

CAPSULE SUMMARY**BA-0404****Bentley Springs United Methodist Church****421 Bentley Road****Bentley Springs, Baltimore County****Ca. 1878****Private**

The Bentley Springs United Methodist Church is located at 421 Bentley Road in Election District Seven, in Bentley Springs near Parkton, in Baltimore County. The Gothic Revival style stone church was erected circa 1878, with the cornerstone laid in 1875. The one-story church is constructed on land that had been acquired by Richard Mackley from Anna Stabler in October of 1875. Charles W. Bentley, who developed the nearby village of Bentley Springs, previously owned the church property. The church has continued to serve the community of Bentley Springs for nearly 125 years. The Bentley Springs Church was originally constructed as the Grace Methodist Episcopal Church.

The stone church is rectangular in shape with a front-gabled standing seam metal roof and gable bell tower. The one-story building measures three bays wide and four bays deep. The main entry is located on the west elevation. The church is further detailed with elongated rounded-arch windows with brick lintels, granite quoins, overhanging eaves, a raking cornice with returns, and a gable end rounded triangular multi-light window. An interior end stretcher bond brick chimney rises from the northern edge of the roof. Stylistically, the vernacular building draws on the Gothic Revival style with its steep gabled roof, stone construction, rounded-arch multi-light windows, and verticality. The church, which measures thirty by forty-five feet, sits on a rise on the south side of Bentley Road, near Bentley Springs.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. BA-0404

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Grace Methodist Episcopal Church
 other Bentley Springs United Methodist Church (preferred)

2. Location

street and number 421 Bentley Road __ not for publication
 city, town Parkton X vicinity
 county Baltimore County

3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Bentley Springs United Methodist Church
 street and number 421 Bentley Road telephone Unknown
 city, town Parkton state Maryland zip code 21120

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore County Courthouse liber Unknown folio Unknown
 city, town Towson tax map 12 tax parcel Unknown tax ID number NA

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- Contributing Resource in National Register District
- Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
- Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
- Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
- Recorded by HABS/HAER
- Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
- Other: _____

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	Contributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	Contributing <u>1</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input type="checkbox"/> domestic	Noncontributing <u> </u>
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	<u> </u> buildings
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	<u> </u> sites
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	<u> </u> structures
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	<u> </u> objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<u>1</u> Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	
		<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion	
		<input type="checkbox"/> social	
		<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	
		<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	
		<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	
		<input type="checkbox"/> other:	
			Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory
			<u>1</u>

7. Description

Inventory No. BA-0404

Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Bentley Springs Methodist Church in Baltimore County was constructed circa 1878. The stone building is rectangular in shape with a front-gabled standing seam metal roof and gable bell tower. The one-story building measures three bays wide and four bays deep. The main entry is located on the west elevation. The church is further detailed with elongated rounded-arch windows with brick lintels, granite quoins, overhanging eaves, a raking cornice with returns, and a gable end rounded triangular multi-light window. An interior end stretcher bond brick chimney rises from the northern edge of the roof. Stylistically, the vernacular building draws on the Gothic Revival style with its steep gabled roof, stone construction, rounded-arch multi-light windows, and verticality. The church, which measures thirty by forty-five feet, sits on a rise on the south side of Bentley Road, near Bentley Springs.

EXTERIOR DESCRIPTION

The primary façade of the Bentley Springs Methodist Church faces west, perpendicular to Bentley Road, and measures three bays wide. The central entry features inset double-leaf elongated four-panel wooden doors. The entry is capped by a rounded-arch soldier-bond brick lintel with square sandstone springing point blocks and decorative sandstone blocks reading as keystones. The surround and soffit have been reclad in vinyl. The entry is flanked by elongated rounded-arched 7/6 Gothic-styled windows with molded vinyl surrounds, square-edged wood sills, rounded-arch soldier-bond brick lintels with square sandstone springing point blocks, and similar decorative sandstone blocks reading as keystones. A central multi-light rounded triangular window in the gable peak also pierces the façade. The window features a soldier Gothic arched brick lintel with a decorative sandstone block reading as a keystone. A similar sandstone block is also centrally placed just beneath the window. The façade is further detailed with granite quoins, overhanging eaves with returns, and an aluminum-clad soffit. A gable-roofed bell tower with a vinyl-clad square base and solid-bracketed wood post supports caps the façade. A metal balustrade encloses the tower. Poured concrete steps and a poured concrete ramp with metal balustrade provide access to the central entry.

