

F-6-86

Ca. 1790

St. Elizabeth

Thurmont vicinity

Private

St. Elizabeth is located on Jimtown Road. The principal elevation faces west with the gable roof oriented on a north-south axis. The property has only retained one original outbuilding, a stone springhouse, to the east of the house. The house is significant in representing American Moravian architecture of the late eighteenth century. It is one of the only examples of this architectural period and influence in the State of Maryland. The property has strong associations with the nearby Moravian community of Graceham which also ties it to early ideas of community planning. As a Moravian influenced building, it was possibly based on architectural renderings disseminated from head church in Germany. The family associated with the property, the Wellers, were influential in helping to establish the Moravian Church at Graceham, and they remained an important Moravian family in the region into the nineteenth century.

F-6-86  
St. Elizabeth  
Thurmont vicinity  
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:  
Rural Agrarian Intensification 1680-1815 A.D.  
Agricultural-Industrial Transition 1815-1870 A.D.  
Industrial/Urban Dominance 1870-1930 A.D.

Prehistoric/Historic Period Themes:  
Architecture, Landscape Architecture and Community Planning

Resource Type:  
Category: Buildings

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function and Use:  
Domestic/single dwelling/residence  
Domestic/secondary structure/springhouse

Known Design Source: None

**Maryland Historical Trust**  
**State Historic Sites Inventory Form**

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF  
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. F-6-86

Magi No.

DOE  yes  no

**1. Name** (indicate preferred name)

historic St. Elizabeth

and/or common

**2. Location**

street & number 13249 Creagerstown Road  not for publication

city, town Thurmont  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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input 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 Charles William and Christine Eyler

street & number 13249 Creagerstown Road telephone no.:

city, town Thurmont state and zip code MD 21788

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Frederick County Courthouse liber 997

street & number 100 W. Patrick Street folio 674

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-6-86

**Condition**

excellent

good

fair

deteriorated

ruins

unexposed

**Check one**

unaltered

altered

**Check one**

original site

moved    date of move \_\_\_\_\_

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

(Typed on separate sheet)

# 8. Significance

Survey No. F-6-86

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below						
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input 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/			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater			
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation			
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify)			
				Moravian History			

**Specific dates** Ca. 1790 **Builder/Architect**

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check: Applicable Criteria:  A  B  C  D  
and/or  
Applicable Exception:  A  B  C  D  E  F  G  
Level of Significance:  national  state  local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

(Typed on separate sheet)

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. F-6-86

Andreve, George. "The Graceham Moravian Church and Parsonage", National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form, Frederick County, 1975.  
Atlas of Frederick County, Maryland, C.O. Titus and Co., Philadelphia, 1873.  
Interview with Mr. William Eyler, current owner, May 1991.  
Land Deeds and Will Books, Frederick County Courthouse, Frederick, Maryland.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 26.66 acresQuadrangle name Catoctin Furnace MD QuadrangleQuadrangle scale 1:24000UTM References do NOT complete UTM referencesA 

Zone	Easting			Northing					

B 

Zone	Easting			Northing					

C 

Zone	Easting			Northing					

D 

Zone	Easting			Northing					

E 

Zone	Easting			Northing					

F 

Zone	Easting			Northing					

G 

Zone	Easting			Northing					

H 

Zone	Easting			Northing					

### Verbal boundary description and justification

Tax Map 25, Parcel 426

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Mary Kendall Shipe, Historic Sites Surveyororganization Frederick County Planning & Zoning Dept. date June, 1991street & number 12 E. Church Streettelephone 696-2958city or town Frederickstate MD 21701

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  
Shaw House  
21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 269-2438

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST**  
DHCP/DHCD  
100 COMMUNITY PLACE  
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023  
301-514-7600

### 7.1 Description:

St. Elizabeth is located on Jimtown Road in the vicinity of Thurmont, Maryland. The principal elevation faces west with the gable roof oriented on a north-south axis. The property has only retained one original outbuilding, a stone springhouse, to the east of the house. New buildings include a board and batten barn and a shed.

