

FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH - GUILFORD.

P. A. Thomas sketched by hand.

Architect's Sketch Charles and 39th Streets

First English Evangelical Lutheran Church

**CHAP Landmark Designation
September 2003**

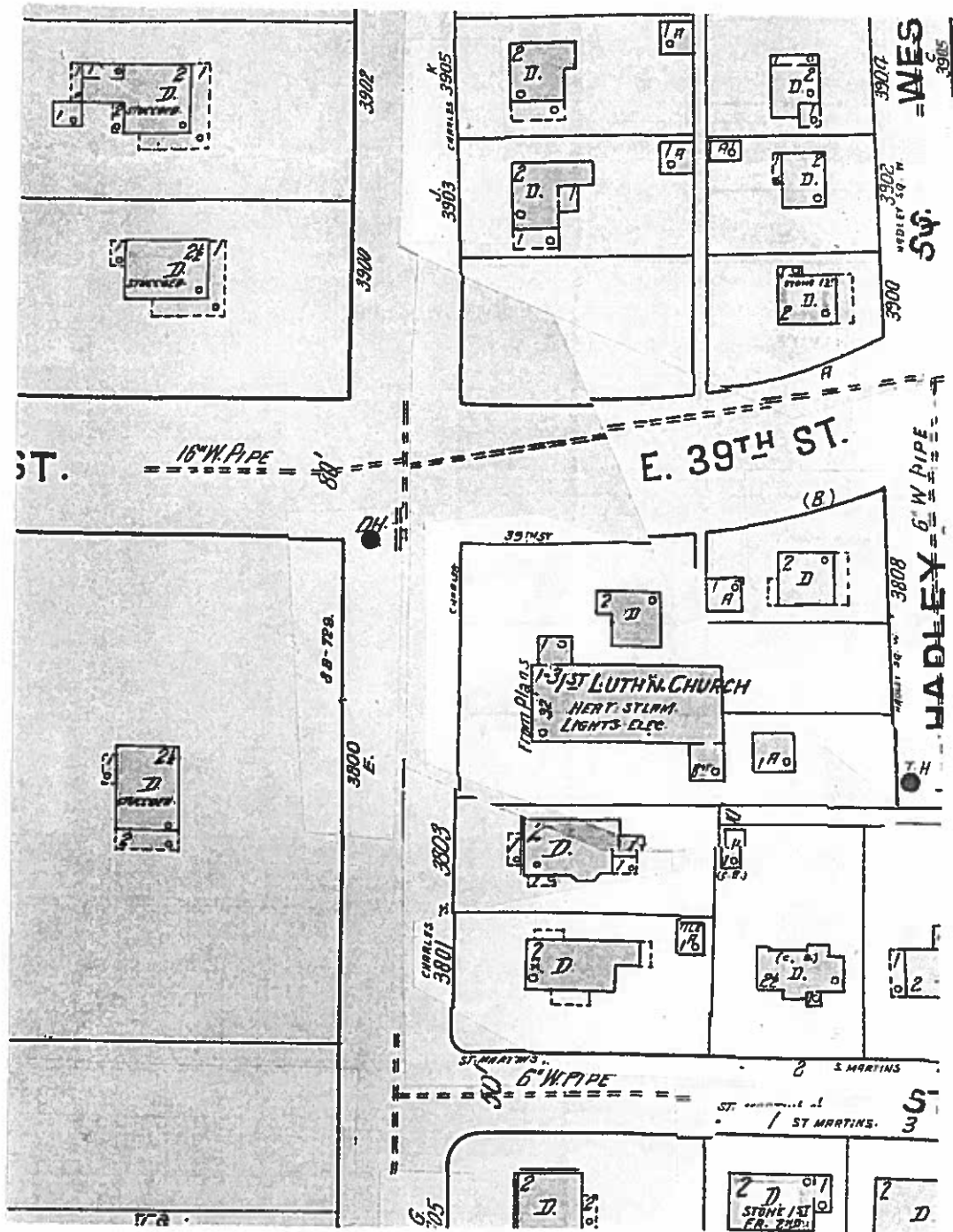
First English Evangelical Lutheran Church
Southeast corner of North Charles Street and 39th Street

