

PH0353752

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	APR 14 1977
DATE ENTERED	SEP 15 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

**** Trinity Episcopal Church**

AND/OR COMMON

Same

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

320 West Main Street

___ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Danville

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

06

___ VICINITY OF

STATE

Kentucky

CODE
021

COUNTY
Boyle

CODE
021

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- ___ DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- ___ STRUCTURE
- ___ SITE
- ___ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- ___ PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- ___ BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- ___ IN PROCESS
- ___ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- ___ UNOCCUPIED
- ___ WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- ___ YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- ___ NO

PRESENT USE

- ___ AGRICULTURE
- ___ MUSEUM
- ___ COMMERCIAL
- ___ PARK
- ___ EDUCATIONAL
- ___ PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ___ ENTERTAINMENT
- RELIGIOUS
- ___ GOVERNMENT
- ___ SCIENTIFIC
- ___ INDUSTRIAL
- ___ TRANSPORTATION
- ___ MILITARY
- ___ OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Trinity Episcopal Church Congregation

STREET & NUMBER

320 West Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Danville

___ VICINITY OF

STATE

Kentucky

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Mercer County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Harrodsburg

STATE

Kentucky

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Survey of Historic Sites in Kentucky

DATE

1971

___ FEDERAL STATE ___ COUNTY ___ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Kentucky Heritage Commission

CITY, TOWN

104 Bridge Street, Frankfort

STATE

Kentucky

7 DESCRIPTION

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

Trinity Episcopal Church, built c. 1830 and restored after a fire in 1860, is located in Danville, a small agricultural community established in 1787. The church, situated on Main Street in the heart of the business district, is set back slightly from the turn-of-the-century commercial buildings which flank it. The Boyle County Courthouse-Jail Complex (listed on the National Register April 11, 1973), lies directly across the street.

The original church structure, built by Robert Russel, Jr., an accomplished Danville builder, consisted of a rectangular block with a two-story vestibule, projecting forward from the central bay of the facade. The walls of the vestibule, facade, and sides were laid in Flemish bond with queen closers at the corners. Two rectangular openings, filled with clear glass and Venetian shutters, were spaced along the sides. In 1842 a cupola was added to the vestibule to house the church bell. In the interior of the church, the ceiling was supported by two rows of three Doric columns. In the rear of the church (north wall) was a gallery for the organ and choir.

In 1860, the church was gutted and the roof destroyed in a fire which burned most of the buildings along Main Street. After the fire it was determined that the vestibule and the four walls that remained standing were structurally sound and that it would be safe to rebuild upon them (Cowan, 1905). The reconstruction plans, implemented in 1860, called for several alterations which transformed the church into a Gothic Revival structure. The chancel was recessed and three lancet windows, the central opening being taller and broader than the others, were added over the altars. Two narrow lancet windows, designed to light the choir loft, were added in the facade, as well as one in the bell tower. The original rectangular openings were replaced by paired lancets, surmounted by a quatrefoil in a circle. All the windows were filled with stained glass and decorated with wooden tracery, with stone sills below and a keystone above (see photos 1 and 4).

The original cupola was replaced by a bell tower and a tall octagonal steeple which is crowned with a cross. Narrow louvered lancet openings are located on the four sides at the base of the steeple. Triangular vents are placed in the middle of the tower.

The church retains its 1860 appearance as can be seen in the 1862 drawing from Harper's Weekly Magazine (see photo 7). In 1950 and 1961 a brick parish house was added to the south end of the church structure, but it does not alter the appearance of the church building itself (see photo 3).

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 1830; Restored 1860

BUILDER/ARCHITECT 1830; Robert Russel, Jr. (builder)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Trinity Episcopal Church, situated on Main Street in the center of Danville business district, was one of the first churches organized in the Episcopal Diocese of Kentucky. Not only is Trinity Church the oldest church structure in use in Boyle County, but it is also the oldest Episcopal church building in continuous use in the Diocese of Lexington and the second oldest in Kentucky. The structure itself is a fine example of Gothic Revival architecture, which has remained essentially unaltered since it was restored in 1860 after a severe fire.

