

Commissioner William C. Mahovec, District 1
Vice President Mark H. Guns, District 5
Commissioner Rebecca J. Demmler, District 2
Commissioner Brian Lockhart, District 3
Commissioner Wayne L. Tome, Sr., District 4



Alfred C. Wein, Jr.
County Administrator
410-996-5203

Cecil County Information
410-996-5200
410-658-4041

CECIL COUNTY GOVERNMENT

129 East Main Street
Elkton, MD 21921

24 July 2007

William P. Paré, Treasurer
St. Patrick's Chapel Historical Society
187 Harrisville Road
Colora, Maryland 21917

Dear Mr. Paré:

I am pleased to inform you that the Board of County Commissioners, at their meeting of Tuesday, 17 July 2007, voted to designate the St. Patrick's Chapel as a historic structure.

The Board found that the Chapel's architecture and cultural features were of significance along with the fact that the erection of the chapel in 1819 made it the second oldest Roman Catholic Church in the County.

Thank you for your efforts to preserve Cecil County's historical heritage.

Sincerely,

Eric S. Sennstrom, AICP
Director
Planning & Zoning

ESS

CC: Rev. Jay McKee

2007-01

CECIL COUNTY HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION
Meeting Minutes
5 June 2007

Present: Cairns, Ed & Sally; Dixon, Mike; Edwards, Ron & Audrey; Folk, Patricia; Sennstrom, Eric; Lenderman, Harry (observer)

Absent: Simperts, Nancy

Call to Order: Chairman Ed Cairns called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m.

Approval of Minutes: Motion made by Patricia Folk to approve the minutes of the 1 May 2007 meeting. Motion to approve was seconded by Sally Cairns. All members of the HDC were in favor of the motion.

New Business: Director Sennstrom informed the HDC that the St. Patrick's Chapel in Pilottown has been nominated for historic designation. The HDC perused the application and supporting materials provided by the St. Patrick's Chapel Historical Society. The HDC found the following of note: the church was built in 1819, it was the second oldest Roman Catholic church in Cecil County, the first recorded wedding occurred in 1832, the first recorded baptism occurred in 1827. The chapel also afforded newly arrived Irish immigrants in this portion of the County a place to practice their religion when they could not do so in their native land. Mike Dixon made a motion to recommend designation as a historic site due to the architectural and cultural features of the site. The motion was seconded by Patricia Folk. All members of the HDC were in favor of the motion. The motion carried.

Harry Lenderman of the Elk Forge Bed & Breakfast appeared to express an interest to form a historic district in the village of Elk Mills. Chairman Ed Cairns remarked that Elk Mills has an important history and merits consideration for designation. Discussion ensued on the character and history of Elk Mills as well as the Elk Forge Bed & Breakfast. Ron Edwards opined on the former mill activity, designation criteria and the nomination process. Chairman Ed Cairns recited excerpts from the ordinance as well as the tax credit restrictions. Mr. Lenderman reported that he would be interested in nominating his Bed & Breakfast and will contact other landowners to foment an interest in others to also nominate.

Audrey Edwards reported that the Chandlee House had recently been razed. Mrs. Edwards lamented that the demolition could occur so quickly without any opportunity to explore other methods to retain the structure. Director Sennstrom stated that he will ask Pat Conway to notify him of the receipt of applications for demolition permits so that the HDC would be able to contact the property owners to explore feasible alternatives to demolition for historic resources in excess of 100 years of age. Audrey Edwards also reported that the State of Maryland has purchased the Robert Evans House and is planning renovations. Mike Dixon reported that the Town of Elkton has refused to designate the log cabin behind the courthouse as a historic structure due to their recalcitrance in activating their Historic District Commission.

MDP
Maryland Department of Planning

Martin O'Malley
Governor
Anthony G. Brown
Lt. Governor

Richard Eberhart Hall
Secretary
Matthew J. Power
Deputy Secretary

July 21, 2008

Mr. William Pare, Treasurer
The St. Patrick's Chapel Historical Society, Inc.
187 Harrisville Road
Colora, MD 21917

RE: St. Patrick's Chapel, Cecil County
Historic Preservation Capital Grant, Fiscal Year 2009, \$50,000.00

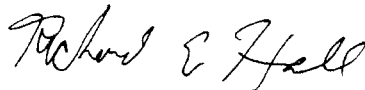
Dear Mr. Pare:

It is my pleasure to notify The St. Patrick's Chapel Historical Society, Inc. that a conditional award of up to \$50,000.00 from the fiscal year 2009 Historic Preservation Capital Grant Program has been approved for the project entitled "St. Patrick's Chapel." On behalf of the Maryland Department of Planning and the Maryland Historical Trust (MHT), I am pleased to offer support for this important project. Over the past three years, the State has awarded over \$3 million in Capital Grant funds for projects such as yours.

