

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM

NR Eligible: yes \_\_\_  
no \_\_\_

Property Name: Black Rock Meeting House, Butler Village Inventory Number: BA-176

Address: NW corner Falls Road at Butler Road City: Buter Zip Code: 21023

County: Baltimore County USGS Topographic Map: Hereford

Owner: \_\_\_\_\_ Is the property being evaluated a district? \_\_\_ yes

Tax Parcel Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Tax Map Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Tax Account ID Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Project: Butler Stone Quarry Agency: Federal Communications Commission

Site visit by MHT staff: X no \_\_\_ yes Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Is the property is located within a historic district? X yes \_\_\_ no

*If the property is within a district* District Inventory Number: BA-2214  
NR-listed district X yes Eligible district \_\_\_ yes Name of District: Western Run - Belfast Road  
Preparer's Recommendation: Contributing resource X yes \_\_\_ no Non-contributing but eligible in another context \_\_\_ yes

*If the property is not within a district (or the property is a district)* Preparer's Recommendation: Eligible X yes \_\_\_ no

Criteria: \_\_\_ A \_\_\_ B X C \_\_\_ D Considerations: \_\_\_ A \_\_\_ B \_\_\_ C \_\_\_ D \_\_\_ E \_\_\_ F \_\_\_ G \_\_\_ None

Documentation on the property/district is presented in:  
Maryland Historical Trust Library, Crownsville, Maryland

Description of Property and Eligibility Determination: *(Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map and photo)*

The Black Rock Meeting House in Butler Village was most recently observed and photographed in February, 2003. Its condition was largely unchanged since the preparation of the State Historic Sites Inventory Form in the library of the Maryland Historical Trust, dated September 1976..

The property is described in the following document(s) located at the Maryland Historical Trust Library:

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form, by Catharine F. Black and James T. Wollon, Jr., September 1976.

The following observations were made during the February, 2003 visit to the property:

The Black Rock Meeting House continues to contribute to the historic character of Butler. This stone Baptist meeting house has been well-maintained and is a contributing resource to its district. The structure apparently dates from the 1820s. The character of its design and its excellent condition qualify it for registration under Criterion C: Design/Construction.

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW**

Eligibility recommended X Eligibility not recommended \_\_\_

Criteria: X A \_\_\_ B X C \_\_\_ D Considerations: \_\_\_ A \_\_\_ B \_\_\_ C \_\_\_ D \_\_\_ E \_\_\_ F \_\_\_ G \_\_\_ None

MHT Comments Contributes to NRHD

[Signature] Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services Date 6/11/03

[Signature] Reviewer, NR Program Date 6/30/03

NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM

Black Rock Meeting House, Butler Village

Inventory Number: BA-176

Page 2

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Prepared by: William C. Riggs, RA

Date Prepared: 5/19/2003



**SITE VICINITY MAP**  
 Hereford Quadrangle, MD  
 (Dated 1991)  
 SCALE: As Shown



**Determination of Eligibility**  
 Black Rock Meeting House (BA-176)  
 Falls Road at Butler Road  
 Butler, Baltimore Co., Maryland 21023



BUTLER VILLAGE BA-176 (BUTLER VILLAGE MEETING HOUSE)

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

PHOTO BY: K. ELLIOTT

FEB 2003

NEGATIVE LOCATION: MD SHPO

BA-176

Butler village, Butler MD 21023

02.03



BUTLER VILLAGE PA-176 (BLACK ROCK MELTING-HOUSE)  
BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD  
PHOTO BY: K. ELGIN  
2/03  
NEGATIVE LOG: MD SHFG

BA-176  
Butler Village, Butler MD 21023

02.03

Q. 176

Black Rock (Baptist) Meeting House  
Northwest corner of Falls and  
Butler Roads  
Accessible  
Date: 1820-1830

The Black Rock Meeting House is a one story gable roofed stone building on three acres, dating from around 1828 when the congregation was organized during the era of the Baptist Separation. Its simplicity reflects the austere philosophy of the Old School Baptist Congregation. **Among** the fourteen original members were representatives of local families such as the Coles, Ensors and Scotts. Having purchased a lot from the Johns family, the congregation began building shortly after it was formed.

