

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

**1. Name of Property**

historic name           OLD STONE CHURCH          

other names/site number GREEN SPRING CHURCH; STONE CHURCH; DHR File No. 0034-0023

**2. Location**

street & number Drive leading to church is 1 mi. w. of jct. SR 671 (Green Spring Road) and SR 739 (Apple Pie  
Ridge Road) not for publication N/A  
city or town Whitehall vicinity X  
state Virginia code VA county Frederick code 069 Zip 22603

**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination        request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets        does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant        nationally        statewide X locally. (       See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

*Catherine A. ...* May 3, 2001  
Signature of certifying official Date

**Virginia Department of Historic Resources**  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property        meets        does not meet the National Register criteria. (       See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau \_\_\_\_\_

**4. National Park Service Certification**

I, hereby certify that this property is:  
       entered in the National Register        other (explain): \_\_\_\_\_  
       See continuation sheet.  
       determined eligible for the  
       National Register  
       See continuation sheet. \_\_\_\_\_ Signature of Keeper  
       determined not eligible for the National Register  
       removed from the National Register Date of Action \_\_\_\_\_



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**7. Description**

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**Architectural Classification** (Enter categories from instructions)

Early Republic \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Materials** (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation  STONE : limestone \_\_\_\_\_

roof  METAL: tin \_\_\_\_\_

walls  STONE: limestone; sandstone \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

other  WOOD \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Narrative Description** (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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**8. Statement of Significance**

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**Applicable National Register Criteria** (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations** (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- X A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Areas of Significance** (Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

**Period of Significance** 1820-1838

**Significant Dates** circa 1820  
circa 1838

**Significant Person** (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation** N/A

**Architect/Builder** Unknown

**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**Bibliography**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

**Previous documentation on file** (NPS)

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.  
 previously listed in the National Register  
 previously determined eligible by the National Register  
 designated a National Historic Landmark  
 recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_  
 recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary Location of Additional Data**

- State Historic Preservation Office  
 Other State agency  
 Federal agency  
 Local government  
 University  
 Other

Name of repository: John Handley Regional Library Archives

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** 3.1 acres

**UTM References** (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Zone Easting Northing    Zone Easting Northing  
1 17; 744,199; 4,353,799    2 \_\_\_\_\_  
3 \_\_\_\_\_    4 \_\_\_\_\_  
See continuation sheet.

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**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

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**II. Form Prepared By**

name/title: Joanna J. Evans

Organization: Virginia Department of Historic Resources date 20 Sept 2000

street & number: 107 N. Kent Street, Suite #203 telephone (540) 722-3427

city or town Winchester state VA zip code 22601

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**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets**

**Maps**

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

**Photographs**

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

**Additional items** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

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**Property Owner**

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Old Stone Church Memorial Association

street & number 111 Montague Avenue telephone (540) 662-3505

city or town Winchester state VA zip code 22601

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**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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**Old Stone Church  
Frederick County, Virginia**

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**SUMMARY DESCRIPTION**

Old Stone Church sits on a knoll nestled against a grove of mature trees overlooking the surrounding farmland, just off Route SR 671, near the community of Green Springs in northern Frederick County, Virginia. Situated on approximately 9 ½ acres of land, the stone church was built for a German Lutheran congregation around 1820. The church was rebuilt in 1838 after a fire damaged the building. Old Stone Church is the earliest extant Lutheran church and the second oldest stone church surviving in Frederick County today. The church has retained its integrity for nearly two centuries. The single-story, uncoursed, cut stone building has three bays and a corrugated tin gable roof. The rectangular block form of the church is similar to other meetinghouses built by congregations in the surrounding communities and across Virginia during the early nineteenth century. The floor plan consists of two rooms divided by a partition, one room serving as church meeting space and the other as a school. The interior is virtually unchanged from the mid-nineteenth century, and electricity and plumbing have never been introduced. A cemetery, a contributing site with many headstones dating from the early to mid-nineteenth century, is located in the east yard of the church and includes a special monument, a non-contributing object, built in 1940 as a memorial to the unknown who are buried there. The cemetery is bordered on the north, south, and east sides by an uncoursed rubble stone wall, a non-contributing resource, which was rebuilt in 1954, as expansion was needed. Two stone gate pillars, contributing objects, remain as part of the original stone wall. A dry-laid stone mounting block, a non-contributing object, is a relic of the horse and carriage days. The adjacent well, a non-contributing structure built in 1930, shows excellent stone craftsmanship. A white wooden cross, a non-contributing object built in 1976 for outdoor Easter sunrise services, is located on a well-landscaped mound to the northwest of Old Stone Church. A large picnic shelter, built in 1994, as well as a small frame tool shed and a cinderblock privy, all non-contributing resources, are situated in the northwest corner of the property.

**DETAILED DESCRIPTION**

**Exterior**

Located in the rolling farmland of northern Frederick County, the Old Stone Church has changed little since its beginning. As the country lane winds through the farmland to the church, open

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fields of pasture are seen in all directions and indicate that agriculture continues to be an important part of this community.

