

DATA SHEET

PH 0667277

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED APR 18 1978

DATE ENTERED OCT 4 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

Huntersville Presbyterian Church

AND/OR COMMON

Huntersville Presbyterian Church

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

County Route 21 at West Virginia Route 39 NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Huntersville

--- VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Second

STATE

West Virginia

CODE

54

COUNTY

Pocahontas

CODE

075 ✓

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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: Fraternal

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Presbytery of Greenbrier

STREET & NUMBER

1270 Greenbrier Street

CITY, TOWN

Charleston

--- VICINITY OF

STATE

West Virginia 25311

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Pocahontas County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Ninth Street

CITY, TOWN

Marlinton

STATE

West Virginia

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

--- FEDERAL --- STATE --- COUNTY --- LOCAL

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 Huntersville Presbyterian Church is an example of vernacular architecture adapted to a small, rural community in the late nineteenth century. The building is eclectic in that it combines features that may be attributed to several different styles (e.g., Greek Revival simplicity in the original rectangular block with smooth wall surfaces, Carpenters' Gothic in the steep-gabled dormers that used to be at the fourth level of the stair tower-steeple, and simple Victorian-era flourishes in such details as the attractive cornice brackets and the circular light above the main entrance). Overall lines and construction techniques, however, are local interpretations by skilled craftsmen.

The combination church-lodge hall is located centrally on an open lot. Basically rectangular in shape (with a three-tiered stair tower at the front and a lean-to shed at the rear), the frame building is two stories high, has a three-bay depth and two-bay width, and is topped by a gabled roof (the tower has a hipped roof).

Simple and symmetrical aptly describe the exterior dimensions and features. There are three windows per floor on each side (all have 6/6 light, double-hung sash, but those in the church are taller than those in the lodge) with none at the rear except a small opening in the north corner of the shed. Distinction is provided in the stair tower-entrance hall, for it is here that wall surfaces are broken more frequently and the recessing of the tiers offers relief. The first floor contains the only door into the building, while the levels above include windows or louvered openings. Two chimneys, one on either side of the structure, are the only elements that interrupt the rather low pitch of the roof.

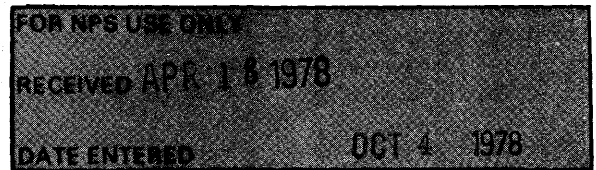
Exterior decoration is limited and low key. Cornices (except at the rear) are regularly broken by unique brackets. These quarter-circle cutouts with pendants appear in pairs above windows and at the corners. The four-panel entrance door is surrounded by sidelights and overlight, with distinctive consoles separating these features. Additionally, above the entrance is a circular window containing geometrically divided panes. Perhaps the most interesting and attractive decorative element, however, is the weathervane atop the tower; it is in the design of the Masonic symbol.

The interior consists of a large sanctuary with an associated vestibule on the first floor (there is a gallery at the rear), a lodge hall with anteroom on the second floor, and a stair tower with a small "Session Room" at the second level. The sanctuary is entered through either of two doors in the vestibule, and the pulpit area is approached along aisles between rows of pews. Although the furnishings are pleasing, function is the primary consideration, evident even in the wood-burning stoves placed about midway along the side row of pews. Four sets of supporting posts break the interior lines.

This basic floor design is repeated in the lodge hall, except that ceremonial trappings of Freemasonry replace the religious symbols of the church. A raised floor, about four feet deep, is at either side, and there are elevated platforms or daises at each end.

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HUNTERSVILLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, HUNTERSVILLE, POCAHONTAS COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA

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Special features of the interior include the open-well, closed-string stair with its recessed panels, turned balusters and pendants, and intricate newels with ball finials. There are also embellishments in the lodge hall, such as the decorative wooden arch in the center of the rear wall.

Few alterations have been made to the building since the second floor (lodge hall) and stair tower additions were completed in 1896. A picket fence has been taken down, and a fourth tier of the tower (it had steep-gabled wall dormers and a high-pitched roof) was removed. The only outbuilding is the privy at the rear of the property.

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 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
	<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			Local history and development

SPECIFIC DATES 1854, 1895-96

BUILDER/ARCHITECT E. O. McKeever (1895-96)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Huntersville Presbyterian Church, located at Huntersville, Pocahontas County, West Virginia, is integrally associated with the organization, development and evolution of the community, the county, the Greenbrier Presbytery, and the order of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons. Constructed in 1854, the building has served not only the Presbyterian congregation of the former county seat but has also been used for worship by other denominations, by both Union and Confederate troops during the Civil War, and as a meeting place for the county administrative court. Through a special agreement with Huntersville Masonic Lodge Number 65, it was greatly enlarged in 1895-96 and has since had the distinction of housing both organized religious and fraternal groups.

Pocahontas County was formed in 1821, and the trading center of Huntersville (a name apparently derived from the hunters who came here to exchange the pelts, herbs and foodstuffs of the forest) became the seat of government. In 1836 community religious needs were at least partially met when a Presbyterian congregation was organized and became part of the expanding Greenbrier Presbytery. Its meetings were held at such places as the courthouse for many years, but a permanent building of its own was constructed in 1854 on land donated by prominent area businessman George E. Craig. The intent was surely that of community service, especially by and for this denomination; events, however, would enlarge that purpose to one of multiple uses which transcended both denomination and community.

Tradition holds that the church bell was purchased in 1855 at a cost of \$75, a sum supposedly raised through a fair or bazaar sponsored by the women of Huntersville. That bell must have pealed for others, too, since the church was open to worship services of non-Presbyterians as well. And during the devastating Civil War that brought continual troop movement through the region for three years, soldiers of both sides rested here or were treated for wounds. While Federal forces burned many town buildings, the church was spared; names of soldiers were left inscribed in the walls and "fox and geese" game boards carved on the pews. Reciprocity for early use of the courthouse was provided when the County Court held its November 1863 term here and appropriated \$2,000 for the support of destitute families of members of the Confederate Army.

It is not to say that the town of Huntersville stagnated in the decades after the great conflict when one realizes a seemingly uneventful gap in the history of the Presbyterian Church. After all, what could compare with its first decade? To be sure, the county seat was moved to nearby Marlinton late in the nineteenth century, but the

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Courtney, Lloyd McF. The Church on the Western Waters. Richmond: Whittet and Shepperson, 1940.
- Lockridge, Julia Ann. "A Brief History of the Huntersville Presbyterian Church," West Virginia History, XX (July 1959), 254-58
- Pocahontas County Court Records. Deed Books 5, 7 and 26.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 3/4 acre

QUADRANGLE NAME Marlinton, W. Va. QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:62500

UTM REFERENCES

A	<u>17</u>	<u>585975</u>	<u>4227100</u>	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated property is a town lot at the northwest corner of the intersection of County Route 21 and West Virginia Route 39. It is approximately 120' x 250' in size.

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 James E. Harding, Historian

ORGANIZATION Historic Preservation Unit DATE February 7, 1978

STREET & NUMBER West Virginia Department of Culture and History TELEPHONE (304) 348-0244

Science and Culture Center

Capitol Complex

CITY OR TOWN Charleston STATE West Virginia

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 Clarence Morrow

TITLE West Virginia State Historic Preservation Officer DATE April 14, 1978

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER W. J. [Signature] DATE 10/19/78

ATTEST: William [Signature] DATE 9/26/78

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

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importance of the building as a community center really increased with county offices removed. Activity in many ways accelerated even in the settled period; a dispensation to organize a lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons, for instance, was granted in 1875.

Huntersville Lodge Number 65, A.F. & A.M., had no meeting place of its own for some twenty years, but the times seemed propitious in 1895 when a unique agreement was reached with the trustees of the Presbyterian Church to construct what must be an equally unique addition to a house of worship: a second floor for use as a fraternal hall. The congregation had proposed, "amongst other things," to improve their building, and whereas they were desirous of borrowing some money to aid in the undertaking, the lodge agreed to lend the sum of \$670.63.

For less than \$700 borrowed, the size of the edifice was more than doubled. The church retained a convenient and functional sanctuary, the lodge had a home, and the community was presented a rather substantial building with fine wood-working apparent in the stair tower. The Masons received exclusive use of the second floor, and the Presbyterians were provided a small "session room" at this level of the stair tower. Although the lodge was granted free right to entry and egress, it was agreed that its meetings would not interfere with church services; any conflict in scheduling would find the Masons adjourning in favor of worshippers. This unique arrangement continues today, and the Huntersville Presbyterian Church has become a symbol of community pride, resourcefulness and utility--a landmark indeed.

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Price, William T. Historical Sketches of Greenbrier Presbytery. Lewisburg, W. Va.:
Greenbrier Independent Print, 1889.
_____. Historical Sketches of Pocahontas County, West Virginia. 1901.
Reprint. Parsons, W. Va.: McClain Printing Company, 1963.