On February 28, 1832, an address expressing the views of the Primitive Baptist Congregation there, known as the Black Rock Address, set forth beliefs adopted by all Primitive Baptist Churches in the Northeastern United States who thereafter became known as Black Rockers. Changes to the structure since then have been minimal.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Black Rock (Baptist) Meeting House

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

Northwest corner of Falls and Butler Roads

CITY, TOWN

Butler

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

5

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Baltimore

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

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

J. Wheeler Ensor, Secty Particular Primi-Telephone #: 252-3453

STREET & NUMBER

tive Baptist Church at Black Rock

1511 Bellona Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Lutherville

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21093

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Baltimore City Courthouse

Liber #: TK 336

Folio #: 159

STREET & NUMBER

Calvert and Lexington Streets

CITY, TOWN

Baltimore

STATE

Maryland

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Baltimore County Landmarks Survey

DATE

1971

\_\_\_ FEDERAL \_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_ COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

Baltimore County Historical Society

CITY, TOWN

Cockeysville

STATE

Maryland

# 7 DESCRIPTION

2-11-66

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Black Rock Meeting House is a one storey gable-roofed stone structure probably dating from 1828, or shortly thereafter, the year this congregation was organized. Its south facade is five bays in length, its north facade four. The principal entrance, consisting of a pair of late 19th century two-paneled doors, with transom above, is centered in its east end flanked by a single window on each side. A door (or possibly a window) was in the middle bay of the south facade, now closed with stone, much of which has been bonded into adjacent walling. Four windows are in both the south and north facades. Three windows were in the west end, now all eliminated with stone walling. Large roughly-worked stone lintels support masonry above each opening, and the lintels remain in place above the eliminated ones. Sills are, likewise, of roughly-worked stone. Two false windows (without frames) are in each gable end, closed with fixed louvred blinds. Typical windows are fitted with 2/2 sash flanked by shutters with louvres in their upper parts, raised panels below. The stone walls, with their roughly-worked quoins, extend about half a storey above typical first storey openings to provide adequate height internally for galleries, now missing.

The interior is a single space. The ceiling follows the rafters and collar beams. Walls are plastered and the ceiling is finished with boards. Wainscoting probably dates from the late

(See Continuation Sheet #1)

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**8 SIGNIFICANCE**

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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES      1828                                      BUILDER/ARCHITECT      Unknown

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The utter simplicity of the Black Rock Meeting House reflects the austere philosophy of its Old School Baptist congregation.

The church was organized in 1828 at Patapsco in Howard County, Maryland. Among the fourteen original members of Black Rock were representatives of such local families as the Coles, Ensors and Scotts.

Having purchased a lot from the Johns family, the congregation erected this church building. It was during the era of the Baptist Separation (1825-1840) and there were many heated debates which resulted in the formation of the Primitive Baptists.

On February 28, 1832 an address expressing the views of the congregation was prepared and adopted. It became known as the Black Rock Address and was directed to "the particular Baptist Churches of the Old School in the United States". From this date, Primitive Baptist churches in the northeastern states, adopting the beliefs set forth in the Address, became known as "Black Rockers".

In 1860, the congregation purchased land for a cemetery from Mr. Evan Davis. They frequently held two day meetings attended by friends and relatives from throughout the surrounding countryside. Although the size of the membership has diminished, recently, regular monthly meetings are still held in the church with a preacher visiting from Baltimore City.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Hopkins, G.M. Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland. (Philadelphia, 1877).

Sidney, J.C. Map of the City and County of Baltimore, Maryland. (Baltimore, 1850).

