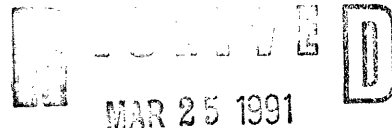


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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service



National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

NATIONAL  
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Joppa Baptist Church and Cemetery  
other names/site number T-40, C-16

2. Location

street & number Mammoth Cave National Park (MACA)  not for publication NA  
city, town Mammoth Cave  vicinity NA  
state Kentucky code KY county Edmonson code 061 zip code 42259

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<u>        </u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>1</u>	<u>        </u> sites
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>        </u>	<u>2</u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>2</u>	<u>        </u> objects
			<u>2</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: Historic Resources of Mammoth Cave National Park  
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.  
Signature of certifying official Edwin C. Beare Date 3/20/91  
State or Federal agency and bureau National Park Service

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.  
Signature of commenting or other official David L. Morgan Date Jan. 8, 1991  
State Historic Preservation Officer, Kentucky Heritage Council  
State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:  
 entered in the National Register. Patrick Andrews 5/8/91  
 See continuation sheet.  
 determined eligible for the National Register.  See continuation sheet.  
 determined not eligible for the National Register.  
 removed from the National Register.  
 other, (explain): \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

**6. Function or Use**

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Religion:religious structure  
Funerary:cemetery  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Religion:religious structure  
Funerary:cemetery  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**7. Description**

Architectural Classification  
(enter categories from instructions)

No style  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation sandstone  
walls wood:weatherboard  
\_\_\_\_\_  
roof tin  
other \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

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National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Historic Resources of Mammoth Cave National Park, MPS  
Edmonson, Hart, and Barren Counties, Kentucky  
Joppa Baptist Church and Cemetery

Section number 7 Page 1

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7. Description of present and historic physical appearance.

The Joppa Baptist Church property, located 2.5 miles west of Sloan's Crossing on Highway 70, consists of one contributing building, Joppa Baptist Church; one contributing site, the church cemetery; and two non-contributing structures, recently constructed outhouses on the east side of the property.

Constructed around the turn of the century, Joppa Baptist Church is a one story frame building with white weatherboard siding, a tin, gable front roof, and a stacked sandstone block foundation, which has been covered with tin. The building, which faces south, measures 40 feet (N-S) by 29 feet (E-W) and has two wood front doors, each with modern storm doors on the exterior. Both of the front entrances are reached by eight step, open, wood stairs with simple wooden balusters. Each side wall has four, four-over-four double-hung sash windows. The rear wall has one door and one four-over-four double-hung sash window. A wooden sign in between the two front entrances notes the following: "Joppa Missionary Baptist Church, est. 1862." A tin chimney flue sits on the ridgeline of the roof, 15 feet from the south wall. A gravel drive encircles the building. The church's interior features tongue-and-groove wood walls and a wood plank floor.

To the north of the church is Joppa cemetery, which dates from the early nineteenth century and measures approximately 190' (E-W) by 85' (N-S). All of the graves, numbering approximately 75, face east, which is consistent with local tradition, and are designated predominantly with commercially produced head and foot markers. There are a few graves marked with fieldstone head and foot stones, both engraved and unengraved, and probably some unmarked graves. There is evidence of an old wire fence in the wooded areas on the north, east, and west sides of the cemetery.

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Historic Resources of Mammoth Cave National Park, MPS  
Edmonson, Hart, and Barren Counties, Kentucky

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Joppa Baptist Church and Cemetery

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Joppa Baptist Church is in poor condition. The church building is not structurally sound or well-maintained, although it is original in design, workmanship, and the majority of materials. A large brace and bolt has been placed midway at the top of the side walls (east to west) to support the sagging of the side walls. The original metal roof was replaced in kind within the last decade. The cemetery is well-maintained and is still in use. Despite the lack of structural integrity, for the entire property, integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association are intact.

**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally     statewide     locally

Applicable National Register Criteria     A     B     C     D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)     A     B     C     D     E     F     G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Social History

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Period of Significance  
ca. 1900 to 1941

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Significant Dates  
ca. 1900

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Cultural Affiliation    N/A

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Significant Person    N/A

---

Architect/Builder    N/A

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State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.



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**National Register of Historic Places  
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Historic Resources of Mammoth Cave National Park, MPS  
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Joppa Baptist Church and Cemetery

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8. Statement of significance, criteria justification, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance.

The Joppa Baptist Church property is historically significant in the area of Social History and represents the property type "Church Properties" (for property type information, see Section III of the Historic Resource Study, pages A-6 to A-8).

