

F-6-87

1780s-1930

Graceham Survey District

Graceham

Private

The Graceham Survey District is a town of 39 contributing buildings constructed between the late 1700s into the early twentieth century, with an overall appearance of a nineteenth century town. The survey district is significant for its origins as an original Moravian community dating from the mid-eighteenth century. Moravian communities were church controlled and church owned and had an ordered development based on the building needs of the community which centered around the Geimenhaus (church). The earliest buildings in the survey district relate to the tenets of Moravian community planning. The district is also significant with its later nineteenth century development that is representative of typical Frederick County linear, road-related towns. This development stage arose from the construction of a major thoroughfare through the center of town which connected early centers of trade and, later, from the placement of the Western Maryland Railroad tracks near the eastern edge of the town.

F-6-87
Graceham Survey District
Graceham
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
Agricultural-Industrial Transition 1815-1870
Industrial/Urban Dominance 1870-1930

Prehistoric/Historic Period Themes:
Architecture, Landscape Architecture and Community Planning
Economic (Commercial & Industrial)
Government/Law
Religion
Transportation

Resource Type:
Category: Buildings

Historic Environment: Village

Historic Function and Use:
Domestic/single dwelling/residence
Domestic/secondary structure/garage
Commerce/Trade/speciality store/blacksmith shop, shoe store,
stores
Commerce/Trade/restaurant/tavern
Government/post office/post office
Religion/religious structure/church
Religion/church-related structure/parsonage

Known Design Source: None

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

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. F-6-87

Magi No.

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Graceham Survey District

and/or common

2. Location

street & number Graceham Road and Rocky Ridge Road not for publication

city, town Graceham vicinity of congressional district 6th

state Maryland county Frederick

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

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

name Multiple owners

street & number telephone no.:

city, town state and zip code

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-6-87

Condition

excellent

good

fair

deteriorated

ruins

unexposed

Check one

unaltered

altered

Check one

original site

moved date of move _____

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-6-87

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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

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-6-87

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

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name Catoctin Furnace MD Quadrangle

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

Zone	Easting			Northing					

B

Zone	Easting			Northing					

C

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D

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E

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F

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Tax Maps 19 & 20

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

state code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Mary Kendall Shipe, Historic Sites Surveyor

organization Frederick County Planning & Zoning Dept. date July, 1991

street & number 12 E. Church Street telephone 696-2958

city or town Frederick state 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:

The Graceham Survey District is a town of 39 contributing buildings constructed between the late 1700s into the early twentieth century, with an overall appearance of a nineteenth century town. The town initially developed with orientation to the Geimnhaus, the Moravian church, as a church-controlled community, but development later shifted towards a linear road configuration along Rocky Ridge Road, the main route into the Thurmont, and Graceham Road, a crossroad. The earliest buildings in Graceham relate to the Moravian origins of the town, while later buildings reflect typical settlement of a Frederick County town on a major thoroughfare. Some of the buildings also are connected to the placement of the railroad on the eastern edge of the town in the late nineteenth century.

The survey district is composed of a wide range of housing types, materials and periods with no predominant example. Buildings that comprise the district are religious, residential, and commercial. Most of the buildings are 2 stories in height. They vary from 3 bays to 7 bays in width. Brick, stone, log and frame construction materials were utilized. Sidings included stucco, weatherboard, german siding, and later, aluminum, vinyl, and asbestos sidings. There are a number of 2 story, 3 bay I-houses, some 2 story, 5 bay facade with center entrance buildings and also some 2 story 4 bay house with 2 front doors represented in the district. Most of the buildings are based on vernacular designs common to the region; some buildings have elements and details that exhibit a greater sense of style including a mousetooth dentilled cornice, transoms and sidelights around entrances, cornice bracketing, jack arched lintels, segmental arches and rounded window surrounds.

Some of the earliest buildings in the district include the following:

Graceham Moravian Church: This 2 story, flemish bond brick building, sheathed in stucco, is located at an important focal point in the district and forms the eastern boundary. Built in 1822, it is 3 bays wide and has a circular tower on a octagonal base. The tower is decorated with elliptical cusps and quatrefoil arches. It is representative of American Moravian architecture. A new 1980s addition is sympathetic to the original structure.

Graceham Parsonage: Constructed in 1797, this 2-1/2 story buildings is of brick construction on a stone foundation that dates from an earlier log building of 1749. It is attached to the church on the east gable end. It is 3 bays wide and 4 bays deep. Like the church, it is representative of late American Moravian architecture.