(See Continuation Sheet #2)

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 3 acres ±

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE COUNTY

STATE COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME/TITLE

Catharine F. Black and James T. Wollon, Jr. AIA

ORGANIZATION

For Valleys Historical District Project

DATE

September 1976

STREET & NUMBER

1114 Bellemore Road

TELEPHONE

323-3798

CITY OR TOWN

Baltimore

STATE

Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438

Continuation Sheet #1

Question #7 continued

19th or the very early 20th century, contemporary with the 2/2 sash. The pews, with their scrolled ends, are probably original; they are arranged in three banks with two aisles. The Renaissance-revival pulpit furniture, dating from ca. 1875, is within an earlier balustrade consisting of slim turned newels and rectangular balusters supporting a round rail. Four large brass kerosene lights hang from the ceiling.

Continuation Sheet #2

Question #9 continued

Berry, W.J. compiler. The Kehukee Declaration and Black Rock Address.  
(Primitive Publications, Elon College, N.C.) n.d.

BA-176

<b>Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation</b> <b>BALTIMORE COUNTY</b> <b>Real Property Data Search</b>	<a href="#">Go Back</a> <a href="#">View Map</a> <a href="#">New Search</a>
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**Account Identifier:** District - 05 **Account Number -** 0516000025

**Owner Information**

<b>Owner Name:</b> AMERICAN UNION OF BAPTISTS INC  <b>Mailing Address:</b> C/O VICTOR H LAWS 107 N BAPTIST ST SALISBURY MD 21801	<b>Use:</b> EXEMPT <b>Principal Residence:</b> NO  <b>Deed Reference:</b> 1) / 1072/ 98 2)
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**Location & Structure Information**

<b>Premises Address</b> 2304 BUTLER RD	<b>Zoning</b>	<b>Legal Description</b> 3.75 AC NS BUTLER RD PARTIAL EXEMPT NW COR FALLS RD
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Map	Grid	Parcel	Sub District	Subdivision	Section	Block	Lot	Group	Plat No:
33	8	29						81	Plat Ref:

<b>Special Tax Areas</b>	<b>Town Ad Valorem Tax Class</b>
<b>Primary Structure Built</b> 0000	<b>Enclosed Area</b>
	<b>Property Land Area</b> 3.75 AC
	<b>County Use</b> 01

<b>Stories</b>	<b>Basement</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Exterior</b>
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**Value Information**

	Base Value	Phase-in Assessments		
		Value As Of	As Of	As Of
		01/01/2002	07/01/2003	07/01/2004
<b>Land:</b>	41,000	66,500		
<b>Improvements:</b>	0	0		
<b>Total:</b>	41,000	66,500	58,000	66,500
<b>Preferential Land:</b>	0	0	0	0

**Transfer Information**

<b>Seller:</b> PARTICULAR PRIMI TIVE BAPTIST	<b>Date:</b> 06/15/1988	<b>Price:</b> \$0
<b>Type:</b> NOT ARMS-LENGTH	<b>Deed1:</b> / 1072/ 98	<b>Deed2:</b>
<b>Seller:</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>Price:</b>
<b>Type:</b>	<b>Deed1:</b>	<b>Deed2:</b>
<b>Seller:</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>Price:</b>
<b>Type:</b>	<b>Deed1:</b>	<b>Deed2:</b>