The period of significance (ca. 1900 to 1941) refers to the years from the construction of the current church building to the demise of the community with the official establishment of Mammoth Cave National Park in 1941.

As in other parts of rural Kentucky, churches in the Mammoth Cave area, mostly of the Baptist denomination, served as the centers of community life. Local residents attended weekly church services, weddings, funerals, baptisms, homecomings, revivals, and grave decoration days, not only for spiritual reasons, but also to interact with other people who lived in the area. In such a rural area, where the nearest substantial town was ten miles away over very poor dirt roads, community gatherings were very important. In addition to church functions, communities often used their churches as meeting houses and schools as well.

Before Mammoth Cave National Park was developed, there were seven churches which served the communities in the immediate cave area. During the 1930s, most private and public properties within the proposed park area were acquired by the Mammoth Cave National Park Association, the Mammoth Cave National Park Commission, and the National Park Service through purchase or condemnation, local residents were removed, and buildings were razed. Church properties were exceptions to the removal and demolition process. Although not required to do so, the National Park Service recognized the significance that church properties had for local communities. In return for the donation of community-owned church properties, the National Park Service agreed to grant special use permits to the congregations who wished to maintain the location of their churches. Currently there are three churches located within the boundaries of Mammoth Cave National Park which have agreements with the National Park Service: Mammoth Cave United Baptist Church, Good Spring United Baptist Church, and Joppa Missionary Baptist Church.

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Joppa Baptist Church and Cemetery

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Established in 1862, Joppa Baptist Church served the community of Elko and residents of the Joppa Ridge area. The current building was constructed ca. 1900. The Davis, Meredith, and McCombs families were among those belonging to Joppa Baptist Church. The congregation of Joppa Baptist Church requested and was granted a special use permit which allowed them to continue to use the church and cemetery, provided National Park Service guidelines were followed. The church and cemetery were used regularly through the 1950s and 1960s. The church has been used occasionally for revivals in recent years, though most of the members have died, moved away, or joined other churches. The cemetery is still used for the burial of former members. Though Joppa Baptist Church is a religious property, it deserves exceptional status as the only physical representative of the once thriving ELko/Joppa Ridge area community, and as a reminder of part of the process of developing Mammoth Cave National Park, through agreements between the National Park Service and local communities.



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Section number 9 Page 1 Historic Resources of Mammoth Cave National Park, MPS  
Edmonson, Hart, and Barren Counties, Kentucky  
Joppa Baptist Church and Cemetery

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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Lally, Kelly A. Tape Recorded interview with residents of the Mammoth Cave area, part of the oral history project, "The Civilian Conservation Corps and the Development of Mammoth Cave National Park." Mammoth Cave National Park Library, Mammoth Cave, KY, June to September 1987.

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\_\_\_\_\_ Jacob's People. Glasgow, KY: By the Author, n.d.

\_\_\_\_\_ Near Elko. Glasgow, KY: By the Author, 1973.

Martin, Charles E. Cultural Landscape of the Pennyrile Region. Draft, State Historic Preservation Office, Frankfort, KY, 1988.

Strange, Richard N. "Memorandum to the Superintendent." Mammoth Cave National Park Library, Mammoth Cave, KY, 18 March 1985.

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National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 10 Page 1 Historic Resources of Mammoth Cave National Park, MPS  
Edmonson, Hart, and Barren Counties, Kentucky  
Joppa Baptist Church and Cemetery

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10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of property: less than one acre

UTM References

A 16 4113080 576800


Verbal Boundary Description

Beginning at a point 85' north of Highway 70 on the western edge of the lot's gravel driveway, proceed east 140' along the southern edge of the driveway south of the front of the church. Then proceed north 180' along the woodline east of the cemetery. Then proceed west 210' along the woodline north of the cemetery. Then proceed south 95' to the southwest corner of the cemetery. Then proceed southeasterly 80' to the point of origin.

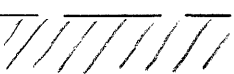
Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the church and all visible graves in the cemetery that are historically associated with the property.