8218 Rocky Ridge Road: This 1-1/2 story frame and stone dwelling, dating from the first quarter of the nineteenth century, is 4 bays wide with an off-center entrance. The frame section (3 bays) has been sheathed in aluminum siding. The gable roof is covered in composition shingling and has 4 new dormers.

7.2 Description:

8211 Rocky Ridge Road: Constructed in the first quarter of the nineteenth century, this stone dwelling house is 1-1/2 stories with a 3 bay facade and side door placement. There are two brick end chimneys in the gable roof. Window openings have flat lintels. Across the street, a one story stone blacksmith shop (1858 Map) was operated by the owner of this house. It has a 6/6 casement window and a tongue and groove sliding door. The gable roof is covered with corrugated tin.

South side of Rocky Ridge Road: Located one house from the intersection with Graceham Road, this 2 story brick (stuccoed) house dates from circa 1815 and served as John Wilheit's tavern. It has a 5 bay facade with a center entrance with a transom. There is a gable roof of standing seam tin and a mousetooth dentilled cornice.

The following examples are buildings constructed between 1825 and 1870:

Northeast corner of Graceham and Rocky Ridge Roads: This 2 story running bond brick building was constructed in two sections, circa 1860. The facade, which fronts on Rocky Ridge Rd., is 7 bays wide: one section is 5 bays with a center entrance with a transom and sidelights, the other, 2 bays with a side entrance. There is a bracketed cornice and 3 brick chimneys. Windows are 6/6 with flat lintels.

8206 Rocky Ridge Road: Constructed circa 1860, this 2 story running bond brick house has a 5 bay symmetrical facade with a center entrance with a transom and sidelights. There is a dentilled cornice beneath the gable roof. Windows are 6/6 with jack arches. An ornate flat-roofed porch with carved woodwork covers 3 bays of the facade.

8151 Rocky Ridge Road: Constructed circa 1850, this is a 2 story frame building sheathed in aluminum siding. The 4 bay facade included two front doors. The gable roof is covered in standing seam tin. Windows are 1/1 replacements.

8219B Rocky Ridge Road: This 2 story frame building, circa 1840, served as the post office in 1858. It is sheathed in weatherboard and has a gable roof. It has two sections: each section is three bays with a side door. Windows are 6/6 in both sections. A hipped roof porch extends across the full-facade.

8224 Rocky Ridge Road: Built circa 1840, this is a 2 story frame house covered in german siding and comprised of two sections. One section is three bays, the other, 2 bays. There is a gable roof of standing seam tin. Windows are 6/6.

8207 Rocky Ridge Road: This 2 story frame house (circa 1860) has a 4 bay facade and is sheathed in weatherboard. There is one front door that is covered with a 2 bay entry porch. The gable roof has standing seam tin.

8201 Rocky Ridge Road: This 2 story commercial building was constructed by circa 1865 and associated with the tavern next to it. The front gable roof faces the street. It is frame, sheathed in aluminum siding, with a 3 bay facade with a center door.

7.3 Description:

A number of buildings were constructed after the railroad placement near the eastern edge of town. These buildings included the following:

8213 Rocky Ridge Road: Constructed circa 1880, this 2 story german sided building is possibly of log construction. It has an off-center chimney and assymetrical openings. The facade is partially covered with a porch. Windows are 2/2 replacements.

Store on north side of Rocky Ridge Road: Constructed circa 1880, this 2 story commercial building has a front gable facade. It is 3 bays wide with storefront windows and a center door on the first floor. There is a full facade porch with a shed roof.

8212 Rocky Ridge Road: Built circa 1880, this is a two story aluminum sided house of frame construction. It has 3 bays with a center entrance. Windows are 2/2 with rounded surrounds.

13915, and 13917 Graceham Road: These are two examples of 2 story, 3 bay I-houses with 2/2 windows, circa 1885. There is segmental arch treatment above the windows.

8.1 Significance:

The Graceham Survey District is significant for its origins as an original Moravian community dating from the mid-eighteenth century. Moravian communities were church controlled and church owned and had an ordered development based on the building needs of the community which centered around the Geimnhaus (church). The earliest buildings in the survey district relate to the tenets of Moravian community planning. The district is also significant with its later nineteenth century development that is representative of typical Frederick County linear, road-related towns. This development stage arose from the construction of a major thoroughfare through the center of town which connected early centers of trade and, later, from the placement of the Western Maryland Railroad tracks near the eastern edge of the town.

