

ABSTRACT

WA-II-290

18th Century

Mt. Hebron Church Site and Cemetery
Keedysville Vicinity
private

The Mt. Hebron Church Site and Cemetery located along Hebron Road south of Keedysville in Washington County are significant for their association with the establishment of the United Brethren in Christ, now the United Methodist Church. It is said by historians that the United Brethren denomination was the first to have originated in America. This site, being preserved as an historic shrine by the United Methodist Church, also has educational significance as an aid in the interpretation of cultural and church history. Since the two church buildings were located on this tract and were used from, presumably 1774 to the late 19th century, there is a potential for further archeological research to find additional information about these structures and the people who used them.

Further significance is derived from the undisturbed wooded terrain surrounding the site which offers many scenic views.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

WA-II-290
District 19
Map 73
Parcel 84

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Mt. Hebron Church Site and Cemetery

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Hebron Road

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Maryland

— VICINITY OF Keedysville

COUNTY

Washington

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: Cemetery

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Trustees of the Baltimore Conference of the Methodist Church Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

C/O William B. Stansbury, 601-602 Md. Trust Bldg., Calvert & Redwood Sts.

CITY, TOWN

STATE, zip code

Baltimore

— VICINITY OF

Maryland 21202

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Washington County Court House

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 type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Mt. Hebron Church Site and Cemetery is located along Hebron Road approximately 3/4 mile south of Keedysville in Washington County, Maryland. The site is reached by a partially improved County-owned road which extends from Dog Street Road to the Main Street of Keedysville.

The property is located on a bluff above the east bank of the Little Antietam Creek. The wooded terrain is hilly and liberally studded with limestone outcroppings.

The cemetery is enclosed by a wall of native limestone employing thin pieces of rock placed in layers without mortar. Within this stone fence, situated on the west side of Hebron Road is the site of an 18th century log meeting house where church services were held by the Reverend George Adam Geeting and other pastors. Prior to construction of the church, worship services were given in a nearby school where Geeting was the instructor. Although neither the school nor the church remains, archeological exploration conducted about 1950 and sponsored by the Reverend D. Homer Kendall, a former pastor, has revealed the probable location and dimensions of the original meeting house. The structure is said to have been in use by 1774.

In the cemetery are numerous tombstones dating from the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries. Among the graves is that of the Reverend George Adam Geeting, first pastor of the church who died in 1812. Also present is a monument to the first United Brethren in Christ Church, the Geeting Meeting House.

East of Hebron Road, opposite the cemetery, is the site of the stone Mt. Hebron Church built in 1845 to replace the log meeting house. Although it no longer stands, contemporary sketches of it remain and church historians have established its foundation lines. Near the site of this church is a large rectangular stone slab believed to have been a mounting block. Evidence has been found along the creek of a quarry where stones for this building may have been cut. In 1870, the stone church was replaced by the present structure, the Salem United Methodis Church in Keedysville.

The Mt. Hebron Church and Cemetery Site includes 1.70 acres. Although the Mt. Hebron Congregation now worships at the Salem Church, members are maintaining the Mt. Hebron Site.

The history of Hebron Road is discussed in form WA-II-291.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

WA-II-290

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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
	<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			Scenic Value

SPECIFIC DATES	BUILDER/ARCHITECT
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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Mt. Hebron Church Site and Cemetery located along Hebron Road south of Keedysville in Washington County are significant for their association with the establishment of the United Brethren in Christ, now the United Methodist Church. It is said by historians that the United Brethren denomination was the first to have originated in America. This site, being preserved as an historic shrine by the United Methodist Church, also has educational significance as an aid in the interpretation of cultural and church history. Since the two church buildings were located on this tract and were used from, presumably 1774 to the late 19th century, there is a potential for further archeological research to find additional information about these structures and the people who used them.

Other significance is derived from the undisturbed wooded terrain surrounding the site which offers many scenic views.

During the second half of the 18th century George Adam Geeting, a school master and farmer near the Little Antietam Creek developed a friendship with Philip Otterbein, founder of the Church of the United Brethren in Christ which evolved from the German Reformed faith. Otterbein made frequent visits to the Antietam Valley to conduct worship services. Eventually Geeting, influenced by Otterbein, began to preach weekly sermons, presumably in his school building. According to historians a church was built at the Hebron Road site by Geeting and his followers and was in use by 1774 making it the first church of the denomination.

The land for the Mt. Hebron Church and the Geeting Meeting House was given by Elias Snively who owned several thousand acres known as Fellfoot, near present Keedysville.

A detailed interpretation of the history of Mt. Hebron Church and Salem United Methodist Church prepared for the bicentennial of the Church in 1974 is attached.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Salem, Committee on Records & History. United Brethren in Christ. Bicentennial Program and Historical Souvenir, 1974.
Scharf, J. Thomas. History of Western Maryland. Philadelphia: Louis H, Everts, 1882.
Schildt, John W., Drums Along the Antietam. Parsons, W. Va: McClain Printing Co., 1972.
Washington County Land Records.
Williams, T.J.C., History of Washington County. Hagerstown: Mail Publishing Co., 1906.
CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1.70 acres.