Old Stone Church was constructed around 1820.<sup>1</sup> The building has a low stone foundation and all elevations are made of uncoursed native limestone, which has been cut and scabbled. Some sandstone has been interspersed with the limestone. The gable roof is covered with corrugated tin. The gable ends of the building are clad with wood siding, which is presently covered with aluminum siding. The one-story building features three bays on each elevation. The south and east elevations both have central double doors topped by a four-light transom. The casing of both sets of doors includes cyma recta back bands. The doors on the south elevation have single raised panels, and the ones on the east elevation have batten boards. Two concrete steps with wrought-iron railings lead to each set of double doors. A marble stone has been placed to the east of the double doors on the south elevation, which states: "Built in 1820 - Rebuilt in 1838."<sup>2</sup> Each of the elevations contains two double-hung wooden window sashes, one on either side of the double doors, with nine-over-nine lights.

The north and west elevations each have three windows which are the same proportions as those on the south and east elevations with the exception of the central bay on the north elevation. This window opening is located above the pulpit and has been placed higher than the other windows. It contains twelve-over-twelve sashes with noticeable imperfections in the lights and is the only one that appears to be original to the building. All other windows have been reduced in size as evidenced by the in-fill stone around them, and the lack of imperfections in the glass panes suggests a later date.

The window jambs on all elevations are mortised and tenoned with wooden pegs. A wooden batten single shutter with wrought-iron strap hinges on pintles covers each window. Records indicate that the shutters were replaced in 1953.<sup>3</sup> The shutter over the pulpit window appears to be original.

The north elevation has an exterior stone chimney erected to the east of the central window. Records indicate that in 1958 this chimney replaced an earlier one made of brick.<sup>4</sup>

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Interior

The interior of the church has maintained its original integrity as well. The two-foot-thick plaster-over-stone walls rise to a height of approximately eighteen feet. Pine has been used for all of the interior elements. The floor is made of mill-sawn boards, many measuring one foot wide, and although some have been replaced with circular sawn boards, most appear to be original to the church. Many cut nails with irregular heads are visible in the floorboards. The floors have never been stained or painted. The wooden windows have surrounds with beaded trim and wooden windowsills, which are eighteen inches deep. Two hand-hewn round posts are placed to the north and south of the center of the sanctuary and support the ceiling. Wooden tallow candleholders are tenoned to one side of each post and provide the only source of light for the building. Neither electricity nor plumbing has ever been added to the building. The ceiling is made of random-width stained pine boards, some measuring twelve inches.

The rectangular floor plan, measuring 35 1/2 x 41 feet, is divided into two spaces by a transverse partition separating the church meeting space from the schoolroom. The partition is made of horizontal tongue-and-groove beaded boards that have been stained, some measuring sixteen inches in width. The partition rises to a height of approximately twelve feet and is attached to two round pine vertical posts of the same height located to the north and south of the partition's central batten door. A large twelve-inch-square beam is placed at the top of the partition, and the chamfered balusters above it suggest that a balcony existed at one time. Sawed-off joists in the east side of the square beam give further evidence of the earlier existence of a floor in the balcony area. Hinged sections within the partition walls can be lowered to visually join the spaces. Vertical boards, with a total width of three feet, are placed at each end of the partition, suggesting that at one time stairs filled this space.

Old Stone Church has two large summers located in the attic area, each measuring approximately nine inches square with visible adze marks. These large beams are placed parallel to each other, resting on the girders at each gable end of the roof and supported by the vertical posts below. These summers divide the attic floor into thirds with the ceiling joists tenoned to them. The roof rafters are made of unpeeled saplings, measuring approximately five inches in diameter that are pinned together at the ridge. Collar ties are found below the apex of the rafters, as well as at the mid-level, and are attached using half-laps and wooden pegs. These collar ties were placed on every other pair of rafters at one time, as the lap joints are visible. Some of these collar ties have

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been removed and seem to be concentrated in the center where a stovepipe pierced the ceiling and roof at one time. Singed rafters observed in the attic indicate an earlier fire.

The pine pulpit, centrally placed on the interior west elevation wall, has a raised lectern in the center flanked on each side by a square vertical post. Three steps lead to the platform of the pulpit. The wooden pews, located in the sanctuary, appear to be original to the building and are made of wormy chestnut. These open-backed pews have a single board with chamfered edges across the top of the back. The armrests are curved with chamfered edges. The boards of the pews are mortised and tenoned with wooden pegs, and cut nails with irregular heads were observed in the armrests. The hand-hewn schoolmaster's desk and the cast iron four-legged, ten-plate box stove placed in the schoolroom appear to be original to the building. The early stove, made by J. McPherson and Brien, has an eagle engraved on the front and a sailing ship on the side with the motto: "We have met the enemy and they are ours." Pine wooden benches with mortised and tenoned legs were built and placed in the school in 1967 as a reproduction of the furniture used by students in the mid-nineteenth century.<sup>5</sup>

**Landscape**

The cemetery, a contributing site, is located to the east of the church and surrounded on 2 1/2 sides by an uncoursed rubble stone wall, a non-contributing resource, topped with pointed stones. The original dry-laid stonewall was removed in 1954 to allow for the expansion of the cemetery as additional land was acquired to the south and east.<sup>6</sup> The stone from the original wall was reused and additional stone added to it. The gate entrance to the yard appears to have the original stone pillars, a contributing resource. Most of the monuments in the cemetery are early to mid-nineteenth century. Some markers are made from fieldstones, while others are of granite or marble and have elaborate carvings. The earliest markers have initials etched into the stone with the death date. Records indicate that in 1932 plans were made to erect a memorial marker to represent all the unknown graves in the cemetery.<sup>7</sup> The six-foot marker is made of assorted stones, wood, and glass collected from the forty-eight original states of the United States and several foreign countries. The marker, a non-contributing resource, was completed around 1940.<sup>8</sup> Old Stone Church cemetery has over 425 graves and the earliest marker found is dated 1827. The cemetery is well maintained with evergreens and shrubs appropriately placed.

