

ARCHITECTURAL DATA SECTION
of
PART I - HISTORIC STRUCTURES REPORT

010029

for
THE DUNKARD CHURCH
ANTIETAM NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD SITE

by
Archie W. Franzen
Architect
October 1960

001059

ALSO:
HSR PART I
DUNKARD CH.
Robert Lagemann
MAY 25, 1960

APPROVAL SHEET

Historic Structures Report - Part I

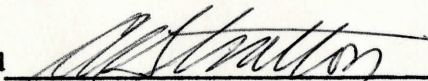
Stone Wall

Burnside Bridge Area

Recommended Benjamin H. Davis (S) Superintendent, Nov. 21, 1961

Recommended _____ Chief, EODC,

Recommended Ronald F. LEE (S) 1/4/62 Regional Director,

Approved  Assistant Director 10/26/62

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I. INTRODUCTION

The following study of the Dunkard Church, that once stood west of the Hagerstown Pike on the battlefield at Antietam National Battlefield Site, is based on a number of early photographs. Several of these photographs are included with this report.

As many as possible of the rapidly diminishing number of old timers who were familiar with the structure, either through attending church there or through an interest in the battle and battlefield site, have been contacted. Their testimony has been critically appraised and measured against those physical features, both apparent and implied, that can be seen from examining the photographs.

For a comparative analysis of details several churches of the Church of the Brethren were inspected. Those visited were the Manor Church near Tilghmanton, Md. and the churches at Downesville and Brownsville in Maryland as well as the church at Welch Run, Pa.

It was hoped that an interior photograph might turn up but since the structure was destroyed by a storm in 1921, before artificial photographic lighting was in vogue, it is doubtful if such views were ever made.

Background material on the history of the church found in the well collated report of Park Historian Lagemann¹ was consulted together with the earlier study made by Ranger-Historian² Tuckerman. The Tuckerman report contains a valuable inventory of salvaged building materials and furnishings owned by Mr. Elmer G. Boyer of Sharpsburg, Md.

II. DESCRIPTION OF THE BUILDING COMPONENTS

The existing stabilized foundations have been examined and there appears to be discrepancies between what now exists and the description found in Tuckerman's report and also with the opinion of Mr. Churchey, a retired Park Service maintenance man for the Battle Site. The foundations and sub-surface area within the foundation walls should be examined by an archeologist for a resolution of these differences.

The structure was approximately square, being 35'-6" long paralleling the Hagerstown Pike and 34'-6" deep. It was constructed of brick on a foundation of native stone laid in rubble fashion with

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| 1. Lagemann, Robert L., | "Historic Building Report, Historical Data Section, for the Dunkard Church," dated May 25, 1960, 62 pages. |
| 2. Tuckerman, Louis E., | <u>Report on the Old Dunkard Church and Site at Antietam National Battlefield Site, Sharpsburg, Maryland,</u> dated August 1, 1951, 99 pages. |

the exposed surfaces of the stone dressed relatively smooth. The bricks were laid in common bond and were painted white at the time of the Battle of Antietam.

The structure was one story and an attic high with a gable roof covered with wood shingles. There was a central chimney at the roof peak. The east elevation had a central door and two double hung windows with 6/6 sash. The south elevation also had a central door with two double hung windows with 6/6 sash. At the attic level in this elevation within the gable there were two small windows. Both the west and north elevations had two windows only, each having 6/6 sash. A soldier course acted as a lintel for all the windows and doors on the main floor. The window sills were of wood but the door sills were of stone. All of the main floor windows had paneled shutters and most of the photographs that have come to light show them closed. The two doors each had six panels, four of which were above the lock rail. The doors were set back in their openings but the flanks and soffits of their openings were not paneled. Large stone steps were laid in front of each entrance. See Sketches "A", "B", "C", "D".

The Brady photograph shows 22 courses of shingles making their exposure approximately one foot in length and the roof comber shingles were fastened from the west side.

There was no basement but crawl space vents appear in the early views. The vents were made by the omission of a brick at widely spaced intervals along the base course of the west and east elevations.

A simple cornice at the east and west eaves line was made by corbelling out the three uppermost brick courses with the top course projecting beyond the building line at the ends enough to support the heel of the verge boards. The verge boards at the gable appear to have been tapered and do not show a beaded edge.

As the church was built without a basement and in an open field there is little reason to believe that rain water gutters and downspouts were used. Certainly none show up in the early photographs or later views.

III. ARRANGEMENT OF THE INTERIOR

No documentary or photographic evidence has been found that would show how the interior of the structure was laid out. In this respect the memory of a few people now living who attended services in the church will have to be relied upon.

For the purposes of interviewing "old timers" several plan variants and conjectural interior perspectives were prepared. These were based on the worship ideology of the Dunkers as described in the

Tuckerman and Lagemann reports, the quantity and size of the³ building salvage owned by Mr. Elmer G. Boyer of Sharpsburg and upon the structural limitations of the building as implied from a study of the photographs of the structure.

From these sources and after inspecting the attics of the Manor and Welch Run churches it was gathered that there was a central attic floor beam running from the north to the south gables.

The beam supported floor joists normal to it and spanning from the beam to the eaves on the east and west walls of the building. The joists probably had tenons set into mortices in the beam and secured with wood pins. Because of the long span of the beam, approximately 33'-6", it was necessarily supported⁴ by one or more posts. Mr. Fred Peterman of Hagerstown states there was only one post. Similar posts were eliminated from the Manor and Welch Run churches in later years by building wood trusses within the attic space to support the beam at the post points.

From all accounts the attic space in the Dunkard Church was not used in connection with the "love feast." This was celebrated

3. ibid., See pp.22-23 for an inventory of this material.

4. Mr. Fred Peterman of Hagerstown, Maryland, an elderly gentleman whose memory is well regarded by his contemporaries, attended services at the Dunkard Church.

by the Sharpsburg congregation at the Manor Church near Tilghmanton,
Maryland. However, Miss Ruth Otto of Sharpsburg, Maryland ⁵ seems
to recall a scuttle in the ceiling above the wood storage box in the
southwest corner of the church that gave access to the attic. She
is positive that there was no stairs to the attic.

Looking at the available photo views it appears that the exterior
walls were about 12" thick. Their outside face was flush with the
outside face of the foundation walls leaving a six inch ledge on
the interior for supporting the first floor joists. Those inter-
viewed who had been inside the structure stated that the walls and
ceiling were plastered and that there was neither a chair rail nor
any type of wainscoting. This agrees with the concept of plainness
of the Dunkers and suggests that the interior window and door
casings were plain and not moulded. Miss Otto remembers that the
plaster was whitewashed and that the wood work and wood benches
were not painted or finished.

Sketches "E" and "F" show an arrangement of the church's interior
based on the memory of Miss Otto and Mr. Peterman. They agree on

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5. Miss Ruth Otto, only child of John E. Otto (the last minister
of the church), recalls sitting at the table-like pulpit with
her father when she was small because her mother was an in-
valid and could not attend church. Her recollections of the
interior are quite vivid possibly because of her advantageous
view point.

the general arrangement of the benches and their orientation. They differ in the number of stoves employed however; Miss Otto saying there were two and Mr. Peterman sure that there was only one. They may both be right in that the stoves may have been replaced as they wore out from time to time.

The Dunkers did not have a pulpit as such but the minister sat on an eight foot bench behind a plain table the length of the bench. The elders of this church sat on a bench in front of the minister's table that was eight feet long. All accounts by those interviewed are in agreement respecting the location of the minister. His bench was at the north end of the church between the windows at this end and faced the south door used by the women.

While services took place the women were seated on the west half and the men occupied the east half of the room.

In front of the minister and facing him were three benches eight feet long with a division strip or partition running north and south through their center to separate the men and women. There were three benches fourteen feet long to the minister's left facing west and a like number on his right facing east. The foregoing arrangement took up the north half of the room.

In the south half of the church there was a central aisle with nine benches facing the minister, five of which were on the east side and the remaining four being on the west side.

This placement of the church benches left an aisle running east and west through the center of the church with the men's entrance door at its east end. Miss Otto remembers a short bench at the aisle's west end that faced toward the men's entrance. Within this aisle the stove or stoves were located and at its midpoint would have been the wood post supporting the overhead attic floor beam.

Whether or not the interior was lighted has not been fully pursued. There is mention of candle sconces and later kerosene lamps in the Tuckerman report. Miss Otto could not remember these.

IV. COSTS AND WORKING DRAWINGS

Until working drawings are prepared only a general estimate of the cost of reconstruction can be arrive at. Based on similar crafts being employed as are used on the structures at Harpers Ferry and assuming that the wage rates will be reasonably comparable it is estimated that the cost of reconstruction will run to \$36,000. This does not include site preparation nor the provision of interior furnishings.

To start construction by the time good weather breaks next spring it will be necessary to start working drawings and specifications by January at the latest. For this some architectural assistance will have to be requested to meet the deadline date.

Two months work on this phase will be required on the part of the architect and an assistant and with facilitating services will cost \$2500.00.

APPENDIX I

P H O T O G R A P H S

PHOTOGRAPH 1

A view looking northwest in which the number of rows of shingles agree with that in a period Brady print. The shingle exposures are quite long and figure about 12". This appears to be an early view but no date can be ascribed to it with certainty. The entrance on the end of the church was used by the women (to the left) and that on the front by the men. The latter faced the Hagerstown Pike.

Copied from a photo loaned
by Dr. W. H. Shealy of
Sharpsburg, Maryland



PHOTOGRAPH 2

Looking southwest the brick coursing in the north wall can be clearly seen. This view establishes the window heights and the height of the roof peak and was taken either during the 1890's or shortly thereafter. Counting the shingle courses and comparing with earlier views proves that the structure had been re-shingled. The minister's location was at the north end of the church between the two windows appearing on the right in this photo. The door on the left wall was the men's entrance.

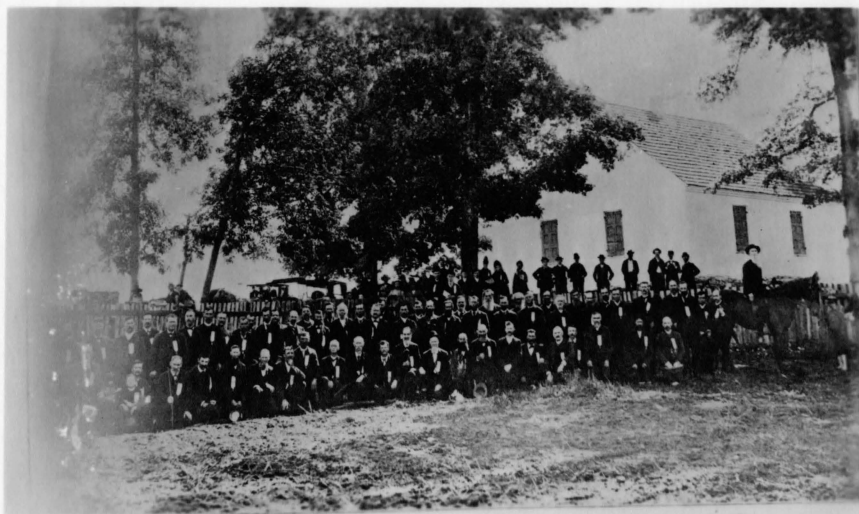
Copied from a photo loaned
by Dr. W. H. Shealy of
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PHOTOGRAPH 3

This view taken looking southeast is the only photograph found to date in which the windows of the west wall can be seen (in this instance the wall to the right). A careful study of their placement, taking perspective principles into account, shows that these windows were not directly opposite to those in the east wall. By the same token the windows in the north wall do not line up with those in the south wall.

Copied from a photo in the book "History of the 125th Regiment, Pennsylvania Volunteers, 1862-63. Published by J. B. Lippincott Co., 1907. This book is in the Antietam National Battlefield Site Library.



PHOTOGRAPH 4

This photo shows how complete the damage to the structure was after the storm of May 23, 1921. Indistinctly showing in this reproduction are the roofers indicating that solid roof sheathing was not employed.

Copied from a photo loaned
by Dr. W. H. Shealy of
Sharpsburg, Maryland



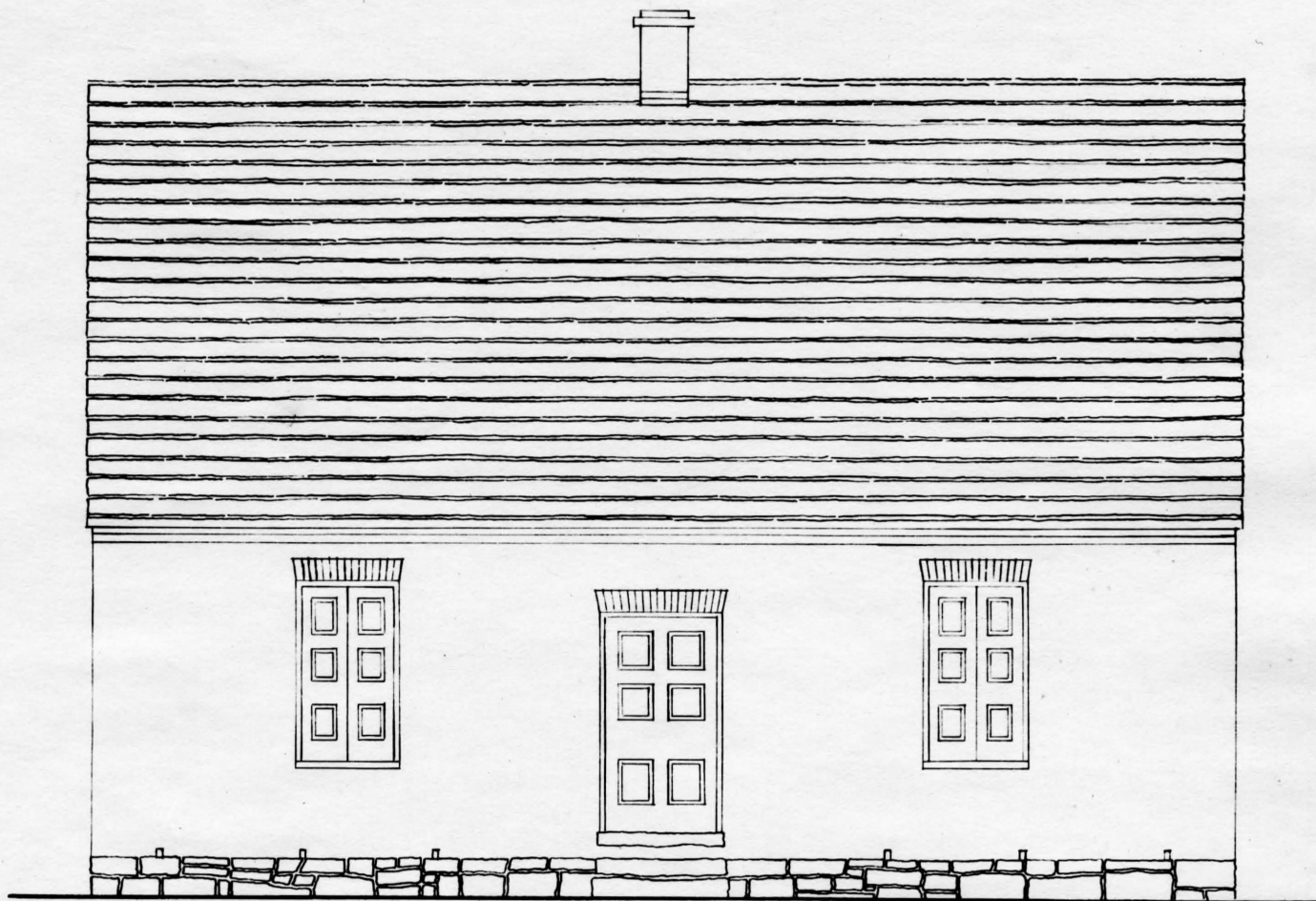
APPENDIX II

ILLUSTRATIVE SKETCHES

SKETCH "A"

This elevation faced the Hagerstown Pike and the door on this side was used by the men of the congregation. The small openings occuring just above the stone foundation ventilated the space between the floor and the grade. The windows were symmetrically placed about the door but do not line up with the windows in the opposite west wall. The church located out in the country had shutters providing security when the structure was not being used. The chimney was small being only two brick stretchers wide on this face by two and a half stretchers deep. It rested on the attic floor and had a simple brick cap.