Considered within its historic context, the Graceham Survey District carries significant weight in being the only district in the county with Moravian origins. As compared to other linear, road-related nineteenth century towns, it has a high level of integrity and has experienced no infill from the twentieth century. It has also retained much original and historic fabric throughout the district. Overall, the appearance of the district is that of a nineteenth century village.

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.

8.2 Significance:

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".

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. These missionaries, George Nieke and Lorenz Nyberg, formed a congregation that became an official Moravian community by 1747. Jacob Weller, a Moravian pioneer who was instrumental in helping to establish the Moravian community in Graceham, 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). The present-day Moravian church complex is situated on that tract. In 1781, thirty acres adjacent to Dulaney's Gift was acquired for the establishment of the community. Lots were laid out from this thirty acres.

This community was named Graceham (Gnadenheim) in 1785 by the leaders of the church. Graceham was a church-controlled community from its beginnings in the 1740s until 1815. The church owned the land and rented it to Moravians who wanted to construct houses and live in the village. Under this system, growth and development in Graceham were slow. In 1790, only 30 members out of a congregation of over 200 resided in the village (A.E. Oerter, History of Graceham, privately published, 1901, p. 42). In 1808, Graceham was considered a "well ordered settlement" with "well-built log houses" (Oerter, p.72); twelve houses were located on both sides of the road. A decision was made in 1815 to change church-ownership and control over lots and houses in the village, and the community became open to both Moravians and non-Moravians.

In Graceham as in other American Moravian communities, the German architectural influence was strong and pervasive until the nineteenth century. 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).

8.3 Significance:

Buildings in Moravian centers such as Graceham 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 building at Graceham (1749) and the first house constructed in 1782, Christian Leinbach's house, were of log construction while later eighteenth century and early nineteenth century buildings such as the church parsonage (1797), John Wilheit's Tavern (1804), and the new church (1822) were constructed in brick (Williams, Vol.I, p.496).

By the nineteenth century, there was a "dilution" of the Germanic heritage, and Anglo traditions began to dominate (Murtaugh, p.127). Graceham had begun to experience outside influences in the opening of the community to non-Moravians and in the placement of a major roadway through the center of town by the mid-1800s. Architecturally, buildings in the town became more homogenous with many vernacular 2 story, 3 bay buildings. The more substantial dwellings such as the ones clustered around the intersection of Graceham and Rocky Ridge Roads were 2 story, brick buildings with decorative elements, typical in form and proportion for the nineteenth century period. Development became similar to other linear road-related towns in the county where goods and services were offered to travelers passing through the village. By 1858, Graceham had a post office, a blacksmith shop, a tavern, a public school and a store.

In the late nineteenth century, the placement of the railroad through the town increased the growth of the community. In 1867, the Western Maryland Railroad was given a right of way through land owned by the Moravian church; in 1868, a railroad station and a warehouse were constructed on the tracks on the outskirts of town. Late nineteenth century architectural development occurred with several 2 story, 3 bay I-houses constructed in the periphery of the district. The 1873 Map also shows augmented commercialism with three additional stores.

Like other Frederick County towns, Graceham probably became less of a commercial center with the decline of the railroad in the early twentieth century. There are two early twentieth century one story houses located within the district; other twentieth century building has occurred beyond the boundaries of the district. The survey district is noteworthy in retaining an intact nineteenth century appearance.