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A dry-laid stone mounting block, a non-contributing object, is located to the northwest of the church. This relic of the horse and carriage days was used to help ladies ascend and descend from their vehicles.

A white wooden cross, a non-contributing object, was erected in 1976<sup>9</sup> on a natural mound to the northwest of Old Stone Church. Landscaping the area surrounding the cross provided an appropriate worship space for Easter sunrise services.

A hand-pumped well, a non-contributing structure built in 1930,<sup>10</sup> is located to the southwest of the church. This well-crafted stone structure is the only source of water on the property and provides refreshment for visitors today.

A large picnic shelter, a non-contributing resource built in 1994,<sup>11</sup> in the northwest corner of the churchyard provides a perfect spot for gatherings as descendants return for the annual reunion held each summer. A small frame tool shed with a corrugated tin roof and a cinderblock privy, both non-contributing resources, are also located in the northwest corner.

The building and grounds of Old Stone Church are well preserved and well maintained with few changes made since the church was built. A high degree of integrity has been retained throughout its history. Old Stone Church is a cherished landmark to the Green Spring community of Frederick County, Virginia.

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**NOTES**

1. Frederick County Circuit Court, *Deed Book Vol. 42* (Winchester, Virginia: 21 Feb 1820), 310.  
Old Stone Memorial Association, *Green Spring Church Records* (Winchester, VA: Records of Isabelle Hickman, 1819).
2. Although this date has been placed on the building, primary sources were not found to document the year of its placement. Oral history suggests that the church burned sometime after 1820, and it was rebuilt in 1838. The inserted marker is made of marble. According to the documents of Ben Ritter, local historian, a marble cutter named Fagan came to the Winchester area in 1839. Cut stones ordered before that time came from Baltimore, Maryland.
3. Old Stone Church Memorial Association, *Minutes of the Old Stone Church Memorial Association* (Winchester, Virginia: Records of Isabelle Hickman, 22 July 1953).
4. *Ibid.*, 1958.
5. *Ibid.*, 1967.
6. Frederick County Circuit Court, *Deed Book Vol. 230* (Winchester, Virginia: 20 Feb 1954), 431  
and *Deed Book Vol. 238* (Winchester, Virginia: August 31, 1955), 84.
7. Old Stone Church Memorial Association, *Minutes of the Old Stone Church Memorial Association*, 1932.
8. Swisher, Pat, interview by author, notes of author, Winchester, Virginia, 15 July 2000.
9. Old Stone Church Memorial Association, *Minutes of the Old Stone Church Memorial Association*, August, 1976.
10. *Ibid.*, 1930.
11. *Ibid.*, 08 Nov 1994.

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**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

Situated on a knoll overlooking the surrounding pastures of the Green Spring community in northern Frederick County, Virginia, Old Stone Church, with its adjacent cemetery and stone wall, produces a feeling of tranquility against its backdrop of evergreen and deciduous trees. Mountains are visible in the distance and the landscape is dotted with farms, much like it would have appeared when the church was constructed around 1820. A country lane winds through the surrounding pastures to the church, where the stone gate posts, a contributing resource, still remain. The church was rebuilt in 1838 after fire damaged the building. Old Stone Church is architecturally significant and has maintained its integrity for nearly two centuries with few changes being made. The Old Stone Church is the earliest extant Lutheran church and the second oldest stone church surviving in Frederick County today. The church was built as a religious meetinghouse for the early German Lutherans of Frederick County and was also used as a school to educate students of the local community. The cemetery, a contributing site located to the east of the church, contains grave markers of early settlers to the area, many dating from the early to mid-nineteenth century. Old Stone Church has always served as a gathering place for the people of the Green Spring community. Today the Old Stone Church Memorial Association maintains the church, and although Old Stone Church no longer has an active congregation or school, it continues to provide a place for annual reunions, picnics, and weddings for many descendants of these original settlers as well as local residents. The church with its adjacent cemetery remains a special place to the people of the Green Spring community of Frederick County.

**HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

The German migration into the Shenandoah Valley from Maryland and Pennsylvania during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries can be evidenced through the architecture and culture that resulted from the settlement. Old Stone Church, originally built in around 1820<sup>1</sup>, is an excellent example of the influence of these German settlers.

