

F-2-55

Ceres Bethel A.M.E. Church
Burkittsville vicinity
Private

1870

The Ceres Bethel A.M.E. Church is a one-story frame structure with a three-bay gable facade on the south, facing a small cemetery. The church has round-arched windows flanking the double doors of the main entrance. The siding was probably german originally, but is now covered with composition siding. A datestone at the southeast corner gives the name of the church and the date 1870 with the first pastor's name, L. Benson. The church is a good example of the post-Civil War black rural church built by freed slaves in the vicinity of their former homes as slaves. The cemetery contains graves dated from about 1870 to the present. A colored school stood just west of the church in the 1870's, is no longer extant.

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Magi No.

DOE ___yes ___no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Ceres Bethel A.M.E. Church

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 6000 block Gapland Road, east side ___ not for publication

city, town Burkittsville vicinity of congressional district 6th

state Maryland county Frederick

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" 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	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

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

name Ceres Bethel A.M.E. Church

street & number telephone no.:

city, town Burkittsville state and zip code Md. 21718

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Frederick County Courthouse liber

street & number 100 W. Patrick Street folio

city, town Frederick state Md. 21701

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ___ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. F-2-55

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date of move _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

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

CONTRIBUTING RESOURCE COUNT: 1

The Ceres Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church is a one-story frame hall-type church built in 1870 on the east side of Gapland Road about 1-1/2 miles west of Burkittsville, Frederick County, Maryland. The church faces south with a three-bay gable elevation with round-arched windows. The side elevation has three window bays. The exterior is covered with composition siding. The building is in generally deteriorated condition. A cemetery adjoins the church on the south and west with earliest death dates about 1870.

The building probably had german siding originally and a raised entrance porch. The current center bay entrance on the south has double 4-panel doors reached via a concrete block staircase. The stone foundation is raised on the south, east and north elevations as the site is very steep, sloping down to the east. The windows in the south elevation have six lights in a 4/2 pattern and the side elevation windows are 6/6 sliding sash. Pews are visible inside the church through a missing sash in the west elevation. At the southeast corner of the foundation is a stone which reads "Ceres Bethel A.M.E. Church 1870, L. Benson, pastor".

The cemetery has scattered family groupings of stones, many of which have fallen or been moved under shrubbery. Burials as recent as 1990 have taken place. The 1873 C. O. Titus Atlas of Frederick County shows a school just west of the church, but no visible trace remains of this structure.

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Ceres Bethel A.M.E. Church
Burkittsville
Frederick County

HISTORIC CONTEXT:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Piedmont
(Harford, Baltimore, Carroll, Frederick, Howard, Montgomery Counties,
and Baltimore City)

Chronological/Development Period:
Industrial/Urban Dominance, A.D. 1870-1930

Prehistoric/Historic Period Themes
Architecture, Landscape Architecture, Community Planning
Social/Educational/Cultural

Resource Types:

Category: Building

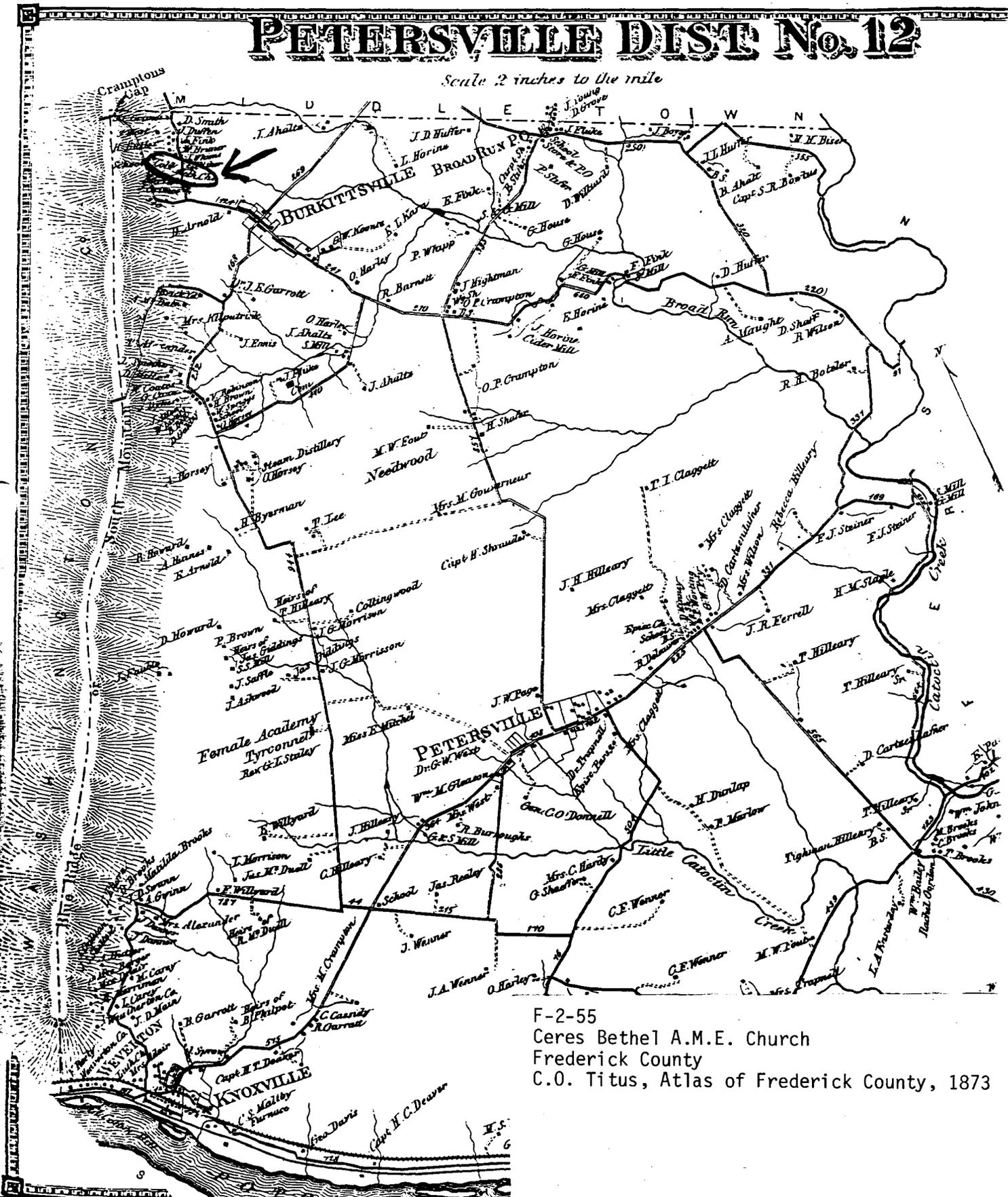
Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function and Use:
Religion/religious structure/church

