(Oct. 1990)	CMB NO. 10024-0018
United States Department of the Interior	RECEIVED 2280
National Register of Historic Places Registration Form	JAN 6 1998
This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and distri National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete e by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documente architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcate entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word p	each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or ad, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, agories from the instructions. Place additional
1. Name of Property	
historic nameClifton Baptist Church Complex	
other names/site number BO-377	, 
2. Location	
street & number <u>NW side of Clifton Rd., 1 mile NE of State Rou</u>	ite 52 NAnot for publication
city or townClifton	¥
state Kentucky code KY Boyle	
3. State/Federal Agency Certification	۰
David L. Morgan, SHPO and Executive         Director of KHC         Signature of certifying official/Title         Date         Kentucky Heritage Council/State Historic Preservation Office         State of Federal agency and bureau         In my opinion, the property [] meets [] does not meet the National Register criteria. ([] comments.)	
Signature of commenting official/Title Date	_
State or Federal agency and bureau	
4. National Park Service Certification	A
	Beal Date of Action 2/12/98

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Clifton Baptist Church Complex (BO-377)		Boyle County, KY				
Name of Property			County and State	θ	17	
5. Classification						
Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)	Category of Property (Check only one box)		Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)			
☐ public-local ☐ public-local ☐ public-State ☐ public-Federal	<ul> <li>Ď building(s)</li> <li>☐ district</li> <li>☐ site</li> <li>☐ structure</li> <li>☐ object</li> </ul>	· •	Contributing 3 1 3	Noncontributi 0 0 0	ng buildings sites structures objects	
		. •	7	0	Total	
Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "\'/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)		Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register				
N/A			· · · 0			
6. Function or Use						
Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions) RELIGION: Religious Facility			Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions) RELIGION: Religious Facility FUNERARY: Cemetery			
EDUCATION: School						
FUNERARY: Cemetery						
				· · ·		
	·				•	
7. Description						
Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)			Materials (Enter categories from instr	ructions)		
No Style			foundation STONE: CONCRETE			
			walls WOOD; STUCCO	): ASPHALT		
			roof ASPHALT; MET	TAL		
			other			

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Narrative Description (Descripe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.) See Continuation Sheets

Clifton Baptist Church Complex (BO-377) Name of Property	Boyle County, KY County and State
8. Statement of Significance	
Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)	Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions) ETHNIC HERITAGE: Black
A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.	
□ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.	
□ C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.	Period of Significance 1886–1946
D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.	
Criteria Considerations (Mark ''x'' in all the boxes that apply.)	Significant Dates 1886
Property is:	
A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.	
B removed from its original location.	Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above) N/A
C a birthplace or grave.	
☑ D a cemetery.	Cultural Affiliation N/A
E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.	
□ F a commemorative property.	
G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.	Architect/Builder Unknown
Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)	See Continuation Sheets
9. Major Bibliographical References Bibliography	
(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one	e or more continuation sheets.)
Previous documentation on file (NPS):	Primary location of additional data:
preliminary determination of individual listing (36	State Historic Preservation Office
CFR 67) has been requested	Other State agency
<ul> <li>previously listed in the National Register</li> <li>previously determined eligible by the National Register</li> </ul>	Federal agency  Local government  University
designated a National Historic Landmark recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey	Other     Name of repository:
# recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #	

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Clifton Baptist Church Complex (BO-377)	Boyle County, KY	
Name of Property and 2 email and 2 email and 2	County and State	Wallie G
10. Geographical Data		र्भन भू राजन नहाँ हो ज
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UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.) Brya	ntsville Quadrangle	· · · ·
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Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.) See Continuation Sheets Boundary Justification		
(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.) See	e Continuation Sheets	
11. Form Prepared By		
name Amanda Bradley, Historian and Christi	ine Amos, Historian	
organization Burry & Amos, Inc. (Heart of Danvill		
street & number926 Main Street	telephone (502) 633-55	30
city or townShelbyville	state Kentucky zip code	40065
Additional Documentation		
Submit the following items with the completed form:		
Continuation Sheets		
Maps		
A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the	property's location.	
A Sketch map for historic districts and properties have	ving large acreage or numerous resou	rces.
Photographs		
Representative black and white photographs of the	property.	
Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)		
Property Owner		
(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)		
name Trustees of the Clifton Baptist Church		
street & number Route 1	telephone	

properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit or accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Clifton Baptist Church Complex (BO-377) Boyle County, KY

#### 7. Description

The Clifton Baptist Church complex is located on the western edge of the Clifton Road in the community of Clifton, on the edge of a bluff overlooking the Dix River. Established after the Civil War as an African-American hamlet, the community retains little of its historic fabric. Most residences have deteriorated or have been replaced by modern structures. Once the nucleus of the Clifton community, the Baptist Church and school are virtually all that remain of the historic hamlet. The community established a school by 1886 in a single pen log building, establishing the Clifton Baptist Church in the same year. The complex includes seven contributing resources: the church, school, a dining hall, privy, cemetery, plank fence and rock fence, all on approximately two acres.

