

PH 36466

**DATA SHEET**

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED OCT 28 1976  
DATE ENTERED JUN 17 1977

**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  
 AND/OR COMMON  
\* \* Elizaville Presbyterian Church  
Same

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER  
Kentucky 32  
CITY, TOWN  
Elizaville  
STATE  
Kentucky  
VICINITY OF  
07  
COUNTY  
Fleming  
CODE  
069  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

**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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
			<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
			<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME  
Congregation and Board of Elders; James N. Shanklin, Chairman  
STREET & NUMBER  
Kentucky Highway 32  
CITY, TOWN  
Elizaville  
STATE  
Kentucky

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.  
Fleming County Courthouse  
STREET & NUMBER  
Court Square  
CITY, TOWN  
Flemingsburg  
STATE  
Kentucky

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE  
Survey of Historic Sites in Kentucky (Supplement)  
DATE  
1976  
FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL   
DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS  
Kentucky Heritage Commission  
CITY, TOWN  
Frankfort  
STATE  
Kentucky

<b>CONDITION</b>		<b>CHECK ONE</b>	<b>CHECK ONE</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input 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

Elizaville is a small town set on rolling hills in the western tip of Fleming County. The town is situated at the junction of two roads that connect the eastern part of the county and the county seat, Flemingsburg, with Nicholas County on the west and south, and Mason County on the north. The cross roads are at the bottom of hills that rise on all corners from the intersection. The Presbyterian Church faces north on the south side of the road at the eastern edge of the older portion of town (see Map 3). The ground slopes at a considerable grade down toward the west (the cross roads) and south behind the church. The latter slope allows a grade-level entrance to the lower floor of the church, with the main (upper) entrance directly on the road.

The church building consists of a rectangular Flemish-bond brick block with a well-proportioned gable facing front and rear, and a large octagonal tower over the entrance. There are six bays, somewhat unevenly spaced, along each side, which are two stories high toward the rear. The facade is broken only by the centered main entrance with a plain flat-headed stone lintel.

The gable is strongly defined by a molded, projecting cornice that extends across the base to form a pediment. This cornice also extends continuously around the sides of the building. The wooden sills and lintels of the rectangular windows on the sides are also plain.

The tower, set astride the ridge of the roof just back from the facade, provides the dominant visual interest. Although one might be tempted to question whether a Gothic tower would have been applied originally to a Grecian church, that seems to be the case here. The tower is fully octagonal. The eight-sided pedestal has paneled sides. The pointed-arched louvered openings of the lantern, which is defined by fine cornices above and below, occupy most of the space available on the sides. At the base of the spire is another set of blind openings, with low triangular eaves above, making a continuous zigzag below the shingled surfaces of the spire proper. There is a fine brass ball at the tip.

The unusual extent to which the building has been unaltered is indicated by comparison of a turn-of-the-century photograph with a view from the same angle today (photos 1 and 2). Unlike many buildings of the period, the brick has never been painted, leaving the fine masonry exposed.

The double front doors have four flat panels each; they and the paneled jambs are simple but elegantly proportioned (photo 3). It is curious, however, that the entrances lack the trim that appears on the lower-story windows, which turn down and inward at the corner, subtly suggesting a Greek key motif (photo 5). The entrance to the lower floor on the

# 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 1861

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

One of the oldest standing Presbyterian churches in Fleming County is the Elizaville Presbyterian Church, constructed in 1860. For many years it was one of only two churches in the small but prosperous agricultural crossroads community of Elizaville (Collins, p. 230). Its pastor at that time was the Reverend Henry Scudder, who served the church for over fifty years, one of the longest pastorates in Kentucky church history. The church building, perched on the side of a hill, is a handsome example of Greek Revival architecture, with an interesting spire that features "Gothic" pointed arches in the lantern. The church is plain but substantial, well-proportioned and well-built. Thanks to the continuing interest and concern of the congregation, which traditionally has included members of many of the most prominent families of the area, the church is not only remarkably intact but also well-maintained. Among rare surviving features is an intact "slave gallery" that contains some of the pews from the original 1854 church, destroyed in a storm in 1860 and replaced by the present structure.

Elizaville, approximately five miles due east of Flemingsburg, the county seat of Fleming County, which is located at the edge of the Bluegrass area northeast of Lexington, was incorporated in 1819 and named for the daughter of John Cochran, who built the first cabin there. The county was formed in 1798, and is characterized in the western portion by gently rolling hills. The east and northeast sections, which abut eastern Kentucky, are hilly or mountaineous, but with fertile creek bottom well suited for farming (Collins, p. 230). In the 19th century the county was a prosperous collecting and exchange point for the products of both coal- and timber-rich eastern Kentucky and the northeastern Bluegrass region, as well as the Ohio River basin to the north.