Sketch by author
September 1960

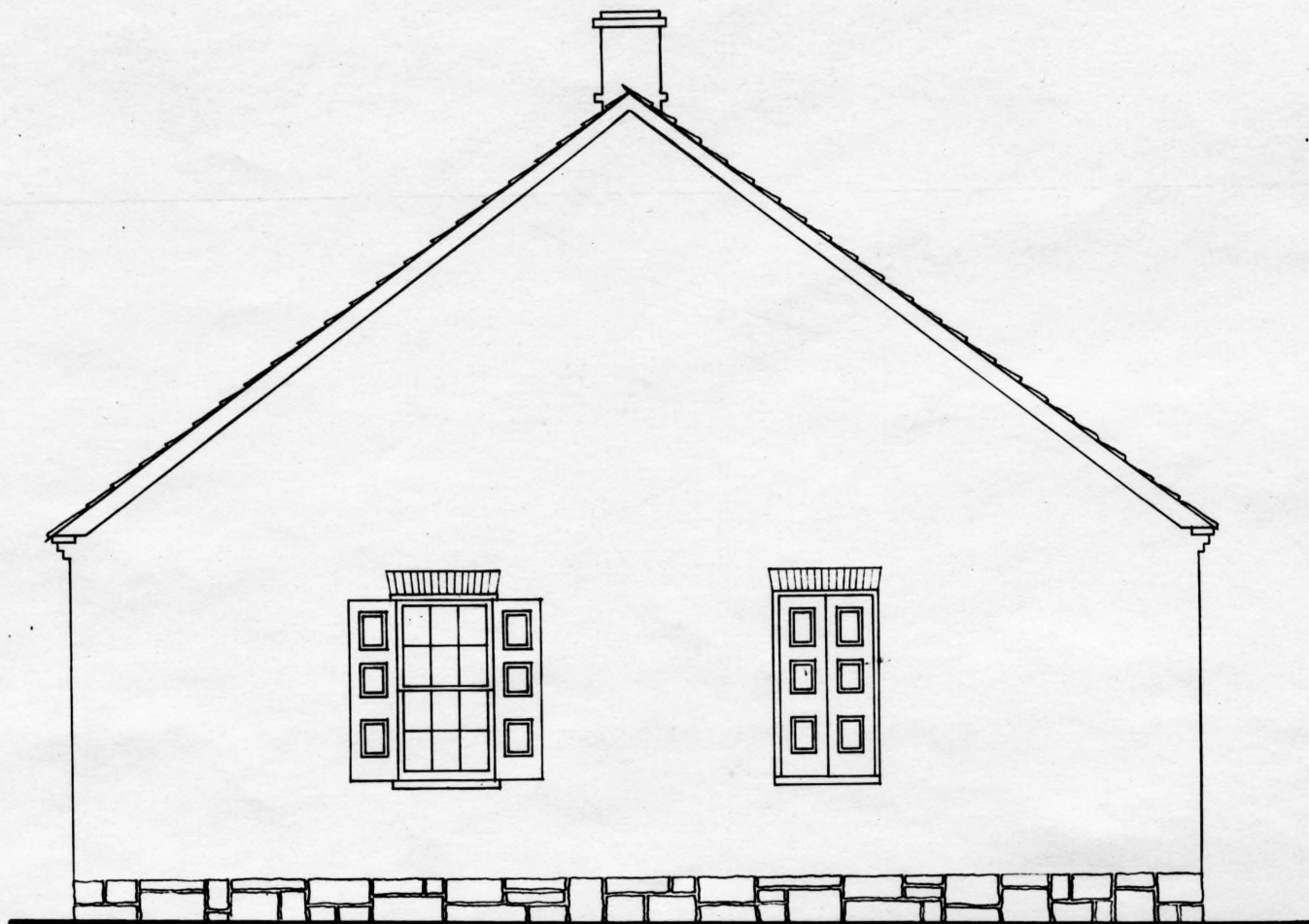


EAST ELEVATION

SKETCH "B"

At this, the north end of the church the minister faced his congregation. His bench was located between the two windows shown here. For convenience the shutters of the one window are drawn in the open position to show the number of lights in the double hung sash. Similar to other Dunkard Churches in the vicinity they would not have been counter-balanced but would have been held open with sticks. As on the east elevation the lintels were a soldier course of brick set in a slight arch form but relying mostly on the wood frame for support. The sills were wood. The verge boards had a slight taper conforming to the rafter setting behind them. There were no vents on this face below the first floor nor in the wall opposite.