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	COUNTY
STATE	COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE	DATE
<u>Paula Stoner Dickey, Consultant</u>	<u>June 1976</u>
ORGANIZATION	TELEPHONE
<u>Washington County Historical Sites Survey</u>	<u>791-3065</u>
STREET & NUMBER	STATE
<u>County Office Building, 33 West Washington Street</u>	<u>Maryland 21740</u>
CITY OR TOWN	
<u>Hagerstown</u>	

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

WA-II-290

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
CORPS OF ENGINEERS

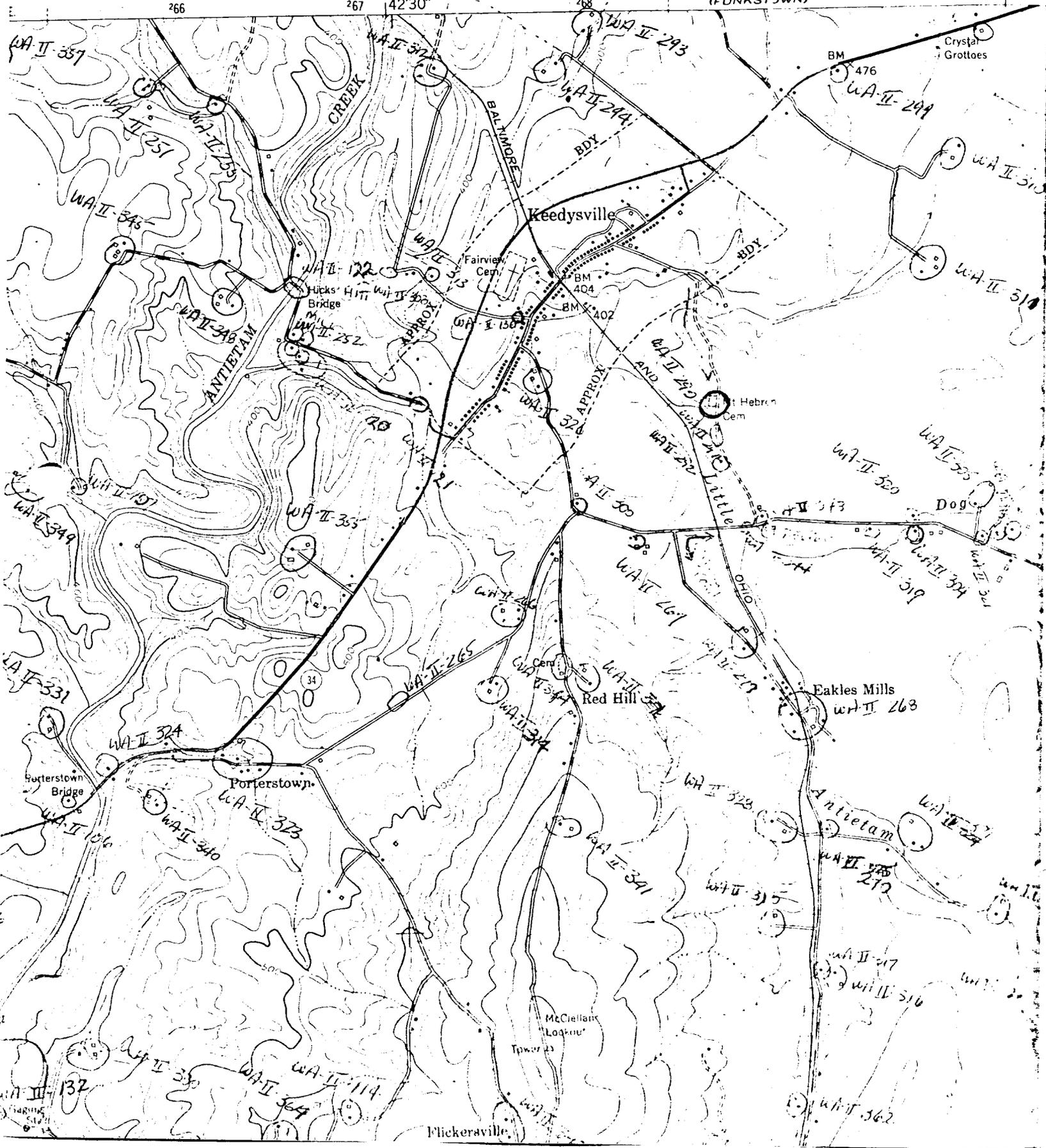
5463 II SW
(FUNKSTOWN)

266

267

42'30"

268



THE FOLKERSHAM JUNIOR
CLASS OF 1888
DONOR

Rowen	ANSELL
Rowen	EDWARDS
Rowen	HARDAGE
Rowen	WILKINSON
Rowen	WILSON

WA-II-290

W. View

March, 1976

PAULA STONER DICKEY
CONSULTANT, WASHINGTON CO.
HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY



WA-TT-290

Church site W. view.

March, 1976

PAULA STONER DICKEY
CONSULTANT, WASHINGTON CO.
HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY



WA-II-290

S. W. View.

March, 1976

PAULA STONER DICKEY
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HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY



GEORGE ASETIME SMITH
BORN IN
...
...
...
...

WA-II-290

Geeting marker

March, 1976

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WA-II-290

Rock quarry, Little Antietam

S.E. view.

March, 1976

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WA-II-290

Mounting block

March, 1976

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WA-II-290

Second Church site
E. View.

March, 1976

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HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY



IN MEMORY OF
THE
LATE
MR.
J. A. GIBBS
DIED
MAY 10, 1880
AGED 65 YEARS

IN MEMORY OF THE
SERVING MEN OF THE
UNITED STATES
ARMY
DIED
J. A. GIBBS, Private
DIED
MAY 10, 1880
DIED
MAY 10, 1880
DIED
MAY 10, 1880
DIED
MAY 10, 1880

WA-II-290

N. E. View
March, 1916

PAULA STONER DICKEY
CONSULTANT, WASHINGTON CO.
HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY