Form 10.302       UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR         NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM       EXTERT         (Type all entries - complete applicable sections)       DOTE         (I hame       JUN 10.1000         (County, County, Count, County, County, Count, County, County, Count, County, County, Count, County, County, Count, Count, County, Count, County, Count, County, Count, C				PHADO	2445				
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The First Presbyterian Church, completed in 1858, is the oldest structure still being used for a church in Boyd County. It has Since been enlarged and is presently an impressive mid- Victorian, red brick structure with a French bell tower and large, handsome, Gothic-type stained glass windows. The oldest portion of the church was constructured between 1857 and 1858. In A History Of The First Presbyterian Church, 1819- 1954, Meyers described the original interior of the church and various additions that have been made over the years. Origin- ally two doors opened into the vertibule and the two side aisles, "there being no central aisle but a partition running lengthwise of the central row of pews. The choir loft was placed over the vestibule and the organ was directly between the two doors. The pulpit stood at the far end and had several short rows of pews. These were popularly known as the "Amen Corner" from their position." In 1919 in his centennial sermon, Dr. William C. Condit described additions made to the church: "In 1888 it was deemed necessary to enlarge the building. The church had been laying by a sum for repairs. The Treasurer reported this sum had amounted to about three thousand dollars. It was evident we needed more room. So plans were selected and a commodious auditorium and Sabbath Schoel room were erected at the cost of \$15,000. In a few years the need of an organ added, all at the cost of \$80001. Thm sets have de ond paid for before the increase of the Sabbath School demanded enlarged quarters, and a Sabbath School room, with a capacity to seat 3800 was erected at the cost of \$16,000. They did all this without asking help from outside and built without debt. This church has had a dislike for debt and "pay as you go' has been her motto." The "Little Helpers" (children who sold apples, presented plays and sought donations) raised the money for the stained glass windows. When the walls of the addition were completed in 1888. When the walls of the addition were completed in 1884. We have the secon	CONDITION		(Check One)				-
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The present building is the third church for the congregation. The first church was a log structure that was built in 1819 It was founded by the Poage's who were and used until 1828. the early settlers of this area which was then called Poage's Landing. It was located several miles from the present location of the Church. In 1828 a plot of ground containing two and one-fourth acres was given to the church by the Ruling Elder, George Poage, Jr. In the same year old Bethesda Church, a 36'x40' brick structure, was built on this site, and was used Throughout the early history of the church it was until 1858. but a small rural church serving a farming population and workers in the iron furnaces nearby. By 1854 the church had two hundred and thirty members; however, one hundred and thirty nine members asked for and received their letters so they could either seek another church or join the westward migration. The membership further decreased by death or suspension for "habitually neglecting the ordinances of God's house," the sin of intoxication, attending a public ball at a hotel, or for "prophane swearing." By 1854 there were only twenty-two members.

When a new building was needed, the congregation accepted an offer that had been made by the Kentucky Iron and Coal Manufacturing Company of free lots to any church or school that would erect a building costing not less than \$2,500 within a reasonable length of time. They were given lots 1 and 2 in the new city of Ashland. It is believed that these lots on the southeast corner were chosen because the prevailing winds are from the northwest, thus this site offered the best pro-The First Presbyterian Church was built at tection from fire. a cost of \$4,000 and was opened and dedicated in April, 1858. It has since been enlarged and is presently an impressive Mid-Victorian, red brick structure with a French bell tower and large, handsome, Gothic-type stained glass windows.

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(July	1969)

#### UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

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7. Description

Meyers supplied further information about the additions, "the greater part of the original church erected in 1858 was incorporated into the present church. It is that p**art** of the building now occupied by the church offices, the Boethian and primary class rooms."

In 1900 the church's Senior Christian Endeavor Society raised the money for piping gas into the church for the first time. A Sunday School addition was built in 1910. After gas was piped into the church, a kitchen was added, occupying what is now the class room in the rear. The Memorial Chapel, which is a church within the church, was completed in 1943. In the early 1950's the auditorium was remodeled, the chancel was divided and the old pipe organ replaced. Air conditioning was installed in 1953.

