the church was.

The Town Clock Church is constructed with a central entrance, narthex, inset tower, nave, chancel, and balcony. In each of two rooms on either side of the narthex is a stairway leading to the balcony, which is divided in half by a large pipe organ. The chancel area is raised on a platform and includes a choir loft on both sides, an organ loft, and behind this a baptismal pool. At the rear of the chancel area are two wooden pilasters supporting an elliptically arched vault. Between these pilasters are two tiers of paneling, one on either side of a window-like frame closed by a heavy curtain, which is opened for the viewing of baptisms in the pool behind the paneling. The present tiled ceiling is below the original plaster one; both of them are shallow arched vaults. The walls of the church are plastered.

Each stairway leading to the balcony has one run with a winder. They are simply made of oak, with balusters carved in a rounded cross pattern and a newel with a J-shaped curve and simple post. The wooden pegs connecting the handrail and the newel are clearly visible.

The woodwork in the church is mostly architrave trim. In the nave are three sets of double doors, each a single wide plank with a cross-shaped window. At the entrance to the nave are two pilasters supporting the balcony. The face of the balcony is decorated with slats with arches between them. In the nave are twenty-four long pews. The chancel is surrounded by a railing with architrave panels made of oak. The wooden pilasters at the base of the vault behind the chancel are fluted.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #2.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

AL-IV-A-102

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Town Clock Church  
Allegany County

CONTINUATION SHEET Maryland

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

(DESCRIPTION, continued)

The church has two organs, an electric one in the chancel and a 19th century organ that was recently renovated in the balcony. A handpump for operating the organ is located in the balcony, but the organ has been converted to electric power. Six lamps hanging on chains over the nave are metal with stained glass. The stained glass windows each have one light that is painted with either a floral or a landscape scene.

**B SIGNIFICANCE**

AL-IV-A-102

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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ethnic history	history of western Maryland

SPECIFIC DATES 1848

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Harry Schmenner

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

## SIGNIFICANCE

The Town Clock Church was built in 1848 by its German Lutheran congregation. Western Maryland was largely settled by Germans coming from Pennsylvania, beginning in the 18th century and continuing into the 19th century. The cornerstone and name stone of this church are in German, serving as a visual reminder of the building's past.

Although the church has been used by a congregation other than the German one which built it for 45 years, it is still historically significant for its relationship to Cumberland's 19th century German population. The building was designed by a German-speaking member of the congregation, one Harry Schmenner, and has remained basically unaltered since its construction. The date on the cornerstone is inscribed in German as is the name of the church over the main entrance.

The church building itself is modest and typical of institutional architecture of the 1840s and 1850s. The clock tower and the building's location on a hill give the church an impressive height resulting in its prominence in the city scape.

## HISTORY

The high number of German immigrants arriving in Cumberland around 1838 necessitated the formation of a separate German speaking congregation at St. Paul's Lutheran Church. The first confirmation service in German was conducted in 1844.<sup>1</sup> Nativist feelings in America were running high during these times and Cumberland was not an exception. In 1848 the English speaking congregation of St. Paul's gave notice to the German speaking congregation that after the first of October no services in an alien language could be conducted in their building.<sup>2</sup>

In February of 1848 the German congregation received a charter as the German Evangelical Lutheran Church and began building their own church.<sup>3</sup> With land and foundation stones donated by Thomas Shriver, the mayor of Cumberland at that time, the congregation of 35 had laid a cornerstone by the first of June.<sup>4</sup> This cornerstone, located in the northeast corner of the building, contains coins of every denomination, German church literature, and copies of the charter and deed of the church. Designed by Harry Schmenner, a member of the congregation, the building was completed and dedicated in March of 1850.<sup>5</sup>

Local tradition suggests that the German Lutheran Church won its clock and chimes in a city-sponsored competition awarding them to the congregation which finished the 15 clock tower. Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic Church was the only competitor.<sup>6</sup>

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #3.