The southern elevation measures four bays deep. The elevation is entirely composed of four symmetrically placed elongated rounded-arched 7/6 Gothic-styled windows with molded vinyl surrounds, square-edged wood sills, rounded-arch soldier-bond brick lintels. The elevation also features slightly overhanging eaves, an aluminum soffit, and stone quoins.

The east, or rear, elevation features no fenestration. It is detailed with stone quoins, overhanging eaves, and an aluminum soffit. A metal cross has been placed in the gable peak.

The northern elevation mirrors the southern elevation. It measures four bays wide. The elevation is entirely composed of four symmetrically placed elongated rounded-arched 7/6 Gothic-styled windows with molded vinyl surrounds, square-edged wood sills, and rounded-arch soldier-bond brick lintels. The elevation also

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features slightly overhanging eaves, an aluminum soffit, and stone quoins. An exterior bulkhead double-leaf wood door to the cellar is located on the northern elevation.

INTERIOR DESCRIPTION

The interior of the building was not accessed during this phase of the survey.

OUTBUILDINGS

There are no supporting buildings associated with the property.

8. Significance

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Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

Specific dates 1875, 1878 **Architect/Builder** Unknown

Construction dates 1878

Evaluation for:

National Register

Maryland Register

not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

The Bentley Springs United Methodist Church is located at 421 Bentley Road in Election District Seven, in Bentley Springs near Parkton, in Baltimore County. The Gothic Revival style stone church was erected circa 1878, with the cornerstone laid in 1875. The one-story church is constructed on land that had been acquired by Richard Mackley from Anna Stabler in October of 1875. Charles W. Bentley, who developed the nearby village of Bentley Springs, previously owned the church property. The church has continued to serve the community of Bentley Springs for nearly 125 years.

The Bentley Springs Church was originally constructed as the Grace Methodist Episcopal Church. The cornerstone was laid in 1875 with Masonic honors, by Bentley Springs Lodge No. 138, A.F. & A.M. The vernacular stone church was constructed in the Gothic Revival style. Reflective of this style is the steeply pitched center gable with an arched central multi-light window and elongated multi-light arched windows. Although introduced to the United States from England in the 1830s by architect Alexander Jackson Davis, Andrew Jackson Downing (1815-1852), a landscape architect and promoter of the also popular cottage residence and Carpenter Gothic style, popularized the Gothic Revival during the last half of the 19th century as a reaction against Classicism. Downing's *Victorian Cottage Residences*, published numerous times between 1842 and 1873, touted the advantages of the inexpensive, detached dwelling. He claimed that the English cottage style was "so generally admired for the picturesqueness evinced in its tall gables ornamented by handsome verge-boards and finials...showing how the genius of pointed or Gothic architecture may be chastened or moulded into forms for domestic habitations."¹ Wood frame dwellings with horizontal cladding dominated the Carpenter Gothic Revival style, while stone construction remained popular in the vernacular buildings and high style dwellings. According to Downing, the setting for cottage residences was particularly important. In keeping with this aspect of the style, the church is set on a hill above Bentley Springs.

Just off the turnpike, Bentley's Springs was a popular summer resort, located twenty-five miles outside Baltimore City. The resort was settled around the nearby springs, which flowed from the nearby hillsides-- a popular medicinal and relaxation pastime in America. The spring water was bottled and sold in Baltimore. The

¹ Andrew Jackson Downing, *Victorian Cottage Residences*, (New York, NY: Dover Publications, Inc., 1981), p. 42.

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resort town, developed by Charles W. Bentley, originally belonged to a larger 7,000-acre tract of land owned by James Calder. Calder transferred 1,275 acres to his daughter, Charlotte Withers, in 1811. Charles Bentley purchased 165 acres of Calder's property in 1865. Soon after Bentley's purchase of the land it began to develop as a crossroads community. A number of dwellings, a grand hotel (which was destroyed by fire in 1868), a post office (originally called the Bee Tree Post Office) and a train station set along the Northern Central Railroad formed the thriving town which became known as Bentley's Springs. The spelling of the town was eventually changed to Bentley Springs.

Appearing on maps as early as 1850, the town of Bentley Springs is located near the late-19th-century trade and shipping center known as Parkton. This proved instrumental for the development of the rich agricultural region surrounding Bentley Springs. Furthermore, the town was laid out just to the west of York Road, which featured many popular traveler's stops. Prior to the organization of turnpikes in Baltimore County, many of the county's roads were considered unfit for use. Earlier efforts to incorporate turnpike companies originated from the county government, yet, by the turn of the 19th century, efforts to create better roads emanated from the state government's efforts to better serve the growing rural population. This action resulted in the laying of a road from Baltimore, Maryland to York, Pennsylvania that would replace the winding, indirect Old York Road.² The privately organized York Turnpike Company was incorporated in 1805. Work on the new road ceased in 1810, when the thirty-five miles of road from Baltimore to the Pennsylvania Line was completed. This route soon became one of the primary north/south corridors in Baltimore County.