Sketch by author
September 1960

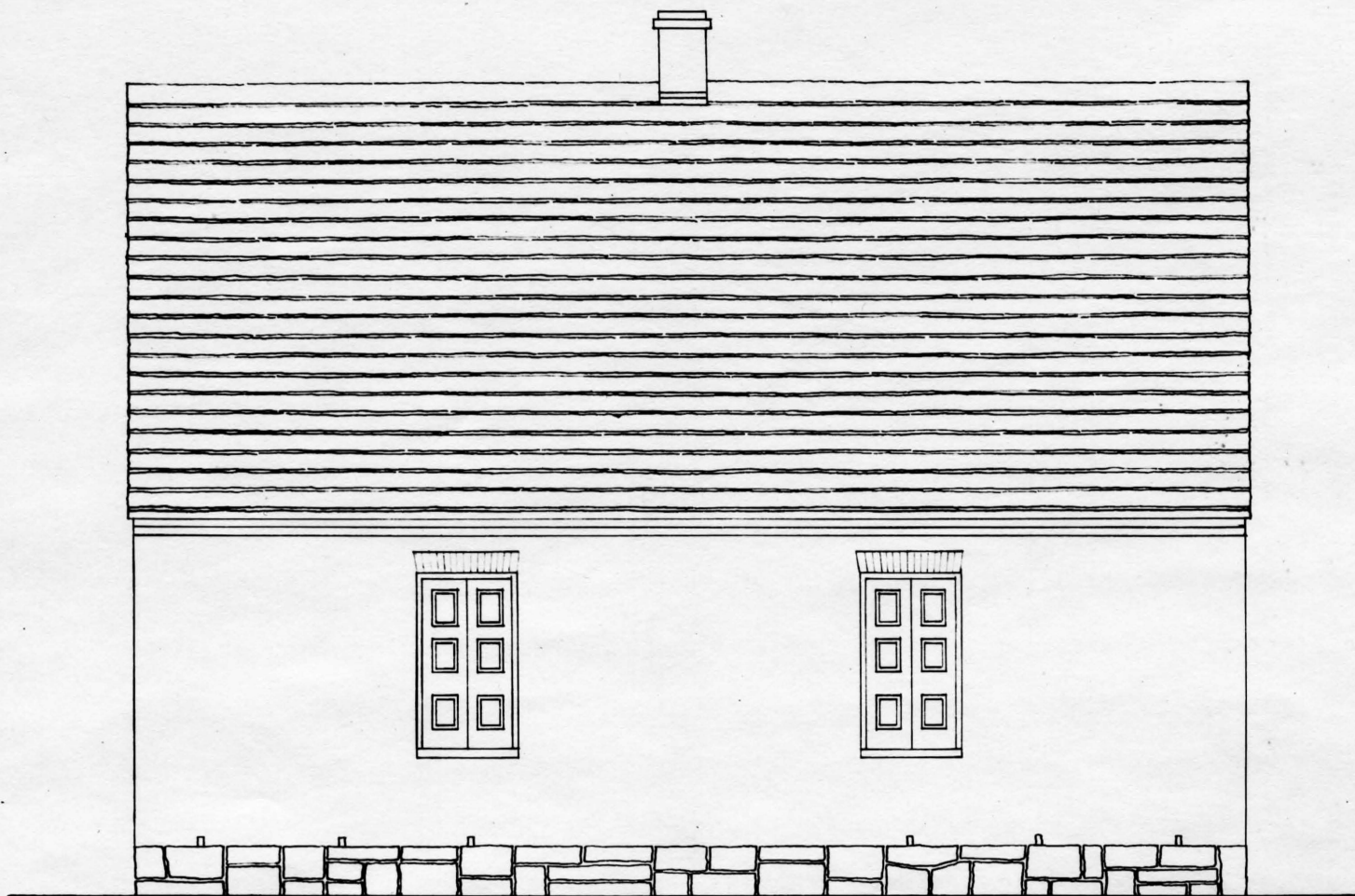


NORTH ELEVATION

SKETCH "C"

This, the least photographed view of the church is shown here to locate the windows in this wall. This side also had small openings above the stone foundation to vent the space between the first floor and the grade. The eaves cornice was made by corbeling out the three uppermost brick courses. All elevation sketches are based on photographs that have been carefully studied using perspective principles.

