

ABSTRACT

WA-I-319

1855

**Broadfording Church of the Brethren
Gearfoss Vicinity
public-private**

The Broadfording Church of the Brethren, a one story brick structure built in 1855, is an example of mid 19th century rural church architecture. Many small churches like this one are to be found in Washington County. Most were and are the places of worship of Germanic sects, with congregations made up of people whose families migrated from Pennsylvania. The German Baptist Congregation that built this church was organized in 1855.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

MAEI #22010408

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Broadfording German Baptist Church

AND/OR COMMON

Broadfording Church of the Brethren

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Broadfording Church Road

CITY, TOWN

VICINITY OF **Cearfoss**

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Washington

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 type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Broadfording Church of the Brethren

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

C/O Richard Heckman

Route # 2

CITY, TOWN

Greencastle

___ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Pennsylvania 17225

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Washington County Court House

Liber #: **348**

Folio #: **777**

STREET & NUMBER

West Washington Street

CITY, TOWN

Hagerstown

STATE

Maryland 21740

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

___ FEDERAL ___ STATE ___ COUNTY ___ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" 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 < 50%	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Broadfording Church of the Brethren is located on Broadfording Church Road, just north of Broadfording Road southwest of Cearfoss in Washington County, Maryland. It stands on the east side of the road and faces south. A large cemetery is located on the opposite side of Broadfording Church Road. The complex is large and includes a church with several 20th century additions and a school.

The original church building on the property is a one story, six bay brick structure resting on low limestone foundations. Flemish bond brickwork is employed at the front or south elevation while American or common bonding is utilized elsewhere.

Windows have narrow frames which hold nine over six pane double hung sashes under wide wooden lintels. Hinge pins in the frames indicate that shutters were present at one time. The main entrance is located in the third bay from the west end of the front elevation. The double doors have six horizontal panels. A three bay entrance porch with a concrete block base is supported by turned posts.

The church has a modern asphalt shingle roof.

The building was constructed in 1855. For further description of the church see the attached excerpt from T.J.C. Williams History of Washington County.

At the east end of the original church is a two story flat roofed addition dated 1957. A more recent addition extends to the north. In the cemetery west of the church, the oldest graves date from the 1860's.

The complex is in excellent condition.

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/HUMANITARIAN	
<input 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 type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES **1855, Main additon 1957** BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Broadfording Church of the Brethren, a one story brick structure built in 1855, is an example of mid 19th century rural church architecture. Many small churches like this one are to be found in Washington County. Most were and are the places of worship of Germanic sects, with congregations made up of people whose families migrated from Pennsylvania. The German Baptist Congregation that built this church was organized in 1855.

10A-I-319

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Williams, T.J.C., History of Washington County. Hagerstown, Md: Mail Publishing Co., 1906.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 5 acres +

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Paula Stoner Dickey, Consultant

ORGANIZATION

Washington County Historical Sites Survey

DATE

July 1977

STREET & NUMBER

County Office Building, 33 West Washington Street

TELEPHONE

791-3065

CITY OR TOWN

Hagerstown

STATE

Maryland 21740

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
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

OF WASHINGTON COUNTY, MARYLAND.

529

1900. It is located in the village of Chewsville. This amount was secured by subscription. The building is of brick, twenty-two by thirty feet, with slate roof, and a seating capacity of over three hundred. Services are held every two weeks, alternating in the morning and evening. The congregation numbers about twenty-five members. The Rev. J. O. Butterbaugh and the Rev. Calvin Myers, assisted by the Rev. Caleb Long, are the ministers in charge. The Rev. A. B. Barnhart is presiding elder in the district covering the Fahrner, Beaver Creek, Chewsville and Long Meadow congregations.

BROAD FORDING GERMAN BAPTIST CHURCH.—The Broad Fording German Baptist Church was organized in 1855, during which year the present substantial brick house of worship was erected. The edifice is about 73x40 feet in dimensions. The Building Committee was composed of Christian Kieffer, bishop, and Jacob Funk and Joshua Emmert, trustees. The structure cost the congregation about \$3,000. Nicholas Martin hauled most of the brick used in its erection from the brick yard of Michael Horst, near Mautausville, and all of the lumber from Williamsport.

The congregation is in two divisions, the Broad Fording end and the Welsh Run end, each comprising a membership of about two hundred. In the Broad Fording Church, the Sunday-school holds its session during the morning, and early in the evening, the Christian Workers meet for their mutual benefit. Every two weeks, a service with preaching is held on Sunday morning.

Rev. Nicholas Martin, grandfather of the present minister of the same name, was a bishop in these congregations. He was succeeded by John Funk. Other bishops and ministers of this connection are: Christian Kieffer; George Melanahan, Nicholas Martin, George Bricker; George Harmon; Samuel Foltz; F. J. Neibert; Harvey Martin; C. M. Hicks.

The Cemetery of the Broad Fording German Baptist Church is one of the finest and best kept in Washington County. It is situated on a magnificent elevation, overlooking the country for miles around. There are two and one-half acres within the enclosing fence, besides two acres adjoining. Emanuel Niswonger, an enterprising citizen of Franklin County, Pa., has deeded seven-