The origin of the Episcopal Church in Kentucky dates to 1796 when Christ Church in Lexington was organized. (See Christ Church listed on the National Register October 21, 1976.) It wasn't until 1809, however, that the parish was formally established when the first vestry was elected. In 1822 a second Episcopal church was established in Louisville, it too being named Christ Church. The building, which is now Christ Church Cathedral, was completed in 1824 (see Christ Church Cathedral, Jefferson County, listed on the National Register August 14, 1973). In 1829 Reverend George T. Chapman, rector of Lexington's Christ Church from 1820-1830, proposed the formation of a Diocese. In working towards this goal, Reverend Chapman visited Danville and organized a congregation. The group of local citizens who were instrumental in the formation of the new church were mostly physicians, lawyers, bankers, merchants, and landowners. Members of the committee formed to erect a church building included Dr. Ephraim McDowell, well-known for his introduction of abdominal surgery; and his wife, Sarah Shelby McDowell, daughter of Isaac Shelby, the first Governor of Kentucky (1792-1796) (see the Dr. Ephraim McDowell House and Apothecary Shop, declared a National Historic Landmark in 1965 and listed on the National Register prior to the National Preservation Act of 1966). Another influential member and largest contributor to the church was James Birney, a wealthy merchant, who was the father of James G. Birney (1792-1857), the prominent abolitionist.

The new church building, completed in late 1830 or early 1831, was built by Robert Russel, Jr., a local brick maker and mason. Russel, a native of Virginia, settled in Danville in 1805. He built almost all of the early brick buildings in Danville, including

(continued)

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Cowan, George. "Reminiscences of a Remote and Recent Past of Danville: Churches and Congregations." (Danville) Kentucky Advocate, January 18, 25, 30, February 6, 1905.

Cowan, J. Rice. "The Hundred Years of Trinity Parish." Danville Daily Messenger, June 4-5, 1929.

(continued)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1/2 acre

UTM REFERENCES

4 40									
A	1, 6	6, 9, 6	0, 9, 0	4, 1	6, 8	6, 0, 0	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
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Mary Cronan Oppel, Historian

Frank H. Heck, Senior Warden (Professor of History, Emeritus, Centre College)/

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Trinity Episcopal Church / Kentucky Heritage Commission

September 15, 1976

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

320 West Main Street / 104 Bridge Street

/502 564-4452

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Danville / Frankfort

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

Edred W. Melton

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

4/1/77

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

8/15/77

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

7.13.77

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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Trinity Episcopal Church

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 2

Old Centre in 1820 (listed on the National Register August 25, 1972). Russel's fees must have been modest for the vestry minutes indicate that it was decided to begin construction as soon as \$1,500 had been subscribed. The new building was consecrated on June 3, 1831, by the Reverend William Meade, then assistant Bishop of the Diocese of Virginia, who was to become one of the most influential leaders of the Episcopal Church. The new Kentucky Diocese, having at this time no bishop of its own, had invited him to visit Kentucky to perform such functions as ordaining new clergy, confirming laymen, and consecrating churches.

The first rector of the parish was the Reverend Gideon McMillan. In addition to his duties as rector of Trinity Church, Reverend McMillan regularly traveled throughout the surrounding area on horseback, establishing missions in Harrodsburg and Lancaster. Reverend McMillan's service to the church was short lived, for he fell victim to the cholera epidemic of 1833, after ministering to the needs of the community. He was buried along the south wall of the church, which is now covered by the chancel.

Trinity Church continued to grow and to hold regular services. In 1860, however, the church was severely damaged in a fire which destroyed most of the Danville commercial district. The day after the fire, the building was inspected and it was determined that the four walls of the church and the vestibule which remained intact, were structurally sound. A new roof and bell tower were constructed, as well as a recessed chancel. Also at this time the original window openings were replaced by paired lancet windows with wooden tracery and a quatrefoil design centered above. The remodeled interior was plain with a balcony and organ over the entrance, and the nave was covered with simple open-timber roof. Thus, after the restoration was completed in 1861, the church which had been constructed in a modified Federal mode, was transformed into a fine Gothic Revival structure. The church, which has remained unaltered, continues to be a good example of a Gothic Revival ecclesiastical design.