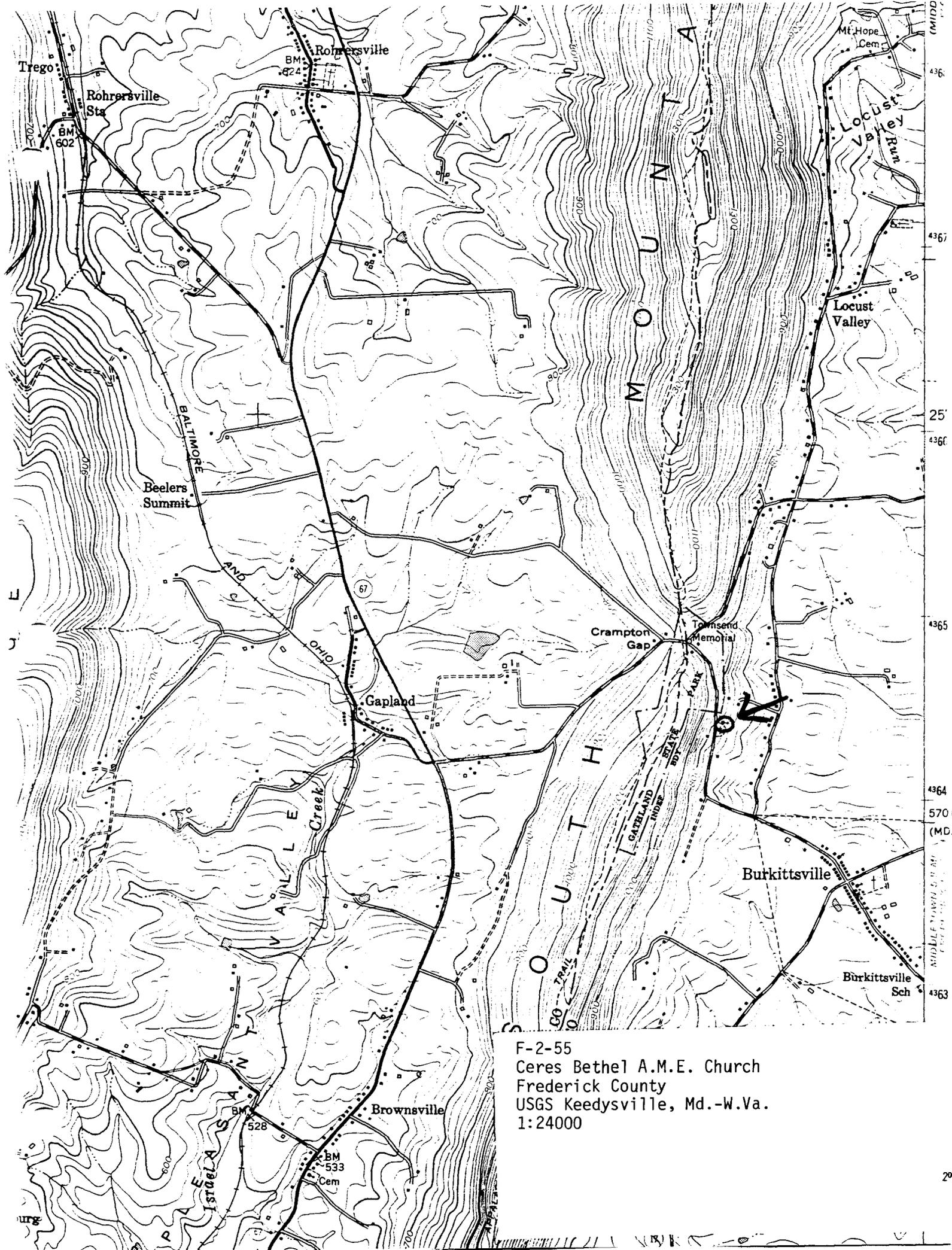
Known Design Source: None

PETERSVILLE DIST No. 12

Scale 2 inches to the mile



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Ceres Bethel A.M.E. Church
Frederick County
C.O. Titus, Atlas of Frederick County, 1873



F-2-55
Ceres Bethel A.M.E. Church
Frederick County
USGS Keedysville, Md.-W.Va.
1:24000

(MIDD)
4366
4367
25'
4366
4365
4364
570'
(MD)
4363
200





