

The Old Brick Church

- was built circa 1845 from handmade bricks burnt in Union from local clays and sand.
- is listed on the National Register of Historic Places through the National Historic District of Union.
- is listed in the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) , the nation's first federal preservation program to document America's architectural heritage.
- lends charm and elegance to a wonderful West Virginia town.



24 over 24 pane window

As the constitution of the Monroe County Historical Society states,

".. there is a personal and patriotic obligation resting upon the citizens of every community to assemble and preserve its traditions, customs and history..."

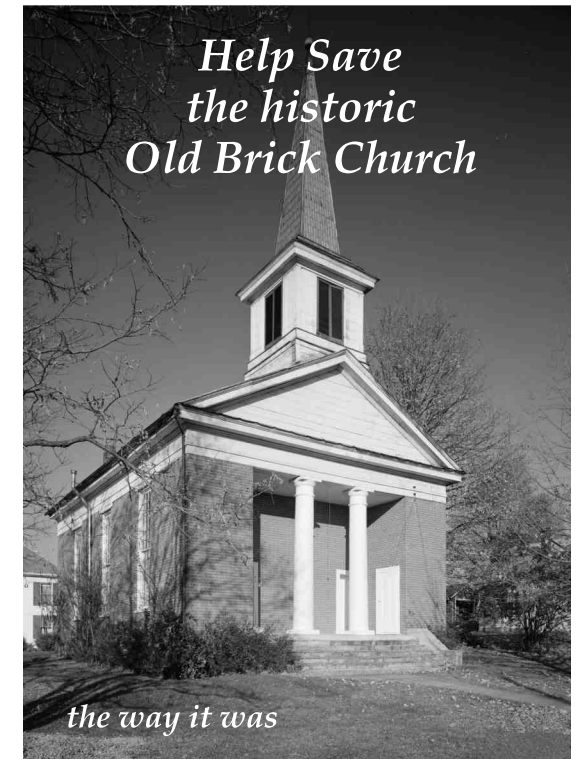
Please join with us and help save the historic *Old Brick Church* by sending your fully tax deductible donation to:

*Monroe County
Historical Society
P.O. Box 465
Union, WV 24983*

The Monroe County Historical Society is a 501 (c) (3), non-profit, tax exempt organization. For further information about preserving the *Old Brick Church*, please call (304) 772-5786.

Additional information about Monroe County history, genealogy, and the historical society's publications is available on the Web at www.rootsweb.com/~wvmonroe/history.htm

Email for the Historical Society may be sent to mchs@rdmcr.com



*a plea for support
from the
Monroe County
Historical Society*

A Jefferson Legacy

Monroe County is privileged to have three distinct yet equally fine examples of 19th Century Jeffersonian styled Classical Revival architecture which share a special common bond. The three properties are the *Old Sweet Springs Resort* (once called the "Jefferson Hotel"), the *Elmwood Mansion* - an elegant residence, and the *Old Brick Church* in Union.

What unites these very different buildings is that all three have been attributed to the work of William B. Phillips, a master builder and brick mason, who worked under the supervision of Thomas Jefferson during the early construction of the University of Virginia in Charlottesville.

In particular, it has been observed that Union's *Old Brick Church* would look entirely at home if it were somehow dropped amongst the buildings of the old UVA campus - from which the form and many of the design details of the church clearly originate.

Church History

Sometime prior to 1845 The Rev. Chandler came west from Charlottesville, VA to organize and build the Baptist Church in Union. After the War between the States, the largely white congregation was in disarray and could no longer sustain the church. It was then purchased by African-American members of the congregation, led by an ex-slave the Rev Charles Campbell. In 1997 the only two remaining members of the congregation, Agnes Branch and Stella Campbell, Charles Campbell's grand-daughter, deeded the property to the Monroe County Historical Society.

The Storm

Over the years, the building has been known by different names including the "*First Baptist Church*" the "*Black Baptist Church*" and simply as the "*Old Brick Church*". No matter the name, the building and its remarkable period interior survived in largely original and unaltered condition until the spring of 2006 when a severe windstorm put this legacy at risk.



In April of 2006 tragedy struck as an unusual storm swept over the region with "micro-bursts" of tornado force winds toppling trees and damaging many structures - the *Old Brick Church* among them. In the immediate aftermath of the storm the Monroe County Historical Society received generous donations enabling it to clean up the site, properly assess the damage, and protect the building and its interior with a temporary roof.

However, the initial donations were far from sufficient to complete the permanent repairs required to restore and preserve the building for future generations. Understanding that the *Old Brick Church* has long been an important historical and architectural landmark anchoring Union's Main Street, the Society sought out grants to help fund the preservation effort.

The Grant

In July of 2006, The Historical Society was awarded a grant in the amount of \$38,250.00. This money comes from the National Park Service and is administered by the West Virginia Division of Culture and History, State Historic Preservation Office.

Receiving this grant was great news. It is an affirmation of the regional and national importance of preserving the *Old Brick Church*. It is also an enormous challenge for the Society because the grant we have received is, in fact, a true "challenge" or "matching grant" which requires a dollar per dollar match.

The Monroe County Historical Society, which has always operated on a shoestring budget, must now raise at least an equal amount (\$38,250.00) before even a single dollar of the awarded grant money can be spent. So we truly need your substantial help now to leverage these Federal dollars and put them to work here in West Virginia preserving the *Old Brick Church*. If we meet our goal, every dollar of your donation will be effectively doubled in value.

Please, **Help Save the Historic Old Brick Church** by sending your fully tax deductible donation to:

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Union, WV 24983***