

F-3-90

Bethel Evangelical Lutheran Church
Lewistown vicinity
Private

Ca. 1838; 1881

The Bethel Evangelical Lutheran Church is a one-story brick church originally built in 1838 and greatly rebuilt in 1881 with a large modern foyer built in 1988 on the principal north elevation. Although the original entrance facade is obscured by the foyer, the east and west elevations retain their original three bays with Gothic arched windows filled with late 19th century colored glass. The church is surrounded on the east, south, and west by its associated cemetery, in which is displayed the 1881 bell, removed from the demolished belfry. The church is a fair example of the brick rural church of the late 19th century in Frederick County, although much integrity has been lost by the exterior changes. It also represents the separation of the Lutheran and Reformed congregation of the vicinity in 1881, which had shared the "union" chapel built in 1838.

F-3-90
Bethel Evangelical Lutheran Church
Lewistown
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:
Agricultural-Industrial Transition A.D. 1815-1870

Prehistoric/Historic Period Themes
Religion

Resource Types:

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function and Use:
Religion/religious facility/church

Known Design Source: None

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Bethel Evangelical Lutheran Church

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 9664 Opossumtown Pike not for publication

city, town Lewistown 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 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 Trustees of Bethel Evangelical Lutheran Church

street & number 9664 Opossumtown Pike telephone no.:

city, town Frederick state and zip code Md. 21701

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

pository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. F-3-90

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

Bethel Evangelical Lutheran Church is a one-story brick church built about 1838 with major exterior renovations and additions in 1881 and 1988 which resulted in a modern brick and glass foyer on the north gable end of the original church. The church cemetery is located on the west, south, and east of the building and the Bethel School House (F-3-94) is also located on the church property south of the cemetery. The dates are based on dated stones in the exterior walls and the Williams & McKinsey History of Frederick County (1910). The church is located on the southeast corner of the intersection of Opossumtown Pike and Bethel Road, near Lewistown, Frederick County, Maryland. The principal elevation is on the north.

The east and west elevations of the church have three bays with Gothic arched window openings filled with 4/4 late 19th century stained glass. The roof is composition and once had a belfry which has been removed. The bell, cast in 1881 by the McShane Foundry in Baltimore, is on a small pedestal in the cemetery northeast of the church. The 1838 and 1881 dated stone is at the northwest corner of the original building. The modern foyer conceals the original north entrance elevation. The interior was inaccessible for this survey.

8. Significance

Survey No. F-3-90

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 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 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 type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates C. 1838 **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.

The Bethel Evangelical Lutheran Church is a fair example of the late 19th century rural church in Frederick County. Some portion of the building may date to the original 1838 church on the site, but the general appearance of the original section, built in 1881, is greatly altered by the 1988 foyer added to the north end of the church. However, the east and west elevations and the datestones in the church clearly convey the history of the building, as does the surrounding cemetery with stones dated from the late 1830's to the present. The church was built as a union chapel with the Reformed Church and Lutheran Church sharing the building. Prior to 1838, services had been held in the stone schoolhouse south of the church (F-3-94). In 1881, the Reformed Church built its own church at Charlesville about 1/4 mile southeast of Bethel (F-3-91). In the same year, the present building was erected. The establishment of both churches signaled that the slowly growing population of rural Frederick County had reached a point in numbers and wealth which allowed the two denominations, which had shared buildings throughout the County, to maintain separate churches.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. F-3-90

Bond, Isaac. Map of Frederick County, 1858.
 Land Records of Frederick County, 1858.
 Titus, C.O. Atlas of Frederick County, 1873.
 Williams, T.J.C., and Folger McKinsey. History of Frederick County, 1910. Reprinted
 Baltimore: Regional Publishing Co., 1979; 423, 473.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 2 acres

Quadrangle name Catoctin Furnace, Md.

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

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 Zone Easting Northing

B

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 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

Approximately 2 acres centered on the church on Tax Map 48, Parcel marked with a cross.

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

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Janet L. Davis, Historic Sites Surveyor

organization Frederick County Planning & Zoning Dept. date October 1992

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

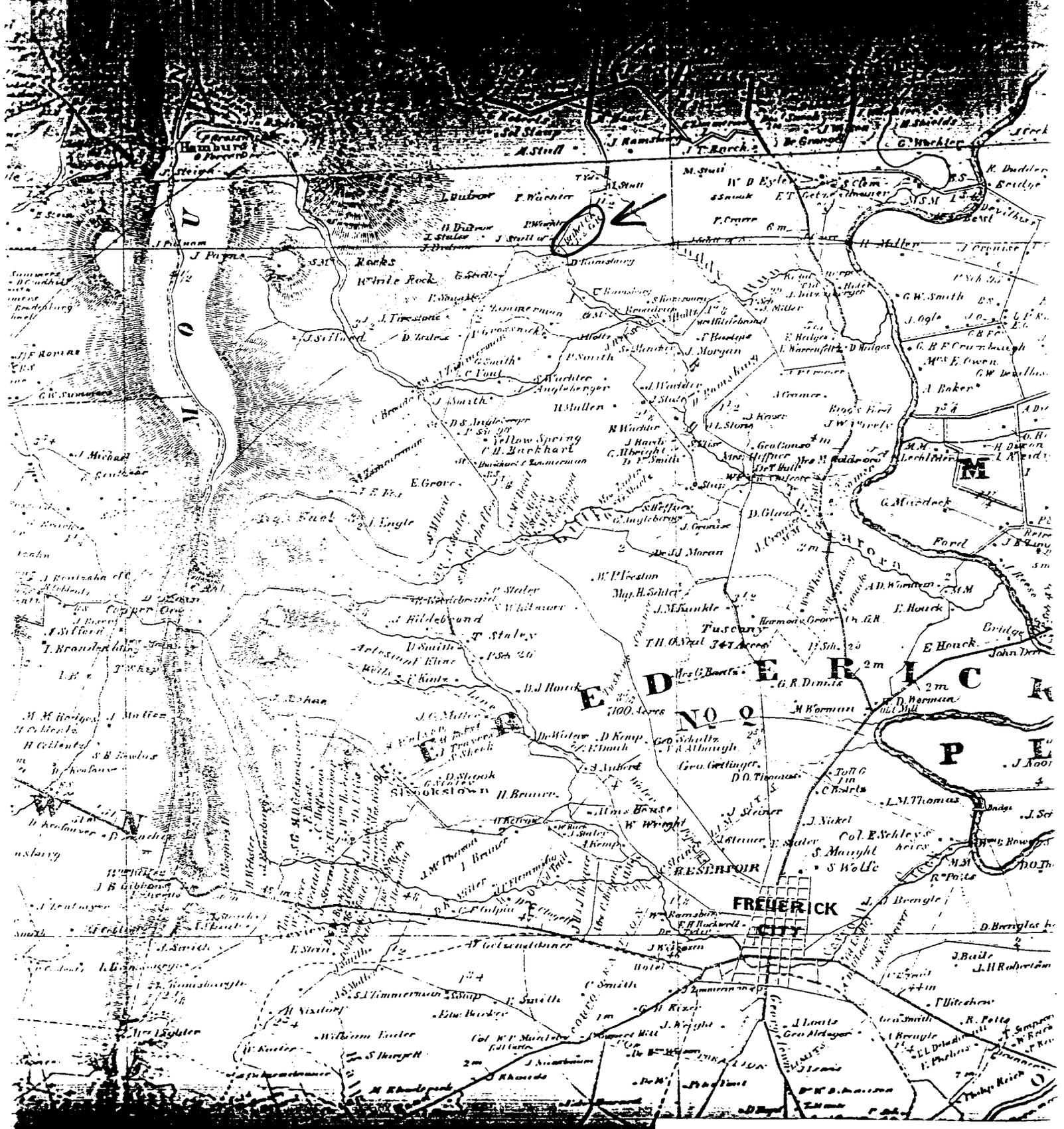
city or town Frederick state Md. 21701

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

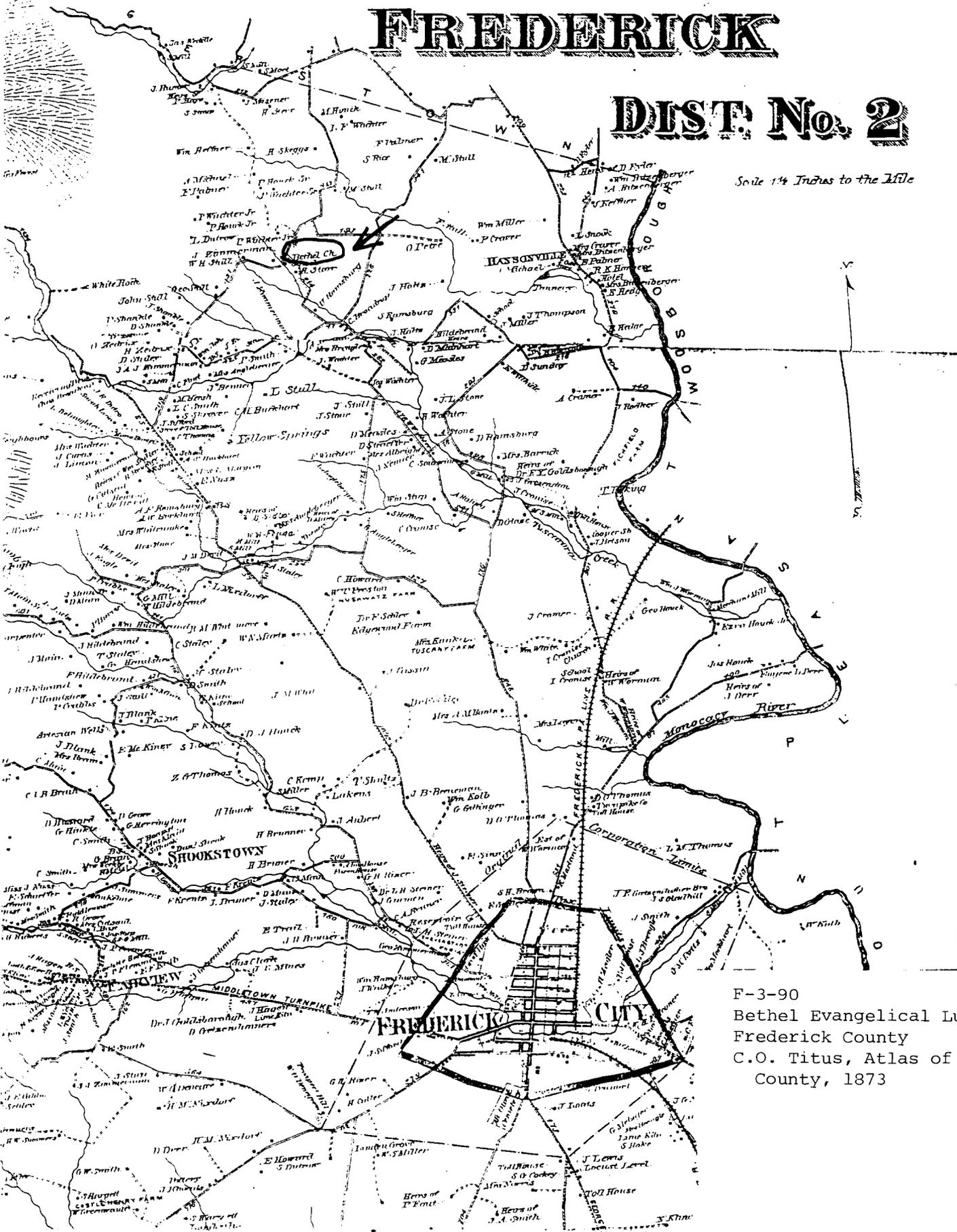
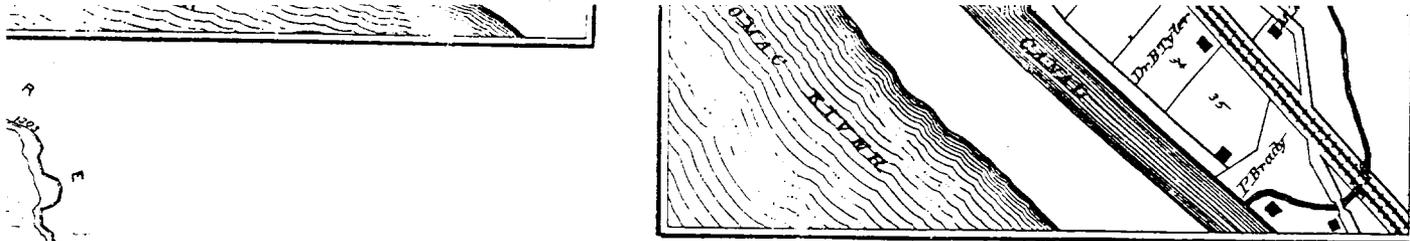


F-3-90
Bethel Evangelical Lutheran Church
Frederick County
Isaac Bond, Map of Frederick
County, 1858

FREDERICK

DIST. No. 2

Scale 1 1/4 Inches to the Mile



F-3-90
Bethel Evangelical Lutheran Church
Frederick County
C.O. Titus, Atlas of Frederick
County, 1873



F-3-90

Bethel Evangelical Lutheran Church

Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

December 1992

Neg. loc.: Md. SHPO, Crownsville, Md

North elevation

1/3



F. 2-10

Bethel Evangelical Lutheran Church

Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

December 1992

Neg. loc.: Md. SHPO, Crownsville, Md

Southwest corner view

2/3



F-3-90

Bethel Evangelical Lutheran Church

Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

December 1992

Neg. loc.: Md. SHPO, Crownsville, Md.

South east corner view

3/3