In 1789, a group of settlers from Berks County, Pennsylvania, made their way into the Shenandoah Valley. Among the delegation were German families named Fries, Glaize, Parlett and Yeakley.<sup>2</sup> Pennsylvania had become crowded and land prices were escalating. As farms were divided among descendants, it became necessary for them to seek additional land elsewhere. The shape of the Shenandoah Valley formed a natural corridor for settlers making

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their way south. The climate and topography of the area were favorable, and like most settlers to a new area, these Germanic families knew that a source of water was one of the priorities in finding a settlement.<sup>3</sup>

Martin Fries and his wife, Catherine Shaul Fries, settled in Frederick County in 1789. His name appears on the census records for that year.<sup>4</sup> He purchased land in the Green Spring community, where the water supply was abundant and farmland was available. Mills placed along the Green Spring Run provided jobs and necessary supplies for the people of the community. The Varle Map of 1809 shows nine mills and businesses around the Green Spring area.<sup>5</sup>

Germanic culture considered religion and education to be an important part of its family life. Among Lutheran and Reformed Germans, schoolhouses were often the first buildings to be built. Most Germans could read and write and they wanted their children likewise to be educated. In many cases the schoolhouse was also used for church services until a church could be built. Sometimes two separate buildings were constructed for these purposes.<sup>6</sup> According to E.E. Deppen and M. L. Deppen, authors of *Counting Kindred*, "these (schoolhouses) were log structures at first, and these gave way to the fine buildings of stone or brick."<sup>7</sup> Records indicate that in 1812 a board of five trustees leased one-half acre of land from Martin Fries on which to build a subscription school.<sup>8</sup> The deed states,

... half acre of ground together with the use of the spring near the meetinghouse whereon the new school house is now erecting. . . to have and to hold and occupy the said half acre of ground and the buildings thereon and the use of the spring adjacent thereto for the use of a school for the neighbourhood [*sic*] and for no other use intent or purpose whatsoever.

This early building was erected before 1814, according to the deed, and provided a way for the children of the Green Spring community to receive an education. A meetinghouse for worship already was being used, most likely built of logs.

George Shwire (Swhier) and his wife Elizabeth (daughter of Martin and Catherine Fries) acquired property adjacent to the Martin Fries property in the Green Spring community. Records indicate that in 1820 Shwire and his wife donated 1 ½ acres of land to be used for a meetinghouse.<sup>9</sup> The deed states,

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... containing one acre and a half and 2 poles ... to the only proper use on behalf of the said religious society called Lutherians [*sic*] ... for the only purpose of building a meetinghouse thereon for said society to meet in for divine worship . . . .

Stone was prevalent in the Green Spring community, as evidenced by the material in several existing houses and mills built in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. One early document from Old Stone Church dated January 20, 1819 notes approximately \$1200 was spent on work done at the Green Spring Church [Old Stone Church] and the managers were George Shwier and Charles Strit (Streit).<sup>10</sup> This expense is an indication that the new meetinghouse was constructed of stone around 1820.

Old Stone Church is the earliest extant Lutheran church in Frederick County.<sup>11</sup> Although several stone churches were built in Frederick County prior to 1820, Old Stone Church is the second oldest stone church existing in Frederick County today. It is preceded by the Hopewell Friends Meeting House, which was built in its present form in 1759.<sup>12</sup> Oral history indicates that at some point after 1820, the Old Stone Church was damaged by fire. Documentation for this assertion has not been located, but a marble stone inserted to the east of the door on the south elevation states: "Built in 1820 – Rebuilt in 1838." A small piece of charcoaled wood was found when plasterwork was being done on the walls on the west interior wall<sup>13</sup> and singed rafters were observed in the attic area.

As more immigrants representing other religious denominations entered the Shenandoah Valley during the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, additional churches were established. Oral history indicates that the Old Stone Church had an active congregation until the middle of the nineteenth century. Records indicate that plans were made to sell the church to the Evangelical United Brethren Church in 1869,<sup>14</sup> but after two years the Brethren congregation built a new church nearby. The Green Spring Methodist Episcopal Church South, known as the Rebel Church, also used the Old Stone Church after the Civil War as a temporary meeting place until their church could be built.<sup>15</sup>

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Early records are not available concerning the school, but a list of early teachers has been compiled by B. Brooke Smith.<sup>16</sup> Two surviving certificates testify that the school was in service in 1852 and 1856.<sup>17</sup> Some names etched into the woodwork inside the church suggest that school was still being held in 1888. Records indicate that the school was closed in 1909 when several of the one-room schools in the area were consolidated into a community school.<sup>18</sup>

Records of Bethel Lutheran Church, Albin, VA, indicate that in 1820 John J. and Mary Ann Yeakley (daughter of Martin and Catherine Fries) donated land four miles to the southwest of Green Spring to build a school house and a place of worship. At some point in the late 1800s, the church appointed trustees to oversee the care and maintenance of Old Stone Church.<sup>19</sup> Records also indicate that on October 25, 1959, Bethel Lutheran Church passed a resolution and released all claim of the Old Stone Church and property and authorized their trustees to convey the title to the Old Stone Church Memorial Foundation.<sup>20</sup>

Old Stone Church has always served as a community gathering place. Even after regular worship services ended and the school closed, the building continued to provide a space for special meetings and activities. It was, in reality, a community center. Oral history reveals a trek to Old Stone Church for an end-of-school-year picnic by the students of the consolidated school at White Hall. Modern Woodmen of America had a chapter in White Hall in the early 1900s, and records indicate that they used the Old Stone Church and grounds for parades and picnics.<sup>21</sup> Services were held at the church for many years at Easter, Mother's Day and Father's Day. Records reveal that Sunday School was held at the Old Stone Church in 1930, again providing a meeting space for members of the Green Spring Methodist Episcopal Church after it was destroyed by fire in 1928.<sup>22</sup> Reunions of families and school friends continue to be held at the church today.