Constructed circa 1790, St. Elizabeth is of Flemish bond brick construction with a molded brick water table, one and one-half stories in height, and three symmetrical bays wide. The house rests on a stone foundation that is banked into a hill, allowing for a full basement. The gable roof of composition shingling has two exterior end chimneys. Two gabled dormers (recently constructed) are on both the front and rear elevations.

The main elevation, facing west, has three bay openings with symmetrical placement. The center door has a 8 light transom. The two 6/6 windows (replacements) have jack arch lintels. The east elevation is also three bays wide. The upper level has 6/6 windows with jack arches. The exposed basement level has been covered with a new one story enclosed porch addition that is sheathed in aluminum siding. The south gable end has two openings. Windows in the upper level are 6/6 with gauged arches. There are also two windows in the foundation level. A center attic window has a segmental arch with a keystone. The north gable end is two bays wide with 6/6 windows with jack arches. Two attic windows have soldier course lintels. The elevation also has randomly placed glazed headers.

The interior of St. Elizabeth has a center hall plan on the main floor. The center hall is flanked by two rooms on either side. Some beaded chairrail was still intact when the current owner purchased the house; he has subsequently redone the chairrail based on the surviving pieces. The basement level originally was divided into four rooms (one original partition was removed). It has a rebuilt corner cooking fireplace in the original kitchen. An original beaded door in the basement has a primitive painting of a horse.

Another house is situated on Hunting Creek approximately 1/4 miles from St. Elizabeth. The principal elevation appears to face south, fronting the creek. Only one gable end is visible due to extensive overgrowth; it reveals a one and one-half story brick building, two bays wide on the gable end. According to Mr. Eyler, the owner of St. Elizabeth, the house on Hunting Creek is identical in form and plan and was built by the same family, the Wellers. Mr. Eyler removed some of the original fabric in this house and utilized it in restoring St. Elizabeth.

### 8.1 Significance:

St. Elizabeth is significant in representing American Moravian architecture of the late eighteenth century. It is one of the only examples of this architectural period and influence in the state of Maryland. The property has strong associations with the nearby Moravian community of Graceham which also ties it to early ideas of community planning. As a Moravian influenced building, it was possibly based on architectural renderings disseminated from head church in Germany. The family associated with the property, the Wellers, were influential in helping to establish the Moravian Church at Graceham, and they remained an important Moravian family in the region into the nineteenth century.

No other building in the northern region of Frederick County dating from the same period is comparable to St. Elizabeth in type. The house reveals both English and Germanic precedents in form and plan. It has retained its original materials, form and plan but has undergone a restoration process. This process has changed some elements of the design but incorporated original ideas when possible.

### History and Support:

The Moravian Church of the United Brethren was established in Moravia and Bohemia by 1457 and was grounded in the theological ideas of the martyr, John Huss. The Moravians, a Protestant sect, experienced persecution in Europe to the point of extinction. In 1722, Count Nicholas von Zinzendorf of Saxony revived the "Unitas Fratrum" (United Brethren). Almost immediately, Moravians were sent as missionaries to America in the 1730s. A basic precept of the religion was "spreading the word"; christianizing the American Indians gave them an opportunity to exercise this doctrine (William Murtaugh, Moravian Architecture and Town Planning, Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1967, p. 5.).

The Moravians considered church and state to be interconnected. This belief led to the strong organization and planning of their communities. The communities were carefully designed and functioned in "choirs" or living units. The Moravians held "a conscious concern for the total visual and functional environment of their communities" (Murtaugh, p.9). A Moravian architecture developed in response to this attention to planning that became even more individualized in the American satellite settlements. Communities in America, like those in Europe, were obliged to consult with the head church in Germany for direction and permission in planning.

Moravians initially established settlements in Pennsylvania by 1740 and then migrated southward into Virginia and the Carolinas. During this southern migration, missionaries arrived in Maryland in the 1740s. By 1747, George Nieke and Lorenz Nyberg had founded a church which led to the formation of an official Moravian community. This community was named Graceham by the leaders of the church. Graceham was a church-controlled community from its beginnings in the 1740s until 1815. At that time, church-owned lots were sold and rented to individuals, Moravians and non-Moravians.