The church meets Baltimore City Landmark designation criteria:

- 1. dates from a particular period having a significant character, interest, or value, as part of the development, heritage, or culture of the City of Baltimore; or**

- 4. is significant of the architectural period in which it is built and has distinguishing characteristics of an architectural style, method of construction, or engineering, or is the notable work of a master builder, designer, engineer, artist, or architect whose individual genius influenced his age; or**

- 5. contributes information of historical, cultural, or social importance relating to the heritage of the community.**



Sanborn Fire Insurance Map
1953



Current Aerial Photograph

First English Evangelical Lutheran Church -Timeline

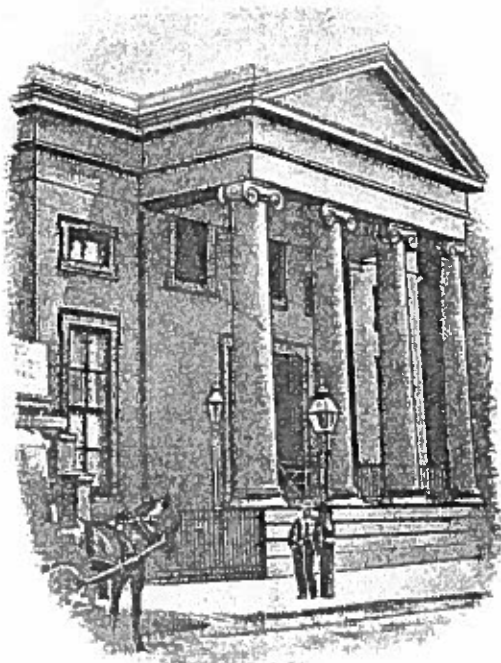
- 1758 Only Lutheran Church in Baltimore was the German Lutheran Church (Zion Lutheran)
- 1823 October 27, 1823- David Bixler, Jacob Deems, Thomas Henning, Michael Klinefelter, Joshua Medart, John Reese, Frederick Seyler, George Stonebraker met for the purpose of considering the propriety of building an English Lutheran Church.
- October 29, 1823 - Resolution made that a committee be appointed to address a letter to the Vestry of the German Lutheran Church requesting their aid and assistance in the erection of an English Lutheran Church.
- 1824 August 30, 1824-Meeting was held where it was resolved to establish an English Lutheran Church in the City of Baltimore. Resolved to authorize the procurement of Mr. Creery's school room on the East side of Howard Street, north of Pratt Street, for the purpose of holding Divine Worship.
- 1826 April 26, 1826-The First English Evangelical Lutheran Church and their building was completed.
- May 28, 1826- Consecration of the Church occurred.
- 1827 February 3, 1827- Rev. Dr. John Gottlieb Morris became pastor.
- A Sunday school was organized soon afterward along with other church societies.
- 1830 First organ was purchased in the same year the parsonage was built.
- 1832 Building needed to be enlarged.
- 1838 Gas was introduced to the building.
- 1857 February 1857- New roof was put on the building.
- 1858 New organ was purchased.
- 1860 October 23, 1860- 96 members withdrew in order to organize St. Mark's Lutheran Church.
- 1872 July 29, 1872- Rev. Dr. Joseph H. Barclay elected as third minister of the Church
- 1873 Fire destroyed the original church building on Lexington Street
- 1875 July 24, 1875- New church and parsonage were completed.
- September 19, 1875- Dedication of new church and parsonage.