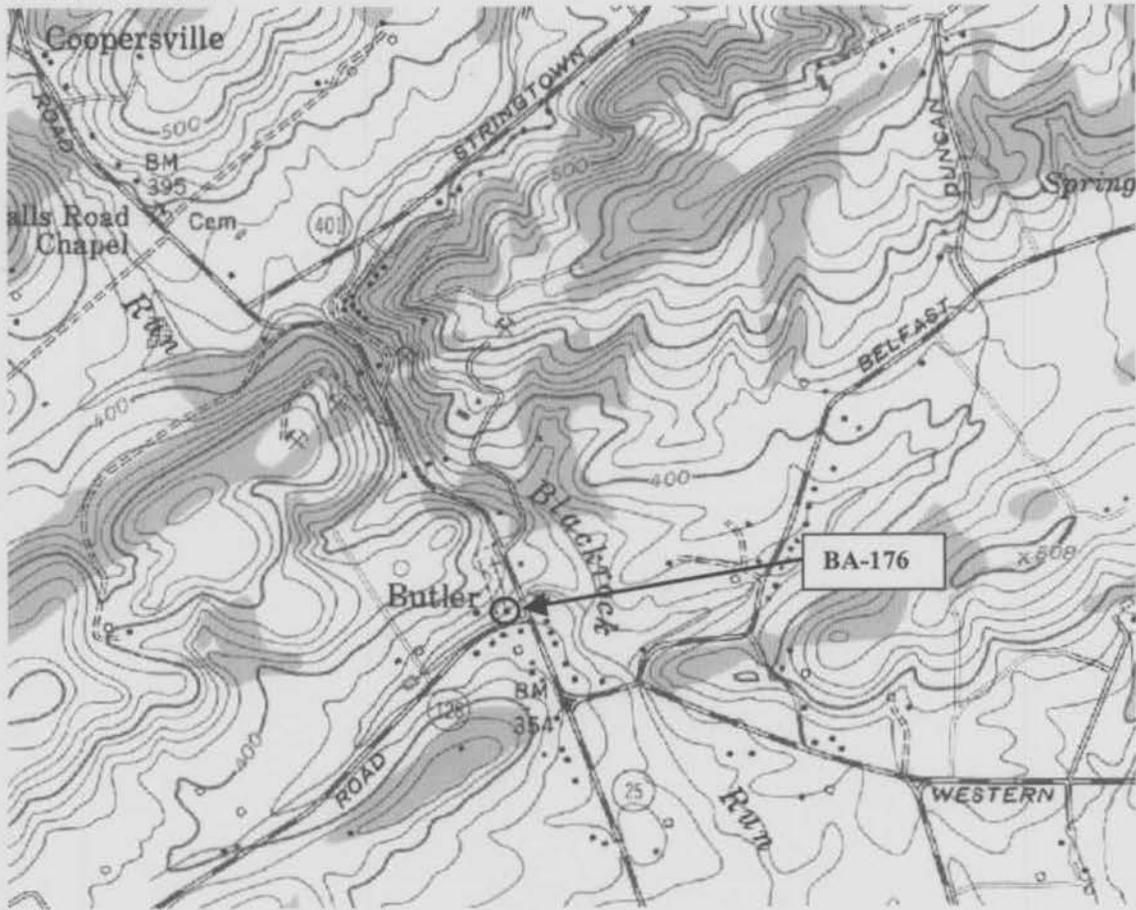
**Exemption Information**

Partial Exempt Assessments	Class	07/01/2003	07/01/2004
County	000	0	0
State	000	0	0
Municipal	000	0	0

<b>Tax Exempt:</b> COUNTY AND STATE	<b>Special Tax Recapture:</b>
<b>Exempt Class:</b> CEMETERIES (CHURCH)	* NONE *

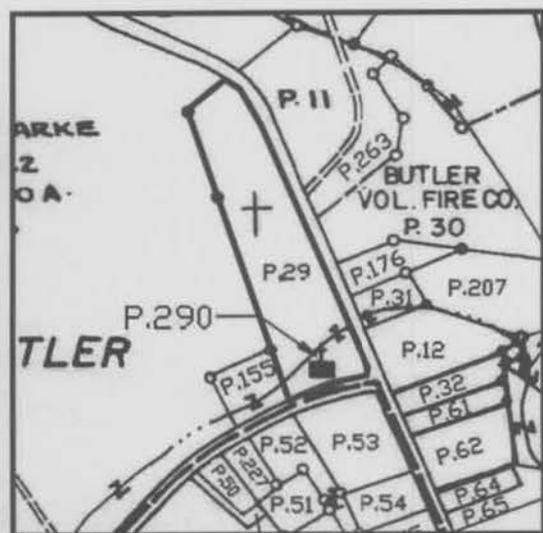
*See Baltimore County Pamphlet p. 201*

BA-176  
 Black Rock (Baptist) Meeting House  
 2304 Butler Road (MD 128), Butler  
 Hereford Quadrangle

