

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	MAR 22 1976
DATE ENTERED	APR 21 1976

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

1 NAME

****** HISTORIC *sh*
St. Thomas Episcopal Church
AND/OR COMMON
Same

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER *off 32*
Hill Street immediately behind Lee County Courthouse —NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CITY, TOWN **Beattyville** CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT **05**
STATE **Kentucky** CODE **021** COUNTY **Lee** CODE **129**

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	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" 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 **Diocese of Lexington**
STREET & NUMBER **580 Sayre Avenue**
CITY, TOWN **Lexington** VICINITY OF STATE **Kentucky**

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. **Lee County Courthouse**
STREET & NUMBER **Main Street**
CITY, TOWN **Beattyville** 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, 104 Bridge Street**
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		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

St. Thomas Episcopal Church is set on a hillside overlooking the town of Beattyville above and behind the county courthouse. The building seems to rise naturally out of the hillside into which its stone foundations merge and which its roof slopes parallel, while at the same time asserting its own more angular geometry, particularly in the unique juxtaposition of perpendicular porch, belfry, and main gable at the conclusion of the processional way up from the town (see photo 1).

The church is approached by means of a winding road lined with a low stone wall. The grounds contain ample shade trees. The path from the road to the church consists of meandering flights of steps that lead to the north end of the east wall of the church (the building's orientation is the reverse of the usual liturgical direction). At this point a stone terrace overlooking the town leads across the east end of the building to the vestibule at the southeast corner (see photo 3). The vestibule, with its sturdy buttressed stone piers and sawtooth shingled gable-end, is set on a continuation of the terrace wall (see photo 2). It butts up against the belfry, which consists of two square piers that rise above the level of the eaves and are linked by a horizontal beam. (An old photograph shows that the piers were originally capped with picturesque pyramidal roofs now missing.) Under the belfry is the main entrance. A chimney at the west end balances the belfry asymmetrically.

All the exterior walls of the church are of rough-cut local stone laid in regular courses; the trim is ashlar (see the detail of the cornerstone, photo 7). The building is a single gabled rectangle with the side walls divided into four bays by stocky buttresses. The east and west gable ends rise above the roof with ashlar coping along the parapets. The east end has a single large pointed window with switch-line tracery and two small lancets for ventilation above (see photo 3). The similar west window is truncated to allow for the altar below. The side windows are also pointed, but the openings into the thickness of the basement have horizontal lintels.

The interior of the church is a single large room (see photos 4 and 5). The sanctuary is divided from the nave by a high wide arch flanked by smaller arches leading into the choir chambers. These open into the chancel through similar arches on octagonal pillars. The wooden altar is set above several stepped platforms. Only the upper portion of a traceried window like that at the east end, forming a large lunette, lights the chancel. The glass throughout consists of panels of primary colors framed with golden squares. The ceiling and interior trim are of dark stained wood. Many of the original fittings, including a stone baptismal font, remain (see photo 6). The overall effect is austere, but enlivened by the bright colors of the window and the rhythmic interplay of arched openings.

The new rectory, built in 1962, lies east of the church against the hillside.

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 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 checked="" 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 1894-96

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Unknown

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

St. Thomas Episcopal Church, a small stone structure set on a hillside in eastern Kentucky overlooking the North Fork of the Kentucky River, has considerable architectural and historic value to the mountain town of Beattyville, in Lee County. The religious history of the community would also be incomplete without mention of St. Thomas, the first Episcopal church to be built in the community. The congregation was established upon the visit to the area by the Assistant Bishop of Kentucky, Thomas Dudley, Father Walter Tearne, and others in 1875, shortly after the county was founded in 1870. Although it was Bishop Dudley's aim to increase the number of missions throughout the State, he had a particular interest in Lee County. "Of all the mission stations in the State of Kentucky, the one closest to the heart of Bishop Dudley was Lee County, in the mountains of eastern Kentucky. None loved and honored him more than the Churchmen and people of the county, where he labored and planned and builded [sic]. The stories of Bishop Dudley's efforts in the Cumberland Mountains are legend as well as legion" (Swinford and Lee, p. 347). Some twenty years after his initial visit to Beattyville, the congregation had grown to sufficient numbers to warrant the construction of a church, completed in 1894 (*Ibid.*, p. 344). Although the architect is unknown (probably the design can be attributed to Bishop Dudley himself), the building bears a sophisticated relation to its site and combines both modesty and a certain amount of monumentality in its use of materials, its proportions, and its manipulation of the approach from the town below.

