Form No. 10-300 (Rev. 10-74)

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Long Run Baptist Church remains a shell after a disastrous fire on Christmas Eve, 1960. The church and cemetery are located on a low rise at the junction of two small streams or branches where they join Long Run, a tributary of Floyds Creek, one of the earliest paths of settlement in the Falls of the Ohio region. The ruins of the church lie on a relatively flat terrace of the hillside, surrounded by the modest cemetery and farmlands. There is a minimal amount of park development--chiefly a flight of stone steps recessed into the hill some distance from the church structure, with a plaque describing the history and associations of the site, church, and cemetery.

Photographs of the Long Run Church prior to the fire of 1960 show a high and broad gable extending the full width of the structure over the rather square openings of the two widely-spaced front entrances. These had plain frames and vertically-paneled Greek Revival doors (a storm door has been superimposed over one of the originals, probably at the turn of the century). The side walls had five large, regularly spaced nine-over-nine pane sash windows and were finished by brick corbelled cornices. Probably because of the slightly sloping site and perhaps to utilize all the material available from the earlier stone church, the stone foundations extended above the sills of the front doors, giving a somewhat high-waisted effect. (An additional small window opening on the rear wall may not have been original.

There are four doors to the structure: one in front for white men, one for white women; in the rear, one for black men, one for black women. The arrangement of pews also reflected this division of sexes and races.

The foundations and walls remain intact as restored by Jefferson County, Kentucky, in 1969, although the gable walls were not reconstructed.



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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Long Run Baptist Church is significant, not only as an excellent example of rural church architecture for pre-Civil War Kentucky, but also as the site of a cabin erected (c. 1780) by Abraham Lincoln, grandfather of the l6th President of the United States. In addition the Long Run Baptist Church is important as one of the earliest organized congregations in Kentucky, and as the "Mother Church" for the Long Run Association of Baptist Churches.

Originally the site of the church was part of a 400-acre tract owned and farmed by Captain Abraham Lincoln (Linkhorn), grandfather of the 16th President of the United States. By tradition, the Long Run Baptist Church was built on the site of the Captain's cabin.

In 1786, Captain Lincoln and his family were living in Hughes' Station, approximately 1/2 mile northeast of the site. The Lincolns stayed in the station instead of their cabin because of frequent attacks in this area by Indians. On May 19, 1786, Captain Lincoln was killed from ambush as he was planting corn with his three sons (including Thomas, the 16th President's father). By tradition, Captain Lincoln was buried near his cabin which became the original site of the Long Run Baptist Church. The grave is unmarked.

Captain Lincoln's widow moved her family to present-day Washington County, Kentucky, shortly after the tragedy.

The Young and Gregg families, grandparents of President Harry S. Truman, were members of this church. Warfield Young, the 34th President's great-uncle, is buried in the churchyard.

The Long Run Baptist Church was constituted in 1797 with the Salem Association of Regular Baptists, but early records indicate that the church was in existence before 1795.

As a result of the Great Revival, 1801-1802, the Salem Association increased by 34 churches. In 1803 all churches north of Salt River were dismissed to form the Long Run Association, the Long Run Baptist Church being considered the "Mother Church."

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

Long Run Baptist Church and Cemetery

The Long Run Association of Regular Baptists was constituted on the Philadelphia Confession of Faith. This confession of faith was Calvinistic in doctrine and advocated "laying on of the hands upon baptized believers" and "singing of Psalms in the worship of God."

According to Fisher in his article in the <u>Filson Club Quarterly</u> (1937), the Long Run Association of Baptists has grown to be one of the world's most important associations of Baptists. It is one of the "Big Five": Richmond, Virginia; Atlanta, Georgia; Birmingham, Alabama; Long Run, Louisville, Kentucky; London, England. The Long Run Baptist Church is most important from a denomination point of view. Baptists were the first to promote public worship in Kentucky. The early Long Run Church was noted for its insistence upon strict discipline and straightness of conduct. From the organization of the church to the Civil War, Negroes were received into the full fellowship of the Long Run Church.

The original congregation is believed to have occupied the cabin built by Captain Abraham Lincoln and deserted by his family following his death in 1786. This cabin was replaced by a stone church in 1797 and was replaced in 1844 by the present brick structure which is thought to incorporate masonry from the earlier church and its foundations.

The Long Run Baptist Church burned December 24, 1960. Its four walls continue standing as ruins. The building, even as a ruins, is a superior example of rural church architecture for pre-Civil War Kentucky.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 2

Long Run Baptist Church and Cemetery

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