The church was organized in 1852 with forty-six members who had withdrawn from the Presbyterian church at Flemingsburg. The Reverend James L. Lapsley was the church's first minister, serving the congregation until 1856. The first church building, constructed in 1854, was destroyed in a storm in 1860. The second building was erected in 1861 some 400-500 yards distant from the original site and on another road.

(continued)



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west side also has double doors, but with only two long panels each (photo 5). The large eight-over-eight-pane windows of the ground floor (photo 5) may resemble the original windows of the sanctuary above, although there is a firm belief among members of the congregation that the handsome geometric-patterned colored glass of the upper sash windows is original. In any case, it has restrained coloring and a bold pattern in keeping with the overall character of the building (photo 4). The interior has always been as plain as possible, although at the turn of the century there was a pressed-tin ceiling (photo 6). The large, well-lit sanctuary is reached from an enclosed narthex or vestibule across the front.

The rear south wall is completely unadorned, giving additional prominence to the impressive Gothic Revival chairs and altar table (photo 7). The pews are slightly curved to conform to the radiating aisles; they appear to be identical to those shown in the 1903 photograph. Of golden oak, they have lavishly carved pointed-arch recessed panels and foliate arm-rests at the ends.

At the north end of the church, over the narthex and reached by a stair, in the northeast corner of the vestibule is the former slave gallery (photo 8). Originally there was a separate entrance for blacks just south of the facade on the east wall of the building. The gallery is set high up, close to the ceiling. It has a plain rail and is furnished with several plain wooden pews believed to have been saved from the original 1854 church; others of these pews are utilized in the Sunday school room on the ground floor (photo 9). Aside from the light fixtures and carpet, which have been renewed periodically through the years, there are virtually no other changes in the sanctuary.

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Dr. Henry M. Scudder (1833-1911) who took over the pastorate of the small church in 1858, was born in Princeton, New Jersey. As a child he moved with his parents to Maysville, Kentucky, where he later had the opportunity to work at the Maysville Eagle with Lewis Collins, widely known Kentucky historian. Scudder was graduated from Center College in Danville, Kentucky, in 1855 and completed his theological training in Danville in 1858. From there he became the pastor of the Elizaville Presbyterian Church where he remained for over fifty years.

In 1870 Scudder became the pastor of the Carlisle Presbyterian Church in neighboring Nicholas County and divided his time between the two churches. He was **an extremely** popular and respected member of the community and was, of course, greatly beloved by his congregation at Elizaville.

Some of the early families who were members of the church include the Pattons, Ewings, Finleys, Darnalls, Campbells, Abneys, Vanzants, Howes, Caldwelles, Plancks, Glens, Knights, Kincades, Dorseys, Armstrongs, Thompsons, Guthries and Gallighers.

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"Elizaville Presbyterian Church Centennial Observance, 1852-1952," (Pamphlet), 1952.

Talley, Dr. William. "History of Kentucky" (Unpublished work compiled from the Fleming Gazette), 1952.

"50 years Pastor of one Flock Is Unique History." Louisville Herald, June, 1907.