- 1882 July 24, 1882- Rev. Dr. M. W. Hamma elected pastor.
- 1886 September 6, 1886- Rev. Dr. Albert H. Studebaker elected as the new pastor.
- 1899 September 15, 1899- rev. Dr. Ezra K. Bell elected as new pastor
- 1906 October 16, 1906- Jubilee celebration as the mortgage was burned and the church became debt free.
- 1907 Memorial windows created.
- 1922 December 16, 1922- Church caught fire that began in the basement.
- 1924 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther Enders elected as new pastor.
- 1925 June 1925-Church and parsonage were sold to the Shiloh Baptist Church.
November 1925- New lot at Charles Street and 39th Street was consecrated.
- 1926 September 26, 1926- Final service at the Fremont Avenue and Lanvale Street location.
Congregation meets from October 3, 1926 to February 12, 1928 in Aurora Theater on North Avenue.
- 1927 September 23, 1927- New parsonage was completed.
- 1928 February 19, 1928- New church dedicated.
Memorial windows were relocated to the new building.
- 1954 January 3, 1954- Rev. Dr. Louis Ralph Tabor installed as the new Pastor.
- 1955 October 1955- Property adjacent to was purchased called Marie Tower Stieff building.
- 1958 November 25, 1958- Late-Victorian house adjacent to the property was purchased and called the Church House or 3803.
- 1958-Present Church has made numerous improvements and upgrades to the exterior and interior of the church without compromising the architectural integrity

History:

Located in Guilford and along the border the Tuscanny-Canterbury, stands the church structure known as the First English Evangelical Lutheran Church. This church was first established in downtown Baltimore in 1823, but had its beginning with the creation of the German Lutheran Church (now Zion Lutheran) back in 1758.

On October 27, 1823 Messrs. David Bixler, Jacob Deems, Thomas Henning, Michael Klinefelter, Joshua Medart, John Reese, Frederick Seyler and George Stonebaker met to consider purchasing their own property in order to build an English Lutheran Church. Two days later they resolved to have a committee send a letter requesting assistance from the Vestry of the German Lutheran church. The following year a resolution was made to establish the English Lutheran Church and to procure property for the purpose of holding divine worship. On April 26, 1826 the church building designed in the Greek Revival style was completed and consecrated one month later. In February of the following year saw the installment of Rev. Dr. John Gottlieb Morris as the first pastor. The church continued to grow and expand its congregation throughout the remaining 1820's and into the late 1860's.

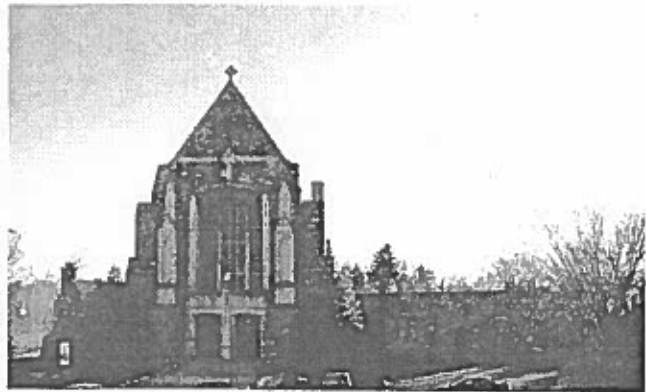
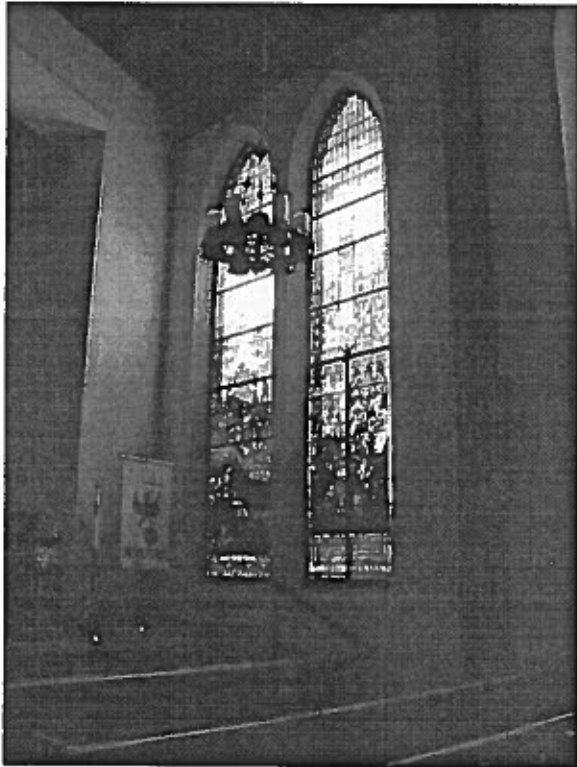