Sketch by author
September 1960



WEST ELEVATION

SKETCH "C"

SKETCH "D"

At the south end within the gable were located two windows as shown. It is said that the attic was not used other than for storage and the servicing of the stove-pipes to the chimney. The windows provided light on the occasion of these uses. The shutters were a board and batten type in contrast to the panel type used on the first floor windows. The door here was used by the women of the congregation as their entrance. Note how the top brick at the eaves projected from this face of the building to provide a termination for the tapered verge board. The brick work of this elevation suffered damage from artillery fire during the Battle of Antietam.

Sketch by author
September 1960

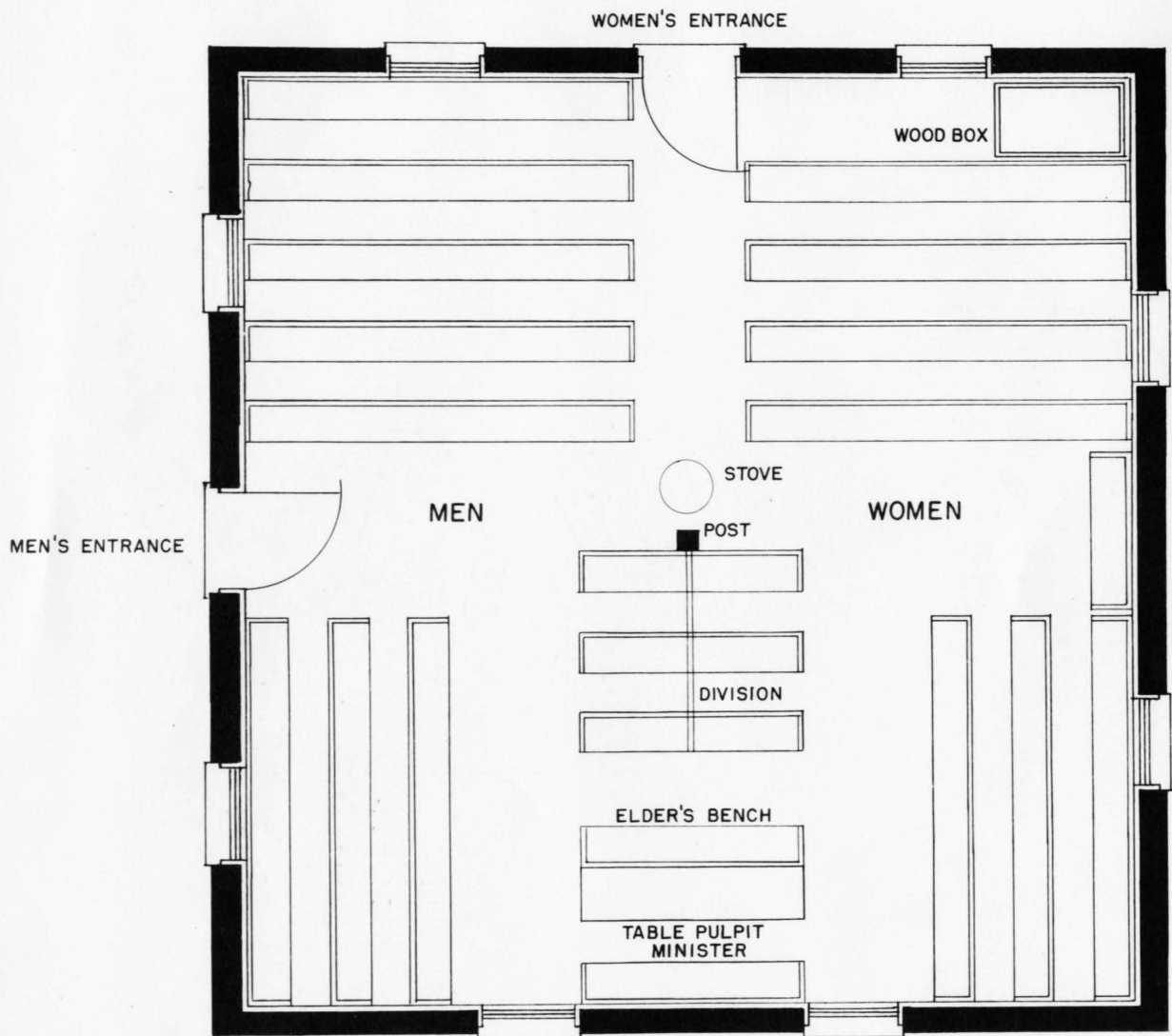


SOUTH ELEVATION

SKETCH "E"