#### Clifton Baptist Church (Contributing Building)

The one-story, frame church, constructed in the late nineteenth century following the organization of the congregation in 1886, is built on a nave-plan with a front, gable asphalt shingle clad roof; and a projecting entry tower with kicked pyramidal roof covered with pressed metal shingles. The front (east) facade features central paired and paneled entry doors topped by a multi-pane transom. A sawn ornamental, circular vent is located above the entryway. Windows extend along the north and south walls, being 2/2 sash with frosted glass in the lower sash. A bay-shaped nave extends from the rear (west) wall with a single pane of stained glass, flanked on either side by sash windows. Exterior materials and details include an interior end brick chimney with stucco covering; weatherboard siding; and a continuous dry-laid stone foundation.

The church interior retains six original wood pews facing each side of the center aisle. The original cast iron stove, located along the north wall between pews was replaced in the mid-1960s with a wood-burning stove. The nave contains a raised floor and a wood pulpit. Interior walls are painted plaster with beaded board wainscotting. The original hardwood floor remains under a carpet added in the late twentieth century. Window architraves are of wood with bulls eye corner blocks.

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Clifton Baptist Church Complex (BO-377) Boyle County, KY

#### School (Contributing Building)

The late nineteenth century school was constructed as a one-story, single pen log cabin and operated as the Clifton School from 1886 until 1930 (Boyle County Deed Book 19/183; DB 59/ 375). After the school closed in 1930, S. Bunyon Rowe purchased the building for use as a residence (DB 59/375). Historic photographs of the school prior to 1930 show a central entry on the front (south) facade, flanked by 6/6 sash windows, with a shed addition on the west wall, covered with weatherboard and rolled asphalt (See Figure 1). Portions of the original log building are covered with weatherboard and rolled asphalt in the photo. Subsequently, the building was stuccoed. The original log pen remains much the way it appears in the historic photo, with historic materials intact while resting on a continuous dry-laid stone foundation with portions of the log construction visible on the north wall where rolled asphalt and weatherboard are torn away. In the 1960s, the building again became associated with the church, becoming the Clifton Baptist Church fellowship hall, a role it maintains presently.

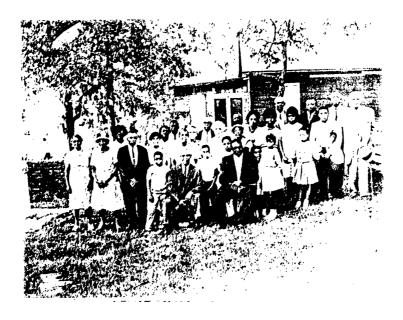


Fig. 1 Historic photograph showing the Clifton School prior to 1930 (Reverend James A. Landrum).

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Clifton Baptist Church Complex (BO-377) Boyle County, KY

Dining Hall (Contributing Building)

Located behind (west) of the church and school is an early twentieth century, one story, frame building, rectangular in shape, with a side gable roof clad with standing seam metal. Constructed as the church dining hall, the building has board and batten and weatherboard siding. The front (south) facade, faces the church and features a side entry and three single pane windows. The foundation is of continuous poured concrete. The building is currently vacant, used only as a storage area.

#### Privy (Contributing Structure)

A pre-World War II, box frame privy with a shed roof covered with standing seam metal is located directly behind the church. The front (east) facade faces the church with one side entry, hidden by a vertical plank privacy wall extending to the roofline. The building is the only restroom facility in the complex.

#### Plank Fence (Contributing Structure)

Along the eastern (front) boundary of the complex and south side of the church, is an early twentieth century four plank fence. This contributing structure serves as a boundary between the church yard and the Clifton Road and defines the yard area in front of the church. Studies discussing the function of African-American yard spaces, such as John Michael Vlach's <u>Back of the Big House</u>, indicate that such an area probably served as an integral part of Clifton's African-American culture in the late nineteenth through mid twentieth centuries. The fence is known to have existed prior to 1930 as is shown in **Figure 2**, a historic photograph of church members resting on a pew next to the fence.