*The First English Evangelical Lutheran Church
Lexington Street*



*The First English Evangelical Lutheran Church
Lansdale Street and Fremont Avenue*

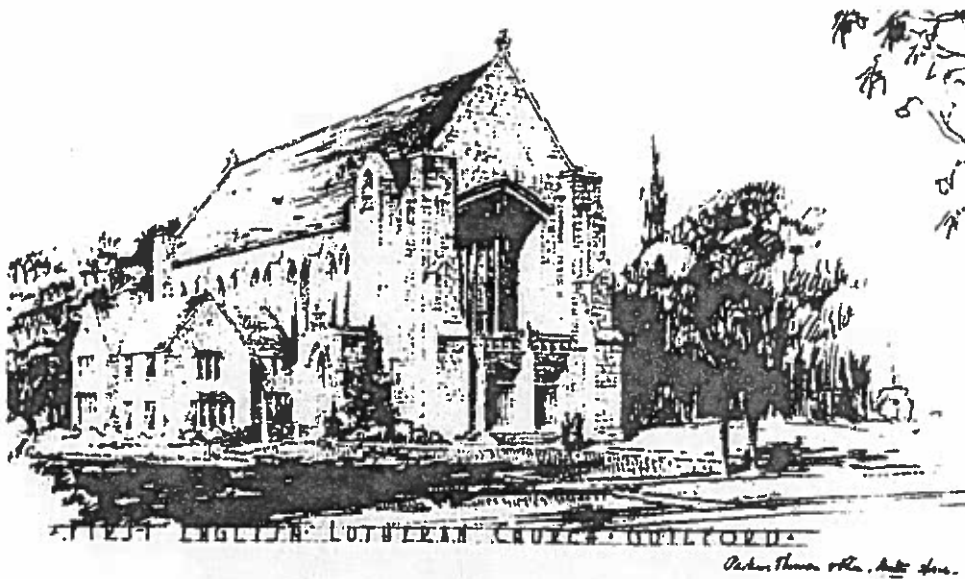
1873 marked a turning point in the history of the church as a fire destroyed their building on Lexington Street. That certainly did not stop this congregation from growing as a new church was begun and completed by July 24, 1875 at the intersection of Lanvale and Freemont Streets. This new church reflected the style of the day Gothic Revival. October of 1906 was another celebratory event time as the church finally paid off its mortgage and was considered completely debt free. In 1907 the church saw the installation of 15 beautifully crafted stained glass windows, each one dedicated by family members of the church in memoriam to loved ones who passed away.



The next move by the church began in 1925 as the congregation decided to move further north. In June the church and parsonage were sold to the Shiloh Baptist Church and in November a new lot along Charles Street and 39th Street was consecrated. In the meantime the congregation met at the Aurora Theater on North Avenue until early 1928. On February 28, 1928 the new church was dedicated and the memorial windows were relocated to the new building. During the 1950s the church continued to grow and in 1955 they acquired the Marie Tower Stieff building and in 1958 the church acquired the Late-Victorian styled building and called it the Church House. The church house was razed for an addition to the church. The church has continued to update and modify its interiors and surrounding without compromising the architectural integrity of the original church design.

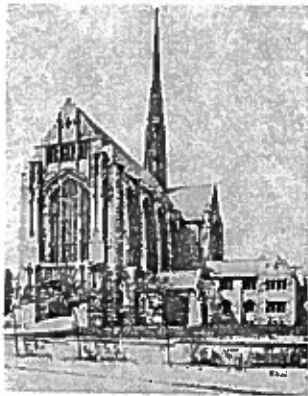
Description:

The First English Evangelical Lutheran Church located at the intersection of North Charles Street and 39th Street was designed by Parker Thomas & Rice, a prominent architecture firm. The firm is also responsible for such notable works in Baltimore such as Hansa Haus, Bank of Baltimore building, the BG & E building, The B& O Railroad Office building, the Alex Brown building, the Belvedere Hotel and Gilman Hall.

