

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY  
HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey #: PG #66-29-6 Building Date: 1927/1952  
Building Name: University Park Church of the Brethren  
Location: 4413 Tuckerman Street, University Park, Maryland

Private/Church/Occupied/Good/Inaccessible

Description Summary

The University Park Church of the Brethren at 4413 Tuckerman Street (Lot 5 and the north half of Lot 4, Block 2, Section 1, University Park) is a large, one-story brown brick church with a T-shaped plan and a cross-gable roof covered with asphalt shingles. The church is located on the south side of Tuckerman Street at its intersection with Baltimore Avenue. The building is composed of two wings; the larger sanctuary wing faces Baltimore Avenue to the east, and the smaller parish hall perpendicular to it, faces Tuckerman Street to the north. The building's main entry is located in a projecting front-gabled vestibule at the intersection of the two wings, and is oriented the northeast.

Significance Summary

The University Park Church of the Brethren at 4413 Tuckerman Street in University Park is a good example of a early twentieth century revival style church. Although simply-detailed, the building is representative of european-inspired architecture frequently chosen for American religious buildings throughout the first half of this century. The building is also significant as one of the oldest structures in University Park, an exclusively residential community begun in the 1920's on the former Deakins family farm known as Bloomfield. The Church has been a prominent landmark along Baltimore Avenue since its construction. The original building was designed by local architect Rossell E. Mitchell; the cornerstone was laid in 1927. Construction was completed on an addition facing Baltimore Avenue in 1952; the addition was designed by local architect Herbert J, Moffat.

Acreage: 19,660 sq.ft

PG # 66-29-6

University Park Church of the Brethren  
4413 Tuckerman Street

University Park, Maryland

HISTORIC CONTEXT:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Western Shore

Chronological/Development Periods:

Industrial/Urban Dominance - AD 1870-1930  
Modern Period - AD 1930 - Present

Historic Period Themes:

Architecture, Landscape Architecture, Community Planning  
Religion

Resource Type:

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Suburban

Historic Functions and Uses: Church

Design Source: Rossell E. Mitchell/Herbert J. Moffat

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF  
HISTORIC SITES

Survey No PG#66-29-6

Magi No.

DOE  yes  no

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common University Park Church of the Brethren

## 2. Location

street & number 4413 Tuckerman Street  not for publication

city, town University Park  vicinity of congressional district 5th

state Maryland county Prince George's

## 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 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 University Park Church of the Brethren

street & number 4413 Tuckerman Street telephone no.:

city, town University Park state and zip code Maryland 20782

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Prince George's County Courthouse liber 221

street & number 14735 Main Street folio 155

city, town Upper Marlboro state Maryland

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title N/A

date  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records

city, town state

## 7. Description

Survey No PG#66-29-6

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

The University Park Church of the Brethren at 4413 Tuckerman Street (Lot 5 and the north half of Lot 4, Block 2, Section 1, University Park) is a large, one-story brown brick church with a T-shaped plan and a cross-gable roof covered with asphalt shingles. The church is located on the south side of Tuckerman Street at its intersection with Baltimore Avenue. The building is composed of two wings; the larger sanctuary wing faces Baltimore Avenue to the east, and the smaller parish hall perpendicular to it, faces Tuckerman Street to the north. The building's main entry is located in a projecting front-gabled vestibule at the intersection of the two wings, and is oriented the northeast.

The building is simply-detailed and employs stylistic elements common to a variety of Gothic Revival styles of the early 20th century. Its character defining features include an expansive and steeply-pitched roof, pedimented end gables with boxed-cornices and returns, and engaged buttresses with stone caps. Throughout the building there are multi-light, double-hung windows. On the Baltimore Avenue facade a small stained-glass, circular window is set within a raised brick pointed arch. At the base of the brick arch is a square bronze plaque inscribed with the name of the church. At the northeast corner of the parish hall, a datestone is inscribed with the year "1927". The entry vestibule contains a double-leaf door (which is modern) set in a pointed-arch opening with a tri-partite transom. Above the entry vestibule is a slender wood-frame, copper-sheathed spire. A datestone on the north wall of the vestibule is inscribed "1952".