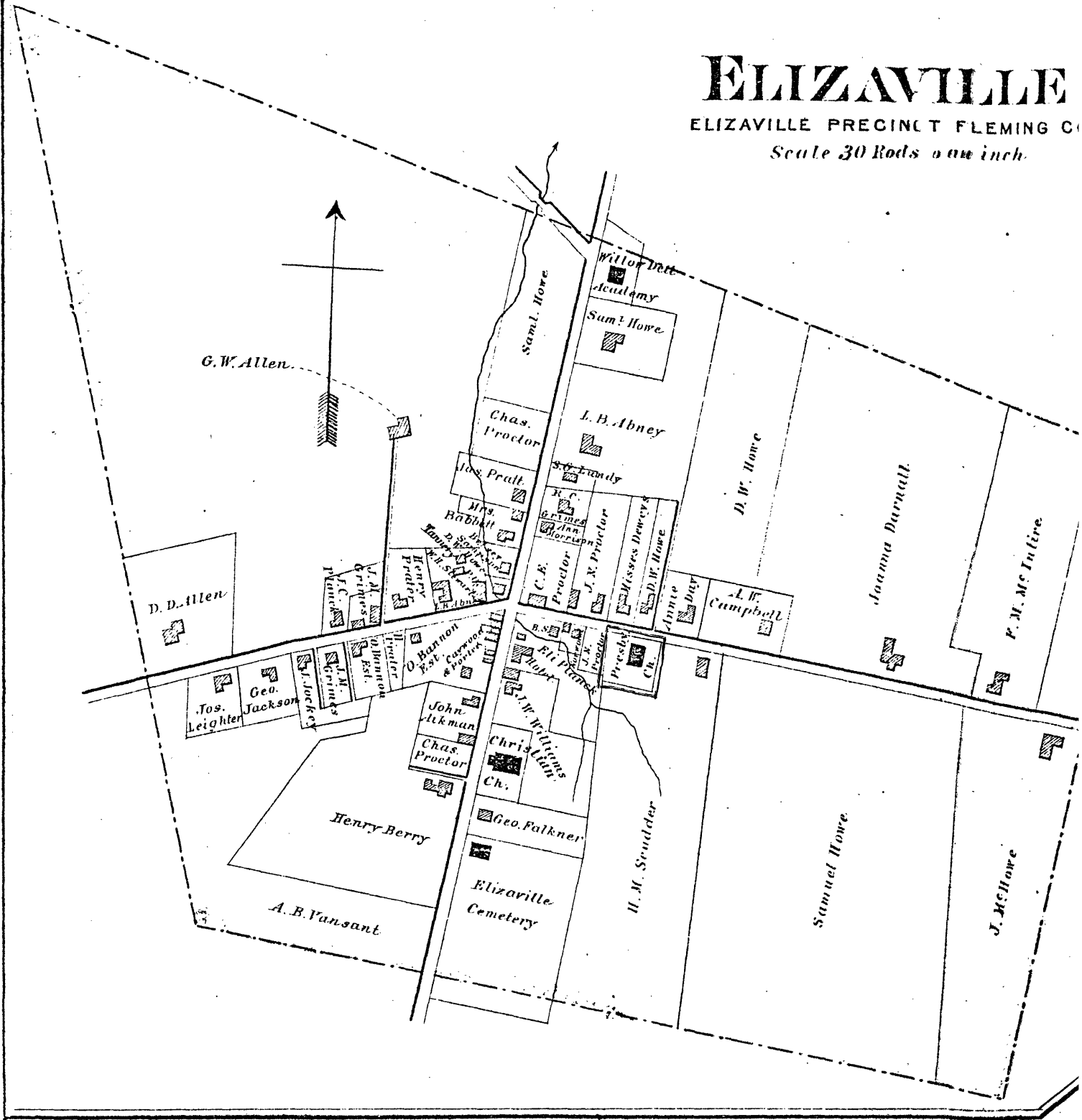
Newspaper clippings from scrapbook of Mrs. Pope Abney Robertson courtesy of Mrs. Virginia Robertson Workman.

Sessional records of Elizaville Presbyterian Church, 1852-1913.

# ELIZAVILLE

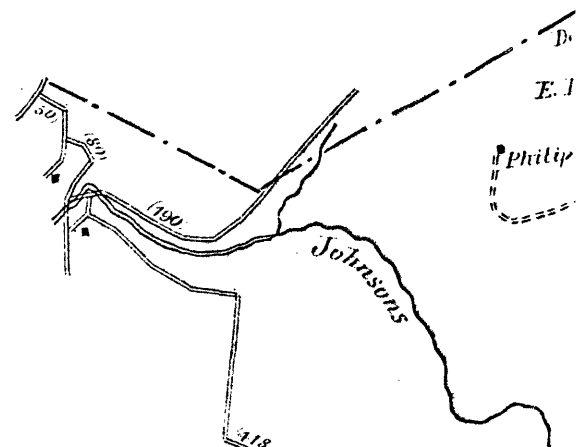
ELIZAVILLE PRECINCT FLEMING CO

Scale 30 Rods to an inch.



## ELIZAVILLE BUSINESS REFERENCES.

- L. B. ABNEY**, Physician and Surgeon. Also, Dealer in pure Drugs, Medicines, Chemicals, Paints, Oils, Dye, Stuffs, Varnishes, Stationery, Toilet Articles, and a full line of Hardware.
- J. N. PROCTOR**, Physician and Surgeon.
- HENRY M. SCUDDER**, Minister Presbyterian Church.
- F. M. McINTYRE**, Stock Trader.
- D. D. ALLEN**, Dealer in all kinds of Agricultural Implements and Mill Machinery.
- CAPT. JOHN M. GRAY**, Turnpike Contractor.
- W. H. STEWART**, Dealer in Dry Goods, Groceries and all kinds of General Merchandise.
- R. H. DODSON**, Teacher.
- ELI FLANCK**, Dealer in Staple and Fancy Groceries and Farm Produce.
- WM. BELL**, Dental Surgeon.





