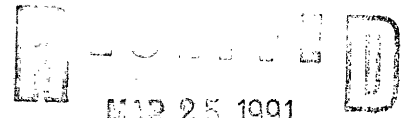


United States Department of the Interior National Park Service



National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

NATIONAL REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16).

1. Name of Property

historic name Mammoth Cave Baptist Church and Cemetery other names/site number T-41, C-44

2. Location

street & number Mammoth Cave National Park city, town Mammoth Cave state Kentucky code KY county Edmonson code 061 zip code 42259

3. Classification

Table with 3 columns: Ownership of Property, Category of Property, and Number of Resources within Property. Includes checkboxes for private/public ownership and building/district/site/structure/object categories.

Name of related multiple property listing: Historic Resources of Mammoth Cave National Park Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet. Signature of commenting or other official David L. Morgan Date Jan. 8, 1991

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is: entered in the National Register. determined eligible for the National Register. determined not eligible for the National Register. removed from the National Register. other, (explain:)

for Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Religion:religious structure

Funerary:cemetery

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Religion:religious structure

Funerary:cemetery

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Other:no style

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation sandstone

walls wood:weatherboard

roof tin

other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

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7. Description of present and historic physical appearance.

The Mammoth Cave Baptist Church property, located on the north side of Flint Ridge Road, two miles east of its junction with Highway 70, consists of one contributing building, Mammoth Cave Baptist Church; one contributing site, the church cemetery; and one non-contributing structure, a contemporary outhouse.

Constructed in 1927 after the original structure had been destroyed by a tornado, Mammoth Cave Baptist Church is a one-story frame building with white weatherboard siding and a tin, gable front roof. The church, which faces Flint Ridge Road to the south, sits on stacked sandstone blocks, measures 42 feet (N-S) by 26 feet (E-W), and has three batten doors, two front and one rear. The front entrances each have three concrete steps. Each side wall has four two-over-two double-hung sash windows. A wooden sign in between the two front entrances notes the following: "Mammoth Cave Baptist Church, Estab. 1827, Meeting Sat. & Sun."

The church's interior is unadorned, with wood tongue-and-groove planked walls and ceiling, and a wood plank floor, covered with linoleum in some spots. There are a number of movable hand-made pews in the church set in rows facing the podium in the north end of the church.

To the west of the church is Mammoth Cave cemetery, which dates from the early nineteenth century and measures approximately 230' (E-W) by 190' (N-S). All of the graves face east, which is consistent with local tradition, and are designated predominantly with commercially produced head and foot markers. There are also a number of graves marked with fieldstone head and foot stones, both engraved and unengraved, and also some unmarked graves. There is a semi-circular gravel drive on the south side of the cemetery, which provides access to cars from Flint Ridge Road, and evidence of an old wire fence in the wooded areas on the north and west sides of the cemetery.

The Mammoth Cave Baptist Church property is in good condition. The church building, which is deteriorating slightly from lack of regular use, is original in design, workmanship, and the majority of materials. The original metal roof was replaced in kind in the 1970s, at which time the chimney or flue on the west side of the building was removed. The church was wired for

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electricity at some unknown date. The outhouse on the north side of the church is not original, though it probably replaced a similar structure. The cemetery is well-maintained and is still in use. For the entire property, integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association are intact.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Social History

Period of Significance

1927-1941

Significant Dates

1927

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

N/A

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

See continuation sheet

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8. Statement of significance, criteria justification, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance.

The Mammoth Cave Baptist Church property is historically significant in the area of Social History and represents the property type "Church Properties" (for property type information, see Section III of the Historic Resource Study, pages A-6 to A-8).

The period of significance (1927 to 1941) refers to the years from the construction of the current church building to the demise of the community with the official establishment of Mammoth Cave National Park in 1941.

As in other parts of rural Kentucky, churches in the Mammoth Cave area, mostly of the Baptist denomination, served as the centers of community life. Local residents attended weekly church services, weddings, funerals, baptisms, homecomings, revivals, and grave decoration days, not only for spiritual reasons, but also to interact with other people who lived in the area. In such a rural area, where the nearest substantial town was ten miles away over very poor dirt roads, community gatherings were very important. In addition to church functions, communities often used their churches as meeting houses and schools as well.

Before Mammoth Cave National Park was developed, there were seven churches which served the communities in the immediate cave area. During the 1930s, most private and public properties within the proposed park area were acquired by the Mammoth Cave National Park Association, the Mammoth Cave National Park Commission, and the National Park Service through purchase or condemnation, local residents were removed, and buildings were razed. Church properties were exceptions to the removal and demolition process. Although not required to do so, the National Park Service recognized the significance that church properties had for local communities. In return for the donation of community-owned church properties, the National Park Service agreed to grant special use permits to the congregations who wished to maintain the location of their churches. Currently there are three churches located within the boundaries of Mammoth Cave National Park which have agreements with the National Park Service: Mammoth Cave United Baptist Church, Good Spring United Baptist Church, and Joppa Missionary Baptist Church.

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Mammoth Cave Baptist Church, established in 1827, served the white residents of the Flint Ridge. According to former local residents, there was a "Mammoth Cave Colored Baptist Church" in the area, the site of which is currently unknown. Among the members of the Mammoth Cave Baptist Church were L. P. Edwards, owner of Great Onyx Cave, and the Collins family, owners of Crystal Cave. The Dennisons and the Esters were among the other prominent families involved with the church. In 1927, the present church building was constructed to replace the original structure, destroyed by tornado the previous year. Mammoth Cave Baptist Church requested and was granted a special use permit which allowed the congregation to continue to use the church and cemetery, provided National Park Service guidelines were followed. The church and cemetery were used regularly through the 1950s and 1960s. Currently members of the congregation meet several times a year for funerals and burials, grave decoration days, and homecomings.

Though Mammoth Cave Baptist Church is a religious property, it deserves exceptional status as the only physical representative of the once thriving Mammoth Cave/Flint Ridge area community, and as a reminder of part of the process of developing Mammoth Cave National Park, through agreements between the National Park Service and local communities.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property: approximately 1.5 acres

UTM References

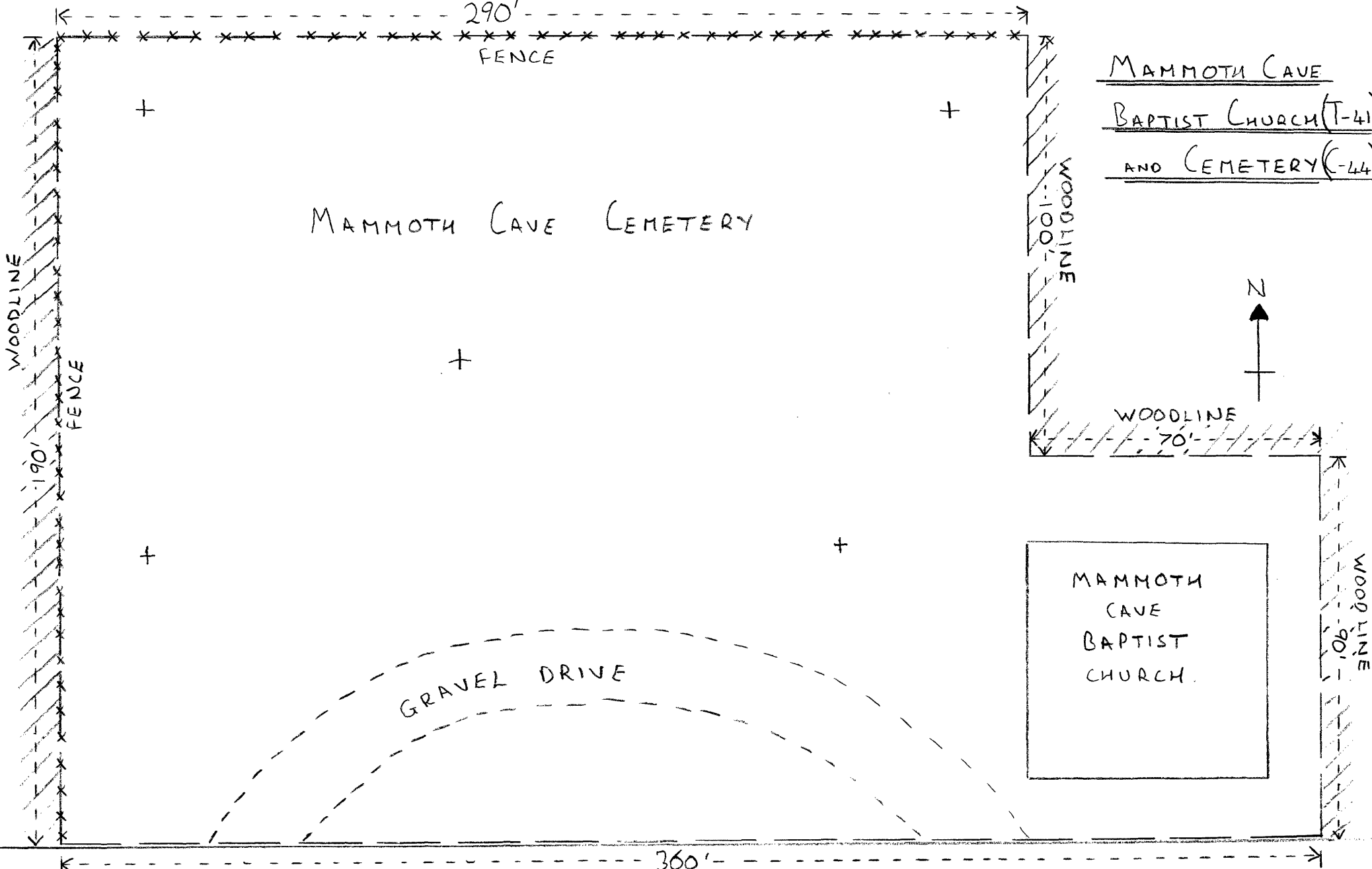
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Verbal Boundary Description

Beginning at a point on the northern edge of Flint Ridge Road where the old fence row and woodline on the west side of the cemetery meet the road, proceed north 190'. Then proceed east 290' along the fence row on the northern edge of the cemetery. Then proceed south 100' along the woodline at the northeast corner of the cemetery. Then proceed east 70' along the woodline north of the rear of the church. Then proceed south 90' along the woodline east of the church. Then proceed west along the northern edge of Flint Ridge Rd. to the point of origin.

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the church and all visible graves in the cemetery that are historically associated with the property.



MAMMOTH CAVE
BAPTIST CHURCH (T-41)
AND CEMETERY (-44)

MAMMOTH CAVE CEMETERY

MAMMOTH
 CAVE
 BAPTIST
 CHURCH.

← FLINT RIDGE ROAD →

2 photos

APPROX. SCALE: 1 INCH = 30 FEET



LEGEND

- ——— = BOUNDARY
- * * * * * = BOUNDARY ON FENCE LINE
- ////// = BOUNDARY ON WOOD LINE
- ==== = BOUNDARY ON ROAD EDGE