

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

For NPS use only

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received JUL 11 1985

date entered AUG 8 1985

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

**1. Name**

historic FREDONIA CUMBERLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

and/or common Unity Missionary Baptist Church

**2. Location**

street & number U. S. 641        not for publication

city, town Fredonia        vicinity of

state Kentucky code        county Caldwell code       

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<u>      </u> district	<u>      </u> public	<u>  X  </u> occupied	<u>      </u> agriculture	<u>      </u> museum
<u>  X  </u> building(s)	<u>  X  </u> private	<u>      </u> unoccupied	<u>      </u> commercial	<u>      </u> park
<u>      </u> structure	<u>      </u> both	<u>      </u> work in progress	<u>      </u> educational	<u>      </u> private residence
<u>      </u> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<u>      </u> entertainment	<u>  X  </u> religious
<u>      </u> object	<u>  NA  </u> in process	<u>  X  </u> yes: restricted	<u>      </u> government	<u>      </u> scientific
	<u>  NA  </u> being considered	<u>      </u> yes: unrestricted	<u>      </u> industrial	<u>      </u> transportation
		<u>      </u> no	<u>      </u> military	<u>      </u> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name Unity Missionary Baptist Church

street & number U. S. 641

city, town Fredonia        vicinity of        state KENTUCKY

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Caldwell County Courthouse

street & number       

city, town Princeton        state KENTUCKY

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Survey of Historic Sites in Kentucky has this property been determined eligible?        yes   X   no

date 1984        federal   X   state        county        local

depository for survey records Kentucky Heritage Council

city, town Frankfort        state KENTUCKY

## 7. Description

**Condition**

excellent  
 good  
 fair

deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

**Check one**

unaltered  
 altered

**Check one**

original site  
 moved date \_\_\_\_\_

**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

The Fredonia Cumberland Presbyterian Church built in the 1890s, is located on one of the main traffic arteries in Fredonia, Caldwell County, Kentucky. It is a straightforward, well-executed version of Victorian Gothic architecture used in the construction of many Protestant churches in Kentucky during the late 19th century.

Fredonia is a farming center of less than 500 people located in the fertile Fredonia Valley of northwest Caldwell County in the Pennyryle Region of Western Kentucky. Although not a county seat, Fredonia has been the focal point of trade, transportation and social activities for the Fredonia Valley since early in the 19th century. The completion of a branch line of the Illinois Central Railroad during the late 19th century provided the impetus for an expansion of population and the construction of warehouses, a small commercial district, and most of the residences which today characterize Fredonia. The Fredonia Cumberland Presbyterian Church is the most significant building constructed during this period of growth and expansion. No other properties in Fredonia and the surrounding agricultural district have been listed in the National Register.

The plan of the church is based on the cruciform plan. It is built of brick, burned at the site, laid in common bond. The main gabled facade facing east, is pierced by a single large equilateral arched window which contains a large rosette. The square bell tower on the southeast corner offers the major decorative treatment for the main facade. The tower contains Tudor arched doorways on the east and south sides. Above each door are paired lancet windows on the second level and louvered rectangular openings at the third level. A stone course crowns the louvered windows. A cupola which originally adorned the church was struck and destroyed by lightning in 1925 and never replaced.

The sanctuary is four bays deep with the second bay on either side containing a large arched window equal to the one on the main facade. These large windows are centered in gables which carry out the cruciform plan. The four bays are divided by buttresses with stone caps. Two of three bays contain small lancet windows with stained glass while the last bay has a Gothic door opening. The rear of the church is plain with Gothic windows to either side of a later frame bathroom addition which occupies the center of the wall. The medium pitched roof contains two eyebrow windows on either side. The roofing material is asphalt shingles.

Inside the sanctuary is divided into three sections by two aisles. The original pews are still being used as is the chandelier above the pulpit which has been converted from kerosene to electricity. The dark wood ceiling provides a stark contrast with the white plain walls.

Unfortunately, half of the original stained-glass windows have been removed over the years, but a substantial amount of the original stained glass remains and the congregation has replaced the missing original with new glass which adheres as closely as possible to the original design.

## 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/ 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		

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<b>Specific dates</b>	C. 1892	<b>Builder/Architect</b>	Unknown
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### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Fredonia Cumberland Presbyterian church is significant architecturally as a well-executed example of the Victorian Gothic style in a small town setting. The church is the most architecturally significant structure in the town of Fredonia and one of the best examples of its type in the western Pennyrile Region.

Little is known about the formation of the Fredonia Cumberland Presbyterian Church. The Cumberland Presbyterian Church has been a major denomination in West Kentucky since its creation during the Second Great Awakening of the early 19th century. In Western Kentucky especially, it supplanted the established Presbyterian Church, becoming an establishment church in the region. Many rural communities as well as county seats in West Kentucky have had Cumberland Presbyterian congregations.

According to oral tradition, during the 1890s, the Fredonia Presbyterian Church decided to erect a new sanctuary. Utilizing the ideas of a visiting Englishman, the church was constructed using bricks donated by a prominent member of the church, J. E. Crider, Sr.

In the 1960s the Presbyterian congregation, being unable to maintain the building with a declining membership, sold the property. Unity Missionary Baptist Church purchased the building in 1981 and is making a concerted effort to maintain this attractive building and to restore it to its former appearance.

Listing in the National Register of Historic Places will give recognition to its importance as a community landmark.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Collins, Richard. History of Kentucky, 1883.  
Personal Communication with Dale Faughn, 1985.  
Personal Communication with Mrs. Charles Baker, 1985.  
Personal Communication with Mrs. Dave Perkins, 1985.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Fredonia

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UTM References

A 

1	6	4	0	6	0	8	0	4	1	1	8	5	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** Beginning at a point 600 ft. west of the intersection of U.S. 641 and KY 91; thence SSW 200 ft.; thence WNW 150 ft.; thence NNE 200 ft.; thence ESE 150 ft. along the right-of-way of KY 91 to the point of origin. The boundary excludes the gravel parking lot adjacent to the church.

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Robert M. Polsgrove, Historic Sites Program Manager

organization Kentucky Heritage Council date April 1985

street & number 12th Fl., Capital Plaza Tower telephone 502/564-7005

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 David L. Morgan

title STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER date June 26, 1985

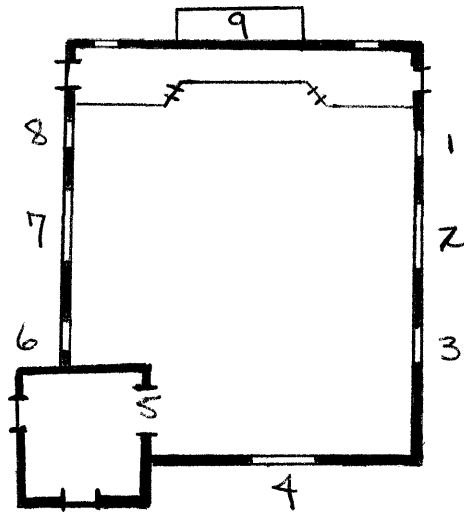
### For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

for Eleanor Byers  date 8/8/85  
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

Chief of Registration



HIGHWAY 91 → NORTH

- 1- ORIGINAL GLASS
- 2- UPPER portion (dove) is new; bottom is old.
- 3- All new
- 4- All new
- 5- ORIGINAL DOUBLE WOODEN DOORS
- 6- ORIGINAL GLASS
- 7- UPPER portion is new; bottom is old.
- 8- New glass
- 9- Bathrooms