

KENTUCKY HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY

Site No. 30-D-30

1. Historic Name(s) First Presbyterian Church Original Owner John Crow		22. ADD/County BLUEGRASS/ BOYLE	
2. Present Name First Presbyterian Church and McDowell Park		23. U.S.G.S. Quadrant (15'/75') BOYLE, Danville	
3. Location City Block bound by Main, Walnut, Fifth and Sixth Streets		24. UTM Reference Zone 16 Easting 696100 Northing 4168600	
4. Owner's Name First Presbyterian Church City of Danville		25. Coordinate Accuracy <input type="checkbox"/>	
5. Owner's Address Main Street, Danville, Kentucky		26. Prehistoric Site Object Historic Site Structure Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other	
6. Open to Public Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No 7. Visible from road Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No 8. Ownership Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local State Federal		27. National Register District Name:	
9. Local Contact/Organization OLD HOUSE CLUB OF DANVILLE		28. Significance Evaluation National Register Criteria <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
10. Site Plan with North Arrow 		11. Architect Robert Russel 12. Builder Robert Russel 13. Date 1832; 1880 A. <input type="checkbox"/> B. <input type="checkbox"/> 14. Style A. Federal <input type="checkbox"/> B. Gothic <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 15. Original Use Church <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 16. Present use Church 17. Condition Good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
18. Description 1 story; 3 bay Gothic Revival sanctuary; Flemish bond on the north, east, & west facades; square central entry tower with battlements; windows are now Gothic, but appear to have originally been rectangular; vestibule added in 1853; crenellations & Gothic features 1880.		29. Status Date National Landmark National Register Landmark Certificate <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1/15/70 Kentucky Survey <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 11/12/70 Local Landmark HABS/HAER	
(Continue on Back)		30. Historic Theme Primary Secondary Other	
19. History See Attachment.			
20. Significance The church building is significant under Criterion C as a distinctive example of Gothic Revival architecture in Danville. (continued)		34. Prepared by: Enos Swain, Helen Powell, Mary Cronen Oppel, David Morgan	
21. Source of Information Richard C. Brown: The Presbyterians - Two Hundred Years in Danville, 1983.		35. Organization Carman and Powell, Inc.	
37. Revision Dates		38. Staff Review	
36. Date 1984			

HISTORY OF THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

In 1783, David Rice helped to found the congregation in Danville as well as the ones at Cane Run and Forks of the Dix River. The first meetings were held in the log house on the public square. From 1784 to 1789, the congregation met in old courthouse. Samuel McDowell, George Caldwell, and John Rogers bought a tract (now McDowell Park) from John Crow in 1788. A frame structure measuring 50 feet by 40 feet was built on the site. This structure was replaced by a brick one in 1812.

An additional lot was bought from Fleece and Weisiger in 1827 to build the present church. In 1832, Robert Russel, Jr. designed the church and Robert Russel, Sr. built it. This father and son team also built Old Centre and many other brick houses in Danville during the period. Originally there were two doors in the Main Street facade with the pulpit placed between them. A vestibule and central door were added in 1853. The gothic shape of the windows and the crenelations were added during a renovation in 1880.

Chronicle of Old First, Calvin Fackler, 1946.

The Presbyterians: Two Hundred Years in Danville, Richard Brown, 1983.

HISTORY OF MC DOWELL PARK

After the lot was no longer used for the church building, it became a community cemetery. The grounds were virtually used up to provide space for the cholera victims of 1833. Many early Danville citizens were buried in the park including Philip Yeiser, Samuel Ayres, Sr. (Danville's silversmith) and James Brown, Sr. (who came to the area with James Harrod).

In the late 19th century, the park was ceded to the City of Danville "on the condition and consideration that the town shall forever keep said lot in good order and repair; to be always kept as a town park and for no other purpose, and for the people of the community to always have access to Said Park as a pleasure ground".

20. (continued)

McDowell Park is significant under Criterion A because of its commemorative association with the early founders of Danville who are buried there including Ephraim McDowell who performed the first successful ovarian surgery.

Other monuments include one to David Rice, the first pastor of the Presbyterian Church in Danville, Confederate monument, and a monument to Jane Crawford.

KENTUCKY HISTORIC RESOURCE INVENTORY SUPPLEMENT
BOUNDARY AND LOCATION INFORMATION

Historic Property Name First Presbyterian Church and McDowell Park Site # BO-D-30

Multiple Resource/Thematic Nomination Title Multiple Resources of Danville Kentucky

U.T.M. Coordinates - List multiple UTMs if property is ten or more acres.