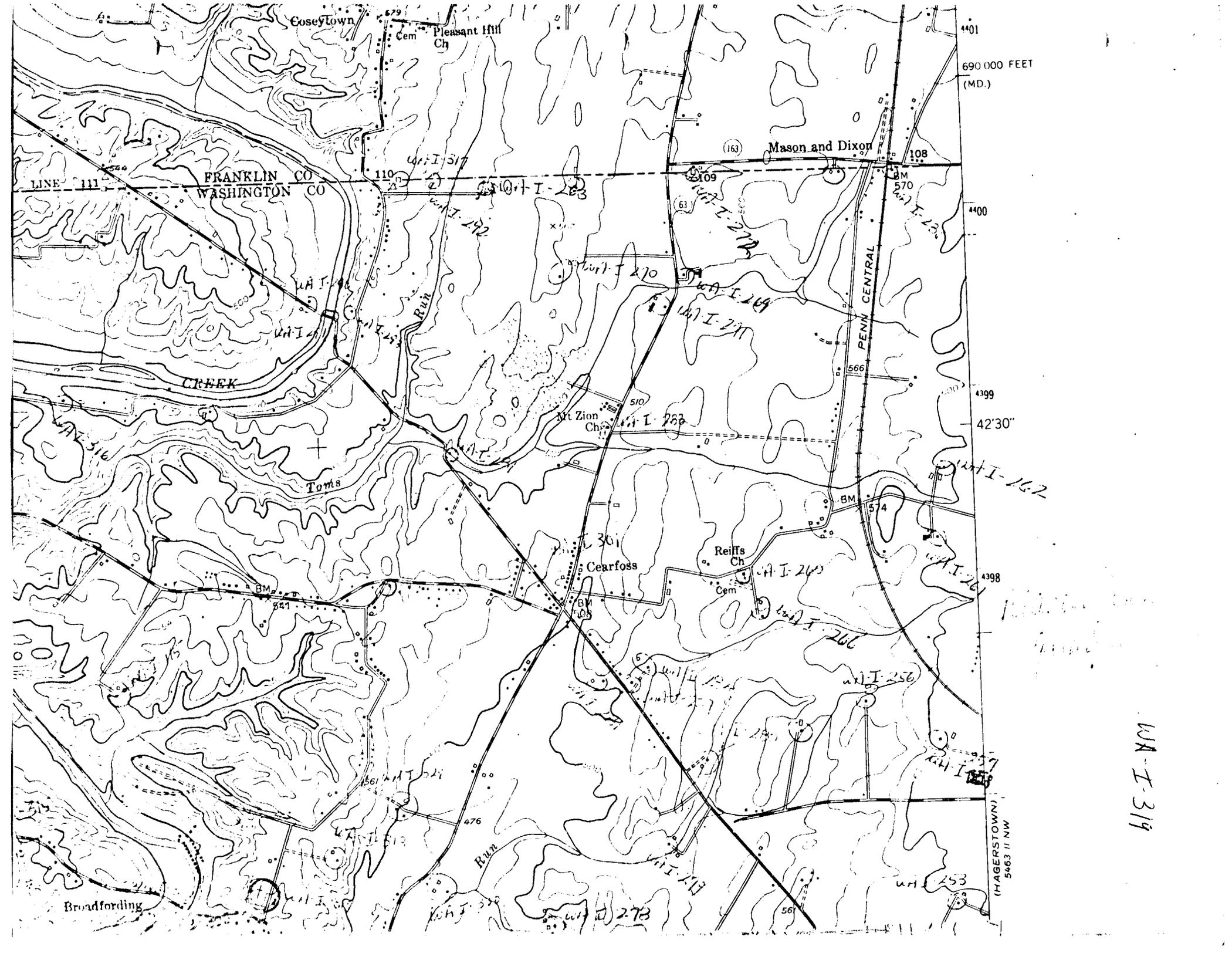
teen acres adjoining this property, to become the absolute property of the congregation at his death, to be used solely for cemetery purposes. There is a Board of seven trustees, with F. J. Neibert as president, which form all rules governing the cemetery. Mr. Neibert is also its superintendent and sexton, and to him is due much praise for the maintenance and beauty of this last resting-place of the beloved dead. The other members of the Board of Trustees are: George Shinham; William Myers; C. M. Hicks; Martin Baer; George Miller; and D. Hollinger.

The first person who was buried in this beautiful city of the dead was Molinda Funk, a sister of J. J. Funk, president of the Second National Bank of Hagerstown. She died from diphtheria, December 11, 1856, aged 18 years, 9 months and 14 days. There are at this writing about eight hundred graves to be cared for.

WELSH RUN GERMAN BAPTIST BROTHERS CHURCH.—Not much of the early history of the Welsh Run edifice can be secured. The building was erected in 1842. It is a one-story stone structure, substantial and strongly built with a basement in the one end. It is located about one-half mile south of the little village of Welsh Run, Pa. Adjoining the grounds is a beautiful cemetery. Elder David Zuck has the oversight of the congregation with the following assistants: Elders John Rowland, L. E. Elliott and others.

THE CREEK HILL GERMAN BAPTIST CHURCH is located in the northern part of Cearfoss District. It is a mission church and there is not a large congregation, because of the close proximity of the Broadfording Church.

THE GERMAN BAPTIST BROTHERS CHURCH, OF HAGERSTOWN, MD.—The beginning of this congregation may be dated from the time, April, 1883, when Elder Hiram Wolf, who died at Mount Morris, Ill., Oct. 8, 1897, and W. S. Reichard, the Elder now in charge of the Church, moved into Hagerstown and commenced holding services in the old Junior Hall, North Potomac street, with ten or twelve members who attended these services. Hagerstown was considered a mission point and belonged to the three



Coseytown
Pleasant Hill Ch
Cem

FRANKLIN CO
WASHINGTON CO

Mason and Dixon

PENN CENTRAL

CREEK

Tom's

Mt Zion Ch

Reiffs Ch

Cearfoss

Broadfording

WA-I-319

690 000 FEET
(MD.)

(HAGERSTOWN)
5463 II NW



WA I 217

1900

1900

PAULA STONER DICKEY
MILLTANT, WASHINGTON CO.
HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY



WV I-219

County of Wayne

Jan 9, 1991

PAULA STONER DICKEY
CONSULTANT, WASHINGTON CO.
HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY