

Survey No. F-8-106

Ca. 1832-1882

Beaver Dam Church of the Brethren

Johnsville, Maryland

Private

The Beaver Dam Church of the Brethren represents in its 1832 meeting house the second building of the congregation which has been active in the vicinity since the 1760's. The first building was a log structure built before 1790. The 1882 building signifies an internal dispute which resulted in two separate meetings at the same site which continued to share the cemetery. The Church of the Brethren were commonly called German Baptists or Dunkards after the ritual of total immersion baptism. On Varle's 1808 Map of Frederick and Washington Counties, the Beaver Dam Church is identified as "Tunkard", another colloquial term for the sect.

Survey No. F-8- 106
Beaver Dam Church of the Brethren
Johnsville, Maryland vicinity

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 1815-1870 A.D.
Industrial/Urban Dominance 1870-1930 A.D.

Prehistoric/Historic Period Themes:
Religion

Resource Type:
Category: Building

Environment: Rural

Function & Use: RELIGION/Religious Structure/Church

Known Design Source: None

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Beaver Dam Church of the Brethren; Beaver Dam German Baptist Church; Tunkard
Church
and/or common

2. Location

street & number Beaver Dam Road, north of MD Rt. 75 ___ not for publication

city, town Johnsville 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 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 Old Order German Baptist Church

street & number Route 1, Beaver Dam Road telephone no.:

city, town Union Bridge state and zip code MD 21791

5. Location of Legal Description

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

street & number 100 West Patrick St. 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-8-106

Condition		Check one	Check one
<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.

Contributing Resource Count: 2

(Typed on separate sheet)

8. Significance

Survey No. F-8-106

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/ 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 Ca. 1832-1882 **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)

7.1 Description

Beaver Dam Church of the Brethren is a one-story stuccoed stone meeting house built in 1832 on the east side of Beaver Dam Road about 1/2 mile north of Green Valley Road (MD Rt. 75) near Johnsville, Maryland. The building is oriented to the northwest with the main entrance in the gable end. Above the entrance in the gable is a stone dated 1832. The doorway is a pair of eight raised panel doors under a five-light transom. The doorway is flanked by two window bays. The side elevations have 7 bays. All windows were closed with 6-panel shutters at the time of survey. The southeast elevation has an exterior stone chimney with a battered profile. It is stuccoed and is flanked by two window bays. A basement entrance is located at the southeast corner and a second main floor entrance is on the south elevation. The roof is standing seam tin with a box cornice.