#### Rock Fence (Contributing Structure)

Oriented on an east-west axis between the church and school is a mid- to late-nineteenth century, dry-laid rock fence with no coping. The fence is mentioned in the 1886 deed of the Clifton School (Boyle County DB 19/183) and probably served as a barrier for the school grounds, subsequently serving as a divider between the church and school grounds and the cemetery.

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Clifton Baptist Church Complex (BO-377) Boyle County, KY

(possibly associated with a road bed), it maintains historic significance with the church and school as a divider between the two buildings and their grounds during the late-nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

### Cemetery (Contributing Site)

The rear lot of the complex contains a cemetery established in 1899 and marked by a date stone located in the middle of the lot. Situated on a natural slope, the cemetery exhibits several historic tombstones of local and manufactured quality, such as the one seen in Figure from 1899. The Board of Directors for the Clifton Church bought the parcel in 1899, "...one half acre...(along with) also a 10 feet drive way along the west side of same...to be used for no other purpose than a burial ground for the church (Boyle County Deed Book 28/69; November 25, 1899)." The cemetery remains partially occupied, with approximately 150 lots remaining open.



Fig. 2 Historic photograph of the plank fence fronting the Clifton Baptist Church (Reverend James A. Landrum).

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Clifton Baptist Church Complex (BO-377) Boyle County, KY

### 8. Statement of Significance

The Clifton Baptist Church Complex (BO-377), located on the western edge of the Clifton Road in northeastern Boyle County, Kentucky, meets National Register of Historic Places Criterion A, and is locally significant for its association with a rural, African-American hamlet established during Reconstruction in Boyle County. One of only two such remaining resources in Boyle County, the complex is significant within the historic context "African-American Community Development in Boyle County, Kentucky After the Civil War." The property's significance derives from its association with a rural, African-American hamlet, established at the close of the Civil War when freed slaves were beginning new lives as public citizens. The property's Period of Significance extends from 1886-1946, when the Clifton School and Church were established and continued to serve as the nucleus of the rural community.

### HISTORIC CONTEXT: African-American Community Development in Boyle County, Kentucky After the Civil War

After the war, many freed men and families moved to cities and towns, while others sought work and homes in rural areas. In "Negro Hamlets and Agricultural Estates in Kentucky's Inner Bluegrass" (Smith and Raitz, 1974), the Negro hamlet is identified as a rural phenomenon of the post-bellum era. The majority of Negro hamlets studied were created when large estate owners, in need of labor forces, deeded or sold groups of lots to former slaves who then established communities. Less commonly, white entrepreneurs purchased rural land, divided it into lots, and sold the lots exclusively to blacks. The origin of still other hamlets remains unknown.

Along with large estate owners, the Freedmen's Bureau also aided freed men and women in obtaining land, starting schools and building churches following the Civil War. Established in March, 1865, the Bureau sought to "protect and care for ex-slaves and others set adrift by the war in the former slave states (Kleber, 1992: 356)." One of the most significant efforts put forth by the Bureau involved the establishment of educational facilities for African Americans in southern states. In Kentucky, the Education Division of the Freedmen's Bureau was established in 1866. The Bureau felt it was crucial for ex-slaves to obtain an education in order to move forward as most had been denied formal schooling. Using money allocated from taxes paid by African Americans, the Bureau was able to establish 219 schools throughout Kentucky for 10,422 students

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Clifton Baptist Church Complex (BO-377) Boyle County, KY

by 1870 (ibid: 357). After the disintegration of the Bureau in 1874, Kentucky's African Americans were not assured accessibility to public funding for education until 1882 when the Kentucky legislature allotted monies for both African-American and white schools from the same financial sources (ibid).

As schools gained stature as important institutions within newly developed African-American communities of the late nineteenth century, so too did religious facilities assume prominent positions within the hamlets. Since the eighteenth century, African-American religion was influenced by the integration of traditions and beliefs belonging to both Protestant and African-American religious doctrines. Prior to Emancipation, slaves, freedmen and whites regularly attended racially integrated church services, the whites believing it was important that slaves learn to practice religion and good morals (Brown, 1993: NP). Although services were integrated, seating remained segregated with African Americans generally occupying balcony seats or rear aisles. Church social activities likewise remained segregated as African Americans were seldom allowed to take part in church decisions or social affairs, except in the role of servant or cook (lbid).