To proceed with this Capital Grant project, both a Grant Agreement and a perpetual preservation deed of easement must be executed. Because of the significance of these documents, it is important that you give attention to their timely execution. More information will be following in the next few weeks.

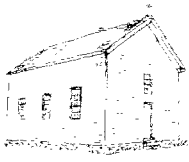
Should you have any questions, please contact Richard Brand, Administrator of Financial Assistance and Easements, or Claudette M. G. Sherman, Capital Grant Administrator at 410-514-7628 or by email at RBrand@mdp.state.md.us and CSherman@mdp.state.md.us. The MHT staff looks forward to working with you on this important preservation initiative. Congratulations and best wishes for a successful project.

Sincerely,



Richard Eberhart Hall

cc: The Honorable Nancy Jacobs
The Honorable David Rudolph
The Honorable Judith M. Cox, Mayor, Rising Sun
Mr. Alfred C. Wein, Jr., Cecil County Administrator ✓
Mr. J. Rodney Little, MHT



St. Patrick's Chapel Historical Society,

187 Harrisville Road
Colora, Maryland
April 16, 2007

Eric S. Sennstrom, AICP
Cecil County Office of Planning, Zoning, Parks & Recreation
129 East Main Street, Room 300
Elkton, Maryland 21921

Dear Mr. Sennstrom

Pursuant to instruction received from The Cecil Historical Trust, Inc., I am submitting our application to record St. Patrick's Chapel on the Cecil County Register of Historic Places. I hope everything is in order. Should you desire additional information, please contact me. Thank you for your attention to this request.

Sincerely,

William P. Paré
Treasurer
(410) 658-4378

**CECIL COUNTY REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
NOMINATION FORM**

Please refer to separate detailed instructions for completing this form.

Definition

"Property" refers to the entire geographic area being nominated. It may be an individual building, site, structure or object; or it may be a district consisting of numerous buildings, sites, structures or objects. An area consisting of several types of structures with different owners is also a property that is a district.

Nomination Information: **Please Print or Type**

1. a) Name of property:

St. Patrick's Chapel

b) Estimated age or historic dates: **Built 1819** _____

2. Address of property **237 Pleasant Grove Rd., Pilottown, MD 21818:** _____

3. Tax Map: **1** _____ Parcel Number: **36** Acct. #**009910** _____

4. Name, address, and telephone number of all property owners of record within the District:

Good Shepherd Church, 810 Aiken Ave., Perryville, MD 21903

Rev. Jay McKee, Pastor

(Attach separate sheet, if necessary)

5. Description of property boundaries of the District: **Description of property provided by the enclosed map (attachment A) and the enclosed surveyor plat (attachment B)**

6. Attach a map showing the boundaries and location of the site or District. **For boundaries, see enclosed plat (attachment B); For location, see enclosed map (attachment A)**

7. Please provide photographs or slides showing the important structures or features of the property. **Photographs enclosed (attachment C)**

Please check all designations that apply to this nomination. Add descriptive information for those checked. Is or has this property, in any part, been listed or nominated to:

____ Cecil County Historic Designation: ____ ~ _____

Maryland Register of Historic Properties: **CE-834 File #816** _____

National Register of Historic Places: _____

Maryland or Cecil Inventory of Historic Properties? _____

A Preservation Easement by any historic organization? Identify _____

Are there any other easements or rights of way affecting the District? Explain **No** _____

Other, explain _____

9. Please check all of the following criteria that apply to the property.

A. Historical or Archeological

The property has character, interest, or value as part of the development or cultural characteristics of the County, State, or Nation.

The property is the site of a significant County, State, or National historic event.

The property is identified with a person or persons who significantly contributed to the development of the County, State, or Nation.

B. Architectural

The property has distinguishing characteristics of an architectural style valuable for the study of a period, type, method of construction or use of indigenous materials.

The property represents the work of a master builder, designer, architect or landscape architect whose work influenced the development of the County, State, or Nation.

