

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED **NOV 7 1975**
DATE ENTERED **MAR 16 1976**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC
McCormack Church

AND/OR COMMON

McCormack Christian Church

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 4 miles southwest of Stanford
Highway 1194 at Hanging Fork Creek

NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

CITY, TOWN
Stanford

VICINITY OF

05

STATE
Kentucky

CODE
021

COUNTY
Lincoln

CODE
137

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input 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 type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<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
Congregation of McCormack Christian Church

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN
Stanford

VICINITY OF

STATE
Kentucky

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Lincoln County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER
Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Stanford

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

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

McCormack Church is located four miles southwest of Stanford, Kentucky, on State Highway 1194. The Church is situated on the west bank of the Hanging Fork Creek with the original entrance facing north, toward a small branch that joins Hanging Fork Creek just to the east. Low hills surround the site, with a steep bank on the opposite side of the creek, providing a sense of protection surely precious to the early members of the church.

The structure has the characteristics of the Federal style in Kentucky. It is a brick structure laid in Flemish bond with a stone foundation. The building is a single rectangular block, 50' x 30', with a lengthwise gable forming an almost equilateral triangle at the ends. There are queen closers defining the ends of the north wall.

Originally the building faced the north and had a door located in the center with a window on each side. (The stone sill remains embedded at the base of the wall below the central window. See photo 1.) The pulpit was situated opposite the door. Galleries for the slaves were located at each end of the church (see sketch 1). (For a similar arrangement found in Kentucky, see the National Register form for the Big Spring Church, Versailles, Woodford County, listed on the National Register May 6, 1975. The Big Spring Church was also associated with the Campbellites.)

The original windows, including the center window on the north side, have 12-over-12 panes and appear to have single stretchers arranged to form a shallow arch. At some point the entrance was changed to the west. The two new doorways at the west end have single flat headers; the doors are recessed into the wall and have three-light transoms of an early type. Between the front entrances, half-way up, the wall has been bricked in; this may originally have been a separate entrance for access to the gallery at that end. A circular ventilating hole is located above the entrance to the gable.

Many of the original furnishings, made from trees surrounding the church, remain in use.

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 1820

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The McCormack Church was built in 1820 on land donated by Daniel McCormack, an early Lincoln County settler. Over the years the simple, but finely proportioned brick structure has served several religious denominations. McCormack Church is significant not only as an early church, but also because of its associations with Campbellism, a significant movement in Kentucky church history which resulted in the establishment of a new Protestant denomination, the Disciples of Christ. The church has remained the focal point of the surrounding, still rural area.

Situated at the site of the present brick church was originally a log church constructed by the Baptists circa 1785. The church was a member of the South Kentucky Association of Separate Baptists (those who believed in the strict interpretation of the Bible) the same year. As more settlers arrived, a need for a larger church developed to serve the growing farming community. Captain Daniel McCormack, founder of McCormack's Station (located a mile northeast of the site of the church), donated the land from his farm for a church, graveyard (an early cemetery is located near the church), and school. McCormack stipulated in the contract that: "When the house is built it is to be free for all denominations and people to worship in." In 1819 a commission was formed to collect money for the construction of a brick church building. Plans were drawn and the building completed circa 1820.

In 1821 the church was excluded from the Association for practicing "open communion." Nine years later the congregation of the church was split over the writings and doctrine of Alexander Campbell. All but five members who withdrew from the church followed the teachings of Campbell. Campbell, a former Presbyterian minister, called for a return to a more primitive 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 associations 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 called the Disciples of Christ or the Christian Church. His followers were most commonly known as Campbellites.

The reform movement among the Baptist churches which resulted in the Disciples of Christ began in Pennsylvania in 1809 with Thomas Campbell. His son, Alexander Campbell, continued his father's teachings and spread them to Kentucky in 1823. Most of Campbell's followers came from the Baptist Church. By 1830 a large number of Baptists had severed ties with their former

(Continued)

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Burch, Ester Whitley. History of McCormacks Christian Church in Lincoln County, 1941.
1941 (unpublished pamphlet).
- Coleman, J. Winston, Jr. "Historic Kentucky," Sunday Herald Leader. March 3, 1963.
- Collins, Richard H. History of Kentucky. Covington, Kentucky: Collins & Co., 1874, Vol. I,
p. 419.

(Continued)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1

UTM REFERENCES

A

1	6	6	9	9	3	8	0	4	1	5	5	5	4	0
ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING												

B

ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING												

C

ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING												

D

ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING												

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

Mrs. M.H. Dunn

(MC)

February, 1975

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Lincoln County Historical Society

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

103 Pettus Court

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Stanford

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.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

Eldred W. Melton

Nov 4, 1975

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Acting

[Signature]

DATE

3/16/96

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST

Robert B. Ketting

DATE

3-14-76

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Acting

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churches. Collins (1874) called it "the greatest secession from the Baptist ranks ever known in their history in Kentucky" (p. 419).

In keeping with the Disciples' principles of restoring the ancient order of things, they were opposed to modern innovations. Consequently they insisted on simplicity which was reflected in their church buildings and worship.

In 1843 a noted debate which lasted several days between Peter Donan and Lewis Green on infant baptism took place at the church. (Campbell opposed infant baptism for he felt it was not supported in the Scripture.) Debates of this nature were important in the structure of the church.

