

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED MAY 23 1977
DATE ENTERED DEC 20 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

** Hodgenville Christian Church
AND/OR COMMON

Same

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

100 W. Main Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Hodgenville

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

VICINITY OF

02

STATE

Kentucky

CODE

021

COUNTY

LaRue

CODE

123

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

___DISTRICT

___PUBLIC

XOCCUPIED

___AGRICULTURE

___MUSEUM

XBUILDING(S)

XPRIVATE

___UNOCCUPIED

___COMMERCIAL

___PARK

___STRUCTURE

___BOTH

___WORK IN PROGRESS

___EDUCATIONAL

___PRIVATE RESIDENCE

___SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

___ENTERTAINMENT

XRELIGIOUS

___OBJECT

___IN PROCESS

XYES: RESTRICTED

___GOVERNMENT

___SCIENTIFIC

___BEING CONSIDERED

___YES: UNRESTRICTED

___INDUSTRIAL

___TRANSPORTATION

___NO

___MILITARY

___OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Hodgenville Christian Church

STREET & NUMBER

100 W. Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Hodgenville

STATE

Kentucky

VICINITY OF

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

LaRue County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Hodgenville

STATE

Kentucky

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Survey of Historic Sites in Kentucky

DATE

1973

___FEDERAL XSTATE ___COUNTY ___LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Kentucky Heritage Commission

CITY, TOWN

Frankfort

STATE

Kentucky

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

Hodgenville Christian Church

The Hodgenville Church, the oldest existing religious structure in LaRue County and one of the oldest structures in Hodgenville, is located on the southwest corner of Lincoln Square in Hodgenville. Its site is in the heart of this community of 2,562. The sanctuary faces West Main Street and presents a width of three bays and a length of four bays. A flight of four steps approaches the central double doors which are in the shape of a lancet arch. This is enveloped by a recessed stilted arch, above which is centered a roundel whose inscription identifies the structure and gives its date of erection: CHRISTIAN CHURCH, A.D. 1877. Flanking the entrance are two recessed blind basket arches. The east and west corners are treated with arches that are somewhat awkwardly integrated since these corner arches are one brick-course higher on the main facade (see photo 2).

The north and south facades contain four recessed basket arches each. These are of greater width than those of the front facade and each is pierced by a stilted arch window; stained glass in these was installed in 1900. The exterior is of brick that was fired in the local area and the courses are laid in common bond (see photo 1).

The gable roof is covered with tin and is surmounted by a four-sided belfry that rests on a square base. Louvred windows in the shape of stilted arches appear on each side. Each window has a keystone at the apex of its arch in addition to Doric pilasters on the sides. All corners of the belfry are given Doric pilasters that rise to meet an entablature interrupted by a pediment on each side. These are given projecting wooden roundels in their centers. Springing from the belfry's four sides and from the pediments is a sloped pyramidal dome (see photo 2).

The interior of the Hodgenville Christian Church has been remodeled and is substantially altered in contrast with the exterior which is primarily in its original state (see photo 3). Surviving, though, is the original red pine flooring; and the original church pews currently being utilized in the basement.

In 1900 an education wing was added to the rear of the sanctuary. This addition is well integrated with the original portion for similar brickwork, window openings and roof covering were used in its construction (see photo 1).

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 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	1877	BUILDER/ARCHITECT	unknown
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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Hodgenville Christian Church

The Hodgenville Christian Church, located in Hodgenville on the courthouse square, was built in 1877. The church is the oldest church structure in LaRue County and the second oldest building in Hodgenville.

The Hodgenville Christian Church was formally organized in 1872, when forty residents of Hodgenville and the outlying county met at the LaRue County Courthouse to establish a Christian (Disciples of Christ) Church. The congregation was formed under the leadership of Brother R. A. Hopper. Hopper, the first pastor, lived in Lebanon, in adjoining Marion County, and served as the pastor for the Lebanon Christian Church, as well as preaching in Hodgenville once a month.

The history of the Christian Church or the Disciples of Christ in Kentucky dates to the early 1820s and 1830s when Alexander Campbell, a former Presbyterian minister from Pennsylvania, traveled throughout the state preaching and spreading his beliefs. Campbell called for a return to a more fundamental Christianity, eliminating societies and groups within the congregation which, he thought, would ultimately result in uniting all Christendom. According to his beliefs, the individual congregation was the highest and the only ecclesiastical organization recognized in the New Testament and therefore it had no need of association or conferences. Campbell's objections to missions, Bible and tract societies, church constitutions, theological schools, and an educational ministry resulted in his separation from existing denominations and the founding of a new church. Most of Campbell's followers originally came from the Baptist Church (Fortune, p. 171).

The Hodgenville Christian Church congregation continued to meet for services in the courthouse until 1876 when they purchased two lots on the town square for the site of a church. The present church structure was completed in 1877. In 1900 additional rooms for a Sunday school were built onto the church.

Around 1910 a disasterous fire virtually destroyed the commercial district of Hodgenville. Fortunately the Hodgenville Christian Church was one of the few buildings which survived and remains today as one of the oldest structures in the town.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Fortune, Alonzo Willard. The Disciples in Kentucky. Lexington: The Convention of the Christian Churches in Kentucky, 1932.

Mather, O. M. The Mather Papers. Hodgenville, Kentucky: The LaRue County Herald News, 1968.

(continued)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1 acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	<u>16</u>	<u>611180</u>	<u>4159050</u>	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Daniel Kidd, Architectural Historian; Mary Cronan Oppel, Historian

ORGANIZATION

Kentucky Heritage Commission

DATE

April 1977

STREET & NUMBER

104 Bridge Street

TELEPHONE

(502) 564-3741

CITY OR TOWN

Frankfort

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

Eldred W. Meeter

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

May 18, 1977

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Wm. S. ...

DATE

12/21/77

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

Charles ...

DATE

12-16-77

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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Hodgenville Christian Church
CONTINUATION SHEET

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LaRue County Deed Records, LaRue County Courthouse, Hodgenville, Kentucky.

Additional information from Dr. Tim Cravens, Hodgenville Christian Church,
Hodgenville, Kentucky.