Bentley Springs is located in the Seventh Election District, along the border of the Sixth District. The district was one of the largest and most populated regions of the county in the latter part of the 19th century, which had an area of 59.93 square miles and a population of 3,074 by 1870. It is bounded on the north by Pennsylvania, the south by the Eighth District, the east by Harford County, and the west by the Fifth and Sixth Districts. Arable fields for plantings of wheat, corn, oats, and fruits supported the district. It was known for its dairy production and the breeding of cattle. In addition, the waterpower of the Gunpowder Falls and its tributaries supported numerous farms and mills throughout the district.

² Sherry H. Olson, *Baltimore: The Building of an American City* (Baltimore, MD: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1997), p.172; see also S. B. Clemens and C. E. Clemens, *From Marble Hill to Maryland Line: An Informal History of Northern Baltimore County* (np: C. E. and S. B. Clemens, 1976), p.10.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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- Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland*. Philadelphia, PA: G.M. Hopkins, 1877.
Brooks, Neal A. and Eric G. Rockel, *A History of Baltimore County*. Towson, MD Friends of the Towson Library, Inc., 1979.
Carley, Rachel. *The Visual Dictionary of American Domestic Architecture*. New York: Henry Holt and Company, 1994.
Haile, Elmer R., Jr. "Post Offices in the Long Green Area." *History Trails Newsletter*. Baltimore Historical Society, Autumn 1975.
Maryland Historical Trust Vertical Files.
Scharf, Thomas J. *History of Baltimore City and County From the Earliest Period to the Present Day: Including Biographical Sketches of Their Representative Men*. Philadelphia, PA: Louis H. Everts, 1881. Reprinted by Higginson Book Company, Salem, MA.
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10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property .2 acre
Acreage of historical setting Unknown
Quadrangle name New Freedom Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The United Methodist Church in Bentley Springs, near Parkton, has been historically associated with the property at 421 Bentley Road, as noted on Tax Map 12, since its construction circa 1878.

