

PH0354066

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED MAY 23 1977  
DATE ENTERED NOV 17 1977

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  \*  
A.M.E.  
Mount Vernon African Methodist Episcopal Church  
AND/OR COMMON  
Same

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER  
State Route 100  
CITY, TOWN  
north of Gamaliel  
STATE  
Kentucky  
VICINITY OF  
05  
COUNTY  
Monroe  
CODE  
021  
CODE  
171  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
05  
NOT FOR PUBLICATION

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:
			<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME  
Mount Vernon African Methodist Episcopal Church Congregation  
STREET & NUMBER  
CITY, TOWN  
Gamaliel  
VICINITY OF  
STATE  
Kentucky

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.  
Monroe County Courthouse  
STREET & NUMBER  
CITY, TOWN  
Tompkinsville  
STATE  
Kentucky

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE  
Survey of Historic Sites in Kentucky  
DATE  
1971  
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS  
Kentucky Heritage Commission  
CITY, TOWN  
Frankfort  
STATE  
Kentucky  
 FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

# 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 type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

---

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Mount Vernon African Methodist Episcopal Church is located approximately five miles north of the Kentucky-Tennessee border on State Highway 100 in Monroe County. The church faces south and is situated on a slight rise with the road bending around the church on the east. The site of Freetown, a small community established by the freed slaves who constructed the church, lies 1/4 mile to the northeast.

The church is a one-room, one-story log structure with dovetail notching. The hand-hewn logs average 12" in width and are set close together. The chinking which filled the cracks, has fallen out in several areas. Large exposed pegs pin the eave logs at the four corners. Weathered clapboarding covers the north and south gable ends. A tin roof replaces the original wooden shake shingle one. Located in the center of the west side is an interior brick smoke stack (see photos 1, 4, and 5).

The front entrance, centered in the south gable end, is composed of double doors. Two shuttered openings are spaced along the west and east sides. In recent years double pane sash windows have been installed. A small square shuttered opening is in the center of the north gable end (see photos 2 and 3).

In the interior, the original puncheon floor on log sleepers remains intact, as well as several rustic benches which appear to be original. The ceiling, composed of narrow tongue-and-groove paneling, replaces the original (see photo 6).

# 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) (Black History)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES c. 1848

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Mount Vernon African Methodist Church, five miles north of the Kentucky-Tennessee border in Monroe County, was built in 1848 by George Pipkin, Albert Howard, and Peter West, freed slaves of William Howard, a wealthy Monroe County farmer. The Mount Vernon A. M. E. church, which served as a school for the black children as well, was the first black church in Monroe County. Services are still held by the congregation in the original log structure on special occasions.

The builders of the Mount Vernon Church were former slaves of William Howard. Howard, a native of North Carolina, settled in Monroe County in 1802, five miles west of Tompkinsville, the county seat, where he purchased several hundred acres of farmland. Although Howard was a slave owner, he did not approve of slavery and he freed his slaves and gave them each a small piece of land when they reached the age of twenty-one. The small community of Freetown, located 1/4 mile north of the church and several miles west of Howard's residence, was established by the freed slaves and was the first black community founded in the county. In 1848 George Pipkin, Albert Howard, and Peter West, residents of Freetown, built the hand-hewn log church.

The African Methodist Episcopal Church was formally established in 1816 in Philadelphia by discontent black members of the Methodist Episcopal Church congregation. The Methodist doctrine set forth in the Methodist Book of Discipline is composed of twenty-five tenets, which are essentially an abridgement of the thirty-nine Articles of the Church of England. The tenets embraced a strict code of discipline which strongly discouraged slaveholding and the buying or selling of slaves. Because of this doctrine the Methodist Episcopal Church attracted many freed blacks and slaves in the Philadelphia, Baltimore, and Charleston areas, when the church was first established. While the Methodist congregations were small and poor, they welcomed free blacks and slaves to their church. But as the church grew in numbers and in wealth, the white members of the congregation discriminated against the blacks. As a result the black members left the Methodist Episcopal Church and on April 1816 a group of black leaders met in a convention

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Collins, Richard. History of Kentucky. Covington: By the Author, 1874.

Payne, Daniel A. The Semi-Centenary and the Retrospection of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. Freeport, New York: Books for Libraries Press, 1972.

(continued)

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .5 acre

Latitude: 36° 40' 28"

Longitude: 85° 47' 57"

UTM REFERENCES

A	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

B	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
D	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

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

Mary Cronan Oppel, Historian

ORGANIZATION

Kentucky Heritage Commission

DATE

April 1977

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

*Eldred W. Meltzer*

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

May 18, 1977

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

*Robert B. Rottig*

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHITECTURE AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

11/17/77

ATTEST:

*Charles H. ...*

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

11-16-77

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	MAY 23 1977
DATE ENTERED	MAY 27 1977

Mount Vernon African Methodist Episcopal Church

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 2

and formed the African Methodist Episcopal Church and elected a bishop. They also adopted the "Articles of Religion" and "General Rules" in the Methodist Book of Discipline, thus essentially eliminating any difference between the Methodist Episcopal and the African Methodist Episcopal Church in theology, ethics, and government (Payne, p. 7).

The A. M. E. church experienced a slow, but steady growth. Through missionary work, the first African Methodist Episcopal Church was established in Lexington, Kentucky, in 1827.

According to Richard Collins in his History of Kentucky (1874), there were 703 slaves in Monroe County in 1840. The number had grown to 922 in 1860, while there were only 17 free blacks (Vol. II, p. 261). The Mount Vernon Church, not only served as a place of worship, but it also served as a school for black children after the Civil War for seventy years. The Mount Vernon congregation continues to hold services at the church on special occasions.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	MAY 23 1977
DATE ENTERED	NOV 17 1977

Mount Vernon African Methodist Episcopal Church

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 2

Perrin, W. H., J. H. Battle, and G. C. Kniffen. Kentucky. A History of the State. Louisville and Chicago: F. A. Battey and Co., 1886.

Additional Information from Mrs. Stanton Taylor, Tompkinsville, Kentucky,  
County Representative for the Kentucky Heritage Commission.