

## **AMAZING GRACE**

### **Mahoning Valley's German Baptist Brethren (the "Dunkers") and the Greek Revival Style**

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The meetinghouses of the German Baptist Brethren (formerly, the "Dunkers" and, today, the "Church of the Brethren") were intended to be plain, simple, and most of all, functional structures. Like their Mennonite and Quaker counterparts, these buildings were to be constructed without concern for style. Nevertheless, when the members of the Mahoning Congregation of northeastern Ohio Brethren, whose descendants first settled the region between 1775 and 1800, finally built their first meetinghouse, the Zion Hill House of 1872, they willingly included elements characteristic of the Western Reserve Greek Revival Style on its exterior. This paper will consider how the denominational and congregational history of the Mahoning Brethren corresponded to the architectural history of the region and will establish a parallelism between the German Baptist Brethren's outward, architectural expression and their inward, religious beliefs.