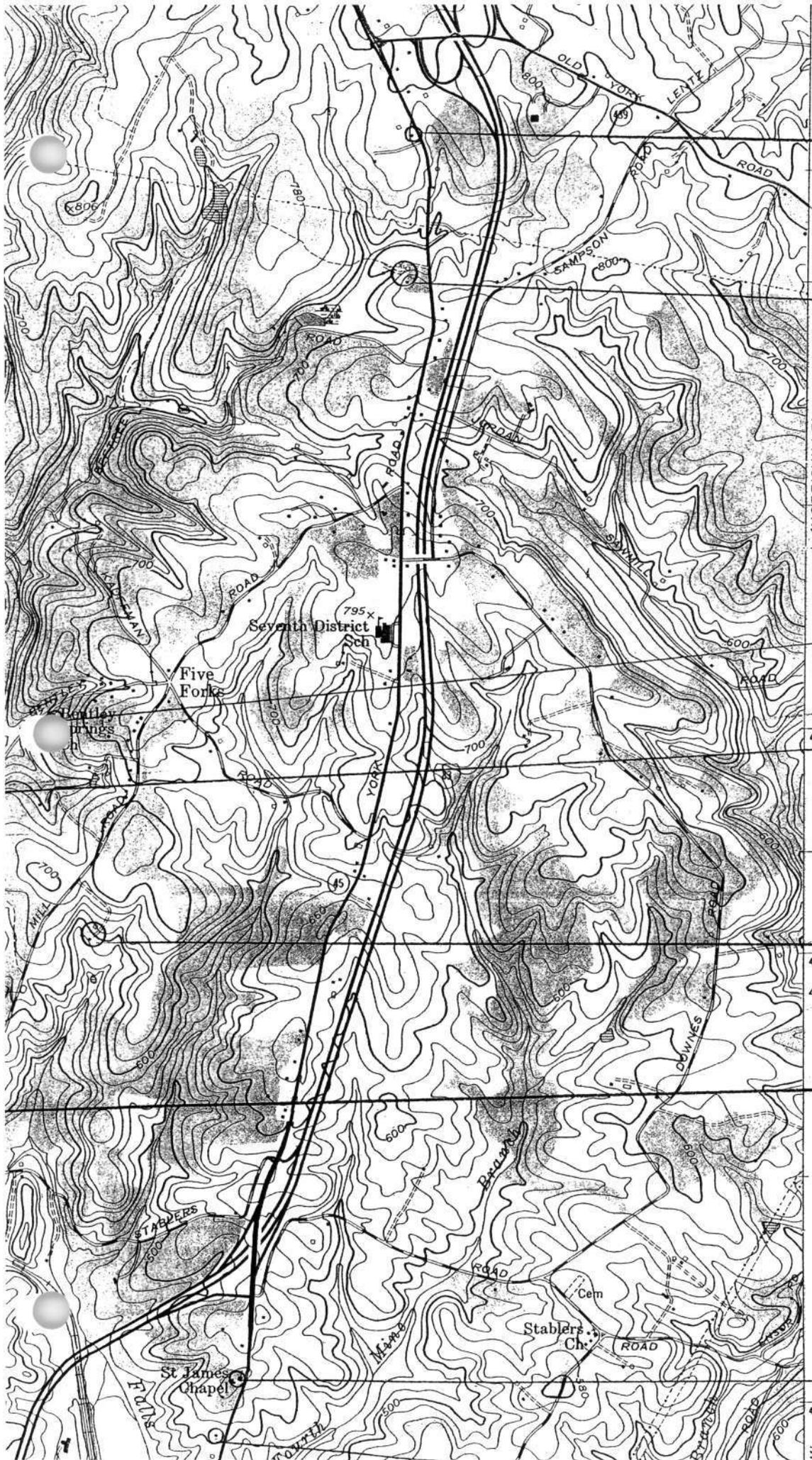
11. Form Prepared by

name/title	J. Bunting and A. Didden, Architectural Historians		
organization	EHT Tracerics, Inc.	date	March 20, 2001
street & number	1121 5th Street, NW	telephone	(202)393-1199
city or town	Washington, DC	state	

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties 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
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600



BA-2948
 ALBERT P. WOODRUFF HOUSE
 21014 YORK ROAD
 PARKTON, BALTIMORE COUNTY

BA-1151
 BLEAK HILL
 20814 YORK ROAD
 PARKTON
 BALTIMORE COUNTY

BA-0404
 BENTLEY SPRINGS U.M.
 CHURCH
 421 BENTLEY ROAD
 BENTLEY SPRINGS
 BALTIMORE COUNTY

BA-2896
 DUNCAN HOUSE
 542 BENTLEY ROAD
 BENTLEY SPRINGS
 BALTIMORE COUNTY

BA-2898
 TRACEY HOUSE
 19919 CAMERON MILL ROAD
 PARKTON
 BALTIMORE COUNTY

BA-0403
 WITHERS-MORRIS HOUSE
 19635 EAGLE MILL ROAD
 PARKTON
 BALTIMORE COUNTY

USGS Quad: NEW FREEDOM
 Scale: 1:24,000

↑
N

BA-0998
 ST. JAMES EPISCOPAL CHURCH
 19200 YORK ROAD
 PARKTON
 BALTIMORE COUNTY



BA-0404
Bentley Springs United Methodist Church
421 Bentley Road
Baltimore County, MD
Traceries

3/01

MD SHPO

Church, Southwest corner, view looking Northeast

photo 1 of 5



ALL WELCOME!
AT MARCH 24 @ 10:00 AM
BUFFET BREAKFAST
SINGING 9:30 at
SERVICES 10:00 AM
BY JERRY HOFFER
800 327 8100

ALL THE GREAT
SERVICES
HELD IN
Ev. C.

BA-0404
Bentley Springs United Methodist Church
421 Bentley Road
Baltimore County, MD
Traceries
3/01
MD SHPO
church, Northeast corner, view looking Southwest
photo 2 of 3



BA-0404
Bentley Springs United Methodist Church
421 Bentley Road
Baltimore County, MD
Traces

3/01
MD SHPO
church, southeast corner, view looking Northwest
photo 3 of 3

BA- 404

BENTLEY SPRINGS METHODIST CHURCH - 1878 - South side of Bentley Road, 0.4 mile west of Kaufman Road, Bentley Springs vicinity. Stone church with tall windows topped with rounded brick arches. Shown in 1877 atlas. Gable roof; small steeple. Land acquired in October 1875 from Anna G. Stabler by Richard Mackley and other accounts hold that land was given by Charles W. Bentley family. Cornerstone laid October 3, 1875. Original dimensions were 30 x 45 feet.