## 8.2 Significance (Continued)

In Graceham as in other American Moravian communities, the German architectural influence was strong and pervasive until the nineteenth century. By that time, there was a "dilution" of the Germanic heritage, and Anglo traditions began to dominate (Murtaugh, p.127). Buildings in Moravian centers were constructed by using available materials which were then incorporated into the Germanic architectural expression. The materials used differed depending on geography: in Bethel, Pennsylvania, there was a predominance of limestone with brick and wood trim; in Salem, North Carolina, log was initially utilized followed by brick because of the abundance of clay (Murtaugh, p.133). Graceham can be compared to Salem: the original church at Graceham was of log construction while later eighteenth century and early nineteenth century buildings such as the church parsonage (1797) were constructed in brick.

Moravian architecture in America was based on Germanic plans and forms; Moravians carried with them the same "vocabulary" as other German groups in America. However, Moravians did differ in ways from other German settlers that distinguished their architectural expression. They were geographically separate and elevated in class and economic levels in Europe from other German groups (Rhenish-Palatinate Germans, for example) that were migrating to America. Their immigration to America was supported by a religious hierarchy and nobility in Europe, and they moved as a group that purposely established themselves in planned communities. By contrast, other Germans largely settled in America as individual subsistence farmers scattered throughout various regions (Murtaugh, p.130). The Moravians were equipped with detailed, drawn designs that disseminated from the head church in Germany; other Germans carried vernacular "blueprints" in their minds to America. According to Murtaugh (p.130), these differences between Moravians and other Germans resulted in an accented Moravian architecture particularly noted in the "communal disposition and relation of structures".

The traditional Germanic building that typified Moravian communities was of stone or log construction, 1 & 1/2 stories, with flat brick arches above openings, a center chimney and a three room plan. The use of brick trim, in particular, was characteristic in making "Moravian architecture colorful and distinctive" (Murtaugh, p.114). Overall, the buildings were small in scale but of "ample proportions" (Murtaugh, p.114). In conjunction with this, Moravian buildings appear to have been more carefully executed than other Germanic buildings probably due to the use and availability of plans and designs.

By the late eighteenth century, Moravian architectural vocabulary expanded with the construction of brick buildings particularly evident in late eighteenth century Salem, North Carolina. A tavern, constructed in 1784, was laid in Flemish bond brick and had a center hall plan. It became the precursor for other brick buildings in Salem including a school for boys (1794), a 1 & 1/2 story, center hall plan, Flemish bond brick building with flat arches, and the Vorsteher House (1797), which introduced gable end chimneys instead of the traditional center chimney.

In Graceham, the original church buildings were of log construction, and other Moravian buildings were also probably of log. By 1797, a new parsonage

### 8.3 Significance (Continued)

was constructed in brick. The Moravians at Graceham began to utilize brick during the late eighteenth century, parallel to the same development in Salem. This is not coincidental in that both communities were church-owned and operated and thus constructed their buildings with the same architectural guidelines. Also, they had both been settled as part of the missionary migration stemming from Pennsylvania and were probably in close communication.

In addition to the parsonage in Graceham, St. Elizabeth (circa 1790) serves as an example of this late eighteenth century era of Moravian architecture in Maryland. The Weller family were the original owners/builders of the house. In the 1740s, Jacob Weller, a German immigrant, was instrumental in helping to establish the Moravian community in Graceham. During the initial years of the church, he offered his home for services until he convinced Daniel Dulaney of Annapolis to donate a tract of ten acres for the church. This tract was called Dulaney's Gift (T.J.C. Williams, History of Frederick County, Maryland, Philadelphia: L.R. Titsworth, 1910, Vol. I, 494).

