

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED MAY 24 1978
DATE ENTERED NOV 29 1978

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC College Street Presbyterian Church
AND/OR COMMON Louisville Bible Church

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 113 West College Street
CITY, TOWN Louisville VICINITY OF
STATE Kentucky CODE 021 COUNTY Jefferson CODE 111

3 CLASSIFICATION

| CATEGORY | OWNERSHIP | STATUS | PRESENT USE |
|---|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT | <input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED | <input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE | <input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK |
| <input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> BOTH | <input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS | <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SITE | PUBLIC ACQUISITION | ACCESSIBLE | <input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS |
| <input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT | <input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS | <input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED | <input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED | <input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION |
| | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER: |

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Church of the Open Door
STREET & NUMBER 113 West College Street
CITY, TOWN Louisville VICINITY OF Kentucky

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Jefferson County Courthouse
STREET & NUMBER Sixth & Jefferson Streets
CITY, TOWN Louisville STATE Kentucky

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Brown-Doherty Survey
DATE 1961
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS
CITY, TOWN STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

| CONDITION | | CHECK ONE | CHECK ONE |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT | <input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED | <input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD | <input type="checkbox"/> RUINS | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED | <input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FAIR | <input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED | | |

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Louisville Bible Church, formerly the College Street Presbyterian Church, is located in downtown Louisville on College Street, between First and Second Streets, two blocks south of Broadway. Primarily residential in the nineteenth century, the area gradually changed after the turn of the century as commercial interests moved south of Broadway. Today, the site is surrounded by motels, parking lots, and commercial establishments with several remaining residences on the south side of College Street (See Maps 1 & 2).

The small classic Grecian structure was designed by Louisville architect, John Stirewalt (1811-1871), and completed in 1867. It is built of brick, stuccoed and painted white. The pedimented facade has a plain entablature and two Doric columns in antis.

There have been considerable alterations to the windows. Originally containing "Chocolate-tint" stained glass, according to a newspaper description of the church upon its dedication in June of 1867, the tall, narrow, round-arched openings have been filled in and modern, small-paned windows inserted in some of the openings. The facade behind the columns has been brought forward and a modern style door added. Originally entrances to the Church were in vestibules at either side of the recessed section behind the columns. The 1867 description, printed in the Louisville Daily Journal, mentioned a large, twelve-paned, ornamental window in the front having "beautifully variegated stained glass." This no longer exists. (See Photos 1, 2, 3, & 4)

The body of the Church, as built, was forty feet wide, sixty-one feet long, and twenty-five feet high. The interior walls were ornamented with pilasters and buttresses forming arcades to correspond with the half-round window heads. The ceiling, as described in The Daily Journal, was "level, with coffers or deep panels laid off in parallel rows and ornamented with rosettes. All who have seen this ceiling pronounce it decidedly the most elegant work of the kind ever constructed in Louisville."

Other accoutrements of the new church were four, six-light chandeliers, opaque gas-lamps on the altar, oak and pine wood pews with crimson cushions, and an oak pulpit "finely polished and carved with extraordinary neatness." The newspaper article further stated that "... throughout the entire building a beautifully chaste combination of forms and colors prevails, and the whole interior strikes the tasteful eye as the very perfection of the builder's art."

The interior has been completely remodeled and has none of the above-mentioned details. However, the exterior retains the patina of the Greek temple form as exemplified by the Greek Revival style.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

| PERIOD | AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW | | | |
|---|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING | <input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGION |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499 | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION | <input type="checkbox"/> LAW | <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599 | <input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS | <input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE | <input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY | <input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799 | <input type="checkbox"/> ART | <input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING | <input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC | <input type="checkbox"/> THEATER |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE | <input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY | <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1900- | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY | <input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION | | |

SPECIFIC DATES 1867

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

John Stirewalt

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The structure which is presently the Louisville Bible Church has been the home of three different denominations during its history. In addition, it is a surviving building from the period after the Civil War when the City of Louisville was just beginning to spread south of Broadway. It is also the only known extant building designed by John Stirewalt (1811-1871), one of Louisville's little-known but significant nineteenth-century architects.