The property has elements of design, detailing, materials or craftsmanship that render it architecturally significant.

The property has elements that make it structurally or architecturally innovative.

The property has a unique location or singular physical characteristic that makes it an established or familiar usual feature.

The property has character as a particularly fine or unique example of a utilitarian structure, with a high level of integrity or architectural significance.

The School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation, U. MD has expressed interest

The property has significant interior features. List **Unique wall stenciling under existing plywood wallboard.** _____

10. Attach a statement describing the property, its historical significance, and the reasons why it should be designated to the Cecil County Register of Historic Places. At the end of the statement, please list your sources of information, including bibliographic references.

Statement, in response to Q. 10, attached.

11. Signatures of owner(s) of record consenting to this nomination. If there are more than two owners, please attach a separate sheet providing the information indicated.

A. Print Name: Rev. Jay McKee Date: April 16, 2007

Signature: Rev. Jay McKee

B. Print Name: _____ Date: _____

Signature: _____

12. Name, address and telephone number of person submitting application:

Name: WILLIAM P. PARÉ

Address: 187 HARRISVILLE RD., COLORA, MD 21917

Telephone Numbers: (Home) 410-658-4378 Hours Available: 8AM - 10PM
(Work) (Retired) Hours Available: _____

E-mail address: wpare@zoominternet.net

Date April 11, 2007

Official Use Only

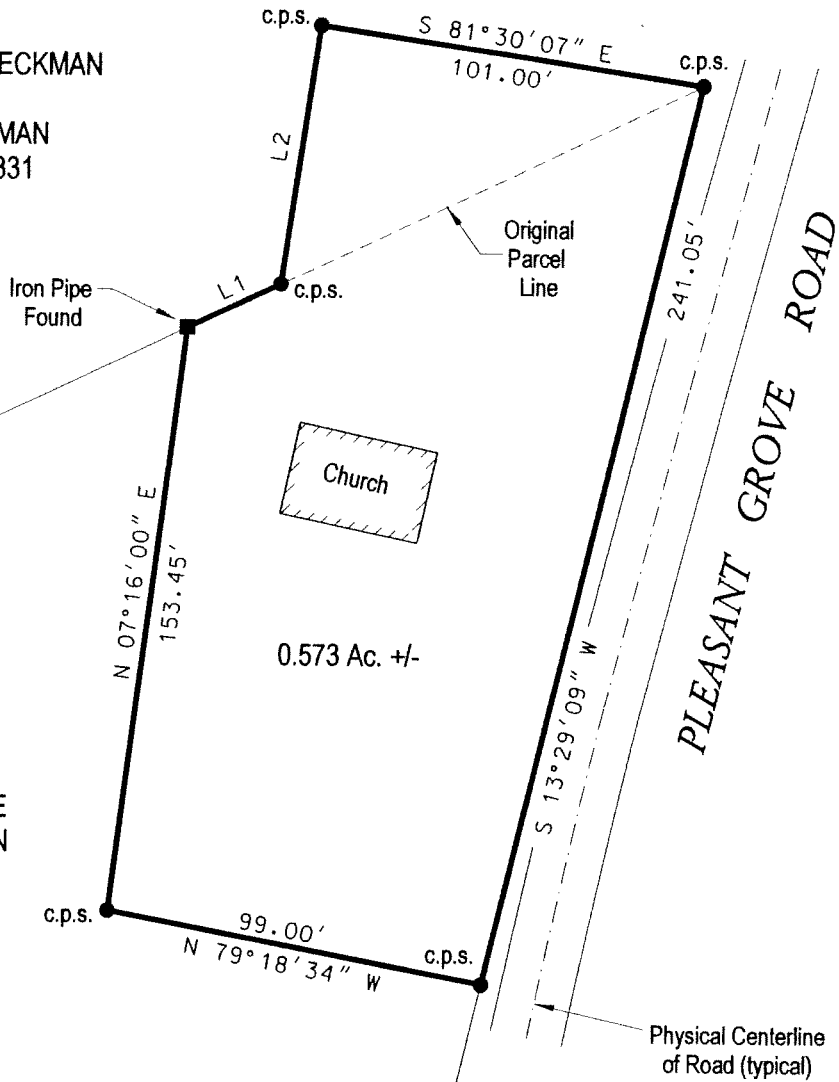
Application Number: _____
Date received: _____
Date of Public Notice: _____
Election District: _____
Zoning District: _____
Land Use District: _____
Tax Map: _____
Parcel(s): _____