In Kentucky, some African-Americans organized their own churches prior to Emancipation. In Boyle County, for example, the first segregated African-American church formed in 1846 in Danville, called the Green Street Church. Members of the church met in various homes but were only allowed to congregate occasionally as many whites felt the meetings allowed for the planning of revolts. As a result of this distrust, African-Americans deeply desired a freedom to control their own religious organizations. The opportunity occurred at the end of the Civil War (lbid).

Writing about the history of African-American religion, Marion Brunson Lucas maintains that the church, almost single-handedly, shaped rural African-American communities formed after 1865. Within such communities, churches were segregated from white institutions, allowing the creation of a non-white-influenced African-American religion (Lucas, 1988: 210). Baptists led the way in the rapid establishment of African-American churches in Kentucky following the Civil War, with the help of the General Association of Colored Baptists in Kentucky, formed in 1865. The organization, through the creation of a constitution and numerous committees, faced issues plaguing African-American communities such as education, missions and memberships within the

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Clifton Baptist Church Complex (BO-377) Boyle County, KY

church. Convention leaders focused on the church as the sole institution that could reach and educate the majority of African Americans, most of whom could not read nor write even their names.

As a result of the decisions and actions taken by the Convention's leaders, the Baptist doctrine soon became that most widely followed by African-American worshipers in Kentucky. Several reasons account for the popularity of the Baptist religion at that time. First, the Baptist philosophy was simple to understand. Second, the drama of outdoor baptisms held a large appeal for converts. And finally, rural, African-American communities in Kentucky were uniquely well-suited to independent congregations where all took part in all aspects of church services (Brown, 1993; NP; and Lucas; 211). The success of the Baptists in establishing Kentucky church congregations was followed by the Methodists, led by the African Methodist Episcopal Church (AME) and by the Christian Church.

In Boyle County, at least five African-American communities were established during the post Civil War era, including Clifton, Stoney Point, Wilsonville, Needmore and Little Needmore (Brown, 1993: NP). The hamlets developed on land donated or sold by farmers and laid into small lots for residences and various other buildings. A large percentage of male residents farmed as sharecroppers while others worked as blacksmiths, carpenters, and in other trades. As seen in **Figure 3**, most hamlets were created along well-traveled, secondary roads with few having any commercial businesses or post offices.

Of those Boyle County hamlets established in the late nineteenth century, only Clifton and Wilsonville retain physical evidence of historic community structures. The Wilsonville community developed in the south-central portion of Boyle County, along the Louisville and Nashville (L&N) Railroad. Residents of the community were likely employed by the railroad, helping with the construction and maintenance of the line. Although the vitality of this African-American hamlet has declined, two important features remain, the Wilsonville A.M.E. Church and the Wilsonville School. The church, having undergone extensive alterations in the twentieth century, remains in operation with weekly services performed by visiting pastors. The school building has been vacant for a number of years and faces deterioration from neglect. The Wilsonville complex is not eligible to the National Register of Historic Places due to loss of physical integrity.

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Clifton Baptist Church Complex (BO-377) Boyle County, KY

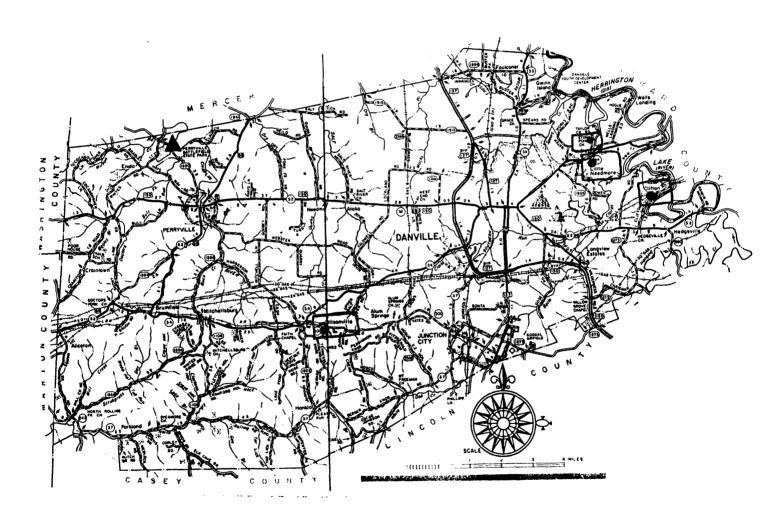


Figure 3. Map showing the locations of the Clifton, Stoney Point, Wilsonville, Needmore and Little Needmore African-American hamlets in Boyle County, KY.

