



VIRGINIA
HISTORIC LANDMARKS COMMISSION

File no. 76-307
Negative no(s). 5176

SURVEY FORM

Historic name Old Bradley Meeting House	Common name A.K.A. German Baptist Brethren Church;
County/Town/City Prince William County	Church of the Brethren; Dunkard Church
Street address or route number 11501 Bradley Forest Rd., Brentsville, Va.	
USGS Quad Independent Hill Quad.	Date or period 1899-1901
Original owner Trustees of German Baptist/ Original use Church Brethren Church	Architect/builder/craftsmen
Present owner Joseph G. Berry, Jr. & D. Berry	Source of name
Present owner address Trustees, 2531 Chain Bridge Rd., Vienna, Va. 22180	Source of date Deeds, church history, arch. evidence.
Present use Church	Stories 1 story
Acreage .01 acre	Foundation and wall const'n Stone foundation, frame wall construction.
	Roof type Metal-covered gable roof.

State condition of structure and environs Building and grounds are in fair condition.

State potential threats to structure
Note any archaeological interest

Should be investigated for possible register potential? yes no

Architectural description (Note significant features of plan, structural system and interior and exterior decoration, taking care to point out aspects not visible or clear from photographs. Explain nature and period of all alterations and additions. List any outbuildings and their approximate ages, cemeteries, etc.)

This small, frame-built church rests on a red sandstone foundation which has been repaired in one place with cinder blocks. The church's exterior is covered with weatherboards painted brown. There is plain white-painted box trim around the door and windows (oversize 6/6 sash). Stylistic features include gable returns, a box cornice, and double cornerboards. The double front door has two plain panels per side and is apparently a replacement. There is a two-light overhead above the door. The church was previously painted white with dark trim. The front steps and sidewalk are of cinder block and cement. The church yard is not landscaped. There is a gravel parking lot north of the church.

Beside this church to the south is a small cemetery which contains at least 50 markers. This cemetery once surrounded a Methodist church that was destroyed by fire. The burials seem to date from the late 19th century to the present. The gravestones bear the following names: Bell, Cooper, Maphis, Dodd, Brill, Randall, Burke, Weeks, Bean, Warring, Robinson, Keys, and McGrath, to name a few. The site of the Old Bradley Methodist Episcopal Church is an approximately .3 acres owned by the Bradley ME Church Trustees. The church parcel had been conveyed to that congregation by Thomas and Martha Jones in 1898, and enlarged in 1905.

Interior inspected?

Historical significance (Chain of title: individuals, families, events, etc., associated with the property.)

In 1899, Thomas and Martha Jones deeded a 73-foot square parcel of land on the Sinclair Mill Road at Bradley to J. J. Conner, J. J. Kane, and W. M. Kline, Trustees of the Church of the Brethren, Manassas, Va., also known as the German Baptist Brethren Church. Bradley Meeting House was completed in 1901, and meetings were held there regularly for many years. The congregation sold the Bradley property in 1946, but the building has continued to be used for religious purposes.

Brethren church members came to the Manassas area in the 1880s, most of them having come from Pennsylvania and the Shenandoah Valley. By 1885, area Brethren were meeting in the Bradley and Buckhall schoolhouses, and later in the Cannon Branch schoolhouse. The Manassas Church was formally organized in 1895, and the congregation's first church, the Cannon Branch Meeting House, located 7 1/2 miles west of Manassas on the Nokesville Road, was built in 1895. In 1896, the church acquired 1/2 acre across from the Cannon Branch Church for a cemetery. The Cannon Branch Meeting House was demolished in the 1950s when a new church (the present church) was erected one mile closer to Manassas on the Nokesville Road.

Sources and bibliography

Published sources (Books, articles, etc., with bibliographic data.)