One of Jacob's sons, John Weller, the miller, purchased a tract of 100 acres called "St. Elizabeth" in 1786 from Paul Saip (Sipe) (Land Deed W.R. No. 6, 553). Saip had acquired the tract from Daniel Dulaney's estate in 1772 (Land Deed, N, 549). The tract was patented by Dulaney in 1743 for 100 acres (Grace L. Tracey and John P. Dem, Pioneers of Old Monocacy, Baltimore: Geneological Publishing Co., 1987, p.367). In John Weller's will (Will Book, G.M. No.3, 523) of 1802, he devises the "land and plantation" called "Sandy (sic) Elisabeth" to his deceased daughter's eldest son, John Born. He allows Jacob Born, his son-in-law, to use 20 acres of the property and to have the "two lower rooms and half of the sellar (sic) in the house". Jacob Born and Anna Margaret Weller were married in the Moravian Church in 1789 (Henry James Young, Moravian Families of Graceham, Maryland, Westminster: Family Line Publications, 1988, p.7). John probably had the house constructed for them for their marriage. The house may have been built by Jacob Born who was a Moravian carpenter and joiner.

St. Elizabeth is located approximately one mile from the town of Graceham. It was not constructed in a planned community, but it resembles a building intended for a Moravian town. Since the Wellers were Moravians, it is probable they relied on direction from their church in building their houses even though they privately owned their land and buildings. Another Weller house is situated approximately 1/4 mile from St. Elizabeth fronting on Hunting Creek; it is identical to St. Elizabeth and is located on Jacob Weller's original land patent, "Taylor's Lot" (1738) (Tracey, p.187). According to the current owner of St. Elizabeth, he was able to replace his front door with the front door of the other house. The door fit exactly in place even with a 8 light transom. An architectural design from the one of the Moravian centers was most likely employed in constructing the Weller houses.

In basic form and plan, St. Elizabeth ascribes to the Moravian Germanic architecture of the late eighteenth century period seen in Salem, North Carolina: Flemish bond brick, 1 & 1/2 stories, flat brick arches, broad proportions, center hall plan. It closely resembles the plan of the Vorsteher

#### 8.4 Significance (Continued)

House and the exterior of the school for boys, both in Salem (see attachments). Like the Vorsteher House, St. Elizabeth adopted the more English gable end chimneys instead of a center chimney in order to accommodate corner fireplaces in the rooms. It also had the same room arrangement, a center hall flanked by two rooms on either side. As seen in both the Vorsteher House and the school for boys, the building has a full basement with stone walls where the kitchen was placed. The major difference in St. Elizabeth is a 3 bay symmetrical facade rather than the 5 bay facade seen in the other two buildings.

It could be argued that this era of Moravian German architecture was actually a manifestation of English-influenced architecture. Murtaugh notes that the brick tavern in Salem does suggest English origins rather than a Moravian German tradition (Murtaugh, p.121). St. Elizabeth may represent a modification of the Germanic influence that evolved in the Moravian communities. The incorporation of the English influence became widespread in all Germanic buildings but in variant time frames. St. Elizabeth does not clearly represent either Germanic or English architecture of the period or of the region; instead, it exemplifies an evolutionary period of American Moravian architecture.

By 1818, St. Elizabeth passed from Weller family ownership when John Born sold the property to Frederick Willheit (Wilhide) (Land Deed, J.S. NO. 7, 295). By the 1850s, the Eichholtz family resided there with a 90 acre tract. Henry Ramsburg purchased the property in 1864 (Land Deed, J.W.L.C. No.1, 336). From 1910 to 1968, the Jackson family owned the property. In the mid-1970s, William Eyler purchased it and began restoration efforts. Mr. Eyler was able to utilize design elements such as the beaded chairrail and the front door with a transom from the Weller house on Hunting Creek to reconstruct his house. J. Hahn lived in the Weller house on Hunting Creek in 1873. In the 1930s, it was abandoned since the creek had shifted and the area was flooding.

— St. Elizabeth  
Frederick County

Survey No. F-6-86

### 9.1 Bibliography

Map of Frederick County, Maryland, Isaac Bond, Baltimore, 1858.

Murtaugh, William. Moravian Architecture and Town Planning, Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1967.

Oerter, A.E. History of Graceham, privately published, 1901.

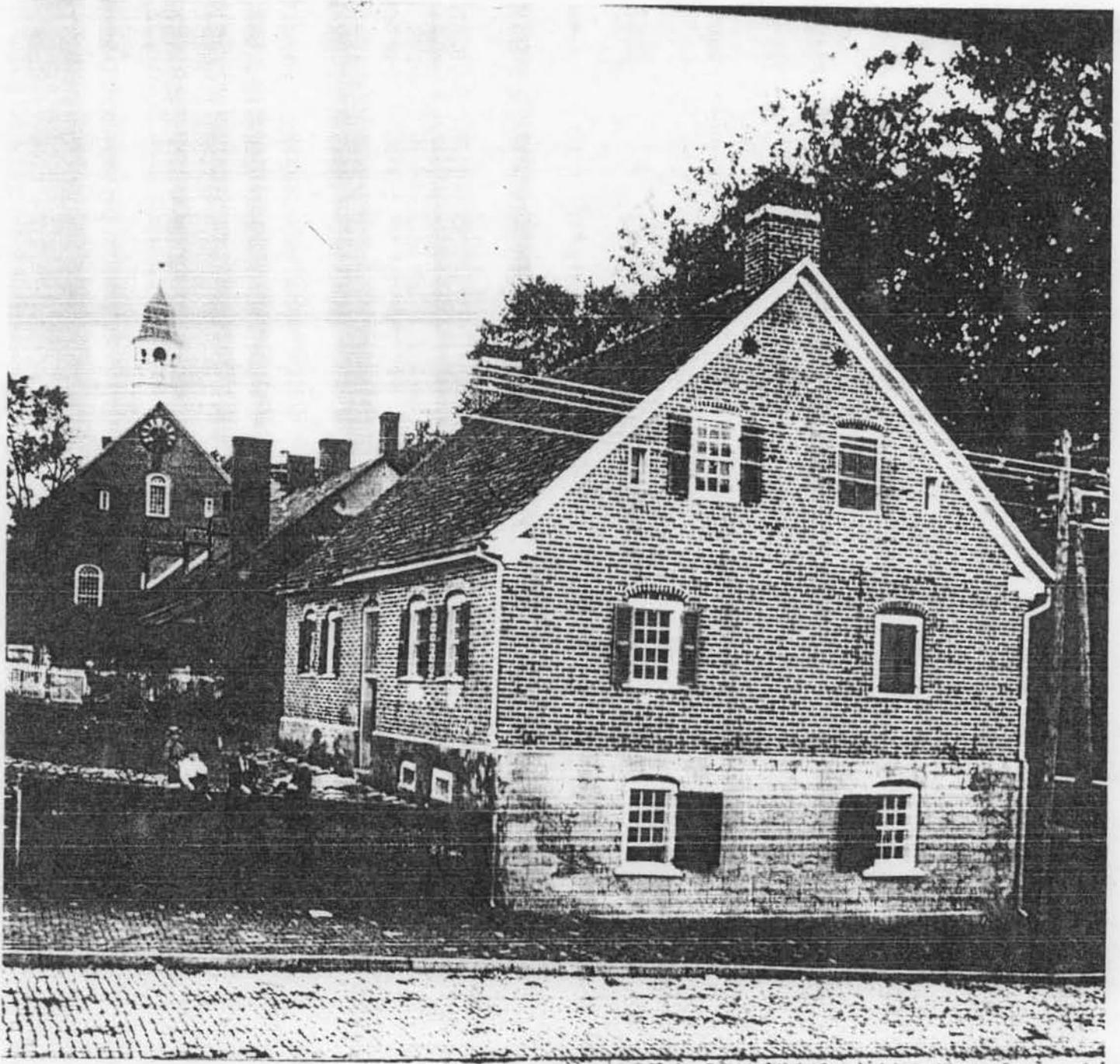
Scharf, J. Thomas. History of Western Maryland, Vol. I, Philadelphia: Louis H. Everts, 1882.