Graceham Survey District
Frederick County

Survey No. F-6-87

9.1 Bibliography:

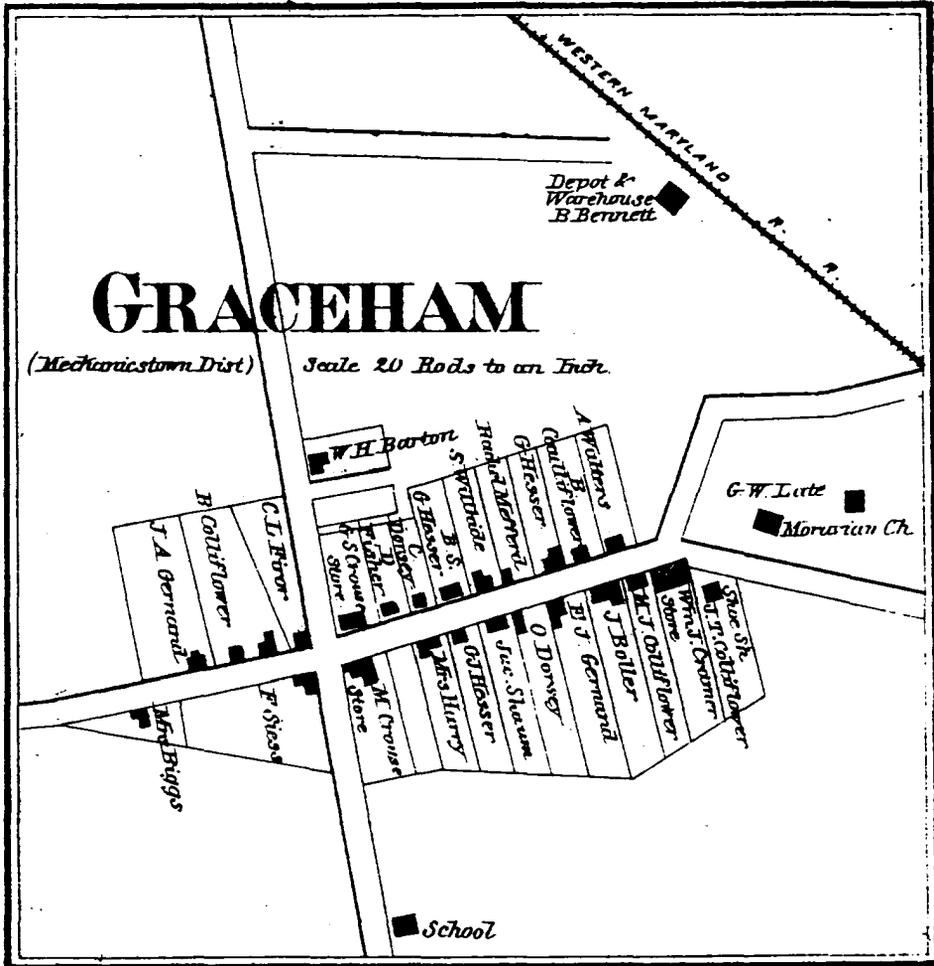
Murtaugh, William. Moravian Architecture and Town Planning, Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1967.

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

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

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.



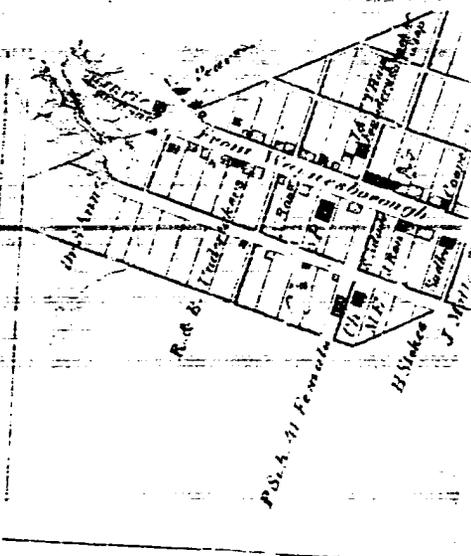
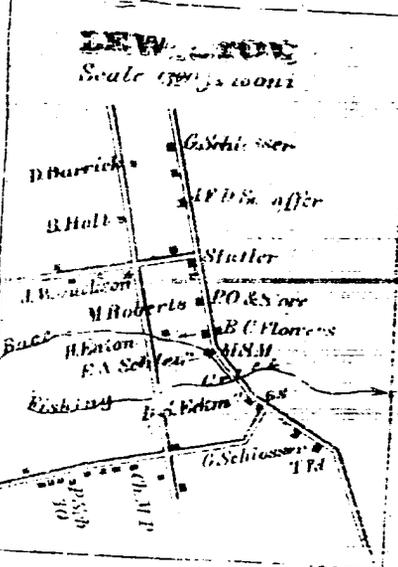
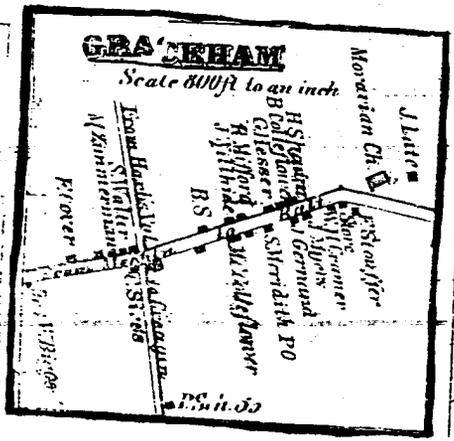
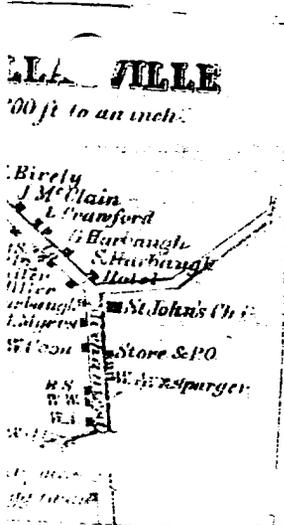
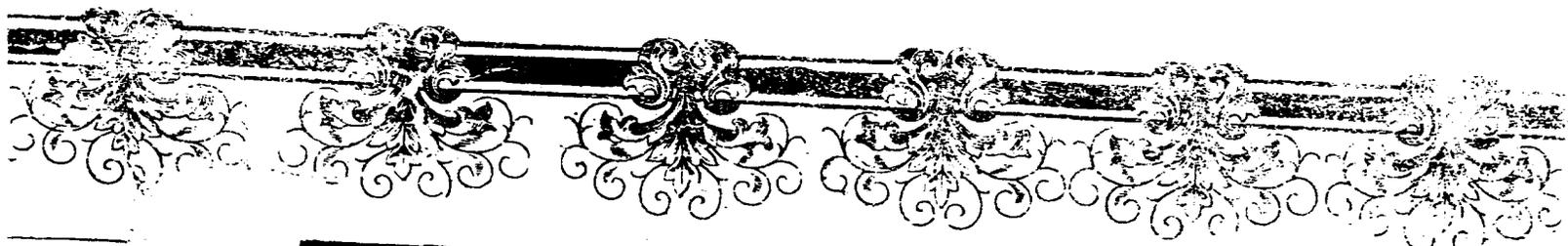
GRACEHAM