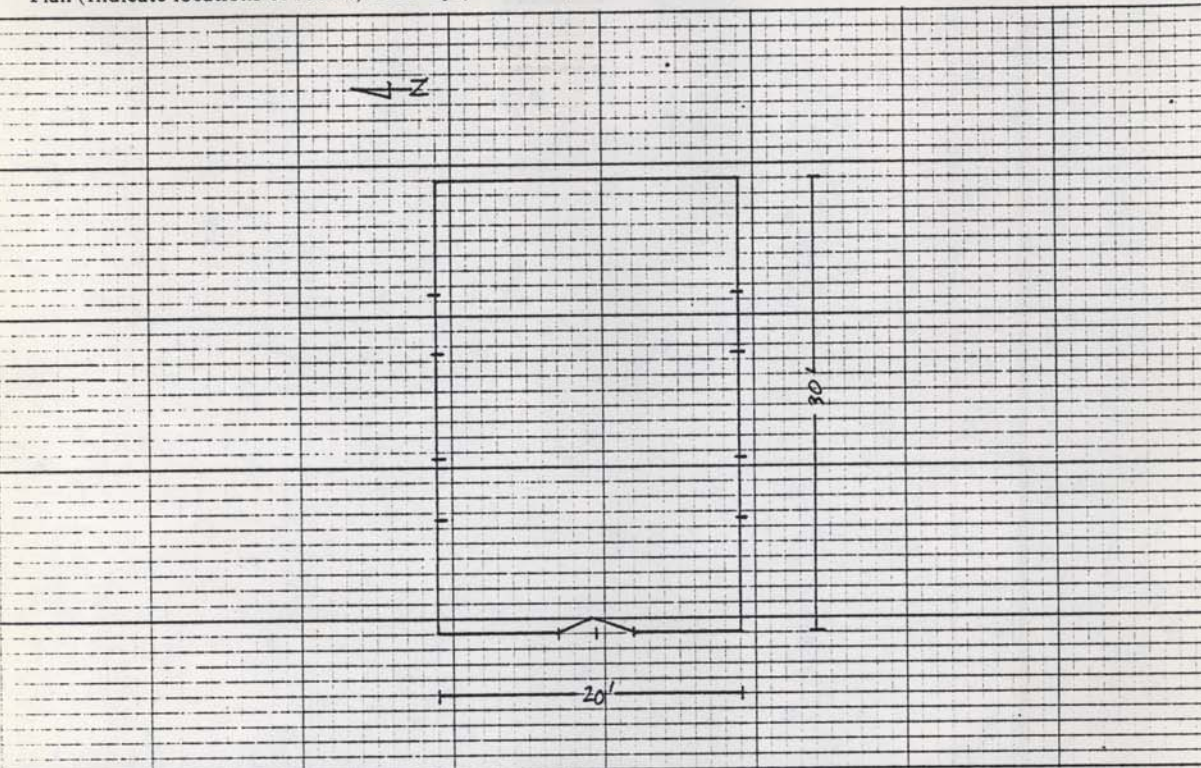
Manassas Church of the Brethren, History of the Manassas Church of the Brethren, 1880-1970, 27-page book published on the church's 75th anniversary in the Manassas area.

Primary sources (Manuscript documentary or graphic materials; give location.)

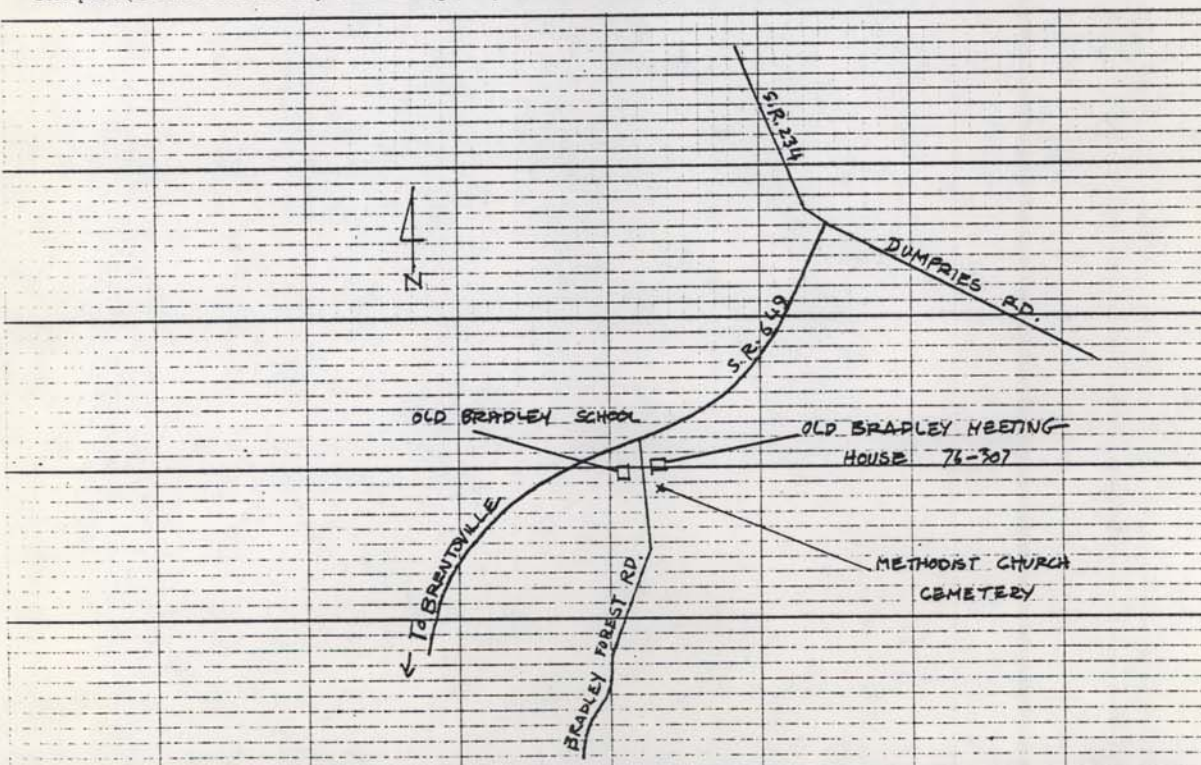
Deeds, wills in Prince William County Courthouse.

Names and addresses of persons interviewed ^{Lloyd E.} Rev. Evans, Pastor; E. R. Conner, III, Manassas Museum; Joseph G. & Dallas Berry, owners of church.

Plan (Indicate locations of rooms, doorways, windows, alterations, etc.)



Site plan (Locate and identify outbuildings, dependencies and significant topographical features.)



Name, address and title of recorder
Francis Jones, Architectural
Historian - Surveyor, NVPDC

Date APR 4 1981





INDEPENDENT
HILL QUAD.

OLD
BRADLEY
MEETING
HOUSE
76-307