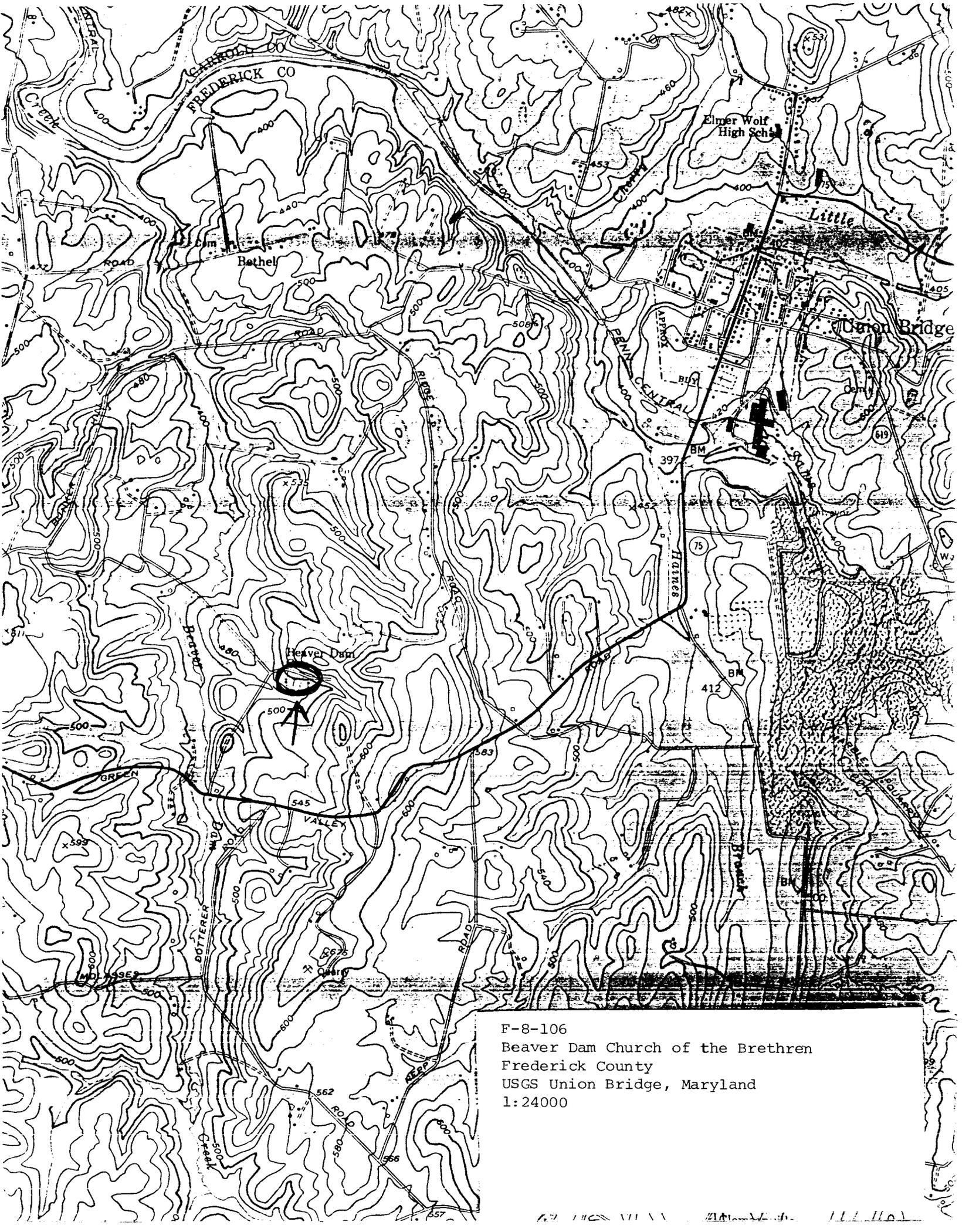
A second church building is located about 100 yards east of the 1832 meeting house. This is a brick church built originally in 1882 after a doctrinal controversy caused a split among the Beaver Dam members. The building was extensively rebuilt in 1977. It is a meeting house plan with a projecting cross gable section on the north elevation. The walls are stretcher bond and the windows are 8/12 with paneled bases in the main section. The entrance is on the north gable end of the projection, through double 6-panel doors under an 18-light transom. A semi-circular fan window is in the gable above the door. The two windows flanking the doorway do not have paneled bases as do those in the main section. The roof is composition and a small chimney rises from the southeast gable end. Dated stones from the original 1882 building and the 1977 rebuilt structure are located at each corner of the entrance projection.

A large cemetery with burials dating from the last quarter of the 18th century is located between the two church buildings.

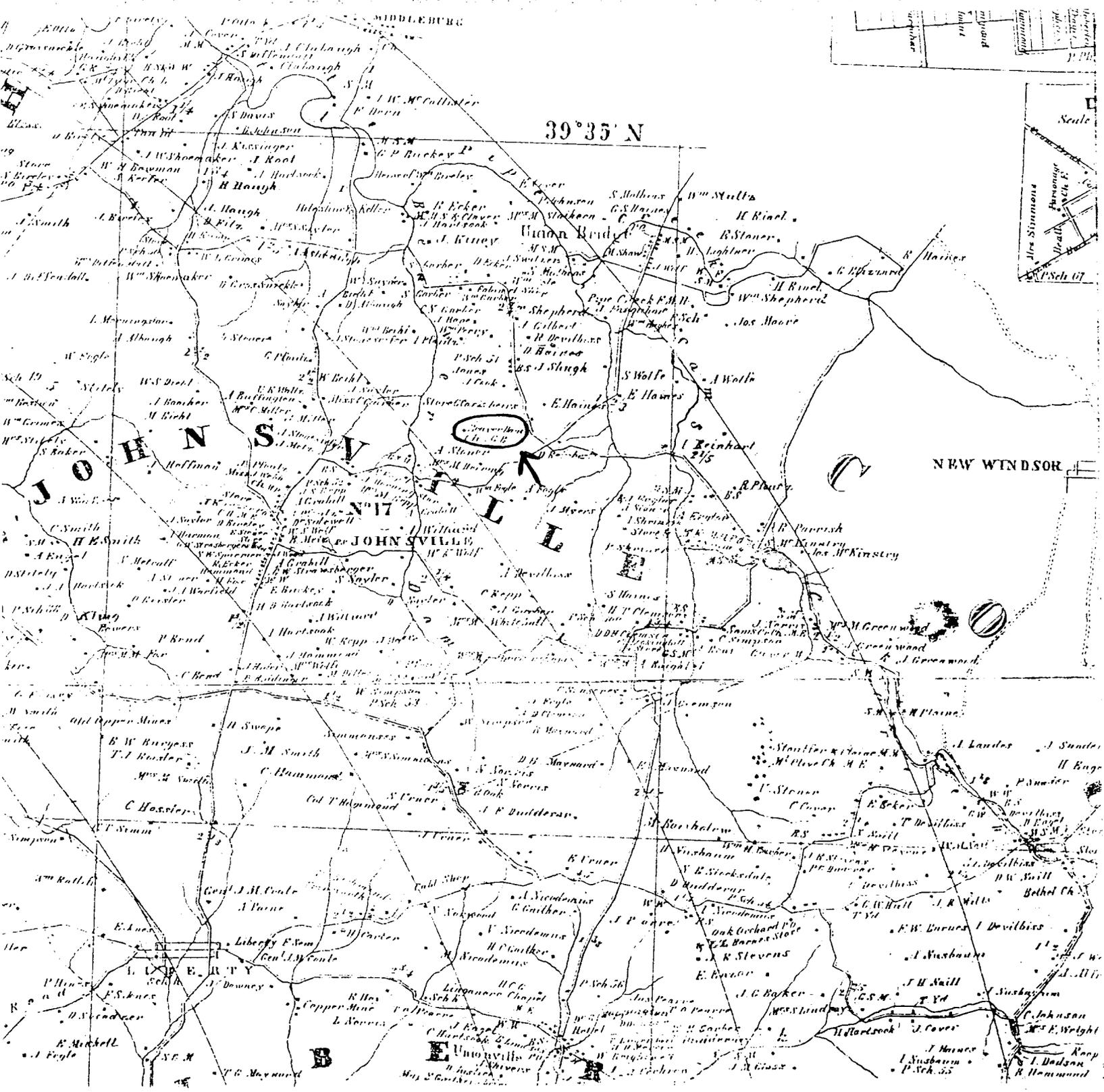
8.1 Significance

The Beaver Dam Church of the Brethren represents in its 1832 meeting house the second building of the congregation which has been active in the vicinity since the 1760's. The first building was a log structure built before 1790. The 1882 building signifies an internal dispute which resulted in two separate meetings at the same site which continued to share the cemetery. The Church of the Brethren were commonly called German Baptists or Dunkards after the ritual of total immersion baptism. On Varle's 1808 Map of Frederick and Washington Counties, the Beaver Dam Church is identified as "Tunkard", another colloquial term for the sect.

The Beaver Dam congregation is the second oldest Brethren church in Frederick County. It is one of seven Brethren churches that existed in Maryland by 1770. Further research to expand and develop the religious context is recommended. Interior description and documentation of the two Beaver Dam buildings is also needed.



F-8-106
Beaver Dam Church of the Brethren
Frederick County
USGS Union Bridge, Maryland
1:24000

