

PH0678627

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED MAR 6 1979  
MAY 24 1979  
DATE ENTERED

**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 Wooton Presbyterian Center

AND/OR COMMON Wooton Community Center

**2 LOCATION**

KY 80

STREET & NUMBER  
Kentucky 80

CITY, TOWN  
Wooton

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

\_\_\_ NOT FOR PUBLICATION  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
05

STATE  
Kentucky

CODE  
021

COUNTY  
Leslie

CODE  
131

**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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<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 type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME  
United Presbyterian Church c/o Reverend Leonard Hood ✓

STREET & NUMBER  
Room 936-475, Riverside Drive; Wooton Presbyterian Church, P.O. Box 880

CITY, TOWN  
New York; Wooton

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE  
New York; Kentucky

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.  
Office of the County Court Clerk

STREET & NUMBER  
Leslie County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN  
Hyden

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  
Frankfort

STATE  
Kentucky

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Wooton Presbyterian Center is located in the small community of Wooton, Kentucky, in northeastern Leslie County. Leslie County is situated in the mountainous Appalachian region of southeastern Kentucky.

Facing eastward, the Wooton Presbyterian Center is a rectangular, 2 1/2-story, shingle style structure erected between 1919-1921 (see photo 1). The three-bay facade consists of a recessed porch on the first floor and an enclosed sun porch on the second level. Shingles cover the sturdy porch supports as well as the wall surfaces. Vertical sheathing has been employed on the gables of both the front and rear of the building with a single window in each gable peak. Other windows are of varying sizes with most being sash type; however, a band of casement windows pierces the west wall and in several places windows are paired or grouped to form bands (see photos 2 and 3). On the north wall is a large exterior, stone chimney, and a smaller stone chimney rises from the roofline at the rear of the building. A one-story, bay projects from the north wall (see photo 4). The structure rests on a stone foundation which is exposed on the south and west as a result of the sloping site.

The interior consists of a large social room extending the entire width of the structure with a stone fireplace in the north wall (see photo 5). A dining room, hall, and stairs are located to the rear. The original wood paneling and fixtures remain throughout the first floor. The second floor comprises several bedrooms, a living room, and kitchen.

The nominated acreage incorporates the site's natural boundaries, the ridge and Preston Fork, while the northern and southern boundaries are designed to include the immediate yard around the building.

# 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 type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" 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 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 type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1919-1921

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Wooton Presbyterian Center, located in the small community of Wooton in eastern Kentucky, has made tremendous educational, medical, and other social and economic contributions to the area since it was established as a mission of The United Presbyterian Church, U.S.A., in 1917. It was a product of an outgrowth of interest expressed in this specific region which resulted from a survey made by the Board of National Missions of that denomination early in 1916.

Wooton Presbyterian Center provided medical service to the people of this area from October 1917, until 1950. Beginning in 1925, the Center also provided the only opportunity for a high school education in Leslie County, Kentucky, for several years. A hospital was also opened there in 1925 and provided virtually all medical service in the entire area until the Frontier Nursing Service was established at Hyden, the county seat town, approximately two years later. Agricultural innovations and the development of a lending library from horseback were also contributions of the Wooton Presbyterian Center until the state began to provide comparable services.

The Appalachian region of the United States has served as a fruitful field for home mission activities by various religious denominations, especially since the period of the Civil War. One of the most active of the Protestant denominations, particularly in education, has been the United Presbyterian Church, U.S.A.<sup>1</sup>

The activities of a Presbyterian minister named the Reverend William Buyers, which began in Leslie County in 1912, eventually resulted in the establishment of a mission at Wooton.<sup>2</sup> Upon his recommendation, early in 1916, the Presbyterian Board of Missions made a survey of the demand for such a mission in and around Wooton. They found an urgent need for medical, economic, educational, recreational, and spiritual assistance. Reverend Buyers requested that Miss Mary Rose McCord be sent to Wooton to establish a center there comparable to the Girls' Mission School that she headed in Mt. Vernon, Rockcastle County, Kentucky. This was

<sup>1</sup>For further information explaining the differences among the various types of Presbyterian groups in the United States and their histories, please consult the following: "We, the Presbyterians," (a promotional filmstrip), Atlanta, Georgia, Joint Committee on Presbyterian Union, Presbyterian Materials Distribution Service, 341 Ponce de Leon Avenue, N.E., 1975; and Ben M. Barrus, Milton L. Baughn, and Thomas Campbell. A People Called Cumberland Presbyterians. Memphis, Tennessee, Frontier Press, 1972.

