

PH035 4082

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED JUN 21 1976
DATE ENTERED SEP 8 1976

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 **

Harrods Creek Baptist Church and ~~the~~ Reverend William Kellar House

AND/OR COMMON

Same

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Old Brownsboro Road

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Crestwood

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

04

STATE

Kentucky

VICINITY OF

CODE

021

COUNTY

Oldham

CODE

185

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

___DISTRICT

___PUBLIC

___OCCUPIED

___AGRICULTURE

___MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

UNOCCUPIED

___COMMERCIAL

___PARK

___STRUCTURE

___BOTH

___WORK IN PROGRESS

___EDUCATIONAL

___PRIVATE RESIDENCE

___SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

___ENTERTAINMENT

___RELIGIOUS

___OBJECT

___IN PROCESS

___YES: RESTRICTED

___GOVERNMENT

___SCIENTIFIC

___BEING CONSIDERED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

___INDUSTRIAL

___TRANSPORTATION

___NO

___MILITARY

OTHER: Vacant

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Church: Harrods Creek Baptist Church Congregation

House: Henry Fitzhugh, Jr.

STREET & NUMBER

Church: Old Brownsboro Road

House: 6401 Wolf Pen Branch Road

CITY, TOWN

Church: Crestwood

STATE

House: Prospect VICINITY OF

Kentucky

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Oldham County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

LaGrange

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED (Kellar	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS House)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR (Church)	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Harrods Creek Church, built ca.1810, is located one-eighth mile north of Brownsboro on a knoll overlooking a pond. The Reverend William Kellar house, constructed in 1807, is situated one-fourth mile west of the church. The house, which is surrounded by acres of rolling farmland, overlooks a small basin created by a spring which originates several hundred yards north of the structure.

The church is a simple stone structure facing north with three long narrow pointed windows on the east and west sides (see photo 2). A small vestibule projects forward from the nave. Double doors are centered below a fanlight of Gothic pointed form with switchline tracery at the front entrance. A small bullseye window is located above the vestibule in the gable of the nave (see photo 1). A one-story vestry extends off the south end of the church. The entire church was stuccoed sometime in the early 1900s. It seems probable that the vestibule and Gothic arches of the windows were not original.

The interior of the church is now bare, the pews having been removed a few years ago. In some areas the plaster has fallen off, exposing the stones and the original mortar.

The church was vacated by the congregation in 1966 when a new brick structure was built adjacent to the original church. Since this time, the old church has been used for recreational purposes. Its fate is uncertain at this time.

West of the church is an old road, still in evidence, which extended to the William Kellar house. The Kellar house, which faces north, is a three-bay, two-story stone structure with a brick ell extending off the west end of the south wall (see photo 5). The stone is roughly shaped and laid in irregular courses. Located half-way up the west wall at the northwest corner is a large rectangular stone with William Kellar's initials and the date 1807 inscribed on it (see photo 6).

The front entrance is centered in the north facade. Wide stone steps originally led up to the front entrance but have been pulled away. The windows are long and narrow and have large keystones over the first-floor openings (see photo 7). All the window casings are edged with brick. The windows were probably lengthened downward in the late 1800s, and shallow segmented brick arches inserted below the original frames in support. Also at this time, the entire stone section was stuccoed. Centered on the rear or south wall of the house is a door located opposite the front entrance. Situated directly above this entrance is another door which could have led out to a porch or a stairway (see photo 8). Adjacent to the rear entrance on the left is a third door which opens into the dining room. The brick ell, which was probably the kitchen wing, is laid in Flemish bond on the west side and common bond on the other three sides (see photo 5).

The house is built on the two-room hall-and-parlor plan. The front entrance opened into the parlor on the east side of the house, while the dining room was on the west.

A small fireplace with a keystone arch is located in the basement. Fireplaces are also located in the other rooms, although the first floor openings have been bricked in. There is a large brick fireplace with a segmental arch in the kitchen ell.

