

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PH 0681512

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	AUG 9 1978
DATE ENTERED	NOV 21 1978

**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

Pioneer Hall, ~~Pleasant Hill Academy~~

AND/OR COMMON

Pioneer Hall

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Main Street

___ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Pleasant Hill

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Fourth

___ VICINITY OF

STATE

Tennessee

CODE
47

COUNTY
Cumberland

CODE
35

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: **social**

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Pleasant Hill Community Church (United Church of Christ)

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Pleasant Hill

___ VICINITY OF

STATE

Tennessee

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Cumberland County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Crossville

STATE

Tennessee

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Historical and Architectural Survey

DATE

December 1976

___ FEDERAL STATE ___ COUNTY ___ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Tennessee Historical Commission

CITY, TOWN

Nashville

STATE

Tennessee

7 DESCRIPTION

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

Pleasant Hill, a small Cumberland Plateau community, is located eleven miles west of Crossville, the seat of government of Cumberland County. Pioneer Hall, the oldest Pleasant Hill Academy building, stands in the center of the town on the old Crossville-Sparta Road.

The three-story, rectangular frame building, which was designed by Rev. Benjamin Dodge, measures fifty-six feet long and thirty feet wide. (The original design called for the building to be thirty-six feet long but its length was extended by twenty-feet before it was completed; a shed roof covers this section.) It has a stone foundation and a full basement. The weatherboarded building is surmounted by a Mansard roof which was originally covered with hand-shaved, white oak shingles coated with crude petroleum and painted with mineral paint. When completed in 1889, a hipped section rose above the Mansard in the northeastern half of the roof, and this was topped with a rectangular, balustraded widow's walk. These elements were removed during a ca. 1920 renovation and replaced with a shallow gable section. At that time a large single chimney on the southeast elevation supplanted the four internal stacks; these chimneys remain just under the present composition shingle-clad roof.

A large gable dormer with paired four-over-four light windows delineates the center bay of the three-bay facade (northeast elevation); this element is flanked by shed dormers with six-over-six light windows. (The remaining windows of the facade duplicate those found in the gable dormer.) Prior to ca. 1920 the center bay of this elevation had a small balcony with a balustrade and supported by simple diagonal braces; a diminutive gabled stoop shelters the entrance of the present building. Sidelights and a headlight surround the single-leaf door. The builder used a brace and bit and keyhole saw to decorate the pediment of the gable dormer, Mansard edge trim, cornice, and window lintels; holes drilled partially or completely through the boards and occasionally joined with saw cuts create a variety of unusual and decorative patterns. The same fenestration configuration appears on the five-bay northwest and southeast elevations. All of the dormers on these walls and the three-bay southwest elevation are shed dormers.

The plan of the first floor is irregular; the rooms, which once included a lobby, school office, principal's office, and storerooms, cluster around a staircase located in the approximate center of this level. A longitudinal central hall bisects the second and third floors; the stairs rise in the center of the halls. Students' rooms lined both sides of the central hall. The attic is unfinished and useful only as storage space. Throughout, the twenty-four room interior has beaded-board walls and ceilings and narrow board floors.

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 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 checked="" 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 1887-89 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Rev. Benjamin Dodge

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Pioneer Hall, the only remaining, unaltered Pleasant Hill Academy building, is representative of an era in the educational history of the state which, until it was recently revived, had largely vanished--the private academy system. During the years immediately following the Civil War, Cumberland County, like many other counties in the state, had no free public schools; subscription schools operated, but access to these was limited by the ability of the student's family to pay the tuition costs. The American Missionary Association recognized the plight of the plateau residents and sent a teacher to Pleasant Hill in 1884. Pleasant Hill Academy was founded shortly thereafter, and by 1887 classes were being held in the new Academy Building.

The second school building, Pioneer Hall, was begun in 1887 and completed eighteen months later. Benjamin Dodge (1818-1897), a Maine-born Congregationalist minister, donated the land, designed the building, solicited the necessary funds, and supervised the construction of the dormitory. Until housing for the female students could be built, Pioneer Hall served as a co-ed dormitory--a novelty in the nineteenth century. Stylistically, Pioneer Hall would not attract attention in Rev. Dodge's native New England; however, in Tennessee very few such buildings--particularly those with widow's walks--were erected, and fewer still have survived.

The American Missionary Association in general, and Pleasant Hill Academy in particular, contributed considerably more to the Cumberland Plateau region than uplifting the educational level of the residents. The school helped to improve the quality of life of these isolated mountain folk by providing their initial educational experiences. The academy closed its doors in 1947 when the county school system assumed the responsibility for teaching the children of Pleasant Hill. Among the alumni of Pleasant Hill Academy are numerous teachers, librarians, school administrators, attorneys, physicians, ministers, and businessmen, most of whom continue to live and work in Cumberland and the surrounding counties.

The Pleasant Hill Historical Society of the Cumberlands has expressed a keen interest in the preservation and restoration of Pioneer Hall. This organization is comprised of many of the academy's former students. The building is now used as a thrift shop and for other community activities. Although some minor alterations were made during the more than ninety years of the building's existence, it remains structurally sound and in relatively good condition.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Dodge, Emma F. History of Pleasant Hill, privately printed, 1938.

Information provided by Mrs. W. Walter Hall, Pleasant Hill, Tennessee.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1/2

QUADRANGLE NAME Pleasant Hill, TN

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 1,6 6,6,2 8,0,0 3,9 8,2 6,1,0

B

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION The property nominated is a rectangular lot which measures 143' by 127' and is bounded as follows: beginning at a point; thence 143' southeast along Main Street; thence 127' southwest; thence 143 feet northwest; thence 127' northeast to the beginning.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Barbara Hume Church, Architectural Historian
Robert E. Dalton, Director of Field Services

ORGANIZATION Tennessee Historical Commission DATE July 1978

STREET & NUMBER 170 Second Avenue North TELEPHONE (615) 641-2371

CITY OR TOWN Nashville STATE Tennessee

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL STATE LOCAL X

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 Herbert E. Harger

TITLE Executive Director, Tennessee Historical Commission DATE 8/1/78

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER	
<u>Charles S. [Signature]</u> KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER	DATE <u>10-21-78</u>
ATTEST: <u>Jann H. Gilmore</u> CHIEF OF REGISTRATION	DATE <u>11/20/78</u>