# 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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates** 1927/1952      **Builder/Architect** Rossell E. Mitchell / Herbert J. Moffatt

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.

The University Park Church of the Brethren at 4413 Tuckerman Street in University Park is a good example of a early twentieth century revival style church. Although simply-detailed, the building represents the european-inspired architectural heritage frequently chosen for American religious buildings throughout the first half of this century. The building is also significant as one of the oldest structures in University Park, an exclusively residential community begun in the 1920's on the former Deakins family farm known as Bloomfield. The Church has been a prominent landmark along Baltimore Avenue since its construction.<sup>1</sup>

The Church Of The Brethren had been established in the community as a Sunday School in 1922, using a nearby schoolhouse. Through the 1920s, the congregation grew, as did the need for larger and more permanent quarters. Board of Trustees' minutes indicate that a downpayment on several lots at the corner of Tuckerman Street and Baltimore Avenue was made in December 1924, and that regular payments were made until the mortgage was satisfied in 1940.<sup>2</sup> Prince George's County Land Records indicate that the current site of the Church, Lot 5 and the northern half of Lot 4 in Block 2, Section 1 of University Park, was not formally conveyed to the Church until June of 1928.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Section 1 of University Park was platted by the University Park Company in September 1923. Prince George's County Subdivision Plats, 2:69. See also "a Brief History Of The Town of University Park", University Park Bicentennial Committee, 1976; p.25.

<sup>2</sup>Letter from Margery Afram, Secretary, University Park Church Of The Brethren, June 10, 1993.

<sup>3</sup>Prince George's County Land Records, 221:155.



The cornerstone for the Church was laid in 1927 and the first service was held on May 29th. Local architect Rossell E. Mitchell had designed the building.<sup>4</sup> Over the next 25 years the congregation grew, and by early 1950, the original building needed to be enlarged. Plans for the expansion were drawn up by Brother Forrest U. Groff, the General Board Architect of the Church of the Brethren, headquartered in Illinois. Working drawings were completed by local architect Herbert J. Moffat. Construction was begun and the cornerstone of the addition was laid in 1952. The new sanctuary was dedicated on February 1, 1953.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>4</sup>Mitchell is known to have designed a number of other churches in the County, including Mount Rainier United Methodist Church (c. 1924) at 35th Street and Bunker Hill Road in Mount Rainier Mount Rainier and Hyattsville. See MIHP# 68-13-36; see also "Afram letter", 10 June 1993.

<sup>5</sup>Oral interview, Marjorie Afram, Church of the Brethren, June 8, 1993.

CHAIN OF TITLE

PG#66-29-6

Church of the Brethren  
4413 Tuckerman Street  
University Park, Maryland

221:155  
16 June 1928  
Deed

University Park Company, Inc. to University Park Church of the Brethren. Grantor conveys Lot 5 and North half of Lot 4 in Block 2, Section 1, University Park. Plat recorded 2:69, 24 September 1923. Same obtained from Riverdale Realty Company, 3 April 1923, 194:64.

194:64  
3 April 1923  
Deed

Riverdale Realty Company to University Park Realty Company. Grantor conveys 284.6 acre tract known as "Bloomfield". Same obtained from James R.H. Deakins, widower, and Elizabeth A. Deakins, unmarried, 20 April 1920, 158:77.