JOPPA CHURCH  
AND CEMETERY  
 (T-40 + (-16))

APPROX SCALE: 1 INCH = 30 FEET  


LEGEND

- — — — — = BOUNDARY
-  = BOUNDARY LIES ON WOODLINE

② ↗ = photos

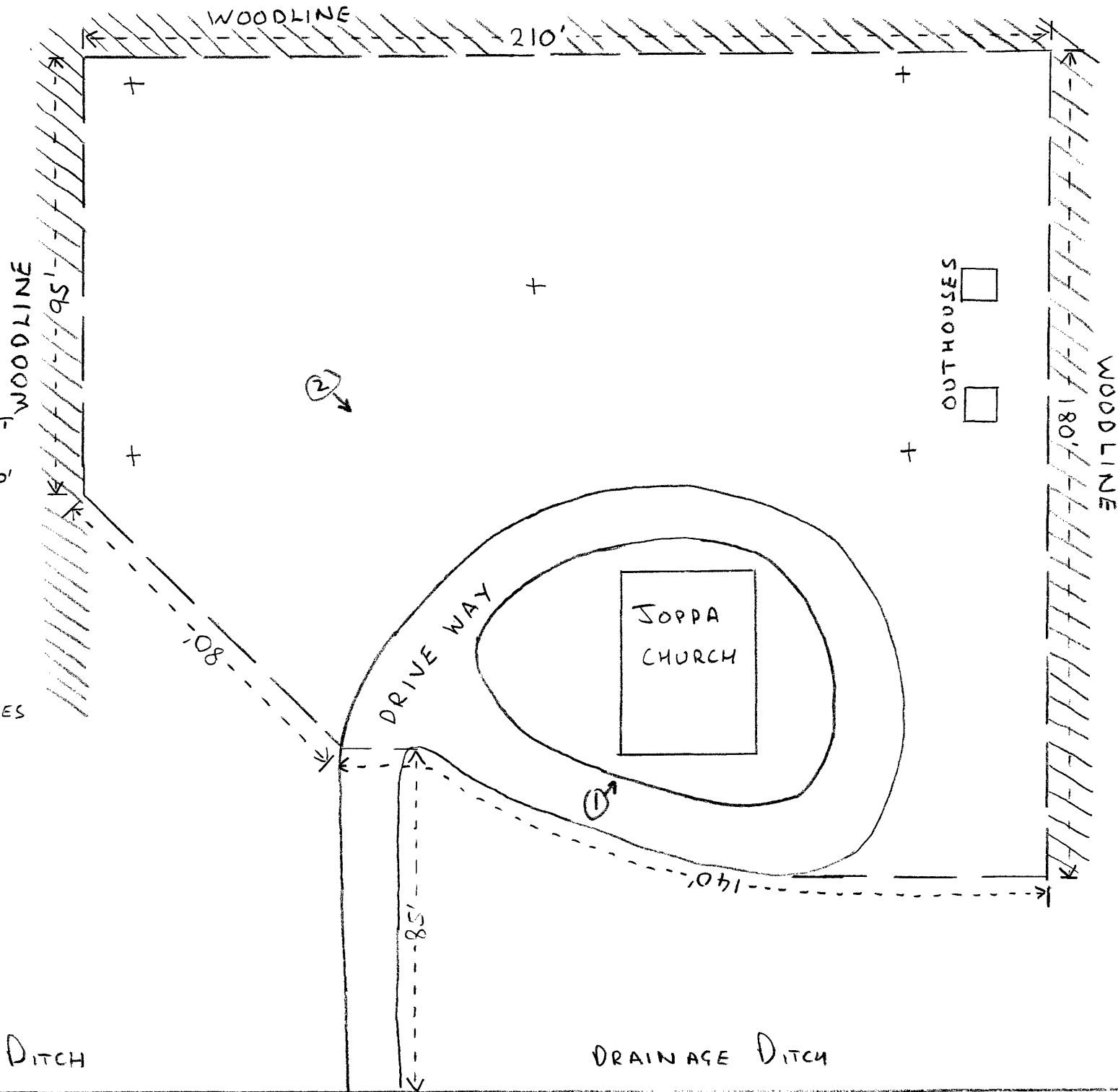


DRAINAGE DITCH

DRAINAGE DITCH

← TO BROWNSVILLE

HIGHWAY 70



United States Department of the Interior  
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National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 91000496 Date Listed: 5/8/91

Joppa Baptist Church and Cemetery Edmonson KY  
Property Name: County: State:

Mammoth Cave National Park MPS  
Multiple Name

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This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

for Patricia Andrus  
Signature of the Keeper

7/8/92  
Date of Action

Amended Items in Nomination:

The sandstone foundation of this building is covered with tin, so the foundation material in Section 7 of the form should be listed as tin. The form is officially amended to include this information.

**DISTRIBUTION:**  
National Register property file  
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)