The town in which the small church was organized was conveniently located on the north side of the Kentucky River, at the junction of Three forks, about 100 miles southeast of Frankfort. The village's population numbered only 123 in 1870, but in that same year it became the county seat. It then contained three churches-- Methodist, Baptist, and Reformed or Christian.

Eastern Kentucky had been an area neglected by the Episcopalians. The church, in fact, had been slow in coming to the state of Kentucky. The Diocese of Kentucky, which initially included the entire Commonwealth, was not established on the frontier until 1829. The Diocese was separated into two divisions in 1895, with the mountain region falling within the eastern division, or Diocese of Lexington.

The Rt. Rev. Benjamin Bosworth Smith, first Bishop of Kentucky, had visited this mountain area in 1840, more to expand the outreach of an educational system than to establish a church or missions. However, he did interest others in the work of the Church that could be done in

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9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Barnes, Mary Agnes. 'St. Thomas' Church Old as Lee County' (article) Sept. 6, 1970.
 Collins, Lewis and Richard. History of Kentucky. Louisville: John P. Morton and Company, 1874, pp. 461-462.
 Moody, The Rev. William R. The History of the Cathedral Domain. Lexington: Diocese of Lexington. 1967.

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10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 2 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	17	26,07,0,0	4,16,19,0,0	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

Mr. Nevyle Shackelford, Lee County Representative

KB:GM; WEL

ORGANIZATION

Kentucky Heritage Commission

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

P.O. Box 295

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Beattyville

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.

~~FEDERAL GOVERNMENT~~ SIGNATURE

Edded W. Melton

TITLE

DATE 3/16/76

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Acting

DATE 4/21/76

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

Charles [Signature]

DATE 4.19.76

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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this region, and records show that while he was in Boston in 1845, a group of women there gave him \$200 for a special mission in this area.

During the period following the Civil War, the Episcopalians made steady progress toward the establishment of church missions throughout the state. This movement was given impetus by the appointment in 1875 of the Reverend Thomas Underwood Dudley to Assistant Bishop. Prior to Dudley's appointment, eastern Kentucky had not been completely ignored, however: the Rev. Walter Tearne, rector of the Church of the Ascension in Mt. Sterling, traveled extensively throughout the region, holding services in the small towns. In Beattyville he found three communicants of the Episcopal church who were, by 1874, holding regular monthly services (Swinford and Lee, p. 359).

In the fall of 1875, Bishop Dudley, Rev. Tearne, and one other minister made the arduous trip through the Cumberland Mountains and to Lee County. In the course of their journey they stopped in Beattyville and Proctor, a village of 100 people across the creek from Beattyville, where missions were established. "A friend of the Bishop bought a barn, a rambling, frame house and tavern in Proctor for a mission (St. Paul's Mission). The barroom became St. Paul's Chapel, while other rooms were used for a mission school which remained in operation until 1882" (Barnes, p. 4). During this same period, the people in Beattyville were busy building a courthouse which also became the site for worship services. In 1875 Bishop Dudley and the Rev. Lewis P. Tschiffely visited the area and conducted services at both St. Paul's Mission in Proctor and St. Thomas' Mission in Beattyville.