The cemetery, a contributing site, was the final resting place for many early settlers; interments still take place there today. Some grave markers date back to the early nineteenth century; many names of German origin can be found. Some of the earliest markers were made of wood and have disappeared over time; others with names etched in fieldstone are illegible. The cemetery was enlarged in 1954 and 1955, and the stone wall was expanded and rebuilt to provide additional burial space.<sup>23</sup> The earliest grave dates back to 1827. A special monument was built in the cemetery around 1940 as a memorial to the unknown who are buried there. A variety of

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stones, wood, and glass were gathered from the forty-eight states and several foreign countries to create the marker.<sup>24</sup>

The Old Stone Church stood vacant and unattended for several decades. In 1927, a group of sixty-nine descendants and local members of the community joined together to form the Old Stone Church Memorial Association. Their objectives were to maintain the building and the grounds. The restoration of the cemetery and repairs to the building were their first priorities. This is believed to be one of the earliest preservation movements in Virginia. In 1972<sup>26</sup> and 1979<sup>25</sup> approximately one acre was added for a picnic area and to help protect the viewshed. In 1995, the association purchased an additional 6 ½ acres of adjacent land, increasing the size of the total property to approximately 9 ½ acres.<sup>27</sup>

In 1998 a highway marker was placed at the end of the church lane on Route 671 by the Virginia Department of Historic Resources to denote the significance of the Old Stone Church.<sup>28</sup>

Today, the Old Stone Church Memorial Association holds a reunion in August each year. People gather from the local area as well as from other states. This significant landmark continues to serve as a gathering place for descendants and community members who return to share memories and stories that had been told to them by their ancestors. Weddings and picnics take place throughout the year at the church and on the grounds. Old Stone Church is truly a special place that has bound the Green Spring community together for almost two centuries.

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Frederick County, Virginia

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1. Frederick County Circuit Court, *Deed Book Vol. 42* (Winchester, Virginia: 21 Feb 1820), 310.
2. M. L. Deppen and E. E. Deppen, *Counting Kindred* (Sinking Spring, Pennsylvania: self-published, Deppen, 1940), 35.
3. John W. Wayland, *The German Elements of the Shenandoah Valley* (Harrisonburg, Virginia: C. J. Carrier Company, 1907), 22-24.
4. Census Bureau, *Heads of Families at the First Census of the United States Taken in the Year 1790* (Baltimore, Maryland: Genealogical Publishing Company, Inc., 1986), 20.
5. Varle Map (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania: Bay and Jones, 1809).
6. John W. Wayland, *The German Element of the Shenandoah Valley* (Harrisonburg, Virginia: C. J. Carrier Company, 1907), 155.
7. Deppen and Deppen, 21.
8. Frederick County Circuit Court, *Deed Book Vol. 36* (Winchester, Virginia: 06 Nov 1814), 430.
9. *Ibid.*, *Deed Book Vol. 42* (Winchester, Virginia: 21 Feb 1820), 310.
10. *Records of Old Stone Church Association* (Winchester, Virginia: Records of Isabelle Hickman, 1819).
11. Maral Kalbian, *Rural Landmarks Survey Report of Frederick County, VA* (Winchester, Virginia: Winchester-Frederick County Historical Society, 1988-1990), 24.
12. *Ibid.*
13. Pat Swisher, Interview by author, 23 November 1999, Winchester, Virginia, Notes in files of author, Winchester, Virginia.
14. William Edward Eisenberg, *The Lutheran Church in Virginia, 1717-1962* (Lynchburg, Virginia: J. P. Bell Company, Inc., 1967), 457.
15. Old Stone Church Memorial Association, *History of the Old Stone Church at Greenspring, Virginia* (Frederick County, Virginia: Old Stone Memorial Association, 1992), 11.

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16. B. Brooke Smith, *Records of Old Stone Church Association* (Winchester, Virginia: Records of Isabelle Hickman, [no date]).
  17. Robert Fries, Telephone interview by author, 18 July 2000, Winchester, Virginia, Notes in files of author, Winchester, Virginia.
  18. Old Stone Church Memorial Association, 12.
  19. The Bethel Women of the CLCA, *Bethel Evangelical Lutheran Church: 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary History 1820-1995* (Winchester, Virginia: Bethel Women of Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, 1995), 1.
  20. Earl S. Bailey and Raymond G. Edwards, *A Resolution of the Congregation of the Bethel Lutheran Congregation of Frederick County, Virginia* (Albin, Virginia: Records of Bethel Lutheran Church, 25 October 1959).
  21. J. V. Hutton, Jr., Telephone interview by author, 12 July 2000, Winchester, Virginia, Notes in files of author, Winchester, VA.
  22. Old Stone Church Memorial Association, *Minutes of the Old Stone Church Memorial Association*, 1930.
  23. Frederick County Circuit Court, *Deed Book Vol. 230* (Winchester, Virginia: 10 February 1954), 431 and *Deed Book Vol. 238* (Winchester, Virginia: 31 August 1955), 84.
  24. Swisher, 15 July 2000.
  25. *Ibid.*, *Deed Book Vol. 388* (Winchester, Virginia: 1972), 134.
  26. *Ibid.*, *Deed Book Vol. 514* (Winchester, Virginia: 1979), 307.
  27. Frederick County Circuit Court, *Deed Book Vol. 607*. (Winchester, Virginia: 1995), 464.
  28. Records of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources, File A-67 (Richmond, Virginia: 1998).

