

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**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 First Presbyterian Church

and/or common same

2. Location

street & number 600 North Brittain Street not for publication

city, town Shelbyville vicinity of congressional district Fourth

state Tennessee code 047 county Bedford code 003

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Trustees of First Presbyterian Church

street & number 600 North Brittain Street

city, town Shelbyville vicinity of state Tennessee 37160

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Bedford County Courthouse

street & number Public Square

city, town Shelbyville state Tennessee 37160

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Tennessee Statewide Inventory has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1969 federal state county local

depository for survey records Tennessee Historical Commission, 4721 Trousdale Drive

city, town Nashville state Tennessee 37219

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input 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

Located atop a gently rising knoll at the corner of North Brittain and East Franklin Streets, the Presbyterian Church in Shelbyville was constructed in 1854. William H. Gosling, an English immigrant and prominent Shelbyville "factoryist," served as architect for the building of this fine two-story brick church. True to its period in form and detail, the Presbyterian Church is a classic example of Greek Revival Ecclesiastical architecture built on a temple-form plan.

Facing west, the facade is three bays wide with the main entrance located in the central bay at the second story level. Flanking the entrance in the central bay are two projecting bays which form vestibules and contain single leaf doors which face each other on the exterior. The main entrance consists of panelled double-leaf doors which are flanked by fluted pilasters and crowned with a pedimented cornice. Side entry doors to the vestibules are dignified with a simple architrave. Each projecting bay of the facade is marked with paired pilasters of brick which flank false louvered windows with cornice window heads. A pair of fluted Corinthian columns accentuate the portico formed by the projecting bays and crowned with a denticulated wooden cornice. The pedimented metal roof is surmounted at the facade with a double stage cupola. Pilasters with Corinthian capitals completely encircle the cylindrical cupola which has a denticulated cornice and is crowned with a Celtic cross. The top of the cupola was originally ornamented with wrought iron detailing and was topped with an arm and hand with one finger pointing skyward.

Steps which now provide access to the entrance are exact replacements of the original steps which had become weather worn.

The north and south elevations lend the appearance of being five bays wide and are each broken at the second story by five stained glass windows. These windows were installed in 1898-1899 and replaced the original clear glass windows. Louvered shutters identical to those covering false windows on the facade were originally used on the north and south elevations. Each window is capped with a cornice window head. Both side elevations are crowned with a denticulated cornice which ends at the rear corners. A stone water table along the facade and side elevations marks the division of the interior spaces.

Located directly below the second story windows are lesser windows with four over four lightsash. These windows afford light to the first floor on basement space.

The rear elevation is unadorned with the exception of two windows, a panelled door, and a louvered vent in the attic.

Significant interior features include a gallery at the second floor, a pressed metal ceiling and the original bronze oil light chandelier.

Alterations to the structure include construction of two additions along the north side and rear of the original building. These additions provide space for educational activities and offices.

The acreage nominated includes the entire original site.

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 type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1854 **Builder/Architect** William Gosling

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Shelbyville Presbyterian Church derives its primary significance from its standing as the best example of Greek Revival architecture in Shelbyville and Bedford County. Constructed contemporaneously with Tennessee's State Capitol, there is little doubt that this structure reflects the influence of William Strickland's execution of the Greek style in the state capitol and in St. Mary's Catholic Church in Nashville. The Presbyterian Church is also reflective of Shelbyville's religious history as the house for the city's first organized body of believers. From its commanding position in the city, the Presbyterian Church stands as a tangible reminder of the city's cultural heritage.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Cogswell, Robert E., Written on the Hearts of Many, (Nashville, Tennessee: The Parthenon Press, 1965).

10. Geographical Data **ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED**

Acreege of nominated property 1.2

Quadrangle name Shelbyville

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

UTM NOT VERIFIED

A

1	6	5	4	9	1	6	0	3	9	2	6	9	0	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

B

Zone	Easting				Northing									

C

Zone	Easting				Northing									

D

Zone	Easting				Northing									

E

Zone	Easting				Northing									

F

Zone	Easting				Northing									

G

Zone	Easting				Northing									

H

Zone	Easting				Northing									

Verbal boundary description and justification

The nominated property is bounded on the west by North Brittain St.; on the south by East Franklin St.; on the east by North Jefferson St.; and on the north by the property line of the Alfred L. English property. See property outlined in red on attached map.

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 R. Paul Cross, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

organization Tennessee Historical Commission date April, 1980

street & number 4721 Trousdale Drive telephone (615) 741-2371

city or town Nashville state Tennessee 37219

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Herbert L. Hager

title Executive Director, Tennessee Historical Commission date 6/10/80

For HCRS use only
 I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

W. Ray Luce date 7/17/80
 Keeper of the National Register

Attest: Kristin J. O'Connell date 7/14/80
 Chief of Registration