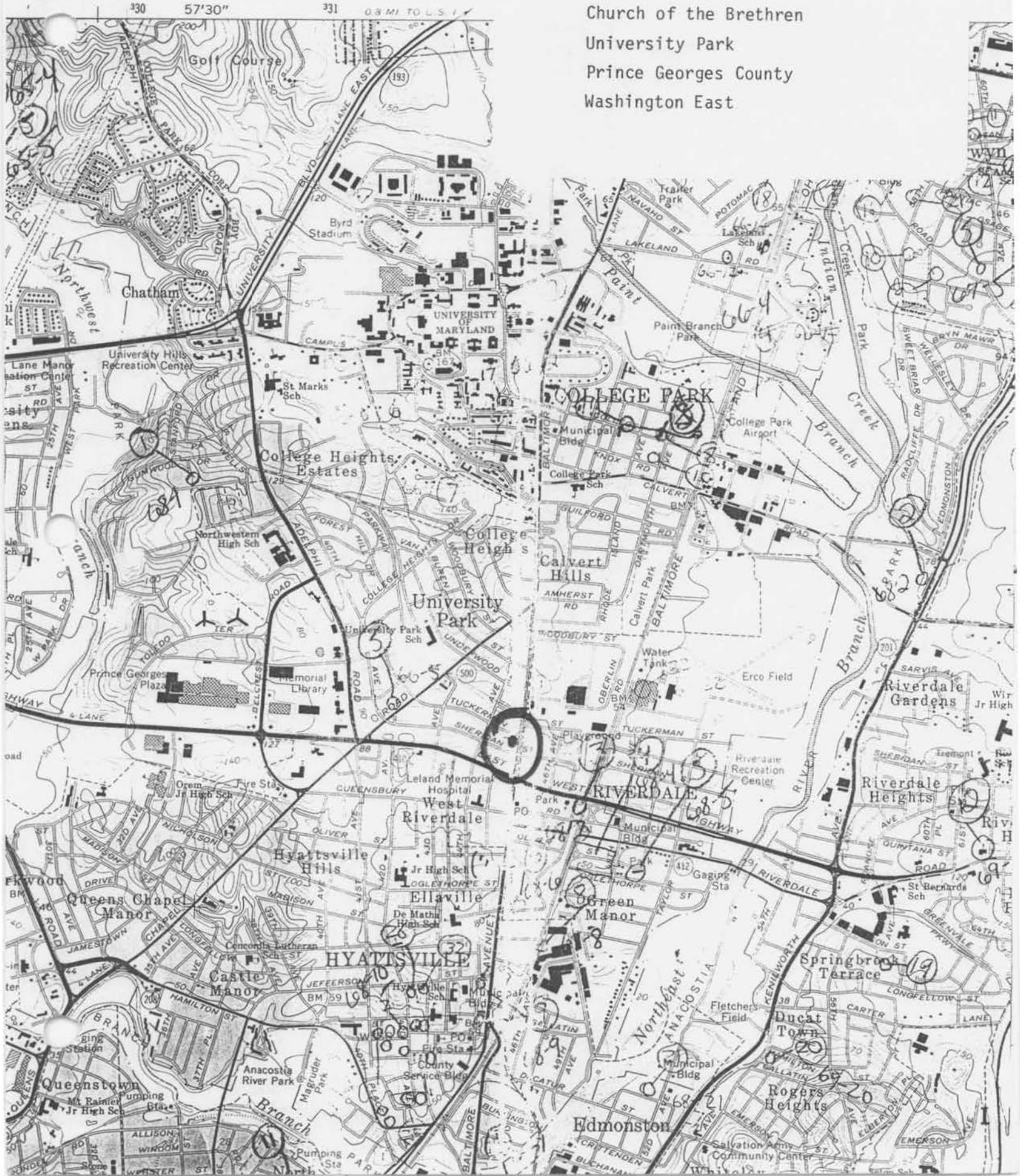
158:77  
20 April 1920  
Deed

James R.H. Deakins, widower, and Elizabeth A. Deakins, unmarried, to Riverdale Realty Company. Grantors convey 284.6 acre tract known as "Bloomfield, the Deakins Farm. Same obtained by will from William Francis Deakins, Will # 1885. To clear title, this deed is made.



PG#66-29-6

Church of the Brethren  
University Park  
Prince Georges County  
Washington East





PG# 66-29-6

UNIVERSITY PARK CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN  
PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND  
HOWARD S. BERGER

February 1943

FROM NE

M. D. SHRO

1 OF 3



PG# 66-29-6

UNIVERSITY PARK CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN  
PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

HOWARD S. BERGER

FEBRUARY 1993

FROM E

MD 5H P3

20F3



PG#66-29-6

UNIVERSITY PARK CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN  
PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

HOWARD S. BERGER

FEBRUARY 1993

FRONT N (detail of cornerstones)

MD SHPO

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