(Mechanicstown Dist)

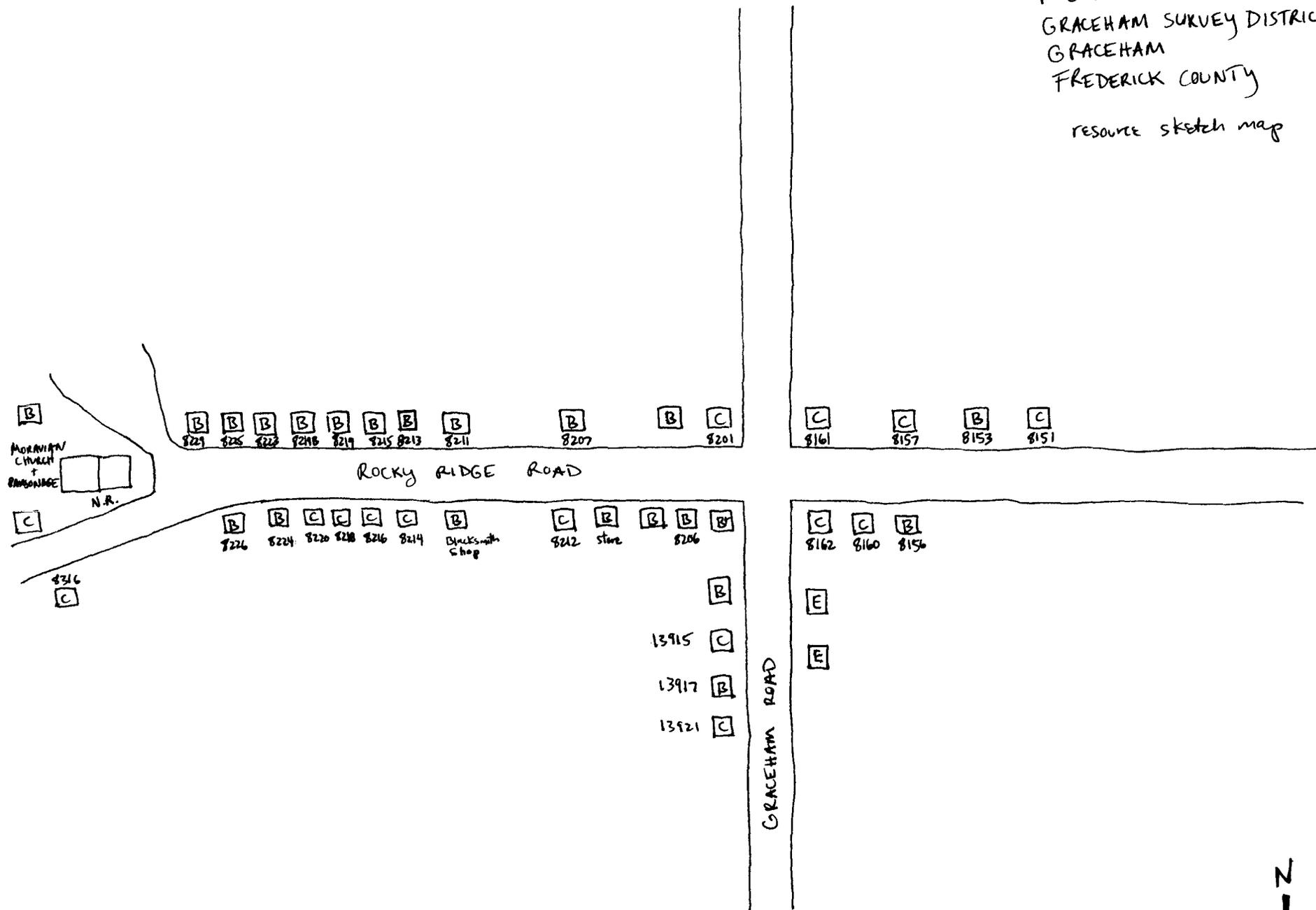
Scale 20 Rods to an Inch.