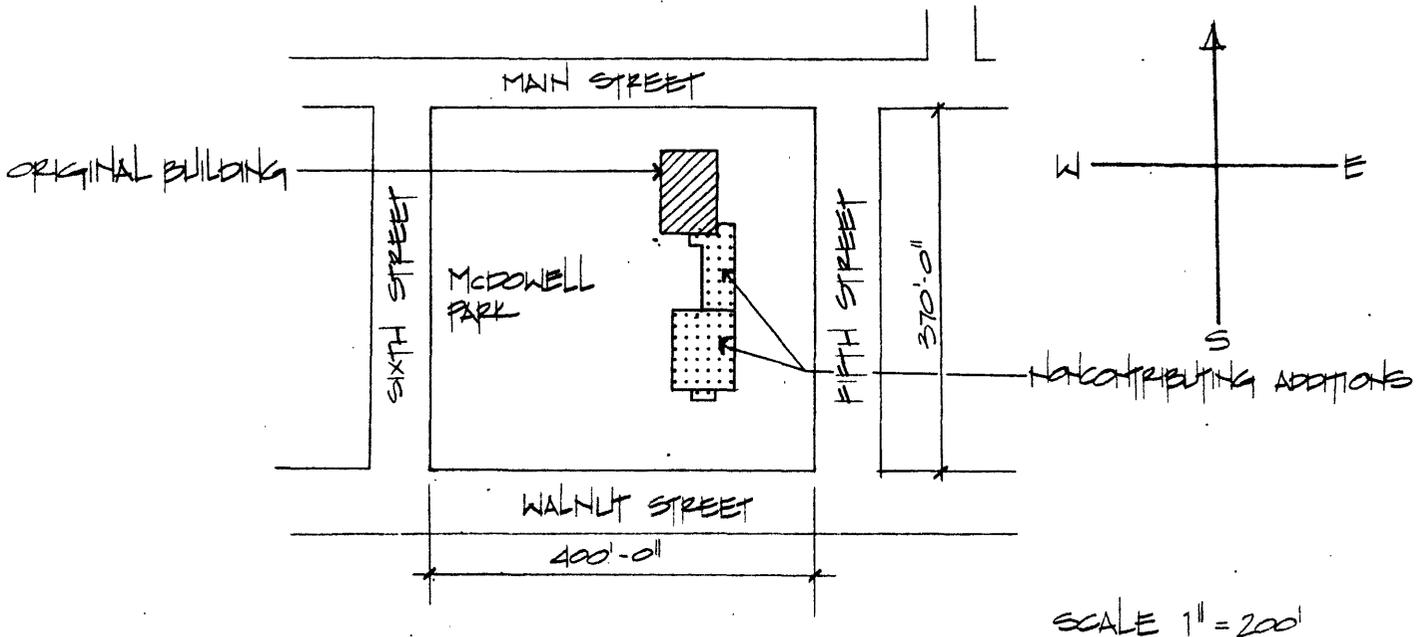
A. _____ D. _____
B. _____ E. _____
C. _____ F. _____

Verbal Boundary Description Acreage 3.39

Starting from a point in the southwest corner of the intersection of Main and Fifth; then south 370 feet to a point; then west 400 feet to a point; then north 370 feet to a point; then east 400 feet to the point of beginning

The boundaries have been drawn to include the entire City block between Main and Walnut, Fifth and Sixth Streets.

Sketch of Site Plan (Showing outbuildings, structures, landscape features and the site boundary as described above.)



Official Courthouse Property Reference:

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BOUNDARY AND LOCATION INFORMATION**

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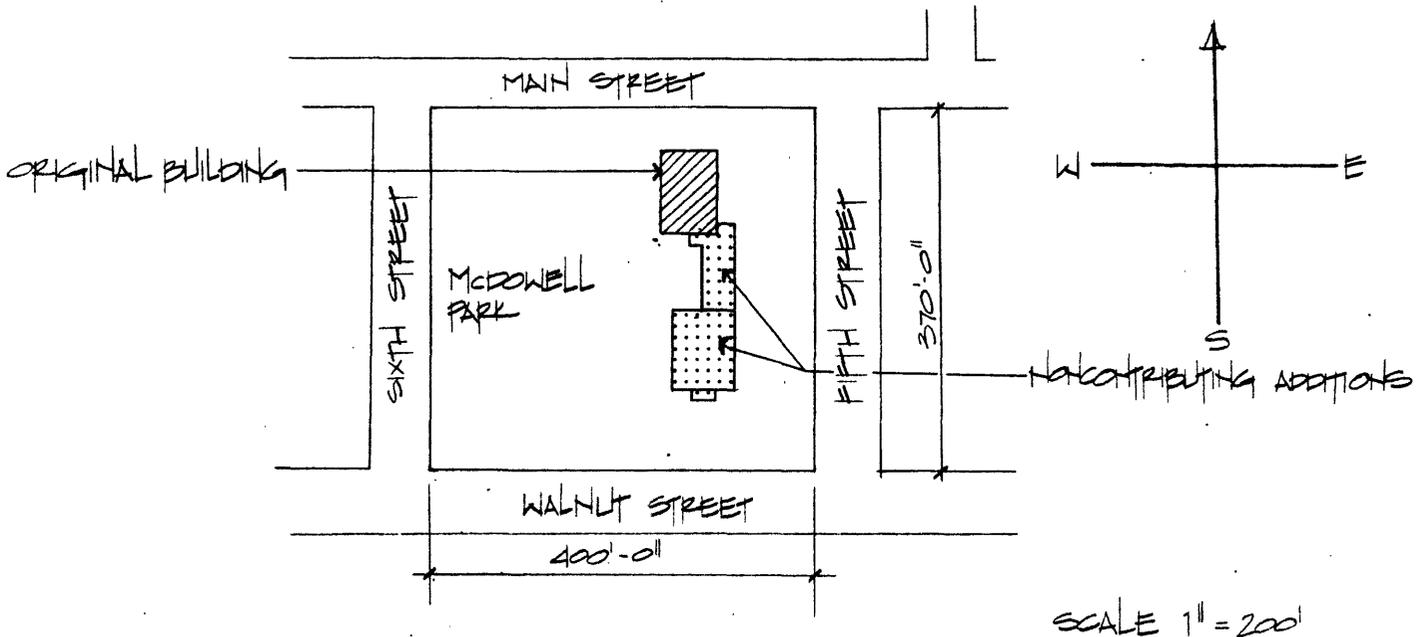
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