

SITE NUMBER: WA-II-680

ADDRESS: Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 201 East Main Street,
Sharpsburg, MD

OWNER/LOT NUMBER/ACCESS: Lutheran Church, no tax number, open
during hours of worship

BUILDING DATE: 1892

The Holy Trinity Lutheran Church is a south-facing, one-story-and-tower, three-bay, brick, freestanding, ecclesiastical structure resting on a stone foundation. Built in a simplified, yet robust Gothic Revival style, it is set directly at the public-right-of-way on a corner lot. The church exhibits characteristics that are typical of German Gothic churches and are thus reminiscent of the church's religious heritage. Among these features are the simple decorative brickwork, the squat form, and the two front towers of similar yet different design and size.

The facade of the church is composed of three bays: the center holding the principal entrance, the east holding the minor, slightly projecting "tower", and the west bay with its clearly defined, two-story bell tower. The center-bay entrance is approached by a wide set of stairs leading up to a corbelled brick, pointed arch entry that holds two sets of rectangular, heavy wood, double doors. Above the doors is traceried woodwork defining the stained glass windows. The east tower is buttressed and holds a narrow lancet window. Brick belt coursing delineates the top of the bay which is crowned by a crenelated parapet. The bell tower projects from the front facade, yet is aligned with the side elevation (Church Street). It is a clearly defined on four sides and has similar decorative features as the east bay: a lancet window at the ground floor, brick buttressing, belt courses, and the crenelated parapet at the top. However, it stands much higher than

the east bay and also features round windows in each face, paired lancet openings in each face of the belfry, and brick corbelling near the parapet. The west or Church Street facade of the building slopes downward from Main Street, thus exposing the basement level of the church. Here there is a stone watertable and band of lancet windows connected by a brick beltcourse. The principal feature is a large traceried, pointed arch window that provides light to the apse. The roof of the building is a steeply pitched cross gable covered with artificial roll.

The Lutherans first formed a congregation in the Sharpsburg area in 1756 and, in 1768--five years after the town was founded--erected the first church in Sharpsburg. The original church was located about half a block from the present site on high land deeded by Joseph Chapline for a church and cemetery. It was a large, log building with a tall, square cupola that housed the churchbell. During the Battle of Antietam, this cupola was used by Confederate forces as a lookout tower from which the battlefield could be viewed. Although the building was damaged by heavy shelling, it was used as a hospital for six months after the battle before it was torn down in April 1863. A second church, erected on the site of the current building, was dedicated in 1869 as the Mount Calvery Lutheran Church. By the early 1890s the congregation had outgrown this building and the decision was made to build a larger structure on the same site. By 1893 the new church had been completed and rededicated as the Holy Trinity Memorial Evangelical Lutheran church in memory of the soldiers who died during the Civil War. The extant building is the result of a 1942 fire that

destroyed the earlier building.

The building is within the Western Maryland Geographic Organization, the Development Periods of Industrial/Urban Dominance/Modern, and falls within the Historic Period Themes of Religion; and Architecture, Landscape Architecture and Community Planning.

Prepared by Julie Mueller, June 1991

VALD E.
JEMAKER
741/690



MAP 76-P.125

MELODY
CANFIELD
744/787

CHAPLINE ST.

100.06 JAMES G. McCLEAF 782/697	204 51.5' ADRIAN E. GRIM 754/573	206 51.5' THORNTON F. WHITE III 813/85	208 51.5' GREGORY A. MORRIS, SR. 819/494	51.5' LLOYD A GRIFFITH 603/521	33.85'	100'	100'	125.6'
ORIAN E. GRIM /330					JOHN C. COMBS 623/532	WILLIAM G. STOVER 856/46	WILLIAM G. GARRISON 795/447	DANIEL S. WHITE 810/185

CHARLES I. GOETZ 608/278	HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH 911/202	CLYDE W. GROVE 261-566	LUTHERAN CH. PARS.	BARBARA SHELLENBERGER 685/448	MAX G. HAYNES 899/818	LEO R. LEATHERMAN 186-555	WM. J. WYAND 196-206	RICKY E. WILLIAMS 794/1047	RICHARD M. MCNALL 732/120
203	205	207	209	211	215	219	223	225	

W.A. II. 680

E. MAIN

ST.

200 103'	204 114.5'	353'	216 218.5'
G. RAY, JR. 476/552	WILLIS C. BAKER 605/447	LUTHERAN CHURCH BURIAL GROUND	JOSEPH P. GREELEY 828/140 1.09 A.

WA-II-680

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, E. Main, Sharpsburg, MD

4/91

P. Sackett Chrisman

looking NE