For several months in 1862 the newly restored church was used as a hospital for Union troops wounded in the battle of Perryville, which took place in October 8, 1862

(continued)

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(see Perryville Battlefield National Register nomination, listed December 19, 1960). Perryville is located ten miles west of Danville. A drawing of the reception of the Union troops into Danville after the battle, which appeared in the November 8, 1862 issue of Harper's Weekly Magazine, clearly shows the outline of Trinity Church.

Over the years, Trinity Church has maintained an active and prominent role in the religious life of the Danville community, as well as the Diocese of Lexington.

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Fackler, Calvin Morgan. Early Days in Danville. Louisville: Standard Printing Company, 1941, pp. 187, 191-199.

Harper's Weekly Magazine. November 8, 1862.

Newcomb, Rexford. Architecture in Old Kentucky. Urbana: The University of Illinois Press, 1953.

Swinford, Frances Keller and Rebecca Smith Lee. The Great Elm Tree: Heritage of the Episcopal Diocese of Lexington. Lexington: Faith House Press, 1969, pp. 53-54, 60, 62-63, 71-72, 168-174.

P R E C I N C T

- 2. S. Ayers
- 3. T. P. Young
- 4. J. M. Dalton
- 5. Wakefield & Stodghill
- 6. Mrs. C. S. Lucas
- 7. C. H. Lucas
- 8. Mrs. E. S. DeLong
- 9. Marks & Lourie
- 10. E. B. Russell
- 11. Rev. J. L. Smith
- 12. Mrs. Allen & Mrs. Engleman
- 13. Dr. Cowan & T. E. Quisenberry Mrs.
- 14. Central Nat. Bank
- 15. C. F. Bowman
- 16. B. Van Arsdale
- 17. Mrs. Bobon
- 18. " "
- 19. First Nat. Bank
- 20. E. & R. P. Mc Goodwin
- 21. J. R. Weisiger, Est
- 22. " "
- 23. G. W. Welch Jr
- 24. J. Davis
- 25. " "
- 26. " "
- 27. " "

Prof. J. C. Randolph

N^o 4

Prof. J. C. R.

Mrs. M. B. A. & P. B. E.

S. Greene

DANVILLE

CEMETERY

Mrs. Kennedy

H. Gunn

E. Rockwell

Mrs. Stephen

Est.

Mrs. S. Wilson

N. H. Mutter

J. Carrigan

Mrs. M. Todd

W. J. Sallee

J. S. Lacey

Mrs. Carpenter

Frank P. Tamm

Danville Classical Military Academy

Mrs. J. K. Goodwin

Mrs. T. A. Duworn

Mrs. J. G. G. G.

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LEXINGTON AVE.

ST.

BROADWAY

MAIN

WALNUT

C I N C

GREEN

FOURTH

THIRD

N^o 3

Ky. D. D. I.

D. W. Jones

Ky. D. D. I.

Ky. D. D. I.

Ky. D. D. I.

Ky. D. D. I.

Ky. D. D. I.

Ky. D. D. I.

Ky. D. D. I.

STANFORD PIKE

C. E. Bowman Trotting Park

DANVILLE

Scale 24 Rods to the Inch

Mrs. Tompkin's

Trinity Episcopal Church
Danville
Boyle County
Kentucky

APR 14 1977

SEP 15 1977

Map of Boyle and Mercer Counties,
Kentucky. Philadelphia: D. G. Beers
and Company, 1876.

Map 2. Trinity Episcopal Church is
in red.

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<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
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Cowan, J. Rice. "The Hundred Years of Trinity Parish." Danville Daily Messenger, June 4-5, 1929.

(continued)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1/2 acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	1, 6	69, 60, 90	4, 16, 86, 0, 0	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
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Mary Cronan Oppel, Historian

Frank H. Heck, Senior Warden (Professor of History, Emeritus, Centre College)/

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Trinity Episcopal Church / Kentucky Heritage Commission

September 15, 1976

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

320 West Main Street / 104 Bridge Street

/502 564-4452

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Danville / Frankfort

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

Edred W. Melton

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE 4/1/77

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

8/15/77

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

7.13.77

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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DATE ENTERED	SEP 15 1977

Trinity Episcopal Church

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 2

Old Centre in 1820 (listed on the National Register August 25, 1972). Russel's fees must have been modest for the vestry minutes indicate that it was decided to begin construction as soon as \$1,500 had been subscribed. The new building was consecrated on June 3, 1831, by the Reverend William Meade, then assistant Bishop of the Diocese of Virginia, who was to become one of the most influential leaders of the Episcopal Church. The new Kentucky Diocese, having at this time no bishop of its own, had invited him to visit Kentucky to perform such functions as ordaining new clergy, confirming laymen, and consecrating churches.

