



HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION FREDERICK COUNTY, MARYLAND

30 North Market Street, Third Floor Frederick, Maryland 21701 (301) 600-1147



CASE NO. DOE 24-01 DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY TO COUNTY REGISTER STAFF REPORT

SUMMARY

Property: Braddock Lutheran & German Reform Church / Braddock Grange
5602 Old National Pike, Frederick

Applicant: Martha C. Pirrone

Public Hearing for consideration of determining the property located at 5602 Old National Pike, Braddock Lutheran & German Reform Church / Braddock Grange, eligible for the Frederick County Register of Historic Places. Submitted by Martha C. Pirrone, property owner of record.

The public hearing for the determination of eligibility to the Frederick County Register of Historic Places will be held at 6:30 p.m., or thereafter, on November 6, 2024.



Figure 1: Subject Property.

DESIGNATION STATUS

The property is listed as contributing to the Braddock Survey District on the Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties under inventory number F-3-112. The nominated property contains the historic church and encompasses approximately 0.5 acres of land.

SUPPORTING MATERIALS

A completed County Register nomination form, maps, a statement of significance, and photographs were submitted.

SITE VISITS

Site visit dates were scheduled for November 2nd and 3rd.

REVIEW CONSIDERATIONS

1) Analysis

The architectural and historical significance of the Braddock Lutheran & German Reform Church / Braddock Grange is documented in the supporting materials. The property is locally significant for its association with social history related to the agricultural community of the Braddock area and for its vernacular architecture of an 1850s church. Based on the information provided, Staff finds the property is eligible for listing under Criteria 6B(1A) and 6B(2A).

2) History Summary

The Braddock Lutheran & German Reform Church / Braddock Grange was built 1859 per a date stone on the corner of the building. The property is located just west of Frederick city limits with the entire current parcel consisting of one-half acre.

The property was originally built in 1859 to house the Lutheran Reform and German Reform congregations. It was built as Braddock had grown into a turnpike town along the National Road. However, as transportation expanded and growth concentrated elsewhere in nearby Frederick Town and Middletown, the congregations ceased operations of the church. In 1920, the Braddock Grange was formed and utilized the property until the late 1990s. It was then sold and converted into a residence. The current owner has owned the property since 2020. The period of significance for this property is 1859 to 1974, when the building was constructed through 50 years ago when it was still utilized as a social hall for the Braddock Grange.

3) Historic, Archaeological, and Cultural Significance Criteria

The property is eligible for listing under this category for meeting criteria 6B(1A) as outlined in Chapter 1-23-6B(1) of the Frederick County Code:

- 6B(1A): *The property has significant character, interest, or value as part of development, heritage, or cultural characteristics of the county, state, or nation.*

The property has significant character and interest as part of development, heritage, and cultural characteristics of the County. It was originally built as a church in the growing turnpike town known at the time as Fair View. Turnpike towns were common along the National Road as it stretched from Baltimore to Cumberland. These towns were linear and spread along either side of the road. Fair View was established in the early part of the 19th century and as the area grew, the Lutheran Reform and German Reform congregations decided to build a union church that would serve both congregates. The pastors from the associated Frederick Town churches would travel to the church to preach to the respective congregations. These congregations were comprised of German immigrants and their descendants, one of the largest ethnic groups to settle and develop Frederick County.

By the middle of the 1800s, farmers were cultivating more land with the help of machinery; however, the market could not absorb all the product. Prices began declining, especially for wheat. Farmers were encouraged to organize and act collectively to try to improve market conditions and control price gouging. First referred to as the Order of Patrons on Husbandry in 1867, eventually the organization became known as the National Grange. State Granges formed which in turn established local granges throughout the State. The Braddock Grange was established in 1920 and served not only the farmers and their agricultural business but also was a social hall. Local community groups utilized the grange hall for events, meetings, and classes. It served the community for over 75 years. It was an important means for area farmers to not only be educated on modern agricultural practices but also a way to socialize and bring the whole community together.

4) Architectural and Design Significance Criteria

The property is also eligible under this category for meeting criteria 6B(2A) as outlined in Chapter 1-23-6B(2) of Frederick County Code:

- 6B(2A): *The property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or architecture.*

The Braddock Lutheran & German Reform Church / Braddock Grange is also significant for its architectural characteristics. It is a simple rectangular plan typically of rural churches in the mid-19th century. The building utilizes local stone material typically of many rural churches and building types throughout the County. While other architectural materials such as the windows and doors have been replaced, the location, design, setting, feeling and association remain much unchanged.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the Braddock Lutheran & German Reform Church / Braddock Grange be determined eligible for designation to the Frederick County Register of Historic Places pursuant to Criterion 6B(1A) and 6B(2A) as described in Section 1-23-6B of the County Code.