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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Town Clock Church  
Allegany County

CONTINUATION SHEET Maryland

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 3

(SIGNIFICANCE, continued)

The most historic event to take place at this church was the visit of Henry Ward Beecher, famous abolitionist, political campaigner, and humanitarian, who practiced his emotional style of preaching at this church in 1866. In 1895 services were changed to English.<sup>7</sup> The building has been the home of the First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) since 1931.<sup>8</sup>

Being the oldest church building without major renovations to be found in Cumberland the Town Clock Church has several distinguishing architectural features. The most prominent of these is the bell and clock tower that is clearly seen from different parts of downtown Cumberland. The white marble keystones, circular stained glass window, and wide cornice are smaller features that greatly contribute to the overall impressiveness of the east facade. The inscription and cornerstone are features that reveal the German heritage of the church, and the prominence of the structure illustrates the large part the German population played in this area.

<sup>1</sup>James W. Thomas and T.J.C. Williams, History of Allegany County, Maryland (Philadelphia: L.R.Titsworth and Co., 1923), p. 472.

<sup>2</sup>Harry Stegmaier, Jr., Allegany County - A History (Parsons, W. Va.: McClain Printing Co., 1976), p. 166.

<sup>3</sup>Thomas and Williams, History of Allegany County, p. 473.

<sup>4</sup>United Church Women of the Greater Cumberland Area, Bicentennial Histories of Old Area Churches, 1776-1976, p. 27.

<sup>5</sup>Thomas and Williams, History of Allegany County, p. 473.

<sup>6</sup>Bicentennial Histories of Old Area Churches, p. 27.

<sup>7</sup>Thomas and Williams, History of Allegany County, p. 473.

<sup>8</sup>Bicentennial Histories of Old Area Churches, p. 27.

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

AL-IV-A-102

Allegany County Land Records, Courthouse, Cumberland, Maryland.  
(Also see footnotes to the Significance Statement)

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre

QUADRANGLE NAME Cumberland Quadrangle

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 17 69,20,8,0 4,319,18,7,0

B                 
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C               

D               

E               

F               

G               

H               

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Lot Size: 75' x 120'; Ref.: Allegany County Deed 199/221.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

William Pratt and Dave Dorsey

ORGANIZATION

Allegany County Historic Sites Survey

DATE

October 4, 1977

STREET & NUMBER

County Office Building, Pershing Street

TELEPHONE

(301) 777-5967

CITY OR TOWN

Cumberland

STATE

Maryland 21502

**12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL     

STATE     

LOCAL X

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

*J. Little*

6-19-79

TITLE STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

ATTEST: KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION



HAYSTACK  
1700  
1600

AL 14-A102

Braddock  
MARYLAND

MOUNTAIN  
1200

ALLEGANY CO  
MINERAL CO

TRANKFORT  
WESTERN

Knobby

WEST VIRGINIA  
MARYLAND

CUMBERLAND

South Cumberland

Shriver

The Narrows

Lovers Lead

Dry Valley

Bowling Green

Roberts

MC MULLEN

NORTH

ALLEGANY CO

MINERAL CO

WESTERN

MARYLAND

OHIO

Sub-la

Highway





AL-IV-A-102

TOWN CLOCK CHURCH

BEDFORD ST, CUMBERLAND

WILLIAM J. PRATT

10/4/77

~~WEST~~ NORTHWEST



AL-IV-A-102

TOWN CLOCK CHURCH

BEDFORD ST, CUMBERLAND

WILLIAM J. PRATT

10/4/97

SOUTHEAST



AL-IV-A-102

TOWN CLOCK CHURCH

BEDFORD ST, CUMBERLAND

WILLIAM J. PRATT

10/4/77

EAST



AL-IV-A-102

TOWN CLOCK CHURCH

BEDFORD ST, CUMBERLAND

WILLIAM J. PRATT

10/4/77

SOUTHEAST



TOWN CLOCK CHURCH

LUTHERAN - NOW FIRST  
CHRISTIAN

(High St)

Bedford St.

AL-IV-A-102

from Painting by Jesse STRAW

from

(Helene Straw-Henkle) 1970