Schildknecht, C.E., ed. Monocacy and Catoctin, Vol. II, Westminster: Family Line Publications, 1989.

Tracey, Grace L. and John P. Dem. Pioneers of Old Monocacy, Baltimore: Geneological Publishing Co., 1987.

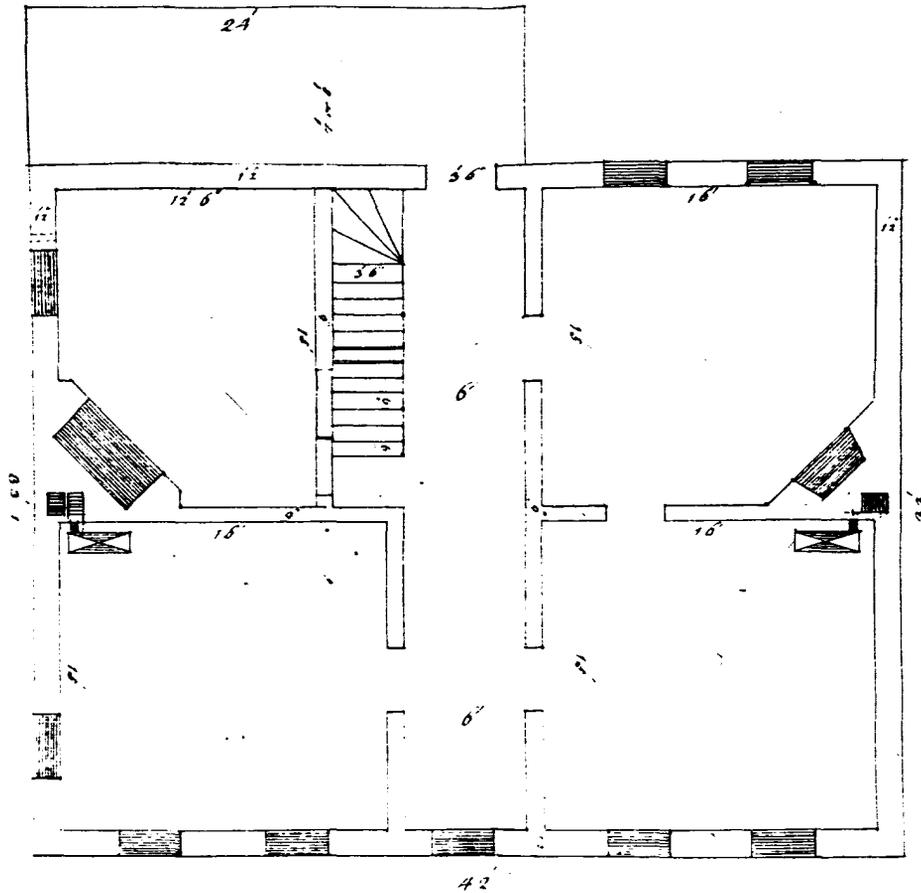
Williams, T.J.C. History of Frederick County, Maryland, Frederick: L.R. Titsworth & Co., 1910.

— Young, Henry James. Moravian Families of Graceham, Maryland, Westminster: Family Line Publications, 1988.



63. Undated Nineteenth-Century Photograph of the 1794 Boys' School, Salem

(William Murtaugh, Moravian Architecture and Town Planning  
Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1967, p. 723)