(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 1807 Kellar House BUILDER/ARCHITECT
ca. 1810 Harrods Creek Baptist Church

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Harrods Creek Church, located north of the tiny community of Brownsboro, and the William Kellar house, located one-half mile west of the church, are two of the earliest stone structures remaining in the area. The church, built ca. 1810, was organized in 1797, and was the first church established in Oldham County. The congregation was united under the Reverend William Kellar, who lived within half a mile of the church. Kellar also established and ministered to two other Baptist congregations that were within a ten-mile radius of his house.

It is believed that the first settlement in Oldham County took place in this area around 1788. The county is located just east of Jefferson County and Louisville, but has until recently remained essentially rural. The settlers, who were of German origin, formed the small community of Brownsboro, above the South Fork of Harrods Creek, about eight miles south of the Ohio River. Among the first settlers was William Kellar, who preached to the people in his own house.

In 1797 Kellar organized the congregation and the group was constituted as the Regular Baptist Church on Harrods Creek. The Reverend Mr. Kellar was selected as the first pastor. The same year the church entered the Salem Association of Regular Baptists. As a result of the Great Revival, 1801-1802, the Salem Association increased by 34 churches. In 1803 all the churches north of the Salt River were dismissed to form the Long Run Association.

The Long Run Association of Regular Baptists was constituted on the Philadelphia Confession of Faith. This confession of faith was Calvinistic in doctrine and advocated "laying on of hands upon Baptized believers and singing of Psalms in the worship of God." According to Fisher in his article in The Filson Club History Quarterly (1937), the Long Run Association of Baptists has grown to be one of the world's most important associations of Baptists, being one of the "Big Five:" Richmond Virginia; Atlanta, Georgia; Birmingham Alabama; Long Run, Louisville, Kentucky; London, England. (See the Long Run Baptist Church, Jefferson County, listed on the National Register August 6, 1975.)

William Kellar, the first pastor of the church, was born in Shenandoah County, Virginia, in 1768. He was the son of Abraham Kellar, a prosperous farmer. William, the youngest of eight children, received little education, and from all accounts was a wild and obstreperous youth. Upon his death, Abram Kellar left William a large Bible saying, "My son, this is your portion" (Spencer, p.349). He also left him the family's farm.

(continued)

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Spencer, J. H.: A History of Kentucky Baptists. Cincinnati: By the author, 1885.
- Taylor, The Reverend John. Thoughts on Missions. 1819.
- Anonymous. "A Historical Sketch of the Harrods Creek Baptist Church, Brownsboro, Oldham County, Kentucky" (October 19, 1947).

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY -30-7

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,6	6,3,0	4,5,0	4,2	4,6	7,3,0	B	1,6	6,3,0	4,9,0	4,2	4,6	6,5,0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		EASTING	NORTHING
C	1,6	6,2,9	7,4,0	4,2	4,6	3,6,0	D	1,6	6,2,9	7,4,0	4,2	4,6	3,6,0

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

Mary Cronan, Historian
ORGANIZATION

6-15-1976
DATE

Kentucky Heritage Commission
STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

104 Bridge Street
CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Frankfort

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

Clara W. Melton

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

6/17/76

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Acting DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST: *Robert B. Rottig*
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

9/8/76

DATE

9/3/76

Acting

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The Harrods Creek Baptist Church and the Reverend William Kellar House

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

The house has been vacant for a number of years and is deteriorating rapidly. It is now roofless and a section of the first floor has collapsed into the basement. Despite its poor condition, the walls remain structurally sound.

Situated several hundred yards north of the house, in a basin, is a spring. Along this creek, Kellar built a water mill and distillery (see 1879 map). Unfortunately, today no evidence of these structures remain, although archaeological investigation has not yet been undertaken.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 2

After the death of his father, William Kellar continued in his wonted ways until he was converted by the preachings of James Ireland. During this time, he married the daughter of Colonel John Netherton, a native of Virginia, and moved to East Tennessee. His religious convictions were confirmed, and he was baptized under the Reverend John Mulky. A short time later, around 1788, he and his family moved to Kentucky and settled on Harrods Creek near the present site of Brownsboro. Here he built a log house. In the new settlement there were an equal number of Methodists and Baptists, but no ministers. The two denominations, agreeing to worship together, conducted meetings at night in different houses. At these gatherings Kellar, a carpenter and cabinet-maker by trade, began to exhort and was eventually acknowledged as the leader and teacher. In 1797 the group was formally constituted as a Baptist congregation and Kellar continued to preach. Several years later he was ordained to the ministry.