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**10. GEOGRAPHICAL BOUNDARIES**

**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

The boundary of the nominated property (3.1 acres) is shown as the solid gray line on the accompanying map, entitled "Old Stone Church" which has a scale of 1" = 200' taken from Frederick County Tax Map 21-A-85 from the Tax Assessor's Office. The entire property (9 ½ acres) is outlined with the solid black line.

**BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION**

The boundaries include all historic resources associated with the Old Stone Church. The 3.1 acre tract includes the original parcel of land given for the erection of the church as well as four additional parcels added to expand the cemetery and provide a picnic area as shown in the following Deed Books: Vol. 42, page 310; Vol. 230, page 431; Vol. 238, page 84; Vol. 388, page 134; and Vol. 514, page 307 found in the Frederick County Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court.

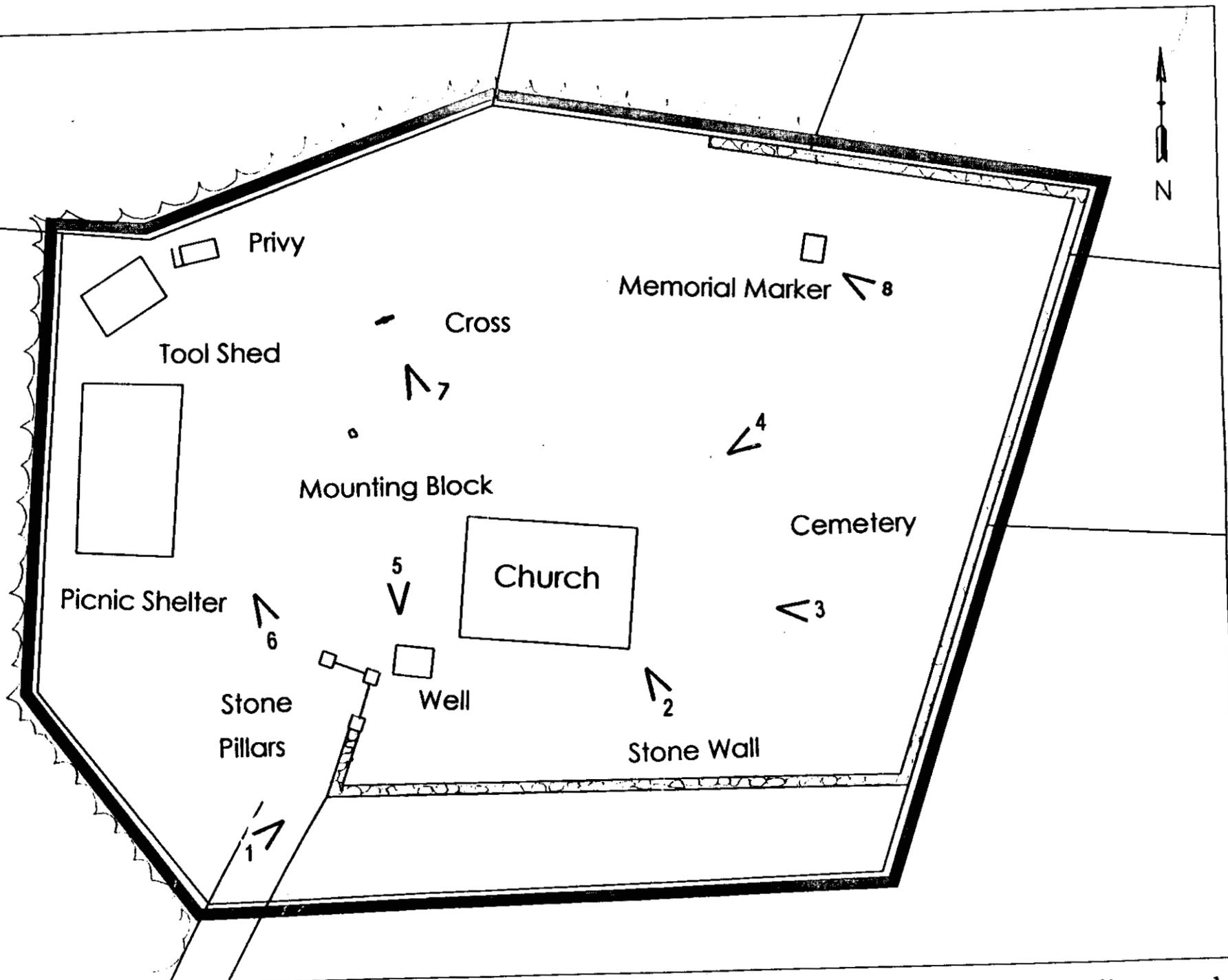
**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