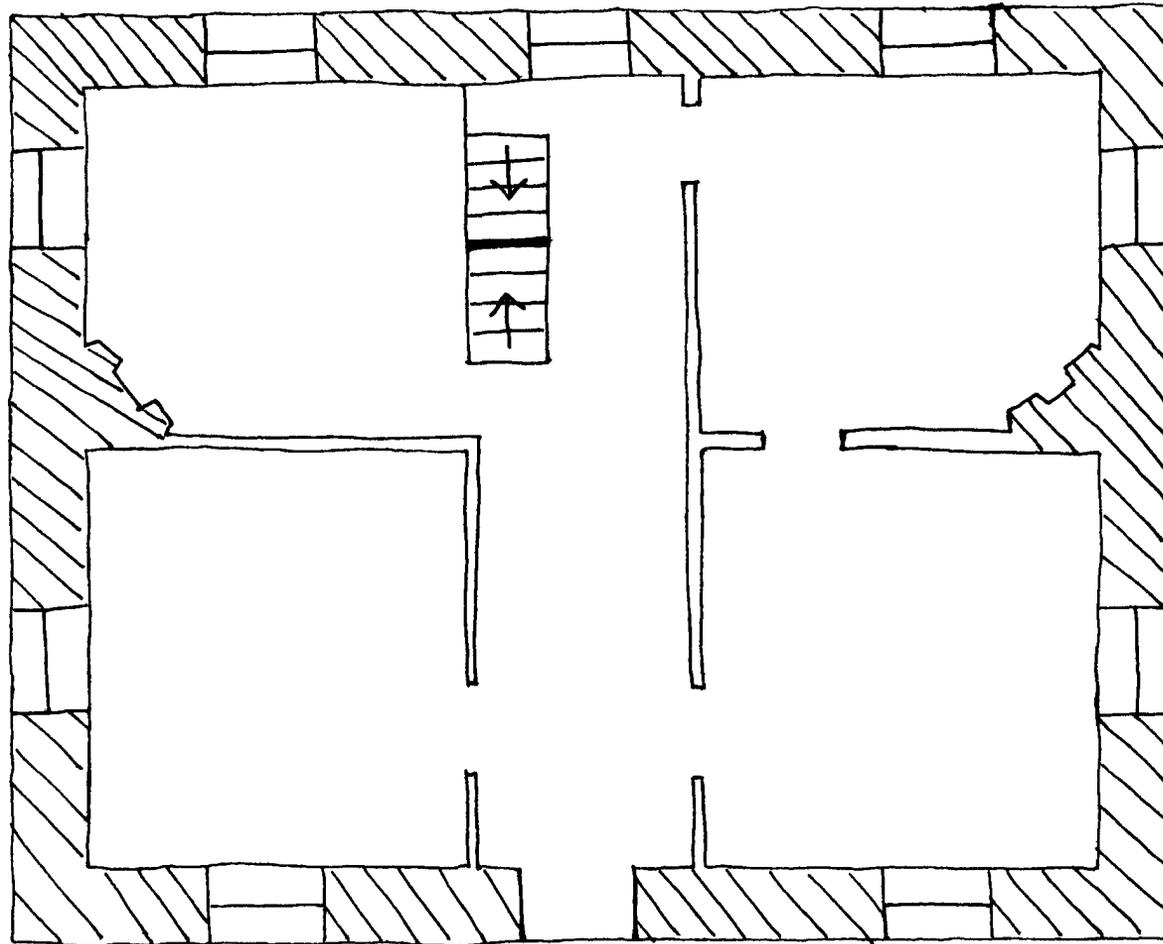
64. Undated Plans of the Salem *Vorsteher* House of 1797

F-6-86  
St. Elizabeth  
Thurmont vicinity  
Frederick County

Attachment B

(William Murtaugh, Moravian Architecture and Town Planning,  
Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1967, p. 125)