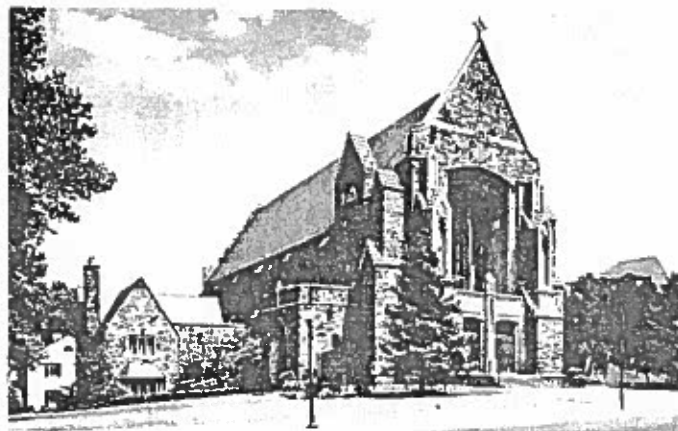


Architect's Sketch Charles and 39th Streets

The stones used in the construction were all locally quarried at Gywnns Falls, Butler and Falls Road. The stone was laid in a broken pattern and trimmed with natural limestone. The architect used Kentucky Bluestone for the north and West steps leading into the church. The church was designed in low pitched English Gothic Revival-revival which fit quite comfortably with the surrounding revivals of the Guilford and Tuscanny-Canterbury neighborhoods. The exterior is reminiscent of earlier First Baptist Church of Pittsburg completed in 1909 by the firm Cram, Goodhue & Ferguson, who also designed the chapel at West Point.

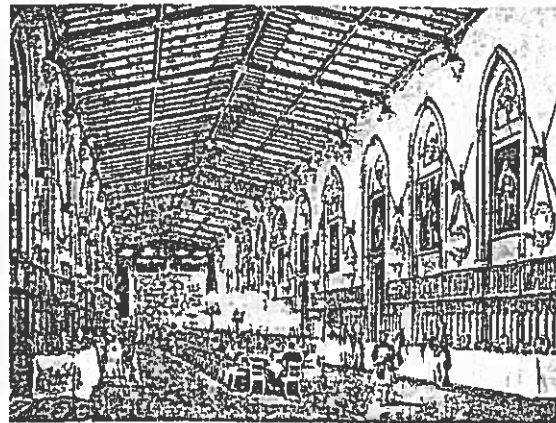


A. THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, PITTSBURG, PA. (A. D. 1909). See p. 878

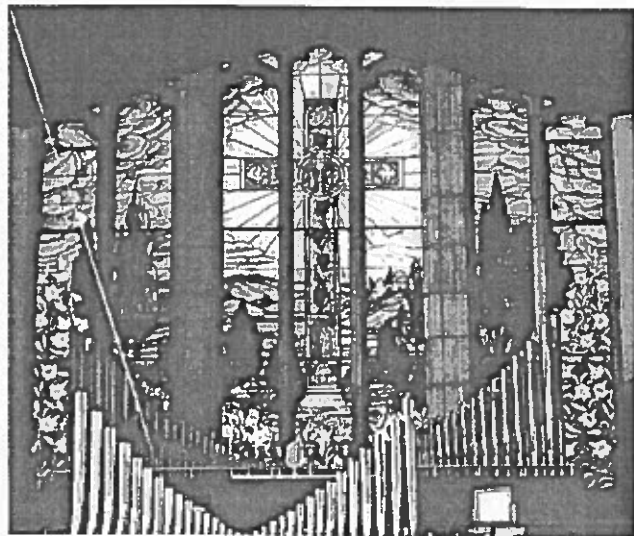
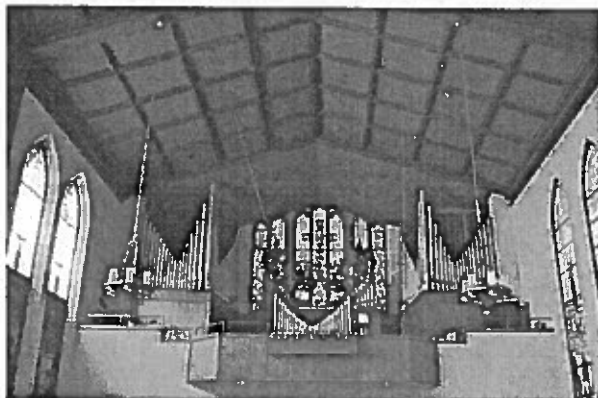