Mary Washington College Student

Joanna J. Evans

Not to scale

Old Stone Church  
Frederick County, Virginia



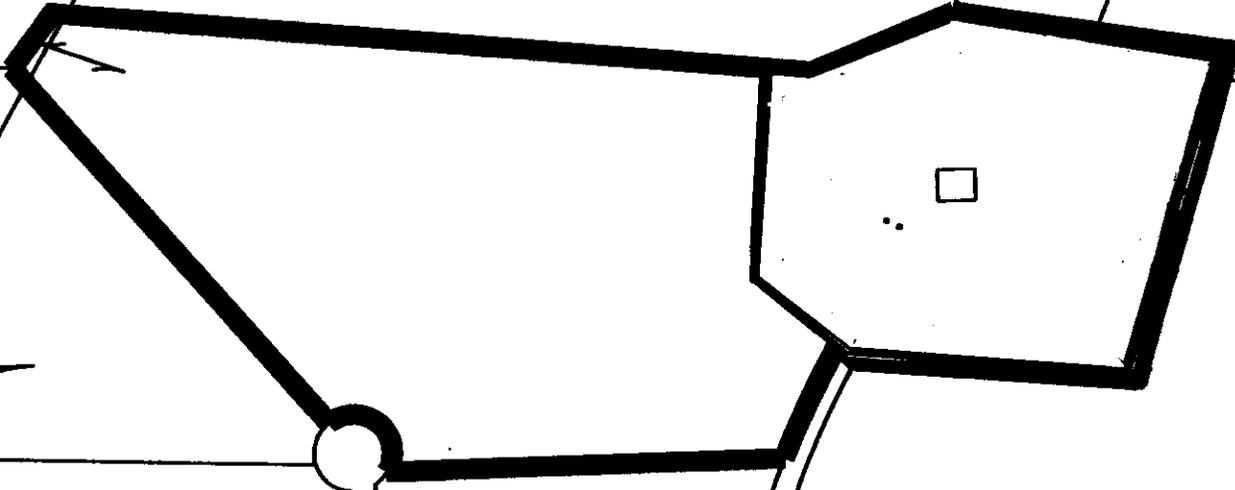
➤ Photographic view with corresponding number

Scale: 1"=200'