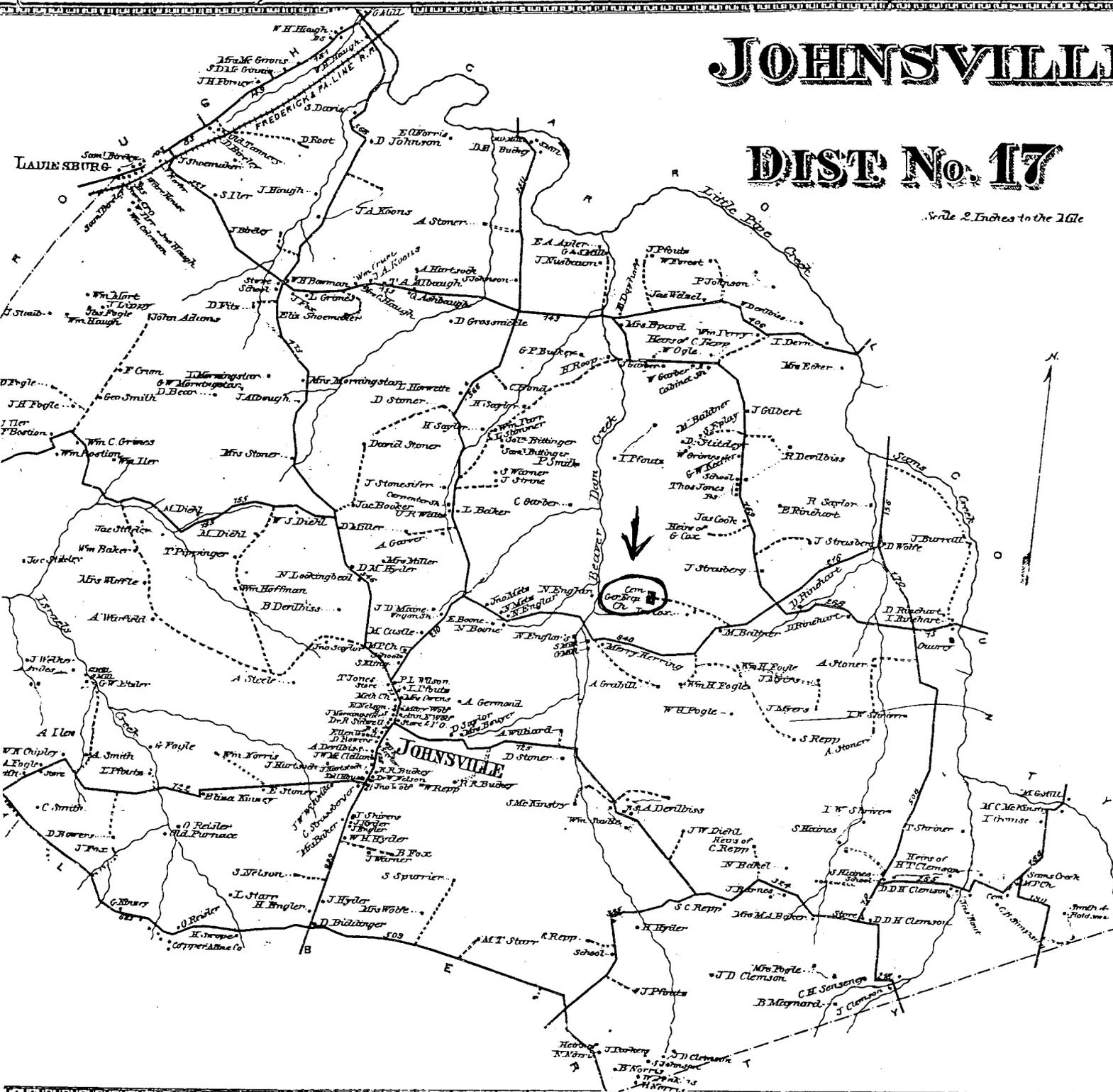


F-8-106
 Beaver Dam Church of the Brethren
 Frederick County
 Isaac Bond, Map of Frederick County,
 1858

JOHNSVILLE

DIST No. 17

Scale 2 Inches to the Mile



F-8-106

Beaver Dam Church of the Brethren
Frederick County

C.O. Titus, Atlas of Frederick County,
1873



F-8-106

Beaver Dam Church of the Brethren
Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

April 1991

log. loc.: Maryland Historical Trust
- Townsville, MD

1832 Church, west elevation

1/3



F-8-106

Beaver Dam Church of the Brethren
Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

June 1991

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

East elevation, 1832 church

2/3



F-8-106

Beaver Dam Church of the Brethren
Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

April 1991

Neg. loc.: Maryland Historical Trust
Crownsville, MD

1882 Church, north elevation

8/3