The church was built in 1866-67 by the College Street Presbyterian Church which was organized in 1866 as the result of a division in the Second Presbyterian Church. This division had its beginnings in the early years of the Civil War when the issues of slavery and states' rights prompted the General Assembly to adopt resolutions directing churches to take a stand in opposition to slavery. In 1861, the Presbyterian Church divided into the Northern and Southern branches. The Synod of Kentucky remained with the Northern Assembly until the Assembly, in 1865, issued deliverances related to church control. These deliverances resulted in a split within the Kentucky Synod. In 1866, many Kentucky churches also split over this controversy, some remaining with the Northern Assembly and some uniting with the Southern Assembly.

In June, 1866, the Second Presbyterian Church divided, the majority of the congregation remaining with the minister, Dr. Stuart Robinson, and later uniting with the Southern Assembly. Some 95 members of the congregation, including four of the six elders, voted to remain with the General Assembly (Northern) and form a new congregation.

An equitable division of property was agreed upon and the smaller group was given a lot on the northeast corner of College and Second Streets. The new congregation was officially named the College Street Presbyterian Church. Construction of a chapel was begun in late 1866 and completed in June, 1867. This was the structure still standing on College Street.

The new church called the Reverend Edward P. Humphrey from the seminary at Danville to be the minister. Dr. Humphrey was one of the outstanding Presbyterian ministers in nineteenth-century Louisville. Born in Connecticut, he was the son of Rev. Heman Humphrey, president of Amherst College. After graduating from Amherst, he taught for several years and then graduated from Andover Theological Seminary. He was minister of the Presbyterian church in Jeffersonville, Indiana from 1833-1835, and, upon the resignation of Rev. E. N. Sawtell, he was called to the ministry of Second Presbyterian Church in Louisville in 1836, where he remained for seventeen years. In 1847, he received his Doctor of Divinity degree from Hanover College. He was elected moderator of the General Assembly in 1851, and in 1853, he resigned the pastorate of Second Presbyterian

(continued)

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

A History of the Second Presbyterian Church of Louisville, Kentucky. Louisville: Courier-Journal Job Printing Co., 1886.
 Davies, Jane B. Letter, 7 April 1976, containing information about John Stirewalt's association with the Town and Davis firm.
 Jefferson County, Kentucky, Deed Book 3523, p. 168 (1958); Book 583, p. 316 (1902); Book 505, p. 233 (1898); Book 161, p. 389 (1872); Book 136, p. 425 (1866); Book 121, p. 557 (1865); Book 104, p. 618 (1859). (continued)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1/10 acre

UTM REFERENCES

| | | | | | | | |
|---|------|------------------|--|---|------|---------|----------|
| A | 1, 6 | 6, 0, 8, 9, 5, 0 | ⁴²³³ 4, 2, 3, 4, 3, 5, 0 | B | | | |
| | ZONE | EASTING | NORTHING | | ZONE | EASTING | NORTHING |
| C | | | | D | | | |

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

A rectangular area 75 feet wide, 100 feet long. Bounded by West College on the south, the alley between first and second streets on the east, and parking lots on north and west.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

| STATE | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |
|-------|------|--------|------|
| | | | |
| STATE | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Mary Jean Kinsman, Research Assistant

ORGANIZATION

Landmarks Commission

DATE

December 6, 1977

STREET & NUMBER

617 West Jefferson

TELEPHONE

587-3501

CITY OR TOWN

Louisville,

STATE

Kentucky

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Edward W. Younton

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

5/19/78

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST

William L. Goveal
 William L. Goveal
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

11/29/78

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

Nov 27, 1978

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College Street
CONTINUATION SHEET Presbyterian Church ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

to accept a call to fill the Chair of Biblical and Ecclesiastical History at the Theological Seminary in Danville, Kentucky. He remained there until becoming minister of the College Street Church in 1866. Dr. Humphrey was a contemporary of Dr. Stuart Robinson and Dr. Samuel R. Wilson, these three being considered Louisville's most prominent and influential Presbyterian ministers in the nineteenth century. Dr. Humphrey retired from the College Street Church in 1879 and died in 1887.

In 1875, the College Street Presbyterian Church erected a larger, Gothic church building on the corner of Second and College Streets, just west of the 1867 chapel. This 1875 church was designed by W. H. Redin. The chapel was then used as a lecture room.