Old Stone Church  
Frederick County, Virginia



Green Spring Run



Misty Meadow Drive

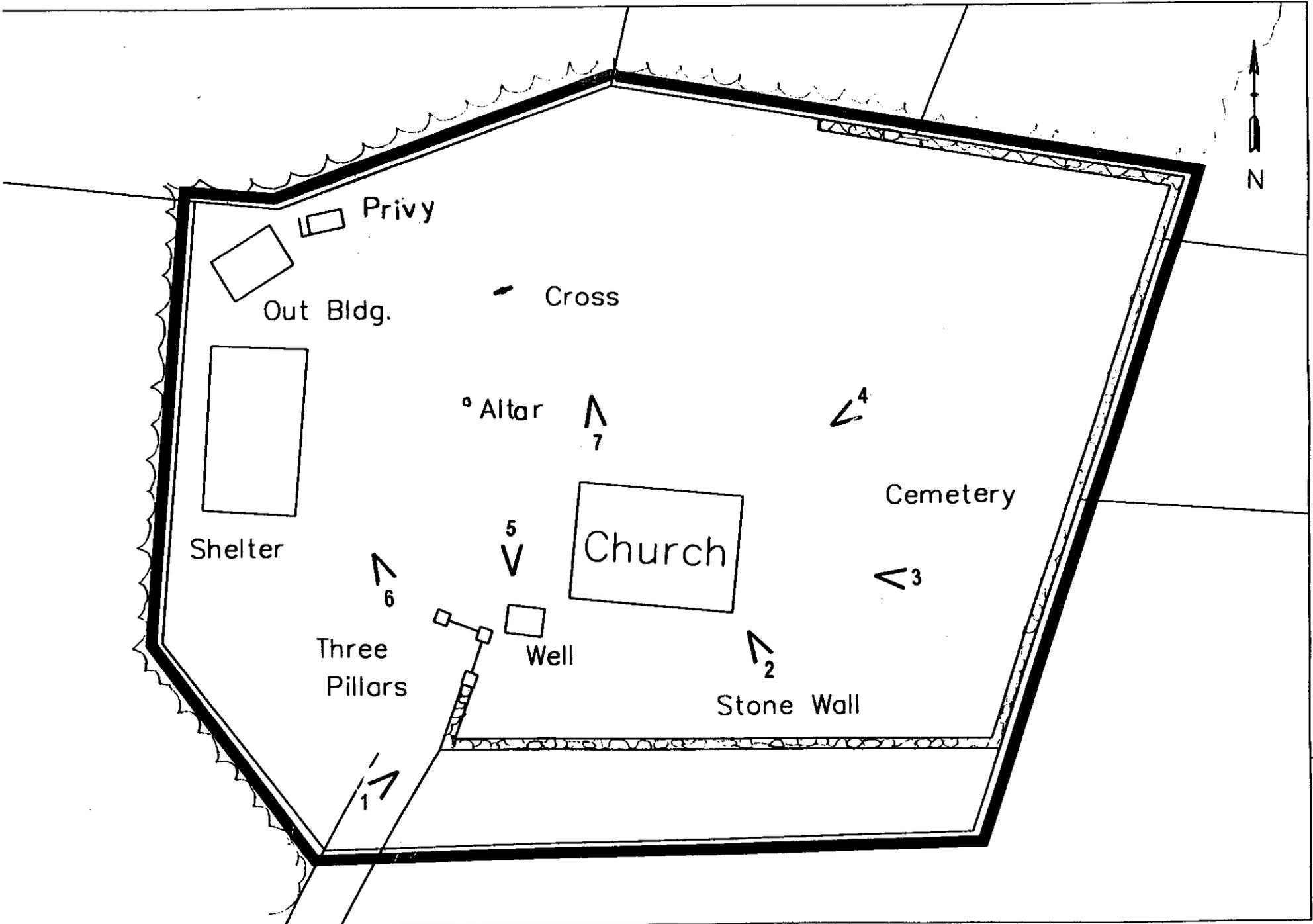
Green Spring Road

To: Rt. 671 →

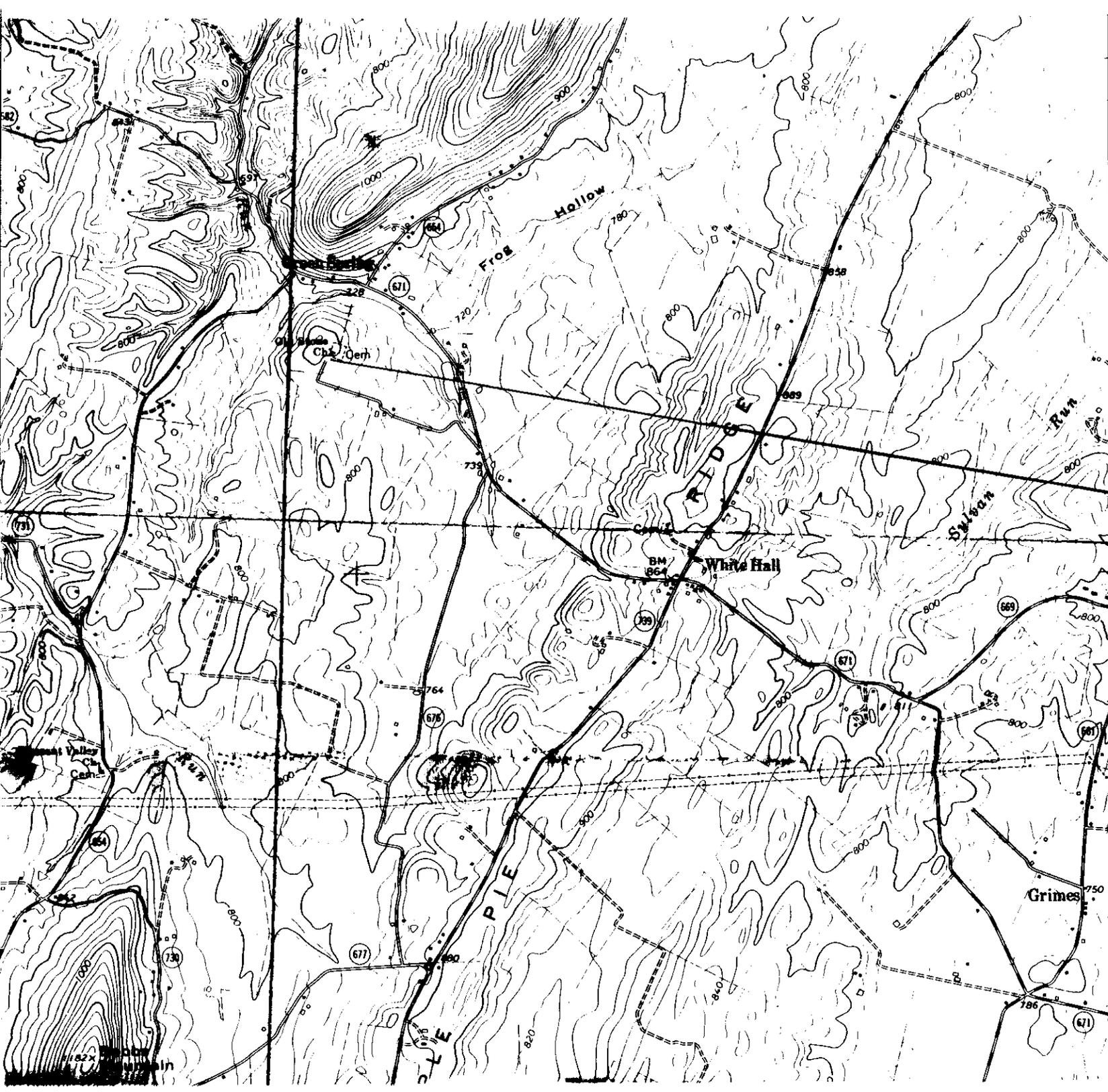
-  Historic Property with associated resources (3.1 acres)
-  Entire Parcel ( approximately 9 ½ acres)

Not to scale

Old Stone Church  
Frederick County, Virginia



➤ Photographic view with corresponding number



(INWOOD)  
5362 I SE  
4355

4354

4353

4352

4351

FILE #6034-0023  
OLD STONE CHURCH  
FREDERICK CO., VA  
17'30" UTM REFERENCE  
1. 17; 744, 199; 4353, 799  
(WHITE HALL  
QUAD.)