This plan is one of several variants made in order to discuss the internal features of the building with those few remaining people who had been inside the church before it was destroyed by a storm in 1921. Miss Otto and Mr. Peterman, two of the dozen people contacted who remember more of the pertinent details, agree with the arrangement shown on this plan except for two minor points. Miss Otto feels there were two stoves contrary to Mr. Peterman's certainty that there was only one. While Mr. Peterman did not comment on the following refinement, Miss Otto said the back of the last short bench in the center row was in line with the back ends of the benches facing left and right at the front of the church. A study of the functional spacing of the benches necessitates placing the back of this bench against the central post. As shown in the drawing the men sat on the left and the women on the right. The wood storage box was located to the right and to the rear of the room with a ceiling scuttle to the attic directly above it. The minister used a table instead of the pulpit found in other denominations. Most everyone interviewed felt the minister preached from the floor and did not have a raised platform to bring him into better view.

Sketch by author
September 1960

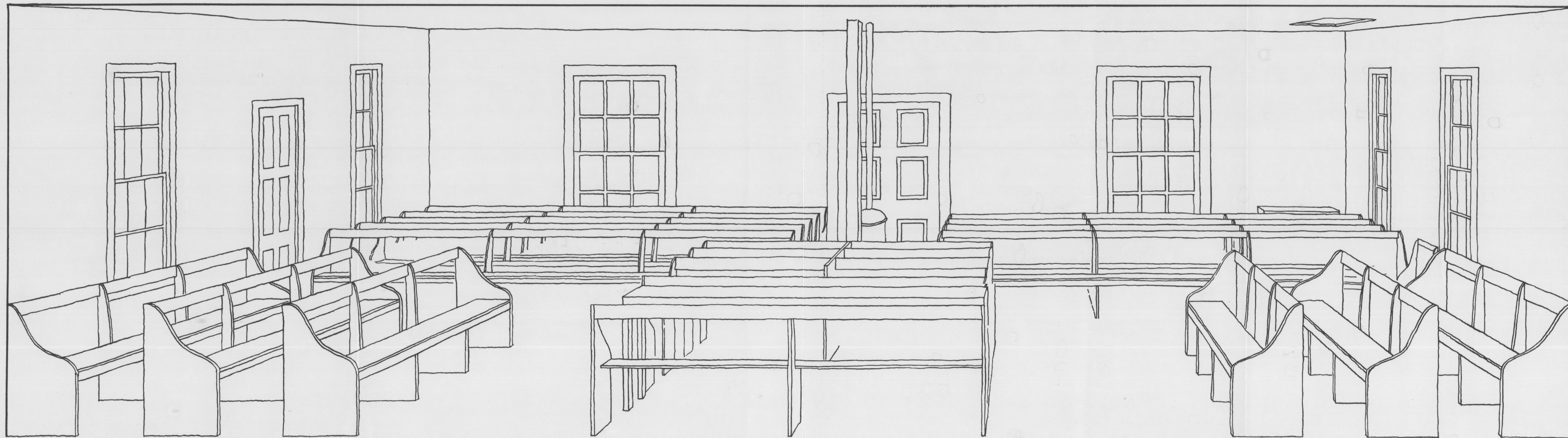


SKETCH "E"

SKETCH "F"

This view, again one of several prepared, was constructed to show the interior as would be seen by the minister. Miss Otto, during many services, sat with her minister father on the minister's bench and was able to verify the placement of the benches, windows, and doors. While she feels that there were two stoves, only one is shown in this view based on Mr. Peterman's positive claim that there was but one. This arrangement of benches as shown permitted funeral services to be held within the church which we are given to understand took place here. No lighting fixtures are delineated as no supporting evidence of their use could be uncovered at this time. The Dunkards of this congregation were plain living folks and as a consequence no unnecessary frills were employed. The window and door trim and the benches were left unpainted although the walls and ceiling were whitewashed. The structure was compact and sturdy having withstood the impact of a fierce battle all around it. Only time could weaken it to a degree where a severe storm was able to completely demolish the structure.

Sketch by author
September 1960



SKETCH "F"