Presently the First Presbyterian Church is a handsome, 115 year old, Mid-Victorian red brick structure on a high stone foundation. It has two large Gothic stained glass windows in the sanctuary with a third similar window at the rear of the sanctuary extending to the second floor. Various other smaller stained glass windows are in other parts of the church. The slate roof presents an interesting gabled roofline and the French bell tower rises majestically above the church. The arched, recessed main entrance is on Winchester Avenue with two other arched entrances on 16th Street. In the attached photograph the original structure, built in 1858, includes everything except the bell tower, three story educational wing that is to the right in the photograph, and the wing with the stained glass window to the far left in the photograph.



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## 8. Significance

Reverend John Clark Bayless (1819-1875) who was pastor of the First Presbyterian Church between 1854 and 1866 anticipated (according to Mrs. D.F. Meyers in A History Of The First Presbyterian Church, 1819-1954) by almost half a century certain later innovations in church programs and activities such as: the prayer meeting, Sunday School, regular quarterly communion services, and regular collections; and during his ministry the church membership increased from twenty-two to eighty-eight. He also re-opened the Academy which had been established by Bethesdal the second church. It was called the Beechgrove Academy and played an important part in the early academic history of Ashland Even though the church was located on the border between the North and South during the Civil War, church services. Sunday School attendance, and contributions were apparently unaffected. Also. according to Meyers, "The first Bible Society for the circulation of the Scriptures among the destitute in this part of the state was formed in Ashland in February, 1857. It was auxiliary to the American Bible Society and its prime movers and main supporters were connected with the Presbyterian Church. During the war its efforts were especially directed to the supply of soldiers both in northeastern Kentucky and in West Virginia

Reverend William Cutter Condit (whose father, John H. Condit had been pastor of the church from 1835-1840) became the pastor of the First Presbyterian Church in 1866 and remained pastor for sixty years, during which time the membership increased from 60 to 600. He also preached regularly for a period of many years through Boyd, Greenup and part of Carter Counties, also at Sheridan and South Point, Ohio, averaging five sermons a week, and preaching, in schoolhouses, private homes, and "under the spreading beech." Where churches had trouble he was sent to hold meet-Dr. Condit from the first had the ings and adjust differences. interest of the people of the mountains at heart and hoped to improve their lives. During the latter part of the 19th century Dr. Condit, Dr. Samuel B. Alderson, and Dr. James P. Hendricks rode on horseback exploring the Big Sandy Valley in the Appalachian Mountains for the Ebenezer Presbytery, of which the First Presbyterian Church is a member. They searched for places to establish schools and churches Deciding that Pikeville, Ky. was the natural center of the region, they recommended that a Presbyterian school be established there. As a result Pikeville College was founded; its oldest surviving building, Pikeville College Academy Building, built in 1890, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Work was also begun at Dr. Condit also served as one of the first Prestonsburg and Inez. Trustees of Pikeville College.

Form 10-300a (July 1969)

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

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During Dr. Condit's pastorate the First Presbyterian Church was extensively remodeled without incurring debts. Money for the stained glass windows on each side of the pulpit and for the French bell tower was raised by the "Little Helpers," children who solded apples, presented plays and sought donations.

The First Presbyterian Church, built in 1858, is 115 years old and is the oldest structure still being used for a church in Boyd County. It has long been a landmark in the heart of Ashland, serving many civic as well as well as spiritual needs.





