

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	JUL 11 1975
DATE ENTERED	OCT 10 1975

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

The New Providence Presbyterian Church (Providence Church)

AND/OR COMMON

New Providence Presbyterian Church

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Route 1

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Salvisa

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

6

STATE

Kentucky 40372

021

COUNTY

Mercer

CODE

087 167

3 CLASSIFICATION

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

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

New Providence Presbyterian Church

STREET & NUMBER

Route 1

CITY, TOWN

Salvisa

VICINITY OF

STATE

Kentucky

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Mercer County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Harrodsburg

STATE

Kentucky

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Survey of Historic Sites in Kentucky

DATE

1971

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Kentucky Heritage Commission

CITY, TOWN

Frankfort

STATE

Kentucky

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

The New Providence Presbyterian Church occupies a very prominent site on the crest of a ridge that crosses one of the oldest roads in Kentucky, the present U. S. Route 127, which at this point follows the Old Wilderness Road, once the major land route used by the early settlers beginning at the Cumberland Gap and ending at the Falls of the Ohio. The site is only a few miles from the Kentucky River and Shakertown at nearby Pleasant Hill.

The church building, a plain rectangle of implied temple form, lies astride the crest of the ridge, the slopes of its roof echoing the natural slopes on either side. The location, simple substantial massing, and fine proportions of the building lend it a surprising monumentality in keeping with the church's long-standing influence, which extends far beyond the two small rural communities of Salvisa and McAfee it ostensibly serves.

The building is seen from the road, not as a facade, but as a pilastered block, with the broad and fairly high gable the full width of the front. This pediment, which is defined by a rather narrow cornice, is broken only by a louvered lunette placed above center. The three bays of the facade below are divided by plain pilasters with shallow stone capitals and an unusually narrow entablature. The central doorway has a wooden frame with small ears. The flanking windows have plain stone sills and lintels. The ample size of these openings combines with the 8-over-8 pane sash to give the illusion of an over-lifesize scale (the height of the window sills is actually ten feet from the ground). Fine brick walls, laid in Flemish bond, rest on exceptionally finely-cut stone foundations. The side walls have five bays, with chimneys resting above two of the pilasters on each side. The rear wall is similar to the front, but without openings except for a late circular window in the gable. (See photo 2.)

The interior was originally probably (there are no known early photographs or descriptions of the interior), a single large flat-ceilinged room with a gallery at the rear. Apparently about the turn of the century the ceiling was removed, leaving the handsome timbering exposed. The great beams were boxed in, the undersurfaces of the roof sheathed in diagonal tongue-in-groove boards, and the balcony cut back and enclosed except for a central opening. Perhaps at the same time the floor was raked upward from the sanctuary (east end), with short flights of steps carved out of the floor at the two rear entrances. The stairs at either end of the vestibule seem to be original, although the rear part of the balcony cutting across the front windows probably was not.

(continued)

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

SPECIFIC DATES

1862-1865

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

unknown

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The New Providence Presbyterian Church is one of the oldest organized Presbyterian churches in the State. The New Providence congregation was organized in 1785 under the leadership of the Reverend David Rice, the first Presbyterian minister to come to Kentucky. New Providence was one of the churches that founded the Transylvania Presbytery in 1786. It was also involved in the founding of the Synod of Kentucky in 1802. The present church was built between 1862 and 1865 and is a fine example of late Greek Revival church architecture.

In 1773 the McAfee party, made up of Joseph, George, and Robert McAfee, James McCoun, and James and Samuel Adams, left Botetourt County, Virginia, to survey land for homes and farms along the Salt River in Kentucky. The Revolutionary War delayed their return with families until 1779. The McAfee party was made up for the most part of Presbyterians, who were organized as a congregation under the Reverend David Rice.

David Rice was born in 1733 in Hanover County, Virginia. He came to Kentucky in 1783. At this time he assembled a congregation at Danville and Cane Run, Kentucky. In his memoirs, included in Bishop's Outline of the History of the Church (1824), Rice records his first impression of religion in Kentucky: "After I had been here some weeks and had preached at several places, I found scarcely one man and but a few women who supported a credible profession of religion" (p. 65). In 1785 Rice preached the first sermon delivered at the Salt River, for the funeral of James McCoun's wife. A year later the congregation was officially organized and named the New Providence Presbyterian Church.