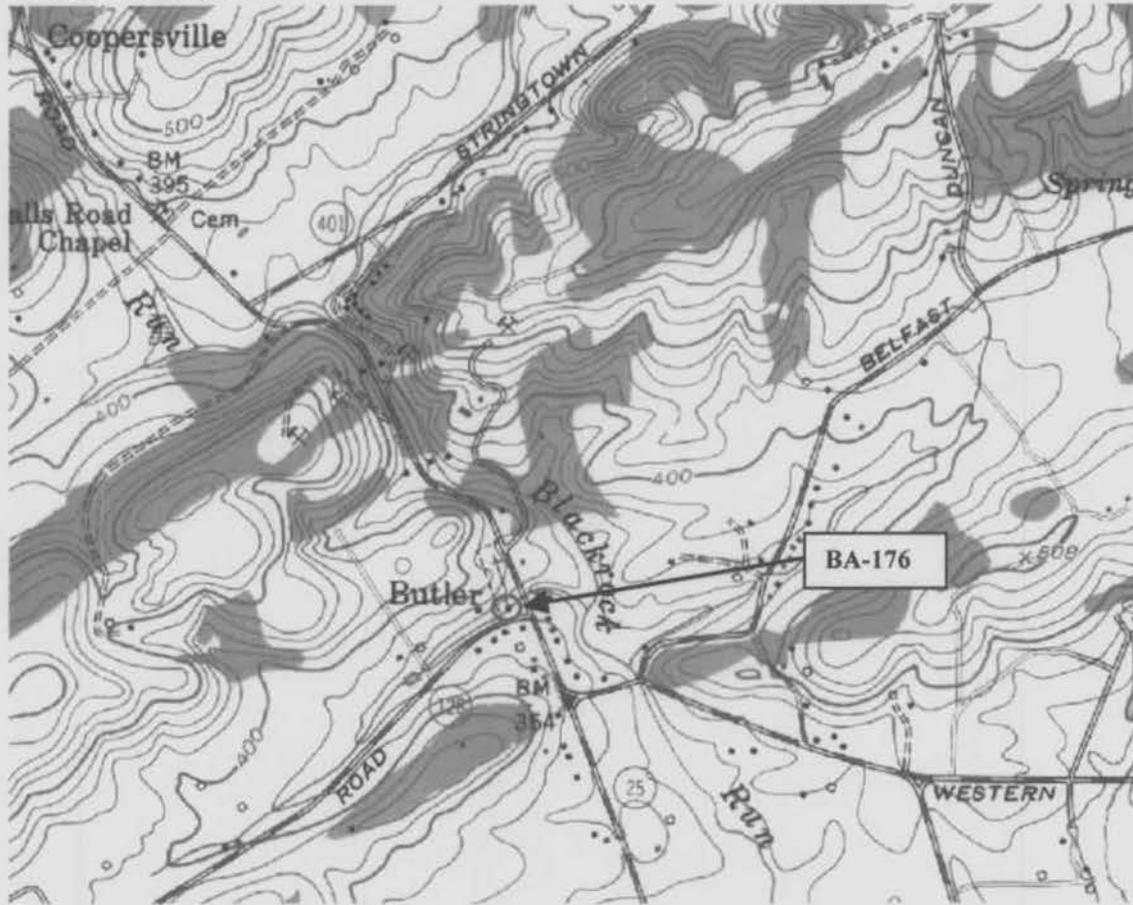


1993-95 Aerial Photo

Tax Map 33, p. 29 & 290



BA-176  
 Black Rock (Baptist) Meeting House  
 2304 Butler Road (MD 128), Butler  
 Hereford Quadrangle



1993-95 Aerial Photo

Tax Map 33, p. 29 & 290