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The First Presbyterian Church, completed in 1858, is the oldest structure still being used for a church in Boyd County. It has Since been enlarged and is presently an impressive mid- Victorian, red brick structure with a French bell tower and large, handsome, Gothic-type stained glass windows. The oldest portion of the church was constructured between 1857 and 1858. In A History Of The First Presbyterian Church, 1819- 1954, Meyers described the original interior of the church and various additions that have been made over the years. Origin- ally two doors opened into the vertibule and the two side aisles, "there being no central aisle but a partition running lengthwise of the central row of pews. The choir loft was placed over the vestibule and the organ was directly between the two doors. The pulpit stood at the far end and had several short rows of pews. These were popularly known as the "Amen Corner" from their position." In 1919 in his centennial sermon, Dr. William C. Condit described additions made to the church: "In 1888 it was deemed necessary to enlarge the building. The church had been laying by a sum for repairs. The Treasurer reported this sum had amounted to about three thousand dollars. It was evident we needed more room. So plans were selected and a commodious auditorium and Sabbath Schoel room were erected at the cost of \$15,000. In a few years the need of an organ added, all at the cost of \$80001. Thm sets have de ond paid for before the increase of the Sabbath School demanded enlarged quarters, and a Sabbath School room, with a capacity to seat 3800 was erected at the cost of \$16,000. They did all this without asking help from outside and built without debt. This church has had a dislike for debt and "pay as you go' has been her motto." The "Little Helpers" (children who sold apples, presented plays and sought donations) raised the money for the stained glass windows. When the walls of the addition were completed in 1888. When the walls of the addition were completed in 1884. We have the secon	CONDITION		(Check One)				-
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The oldest portion of the church was constructured between 1857 and 1858. In <u>A History Of The First Presbyterian Church, 1819</u> 1954, Meyers described the original interior of the church and various additions that have been made over the years. Origin- ally two doors opened into the vertibule and the two side aisles, "there being no central aisle but a partition running lengthwise of the central row of pews. The choir loft was placed over the vestibule and the organ was directly between the two doors. The pulpit stood at the far end and had several short rows of pews on either side which were placed at right angles to the other pews. These were popularly known as the "Amen Corner" from their position." In 1919 in his centennial sermon, Dr. William C. Condit described additions made to the church: "In 1888 it was deemed necessary to enlarge the building. The church had been laying by a sum for repairs. The Treasurer reported this sum had amounted to about three thousand dollars. It was evident we needed more room. So plans were selected and a commodious auditorium and Sabbath School room were erected at the cost of \$15,000. In a few years the need of an organ to lead the music was felt, and ten feet more ground was bought and an addition to the auditorium erected and an organ added, all at the cost of \$8,000. This was hardly done and paid for before the increas of the Sabbath School demanded enlarged quarters, and a Sabbath School room, with a capacity to seat 800 was erected at the cost of \$16,000. They did all this without asking help from outside and built without debt. This church has had a dislike for debt and 'pay as you go' has been her motto." The "Little Helpers" (children who sold apples, presented plays and sought donations) raised the money for the stained glass windows. When the walls of the addition were completed in 1888, the building fund was exhausted, thus there was no money for a tower, so the "Little Helpers" raised the required amount.	structur since be Victoria	e still be en enlarge n, red br	eing used f ed and is p ick structu	or a churc presently a pre with a	h in Boyd ( n impressiv French bell	County. It has ve mid- l tower and	
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The present building is the third church for the congregation. The first church was a log structure that was built in 1819 It was founded by the Poage's who were and used until 1828. the early settlers of this area which was then called Poage's Landing. It was located several miles from the present location of the Church. In 1828 a plot of ground containing two and one-fourth acres was given to the church by the Ruling Elder, George Poage, Jr. In the same year old Bethesda Church, a 36'x40' brick structure, was built on this site, and was used Throughout the early history of the church it was until 1858. but a small rural church serving a farming population and workers in the iron furnaces nearby. By 1854 the church had two hundred and thirty members; however, one hundred and thirty nine members asked for and received their letters so they could either seek another church or join the westward migration. The membership further decreased by death or suspension for "habitually neglecting the ordinances of God's house," the sin of intoxication, attending a public ball at a hotel, or for "prophane swearing." By 1854 there were only twenty-two members.

When a new building was needed, the congregation accepted an offer that had been made by the Kentucky Iron and Coal Manufacturing Company of free lots to any church or school that would erect a building costing not less than \$2,500 within a reasonable length of time. They were given lots 1 and 2 in the new city of Ashland. It is believed that these lots on the southeast corner were chosen because the prevailing winds are from the northwest, thus this site offered the best pro-The First Presbyterian Church was built at tection from fire. a cost of \$4,000 and was opened and dedicated in April, 1858. It has since been enlarged and is presently an impressive Mid-Victorian, red brick structure with a French bell tower and large, handsome, Gothic-type stained glass windows.