The College Street Church and the Central Presbyterian Church merged in 1898 to form the Fourth Avenue Presbyterian Church. The new church moved to Fourth and Kentucky Streets and in 1902, the two buildings owned by the College Street Presbyterian Church were sold to the Congregation B'rith Sholom. The larger building was used as a synagogue and the chapel housed educational rooms.

In 1950, B'rith Sholom sold the buildings to the Church of the Open Door, an inter-denominational group which presently owns the property. In 1965, because of increasing expenses and dwindling membership, the congregation found it economically unfeasible to maintain the large, Gothic church, and it was razed and replaced by a parking lot. The congregation continued to worship in the 1867 chapel, and it is still used for this purpose by the Louisville Bible Church.

The architect of the old College Street Presbyterian Church, John Stirewalt (1811-1871), had a career in Louisville which spanned some thirty-four years. The only known surviving building designed by him is the Louisville Bible Church. Stirewalt was a native of North Carolina who studied with the well-known New York architects, Ithiel Town and Alexander Jackson Davis, and was probably employed by them to work on several projects in the mid-West. It is believed that Stirewalt came to Louisville about 1836 with Ithiel Town, who had been hired to supervise construction of a bridge over the Ohio River. The bridge was never built, but Stirewalt received some commissions and remained in Louisville to practice. He designed the First Presbyterian Church on Green Street (1839) and St. Paul's Episcopal Church on Sixth Street (1837-44), both razed long ago. These two churches were in the Gothic Revival style and, so far as can be determined, were the first churches in Louisville of this design. Stirewalt was also employed to partially remodel the interior of Christ Church Cathedral in 1842. The design of the Louisville Theatre, built c. 1846 on the corner of Green and Fourth Streets, has been attributed to Stirewalt. It burned in 1866 and no drawings of it are known to exist. In 1847, Stirewalt designed the Academic Building for the University of Louisville. This massive Greek Revival structure was located on the southeast corner of Ninth and Chestnut Streets. It was later occupied by Male High School and was razed in the late 1960s. Stirewalt died in 1871 and was buried in Cave Hill Cemetery.

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College Street

CONTINUATION SHEET Presbyterian Church TEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 3

The Louisville Bible Church structure has been extensively remodeled and altered on the interior. The ceiling has been lowered and paneling added to the walls, leaving no visible traces of the architectural details of the original walls and ceiling. The two-story section at the rear is a twentieth-century addition, built when B'rith Sholom owned the building. Although exterior changes have been made, such as removal of the stained-glass windows and the extension of a portion of the front, the classic simplicity of the Greek temple form is still evident. The structure is a very late example of Greek Revival design, as that style was most popular from about 1820-1850. Stirewalt's Academic Building of 1847 for the University of Louisville was also a late use of the Greek Revival.

The Louisville Bible Church is one of the few extant structures in the area south of Broadway dating from the period just after the Civil War and is also the oldest church building in this area. It is the only known surviving building by John Stirewalt, a Louisville architect who designed several important nineteenth-century buildings and churches in the city.

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College Street

CONTINUATION SHEET Presbyterian Church ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 2

Johnston, J. Stoddard, ed. Memorial History of Louisville. Vol. II, Ch. XIII, XIV, XV. Chicago and New York: American Biographical Publishing Co., 1896.

Louisville Daily Journal, 5 October 1839, 16 September 1842 and 1 June 1867.

McMullen, Patricia. "The Academic Building of 1847 by John Stirewalt." Senior thesis, Fine Arts Department, University of Louisville, 1948.

Records of the College Street Presbyterian Church. One volume, 1866-1893. Library, Presbyterian Theological Seminary, Louisville, Kentucky.

Trustees' Minutes of the First Presbyterian Church, 1838-1875. Historical Foundation of the Presbyterian and Reformed Churches, Montreat, North Carolina.

The (Louisville) Courier-Journal, 22 November 1871.

MAY 20 1978

Louisville Bible Church
113 West College Street
Louisville, Jefferson, Kentucky
Atlas of Louisville, 1876
Louisville Abstract & Loan Assoc.
Map 2. Copy of 1876 map locating
site of old College Street
Presbyterian Church.

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