HDC Hearing Date: _____
PC Hearing Date: _____
CC Hearing Date: _____

ATTACHMENT B



N.O.F.
CHESTER E. W. ECKMAN
AND
LEO A. ECKMAN
W.E.B. 25/331



(5)
CLARENCE I. TINGLE
MINOR SUBDIVISION
M.S. NO. 1006

(5)

LINE TABLE

LINE	BEARING	DISTANCE
L1	N 64° 32' 49" E	26.74'
L2	N 08° 29' 53" E	68.00'

NOTES

- 1) SOURCE OF TITLE - Liber J.S. No. 16, folio 445 and Liber W.E.B. No. 4, folio 8.
- 2) This survey is subject to any rights-of-way, easements or restrictions as may be evidenced by a subsequent title search.
- 3) c.p.s. - denotes "Capped Pin Set".



SURVEYORS STATEMENT

To the best of my knowledge and belief, this plat has been prepared in accordance with the minimum standards of practice for professional land surveyors in the state of Maryland.

(4)

RESPONSE TO ITEM #10

Apparently the northwest corner of Cecil County was very active in the early 1800's. This was the location of the old town of Conowingo and marked the northern end of navigable waters on the Susquehanna River. Rapids extended northward from this point on. It was the site of significant lumber operations and canals on both sides of the river allowed for commercial traffic along the Susquehanna. It was one of the major river crossing sites for all north-south traffic along the eastern seaboard. It was in this area, at Bald Friar's Ferry, that General Lafayette and Comte de Rochambeau, and their American troops, crossed the Susquehanna on their way to Yorktown in 1871¹.

The commerce in the area required labor and, apparently a good portion of these laborers were Irish immigrants. The closest Catholic worship site was located in Hickory, in Harford County. In 1819 the Rev. Roger Smith, from St. Ignatius Church in Hickory bought approximately ½ acre from Daniel Glacken for a church and burial ground². The church was built and the first religious service celebrated that same year. It was the second oldest Catholic worship site in Cecil County. The early year activities of St. Patrick are found in the records of St. Ignatius Church in Hickory.

In 1866 the church of St. Teresa of Avila was built in Port Deposit and both this church, as well as St. Patrick, were administered from Havre de Grace. During this whole period this area was under the ecclesiastical jurisdiction of the archdiocese of Baltimore. However, in 1868 the Diocese of Wilmington was established and responsibility for St. Patrick was transferred to the Wilmington Diocese...

From 1854 onward activity, activity at St. Patrick diminished. This may be attributed to at least three factors. First of all, canal traffic diminished as a result of competition from the emerging railroad industry. Second, the building of St. Teresa, in Port Deposit in 1866 and St. Agnes, in Rising Sun, in 1891, provided Catholics in the area with alternative worship sites. Finally, the building of the Conowingo Dam destroyed the old town of Conowingo in 1928. The population around St. Patrick simply shifted to other areas.

In 1934 the 125th anniversary of the church was celebrated and plans for the renovation and upkeep of the building were considered, but the Depression on the ensuing war years hindered those good intentions³. In the period between 1950 and 2000 various groups have applied basically cosmetic repairs to the building. However the building may have some structural problems requiring professional restoration.

The chapel has significant value for the following reasons. It is located in an area of Cecil County wherein significant commercial activity occurred in the county. Second, it is the second oldest Catholic worship site in the county. Finally, it is a testimonial to the glory of the U.S. Constitution and the Bill of Rights which guaranteed freedom of worship and freedom to build your own house of worship. At this time, 1819, when the Bill of Rights was only 30 years old and Irishmen in their own country were disenfranchised; in the United States they were free to build their modest place of worship.

Enclosed is a brief history of St. Patrick, entitled *St. Patrick's Chapel, Pilottown, Maryland – A Historical Sketch*.

References:

1. Johnston, G. *History of Cecil County*, 1881.
2. Joerndt, C.V., Church of St. Patrick, Pilot Station, Maryland, p. 255, in *St. Ignatius, Hickory and Its Missions*, Baltimore, MD 1972
3. Boyd, D.D. Old St. Patrick's at Pilot, in *Bulletin of Historical Society of Cecil County*, May 15, 1961.

