

Memories of  
Childerley  
Edna Ragusin Wilkins



Herald photo by Nancy Stone

**STANDING** in the doorway of the small Childerley Altieri describes the work that has already been done to make the building a Wheeling attraction.

## Historical society uncovering hidden treasure of Childerley

by Kathy Waugh

Herald staff writer

Nearly invisible behind old apple trees that still bear fruit, and pine trees that drop beds of needles, the Childerley chapel remains a buried treasure.

"We're going to unbury it," said Wheeling Historical museum curator E. Albert Fantl. Fantl and the Wheeling Historical Society plan to clear away excess trees and brush and open the chapel each Sunday to people who want to visit, tour and learn about the building and its

A handful of volunteers brought it up to its current condition three years ago by painting, staining and replacing items in an effort to restore it to its original condition. The only change: Mrs. Lillie was Catholic and the chapel now bears the symbols of both Christianity and Judaism.

**AFTER THE WORK** in 1981, however, very little activity took place in the chapel. An occasional small wedding would make use of its 35-seat capacity. A ceremony to dedicate it to Lorraine E. Lark, a park commissioner who died in 1980, was located

dum to buy Childerley Retreat Home and Chevy Chase Club House and Golf Course.

At the time, officials planned to develop the park into an outdoor education and recreation site. The largest building remaining from the Lillie years is now used for classes and childrens' activities. The chapel, however, has remained alone and isolated. Until now.