

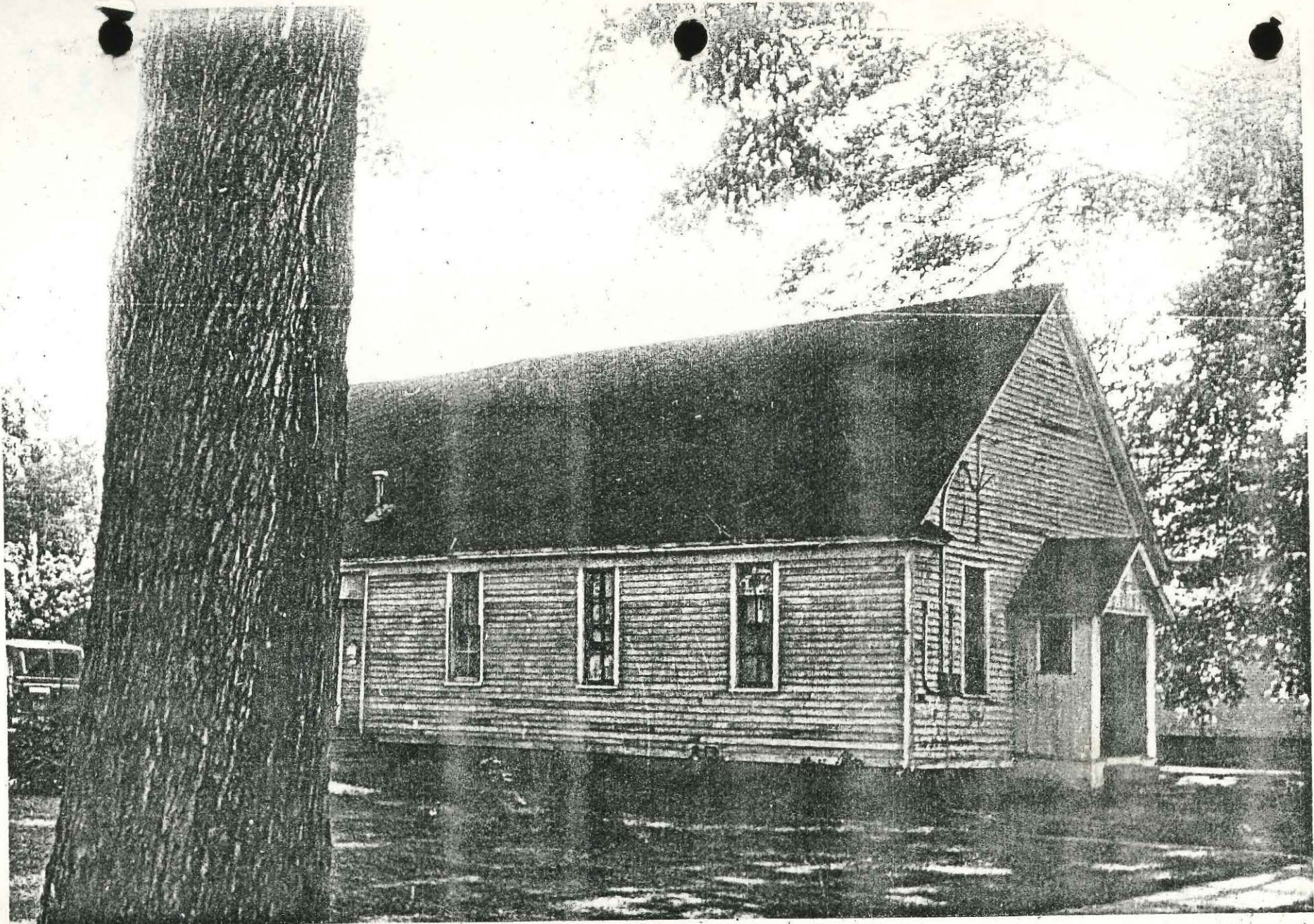
B.M.E. church: murray St.

Apparently this church was not exclusive to blacks in it's earliest days. From the original records of the Rainey family Thomas Rainey and his wife Sarah attended there and a Francis Elwood and possibly others. The Rainey family built a two story frame house on the west side of Stanton St. in 1854 just around the corner from the church.

Thomas Rainey got a licence to preach in the Methodist Episcopal Church from the Niagara District, given June 7, 1852. John Rainey was authorised to preach, Mar . 2nd. 1872. It was given by order from the Niagara District, local Preachers Conference.

On Jan 31, 1875 G. Bartrane published at Fort Erie in public preaching that he had expelled Thomas Rainey and Frances Elwood that is he turned them out of the Church. On the 4th, of Feb. Sarah Rainey sent a letter to Mr. G. Bertrain to inform him that she was no longer a member of the M.E. Church. On the 29th., of Mar. Mrs. Rainey was sent a letter by Mr. G. Bertrain requesting her to come to the Ridge Church for trail.

In Sept. of 1875. Thomas Rainey & Francis Elwood both appear as trustees of the Fort Erie Methodist Church situated on the north side of lower Bertie St. The building began construction on Sept. 14, 1875 and was completed in the Fall of the same year. It was part of the Ridgeway circuit along with the Methodist Church on the east side of Stone Mill.



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