McCormack Church has served continuously as a Christian Church since 1830.

Architecturally, the building is a fine example of early church design in Kentucky. Within the plain rectangular form the pulpit was originally located opposite the entrance at the centers of the long sides, and there were end galleries (one of them perhaps for slaves). Later, apparently in conformity with Campbellite views, the interior was reoriented to place the sanctuary at one end with two doors (presumably to separate the sexes) at the opposite end. Similar changes occurred in the 1830s at the frame Old Mudd Dutch Reformed Meeting House near Harrodsburg, Mercer County (listed on the National Register February 16, 1973), and at the two-story brick Big Spring Church in Versailles, Woodford County (listed on the National Register May 6, 1975).

Thus, with its fine brickwork and unspoiled condition, the McCormack Church suggests both the range and the similarity of these early Protestant houses of worship in Kentucky.

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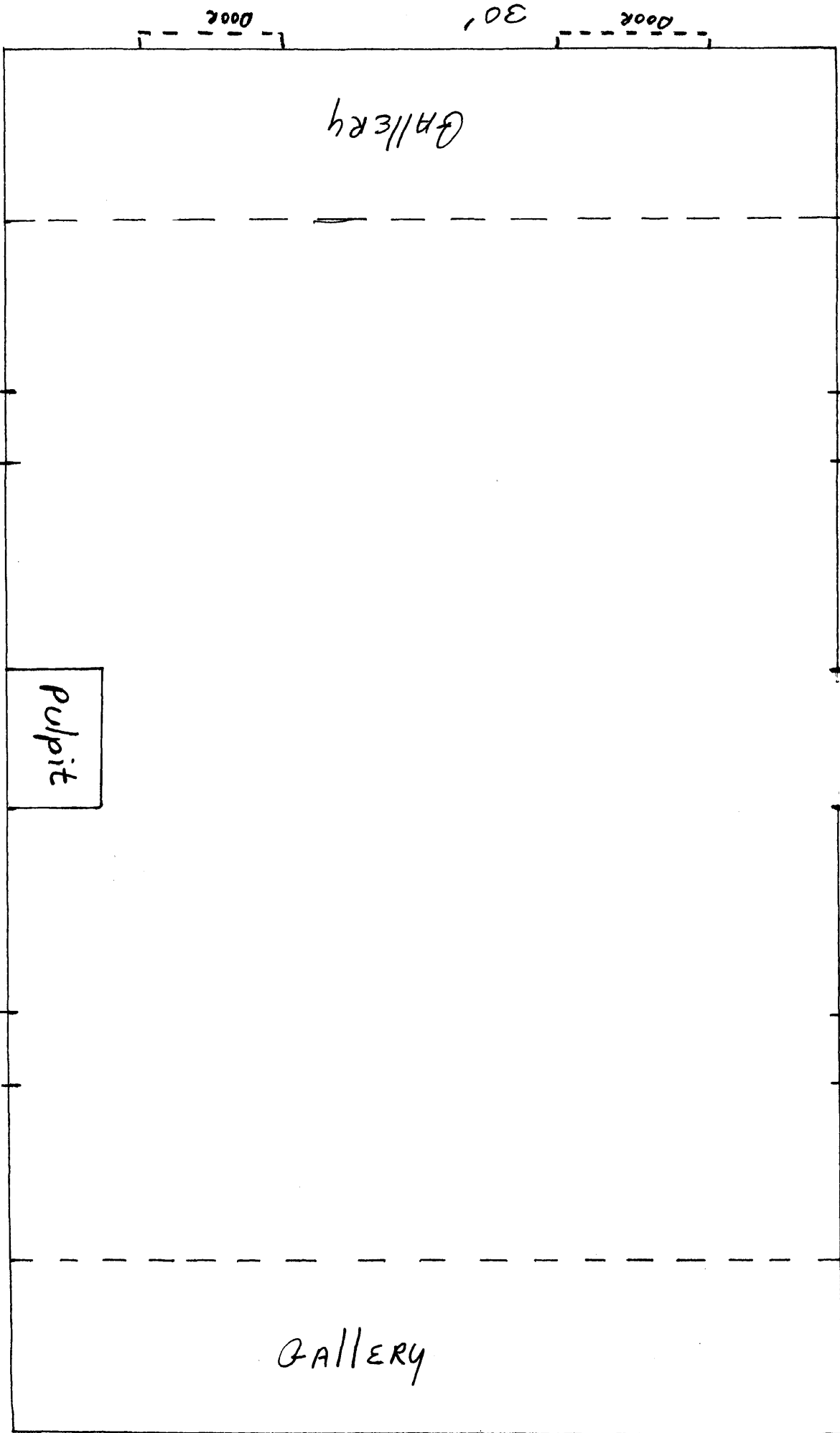
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CONTINUATION SHEET

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Fortune, Alonzo Willard. The Disciples in Kentucky. Lexington: The Convention of the Christian Churches in Kentucky, 1932, p.171.
Lincoln County Bicentennial Commission. Lincoln County Bicentennial 1775-1975. Stanford, Kentucky: The Interior Journal, 1975.



GALLERY

Door

30'

Door

Pulpit

Window

N

50'

GALLERY