9.	MAJOR	BIBLIOGRAPHICAL RE	EFERENCES							
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#### UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

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7. Description

Meyers supplied further information about the additions, "the greater part of the original church erected in 1858 was incorporated into the present church. It is that p**art** of the building now occupied by the church offices, the Boethian and primary class rooms."

In 1900 the church's Senior Christian Endeavor Society raised the money for piping gas into the church for the first time. A Sunday School addition was built in 1910. After gas was piped into the church, a kitchen was added, occupying what is now the class room in the rear. The Memorial Chapel, which is a church within the church, was completed in 1943. In the early 1950's the auditorium was remodeled, the chancel was divided and the old pipe organ replaced. Air conditioning was installed in 1953.

Presently the First Presbyterian Church is a handsome, 115 year old, Mid-Victorian red brick structure on a high stone foundation. It has two large Gothic stained glass windows in the sanctuary with a third similar window at the rear of the sanctuary extending to the second floor. Various other smaller stained glass windows are in other parts of the church. The slate roof presents an interesting gabled roofline and the French bell tower rises majestically above the church. The arched, recessed main entrance is on Winchester Avenue with two other arched entrances on 16th Street. In the attached photograph the original structure, built in 1858, includes everything except the bell tower, three story educational wing that is to the right in the photograph, and the wing with the stained glass window to the far left in the photograph.



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## 8. Significance

Reverend John Clark Bayless (1819-1875) who was pastor of the First Presbyterian Church between 1854 and 1866 anticipated (according to Mrs. D.F. Meyers in A History Of The First Presbyterian Church, 1819-1954) by almost half a century certain later innovations in church programs and activities such as: the prayer meeting, Sunday School, regular quarterly communion services, and regular collections; and during his ministry the church membership increased from twenty-two to eighty-eight. He also re-opened the Academy which had been established by Bethesdal the second church. It was called the Beechgrove Academy and played an important part in the early academic history of Ashland Even though the church was located on the border between the North and South during the Civil War, church services. Sunday School attendance, and contributions were apparently unaffected. Also. according to Meyers, "The first Bible Society for the circulation of the Scriptures among the destitute in this part of the state was formed in Ashland in February, 1857. It was auxiliary to the American Bible Society and its prime movers and main supporters were connected with the Presbyterian Church. During the war its efforts were especially directed to the supply of soldiers both in northeastern Kentucky and in West Virginia

Reverend William Cutter Condit (whose father, John H. Condit had been pastor of the church from 1835-1840) became the pastor of the First Presbyterian Church in 1866 and remained pastor for sixty years, during which time the membership increased from 60 to 600. He also preached regularly for a period of many years through Boyd, Greenup and part of Carter Counties, also at Sheridan and South Point, Ohio, averaging five sermons a week, and preaching, in schoolhouses, private homes, and "under the spreading beech." Where churches had trouble he was sent to hold meet-Dr. Condit from the first had the ings and adjust differences. interest of the people of the mountains at heart and hoped to improve their lives. During the latter part of the 19th century Dr. Condit, Dr. Samuel B. Alderson, and Dr. James P. Hendricks rode on horseback exploring the Big Sandy Valley in the Appalachian Mountains for the Ebenezer Presbytery, of which the First Presbyterian Church is a member. They searched for places to establish schools and churches Deciding that Pikeville, Ky. was the natural center of the region, they recommended that a Presbyterian school be established there. As a result Pikeville College was founded; its oldest surviving building, Pikeville College Academy Building, built in 1890, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Work was also begun at Dr. Condit also served as one of the first Prestonsburg and Inez. Trustees of Pikeville College.

Form 10-300a (July 1969)

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

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During Dr. Condit's pastorate the First Presbyterian Church was extensively remodeled without incurring debts. Money for the stained glass windows on each side of the pulpit and for the French bell tower was raised by the "Little Helpers," children who solded apples, presented plays and sought donations.

The First Presbyterian Church, built in 1858, is 115 years old and is the oldest structure still being used for a church in Boyd County. It has long been a landmark in the heart of Ashland, serving many civic as well as well as spiritual needs.