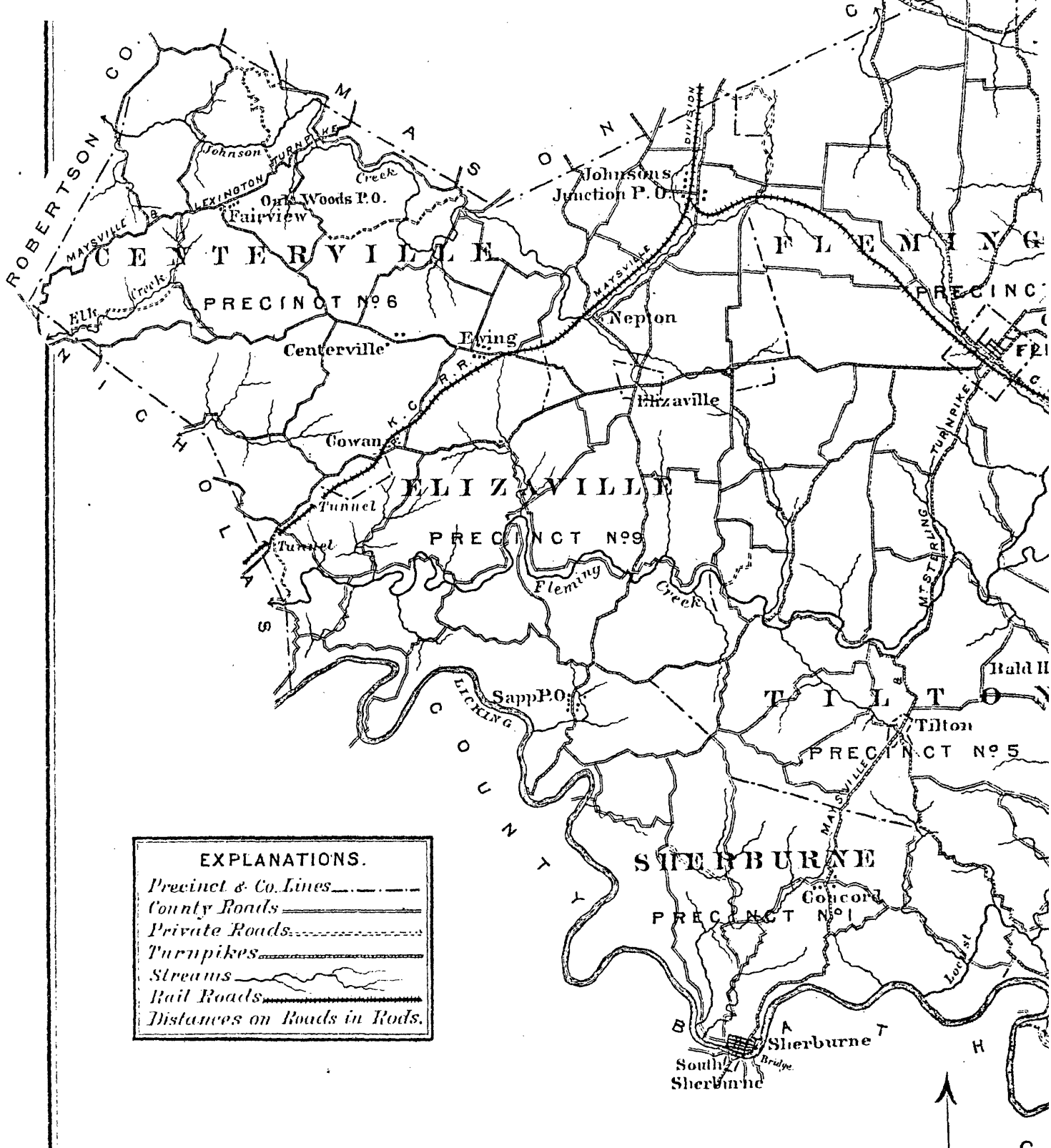
Elizaville Presbyterian Church  
Elizaville  
Fleming County  
Kentucky

An Atlas of Bath and Fleming  
Counties, Kentucky. Philadelphia:  
D. J. Lake and Co. (1884).

Map 3. Detail map of Elizaville  
(church property is indicated by  
red lines).

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**EXPLANATIONS.**  
*Precinct & Co. Lines*.....  
*County Roads*.....  
*Private Roads*.....  
*Turnpikes*.....  
*Streams*.....  
*Rail Roads*.....  
*Distances on Roads in Rods.*

OUTLINE PLAN OF  
**FLEMING COUNTY**  
 KENTUCKY.

*Scale 2 Miles to an Inch.*

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Elizaville  
Fleming County  
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Map 2. Eastern portion of map  
of Fleming County. OCT 28 1976