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Clifton Baptist Church Complex (BO-377) Boyle County, KY

The Clifton Baptist Church Complex

Soon after the Civil War, the African-American community of Clifton was established on marginal soils on a bluff overlooking the Dix River. Comprised of small acreage tracts, the community was named for its location above the cliffs of the Dix River. The Clifton Road was established as a nineteenth century transportation route through northeastern Boyle County that allowed access to docks along the Dix River. The road remains a major access to the river. Residents were primarily farm families who relied solely on agriculture as the main economic activity, with tobacco and hemp being principal cash crops grown (Personal Interview with Madison Terrance, August, 1996). Clifton boasted no businesses, and residents often traveled a short distance south to a store and post office in Hedgeville (ibid). The community developed along the western side of the Clifton Road, forming a landscape with numerous log and frame houses (ibid). Most of these structures were replaced in the mid- to late-twentieth century with post World War II residences due to their minimal sizes and deterioration.

As was the case in many late-nineteenth century African-American communities of the Bluegrass region, the church-school complex in Clifton served as the center of the community's social activities. Acreage for the complex, located along the western edge of the Clifton Road, was purchased in 1886 by trustees of the Clifton School (Boyle County Deed Book 19, Page 183). Initially, the land was to be used for the "benefit of a Public school, with log school house" (ibid). From 1886-1924, grades one through eight were taught at the school, with classes in session from August through December. Students worked on local farms the remainder of the year (Personal Interview with Madison Terrance, September 5, 1996). The original log school building remains in use, having undergone rehabilitation during its conversion into a private residence in 1930. The building retains its historic integrity through the retention of original fenestration and wall covering.

The Clifton Baptist Church organized in the same year as the Clifton School and held services initially at the school house. By the end of the nineteenth century, the congregation gave its financial and physical support to the construction of a frame church building on the school lot. The church continues to hold services on Sunday mornings, led by Reverend James Landrum, pastor at the church since 1963. Church members are baptized in the Dix River, approximately

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Clifton Baptist Church Complex (BO-377) Boyle County, KY

one mile north of the church, in the same location used by Clifton congregations since the late nineteenth century (Personal Interview with Reverend James A. Landrum, August 28, 1996).

In addition to the church and school, the complex also contains a dining hall (built in the early twentieth century by church members for a price of \$50); a privy; a cemetery, established in 1899, to "be used for no other purpose than a burial ground for the said (Clifton) church" (Boyle County Deed Book 28/69); and two fences, one of dry-laid rock and one of wood planks. Currently, the log school house is used as a fellowship hall by the church and the original dining hall is used for storage.

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Clifton Baptist Church Complex (BO-377) Boyle County, KY

9. Bibliography

Boyle County Deed Book 19, Page 183.

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Personal Interview with Madison Terrance in Danville, Kentucky on September 5, 1996.

- Smith, Peter Craig and Karl Raitz. "Negro Hamlets and Agricultural Estates in Kentucky's Inner Bluegrass" in <u>Geographical Review</u>, April, 1974.
- Vlach, John Michael. <u>Back of the Big House: The Architecture of Plantation Slavery</u>. Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1993.

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Clifton Baptist Church Complex Boyle County, KY

#### 10. Verbal Boundary Description

The Clifton Baptist Church is located on the west side of the Clifton Road, approximately two miles north of the State Route 52 intersection. The nominated property includes the church, school, dining hall, privy, plank fence, rock fence and cemetery occupying the entire lot shown as Map 53, Parcel 32, on the Boyle County Property Identification Maps in the Property Valuation Administrator's Office.

#### **Boundary Justification**

The Clifton Baptist Church Complex began with a parcel of land containing the log school building on the west side of the Clifton Road. By 1900, the property extended west and south, comprised of approximately one and one half acres. All of the property, including the seven contributing resources, are included in the nomination. The area proposed for nomination contains the land and resources which relate to the significant associations. The area included contains a modest amount of acreage, that has historically been associated with the property and which conveys the integrity of feeling of a rural, African-American church complex.

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Clifton Baptist Church Complex Boyle County, KY

#### PHOTOGRAPHS

Clifton Baptist Church Complex, Boyle County, KY Photographs by: C. Amanda Bradley Burry & Amos, Inc. 926 Main Street Shelbyville, KY 40065

Date: November, 1996

Clifton Baptist Church, facing southwest 1 of 8

Clifton Baptist Church, facing northeast 2 of 8

Clifton School, facing northeast 3 of 8

Dining Hall, facing north 4 of 8

Privy, facing west 5 of 8

Cemetery 6 of 8

Dedication marker of Clifton Cemetery, 1925 7 of 8

Example of historic tombstone in cemetery 8 of 8