Soon after the Harrods Creek Church was constituted, Kellar heard of a new settlement about eighteen miles east of Brownsboro and went there to administer to their needs. He continued to visit weekly, and in 1800 the group was constituted as the Eighteen Mile Church, the name referring to the distance from the Harrods Creek Church to the new congregation. In 1802 he organized a church two miles south of Eighteen Mile Church known as Lick Branch (now called La Grange). Kellar served the three churches monthly without accepting pay.

Around 1807 Kellar's log house burned to the ground. In its place he built the impressive two-story stone house that still exists, albeit in deteriorated condition. On the creek which ran through his farm to the west, Kellar built a small water mill and distillery, which supplied him with his major source of income. According to the 1876 Atlas of Jefferson and Oldham Counties, the distillery was still located there at that time.

When the War of 1812 broke out, Kellar joined the army and was captain of 100 men in the Illinois campaign against the Indians. In 1817 he was severely wounded in the leg by a bear. He died three weeks later from an illness that resulted from the wound.

The prominent Baptist minister John Taylor describes Kellar in his Thoughts on Missions (1819): "Everything that is calculated to recommend a man to his fellow-man was summed up in Mr. Kellar. Generosity, goodwill, and liberality, as well as justice and truth, were predominant in him. Resignation to God ornamented him" (p. 60). Spencer, in the History of Kentucky Baptists (1885), goes on to say, "Few men have been better fitted for pioneer preachers than William Kellar. He possessed great physical strength and courage and unflagged industry. And it added much to his popularity, that he was a skillful hunter, a boss mechanic-cabinet maker, and the best hand in the settlement at log-rolling or house raising!"

(continued)

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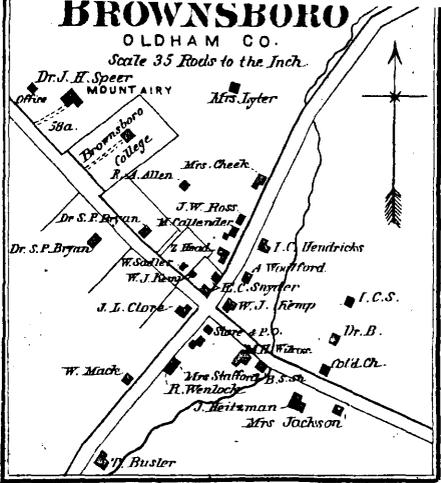
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At the time of William Kellar's death there were 279 members of the church. The second pastor of Harrod's Creek Baptist Church was Benjamin Allen. Allen, a native of Virginia, was born in 1776. He came to Kentucky with his family in 1785 and at the age of twelve was apprenticed to Kellar to learn the trade of a carpenter and cabinet-maker. While working with William Kellar, Allen was converted and baptized into the Harrods Creek church. He eventually began to exhort and preach, becoming a fine speaker. Allen became the pastor of two Baptist churches in Jefferson County and at the time of Kellar's death in 1877, was selected to become the new pastor of Harrod's Creek. In 1831 when the former protestant minister, Alexander Campbell, came to Kentucky to spread his beliefs, Benjamin Allen was converted and began preaching Campbell's creed. A large number of the congregation followed Allen and formed a new church.

The other half of the congregation, who retained their traditional beliefs, continued to worship at Harrods Creek.

This split over Campbellism marked the last division that took place in the church. In 1966 a new church structure was built adjacent to the original one. Since this time the church has been used for meetings and recreational purposes on Saturday.

(continued)



BROWNSBORO

Scale 1/4 Inches to the Mile.