←N



F-6-86  
ST. ELIZABETH  
THURMONT VICINITY  
FREDERICK COUNTY

M.K. SHIRE  
JUNE 1991

NOT TO SCALE

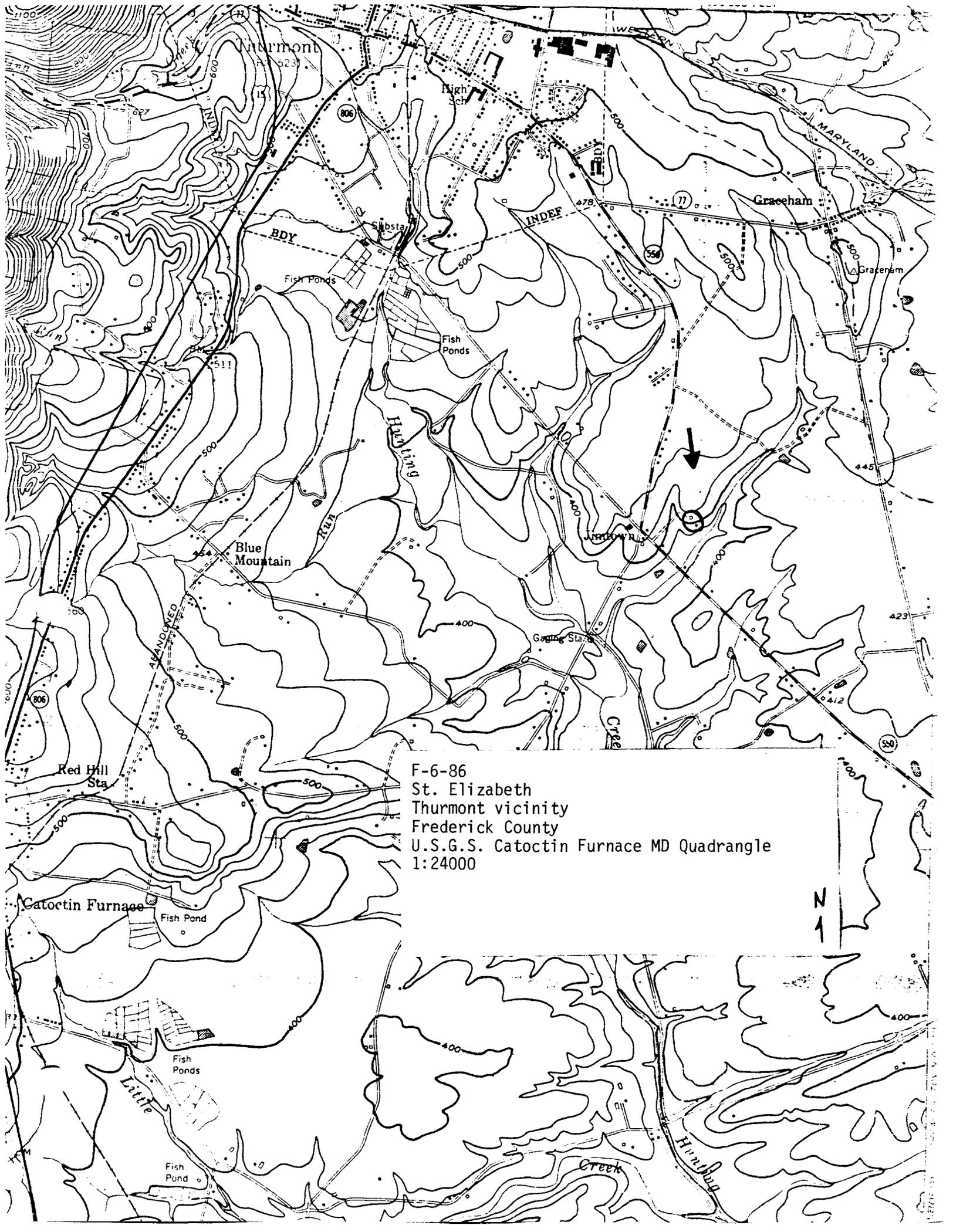
# CREAGERSTOWN

## DIST No. 4

Scale 1 1/2 inches to the mile

F-6-86  
St. Elizabeth  
Thurmont vicinity  
Frederick County  
Atlas of Frederick County, Maryland,  
C.O. Titus & Co., Philadelphia, 1873.





F-6-86  
St. Elizabeth  
Thurmont vicinity  
Frederick County  
U.S.G.S. Catocin Furnace MD Quadrangle  
1:24000





F-6-86

St. Elizabeth

13249 Cragerstown Road

Thurmont vicinity

Frederick County

photo: MARY K SHIPS

May 1991

NEG. loc: MHT

West elevation

V  
2



F-6-86

St. Elizabeth

13249 Craigenstain Road

Thurmont vicinity

Fredenck County

Photo: MARY & SHIRE

May 1991

Neg. loc: MHT

East elevation

2/2