F-6-87
 Graceham Survey District
 Graceham
 Frederick County
 Atlas of Frederick County, C.O. Titus and Co.,
 Philadelphia, 1873.

F-6-87
 Graceham Survey District
 Graceham
 Frederick County
 Map of Frederick County, Maryland
 Isaac Bond, Baltimore, 1858.



F-6-87
 GRACEHAM SURVEY DISTRICT
 GRACEHAM
 FREDERICK COUNTY
 resource sketch map



M.K. SHIPE
 July '91

NOT TO SCALE





†
GRACEHAM
MORAVIAN
CHURCH
ORGANIZED 1756

F-6-87

Graceham Survey District

Rocky Ridge Road

Graceham

Fredenck County

Photo: MARY K SHIBE

May 1991

Neg. loc.: MHT

Moravian Church and Parsonage - East Elevation

1/10



F-6-87

Graham Survey District
Rocky Ridge Road
Graham

Frederick County

Photo: MARY K SHIPE
May 1991

Neg Loc: MHT

Eastern edge of district - looking west

2/10



F-6-87

Graham Survey District

Rocky Ridge Road

Graham

Fredent County

Photo: MARY K SHIBE

May 1991

Neg. Loc: MHT

8218 Rocky Ridge Rd. + view looking west

3/10



F-6-87

Greatham Survey District
Rocky Ridge Road

Greatham

Fredricks County

Photo: MARY K SHIPE

May 1991

Neg. loc: MHT

8208-8212 Rocky Ridge Rd -
soil elevations

4/10



F-6-87

Braceham Survey District
8207 Rocky Ridge Road
Braceham

Fredricks County

Photo: MARY K SHIPE

May 1991

Neg. loc: MHT

North elevation

5/10



F-6-87

Graceham Survey District
Rocky Ridge Road

Graceham

Frederick County

Photo: MARY K SHIPE

May 1991

Neg. Loc: MHT

crossroads at Graceham Rd. + Rocky Ridge Rd. -
Looking East

6/10



F-6-87

Graceham Survey District
Rocky Ridge Road
Graceham

Fredricks County

Photo: MARY K SHIBT

May 1991

Neg. loc: MHT

Northeast corner of intersection of
Graceham and Rocky Ridge Roads

7/10



F-6-87

Graceham Survey District

Graceham Road

Graceham

Frederick County

Photo: MARY K SHIBE

May 1991

Neg. loc: MHT

Graceham Road looking south

8/10



F-6-87

Graceham Survey District

8156 Rocky Ridge Road

Graceham

Fredenok County

Photo: MARY R SHIPE

May 1991

Neg. loc: MHT

South elevation

9/10



F-6-87

Graceham Survey District

Rocky Ridge Road

Graceham

Fredrick County

Photo: MARY K SHIPE

May 1991

Neg. Loc: MHT

Looking east towards church complex

16/10