<sup>2</sup>Mary T. Brewer, Messengers of Faith (Nashville, Tennessee, Parthenon Press, 1963), pp. 8-17.

(continued)

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Barrus, Ben M., Milton L. Baughn, and Thomas Campbell. A People Called Cumberland Presbyterians. Memphis, Tennessee: Frontier Press, 1972.

Brewer, Mary T. Messengers of Faith. Nashville, Tennessee: Parthenon Press, 1963.

(continued)

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approx. 3/4 acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	1 7	2 9 5 6 6 0	4 1 1 7 2 1 0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundary begins at a point on the east side of Preston Fork approximately 600 feet north of the east-west, light duty road which intersects KY 80 in Wooton. From there the line proceeds eastward for approximately 300 feet to the ridgeline and then turns northwest, following the ridge for approximately 200 feet. Next, the line turns west for approximately 200 feet to Preston Fork and proceeds south for approximately 200 feet along the east side of Preston Fork to the point of origin.

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

Dr. Calvin P. Jones, Senior Historian; Charlotte Schneider, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION

Kentucky Heritage Commission

DATE

November 1978

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

*Edna W. Keltner*

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

8/30/79

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHITECTURE AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

*Charles H. ...*  
*Hubert ...*

DATE

5-21-79

RECORDS OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

5/29/79

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finally achieved in the late spring of 1917. The Center soon became a success. Their Sunday School activities spread from the old schoolhouse they used into the "out-of-doors." Not even threats from local bootleggers were able to hinder their progress because local citizens began to carry guns to church with them until such threats ended.

In October 1917, Miss Nola Pease came to Wooton to work with Miss McCord as a mission worker and nurse. By 1925 there were as many as 15 workers helping with the Center. During the years 1919-1921 the "Firesides Industries Cottage" was built for Miss McCord's residence but she had visions of turning it into a workshop for weaving.<sup>3</sup> This became an important part of the activities at the Center until circa 1950.

In 1925 Ernest W. Moyer became first moderator, pastor, and teacher at the Center, living in a small log house that was built above where the manse stands today. The Moyers were the first to teach high school subjects in Leslie County. They remained at Wooton until 1927 when they were transferred to Harlan County. A hospital was also built at the Center in 1925 by local men with donated materials. With the formation of the Frontier Nursing Service at Hyden, a couple of years later, however, the building was then used as apartments to house needy workers and their families. On March 8, 1926, the Church Session met and voted to build the manse.

In 1931 Miss McCord led in the construction of a new school building at Wooton. It continued under the direction of the Church until 1950 when it was transferred to the Leslie County public school system.

In 1932 the Session called the Reverend Benton P. Deaton as the first full-time pastor of the church. He and his wife served there for almost twenty years. He invested in two farms in Leslie County from the sale of some property that they had owned in Louisville. These farms and the little church farm were used mainly for demonstration purposes. They helped local residents to increase their yield of corn and introduced new fruits and vegetables. These agricultural innovations plus the small sawmill that he operated helped to furnish employment. He also reactivated the Fireside Industries weaving programs.

In 1937-38, through the influence of the Deatons, a new church building known as the Mary Rose McCord Chapel was built. It consisted of native stone and labor and

<sup>3</sup>Ibid., p. 10. Also see information received from The Reverend Leonard L. Hood, Pastor, Wooton Presbyterian Church, P. O. Box 880, Hyden, Kentucky, dated by cover letter of October 2, 1978.

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was completed free of debt. The Presbyterian Church at Wooton continued to function, a symbol of the interest of the United Presbyterian Church in the welfare of the people of the mountain areas in Appalachia.

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