The church is designed with a single long narthex plan with an entry hall/vestibule under a double low-pitch interior ceiling and a high-pitch exterior slate covered roof. The entry is through a coupled opening with recessed reveals. Each entry door is made to appear as traditional English Oak. The majority of decorative details can be found on the entry façade as it is accentuated by a central single low arch stained glass window opening in a deep recessed reveal. The gable entrance end is bracketed by two corner buttresses set at right angles. The windows of the church are the typical tall gothic style pointed opening with a splayed reveal. The façade of the church also shows corner quoins made of limestone to contrast the natural stone walls.

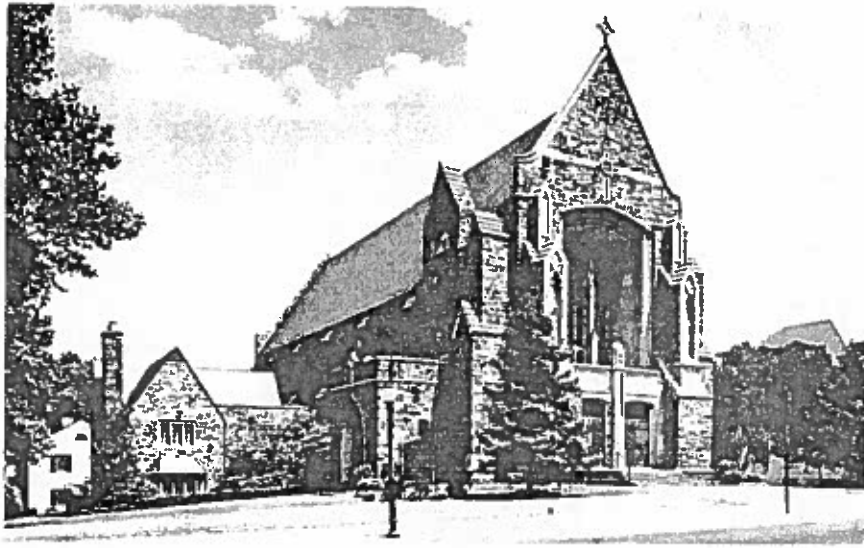
The interior of the church is simply decorated with spectacular commemorative stained glass windows that were brought from the previous church. There are about 8 pairs of large stained glass windows that run down the length of the church. The entry stained glass window is framed by the pipes of the church organ which were installed in 1979. The altar wall chancel wall is beautifully decorated by an elaborate and colorful mosaic completed in 1980 by Mr. Rowan LeCompte. The ceiling of the church interior is made of dark wood which contrasts the plain stucco walls. The interior of the church is amazing similar to the Gothic styled interior of Saint George's Hall in England's Windsor Castle.



B. WINDSOR CASTLE S. GEORGE'S HALL (restored A.D. 1824-30)



The main church building has three structures attached to it. The original parsonage, now called the "fort", is located on the north side the church along 39th Street and is designed in the similar English Gothic Revival-revival style. It has a high-pitched roof and is built out of the same local quarried stone and limestone. The building is built has across gable plan and is accentuated by flat arch windows. A later building now known as the Education building is located on what was once the location of the former Parish house adjacent to Hadley Square. A later non-significant 1970s addition is located on the south side of the church where the Church house once stood. It now provides a parlor/meeting room.



The Education Building