Father Tearne soon became responsible for the mission in Lee, Owsley, and portions of Estill counties; he was joined in 1877 by the Rev. Charles Harvey Lockwood. It was the latter who organized the mission school and church in Beattyville. "He rented a room above the main saloon for a chapel, and obtained the use of other rooms on Main Street for a school. Nineteen-year-old Lucien Lee Kinsolving of Virginia became the headmaster. He proved an able and popular teacher, and the school grew and additional teachers were hired. In 1885, after three years of teaching, Kinsolving resigned to study for the ministry. He later became the first bishop of Brazil" (Barnes, p. 4). The mission, which by the late 1880s was known as St. Thomas Chapel after Bishop Dudley, prospered.

In 1891 Dudley appointed the Rev. J. E. H. Galbraith as missionary for Lee County. Under his ministry the attendance at services improved steadily in both towns and the school flourished. The financial strength of the mission grew as well. The greatest

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need the congregation saw was for a proper church building at Beattyville.

It appears from early Diocesan journals that St. Thomas' owes the construction of its new church to Bishop Dudley who owned the land on which the church was built. He also provided much of the necessary capital. There were to be difficulties--the journal reveals that "said contractor ran off without completing said building. . . ." However, the church members and Bishop Dudley persevered, and the cornerstone was laid in 1894 by Bishop Dudley. He had chosen the location of the church overlooking the North Fork of the Kentucky River on a hillside so as to avoid damage by flooding. Unfortunately the architect is unknown, although it is more than likely that Dudley had a great deal to say about the design.

The first services in the stone church, held on August 30, 1896, were conducted by the first Bishop of the new Diocese of Lexington, Lewis W. Burton. In his parochial report that year, the Bishop of Lexington stated, "It is proper to make very grateful acknowledgments to the Right Reverend Bishop of Kentucky for furnishing all the money necessary in order to complete the church according to its original tasteful design, and to supply it with all the appurtenances and appliances for the orderly worship of our Church and the prosecution of its work. The church bears the name of St. Thomas in recognition of this generous patronage and as a memorial of the twenty-year Episcopate of the present Bishop of Kentucky over the undivided Diocese, in the course of which the Lee County Mission shared particularly in his earnest attention and free-handed support " (Swinford and Lee, 366).

Rev. Alexander Patterson, who became minister of St. Thomas in 1902, became quite well known in the area and is often referred to as "the shepherd of the hills." "He was responsible for all of Lee County, as well as the missions. Since the latter were doing quite well, he set out to visit his flock throughout the county and became known as 'the walking man in the mountains.' There are many stories about how he could walk while asleep, often falling in creeks or ditches, and could sleep as well on the floor or the ground as a bed. The people adored him. He seemed not to worry about money, or where he would sleep at night, or where his next meal was coming from. A carpenter by trade, he built the Old St. Thomas rectory in 1909 from scraps of lumber given him by people who had finished their own building. About 1915, he bought a tract of land 'too poor to raise enough corn to feed a cow during the winter,' and built a log cabin there, intending to make it his home when he became too old to walk the countryside. He dreamed of people coming there for guidance and prayer. It was used as a retreat for working girls of the Girl's Friendly Society, and he deeded the land to this society when he retired in 1928, at the age of 80, and left the mountains to be with his sons" (Barnes, p. 4).

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"In 1919, the Rt. Rev. H. P. Almon Abbott became the second Bishop of the Diocese of Lexington. Conditions changed in the mountains. The great depression caused the timber and coal industries to dwindle, and many of the younger people left the area. But the work of the church in the mountains continued under a succession of ministers.

"The Rt. Rev. William R. Moody was consecrated as third bishop of the diocese in 1946, and he conceived the idea of having the Patterson land serve as the site for a new cathedral for the diocese and also be used as a camp and retreat center [known as the Cathedral Domain].

"St. Thomas, itself, has had its ups and downs. It became a parish in 1957, but reverted to mission status in 1972" (Barnes, p. 4). Nevertheless, the church building remains a landmark of the community and the congregation has labored to preserve and maintain it.

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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.