From this time the Church was very active in Presbyterian church affairs. New Providence was one of the churches that formed the Transylvania Presbytery in 1786; Rice was elected moderator of the meeting, which took place in the Danville courthouse in October 1786. The congregation was also involved in the founding of the Synod of Kentucky in 1802. New Providence was in existence four years before the first General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church met in 1789. Through its leadership the congregation was involved in the formation of Transylvania Seminary, the Kentucky

(continued)

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Bishop, Robert H. An Outline of the History of the Church in the State of Kentucky, During a Period of Forty Years: Containing the Memoirs Of the Reverend David Rice. Lexington: Thomas T. Skilman, 1824.

(continued)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1 acre

UTM REFERENCES

A

1	6	6	8	8	8	0	4	1	9	2	7	8	0
ZONE			EASTING				NORTHING						

B

ZONE			EASTING				NORTHING					

C

ZONE			EASTING				NORTHING					

D

ZONE			EASTING				NORTHING					

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

Mr. Guy Newland

MC:WEL

ORGANIZATION

DATE

May, 1975

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Salvisa

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.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

Eddred W. Melton

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer DATE 7-7-75

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

A. H. Martensen

DATE

10/10/75

DIRECTOR OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

Ronald D. Greenberg

DATE

10/10/75

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

actg

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED JUL 11 1975	
DATE ENTERED	OCT 10 1975

New Providence Presbyterian Church

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

The interior details are plain, although opalescent glass windows and some of the furniture have a more elaborate character. The inside walls have recently been dry-walled because of structural necessity, but great care was taken to preserve the molded sills and so forth in correct relation to the slightly raised surfaces.

Within the past decade the highway has been widened, a brick ranch-style manse erected adjacent to the church, and a diminutive belfry has been erected over the front gable. A large plaque over the entrance is also a recent addition. In spite of these and the earlier interior alterations, the church retains great dignity and harmony. Stylistically it represents the last phase of the Greek Revival country church, as yet uncorrupted (except perhaps in the linear shallowness of pilasters, capitals, and entablature) by the Italianate mode so prevalent after the Civil War during which the New Providence Church was built.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY	1975
RECEIVED	
DATE ENTERED	OCT 10 1975

New Providence Presbyterian Church

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

Academy at Pisgah, and Centre College (1819), all significant early Kentucky educational institutions.

The New Providence congregation first met in a single log cabin built on the Salt River which was used for both church and school. In 1790 a double log building was built at the present site of Providence Cemetery. This building was expanded a few years later. A third building was constructed of brick at the cemetery site in 1823. In October 1860, land one-half mile east from the cemetery site was purchased from Sarah Ritchie for \$100.00 and at this site the fourth and present building was constructed.

The congregation has been involved in two major controversies over the years, but has survived both. The first to occur was the Rankin Schism, relating to church psalmody in 1789. The Reverend Adam Rankin, from Rockbridge County, Virginia, was the first Presbyterian minister to settle north of the Kentucky River. Rankin wanted to use exclusively Rouse's version of the Psalms of David, rather than Isaac Watt's Imitation Scriptural Psalmody. Reverend Cleland as quoted in the Sesqui-Centennial New Providence Presbyterian Church (1934) gives this account of the schism: "The controversy in relation to church psalmody agitated the churches in Kentucky for several years. Reverend Adam Rankin took the lead in this matter by denying the right of communion to all that used Dr. Watt's version of the psalms. The church of New Providence was divided in nearly two equal parts. . . . Out of this secession was organized what was called the Seceder Church, on the farm of James McCoun, Sr., to which Mr. Rankin preached for several years" (p. 2). Although the schism hindered the growth of the New Providence Church, it eventually died out and caused no permanent damage. The second disagreement was over the controversy of the "New School" and "Old School." Beginning in 1801 there was a period of doctrinal unrest in the Presbyterian Church. Those who held to a strict interpretation of the Standards were called the "Old School," while those who stood for loose interpretation were called the "New School." The controversy eventually led to the erection of two Assemblies. Dr. Cleland, the pastor of New Providence from 1813-1858, followed the "New School Assembly" and was a member of the group in 1850, 1852, and 1854. In 1859 there was union of the two schools, thus bringing an end to the controversy.

The New Providence Church reached its peak in membership in 1865 with

(continued)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	JUL 11 1975
DATE ENTERED	OCT 10 1975

New Providence Presbyterian Church

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 3

345 members. Although the present membership has dwindled to 70, the church continues to play an active role in the community of McAfee and in the Presbyterian Church.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	JUL 11 1975
DATE ENTERED	OCT 10 1975

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 2

Collins, Lewis. Historical Sketches of Kentucky. Cincinnati: Lewis Collins and
J. A. & V. P. James, 1847.

History of the New Providence Presbyterian Church.

Sesqui-Centennial Celebration - New Providence Presbyterian Church
Historical Foundation, Montreat, North Carolina: 1934.