The first rector of the parish was the Reverend Gideon McMillan. In addition to his duties as rector of Trinity Church, Reverend McMillan regularly traveled throughout the surrounding area on horseback, establishing missions in Harrodsburg and Lancaster. Reverend McMillan's service to the church was short lived, for he fell victim to the cholera epidemic of 1833, after ministering to the needs of the community. He was buried along the south wall of the church, which is now covered by the chancel.

Trinity Church continued to grow and to hold regular services. In 1860, however, the church was severely damaged in a fire which destroyed most of the Danville commercial district. The day after the fire, the building was inspected and it was determined that the four walls of the church and the vestibule which remained intact, were structurally sound. A new roof and bell tower were constructed, as well as a recessed chancel. Also at this time the original window openings were replaced by paired lancet windows with wooden tracery and a quatrefoil design centered above. The remodeled interior was plain with a balcony and organ over the entrance, and the nave was covered with simple open-timber roof. Thus, after the restoration was completed in 1861, the church which had been constructed in a modified Federal mode, was transformed into a fine Gothic Revival structure. The church, which has remained unaltered, continues to be a good example of a Gothic Revival ecclesiastical design.

For several months in 1862 the newly restored church was used as a hospital for Union troops wounded in the battle of Perryville, which took place in October 8, 1862

(continued)

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Trinity Episcopal Church

CONTINUATION SHEET

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(see Perryville Battlefield National Register nomination, listed December 19, 1960). Perryville is located ten miles west of Danville. A drawing of the reception of the Union troops into Danville after the battle, which appeared in the November 8, 1862 issue of Harper's Weekly Magazine, clearly shows the outline of Trinity Church.

Over the years, Trinity Church has maintained an active and prominent role in the religious life of the Danville community, as well as the Diocese of Lexington.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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Trinity Episcopal Church

CONTINUATION SHEET

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Harper's Weekly Magazine. November 8, 1862.

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Swinford, Frances Keller and Rebecca Smith Lee. The Great Elm Tree: Heritage of the Episcopal Diocese of Lexington. Lexington: Faith House Press, 1969, pp. 53-54, 60, 62-63, 71-72, 168-174.

- 2. S. Ayers
- 3. T. P. Young
- 4. J. M. Dalton
- 5. Wakefield & Stodghill
- 6. Mrs. C. S. Lucas
- 7. C. H. Lucas
- 8. Mrs. E. S. DeLong
- 9. Marks & Lourie
- 10. E. B. Russell
- 11. Rev. J. L. Smith
- 12. Mrs. Allen & Mrs. Engleman
- 13. Dr. Cowan & T. E. Quisenberry Mrs.
- 14. Central Nat. Bank
- 15. C. F. Bowman
- 16. B. Van Arsdale
- 17. Mrs. Bobon
- 18. " "
- 19. First Nat. Bank
- 20. E. & R. P. Mc Goodwin
- 21. J. R. Weisiger, Est
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- 23. G. W. Welch Jr
- 24. J. Davis
- 25. " "
- 26. " "
- 27. " "

Prof. J. C. Randolph

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Prof. J. C. R.

Mrs. M. B. A. & P. B. E.

S. Greene

DANVILLE

CEMETERY

Mrs. Kennedy

H. Gunn

E. Rockwell

Mrs. Stephen

Est.

Mrs. S. Wilson

N. H. Mutter

J. Carrigan

Mrs. M. Todd

W. J. Sallee

J. S. Lacy

Mrs. Carpenter

Frank P. Tinsley

Danville Classical Military Academy

Mrs. J. K. Goodwin

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Trinity Episcopal Church
Danville
Boyle County
Kentucky

APR 14 1977

SEP 15 1977

Map of Boyle and Mercer Counties,
Kentucky. Philadelphia: D. G. Beers
and Company, 1876.

Map 2. Trinity Episcopal Church is
in red.